

## Lamorinda families back in the swing at outdoor playgrounds



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Playgrounds around Lamorinda are once again open, with restrictions, and many families are happy to have somewhere for their children to run around and play.

With some progress made locally in the fight against COVID-19, the county moved up in the four-tiered, color-coded reopening guidelines, into the red zone Sept. 29, and with that came the reopening of outdoor playgrounds.

A couple of local residents, Kat Young and Laura

Cuneo, chatted as their children played Oct. 6 in the Moraga Commons. Both said they felt comfortable that the playground was safe. Young said it was their first day back visiting the playground since before the pandemic.

“At this point it is risk versus reward,” said Cuneo. She added that her 2-year-old hardly knew what to do on the play equipment. “He was only just old enough to become interested in playgrounds right before they all shut,” she observed as the little guy stood somewhat hesitantly on the steps.

Each playground must post guidelines. Face masks are required for everyone 2 years of age or older, and children and adults from different households must maintain a physical distance of six feet or more. Hands should be washed and sanitized before and after using the playground, and no eating or drinking is permitted to ensure face masks are worn at all times.

The reopening only applies to fully outdoor, publicly accessible facilities.

Laura Cuneo's 2-year-old son takes a turn on Moraga Commons playground equipment Oct. 6, after its reopening with restrictions.

## Civility and respect mark Lafayette city council forums

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The Lafayette Homeowners Council held its traditional forum, usually held at the Veterans Memorial Center, via Zoom on Oct. 1, moderated by Board President Bill Bucher.

Last, but not least, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley held a forum Oct. 6 moderated by Sharon Burke.

While questions tended more toward commerce and how best to support local

businesses at the Chamber's forum, the discussion hosted by Inclusive Lafayette and Sustainable Lafayette focused on making Lafayette more bike and pedestrian friendly, along with housing issues – the Terraces, zoning, affordability and the definition of ‘semi-rural.’

LHC questions included discussions on desired outcomes of the General Plan Advisory Committee, how best to handle downtown development while meeting state

housing requirements, and questions on schools, and bike safety. And while the LWV forum touched on many of the same issues it included discussion on the city's potential role in the restoration of the Park Theater, traffic in the Pleasant Hill Road corridor, police funding and a discussion about the conflict of interest ordinance passed by the city council in 2018.

Levine says feedback was positive following the Lafayette Forward event, with

over 50 household participating via Zoom live and many more viewing after the event. The numbers were similar for the LHC forum according to Bucher.

The tenor of every meeting was one of civility and respect and, in fact, the candidates appeared to agree on most, if not all, issues.

Bucher and Levine agree that Lafayette has a strong field of candidates. “Good thoughts by all four candidates,” said Bucher after the

forum.

“I'm happy that the entire field has indicated they would like to promote more housing development in our downtown corridor,” said Levine. “I'm also excited by the candidates' enthusiastic support for improving biking and walking infrastructure. All of the candidates demonstrated that they hold nuanced positions on complex issues about Lafayette's future, and they clearly care deeply about listening to our community.”

Recordings of the forums can be found at the links listed below:

**Chamber of Commerce forum:**

<https://lafayettechamber.org/lafayette-city-council-meet-the-candidates/>

**Inclusive Lafayette/Sustainable Lafayette forum:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEu2QDwmBwQ&fbclid=IwAR1KiBfVvpLJq9Ogen2yHBlad8QgZtCwDbsEOttbdMznuiNENqJzfYuRt0Q>

**LHC forum:**

<https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>

**LWV forum:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfOEKjYivYo>

## At long last, restoration of Moraga Adobe begins



Photo Sora O'Doherty

20th Century additions to the rear of the Moraga Adobe are being removed and discarded as J&J Ranch begins the promised restoration of the historic site.

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According to the MOU, the Friends needed to meet certain purchase goals, and each goal has been met on time. Thus far, \$135,000 of the total purchase price of \$500,000 has been paid. The final payment of \$365,000 is due next September. For a number of years, the Friends have had a major annual fundraiser, the Fandango, but the event had to be canceled this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, fundraising continues, including a paver purchase program available on the Friends website. The Friends are also committed to raising an additional half-million dollars as an endowment to provide for ongoing costs of

maintaining the Adobe.

Jeff Boero, FJMA Secretary, recently toured the works with architect and FJMA member James Wright. J&J Ranch is grading around the lot, removing some of the brush, and has also begun the deconstruction of the 1941 addition to the home, removing the wood frame additions put up by the Irvine family. According to Boero, the developers have been enormously cooperative in the effort to restore the Adobe and make it available for public access. J&J is working with preservation architect, Michael Garavaglia.

Boero is excited about artifact retrieval from the site, although the builder is now

grading with heavy equipment. Boero says that in 2009 developers commissioned a report they were asked to do as part of the planning approval process identify items of historical significance and interest.

According to Boero, the report concluded that there were more than likely additional items of interest to be found on the property. He has contacted Saint Mary's College's school of archaeology, and would love to get them involved to do further research in the correct fashion. Boero hopes that all finds will be curated and ultimately displayed at the adobe.



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