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Annual Orinda cocktail competition goes virtual

By Sora O'Doherty

In the past, the Art of Mixology competition has attracted crowds of 300 attendees each year to Theatre Square, however, like so much else in 2020, the popular annual cocktail competition that is the biggest fundraiser for the Lamorinda Arts Council is going virtual this year to protect people from the risk of COVID-19.

But just because the competition is virtual doesn't mean that people can't taste the cocktails. The difference is, they will have to make them at home from kits concocted by the five mixologist finalists.

The kits will contain all the ingredients to prepare the cocktails in the competition, except the alcohol, which will need to be purchased separately. Participants can order the kits and follow along as

the competitors prepare the drinks via videos on the Lamorinda Arts Council website. The kits are non-perishable and do not contain any fresh items. A couple of recipes call for citrus, which is included as crystalized citrus.

The 2020 Mixologist of the Year will be announced during a live Awards Show at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16. The show will be emceed by Justin Cole of Joy in Motion and the finalists will mix their craft cocktails. Second and third place mixologists will also be named, as well as an award for audience favorite. Winners will get trophies or certificates and cash prizes. Audience favorite voting starts Oct. 1. The competition will be judged by Diablo Magazine President Barney Fonzi, Aziza SF Creative Beverage Director Megan Abrams, and Bull Valley Road House Beverage Director and General Manager Mourad Tamir Ben Shalom.

The competition this year has been co-chaired by Denise Nomura, president of Lamorinda Arts Council and co-curator of the Art Gallery at Wilder and Samantha Spector, who owns Saloon Box, a craft cocktail monthly subscription service. Spector's company has made cocktail kits for about five years, and she has been an Art of Mixology judge three times. Saloon Box, a sponsor of this year's events, is making all the kits, with all proceeds going to LAC. The company is also donating the packing supplies and some of the ingredients.

Spector said that the sponsoring spirits that the competitors chose from were Tahoe Blue vodka, El Major tequila, George Terrior gin, St. George Breaking & Entering American whiskey and Banks 5 Island rum. Each finalist's recipe features one of the five spirits.

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Upgraded zone evacuation system installed after virtual drill

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King on Sept. 23 gave the town council an update regarding results from the Aug. 1 Virtual Evacuation Drill, and discussed an upgrade to the previous zone evacuation system made in conjunction with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and using the talents of Zonehaven, which provides a data-driven interface to create broad situational awareness to empower government agencies and community members with emergency planning and live evacuations.

The new system notes the critical evacuation area; how many structures are located within the area; the population of the area; and the number of acres contained within the zone. There is also information available to discern what traffic positions need staffing and the resources needed to man those locations. King stated that all of this additional data is currently being fine-tuned and will become available to MPD and MOFD within a few short weeks.

Additionally, MOFD has installed a fire modeling program which gives pertinent data such as humidity, wind, temperature and basic weather conditions along with an estimate of the fuel load, which can show where a fire is going to start. It can disclose what a fire

is going to do at a one-hour point, three-hour point and a five-hour point.

The fire modeling program can also recommend zones for evacuation. This will allow MOFD to use the program in real-time to make projections on a fire's route of destruction and in turn give MPD a head start for timed evacuation calls in order to stagger departures from town rather than take a chaotic mass evacuation approach.

"This is an incredible tool that we have and we're going to continue to use, but one of the things it shows us is we do have time to make evacuation calls," said King. "I know there's a lot of people out there that are concerned that we can't evacuate the entire town at once, and they're absolutely correct - we can't. Nor would we. Only in a very extreme situation do we think we would need to. I don't know of any city that could evacuate its entire population at once."

King added, "What this does is it tells us when we need to evacuate people, and we can evacuate the city by zone and get people out ideally in an orderly fashion." The new program will also identify temporary refuge areas where people can go to be safe and surrounded by fire trucks if not everyone could get out.

Vice Mayor Mike McCluer expressed concern regarding all of the recent roadwork being done by utility companies along Moraga's main arteries, in many

instances closing down one lane of road to vehicles and causing traffic backups.

King assured McCluer that utility companies working along escape routes are prepared to open up the roads within 15 minutes in the event of an evacuation.

During the public comment portion of the presentation, King was asked if there was coordination between MPD, Orinda and Lafayette Police Departments in the event of an evacuation since the routes would progress through those two jurisdictions.

King explained that the three departments constantly work together, are on the same radio wave length and are there to assist each other. By the same token, the reach of mutual cooperation between agencies goes beyond the Lamorinda area.

Last month's Virtual Evacuation Drill was not a one-time lesson. King assured residents that MPD and MOFD are constantly working to train and make improvements now and in the future.

King reminded everyone to register with the Community Warning System (www.cwsalerts.com). He estimated that 80% of Moraga households are already registered, which is the highest percentage in Contra Costa County and quite possibly the highest within the state of California.

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Council continues equity discussion; refers housing recommendations to general plan update

By Pippa Fisher

The city council is moving the work of a recently formed task force that was created to address racism and diversity in Lafayette forward, albeit under a new, shorter name. It unanimously approved the task force's recommended initiatives on leadership commitments including training, and agreed to refer housing recommendations to the general plan and housing element update process.

The task force, led by Vice

Mayor Susan Candell, has listened at several meetings over the past months to the concerns of residents about racism and instances of lack of inclusion as well as to many ideas put forth by residents on how to address diversity in the city. Candell said that it is the goal of the task force to land the work done into various community groups for others to take forward. At such a time the task force will then disband.

It was specifically suggestions regarding changes to

housing designed to address the issue of racism and inequality that had a number of residents concerned. The council received several letters voicing comments against a recommendation to "... do away with single family zoning, create zoning allowing 4-plus units all over town ..."

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa at the Sept. 14 council meeting clarified that no major decisions were being taken at this time and that any recommendations on housing changes were to be forwarded

for consideration during the forthcoming general plan and housing element update.

The council heard public comments from Michael Cass who said he strongly believed housing relates to inequity and he urged the city to take some action on housing sooner rather than waiting several years for the general plan update to be finished.

Lafayette resident Jeremy Levine, who said he was speaking as an individual and not representing Inclusive Lafayette, underscored the

sentiment. He expressed that he wanted to see all ideas kept on the table and to have all suggestions discussed with an open mind.

And although the task force is merely getting the ball rolling and will ultimately be disbanded, a new name had to be decided upon.

The group will now be known as Lafayette Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

City prepares to get spooky for Halloween Dress Up Drive – coming to a neighborhood near you!



Image provided

By Pippa Fisher

Many things look different

this year and Halloween will be no exception. Certainly this community has become

used to 'pivoting' with the best of them and knows sometimes 'different' can be good. So while the city is strongly discouraging trick-or-treating in the pandemic, and the Chamber of Commerce will not be offering Trick-or-Treat Street, the whole community is invited to Lafayette's Dress Up Drive – a socially distanced solution. And residents need to be ready.

Taking the place of the traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, is a driving tour of spooky homes organized

through the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department. Residents are encouraged to go all out on decorating their homes, businesses, cars, etc. The idea is that residents register their homes or businesses in time to be listed on a tour of participants as a stop to be viewed by those driving the route in their cars on the official town tour the evening of Oct. 31. The city needs to receive registration of locations to be featured on its online map by Oct. 23. The map will be posted during the week of Oct. 26.

In order to maintain social distancing, candy should not be handed out and those on the tour should stay in their cars. It is a "bring your own candy" event.

According to the city's website, "Whether you enjoy from the comfort of your haunted house/business or drive around town in your wicked wagons, come see the all-out, over-the-top spooktacular decorations this year all around Lafayette. Music, lights, fog machines ... this is your year to go all out!"

More information can be found at:

<https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/quick-links/parks-recreation/halloween>

Lafayette Homeowners Council candidate forums

Lafayette Homeowners Council will be holding its candidates forums virtually this year. For a chance to ask hear and ask questions of the candidates via Zoom please see links or go to the LHC website:

<https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>

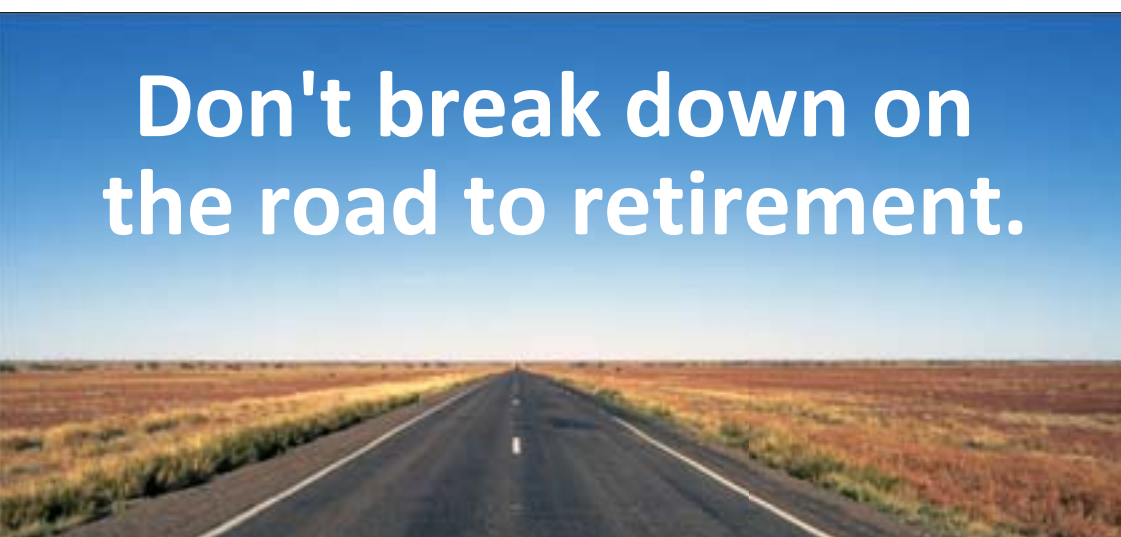
City council candidate forum, 7 p.m. on Oct. 1

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049934441?pwd=em1nbGxWbU5nbHlicVY2a2k2Ym5iUT09>
 Passcode: 701591

Acalanes Union High School District and BART board candidate forum, 7 p.m. on Oct. 6

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84990127051?pwd=ZzdiMk4reEszWnRnT0VqTl9hTVZlYU09>
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-- P. Fisher



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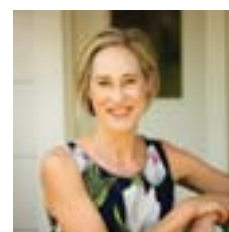


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Lafayette suspends Business Assistance Program, at least for now

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette has suspended the Business Assistance Program until such time as further federal funding becomes available.

In April the city hired Townsend Public Affairs at a cost of \$10,000 a month to help local businesses and nonprofits access resources offered by the state and federal government to keep them afloat during the financial challenges incurred during the shelter-in-place order.

According to the city, during the past five months the program has assisted 92 local businesses, including 10 non-

profits, to secure \$1,561,100 in federal funding, affecting some 460 members of Lafayette's workforce. Additionally, 822 Paycheck Protection Program loans were received by Lafayette businesses and organizations, including 718 loans below \$150,000, and 104 loans above \$150,000.

City council members agreed at their Sept. 14 meeting that, given the government's lack of progress toward any sort of deal on the Phase 4 Coronavirus Relief Package, the program should be suspended and agreed that the city should resume the program as and when the next round of federal funding becomes available.

Next stop for Terraces apartments – in court

By Pippa Fisher

Local residents working to prevent the recently approved, highly controversial 315-unit apartment project on Deer Hill Road have taken their fight to the next level.

Save Lafayette, a preservationist grassroots group, filed its lawsuit against the city of Lafayette Sept. 23, challenging the city's Aug. 25 approval of the Terraces, under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The lawsuit claims that the project's approval based on an addendum to a 2013 environmental impact report was unlawful under CEQA, and that the project violates the city's general plan and zoning requirements.

Save Lafayette, an outspoken opponent of the project since it was first proposed in 2011, claims that the addendum to the EIR was incomplete, erroneous and inadequate in its examination of the potential environmental impacts of the Terraces project, and said in a statement, "When those inadequacies and errors were brought to the city's attention through public comment and additional expert reports and testimony, the city ignored the additional information, accepted the addendum and approved the project anyway – clearly abusing its discretion."

The lawsuit is not a surprise to many following the decade-long saga, and it is not the first one brought by Save Lafayette in order to prevent the project.

The 315-apartment project, in 14 two- and three-story residential buildings on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, adja-

cent to the freeway was first proposed in 2011. The application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes. Save Lafayette sued the city, resulting in a referendum on the future of the revised project. With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer, O'Brien Homes, resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project under the process agreement. The project includes 20% (63 units) offered as low-income housing.

"We are disappointed that Save Lafayette continues to perpetuate its opposition despite the city's careful deliberations and decision, and in conflict with many Lafayette residents who spoke in favor of this new housing in the community," said Attorney Byran Wenter in a statement on behalf of O'Brien Homes.

Wenter notes that Save Lafayette has opposed all development on this site for years and "single-handedly derailed a smaller, alternative project that many in Lafayette preferred."

"While Save Lafayette successfully caused the demise of that single-family project, they will not be successful opposing the apartment project," says Wenter. "Save Lafayette has raised nearly every imaginable reason to thwart the Terraces and its 63 units of affordable housing; its objections remain pretextual and devoid of credible evidence, and the Housing Accountability Act mandated the city's wise decision to approve the project."

Lafayette city spokesperson Jeff Heyman said that as of Sept. 25 the city had not yet been served, and the filing was not yet registered on the Court website.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
 Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Zoom Webinar

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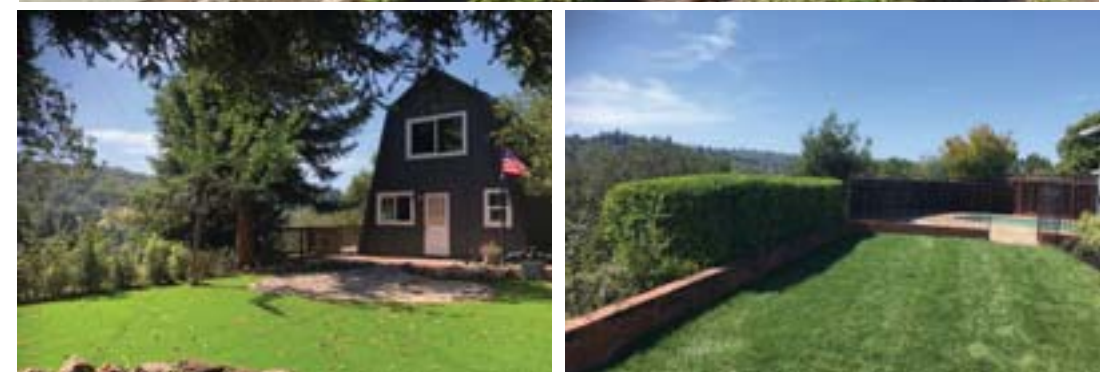
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Councils vote to support Plan Bay Area 2050 Housing Allocation Methodology

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council at its Sept. 9 meeting voted unanimously in favor of sending a letter of support to the president of the ABAG Executive Board for the Plan Bay Area 2050 Housing Allocation Methodology.

The purpose of Plan Bay Area 2050 is to encourage housing development proximate to job centers. With this in mind, there is an expectation of reduced transit and transportation congestion whereby commute times would be shortened, as well as a reduction in greenhouse

gas emissions consistent with Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 375, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's policy framework.

The town council wants a more equitable approach to jobs and housing by placing the homes where the job centers are located.

During Lafayette's Sept. 14 city council meeting, members voted to proceed with the resolution but agreed to submit a cover letter expressing some of their concerns regarding taking any action during a COVID-19 climate and its effect on state and local jurisdictions; the fact that high opportunity ar-

reas are the most costly to develop; and that the state's greenhouse gas goals don't apply to Contra Costa County, because a vast majority of jobs are located in other counties such as Santa Clara and San Francisco.

The Orinda City Council unanimously passed the measure at its Sept. 15 meeting, but also had concerns for allocating housing growth near job centers; discouraging housing growth near green fields and protected open space; and discouraging housing growth in small and rural communities.

Each jurisdiction within the state of California must

update its Housing Element, part of its General Plan, every eight years. Moraga's cycle is for 2015-23, Lafayette's is 2014-22, and Orinda's is 2015-23. In June 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development resolved that the nine Bay Area counties must accommodate 441,176 new housing units between 2022-30, an increase of 135% from previous housing assignments.

The Association of Bay Area Governments established the Housing Methodology Committee in 2019 in order to decide allocation of city housing units. Committee members include community

stakeholders, elected officials and jurisdictional staff. Representatives from Contra Costa County partake in the process, and the committee as a whole gathers information regarding regional trends, future forecasts and data analysis.

At that time, a 2019 Baseline Methodology was considered whereby Moraga, for example, would have to accommodate between 910 and 1,110 new housing units. The 2050 Plan Bay Area Methodology significantly lowers the town's housing expectations to between 680-860 new housing units.

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The REC Club – distance learning with a twist



Lillian Dillon enjoys the "back to school" atmosphere.



William Dillon during a virtual class at the REC Club.

Photos Jasmine Bateson

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Department of Parks and Recreation has found yet another way to keep the Hacienda de las Flores humming with activity during the coronavirus countywide health mandates.

The Remote Learning, Enrichment & Childcare Club was developed to help with distance learning for students grades K-8. The program, launched on Aug. 17, was created to provide children of the town's essential workers a place to study while their parents were called back to work, once it became evident that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction in the fall.

According to Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson, after an informal survey of local parents' thoughts on the feasibility of the idea, the REC Club was born. Due to popular demand and room for only 24 students a lottery was used to

fill the available spaces with a wait list for the rest.

"The virtual classrooms are set up in the Casita and La Sala buildings where the proctor/student ratio is two supervisors for every 12 students," Bateson explained. "The proctors are either college graduates or students from Saint Mary's College and California State University East Bay who provide the kids with technical assistance, schedule management, and monitoring completion of work. They do not act as a teacher or help the students in any way with their school work." Classes are in session from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Once the schoolwork has been completed, the REC Club converts to a recreation-based program with various activities such as science experiments, individualized arts and crafts, sports and more. The idea is to provide the students an environment much like the

one they would have had if district schools were in session. Besides laptops, school books and other supplies, students must bring their own snacks, lunches, medications and masks.

The REC Club follows a strict health protocol during the day which begins with a COVID-19 screening procedure during each morning's check-in.

Parental feedback has been positive, and many students are enjoying the experience so much that they have asked their parents for later pickup times. Megan Dillon whose children, fourth-grader Lillian and second-grader William, attend REC Club had high praise. "They did a quick turnaround and answered to the crisis quicker than the schools did. Their COVID precautions are strictly followed. It's been invaluable to our family."

For more information visit www.moragarec.com.

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Planning Commission updates Moraga Design Guidelines with regards to MCSP



Image provided

Scenario 2: View 4- looking west on School St. from Moraga Rd. and Saint Mary's Rd. intersection.

By Vera Kochan

During its Sept. 21 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended to the town council revisions and updates regarding the Moraga Center Specific Plan Design Guidelines that were adopted in 2010.

Among the updates were minor changes to sections including lighting; signage; walls and fencing; street design standards; pedestrian and bicycle-friendly design; Town Square design guidelines; and other minor non-substantive changes with modifications. Many of the adjustments were based on community input combined with staff and consultant analysis.

The town's General Plan has been incorporated into the MCSP Design Guidelines with regards to maintaining

the town's semi-rural character; protecting ridgelines and hillside areas; complimenting existing landscaping; enhancing the town's scenic corridors; minimizing the impacts of development; thoughtfully designing single-family residential neighborhoods and multi-family residential developments; and promoting commercial centers as community places.

The Moraga Design Guidelines, according to the Planning Commission, are merely a variety of encouraged design approaches which will allow for flexibility within the Moraga Municipal Code. It will assist the town with its vision, conformity and objectives while creating an aesthetically pleasing guide for developers to follow in keeping with the town's standards and expectations.



Langan for Moraga Town Council

Giving back to Our Community!

Hello, I am Kendall Langan and I have lived here in Moraga and Orinda since 1953. In 1974 I was one of the original members of the Town of Moraga Incorporation Committee. For another 14 years, I served the youth community as the President of the Lafayette- Moraga Youth Association. This program gave opportunities to over 5,000 youth sports participants each year. I have been operating a successful Food Industry business since 1968, it was incorporated in Moraga.

As your council member, I will bring professional experience that has prepared me to deal with the complex policy decision making processes on the town council. As a seventh-generation Californian, and having raised my family here in Moraga, I appreciate what Moraga has to offer and will work hard to maintain our quality of life. I am ready to give back to the town by serving on the Town Council.

As your council member, I will:

- Communicate clear visions of the future for the Town of Moraga.
- Support Local Businesses.
- Engage shopping centers to be a walkable, bike-able and enjoyable destinations.
- Preserve and maintain Moraga's open space and semi-rural environment.
- Improve the Town's relationship with Moraga's School District and St. Mary's College.
- Be accessible and responsive to constituents providing information and guidance.


Thank you, I will appreciate your vote!

Taking Your Voice to the City Hall

As a seventh generation Californian, and having raised my family here in Moraga, I appreciate what Moraga has to offer and will work hard to maintain our quality of life. I am ready to give back to the town by serving on the Town Council.

Kendall Langan

Kendall Langan 925-360-7256 klmoraga@aol langantowncouncil.com



Town Council
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Monday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

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

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

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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
 www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Finance Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting
 Wednesday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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OPD officers will wear body cameras

By Sora O'Doherty

In an ongoing effort to examine and improve policing after repeated national incidents of police misconduct, the Orinda City Council continued to review local policies, and adopted a rule requiring Orinda police officers to wear body cameras while on duty. The matter seemed to cause major confusion, however, when Police Chief David Cook explained that the body cameras, which are to be activated when an interaction with a member of the public begins, have the ability to turn on automatically when a weapon or a taser is drawn.

Cook had to repeatedly explain that the policy requires officers to turn on the cameras at the beginning of an interaction, but that the automatic function merely provides a backup in the event that an officer has not turned on the camera. The automatic function of the Axon Body Cam 3 will turn on all police cameras within 30 feet of an incident.

The city council unanimously adopted the five recommendations offered by city staff. Most of the recommendations concerned instating a body worn camera program for the OPD, including approving the contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc., allocating \$18,000 from the general fund reserves to pay for the first year of equipment and service costs. In addition, the council, at staff's recommendation, established a public safety subcommittee and directed the mayor and city manager to continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with the Orinda Union School District.

During his presentation, Cook said the body worn camera program will cost Orinda about \$16,568 per year and will

give Orinda access to the same data storage system as the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office, so submitting data will be as simple as sending a link to the DA. According to Cook, in 2019 OPD responded to 11,265 calls for service, including 213 "select crimes" (which include serious crimes against persons or property), 40 mental health commitments, and 143 arrests that gave rise to eight use-of-force incidents. Of those, six were actions taken by an officer to overcome resistance, and two involved use of a closed fist. In 2020 thus far there have been 8,550 calls for service, 121 select crimes, 63 arrests and two use-of-force incidents, one of which involved a closed fist.

Cook also discussed the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office's work to grow mental health programs, including a full-time deputy for the Mental Health Evaluation Team and the addition of an in-custody program. The Contra Costa County public managers association has established a subcommittee on mental health to review current structure of services, needs and resources, Cook said, and all Orinda officers will attend refresher training in crisis intervention and de-escalation.

The Public Safety Subcommittee should meet quarterly to receive reports from the chief of police including crime and arrest statistics, information on the use of cameras in solving crimes, use of force statistics, racial and identify profiling statistics when such statistics become available, and updates on legislation. Most important, Cook felt, would be updates from the city manager and a public forum for questions, concerns and feedback.

The city council also heard from OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton and members of the board, including board

members Hilary Weiner, Liz Daoust and Director of Curriculum David Schragg

In public comments, Heather Jinnalone asked why police officers are sent on mental health calls, and Cook explained that the only time police should be involved is when there is a danger to public safety or to the person, which is what is covered by California Health and Welfare Code section 5150 that governs when people may be subjected to a 72-hour mental health hold.

Cook said that he would try to get more information about mental health issues onto the Orinda police website.

Rebecca Verity expressed concern about the way police officers respond to ally witnesses, who stop, witness, even film. "I've had three incidents reported to me where OPD retaliated against people witnessing, filming," she said.

City council candidate Latika Malkani reported that she is very pleased that the city is finally moving forward with concrete recommendations and was thrilled to see the city welcome a partnership with the schools. The current recommendations are not the end but the beginning, she said, adding that access to data is critical, also with a mandate to come up with additional recommendations.

Diana Honig asked Cook why police are waiting to implement Race and Identity Statistics. "Ninety-nine percent of the time when I see someone pulled over, it is a person of color," she said.

Cook responded that the technology solution has been created and is now being tested. "As soon as it is ready," he said, "we'll start collecting the data," but he added that he does not know when that will be.



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Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

Darlene is endorsed by some of Orinda and Contra Costa County's most trusted leaders and community voices.

To learn more about my professional background, accomplishments and City service, and goals for Orinda, and to add your name to this growing list of supporters, please visit my campaign website at: darlenegeeforcouncil.com.

- ✓ Steve Glazer, State Senator, District 7
- ✓ 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

VOTE DARLENE GEE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2020, FPPC 1428111



Your voting questions answered



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

The long-awaited general election of November 2020 is fast approaching. According to Assistant Registrar of Voters Scott Konopasek, voters in California have been voting by mail for over 20 years and every elected official in the state has been elected by a majority of mail-in ballots. "If you trusted it last time, you should trust it this time," he advised.

The county is making it even easier to vote this year. Secure locked ballot drop boxes are increasing from 12 to 43. In Lamorinda, these secure ballot boxes are located at the Lafayette School District Office, the Albert Hall Library at Saint Mary's College in Moraga and at Orinda

City Hall. There are many other secure locked ballot boxes throughout the county, including the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office at 555 Esco-bar St. in Martinez.

All ballots are collected daily from drop boxes and polling locations. When a ballot is received by Elections, staff will validate the ballot by checking to see that the signature on the outside envelope matches the signature on the voter's registration. If it doesn't, the voter will be notified of the problem and given an opportunity to cure the problem. Konopasek says that half of all rejected ballots are ones where the voter forgot to sign the envelope, or the signature doesn't match.

Voting early will be great for the election, Konopasek said. The more ballots that are received early, the easier counting the ballots will be. Additionally, the more ballots cast early, the less strain and stress there will be at polling places, and that would result in shorter waiting times to vote. The earlier ballots are turned in, the faster they can be counted and the sooner the results of the election will be known, although, as with any election, the results will not be official until certified by the county election official.

... continued on Page A14

Cocktail competition

... continued from Page A1

Spector mentioned that the cocktails can also be prepared with non-alcoholic spirits, such as those by Seedlip.

Nomura says that the mixologist award is coveted among bartenders, who advertise that they are award winners. She also said that sponsors have embraced the event, seeing it as a great activity during these difficult times. The process was very long, starting back in July with applications from bartenders. Spector described it as essentially like planning two events.

The 2020 finalists and their cocktails include Hailey Coder of Bar Cava in Martinez, whose cocktail is called Two Faced and offers the best of both worlds – a refreshing fruity concoction with a kick! This drink features El Mayor Tequila, combined with the contrasting flavors of jalapeno and pineapple, cranberry bitters and lime juice, and rimmed with something a little different on each side.

Ben Dimond (from Bardo Lounge in Oakland) features the cocktail Smog in the Noggin, inspired by the bartender's thousands of interactions with strangers passing through who asked him to surprise them with something special. This drink features St. George Terroir Gin, combined with honey syrup, Meyer lemon shrub, and absinthe, topped off with sparkling soda and herbs.

Brian Gamble, an independent mixologist, offers the cock-

tail Fall'ifornia Dreamin' which kicks off the season with an autumn flavor bonanza! This drink features St. George Breaking & Entering American Whiskey, combined with St. George Spiced Pear Liqueur, apple cider, rich chocolate bitters, and cozy spices.

Mike Whipple of Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga concocted the Chipotle Bloody Mary, which breaks with tradition and starts your day off with some heat. This drink features Tahoe Blue Vodka, paired with tangy tomato, bright citrus, and smoky chipotle.

Sadé Stamps of Sobre Mesa in Oakland created her cocktail, Betty's 7pm, which captures the essence of cocktail time at the bartender's family celebrations and the merriment that ensued. This drink features Banks 5 Island Rum, paired with Meyer Lemon shrub, pineapple syrup, two different bitters and a pineapple garnish.

Art of Mixology kits are available for shipping or pickup during designated times at sponsor Orinda Theatre Square in front of Starbucks. Kits and will be available until the end of October. Each kit, which makes from six to 10 drinks, sells for \$50 each or all five kits can be purchased for \$200. Pickup is free; shipping is an option at \$15 per kit. Pickup will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

All details about the event can be found at the Lamorinda Arts Council website: <https://lamorindaarts.org>

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The Orinda Firewise Council says

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Orinda

John Jex
Moraga

The only MOFD supporters of the summer chipper program

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Funds for Fire Prevention

Darlene Gee
Orinda City Council



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 & to engage the City of Orinda and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.

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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

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MOFD to reinstate wood chipper program

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District announced Sept. 24 that its community chipping service will resume Oct. 5. The program has been on hiatus since June while the district fire prevention staff con-

ducted inspections and enforced exterior hazard abatement requirements.

"The district-funded chipper program is very popular and is a great way for MOFD to partner with district

citizens and help remove hazardous vegetation from their property," Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs said.

To submit a chipping service request or to obtain more information, contact the

MOFD Fuels Mitigation Staff at chipperprogram@mofd.org or call (925) 258-4599. Once the request is submitted and program requirements are met, a Fuels Mitigation Specialist will be in contact to

schedule the chipping service.

Priority scheduling will be given to Firewise neighborhoods and areas with large numbers of participating homeowners.
- N. Marnell

Local High School District reinstates interdistrict transfer policy

By Sophie Braccini

The Acalanes Union High School District approved at the end of August a policy that will allow a number of students from other districts to transfer into one of AUHSD's public schools. Superintendent John Nickerson explained that the stakeholders' voices supporting this change had been heard. The board members voted unanimously in support of reinstating interdistrict transfers.

In the wake of George Floyd's murder, the AUHSD stakeholders, students and parents loudly voiced a need for change. The district quickly enacted several policy and curriculum changes that were implemented at the beginning of the school year (see the article in the Aug. 19 issue). Some, however, felt that a policy enacted in 2018 banning interdistrict transfers was in opposition to the district's desire to present itself as reducing racial inequities. A student-led movement began, and parents got on board to once again allow interdistrict transfers.

Sachin Lakhota and Josh Morganstein from Miramonte

are examples of influential students in the movement that led to the change. The two wrote a 37-page report demonstrating that school district boundaries are a tool to perpetuate segregation in education, and that allowing the transfers would be a pragmatic though small step toward improving racial equity. The two students met online with four of the five board members to present their findings.

AUHSD alumni Carly Johnson and Ava Killbourn introduced the Acalanes Union High School District Committee for Multicultural Educational Reform in June, and current and former students joined them, such as 2020 Miramonte graduate Amrita Pannu, co-founder and former president of the Miramonte South Asian Culture Club, Nisha Andrews and Keshini Cardozo, along with Ava Moran, the current co-president of the Miramonte Black Student Union. The Acalanes Union Coalition for Transfer Students was also formed by AUHSD alumni and current students.

Students met with parents' diversity and inclusion clubs, spoke at board meet-

ings and organized a protest at the district's building. They became the stakeholders' voice that was heard by the district.

Many students talked during the Sept. 16 board meeting discussion about the policy change. They presented the issue of equal opportunity in education and equity as the crux of what was at stake. Terms like desegregating the district were heard, some said that public education without transfer students was not public education, and they asked for the end of the ivory tower.

Ellen Zapalac, a district parent, noted that it will be important next year to make sure that the transfer students and their parents feel welcomed and included. Lakhota said the same thing, adding that equity and leadership student groups were working on educating each other about different cultures.

Nickerson explained that the 2018 change had been made strictly for economic reasons. Because of its status, the AUHSD does not receive any funding from the state for students coming from other districts. But the number of

students coming from other districts is dependent on availability, and will not create the need to open extra classrooms. It will permit the number of students to stay stable in high schools, such as Miramonte where enrollment has declined.

Board member Bob Hockett had voted for the ban in 2018 and said that at the time the decision was made for financial reasons. He said he has since realized the value of diversity; he listened to a lot of students and parents, and saw this as an equity issue. Hockett supported reinstating the transfer, acknowledging this was a small step, and that more diversity needed to be brought to our communities. He recommended that the transfer students be spread out throughout the three Lamorinda high schools.

Board member Kathy Coppersmith was the only one who voiced a nuanced opinion despite the prevalent politically-correct vibe of the meeting. She noted that this policy would not be necessarily welcomed in the Miramonte community. She addressed students, telling them that their parents had likely

chosen purposefully a non-diverse white suburban community to raise them. She said that she was concerned that not many parents had been heard at the board meetings and that those who talked to her privately about the policy change were against it. She neither gave a number nor names. Coppersmith also noted that the districts from which the students will come will lose funding as a result and that this change would not be a sure way to increase the schools' diversity as AUHSD cannot pick students for the color of their skin or socio-economic status. The board member voted for the policy, adding that this was not the answer to diversify the schools.

Transferring students from one district to another is preceded by the signature of a contractual interdistrict attendance agreement between the districts involved. The superintendent then accepts transfer students based on schools' impact, enrollment and other district's financial considerations. January is typically the time when transfer requests are made, both in or out of the AUHSD.

Candidate differences define MOFD Division 5 race

... continued from Page A8

Jorgens said that today, most fire districts and cities have reserves of at least 50% – equal to six months of expenditures – to prevent operational shortfalls. He noted that, in 2008-12, MOFD was forced to reduce emergency services to the community because its reserves were insufficient to weather the financial crisis. "This year, our revenues are already below expectations," Jorgens said. "We need both good spending

discipline and solid reserves so we will not be forced to reduce our emergency services in this current or the next crisis."

Summary:

Girdlestone told a local news outlet in August that she was withdrawing from the race for "personal reasons and a possible move," but she said she is now fully committed to securing the MOFD board seat.

"After experiencing a close call just feet away from our home on El Toyonal a few

months ago, not to mention our friends in L.A. losing homes to fire, I have a very high appreciation for the work that our fire department provides our community," she said. "I will be looking at every way possible to make our community safer."

The challenger stressed her ability to maintain good relationships, the "key to getting things done," Girdlestone said. "I will bring a new perspective if I serve. I will also bring transparency, honesty and will work to bring the

community together, not divide it."

Jorgens insists that the safety of its residents must be the district's first priority, and he vows to continue to identify and support the deployment of advanced technology for early fire detection and automated triggering of evacuations.

"Let's strive to make all of Orinda and Moraga Firewise, safe from increasingly prevalent wildfires to help ensure the availability of affordable home insurance for every-

one," the incumbent said. "According to Cal professor John Radke, a disaster modeling expert, fire prevention is the only way to stop wildfires from devastating our community."

With his 30 years of executive management experience in both the public and private sector, and a technology background, Jorgens said he will continue to guide sound governance decisions at MOFD.

As seen in Lamorinda...



Trump and Biden supporters on the El Curtola bridge overpass in Lafayette Sept. 25 during commute hours.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Re-Elect John JEX Fire Board (MOFD)



My Promise to the Moraga Community:

- 1) Focus more on Fire Prevention while still providing State-of-the-art Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- 2) Be a Budget Watchdog to ensure transparency and responsible use of MOFD funds to maximize community benefit.
- 3) Utilize Advanced Technology to leverage MOFD's physical assets and well-trained personnel.

John Jex

Community Leaders and Hundreds of Residents support John JEX for MOFD!

(Titles for identification only. Partial list of supporters.)

- Steven Glazer - CA State Senator
- Candace Anderson - President, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
- Brad Barber - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President
- Chris Conrad - Chair, Ascot Highlands Firewise Committee
- Darlene Gee - Mayor, City of Orinda
- Marna Eyring - Moraga Education Foundation, Founding Boardmember
- Dennis Fay - City of Orinda Councilmember, MOFD liaison

- Gene Gottfried - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President
- Craig Jorgens - Moraga Orinda Fire District Board
- Chuck Larsen - Chair, Rheem Valley Firewise Neighborhood
- Melanie Light - Chair, Orinda Firewise Council and Founder, Lamorinda Firewise Neighborhoods
- Mike Metcalf - Former Moraga Town Mayor
- Brent Meyers - Smart Moraga
- Anne Obsitnik - Co-Chair, The Bluffs Firewise Neighborhood

- Dick Olsen - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board, Moraga Citizen of the Year, County Fire Commission former president
- Chris Severson - Acalanes High School District Board
- Dave Trotter - President, Moraga Community Foundation and Former Moraga Town Mayor
- Steve Woehleke - Moraga Town Council
- Peggy Woehleke - Moraga Park Foundation

"I greatly value the accounting expertise and financial conservatism that John Jex has brought to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and its Board. I strongly support Jex's re-election to the MOFD Board."

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

"John Jex strongly supports fire prevention and the best interests of our community. John has also championed the effort for fiscal prudence to protect local taxpayers. Join me to Re-Elect John Jex to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board (MOFD), who votes to protect Moraga's citizens, not outside special interests."

Anne Obsitnik, Co-Chair
The Bluffs Firewise
Neighborhood


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Paid for by Vote Jex for MOFD 2020 FPCC #pending

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY

Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

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



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AUHSD & BART BOARD

October 6 ★ 7PM

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Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A10

No on R

The city is asking to raise the current half-cent sales tax to 1 cent for 20 years without telling me how this money will be spent. It is not sufficient to say it will be used for "essential services" without committing specified amounts and providing a, year by year, 20 year, detailed plan for expenditures and the expected results. It feels to me that we are simply being asked to sign a blank check. If the city plans are inadequate or poorly executed I expect they will return, asking me for yet more money. Surely this increased tax will hurt struggling businesses and residents.

I will vote no on this tax as the city already has my half-cent sales tax money for "essential services" till 2023 when the current tax expires. These most unusual times are not conducive to a 20-year tax.
Heather Allen
Orinda resident and teacher

Private road bailout?

So some Orinda residents want the government to bail them out from the costs of maintaining their multi-million dollar homes?

Every homeowner on private streets signed legally binding agreements acknowledging their liability for maintaining the private streets.

But now it is too expensive and they want a government bail-out?

I think the money would be better spent to improve education in low income communities in our state.
Don Mahoney
Moraga

A Time to Refrain From Taxation

If the City truly is serious about protecting us from deadly wildfires, it should not have been waiting for a new tax. It needs to be removing fuel right now, by redirecting existing incoming tax money and postponing some non-essential ongoing projects. Instead, the Council is baiting us with Measure R - a 20-year general tax largely intended for road and drainage infrastructure (based on a poorly researched, incomplete, study) with an insufficient and tiny proportion planned for fire. Please don't fall for this deceptively promoted measure. Instead, we need a 5-year \$150 fire-fuel specific parcel tax on the earliest possible ballot, and postpone any general sales tax increase until we see if and how the local economy recovers. Based on recent survey responses, augmented by terrifying current experiences, a fire parcel tax will easily garner the 2/3 vote. It will also produce more fire-specific revenue. On the other hand, if Measure R passes, those of us who truly care about fire safety and infrastructure will likely be disappointed.

The measure R increase combined with County Measure X sales tax would bring Orinda's already high rate to 9.75%, and hurt our local businesses as some try to survive. While not necessarily driving patrons away, higher sales tax more heavily impacts businesses in a different way. While inventory for resale is not taxable, fixtures and equipment and even many business supplies are taxable. Physical components of most home, building and vehicle repairs are also taxable. A company or unemployed resident needing a repair

or replacement will pay higher sales tax on most or all of the transaction.

While many residents are surviving economically, at least for now, I refuse to vote away the money of those who aren't, to a 20-year uncommitted tax that the City will often spend inefficiently, based on my 26 years in Orinda. Let's let those of our residents and businesses who are struggling, recover. Please vote NO on R.
Joel Libove
Orinda

Yes on Measure R

Orinda residents should vote yes on Measure R. My young family lives in the Orinda hills and each morning that I drive these windy roads with my two preschool aged children, I am reminded what dire need we are of increased fire mitigation to keep all of our families safe.

Wildfire prevention is urgently needed now more than ever because of years of growth buildup and Orinda's all-time high risk of fire danger. Measure R will devote the needed funds to fire fuel reduction including an expanded chipper program and cleanup of overhanging branches and trees that endanger evacuation routes. All Orinda residents will benefit from the funds, including those on private roads. I've seen the terrifying pictures of other fires where trees fell and blocked roads and with these needed upgrades to keep our roads clear from unnecessary brush, we can avoid that disaster in our community.

For our families, for our young children, for the future of Orinda, let's vote yes on Measure R, providing badly-needed funding for fuel reduction along roads and

other measures to improve our chances of surviving a wildfire. Please, vote yes to help keep Orinda safe!
Betsy Ream
Orinda

Anduri and Dawson endorsements

Carl Anduri possesses deep planning and city council experience that is much needed after Mike Anderson's departure. He is a thoughtful problem solver with an experienced legal mind who can provide guidance on tricky issues. As a city, we face unprecedented legislation that has and can continue to limit our ability as citizens to control our zoning and development. Carl will provide strong leadership that encourages working together over expensive litigation.

Gina Dawson is a successful and results oriented community organizer who brought attention to the PG&E gas pipeline neglect that resulted in actions to improve pipeline and community safety. I met Gina many years ago as part of Sustainable Lafayette and have admired her dedication to our community and high regard for safety and sustainability. Climate change, fire, air quality and safety are challenges that face our state and beyond. We need knowledgeable and dedicated people on city council with proven success in navigating these challenges. Gina gets things done.

Please join me in voting for Carl Anduri and Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council
Karen J. Maggio
Planning Commissioner
Former Sustainable Lafayette Board Member
... continued on Page A12

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT - Division 2

Experience • Leadership • Fiscal Responsibility

VOTE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NATE SMITH

Division 2

NateSmith4mofd.com
www.facebook.com/nate4MOFD



- BA Degree in Economics, University of Michigan
- 13 years private sector Silicon Valley
- Endorsed by The Firefighters of Moraga and Orinda



Preparation and Prevention: "Help me to ensure FireWise, CERT and HeartSafe programs are all aspects of our community and throughout MOFD. Let's embrace a culture and mindset of **Emergency Preparedness and Prevention!**"

Balance: "Our community must **balance prevention with suppression** to enhance safety. I will ensure a balanced approach to fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical services."

Fiscal Responsibility: "Fiscal prudence is fundamental to the health of the MOFD and our community. My private sector work experience in Silicon Valley and as a Firefighter in San Ramon gives me a unique skill set to help utilize tax dollars wisely."

Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A11

New taxes in the time of pandemic

Measure R on the November ballot in Orinda is a proposed doubling and extension of the sales tax in Orinda, supposedly to provide additional funds for fire mitigation and maintenance of the roads and infrastructure in the town. Since it is a general tax, the town cannot designate how the funds will be used because that would require that it become a specific tax which, as I now understand, would require that the measure be passed by 2/3 of the voters. Last evening I had the opportunity to participate in an open forum with several of the candidates running for the City Council in Orinda, two of whom are incumbents and strongly support Measure R. Their defense of the measure was disappointing. While they say that the proceeds of this new tax will largely be used for fire mitigation, there is no way for them to assure that either in the short term, or certainly in the long term, that this will be the case. The composition of the Council will certainly change over time as will the fiscal pressures on the City. As such, we can have no assurance that there will be increased expenditures to protect us in the event of wildfires. The Council has not evidenced any urgency in expending funds on fire mitigation in the last several years even though the threat is real and present. Instead we will be saddled with a new tax for the next 20 years. I also question whether this time, at the height of the pandemic and the worst economic crisis that we have ever faced, is the right time to increase taxes. This is a tax that hits hardest on those with fixed incomes and those at the lower end of the earnings scale. This is the wrong time to increase taxes. And Measure R is the wrong tax. Most of us strongly favor improved fire mitigation actions and better emergency preparedness. This is just the wrong way to accomplish that end. Use the existing funds from the sales tax to start the effort and demonstrate a serious commitment. Over time, if additional funds are needed, propose taxes that will assure that the funds will have to be used for these purposes. I urge the voters in Orinda to reject this ill-conceived new tax and vote NO on Measure R.

Help plan and protect Lafayette

Lafayette City Council Members, you serve our city during challenging times. We are beset by financial, health and social concerns, seemingly at every corner. Yet it is the environmental threat posed by climate exacerbated wildfires that may determine your legacy. We have been relatively lucky in that significant wildfires have not yet consumed much of our city, but make no mistake that Lafayette is NOT safe from this threat. I serve as the Fletcher Jones Professor of Ecology at St Marys College and am a resident and homeowner within Lafayette. I have over 30 years' experience studying the ecology of California and can say with certainty that at some point in the future the open lands and forests that surround and enrich Lafayette will catch on fire and burn. This is inherent in the very nature of these ecosystems, as fire is a natural element that shapes and structures the oak woodlands, chaparral and riparian forests we enjoy. These future fires

threaten the lives, livelihood and property of Lafayette City residents.

You stand on a precipice in your service to the city. Now is time for bold proactive action not passive laissez-faire politics. The city needs to work with landowners, especially those living at the wildland interface to create defensible spaces, it needs to proactively remove vegetation (including some of our beloved trees) and create buffers on city owned spaces, it needs to work closely with landowners and managers of the large tracks of open space surrounding Lafayette (East Bay Regional Parks, Land trusts, EBMUD etc.) to create fire boundaries around our city. Many of these actions will not be fully popular and they will be difficult to enact, but that does not mean they are not the right thing to do. The time is now to be bold in your actions and get ahead of the curve so we can protect the lives and city that we love. Please do not be complacent as we are counting on you to help us prevent the incredible fire tragedies we are witnessing in communities around us. You cannot stop fires from happening, but you can help us plan and protect the city of Lafayette. Isn't that what we all want?

Dr. Michael P. Marchetti
Lafayette

Orinda Fire Prevention: Where's The Plan?

Orinda plans for everything, except fire prevention. Yet, it wants us to commit to a 20-year, \$60 million tax (the largest in the City's history) in the hopes that it may come up with a plan and spend that money prudently. And it is asking us to do this in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century when we have no idea what the economy might be like, for residents and local businesses, when this new tax kicks in.

The City has spent years, and tens (hundreds?) of thousands of dollars on downtown plans. The City has detailed road improvement plans, starting in 2012 with major rewrites in 2014, 2016 and 2019, overseen by a standing 7-person commission. It now (finally) has a major storm drain maintenance plan (although it has omitted accounting for how to deal with the water the City dumps from its streets onto private properties).

But the City has no plan on what it will take to minimize the threat of a devastating wildfire. This is despite the fact that it has had three decades since the Oakland Hills Firestorm to think about it. The only "plan" is a few words in a needs report to the Council in July saying the City should spend \$500-750,000 a year for 3-4 years on fire prevention, and a reduced amount thereafter. Where these numbers came from is unexplained.

Will the City, which has never spent anything on fire prevention in the past, actually spend this money in the future? It has been taking in over \$1 million a year in sales tax for 8 years and has spent nothing on fire prevention. Are there any guarantees that, if we double the tax amount, the City will start spending appropriate amounts on what is the community's greatest concern? No. This is a general tax meaning that there are no guarantees. As the signs say: Wrong Tax; Wrong Time.

Charles Brotman
Orinda

Vote for Miller and Gee

I am writing to endorse both Darlene Gee and Inga Miller for the Orinda City Council. As a citizen of Orinda and as a member first of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and now of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, I have worked with both Darlene and Inga for a number of years. Both have shown a real dedication to the city of Orinda.

Serving as a member of the City Council is an incredibly challenging job, with so much to study, consider, and evaluate. Both have shown a remarkable ability to absorb, assess, and intelligently discuss the complex issues that the City faces. Even more important, Darlene and Inga have also shown exceptional ability to work effectively with the City's staff, committees, commissions, and other members of the Council, to recommend actions that they think will best serve the majority of the city's citizens.

I strongly recommend voting for both Darlene and Inga as members of the Orinda City Council.

Jud Hammon
Orinda

Why I oppose Measure R

I oppose Measure R for many reasons but foremost is my distrust of our city government. I have observed our councils for nearly 30 years. I have the following observations.

- The councils always use "spin" to influence voting. A transparent government should not use marketing techniques. Using our fear of wildfire should not be the means to pass a general tax that will be used predominantly on public storm drains.

- The council does not ask the citizen's preference. Although the polling did consider extending the current ½ cent tax for only ten years, someone decided to double it to one cent for twenty years with no explanation.

- The council does not hold meetings where dialog is allowed, to hear the citizens desires and explain the issues. Democracy requires all voices to be heard. Instead, the citizens are limited to a 3 minute speech and questions raised are not answered. They thank you and move on.

- There is usually no discussion or objections to flawed or questionable assertions in a staff report. Staff is always commended for their excellent work.

- Even when citizens make reasonable alternative suggestions these are not discussed. They are simply ignored as though never made.

Despite current "assurances" future councils over the next 20 years may choose to spend measure R funds in ways we do not want. Past councils have spent our money on a variety of non-essential expensive projects. Future ones will too, unless we prevent them. The current ½ cent sales tax does not expire till 2023 and the city could use these funds to provide fuel reduction and necessary infrastructure repairs for the next two years. The reserve fund has \$10 million and has increased by \$1 million for the last four years.

I am unwilling to make a twenty year commitment during a pandemic whose

economic consequences are not yet known. Had the council proposed shorter taxes that could only be spent for specific purposes I would have supported them. I summarize with "it's the WRONG TAX at the WRONG TIME".

Charles Porges
Orinda

Protect our homes with Measure R

In the fall of 1984, I stood in my driveway and watched a grass fire, started by a tossed cigarette, burn less than 200 feet away. When the fire reached a Monterey pine tree, it looked as though the tree had been napalmed. With an audible "WHOOMP" it burst into flames—an exploding tree.

It was a hot dry day, but fortunately, not windy. Still, I climbed on my roof with a garden hose and wetted down our wood-shake roof.

Times have changed a bit. We've had an asphalt shingle roof since 1994. We removed 13 Monterey pines, and we've changed our landscaping to reflect a hotter, drier climate. But climate change has lengthened the fire season and made us all less safe.

We have a chance to make serious progress on the vegetative fuel load that has grown in Orinda since the 1940s, when it was grass and native oak trees. Measure R on the November ballot will increase Orinda's sales tax by half a cent. The city council has stated that the first years of the tax will be used primarily to tackle the long-overdue project of removing brush and overhanging trees to reduce fire hazards and keep evacuation routes open. We need to do this. The cost of this measure is far less than the insurance premium increases many of us are paying. Let's get to work!

Linda Landau
Orinda

Re-Elect Jex and Jorgens for MOFD

Being a long-time resident of Moraga, I have followed with interest the progress that the Moraga Orinda Fire District board has made since Directors Jex and Jorgens joined the board. They have identified critical needs and provided solutions to address those needs.

Their background and experience have been crucial to the progress that MOFD has made financially and operationally in addressing fire prevention at a critical time for our communities. Two key things they have done have been hiring new creative and effective leadership, and developing policies to improve the financial ability of MOFD to redirect and expand fire prevention programs such as the development of fire safe neighborhoods, and the chipper program to support these efforts.

We need their continued effort and leadership now more than ever to ensure MOFD remains a strong community resource as we face the challenges of becoming fire safe. Re-Elect Jex and Jorgens to MOFD.

Charles R. Larsen
Moraga

... continued on Page A13



Carl Anduri

Lafayette City Council

Carl has the **PROVEN EXPERIENCE** to deal with our most pressing challenges:

- ▶ Proactively manage the development of our downtown corridor, including affordable housing
- ▶ Protect our hillsides, ridgelines and open space
- ▶ Deal with the causes and effects of climate change, including planning for wildfire evacuation
- ▶ Promote inclusiveness and equity
- ▶ Revitalize our downtown in the wake of the pandemic
- ▶ Improve traffic flow and parking
- ▶ Prudently manage our City's limited resources

"We need Carl's proven experience, judgment and vision on the Council. He will be, once again, a great Councilmember for our entire community." - Anne Grodin, Former Mayor and Lafayette Citizen of the Year

"There is a reason people who served with and worked with Carl are supporting him -- they know his experience and leadership will make Lafayette a better place to live for all of us." - Teresa Gerringer, Councilmember, Lafayette

Please Join Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support Carl!

Mike Anderson and Courtney Murphree	Kathy Daly Susan Dannenfelfer	Nancy Hu Ronald Hufft	Karen and Tom Mulvaney
Brandt Andersson	Carl DiGiorgio	Gary Huisingh	Suzanne Muraki
Sharon Anduri	Francine Donner	Rick Humann	Carol Murota and Neil Zelin
Ann Appert	Joe Dougherty	Don and Linda Jenkins	Terry Neifing and Doug Sterne
Bob Athayde	Ann Drevno	Cody Keller	Matt Pease
Patty Battersby	Tom Duckworth	Liz and Matt Keyser	Caesar Perales
Joe and Lucy Beck	Marechal Duncan	John Kiefer	Jennifer Perlmutter
Geoff Bellenger	Roger and Pat Falcone	Kristin and Ken Kisner	Earl Piermattei
Terry Ann and Jeff Black	Carol Federighi	Wei-Tai Kwok and Violet Hsu	Mark Poole
Steven Bliss	Beth Ferree and John Eaton	Chris Lane	Annette and Will Roberge
Larry and Karen Blodgett	Jim Fitzsimmons and Kris Torske	Todd and Betty LaPorte	Steve Richard
Bill and Betty Brown	Danielle and Sean Gallagher	Bill Lau	Bob Russell
Bill Bucher	Dennis Garrison	Jay Lifson	Beryl and Ivor Silver
Cam Burks	Judy Garvens	Sharon Lingane	Carol Singer
George Burt	Teresa Gerringer	Will Lovitt	Dave Smith
Susan Price Callister	Danielle Gogo-Gallagher	Budd MacKenzie	Karen and Pete Smyth
Bart Carr	David Gold	Lynn MacMichael and Howard Weamer	Linda Staaf
Lorinda Carson	Anne and Marshall Grodin	Karen Maggio	Dale and Carol Statley
Larry Challacombe	John Hall	Bruce Marlowe	Alice and Gary Stern
Michele Chalmers	Martha and Jamie Harris	Kathleen and Richard Marshall	Martha Strock
Dianne and Jim Chandler	Lynn and Dave Hiden	Greg Mason	Kristina Sturm
Tom Chastain	Alison Hill	Byrne and Oystein Mathisen	Tony Suh
Sereta Churchill	Jeanie and Jimmy Hill	Ruth McCahan	Don Tatzin and Ellen Reintjes
David Clark	Mary Ann Hoisington	John McCormick	Janet and Ramsay Thomas
John Coleman	Barbara Hollenbach and Bill Abbott	Mary and Daryl McCosker	Tracy and Donn Walklet
Steve Cortese	Sue Cross	Jan McHale	Jesse Wellen
Richard Craig	Robin and Dick Holt	Kathy Merchant	Joan West
Janet and Rick Cronk	Patricia and Erling Horn	Gordon and Nancy Mills	Barbara and Mark Wille
Sue Cross			Avon and George Wilson
Patricia Curtin			Diane and Fred Wilt
			Hugh and Mary Anne Winig
			Anne Wondolowski
			Mary-Jane Wood
			Carol Yates

(Partial list)

Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A12

Please vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

These are challenging times for our City, making the need for councilmembers with experience, skill, and proven leadership essential to implementing initiatives that will truly benefit our community. Carl has made complex land use decisions for us for sixteen years, championed the development of a 100% affordable housing project, led us through a recession, showed the way to improving our deteriorated residential roads, launched the City's response to climate change, drafted the ordinance that made it easier for our houses of worship to assist homeless families and led the City's effort that added ridgeline open space.

I am confident that Carl will continue to inspire and implement what is best for the City, and that he is the right person for Lafayette's future. I served with Carl on the Planning Commission for two years and on then on the City Council for eight, and the qualities I observed first hand -- his collaborative style of leadership, careful listening, analytical abilities, respect for all and competence to get things done -- are what we need now.

For Lafayette's future: Experience, leadership and civility are essential. Please join me in voting for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council.
Mike Anderson
Mayor, City of Lafayette

John Jex for MOFD Board for Fiscal Responsibility

I write to enthusiastically endorse and encourage my fellow citizens to re-elect John Jex as a Director of the MOFD Board. MOFD was established 23 years ago with a Board of Directors to be made up of community citizens; the very individuals that finance, through their tax dollars, the MOFD. From personal acquaintance and from observation of John's actions as a Board Member, it is clear that he is a judicious trustee of the community's funds allocated to the MOFD. John spent his entire professional career at the accounting firm of Deloitte, retiring as a Partner. That deep experience has already paid dividends to the community as he was instrumental in uncovering a \$23 million accounting error on the MOFD books.

We have an excellent Fire Chief to ensure our MOFD firefighters are well trained and that fire-wise strategies are being deployed. We already have three former firefighters or fire department employees on the Board. We need a voice expert in speaking to the financial interests of the District that will allow MOFD to complete its mission of fire responsiveness, fire prevention, and responsible management of the firefighters' pensions and other ancillary benefits. John has been and will continue to be a wise trustee of MOFD's resources.
Red Smith
Orinda

Re-Elect Darlene and Inga

Darlene Gee and Inga Miller should be re-elected to the Orinda City Council. They are endorsed by many present and former Orinda officials and volunteers. Their opponent is endorsed by outsiders such as

disgraced SF Asm. Phil Ting.

Darlene and Inga have spent four years participating in council meetings and know the issues. Their opponent has attended very few meetings and offers few details about her plans.

Darlene and Inga have participated in the public, open budget process, which includes several public meetings over many months with detailed documentation. Their opponent falsely claims that the budget process is not open and transparent.

Darlene and Inga have caused staff to aggressively pursue grants. Their opponent falsely claims that they have not.

Darlene and Inga have an excellent plan for wildfire prevention, fuel reduction, and evacuation, and placed Measure R on the ballot to fund those activities. There have been actual and virtual evacuation exercises. Their opponent is supported by people who voted against continuing the free chipper service over the summer. Their opponent also wants greater collaboration between Orinda and MOFD, without apparently knowing that the Council already formed a coordination subcommittee that includes Darlene. Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Vote Yes on Measure R!

Please join me in supporting this essential ballot measure and proving for a safer Orinda. Just eight years ago, Orinda voters approved a modest increase in the sales tax rate to fund repairs to Orinda's deteriorating roads. This critical funding source has helped complete road improvements on time and on budget but is set to expire. • Measure R renews the expiring voter-approved sales tax and increases the rate by ½¢ (50¢ on a \$100 purchase) to provide locally-controlled funding for local needs, including: • Improving wildfire safety by controlling hazardous brush and vegetation throughout Orinda • Protecting neighborhoods, schools, fire stations, roads and bridges from wildfire by maintaining defensible space • Repairing aging and collapsing storm drains to prevent flooding, sinkholes, and maintain safe evacuation routes • Improving disaster preparedness by enhancing emergency communications, early alerts and evacuation planning • Maintaining roads to minimize future costly repair This very modest tax is incredibly valuable in ensuring the safety of our community. Please vote YES on Measure R!
Dean Orr
Orinda

Please vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

We are in difficult times and I am afraid this will probably continue. I would feel much better if we elect a councilmember who has demonstrated he can solve problems and provide leadership. Carl's problem solving and proven leadership abilities will be supported by his unmatched knowledge of our community—from the neighborhoods to our downtown. By his work with the City Council, Carl demonstrated his ability to get things done! I feel fortunate that Carl wants to bring this knowledge back to the Council and put it to work for us. Carl will

also add another critical dimension to the Council. Perhaps I am biased because I am an attorney, but I believe Carl's legal skills and judgment were a great benefit in the past and will be again. Experience brings knowledge.

Please vote for Carl Anduri for City Council—a proven leader.
Susan Price Callister
Lafayette

David Stromberg for Town Council

Several years ago, as a Planning Commissioner, I met David Stromberg when he was on Moraga's Design Review Board. He was serious, thoughtful and well prepared on the projects that came before the Board. When appointed to the Moraga Planning Commission, he has continued to work with a deep understanding and commitment to the principles of our Town: open space, citizen input, our ordinances, smarter development, and a serious awareness of how Planning will affect the future of our semi-rural Town. As a new Town Council member I am sure he will continue to demonstrate these qualities, values and skills to better our town. I support David Stromberg for Town Council.
Suzanne D'Arcy
Planning Commissioner, Moraga

Onoda for Moraga Town Council

We urge Moraga voters to return Teresa Onoda to the Town Council.

From her 39 years as a resident and her service on both the Planning Commission and the Town Council, she brings an energetic, informed and disciplined approach to Town governance. With her understanding of the values and priorities of the community, she collects the relevant information, listens to those who come forward to speak and then acts in the best interest of the community. While demonstrating a strong commitment to the protection of ridge lines and open space in land use matters, she supports managed growth consistent with the Town's semi-rural character.

A tireless advocate for the arts, she led the establishment of and has provided leadership to Moraga's Art in Public Places Committee, which has added color and vibrancy to the Town.

In both her public and private life, she is an avid practitioner of inclusiveness, encouraging involvement by all segments of the community. She supports expansion of retail businesses and common-sense steps to implement the Town's Climate Action Plan.

Teresa's experience, knowledge, core values and disposition make her an ideal candidate for the Moraga Town Council. Sam and Susan Sperry
Moraga

A vote for Renata Sos

I am urging Moragans to re-elect Renata Sos to the Town Council. She has a long record of serving our community. As a coach and volunteer, as a Planning Commissioner and as a Council member, Renata's experience is unmatched. She also combines intelligence and patience with passion and commitment. One of those areas of commitment is to defending our General Plan and our open space. The fi-

nancial pressure to "bend the rules" regarding open space preservation is strong. We need Council members with the knowledge and courage to enforce the Town's policies, laws and regulations. Furthermore, due to the epidemic and its economic impact, local governments will be facing unprecedented financial and resource challenges. Renata's legal and business experience will be critical for Moraga to survive these difficult times.

Please join me in voting for Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council.
Bill Vaughn
Former Mayor
Moraga

Re-Elect John Jex and Craig Jorgens for MOFD Board

Four years ago, Craig and John ran on a platform of Fire Prevention, long before prevention was even a topic of discussion and before the Napa, Santa Rosa and Paradise fires.

Craig and John, using intellect and innovation, put prevention into action on the MOFD Board. Craig identified the need for a chipper program to reduce fuel load in our communities and voted for funds to start it. Only John and Craig voted to continue this program over this summer. The chipper program has already removed 190 tons of fuel from Moraga and Orinda in 2020. In 2016, Craig worked with UC Professor John Radke and his grad students, using drone and satellite technology, to identify hot spots via computer burn simulations to guide fuel mitigation and evacuation plans.

In their first year on the board, John and Craig uncovered a \$23M double-accounting error and fought the entrenched system for months to correct it.

I am so impressed with the depth of sophistication Craig and John have demonstrated. They are looking out for the citizens of Moraga and Orinda and need to be re-elected.
Lucy Talbot
Orinda


Gina Dawson for City Council

We are supporting Gina Dawson for a seat on the Lafayette City Council. We have known Gina for about four years and knew of her work on environmental issues including gas safety and fund raising for Lafayette Partners in Education.

We know her best for her work with the Lafayette Hillside Memorial (formerly known as The Crosses of Lafayette) where her organizational skills and sharply focused suggestions in meetings have been a real help in guiding our group. The creation of the LHM website is an example of her enormous contribution. We are sure anyone who has worked with her will echo our opinion of how valuable her input has been for us and so many in our Lafayette community.

Gina Dawson will be a great asset on the City Council...
Lynn MacMichael and Howard Weamer
Lafayette

Re-Elect Craig Jorgens

Businessman  Engineer
Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Fire Safety is a Choice – Prioritize Prevention

- Endorsed by the Orinda FireWise Council representing over 1000 North Orinda homes and growing
- Initiated MOFD Chipper program in 2018 (removed 190 tons of fuel in 2020)
- Promoted sensors/cameras/software enabling early fire detection and evacuation
- HOA president, leading 150 acre open space fire prevention effort
- Uncovered \$23M double counting assets on financial books and fought to correct it
- BS in Engineering/Economics, MBA
- **Endorsed by CA Senator Steve Glazer and 250 other Orinda residents**

Craig has been instrumental in developing Orinda's fire prevention efforts to reduce our risk of a catastrophic firestorm. Craig fully understands that wildfires can only be controlled through prevention and not just suppression.

– John Radke, Cal Berkeley Professor, founder Center for Catastrophic Risk Management

I believe becoming FireWise is unifying our community as neighbors work together to prevent devastating fires.

– Craig



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Your voting questions answered

... continued from Page A7

Here are some dates to be aware of: Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 3 and this year, on Oct. 5 all registered voters will automatically be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot for the general election. The deadline to register online to vote is Monday, Oct. 19. Registering by mail must be postmarked by that date as well, but if you miss that deadline, the deadline to register in person is election day. Eligible citizens can go to their county election office, polling place, or vote center to register and vote conditionally. These ballots will be processed as soon as the county elections office has completed the voter registration verification process.

Early voting – which means returning your ballot to elections early, via mail, secure drop box or bringing it to Elections in Martinez – will start on Oct. 5, and run through the Monday before election day. In addition, there will be some 18 polling places throughout Contra Costa County that will be open for in-person voting, with early voting offered in Lamorinda at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Lafayette, and the Moraga Library. Both will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 and Monday, Nov. 2, and from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. There are other early polling places nearby, such as in Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

The actual deadline for ballots being received is 17 days after election day, and those ballots, provided they have been postmarked on election day or earlier will be counted by Nov. 20. What if your ballot is received within the 17-day period after election day, but you actually voted at the polls? If you mail in a vote-by-mail ballot, that is the one that will be counted, according to Konopasek. You cannot change your mind and vote differently on election day, unless, of course, you bring in your mail-in-ballot to the polling site and surrender it. In that case, you can vote a regular ballot on election day. This year, poll workers will be able to access the county's central data base to see if a voter's mail-in-ballot has been received by Elections. If not, the voter can vote a regular ballot.

Voters can use the ballot-trax website (<https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>) to see when your ballot is mailed out to you, when it is received back

by Elections, and when it is counted. You will also be able to see if your ballot is rejected. If your ballot is received by mail after election day but before the 17-day cut-off, there will still be time to correct the problem and your vote will be counted.

If you arrive at your polling place, and they say that you have already voted, you can vote a provisional ballot. If someone else returned your ballot, the signature on the envelope would have to match your registration signature.

The last possible day for a voter who failed to sign the vote-by-mail ballot envelope to correct the mistake is Dec. 1. If you forgot to sign the envelope, you can either sign the identification envelope at the office of the county elections official or complete and submit an "unsigned ballot statement" in person to the county elections official, or by mail, email or fax. The election must be certified by the county elections official to the county board of supervisors no later than Dec. 3.

It is a crime to vote twice in an election within most states. Konopasek urges everyone to vote, but only once.

More information on where and how to vote:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/where-and-how>
For a computer generated personalized sample ballot, visit:
https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Moraga's 2020 Pear & Wine Festival another COVID-19 casualty



Photo Vera Kochan

The few remaining pear trees from the Moraga Company's once vast orchards.

By Vera Kochan

Traditionally held the fourth Saturday in September, the town's annual Pear & Wine Festival fell victim to coronavirus social distancing mandates. The festival signals the beginning of the fall season to Moragans whose town symbol is a green Bartlett pear.

The pear (*pyrus communis* -- meaning common pear) belongs to the rose family (*rosaceae*). The USA Pears website declares that pears were called "a gift of the gods" by the Greek poet Homer. The California Pear Advisory Board states, "The Bartlett pear got its start in 17th Century England, originally known as the Williams pear before crossing the Atlantic with the early colonists. Nurseryman Enoch Bartlett of Massachusetts, unaware of the pear's true name, began distributing the variety under his own name in 1812, and it quickly became America's favorite." Most townsfolk know

the immediate 100-year history regarding the existence of pear orchards in Moraga. Planted by James Irvine in 1913 for his Moraga Company, a ranch and agribusiness nearly 11,000 acres in size, the crops also included walnuts, apples, peaches, apricots, beans and beets.

Sold under the name Moraga Pears, the fruit was the largest pear operation in the state between 1914 and 1944 and became world famous. According to former Moraga Historical Society archivist Elsie Mastick, "It was the largest distribution of pears in the world." Trains came through town loading up on fruit that would be destined for the East Coast and beyond, as well as local canneries such as Del Monte in Oakland.

According to information gathered from the MHS, when Utah Mining and Construction bought the 5,000 acres of pear orchards in 1953 only 150 acres of pear trees re-

mained. More trees were cut down and replaced by shopping centers and subdivisions. By 1974, pear harvests were discontinued and the remaining trees were left standing untended. Of the original 38 pear orchards, only a handful of trees still remain.

Today a few lucky Moraga homeowners can say with pride, "I have a Moraga Company pear tree still bearing fruit in my backyard." This reporter is one of them.

The annual Pear Festival began in 1999 by then-Moraga residents Tom and Stephanie Smith. By 2003, Moraga Parks Foundation took the helm. Once a pear tree is planted, it can produce fruit for nearly 200 years. That's good news for the town of Moraga, which can look forward to a Pear & Wine Festival at least through the year 2113.

Note: Additional research for this article provided by MHS President Susan Sperry.

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Simple spicy chicken thighs, perfect for grilling



Grilled Wasabi Chicken Thighs

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This is what I love about being a cooking family ... the kids start adding to the recipe collection and it's great fun to see what they come up with! This recipe is my son Joel's concoction. He loves to get creative in the kitchen and is always pondering new and clever ideas for interesting food combinations. It's his respite from the day-to-day grind of his high-tech job. We are the lucky beneficiaries of this pastime. He made this

dish for us a few weeks ago, and when I made it later to document it, I realized that his caramelized shallot-wasabi cream sauce, which he created for a swordfish dinner many years ago, would be a wonderful complement to this chicken. If you're inclined to make the sauce, great, but if not, the chicken stands alone and is an easy dinner to prepare. Toss it on the grill for about 5-10 minutes per side and dinner is served!

Grilled Wasabi Chicken Thighs

With Caramelized Shallot-Wasabi Cream Sauce (Serves 4)

Chicken & Marinade

INGREDIENTS

6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs

Marinade:

3/4 cup soy sauce

1.5 oz. prepared wasabi (1 tube)

2 tablespoons Chinese hot mustard

3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil

1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

3-4 slices fresh ginger root, peeled

DIRECTIONS

Place chicken thighs in a plastic container with a fitted lid, or a Ziploc baggie. Combine all marinade ingredients and stir well. Pour marinade over chicken and marinate for two to four hours.

Preheat grill to medium heat. (We use a gas grill, but if you're using a charcoal barbecue prepare barbecue as you normally do to cook chicken.) Remove chicken from marinade and discard marinade.

Cook chicken thighs for 5-10 minutes per side, until juices run clear and meat is cooked through.

Serve over a bed of rice along with a spoonful of the Caramelized Shallot-Wasabi Cream Sauce. (Recipe below.) Garnish with extra wasabi, (if you're brave enough), lime wedges and a parsley or cilantro sprig.

Caramelized Shallot-Wasabi Cream Sauce

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup shallots, chopped

1-2 tablespoons sesame oil

1 1/2 teaspoons prepared wasabi

1 1/2 teaspoons hot Chinese mustard

1/4 cup Saki or dry sherry

1/4 cup half & half

1/4 cup soy sauce

DIRECTIONS

In a small sauté pan, sauté shallots in sesame oil until browned and beginning to caramelize. Add remaining ingredients and stir well. Heat just to boiling, then reduce temperature to low or remove from stove and set aside until ready to reheat and serve. Grill Wasabi Chicken Thighs to desired doneness, and drizzle heated sauce over chicken and rice.

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>



How to tell if your pet is in pain



Illustrated by Jaya Griggs; jayagriggs.com

By Mona S. Miller, DVM

I spend a large portion of my workday discussing pain and pain management with my clients, and I am often reminded that it is difficult to assess pain in our non-English-speaking dogs and cats. I hear a lot of phrases such as "I don't think he's painful because he doesn't cry out," or "she's not painful, she's just limping." I also hear comments such as, "But if we give medicine for pain, won't he start running around and hurt himself again?"

The old paradigm for "treating" pain was to not treat it, let pain itself be the limiting factor for mobility and allow healing to occur slowly (and painfully). The "new" paradigm, consistently in place for well over 25 years, is that we recognize that pain itself is an impediment to healing – it is very difficult to

get better when we are feeling uncomfortable, both physiologically and emotionally. This is well-recognized, with many peer-reviewed studies available throughout human and veterinary medicine, and is beyond the scope of this article. I'd like to proceed with the understanding that not treating pain is not healthy and not helpful. Both acute and chronic forms of pain should be addressed and treated, in order to provide comfort and healing.

I will address the lengthy topic of pain management in a series of articles, but first, let's start with some basic definitions. Just as there is a spectrum of pain levels, and many pain scales are available to health care professionals and human patients (think of the sad red crying face emoji), so there are many words to indicate levels of pain. These words include the obvious: pain, discomfort, uncomfort-

able, tender, sore, hurt, suffering. When a client uses one of these words in a description, that's the red flag being waved. The statement "he's not painful, he's just sore" is a contradiction – but it provides good information to me as a vet. It tells me that my client's assessment of pain is that it's present at a lower level rather than a high level.

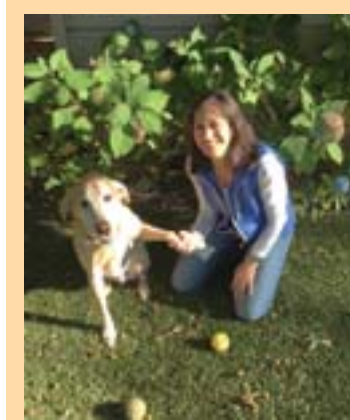
The first step in discussing pain management is to identify signs and levels of pain. Some symptoms can be obvious, and these are usually physical signs, such as "when I touch the bee-sting sore, he winces," or "she can't put weight on the leg, it must hurt her," or "he cries and meows when I touch him." Physical reactions include reactivity on touch (wincing), heat (inflamed areas are warmer and you can feel this sometimes when rubbing along an arthritic back or leg joint), swelling, inability to use the

limp in a full functional manner, and vocalization.

Some symptoms of pain are behavioral responses. The obvious is a reaction to anticipated hurt, as in "He tries to bite me when I touch his back." Possibly less obvious, however, fall in two major categories – decreased mobility and withdrawing. The most notable example of decreased mobility comes from a TV advertisement from several years ago (for a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug pain medication product) of the senior yellow Labrador with hip arthritis sitting at the bottom of a staircase, not wanting to go up the stairs. And a notable example of withdrawing is the arthritic cat who doesn't interact as socially as she used to, and stays hidden in the closet. Some of the words and phrases we use to describe these behaviors don't always mean pain in the literal sense,

but definitely indicate a problem: "Not as happy as he used to be," "Not coming for lap time snuggles," "Seems sad."

Chronic pain can sometimes be harder to determine than acute pain, because individuals have the ability to cope and compensate for chronic pain. As a general rule in my opinion, most animals are more adept than humans at masking signs of chronic pain, waiting until pain levels are moderate or high before showing obvious symptoms. As veterinarians, we are trained to look for pain in a variety of ways, and there are now several resources available to pet owners to assess for pain in their own pets. The advantage to having a variety available is that one can evaluate more specifically the signs that your pet might be demonstrating. I highly recommend that you check the following resources below and speak to your veterinarian about any concerns you might have if you feel your pet is in pain.



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

Here are some websites to look into:

<https://painfreecat.org> - from the North Carolina State University College of Vet Med, the FMPI - Feline Musculoskeletal Pain Index

<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/blog/article/your-dog-is-in-pain>

<https://ivapm.org/animal-pain-awareness-month/> - towards the bottom of the page are downloadable posters available to veterinarians that provide descriptives; here's one example:

https://ivapm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IVAPM-Signs-of-Pain-Poster_Illustration-2019_final-8-6-19.pdf

http://www.vasg.org/pdfs/CSU_Acute_Pain_Scale_Canine.pdf - from Colorado State University Veterinary Medical Center

Moraga middle school student named finalist in STEM competition

Submitted by Aparna Paul

Broadcom Foundation and Society for Science & the Public recently announced 30 finalists – one from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga – in its 10th annual Broadcom MASTERS, the nation's premier Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics middle school competition.

According to Broadcom Foundation, the project for JMIS student Lucas Katz, 13, was called "A Spherical Omnidirectional Motor for Electric Vehicles." The project background information noted that in 2017, Goodyear Tire & Rubber announced a new concept for an automobile tire. It's shaped like a sphere, instead of a donut, and would work on a car that can move in all directions. Lucas talked to

someone with Goodyear and learned that the tire was only a concept. "Goodyear is trying to inspire others to build the motor" that would work it, he explains. Lucas had independently been thinking about making a motorized skateboard. His model would have one spherical tire propelled by a motor. He had also seen a YouTube video about a ballpoint pen with a weight-transfer bearing. Those ideas led him to design a motor that could work for Goodyear's concept tire or his idea for a skateboard.

The finalists will compete in the first ever Virtual Broadcom MASTERS Oct. 16-21 where they will participate in a rigorous virtual competition that

leverages project-based learning to test and demonstrate their mastery of 21st century skills of critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration in each of the STEM areas. The finalists' projects focus on a variety of topics, including: using machine learning to predict the growth of wildfires and COVID-19; quantifying gerrymandering and creating an algorithm to create fair political districts; using artificial intelligence to sort recycling; determining if turmeric is contaminated with lead chromate; and using artificial intelligence to predict diabetic eye diseases.

A full list of the finalists can be viewed here:

<https://www.societyforscience.org/broadcom-masters/2020-finalists/>

MEF donations strengthen distance learning



Photo Casey Sproul

A Rheem Elementary student prepares for the first day of distance-learning.

By Jenn Freedman

While classrooms look quite different this fall, school is back in full swing. During this time of distance learning, as well as hybrid learning (in-person and virtual) down the road, local support of public schools is just as critical as ever.

Thanks to donations from

parents, community members and businesses, Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) supplements state funding to ensure that Moraga schools can provide a high-quality, well-rounded education by using these grants to fund the areas of academics, enrichment, wellness, professional development, STEAM, and now pandemic response, enhanced distance learning, and

diversity and inclusion programming. Specifically, donations fund teacher aides, reading tutors (elementary), writing aides (middle), counselors, wellness centers, college/career counseling, art, music, physical education, librarians, and safety equipment. The programs and staff funded by MEF donations are crucial to schools whether students are distance learning or in the classroom.

MEF has granted \$ 2.45 million to the Moraga School District and Campolindo in the 2020-21 academic year. These grants have aided the COVID-19 response and distance learning in vital ways.

For example, this year's professional development for teachers has focused on teaching virtually, understanding student social/emotion needs, and racial and cultural diversity. Fifth-grade teacher Clare Fallon at Camino Pablo Elementary explains, "The donations made to MEF allow me to grow and become a better teacher in so many ways. With the changes that have unfolded in our world since March, professional growth is even more vital than ever. The professional development opportunities offered to teachers in Moraga are current to the changes of education and society. They enable me to better understand how to help my students academically and emotionally."

MEF grants also fund classroom materials like subscriptions for interactive tutorials in all science classes. Campolindo science teacher

Roxanna Jackman explains, "We have been able to purchase subscriptions from Pivot interactive tutorials. These subscriptions allow our students to do experiments and change variables and gather data in our Living Earth, Chemistry and the Earth, and Physics in the Universe courses, as well as our AP courses."

Plus, the academic support staff (tutors, aides, and academic counselors) has been instrumental in the success of distance learning. Suzanne Tom, first-grade teacher at Los Perales, explains, "Our reading tutors provide reading intervention for my little guys (via Zoom) who are struggling to make benchmark levels. With their support, along with having family support at home, a lot of times it's just the little lift that they need to get them where they need to be. And they feel so good when they can read at benchmark."

Rheem second-grade teacher Angela Guidi adds, "What remains constant during this time of change is my classroom aide, Mrs. Hardin. She is integral to us as we utilize the 'breakout room' function on Zoom, which allows us to work in small groups with the students. But to do that, we need another adult to supervise the rest of the students."

In addition, student wellness and social/emotional learning are indispensable during this time of uncertainty and hardship. MEF grants fund counselors, who support students through in-

dividual, small group, and classroom programs. "This is especially important now more than ever during distance learning, when we all need help and support connecting with each other, and coping with how school looks a lot different this year," explains Emily Navolio, third-grade teacher at Camino Pablo.

Finally, MEF grants have been used to fund critical safety equipment like masks, sneeze guards, face shields, hand sanitizer, sanitizer floor stands, outdoor hand washing stations, goggles, thermometers, toilet seat covers, HVAC filters, disposable gloves, and disinfectant room foggers, and school learning tools like Chrome books, hotspots, Zoom subscriptions, online assessment systems, and webcams.

MEF is currently raising funds for next year's grants, and while they accept donations throughout the year, their annual Week of Giving is Oct. 5-11. "Our local public schools rely on community support to be among the best in the state. The Week of Giving is a perfect time to make a donation to MEF, a donation that will preserve the high standard of education we have come to expect in Moraga. Our hope is that everyone who benefits from the excellent Moraga public schools—parents and community members—will donate at a level that is right for them," says MEF president Lisa Brown.

To donate, go to www.moragaeducation.org.

It takes a Village ...



Photos provided

Submitted by Bob Stoops

An enthusiastic group of volunteers (40-45 individuals ranging from 12 to 80 years old) under the direction of Friends of Orinda Creeks could be seen Sept.19 picking up trash and clearing brush along San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda. This section of creek, from Chevron to Bank of America, is notorious for illegal trash dumping and littering. FOC announced a staggered work shift program which began at 9 a.m. and finished at noon. Volunteers arrived at 9, 10 or 11 and worked for an hour or more along the creek. The staggered shifts were designed to emphasize social distancing. Masks were mandatory. Volunteers included FOC board members, Next Door Orindans, and male and female Scouts from Orinda Troops 303B and 303G. Leaders and parents from the Troops were also there to help.

Huge piles of trash, debris, brush, one chair, a printer, and one car bumper were brought up from the creek and piled up for pickup by the city of Orinda on the following Monday. FOC would like to thank all of the Coastal Clean-up Day participants and Orinda staff Scott Christie, Public Works/Engineering and Steve Ecklund, City Maintenance Supervisor for coordinating the pickup and removal of debris.

"San Pablo Creek should be an integral and featured part of our Downtown Precise Plan, given the community's documented interest in restoring it and integrating it with the Village," said Bob Stoops of Friends of Orinda Creeks. "Unfortunately, it currently suffers from dumpster blight, as some property owners and tenants adjacent to the creek seem to have little interest in maintaining a clean, accessible, pristine waterway."



Campolindo Leo Club installs new officers



Photo provided

From left: Lions President Andy Boggeri, Secretary/Treasurer Marina Rago, President Luca Rago, Vice President Brody Crouch, and teacher advisor Ms.Sarah Morgan.

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

Moraga Lions Club President Andy Boggeri on Sept. 9 installed the Leo Club officers – President Luca Rago, Vice President Brody Crouch, Secretary/Treasurer Marina Rago – for the 2020-21 school year.

The Leo Club members annually perform over 500 hours of community service including working the food booth at the Fourth of July and Pear

Festival at the Commons and the annual pancake breakfast at the Moraga Fire House. Due to the virus, these events have been canceled this year. Their motto: "We serve." In the 2019-20 school year the Leo Club was very successful in promoting diabetes awareness and were instrumental in placing a salad bar in the Campolindo cafeteria.

For more information about the Leo's and Lions contact Bob Murtagh, bobmurtagh@gmail.com

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.

Not to be missed

ART

Valley Art Gallery announces a new show featuring Catherine Fasciato – oils, and Nancy Meaden – ceramics which will run through 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

Lamorinda Art Council is calling for artists to participate in aRt Cottage 9th Annual Holiday Boutique 2020. The aRt Cottage is hosting their 9th annual Holiday Boutique during November and December 2020. Deadline to submit work is Oct. 15. Intake day(s) will be announced at the end of October. If you are interested in participating in the Holiday Boutique, go to <https://artscottage.blogspot.com/p/artist-submission-form.html>

THEATER

Shotgun Players presents Citizen Brain on Oct. 16-17, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. both days; Oct. 18 at 5 p.m.; Oct. 23-24 at 7 p.m. both days; Oct. 25 at 5 p.m.; Oct. 30-31 at 7 p.m. both days; Nov. 1 at 5 p.m.; Nov. 6 - 7 at 7 p.m. both days; Nov. 8 at 5 p.m., at Zoom, 1901 Ashby

Ave., Berkeley. Berkeley's favorite intellectual comedian and provocateur is back with an all new show! Cost: \$0-\$40. For more info see <https://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/citizen-brain> or call 510-841-6500 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert: Bach Inspired. Sunday, Oct. 11 from 4-5 p.m. Live-streamed via YouTube live \$20. Tickets and details: www.gccpmusic.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

The Lafayette Community Garden & Outdoor Learning Center's annual Harvest Festival was originally scheduled to happen at the garden on Sept. 27, but the event, like so many public events impacted by the pandemic, will be celebrated virtually with a movie. The movie depicts how, even with limitations placed on its members, the garden became a much needed respite during these unprecedented times. Lamorindans can view the free movie on the Garden's Website <https://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/>. Sept. 27, anytime, free Virtual Event for people who enjoy nature, sustainable practices and organically grown food

Las Trampas Lafayette is inviting to join a Virtual Tour of the Las Trampas Campus Project. Our campus continues to change daily! Please register to join us on

Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. Our guests this month will be Steve and Burak from Mueller Nicholls, our builders and Dan Hogue, Executive Director of Las Trampas. They will guide you on your tour and update you on the progress of the transformation of our 1968 building into a 2020 state-of-the-art facility.

Friends Corner Book Shop at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center campus reopens for curbside service only Tuesday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 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 it 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.

Not to be missed

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

JOIN the Lafayette Garden Clubs Zoom presentation on Thursday, October 8th. Cynthia Brian, known for her column in Lamorinda Weekly "Digging Deep with the Goddess Gardener" will educate on Firescaping. For more information visit www.lafayettegardenclub.com/calendar

Please submit events:
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~ Healthy Lifestyle ~

Protect your health during cancer treatment



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(StatePoint) Cancer can be a difficult and overwhelming diagnosis, and if you have cancer or are undergoing cancer treatment, your top priority is to get healthy. After your cancer diagnosis, there are many new things you might need to learn and manage. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Blood Clot Alliance want you to protect your health by understanding your risk for dangerous blood clots, because cancer and some cancer treatments can increase your risk. About 900,000 people in the U.S. each year are affected by blood clots, and about one in five of these blood clots are associated with cancer.

The risk for a blood clot is greatest in the first few months after cancer is diagnosed. Some cancers pose a greater risk for blood clots, including cancers involving the pancreas, stomach, brain, lung, uterus, ovaries and kidneys, as well as blood cancers such as lymphoma and myeloma. The higher your cancer stage, the greater your risk for a blood clot. The type of cancer treatment you receive may increase your risk for blood clots too. Treatments involving hospitalization, surgery, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, catheters placed in your veins, and some other therapies can increase your blood clot risk.

Know the Signs and Symptoms of a Blood Clot

Blood clots occur most often in the legs or arms, and symptoms include:

- Swelling
 - Pain or tenderness not caused by an injury
 - Skin that may be warm to the touch, red or discolored
 - Blood clots in your legs or arms can travel to your lungs, which can be deadly.
- Symptoms of blood clots in your lungs include:
- Difficulty breathing
 - Chest pain that worsens with a deep breath
 - Coughing up blood
 - Faster than normal or irregular heartbeat

Contact your cancer doctor immediately if you experience any blood clot symptoms.

A Plan to Protect Your Health

As you take steps to preserve your health, make blood clot awareness

part of your care.

- Know your risks for blood clots, and discuss these risks with your cancer doctor.
- Stay alert for any signs or symptoms of blood clots after surgery or treatment in an outpatient clinic. Contact your cancer doctor right away if you experience any of these signs or symptoms.
- Work with your cancer doctor and make a plan to protect yourself

against blood clots that is specific to your personal medical history and treatment.

Visit www.stopthe-clot.org/spreadtheword/cancer for more information.

If you have cancer or are undergoing cancer treatment, protect your health. Know your risk for blood clots and talk to your doctor if you experience any blood clot signs or symptoms.

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LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

Why weighing your Medicare Part D options is crucial this year



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(StatePoint) You likely hear the same word of advice every fall: review your Medicare Part D plan. While you may be tempted to stick with what you have, it's important to remember that plan specifics change annually, your health needs are always evolving, and as this year has shown, unexpected global events can impact your health and finances. For all these reasons, doing your homework is not only important, it has the power to substantially reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

"Reviewing your Medicare Part D options is the best way to ensure your prescription needs are met affordably in the coming year," says Kelle Turner, Express Scripts Medicare Part D expert. "COVID-19 has highlighted how having the right coverage is critical to helping you stay safe and healthy."

To help those turning 65 and older make sense of their options, Turner offers the following tips:

• **Don't procrastinate:** Part D enrollment is taking place from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 this year. If you're like most people, you may be inclined to delay your decision. Indeed, nine out of 10 people wait until the last minute to select a plan, according to Express Scripts. However, the selection process can be complicated, so don't deprive yourself of the time needed to thoughtfully comparison shop.

Factor in how the COVID-19 landscape has potentially impacted your selection process. With many in-person resources (e.g., local Medicare workshops, working with a broker or agent, etc.) being conducted virtually or requiring you advance scheduling this year, you can get ahead of the game by starting early.

One good resource to check out is RoadmapForMedicare.com, a free access website now offering short educational videos, recorded webinars and articles with tips to select the plan that's best for you. The site also features FAQs and expert advice so you can better assess your options.

• **Look beyond premiums:** While reviewing your options, look at the multiple factors which can affect your overall costs over the course of the year. While a lower premium might save you money upfront, these plans can have much higher copayments, which over time can add up.

• **Check coverage:** Plans change annually, so don't assume that because your medications were covered under a certain plan last year that they will be covered again this year. Before enrolling or re-enrolling, check that your current drugs will be covered. Likewise, check out each plan's pharmacy network and what is covered to ensure that it meets your needs. For example, you may find that right now, your top priority is the safety and convenience of home delivery of prescriptions drugs in order to reduce your chances of exposure to coronavirus.

• **Get savvy:** Free expert advice can help you navigate the selection process and make informed decisions about your healthcare. Be sure to look for trusted sources who can provide the information you need to pick the plan that will work best for you and your budget.

Take a closer look at your Medicare Part D choices. In these uncertain times, it is particularly important to be prepared to weather whatever comes your way.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Kelly Sopak moving on to coach Carondolet women's basketball



Kelly Sopak on the side line

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

After 12 years as the head girls basketball coach at Miramonte, compiling an overall record of 304-46, Kelly Sopak determined that it was time to move on to Carondolet High School. There were numerous factors involved for Sopak, who called it "an extremely difficult decision."

"There's never a perfect time to step away from something because you're always

going to leave something on the table," Sopak said. "The timing just seemed right to make the move, and with all of the uncertainty with everything, I'm at the point where I'm ready for a new challenge. It's going to be a big challenge because at this point, they're not the Carondolet of old. They definitely need to have some rebuilding done which is similar to what I walked into at Miramonte when I started there."

Sopak has had other job offers through the years but was always focused on Miramonte throughout the year, putting in an entire summer program, playing games and getting ready for the upcoming season. As with everything, the coronavirus was a major disruption for Sopak's summer program: "This year, it just went dark. I haven't been to the gym since our last game. Being away did make the decision to leave a little bit

easier, make it more of a clearer picture for me."

Sopak, who will still be coaching the wide receivers at Miramonte, is not leaving the basketball team in a lurch: "I have reached out to all of my players via email and we are going to meet soon, segmenting everyone into three different groups to make sure that we don't have too many people together at one time. The players are in their strength and conditioning

program already so they're well on their way."

Sopak will be taking all of his varsity assistants with him to Carondolet and believes that the Matadors JV coach Vince Workman would be a good candidate to replace him: "The last three years, Vince has done a great job on and off the court. The players like him and in terms of wins and losses, he's accomplished all that."

With so much success, there are some memories that stand out for Sopak: "Coaching Sabrina Ionescu for four years was pretty remarkable. Ironically, a win in 2014 over Carondolet in the NorCal tournament to go to Arco Arena was the best game I was ever associated with." Sopak also singled defeating Pinewood 73-40 to win the NorCal Open title, ("It was surreal to take apart that good of a team") and defeating St. Mary's Stockton 94-79 on the road in 2014, ("This game will stay in my memory bank."), but "I'm just going to miss being in the gym at Miramonte, that's what I will miss the most."

Sopak has received nothing but support from all quarters: "I was surprised, even humbled, by the amount of support from my current and former players and the current and former administrations that have reached out, congratulating me and offering support which was something that I wasn't expecting. I have heard from current and former Carondolet players and parents. It has been very heartwarming on all fronts. Anytime you make a decision like this one, you don't know if it's the right thing to do but to get all of that support, it affirms that I am ready for this challenge."

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New varsity soccer coach at Campo named



Steve Chappell Photo provided

Submitted by
Raymond Meadows

Steve Chappell, who is currently the executive director of the Walnut Creek Soccer Club and brings extensive experience in high school soccer as the former head varsity boys coach at Northgate High School from 2007-19, has been named the head varsity boys soccer coach at Campolindo High School.

In addition to being the head coach, Chappell served as the athletic director of Northgate High School from 2006-10, bringing additional leadership and organizational skills to Campolindo. His focus on developing the character of Campo student athletes, along-

side scholastic and athletic achievements, directly aligns with Campolindo's vision for the program.

"[Steve] has a deep understanding of how to develop high school athletes both on and off the field and a proven track record of doing so," said Athletic Director Raymond Meadows. "He is committed to supporting student-athletes in all aspects of their lives, helping them thrive academically, athletically and personally. He has a clear vision for the Campolindo Boys' Soccer Program that builds upon the foundation already established here at

Campolindo. I am confident that he will do an outstanding job in this position."

Chappell has been successful at preparing student-athletes for the next level of play, but more importantly, he has maintained a focus on developing athletes of character that excel in the classroom, on the athletic field and in life. He lists one of his most proud coaching accomplishments as having his boys varsity soccer team either winning or being one of the top three scholastic teams in NCS from 2016-2019.

"I am extremely excited to join the Campolindo Cougar

coaching staff and represent a school and community that supports student athletes, on and off the field," Chappell said. "Campolindo is one of the finest public schools in all of California and the sports teams continue to compete and win consistently at the league, section, NorCal and State levels. During all of my conversations with school leadership, Principal John Walker and Athletic Director Ray Meadows, I quickly realized, the support and vision of sports at Campolindo was something I wanted to be part of."

Tiger Garcia on the 'Rhodes' to success



Photos Gint Federas

Tiger Garcia in the State Championship game in 2014

By Jon Kingdon

If there has been one constant in Tiger Garcia's life besides his participation in sports and an excellence in academics (3.92 GPA at UC Davis), it has been having to consistently correct people who mispronounce his first name: "It's Tee-Gur. My great grandfather was from Germany and his nickname was Teegur, which is tiger in German. My father's side is Navajo and Spanish so it's a big mix there."

With incredible family support, academics and athletics have served as a strong foundation throughout Garcia's life, culminating with his currently applying for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Growing up in Moraga, Garcia played basketball, soccer and baseball, but only one year of football due to not making the weight minimum until his freshman year in high school.

Even at a young age, Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy was there for Garcia who attended Macy's summer camp every year up until high school: "Coach Macy was awesome. He has always believed and been there for me. When I was 7, Coach would let me stand on the sidelines next to my brother, Oliver, who was in full uniform. We have a photo of us together and to this day it hangs proudly in my mom's house."

As a senior in 2014, Garcia started at safety for the Campolindo football team that won the state championship, forcing a fumble that was returned for the winning score and then recovering a fumble on the ensuing kickoff to clinch the victory: "Winning the game in the last few

seconds was a great way to end my high school football career. I got to live my dream in that moment."

If that wasn't enough, Garcia also played on the Cougar's basketball team that made it to the state championship game, though losing to Damien High School: "I missed the first 10 games because of the extended football season but I did play a lot, hit a three-pointer in the championship game."

Garcia's father (Sam) did not allow Tiger and his brothers (Oliver and Lev) to overlook their studies: "Academics has always been important in our life. My father would not allow us to play sports unless we had the grades, though it was never an issue. He always stressed how it would open up doors later in our lives."

The classes at Campolindo proved to be consistent with the standards that Garcia's father set for him: "Campolindo was pretty tough academically. It really forced me to learn how to manage my time. The teachers really pushed us and made us work hard. Overall, the teachers were superb and Lamorinda seems to get the best teachers which really helps the students get better outcomes in college because of how much they made us work in all of our classes."

Looking for a top academic college and wanting to continue to play football, despite only weighing 160 pounds, Garcia chose to attend UC Davis: "I was the smallest and skinniest guy on the team so I redshirted as a freshman. After that I worked on putting on more weight (185) and played mostly on special teams to earn the respect of my teammates and coaches, culminat-

ing in my senior year when I earned a scholarship, became a starter and was voted co-captain by my peers. I started at the bottom and eventually was elevated to the highest position on the team. I liked the journey and it taught me a lot. I stuck to my dream even though a lot of people told me it wasn't possible, I still made it happen and I'm grateful to God for that opportunity."

After being named Academic All-American twice, Garcia graduated with a degree in managerial economics. Garcia was then named the initial recipient of the Bruce Edwards EVO Award at Davis. "It acknowledged a student's long-term plans – graduating, determining where you are going and having a plan going forward," Garcia said.

Last March, Garcia got a position with Apple in a financial development program, though with the onset of the coronavirus, he only spent one week in the office, spending the rest of his contract working out of his home.

"It was a stressful time, but I learned a lot about corporate finance and myself. My job was analyzing the newest iPad Pro's sales versus previous generations and what was happening on a world-wide basis, looking at all iPad Pro sales in every country. I had a lot of fun talking to finance teams from Japan, China, Singapore, Italy and France. It also helped to raise my cultural understanding, talking with people from places I've never been to and being exposed to cultures that I had never enacted with."

Though never lacking in confidence, Garcia's time at UC Davis strengthened his ability to not be intimidated by any challenge, he said: "The big thing that I learned at Davis was that I could do anything that I wanted, that I could choose the life that I desired and to pursue my dreams regardless of what society tells me is possible. It allowed me to believe that I did not have to lock myself inside a box and to have the freedom to choose the path I wanted to move forward."

With such a background, Garcia began the application process for a Rhodes Scholarship, an international post-graduate award for students to study in London, England. Recipients of this award receive a full scholarship to the University of Oxford, with a monthly stipend that covers accommodations and living expenses. It was established in 1902 by diamond magnate Cecil Rhodes and is widely considered the most prestigious international scholarship with only 32 Americans out of 3,000 applicants accepted each year.

When it was suggested by Garcia's academic advisor that he would be a great fit for a Rhodes Scholarship, he met with Scott Palmer, the Prestigious Scholarships Advisor at Davis who has guided

him through the process. It consists of multiple phases and requirements, ranging from the obvious (government-issued ID, transcript) to the strategic (building a CV, identifying 5-8 references). Garcia has spent hours researching Oxford's curriculum and faculty to strengthen his application. "I've been reaching out to the professors in the United Kingdom," Garcia said. "My goal is to build a relationship with them and show my interest in the program. Personal contact runs the world. It's awfully hard to apply for something cold or try to get a job without personal contact with the company. I think it's the biggest thing when you're an applicant anywhere. Reach out and touch base with someone beforehand. Otherwise, you're just another name in the pile."

One of the eight people who are writing a reference for Garcia is UC Davis Professor Jerry Lundblad, who had Garcia in two classes – Organizational Behavior and Corporate Finance – someone who did not find it difficult to share his feelings about Garcia: "He was a top notch student. I got to know him well and often talked with him about his career paths. I played rugby at Berkeley and I understood how difficult it was to be a good athlete and student at a big university. During the season, he would come in my office and he would look tired, but he would always ask very good questions. He is very mature with a good presence and is comfortable in his own skin. I stressed that he was more than just a good student. He is a great candidate for this kind of experience in his life."

Garcia will soon be submitting his application and after final interviews around Thanksgiving, the final deci-

sion as to who will be accepted will be made soon after that.

At this point, Garcia has been most interested in data business and financial analytics: "I like to do the research and digging into numbers to come up with powerful insights." He is also looking into computer-based financial advising. "With technology, financial advice can be scaled to be much more accessible to all income classes," Garcia said. "It will allow more people to get premier financial and investment advice and live a financially responsible life due to the advancements in technology."

Garcia recently married another athlete, his wife Lauren, who threw the javelin for Sacramento State. As with most things, Garcia's wedding was outside the box, Garcia said: "Lauren brought up the idea of my younger brother Lev officiating our wedding. He loves Jesus and is a special man and was only 20 at the time. He got a pastoral license and we now refer to him as Rev Lev. It was a surprise to everyone, and he knocked it out of the park."

Even with such an extensive academic background, Garcia still points to what he took away from sports for much of his success: "Athletics makes you focus on daily development. The self-growth is huge aspect in developing your personae and becoming more confident. When you know you're striving to be the best person you can be, it helps you to have a belief in yourself and to focus on what you can accomplish and how you can grow. That confidence has to be present on the field for you to be successful. Athletics has taught me how to fight for my dreams and boosted a belief in myself."



Tiger Garcia in a basketball game in 2014.

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Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Risky business



Photo Cynthia Brian

Even in a small window box, vegetables and flowers grow well together.

By Cynthia Brian

“Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you’re a thousand miles from a cornfield.” ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

When you bite into a crunchy apple, eat a bunch of juicy grapes, or slather butter on roasted sweet corn, unless you’ve grown these crops in your personal garden, do you ever wonder about the life of the farmer who provides you with your food? To grow healthy, nutritional produce, farmers work daily, rain or shine, in every season, to provide city dwellers with sustenance. They get paid when they sell their harvest, yet it only takes one natural disaster to destroy their year-long labors and erase the opportunity for remuneration.

Farming is a risky business.

A few times when I was a child, our family suffered the fate of a failed harvest. The culprit was usually a heavy rain mildewing the fruit before it could be picked. This year, the demon was the horrific fires with the unending days of suffocating smoke that smoke-tainted the grapes. One hundred percent of our Cabernet Sauvignon will hang on the vines to rot because they cannot be pressed and made into wine. The smoke-taint is so pervasive that the taste of eating a single grape is like licking an ashtray. Most growers of red grapes throughout Northern California are suffering the same fate. There will be no check in the mail. A full year of blood, sweat, and tears up in smoke, literally!

With global warming and climate change, farms are going to fail. Food insecurity will become more prevalent, even in abundant America. In the face of natural, financial, and social crisis, now more than ever, we all need to learn to be food resilient by reconnecting to the land and growing our own to supplement what we buy. Urban agriculture is a buffer to economic instability building resilience through biodiversity and organic gardening practices.

Autumn has arrived and with it the optimal time to plan before planting. Start small. Plant densely and use crop rotation for seasonal vegetables. Intermingle flowers and vegetables. Plants need water or they will suffer and die. Until the rains come, you will need to observe your plantings to ascertain that seeds and roots are not drying out. Before you begin your planting process, planning is essential.

... continued on Page D18



Orinda ~ 111 Tappan Lane
SF 6,353 | BD 6 | BA 4 | Car Gar 3 | Pool | \$5,895,000

Live in an extraordinary architectural masterpiece and thrive on almost four acres showcasing breathtaking sunsets from the 180-degree vista high atop Orinda's coveted Tappan Lane.



Lafayette ~ 29 Sanford Lane

SF 5,150 | BD 5 | BA 4.5 | Office | Car Gar 3 | \$3,795,000

Discover Hidden Oaks, an exclusive pocket of exceptionally crafted East Coast-inspired estates. Located on a prominent more-than-half-acre corner lot and showcasing meticulous amenities throughout.



Orinda ~ 2 Rabble Road

SF 5,363 | BD 5 | BA 4 | Car Gar 4 | Wine Cellar | \$3,298,000

Unobstructed views, privacy, and a rare corner lot with expansive lawn and sport court make this Wilder Ranch estate an exceptional home.



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	11	\$1,225,000	\$5,100,000
MORAGA	10	\$555,000	\$2,750,000
ORINDA	12	\$1,325,000	\$3,450,000

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

3188 Kingsley Place, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2406 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$980,000, 07-29-02

3120 La Playa Court, \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 2733 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-13-20

3201 Lucas Drive, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1607 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 06-15-05

3137 Mars Court, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 08-24-10

40 Meek Place, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2276 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-13-20

1727 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2932 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 12-01-89

22 Toledo Court, \$5,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 6001 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$5,525,000, 11-08-19

1070 Via Alta, \$1,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3919 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,875,000, 05-31-17

1019 Walnut Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1813 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-11-20

3660 West Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1225 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 06-20-18

1035 Windsor Drive, \$1,367,500, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-12-20

MORAGA

1988 Ascot Drive #D, \$555,000, 3 Bdrms, 1473 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 12-15-17

11 Benedita Place, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$455,000, 11-27-00

38 Buckingham Drive, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1696 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-11-20

284 Calle La Mesa, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 2666 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 08-11-20

72 Corte Yolanda, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2623 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-23-03

222 Fronteras Drive, \$2,060,000, 5 Bdrms, 4718 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-12-20

12 Kimberly Drive, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 4261 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 08-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 11-15-12

19 Lance Court, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 1722 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 12-16-03

1807 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 12-01-88

12 Via Barcelona, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 2109 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 08-12-20,
Previous Sale: \$879,000, 05-21-15

ORINDA

46 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 3764 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 07-01-89

18 Charles Hill Circle, \$3,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 6137 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,300,000, 09-27-04

212 El Toyonal, \$1,760,000, 3 Bdrms, 2580 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 08-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 03-24-98

101 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$846,000, 02-22-11

16 Keith Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2787 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 08-11-20

11 Moraga Viax, \$1,432,500, 5 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 10-10-16

292 Moraga Way, \$1,670,000, 5 Bdrms, 2923 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 05-04-07

220 Overhill Road #222, \$1,772,000, 4 Bdrms, 2513 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-13-20

20 Robert Road, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2397 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-13-20

76 Southwood Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-11-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 03-06-20

13 Valencia Road, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1344 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 08-14-13

73 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,240,000, 4 Bdrms, 3300 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,115,000, 07-03-01

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1418 Reliez Valley Rd has it all; 2,765 Sq Ft, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, on a large .59 acre lot. Updated kitchen and appliances; formal dining room; living room includes a large stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings and lots of light. Family room opens up to a large patio and lawn area with a bocce ball court and raised planter beds. Master suite and 3 bedrooms on the upper level and 2 additional bedrooms on the lower level, perfect for in-law, au pair or home office. Lafayette schools and close to freeways. You don't want to miss this home!

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COMPASS



Feng Shui

The best mirror placement in the home



Photos provided

By Michele Duffy

Feng Shui is an ancient practice for arranging objects and furniture so that the healthiest and most vibrant life-force Qi circulates in your home and in your life. Mirrors are often referred to as the “aspirin” in Feng Shui, since they are so versatile and effective, and we often kid by saying “place two mirrors and call me in the morning,” but this powerful antidotal wisdom demonstrates the belief that mirrors encourage almost immediate results.

Mirrors are one of the nine “Methods of Minor Additions” that are effective with the tradition of mindful “intention-setting,” and work hand in hand with why and where we place mirrors.

The important intention-setting step symbolically aligns our best wishes with the

actual physical mirror, for a desired effect. Part of our intention is also understanding the “why,” so that you can align your highest intentions and infuse the physical mirror with a divine purpose in your life and space.

Feng Shui Intention-Setting 101

- 1) Set intentions from your heart, your very best self – not when you are sleep deprived, worried, fearful or angry, etc. A gratitude or spiritual practice are fast ways to rekindle alignment to our inner healing, plus offer a connection to restore personal positivity, happiness, meaning and even purpose. There’s no “right” or “wrong” way to think, but be mindful of your state of mind and try to do this work with an expansive mind and heart;
- 2) Intention-setting connects your personal Qi to whatever Feng Shui “cure” you are working on, be it mirrors, water fountains,

or plants;

3) Intention-setting creates a living, breathing positive meditation within our minds and hearts and transfers into the home and walls we occupy, which is incredibly important today as we are home more;

4) Intentions ideally should be more about what we dream of or want to manifest, what we want more of, and also what we need more of;

5) Intention-setting includes using language that creates our mindful visualizations, so many layers of vivid detail are more powerful;

6) Intentions can include specific dates for the requested change to occur.

After achieving clarity and setting positive intentions you may proceed with placing mirrors in a safe, effective, and profound way. Remember, you will also need to use your BAGUA map for placement.

Feng Shui Mirror Placement 101

- 1) Only use sparkling clean mirrors;
- 2) Place mirrors high enough so none of the household members’ heads are cut off in the reflection;
- 3) Place mirrors on the side walls of the foyer to make a typically small space seem bigger and thus positively expand Bagua areas such as your Wisdom (right door wall), Career (center door wall), or Helpful People (left door wall). Mirrors should also be placed on side walls in hallways, too;
- 4) Place mirrors to attract more natural light into your home and life;
- 5) Place a mirror behind the stove and wipe clean daily to activate wealth and magnify your ability to generate abundance in the household (this is especially powerful when the stove cannot be placed in the ideal island area or “Commanding Position” for a stove);
- 6) Place mirrors to attract more of what is reflected in the mirror, for example, an expansive beautiful view, lush garden, calm waters, all symbolically and literally, aligning the healing of nature within your home and life;

... continued on Page D16

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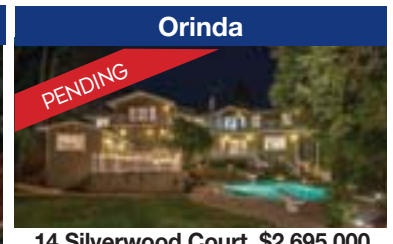
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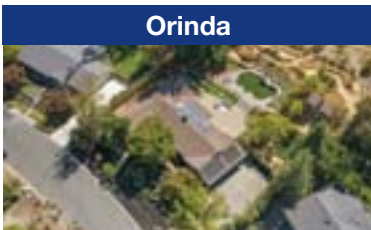
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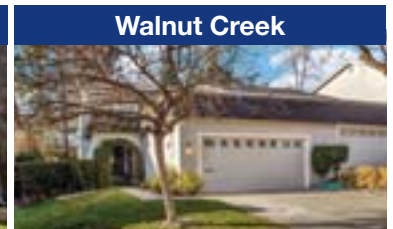
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3337 Walnut Lane, Lafayette



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Offered at \$1,295,000 106greenbriar.com

112 Merion Terrace, Moraga - Pending



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7 Carey Court, Moraga



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216 The Knoll ORINDAWOODS



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3 BD | 3 BA | 2,583 SF | \$1,395,000

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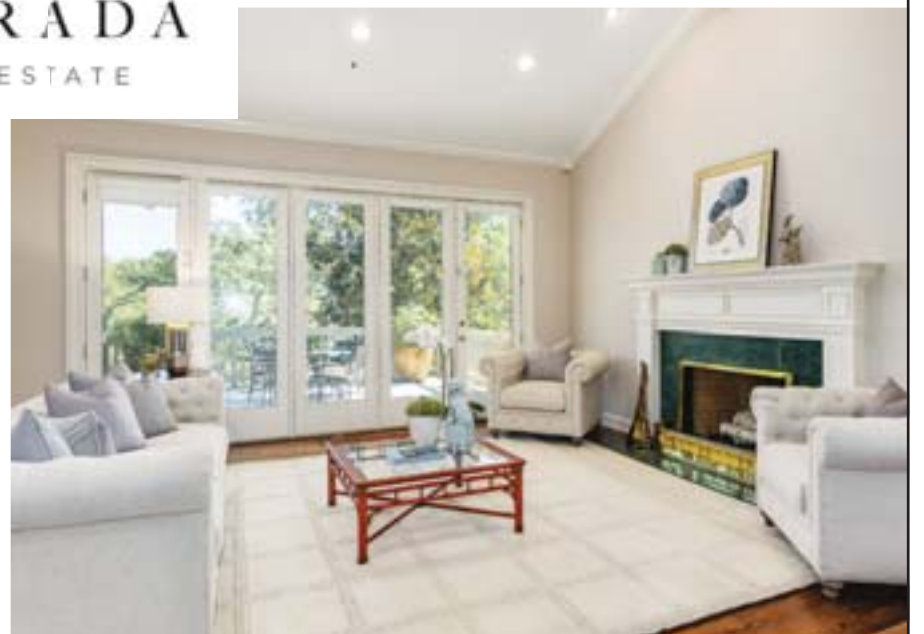
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4 BED • 4 BATH

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568 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette, CA

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For a virtual open house experience go to:

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1182 Glen Road, Lafayette
Sold for \$3,520,000
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths
3,675 sqft., .41 acre

SOLD



11 Candlelight Ln., Lafayette
Sold for \$2,079,000
4 Bedrooms, /3.5. Baths
3,262 sqft., 1.1 acre lot size

SOLD



472 Kingsford Dr., Moraga
Sold for \$1,435,000
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
2,405 sqft., .46 acre lot

HAPPY BUYERS



73 Van Ripper Ln., Orinda
Sold for \$2,240,000
4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms,
3,300 sqft., .33 acre lot

HAPPY BUYERS



24 Sanford Ln., Lafayette
Sold for \$3,805,000
5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Bathrooms,
5,169 sqft., .55 acre lot

HAPPY BUYERS



222 Fronteras Dr., Moraga
Sold for \$2,060,000
5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Bathrooms,
4,746 sqft., .23 acre lot

Matt McLeod, REALTOR®
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Downtown Lafayette Beauty

COMPASS



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3565 Herman Drive, Lafayette
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | $\pm 2,349$ Sq Ft | $\pm .45$ Acre
3565HermanDrive.com | \$1,725,000



Nestled at the end of a downtown Lafayette cul-de-sac sits this delightful rancher with unparalleled curb appeal. Take in the Mt. Diablo view from the picturesque front porch. The lovely interior spaces include a welcoming family room with French door out to the backyard, formal dining area, chef's kitchen, and expansive master suite.

Enjoy the beautiful professionally landscaped yard with flat grass area, covered patio, in-ground trampoline & play structure.

Just minutes from downtown Lafayette's fabulous shops & dining, top rated K-8 schools, freeway access, and BART.

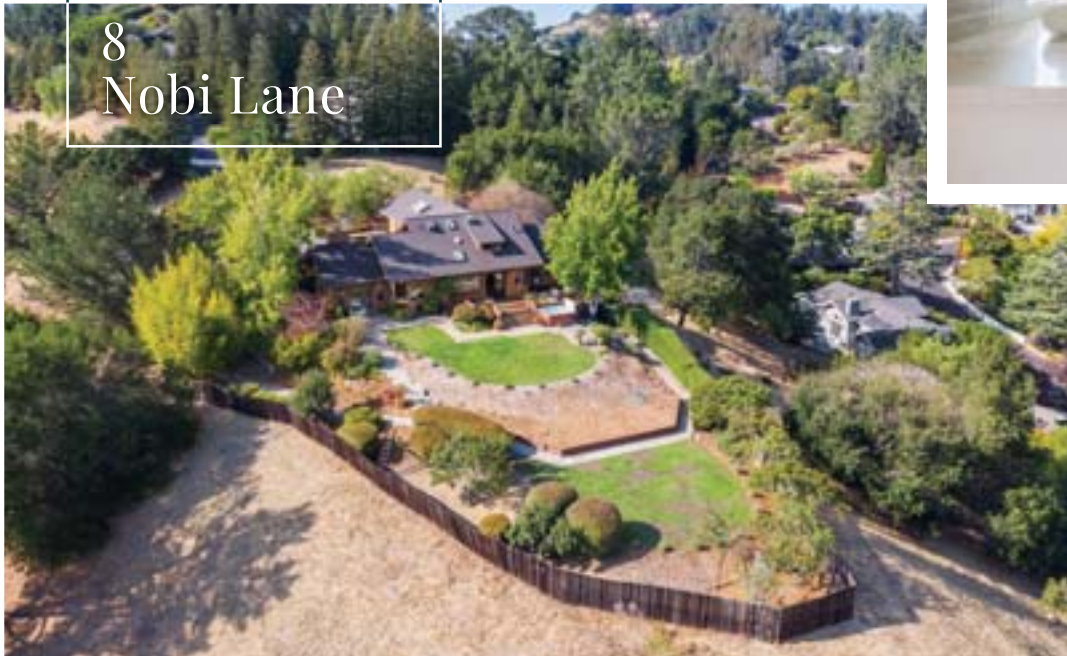


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hidden jewel in GLORIETTA

8
Nobi Lane



OFFERED AT \$2,359,000

8 Nobi Lane, Orinda, CA

5 bedrooms | 3 baths | 2874 sf | 1.06 acres

Gorgeous views to lush green Glorietta valley. Huge living room and dining room, an open kitchen and great room go straight out to the beautiful yard. Brand new quartz countertops with on-trend stacked subway tiles. Soaring ceilings in the living spaces downstairs. Master ensuite with newly renovated master bath and large walk in closet on the ground level along with a small bedroom/office. Utmost privacy with sprawling outdoor space, yet steps away from Glorietta Elementary with a few minutes to downtown Orinda and Lafayette and BART stations.

For a virtual open house experience go to:

8NobiLane.com

Thank-you to all of our fearless and dedicated first responders, doctors, and nurses during these challenging times.



Melanie
Snow

Melanie Snow CAL BRE #00878893

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979 Condit Road, Lafayette



4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2490 Sq. Ft | .37 Acres | 3-Car Garage

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New Listing



364 Read Drive, Lafayette \$2,795,000

5 Bed 4.5 Bath 4,134± SF 1.79± AC + additional 1.07± AC

Two exceptional properties for the price of one! This beautifully crafted estate with a fabulous resort-inspired backyard is located in the highly desirable Burton Valley neighborhood. Enjoy the seamless flow from inside to outside, grand formal rooms and multiple entertaining spaces. Both properties enjoy sweeping views and have their own separate entrances.

364read.com

New Listing



3223 Brookwood Drive, Lafayette \$1,149,000

4 Bed 2 Bath 2,150± SF 0.18± Level Acres

Tucked at the end of a cul-de-sac is this fabulous single level, four bedroom, two bathroom home in the beautiful Reliez Valley neighborhood. An excellent floor plan boasts spacious rooms, an open gourmet kitchen / family room, and a separate office or media room. The lovely secluded flat back yard is the ideal complement to this hidden gem. You don't want to miss this one!

3223brookwood.com





481 Dalewood Drive, Orinda



4 bd | 2.5 ba | 3222 sqft | .72 acre

Enjoy a truly wonderful, large-scale home of ideal functionality, situated on a spectacular, private, fully-landscaped parcel in the heart of the Downs, one of Orinda's most popular neighborhoods.

Offered at \$2,150,000



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Feng Shui

The best mirror placement in the home

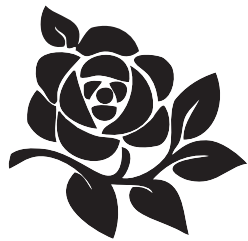


... continued from Page D4

- 7) Mirrors placed on dining room walls magnify our ability for wealth (if we can afford dinner guests, we are “well off”);
- 8) Mirrors placed on living room walls magnify happy social, family, and creative moments, so make sure you let the good times roll in front of your mirrors;
- 9) Place mirrors to activate one of the nine Bagua areas, for example, to attract a partner we might place a mirror in the relationship area (far right) of the home;
- 10) Place mirrors on the outside of the draining Qi of the bath so that negative Qi is hidden or neutralized; this is especially effective for bathrooms in the wealth (back left) area of the home since mirrors symbolically represent the water element;
- 11) Avoid placing mirrors that reflect your

desk or your work may double, and since mirrors are water element avoid placing in the Fame & Reputation area (back middle area) ruled by fire, so your good name is not extinguished!

Mirrors can soften our spaces and round out the rough edges for a smoother Qi flow throughout our homes. This is important since a scientific, medical, or Feng Shui definition of well-being is all about movement, so that’s partly why mirrors have earned an exalted place in Feng Shui. They work. What do you personally notice after you place two mirrors? I would be honored if you call me to let me know. Be safe and well, dear readers!



MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

Annual Fall Sale Through October 31st

Free Plants with Purchase

Moraga Garden Center
located at the Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-1810

9am-5pm
7 days a week

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



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27 Calle Del Sierra | Stinson Beach | Offered for \$2,925,000

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sleeping ten with covered parking for up to six cars.

27CalleDelSierra.com



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VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Risky business



Photos Cynthia Brian

Guavas are nearing harvest time.

... continued from Page D1

How to plan to succeed in planting

PREPARE your soil. Add aged manure and compost to improve absorption.

GROUP plants according to their watering needs. A succulent garden requires very little water. Astilbe and ferns require substantial H₂O.

CONSIDER the best time to plant. You want your plants to establish a strong root system while the soil is still warm, yet the days are cooler, but before the winter freeze arrives.

MULCH with two or three inches to retain moisture, slow the growth of weeds, and prevent erosion. This can be shredded newspaper, bark, grass clippings, leaves, wood chips, stone, or pebbles.

FERTILIZE right before it rains so that the fertilizer absorbs into the roots and the soil.

Vegetarians seeking protein through plant-based items can choose to plant lentils,

beans, spinach, chickpeas, broccoli, white cabbage, spring greens, and figs. My tiny cherry pear tomatoes are flourishing amongst the Amaryllis Belladonna and the Jacobinia in a planter box outside my kitchen window. When nothing much is colorful in the garden except the roses, sage, and crape myrtles, it's marvelous to be able to pluck a few cherry tomatoes for a salad and three stalks of Amaryllis Belladonna for a flower arrangement from the same plot. I like using the multi-colored pistache berries in arrangements in the fall, but squirrels and turkeys are also claiming them as their favorite dinner.

Farming is not easy but becoming a backyard farmer will be rewarding and supply your family with enough produce to sustain you during good and bad times. Even a little self-sufficiency with your gardening endeavors will lower your risk of food shortages.



As pistache berries turn pink they become a favorite food for squirrels.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

PLANT clover in your lawn or as a cover crop as it grabs oxygen from the air and stores it in the soil. Birds pecking at your lawn are not eating it. They are dining on insects that could be harmful to your lawn. The birds are your friends indicating that your lawn has an invader.

RESEED lawns or install sod. If your soil is too acidic, add lime for balance. Grasses require a moderate pH between 5.8 and 7.2.

MAKE a bouquet of whatever is blooming in your garden. Russian sage and Japanese maple leaves add texture and color as do the green, blue, and rose-colored pistache berries.

SAMPLE your grapes and make sure they aren't smoke-tainted.

DIG and divide iris rhizomes in October. Make sure to keep a few inches of the leaves on the stems and bury the roots two inches deep, eighteen to twenty inches apart.

EXPERIMENT by planting a variety of lettuces to keep your salads fresh all season. You can even plant in a pot on a sunny windowsill and snip often. Clip the microgreens as they sprout for delicate, delicious delights.

GROUP vegetables and flowers together, especially in small spaces for maximum production.

ADD a splashing fountain to attract the birds, hummingbirds, and entertain you.

CLEAR creek beds, hillsides, and property of dead branches and debris as fire prevention.

PRUNE your berry bushes, including summer raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries by removing dead canes, thinning new canes, weeding around the plant, then mulching with wood chips to keep the weeds out and the nutrients in.

JOIN the Lafayette Garden Clubs Zoom presentation where I'll be speaking on Thursday, October 8th. For more information visit <https://www.lafayettegardenclub.com/calendar>

WALK in nature when you feel stressed to kick up your cognitive performance. A stroll through a park, a jog around the Lafayette Reservoir (wear or bring a mask), or a simple skip through your back yard will do wonders for your mental fatigue.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.



A fall fountain splashes flanked by a garden of black-eyed Susans.



Cynthia Brian under a blooming crape myrtle.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach, as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books 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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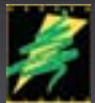
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ORINDA



10 La Punta

Gated estate on secluded cul-de-sac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin. **\$6,250,000**

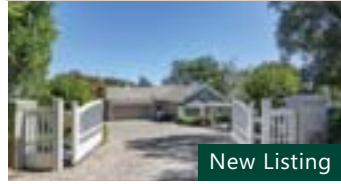
ORINDA



220 Crestview Drive

Secluded 6 bed/ 5.5 bath home on expansive 1.4 acre lot, offering a unique indoor/outdoor park-like experience. **\$2,785,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

31 Orinda View Road

Custom 4 bed/ 4 bath home built by local builder, John French, tucked away on expansive .87 acre gated lot. Views! **\$2,595,000**

ORINDA

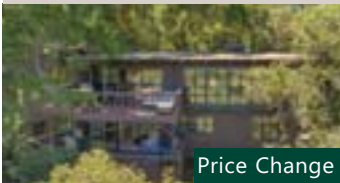


New Listing

481 Dalewood Drive

Updated 4 bed/ 2.5 traditional home w/ hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings & professionally designed landscaping. **\$2,150,000**

ORINDA



Price Change

15 Linda Vista

Beautifully maintained 4 bed/ 2 bath home w/ spectacular sunset views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,375,000**

ORINDA



48 La Vuelta

Stunning mid century 4 bed/ 3 bath contemporary in the heart of the exclusive Orinda Country Club neighborhood. **\$1,165,000**

MORAGA



194 Miramonte Drive

Beautiful Miramonte Gardens townhome w/ 3 beds/ 2 updated baths, updated kitchen, & office or bonus room. **\$835,000**

LAFAYETTE



3554 Springhill Road

Upgraded spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath contemporary of 5983 sqft at end of Springhill. Includes private office. **\$3,988,000**

LAFAYETTE



3696 Happy Valley Road

6 bed/ 6.5 bath home w/ guesthouse in one of the most prestigious neighborhoods in Lafayette. **\$2,695,000**

LAFAYETTE



3177 Stanwood Lane

Stunning 5 bed/ 3 bath remodel in desirable Lafayette. Close to top schools, downtown, freeway & BART. **\$2,650,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1004 Woodbury Road 301

One level 3 bed/ 3 bath penthouse in Lafayette's ultra exclusive Woodbury. Designer upgrades throughout! **\$2,495,000**

LAFAYETTE

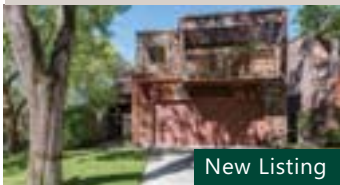


New Listing

3265 Wooded Creek Lane

Single level 4 bed/ 2 bath home on .36 acre flat lot within walking distance to Springhill Elementary & Acalanes High. **\$1,195,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

541 Monarch Ridge Drive

Fabulous 2 bed/ 2.5 bath end unit townhome in Summit Ridge w/ loft family room/office, vaulted ceilings, & views. **\$859,000**

ALAMO



10 Serenity Lane

Majestic gated 12 bed/ 13 bath/ 3 half bath chateau w/ vineyard, 20 showcase car barn, & trophy club room. **\$19,500,000**

BRIONES

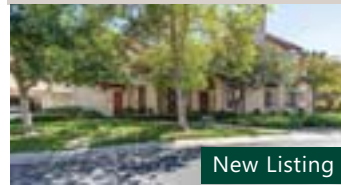


New Listing

1051 Boca Canada Road

Gorgeous 3 bed/ 2 bath country home on 9.91 acres including 8-stall barn w/ paddocks leading to arena. Views for days! **\$1,995,000**

PLEASANTON



New Listing

3024 Bolero Court

Remodeled 4 bed/ 3 bath two-story townhouse in coveted Verona subdivision w/ vaulted ceilings & hardwood floors. **\$965,000**

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