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Orinda Garden Club members assemble wreaths prior to distribution.

Orinda Garden Club coordinates annual holiday wreath hanging

By Sora O'Doherty

For the ninth year in a row, the Orinda Garden Club assembled holiday wreaths and hung them in numerous locations around Orinda to brighten up the town. Garden club members Shelley Gilligan and

Margene Stahle chaired the project. A dozen volunteers worked to decorate and hang the wreaths, observing all COVID-19 precautions. In the past, Boy Scout Troop 237 has assisted with the event, but took a break this year owing to the pandemic.

Cathleen Sodos and Jane Wisner were the first chairs of the wreath committee, and they hang a cer-

emonial wreath each year at Lake Cascade. The wreaths can be found at the Library Plaza, the Community Center, on the Orinda sign at the intersection of Camino Pablo and Camino Sobrante, on the historic bridge at the end of Orinda Way. It might be subtle, but look for the wreath on the historic Orinda sign in front of the community center.



Photo provided

Photo Sora O'Doherty

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Lamorinda attack coyote a repeat offender, still at large

By Nick Marnell

Officials from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that the coyote responsible for two attacks in Moraga and one in Lafayette is the exact same coyote.

Forensic scientists from Fish and Wildlife, through a DNA analysis, found that the DNA profile of the coyote in all three incidents was a match, according to Capt. Patrick Foy of the department's law enforcement division.

A coyote attacked and bit a young boy July 9 at the Moraga Commons, and the child's nanny hit the animal with a bike helmet to drive it away. The boy has fully recovered.

On Dec. 4, wildlife officers responded to a call of a man bitten in the leg by a coyote early in the morning at the Campolindo High School athletic field, less than two miles from the Commons. The man attacked, Moraga resident Kenji Sytz, said he was working out with his friends along the running track when he felt a sharp pain in his left calf.

"It ended up being a significant wound," said Sytz, who was treated at Kaiser Walnut Creek and released that day. "What was even tougher was the series of rabies shots I had to get." Sytz's treatment concluded in mid-December.

Officers collected the pants Sytz wore as evidence and rushed them to the Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Sacramento. Foy said that scientists isolated a full

coyote DNA profile from the spot where the animal's teeth went through the pants and ultimately into Sytz's skin.

Fish and Wildlife officials said that the DNA profile of the coyote that bit a store employee behind Diablo Foods in Lafayette the evening of Dec. 15 matched the profile of the coyote responsible for the two Moraga attacks. The fugitive coyote remains on the loose, with Fish and Wildlife, allied agencies and community partners continuing to search the area for the animal.

"People tend to oversimplify the capture process," Foy said. "The most difficult animal to catch is a coyote, which has adapted very well to living alongside humans. We can't just discharge a firearm in a public area." When officials eventually find the animal, Foy said it will be put down.

The attack investigations brought to light other aggressive coyote reports in the Lamorinda area where the animals approached people and their pets, including a sighting near the Moraga Starbucks in the Rheem Shopping Center.

Foy suggested that residents refer to keep-mewild.org to learn ways to better coexist with coyotes and other wildlife. "Tips offered there are the most important ways individuals can help make progress in our statewide effort to live alongside wildlife," he said.

"Getting bit by a coyote was a crazy experience, and I'm glad it was me and not another child who got attacked," Sytz said. He advocates the use of good judgment and caution around all wildlife, but he asks

that the community not rush to judgment based on the actions of "one sick animal."

"I hope that people in our community do not start to fear coyotes," Sytz said.



Illustration Jaya Griggs

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The gavel passes to Mayor Susan Candell



Photo captured from city council meeting

The city council held its annual reorganization at its Dec. 14 meeting, electing Mayor Susan Candell, and Vice Mayor Teresa Gerringer.

By Pippa Fisher

In an evening with considerably less drama and rather more civility and respect than has been seen on a national level, the Lafayette city council changed its guard at its Dec. 14 meeting.

With the resignations of Council Member Steven Bliss, and of longtime Council Member and many-time Mayor Mike Anderson, the members recognized the reelection of Council Member Cam Burks for his second term, and the newly elected Council Members Carl Anduri and Gina Dawson.

City Clerk Joanne Robbins swore in the three council members earlier in the day individually in person, due to the constraints of the pandemic, which also limited the traditional cake and celebration of

the event that would have taken place any other year.

Completing the lineup, the gavel passed with unanimous approval to now-Mayor Susan Candell, and the responsibilities of vice mayor to Teresa Gerringer.

Although Anduri is new to some, he is familiar to many who may remember him serving on council from 2002 to 2012, with stints as mayor in 2005 and 2010, and for his time prior to that on the planning commission where he served from 1997 to 2002.

For Dawson this is her first time on council, although she too is familiar to many in the community for her work on the Gas Safety Task Force and for her part in the formation of the grassroots nonprofit Save Lafayette Trees.

Changes in design reduce visual impact of Terraces development



Viewpoint 6 - Five years post construction - approved project (2012 EIR) Viewpoint 6 - Five years post construction with proposed modifications Photos provided

By Pippa Fisher

The controversial Terraces development was the subject of a recent public meeting as the developer presented pro-

posed changes to the already-approved project before the design review commission; changes intended to reduce the off-site visual impact of the apartments.

The Dec. 16 meeting was the first of up to three meetings, with the developer O'Brien Homes submitting a voluntary design review, stipulated as a condition of

approval. The 315-unit apartment complex was approved by the city council in August. However it is currently tied up back in the courts, as local grassroots organization Save

Lafayette once again pursues legal channels to prevent the building.

But that was not the focus of the design review meeting. ... continued on Page A10



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Council member says city sits on too much money

By Nick Marnell

Lafayette's longest-seated council member thinks that city financial officials may be doing too good a job of saving money.

Despite the shelter-in-place order that hit the region this spring, causing Lafayette sales tax revenue to drop 11% March through June, the city finished its 2020 fiscal year with a \$13.1 million general fund reserve balance, equaling 90% of total expenditures, far higher than the 60% goal. And after accounting for re-hiring to fill frozen positions and tackling deferred projects, the 2021 reserve balance is projected to exceed the city's goal by nearly \$2.2 million.

"That's a lot of money," said Council Member Cam Burks at the Dec. 14 city council meeting. He questioned why the city is sitting on so much of the public's money and not using it to fund needed projects.

For the 2020 fiscal year, the city finished in a strong position because it had built a healthy reserve over the years, and once officials recognized the impact of the pandemic, Lafayette immediately slashed \$950,000 in expenses.

"The cuts were impactful to the community but not so bad that we can't come back from them," said Tracy

Robinson, administrative services director.

As the economy recovers in future years, and even as the city enters into a deficit spending mode due in part to continued sluggish sales tax revenue, the reserve balance is projected to remain at or above the 60% goal.

Lafayette has incrementally raised its reserve balance goal from 30% to the current level. After the tragic 2017 North Bay wildfires, which destroyed portions of Santa Rosa and wiped out its entire reserve balance, there was even talk at a Lafayette finance committee meeting of setting a target goal of 100% for the city's reserve balance.

"I don't believe in that approach," Burks said. "There are too many wants and needs that have been identified by the community."

Burks talked about ideas for using the excess reserve balance funds, like paving city roads, or even investing the money. He urged the council to conduct a public survey on how to spend the overage. He also threw out the idea of having a fixed dollar amount as the reserve balance goal.

"It's something we can look at as we prepare our budgets," Robinson said.

No action was taken on changing the reserve balance policy, but the topic will likely be discussed at a city finance committee meeting.

Mayor Mike Anderson bows out



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mike Anderson retires after more than 20 years of service to the city, seen here with Supervisor Candace Andersen in an archived photo.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette's most senior council member stepped down from city leadership at the council's Dec. 14 meeting, amid widespread respect, hanging up his gavel for good.

Mayor Mike Anderson is leaving the council after 16 years, including five terms as mayor. Prior to that he served on the planning commission for four years.

On a night when Anderson along with the most re-

cent member of council, Council Member Steven Bliss (who served two years, finishing Council Member Mark Mitchell's term following Mitchell's untimely passing in November 2018), both said their goodbyes, there was much appreciation all around for the two of them from both the public and from Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, and California State Sen. Steve Glazer.

... continued on Page A9

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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3629 Happy Valley Lane
Lafayette
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\$1,640,500
Represented the buyer



49 Mariposa Way
Walnut Creek
4BD | 2BA | 2,055± SF | 0.3± AC
\$1,405,000



1875 Del Monte Court
Walnut Creek
3BD | 2BA | 1,096± SF | 0.17± AC
\$1,035,000
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15 Green Bay Court
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Moraga seats a reorganized town council, names McCluer mayor



Mike McCluer Lamo archive

By Vera Kochan

Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus and Council Member Roger Wykle have handed over their reigns to a new set of town council members, three of whom were elected on Nov. 3. Korpus was elected in 2016 and went on to serve as mayor during 2020. Wykle was elected in 2012

and served as mayor in 2015; was reelected in 2016, and once again served as mayor in 2019. New mayor, Mike McCluer, was nominated and elected during the Dec. 9 town council meeting, with Steve Woehleke nominated and elected as vice mayor. In addition, the three new council members, Renata Sos, David Stromberg and

Teresa Onoda, took the Oath of Office.

As mayor, McCluer stated, "Thank you to all my colleagues for choosing me as mayor of Moraga. I am truly humbled, and I will not disappoint you. I look forward to working together with my fellow town council colleagues as a high performing effective team, which is important to best

serve our residents." He added, "Further, I think it's very important, in any team, for all voices and ideas to be heard and we spend as much time listening to each other as we do talking about our views, and of course, working together in a civil and collaborative manner."

Lamorinda community expresses outrage over recent incident at Campo

By Vera Kochan

During the Dec. 9 Moraga Town Council meeting, the Public Comment portion of the evening drew an overwhelming number of viewers and

participants wanting to address the Dec. 4 act of vandalism reportedly committed at Campolindo High School. Moraga police are currently investigating the incident whereby Campo's new Associate Principal Vanessa Knight's tire was allegedly

vandalized while her car was parked in a school parking lot between 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day. Principal John Walker explained that Knight is Black and police are investigating "whether this is a racially-motivated crime," given the fact that it was Knight's first week on the job and no other vehicles suffered any damage.

Prior to any public comments, Police Chief Jon King stated, "I do want to thank the Campolindo High School staff for their assistance and cooperation on our investigation. They provided us with video surveillance recording which we have been reviewing as part of our investigation."

Approximately 25 Lamorinda residents, many of whom are members of Campo's Parents Club on Diversity and Inclusion, along with students and faculty, expressed their concerns about the alleged incident.

Several former students spoke of their experiences being bullied at Campo, and felt that the administration needed to take more action in that direction. According to a Dec. 8 San Francisco Chronicle article, Walker said that in the new school year Campo "launched a series of school initiatives to foster a deep sense of belonging for all students, staff, and parents/guardians."

Initially planning on only being a silent observer, Knight chose to let her voice be heard, both in appreciation for all of the community support she received and as an example to her students that she is "there for you."

"This has been one of the most challenging times of my life. The past few days have been emotionally and mentally stressful," said Knight. "I don't allow hate to live in any space that I find myself in."

"I would like to challenge

everyone to respond to hate and racism by spreading more compassion and kindness," Knight added. "I challenge you to offer support to those who find themselves victims of hate, bullying or violence and racism. Surround them with acknowledgement. Surround them with love. Trust their truths. Believe them."

The town council was urged by several residents to consider placing an agenda item in an upcoming meeting to address the concerns expressed.

According to King, as of Dec. 17 MPD is still investigating the incident, and he acknowledged that police were not able to secure the tire in question for evidence review.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to call MPD at (925) 888-7055 or the Campolindo High School administration at (925) 280-3950 ext. 5102.

Town Council Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: TBA
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Jan 19, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Outgoing Moraga mayor gives 2020 Year in Review

By Vera Kochan

Outgoing Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus gave the town council's traditional Year-in-Review presentation during her last meeting Dec. 9. During a globally tumultuous 2020, Moraga managed to accomplish most of its goals set forth less than one year ago.

The driving theme for 2020 was "Building for the Future" with special attention focusing on public safety; strategic use of scarce funds; prioritizing for long-term financial stability and operational efficiency; and enhancing transparency, to name a few.

The need for maintaining and improving public safety was put to the test during COVID-19. The town never missed a beat when it came to its personnel remaining on the job, albeit remotely at first, noted Korpus. The recreation programs needed adjusting and childcare programs were made available to essential workers. CARES Act funding was put to good use while helping the town to realize a \$122,000 surplus at the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20, she said, while Moraga's police department conducted a full review of procedures, replaced body-worn cameras and updated the Emergency Evacuation Plan with the Moraga-Orinda

Fire District. MOFD in turn, mandated fire hazard inspections and new abatement requirements. Municipal Codes were changed or clarified regarding storm drain and landscaping maintenance, and short-term rentals.

In order to maintain and improve fiscal discipline, and noting that there is \$1 million in needs that go unfunded annually, Korpus said the town directed \$300,000 toward the enhanced Storm Drain Operations and Maintenance program and \$376,000 to the Capital Asset Replacement program while continuing to focus on operational efficiencies, and noted that Moraga has solved litigation disputes with positive outcomes and took proactive steps to better manage legal expenses.

The town has implemented a new website that offers technological improvements with user-friendly features for staff and residents, Korpus said, and Moraga continues to evaluate and implement viable strategies with its Climate Action Plan by installing Electric Vehicle charging stations, performing LED lighting upgrades on town owned fixtures, re-applying for Tree City USA status and joining the Sustainable Moraga Challenge.

Korpus mentioned how

the implementation and development of the Storm Drain O & M program and Street Repair programs revolves around preventative and proactive maintenance with the understanding that these measures are effectively cost-cutting in the long run.

The Hacienda de las Flores has experienced much needed upgrades with the renovation of the Casita, ADA restroom, and the replacement of a 1973 breaker panel, boiler, flat roof and sewer system, she said, and the Laguna Creek Restoration project is underway with completion expected in 2022.

Moraga Commons Park will experience a group picnic area redesign, having already seen the bandshell roof replaced and new safety signage installed at the Skate Park, Korpus said, and the library has benefited from a new paint job.

Phase 1 of the new Canyon Road Bridge has recently been completed, with Phase 2 expected to begin April 2021. Thanks to the town staff's diligent pursuit of federal funding Moraga's share of the costs will eventually amount to only \$622,000 of the \$5.77 million project.

Without a doubt, the town's behemoth project of 2020 was to draft and adopt the Moraga Center Specific

Plan zoning codes and design guidelines, said Korpus. The MCSP Implementation Plan involved a 35 member Citizens Advisory Committee, Planning Commission recommendations, public comments during various meetings, a dedicated town staff, not to mention those citizens initially involved in its conception 10 years ago, before the MCSP finally appeared before the town council.

Korpus concluded her presentation by acknowledging, by name, all of the town's staff and adding, "I want to give many, many thanks. We have a lot of people that partner with us as a council to help things be the way they are and

to make this town work and operate. In addition, I really want to express my thanks to the town committee members and commissioners for all their excellent contributions to everything that's happened this year, as well as Moraga residents and all of our community volunteers and partners that help make Moraga be the wonderful place that it is."

While much of the world has walked on eggshells for nearly a year due to COVID-19 mandates and fallouts, Korpus noted how Moraga has stayed the course toward fulfilling its 2020 goals and forged ahead while "Building for the Future."



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Orinda Public Meetings
City Council
Special Meetings
 Monday, Jan. 4, 4 p.m.
 Wednesday, Jan 6, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan 16, 9 a.m.
 By Teleconference Only
 Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Worth becomes mayor of Orinda for historic fifth term; Fay is vice mayor



Amy Worth Lamo archive

By Sora O'Doherty

As Amy Worth was sworn in for her fifth term as mayor of Orinda, and Dennis Fay his first term as vice mayor, outgoing mayor Darlene Gee received acclaim from both the council and the public for her year of service, which was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gee and Council Member Inga Miller in No-

ember won reelection to the council for another four years.

Worth began by presenting outgoing mayor Gee with a plaque featuring a gavel, saying, "Darlene, you have done a phenomenal job." No one, she said, could have anticipated what 2020 would be like, and Worth said that under Gee's hand, the council was able to continue its work smoothly. Zoom worked beautifully, she said, and the council was able to engage the public and continue to do the public's work. The council also gave Gee flowers and a proclamation, which was read out during the meeting.

New vice mayor Fay said that he first got to know Gee professionally when they were both members of the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission. "I see why people who have worked with her and for her like her so much and are so supportive of her," Fay said, adding to Gee, "Everybody who has known you likes you."

Nick Kosla recounted

how after his election to the council, things were going beautifully, until the AirBnB shooting at Halloween, followed by Public Safety Power Shutoffs. "I thought that was the worst thing that could happen," he said. That was before 2020 began.

Melanie Light, chair of the FireWise Council, said, "I think grace under pressure is what you would apply to mayor Gee. She made us feel like we were the only crisis going on." Light also praised Gee's sense of humor as "very sly, very dry, and fantastic." Former mayor of Lafayette, Don Tatzin, who appeared on behalf of Sen. Steve Glazer, commented, "We always knew that Orinda was being well run, but we can't say that about all the cities in the Senator's district."

In response, Gee thanked everyone, saying that "2020 wasn't exactly what I was expecting, but I'm very proud of what we accomplished this year." Among the accomplishments, she counted making progress on down-

town planning, having a dialog with the police, and maintaining city services. "Everybody had to adapt and to pivot, and you kept it all going." She told city manager Steve Salomon that she couldn't have done it without his knowledge and support. She thanked her family, and the community for pulling together in a tough time. "It was really inspiring, she concluded, "and now Orinda is moving forward with its most experienced mayor at the helm."

Salomon returned the compliments, saying it was a pleasure to work with Gee, who, he said, was "always available and has always given him very good, thoughtful feedback." He praised her for the suggestions she made after the Halloween shooting on how to move forward with the short-term rental ordinance, and attributed the lack of problems with it in no small measure to her contributions. "Orinda is extremely fortunate to have her on the council," Salomon concluded.

Orinda jump-starts Measure R work

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda didn't miss a beat getting started on the work voters authorized when they approved Measure R, a supplemental sales tax. Just days after the certification of the election, the city council met on Dec. 17 to establish the new oversight commission required by the mea-

sure, and to approve some ideas for how to spend the initial revenue the tax will bring in before the end of fiscal year 2020-21. The following day, the city clerk put out a call for applicants for the oversight commission, as well as for the city's other committees and commissions.

The deadline for applying for the committees and commissions, including the new Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission, is close of business on Jan. 22; interviews will be held on Jan. 30 and in February there will be term expirations, as well as the new positions of the SSTOC. According to the call for applications, the SSTOC was recently formed to oversee funding from Measure R and make spending recommendations to the city council. The new commission will also review priority needs of the city addressing the threat of wildfire; disaster response planning; repair of critical drainage facilities; and the long-term maintenance of public roads. There will be from seven to 10 members of the SSTOC, which will replace the long-standing Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission.

Before the Commission can get up and running, however, staff brought to the city council some ideas of how to spend the first revenue brought in by the new tax. Although the tax will begin being collected next April, the city will not actually see the revenue until late May or early June. Finance Director Paul Rankin anticipates that the revenue expected for the latter half of fiscal year 2020-21 will be approximately \$600,000. Staff presented the city council with a plan to spend between \$400,000 to \$600,000. The plan includes funding an Orinda-only chip-

per crew at a cost of \$40,000 to \$60,000, and purchasing a maintenance truck and a towable chipper machine for another \$120,000 to \$150,000, plus general equipment maintenance tools, fuel, disposal fees and miscellaneous equipment at a cost of \$10,000 to \$40,000 and another \$80,000 to \$120,000 for tree trimming and removal on city-maintained properties.

This chipper portion of the plan was enthusiastically welcomed both by the council and the public, many of whom suggested that the council move forward with two chipper crews and equipment for Orinda. However, it was the sense of the council that the city should try walking before running, and get an understanding of how the program will work.

Two proposals considered lower priority or requiring more research involved bulk purchasing home vent-hardening material for discounted purchase by verified Orinda residents and installing fencing at Orinda Oaks Park to allow for animal grazing to continuously mitigate wildfire fuel. Council members appreciated that Lamorinda CERT is already working on a vent-hardening project, and felt that more information was needed on the costs of various alternatives for dealing with the wildfire danger at the city-owned Orinda Oaks Park and adjacent Mulholland Ridge Open Space. The council members understood that the area is of high priority to MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, and that the city risks being cited for being in violation of the Fire Code if nothing is done, but there were questions about whether grazing was the best way forward, and if so, what types of animals and what

type of fencing would be best.

The council also agreed that both the name and the bylaws of the new commission could be amended in the future.

Resident Latika Malkani recommended that the council consider some additional diversity criteria, including demographic diversity, and urged the council to consider adding newer residents to the commission, as well as people who can facilitate communications with the community. Lastly, she urged the council to consider appointing some community member or members who may have opposed Measure R and who may be concerned about how the tax money is spent. Malkani clarified that she herself voted for the new tax.

Resident Charles Porges was concerned about the broad proposed scope of the commission, and worried that it wouldn't be possible to find enough local expertise to fill all those roles, such as dealing with all possible emergencies, fire, earthquakes, floods, evacuations, as well as roads and drains. He inquired if the commission would have a budget that would allow for hiring consultants, or if it would need to come to the city council for permission for each consultant.

Jud Hammon, chair of the CIOC, expressed his appreciation to the council and staff for diving in so quickly, noting that it shows a real understanding of how important the problem really is.

The Statement of Interest form for Orinda committees and commissions is available at <https://tinyurl.com/orindaform> or by contacting Sheri Smith, City Clerk at ssmith@cityoforinda.org or calling (925) 253-4221.

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New historic landmark plaque for Orinda lamppost



By Sora O'Doherty

An historic cast-iron lamppost originally installed in the Orinda Triangle in the 1920s was virtually honored with a plaque at the Dec. 1 city council meeting. The historic landmark plaque was dedicated by Bobbie Landers, chair of the Orinda Landmark Committee. Also present at the Zoom meeting was the new owner of 94 Tarry Lane, Chiyo Shidara.

The lamppost was originally associated with the Hacienda Homes real estate office. When the office was demolished around 1970, the lamppost was rescued by Joe Cleary, who installed it on his property at 94 Tarry Lane. The landmark plaque was installed in coordination with Shidara, the new owner of the property and a new Orinda resident. "I feel like I am already part of Orinda," she told the city council.

Historic cast iron lamppost was moved to 94 Tarry Ln. in Orinda.



Photos Sora O'Doherty

One of two plaques installed at 94 Tarry Ln. honoring the historic Cleary lamppost, moved from the Triangle in downtown Orinda.

"This lamppost is so special to me." She said that she is very happy to be in Orinda and part of this program.

Mayor Darlene Gee presented Shidara with a certificate of recognition. Vice Mayor Amy Worth thanked all who were involved in preserving the lamppost,

which she called "another icon of Orinda" that Bobbie Landers was instrumental in saving, the first being the Orinda sign outside the Community Center. Worth also praised Landers as the first woman mayor of Orinda.

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Firefighters at top of list to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By Nick Marnell

Firefighters will be among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, according to county health officials.

The first batch of the vaccine arrived in Contra Costa County Dec. 15. Healthcare workers were the first to be vaccinated, and according to Contra Costa Health Services, firefighter-paramedics and other emergency medical service providers are prioritized in Phase 1A of the federal and state vaccination allocation guidelines, so the vaccine should be available to them soon. However, no specific distribution plan has

been announced.

Once the details are confirmed, Lamorinda fire agencies plan to follow county guidelines regarding vaccine distribution to their employees, with the firefighters union saying it will be up to the rank and file whether they choose to be vaccinated.

“We haven’t taken a position on the vaccine other than the fact that the first rounds that are available should be available for first responders, including firefighters, once the vaccine is released. And that is only for those who chose to take it,” said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the International Association

of Firefighters.

Speaking for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein said that the district will follow in line with the county priorities regarding vaccination procedures and distribution.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District remains upbeat regarding the effectiveness of the vaccine. “While there is no COVID-19 vaccination mandate we are aware of for anyone, the benefits are obvious and the published side effects limited,” said district spokesman Steve Hill. “We are sharing this information with our

employees and encouraging them to carefully consider it when making personal decisions about the vaccines.”

At least one Lamorinda firefighter will need no encouragement to be vaccinated. “I am excited to be re-

ceiving the vaccine soon. It will give me and my family another strong layer of protection as I work alongside other first responders and healthcare workers fighting this pandemic,” said MOFD firefighter Mark DeWeese.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Jan., 19, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



ConFire will no longer declare an end to fire season



Ready for fire season in Lafayette

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

With fires increasing in intensity each year, and burning later and later throughout

the calendar year, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Lewis Broschard said the district will no longer declare an official

end to the fire season as it has done in past years.

“As it currently stands across the district, there are considerable dead annual grasses, dry brush and vegetation that all have very low fuel moisture and thereby represent an ongoing wildfire risk. In spite of lower temperatures and some rain, the danger of wildfires still remains a threat,” Broschard said in his December fire chief’s report to his advisory fire commission and his board of directors.

The district will continue to make operational and staffing adjustments throughout the year based on the expected degree of fire activity. For example, with the arrival of light rain and cooler weather, ConFire lowered its response protocols to winter season levels. The initial response to grass fires will now

be a single engine, unlike the five-engine response during the height of fire season.

The Fire Control Worker Program, which has been curtailed for the winter months, will possibly expand from four days a week to seven in 2021. Crew 12, which works alongside the suppression crews, does much of the post-incident cleanup, allowing the engine company to respond to another incident sooner. The crew also does prescribed fuel reduction work.

The chief outlined other strategies for the next fire season. “We will be looking at ordinances such as the one passed by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, prohibiting certain types of vegetation, like juniper bushes and other highly flammable vegetation,” the chief said.

And the district plans to

work with neighboring agencies to develop software to plan and execute a consistent evacuation effort throughout the county. “Our hope is to have something on board by July,” Broschard said.

The chief noted that 2020 vegetation fires increased 38% over both 2018 and 2019, and 2020 exterior fires increased 40% over each of the same two years. He told the board that the district will explore increased staffing from June through October, and will continue to support pre-positioning of resources, of not only engine crews but also hand crews, dispatchers, bulldozers and aviation backup.

“We need to change our strategy quite a bit,” Broschard said.

Orinda Police investigate carjacking/robbery

By Sora O'Doherty

A woman was forced out of her car in the first block of Moraga Way at approximately 7:51 p.m. Dec. 14 by three suspects who attempted to steal her Mazda 3, according to an Orinda Police report.

OPD officers spoke to a woman who said she was approached by three suspects as she entered her car. One suspect took her phone and keys and forced her out of the car. However, the suspects failed to get far; after entering the car, they drove a short distance, but were unable to release the parking brake.

Abandoning the vehicle, the suspects fled on foot.

Orinda police, assisted by officers from Moraga, Lafayette and Danville, searched for the suspects, but they were not located and the suspects are still outstanding. According to Orinda Police Chief David Cook, the incident is still being actively investigated and police are checking area cameras for evidence. Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to contact Sergeant S. Valkanoff of the Orinda Police Department at (925) 253-4217. For any tips, please email: Orindatip@cityoforinda.org or call 866-846-3592 to leave

an anonymous voice message.

The chief has also reported another incident being actively investigated that occurred Dec. 9 on Camino Del Monte. In that incident, a victim confronted thieves who stole the license plates from her vehicle, and the suspect pushed the victim and escaped.

Cook noted that this case is a robbery instead of a petty theft because the suspect used force to push the victim in order to commit the crime. “While we certainly understand the desire to step in to protect ourselves or others from being a victim, because of the unpredictability of sus-

pect behavior and the potential for a violent reaction,”

Cook said, “we strongly recommend our community members do not attempt to interact with people committing crimes.” Rather, he suggested being an excellent witness by paying particular attention to the description of the suspect(s) and their gender, race, clothing, hair color/style, eye color, and vehicle. The chief recommended that victims call 911 immediately so officers can start to canvas the area and hopefully make an immediate arrest, as happened in a recent theft case from the El Toyonal neighborhood. He

also recommended that people obtain video or photographs if they can do so safely.

Cook noted that there has been an uptick in car thefts recently in Orinda, particularly targeting Audis. “Unfortunately,” he added, “we are also still seeing thefts of vehicles where the keys are left in a car parked at a residence.” He urged residents to help protect against theft by not leaving valuable items in vehicles and ensure that cars are locked whether at home or out and about.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 29 - Dec. 12

Alarms	24
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	82
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	19
Service to Citizen	37
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Pubic/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3200 Block Lucas Cir.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Hough Ave.	

800 Block Birdhaven Ct. (2)	
800 Block Hope Ln. (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.	
El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Hidden Valley Rd./St Stephens Dr., Ori	
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Tilden Ln.	
Moraga Rd./Scenic Ln.	
Vehicle Theft	
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Other criminal activity	
Computer Fraud	
3300 Block Woodview Dr.	
Fraud Credit Card	
1400 Block Sunset Loop	
Grand Theft	
500 Block Florence Dr.	
10 Block Westminster Pl.	
Panhandling	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Petty Theft	
1000 Block Lorinda Ln. (3)	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3300 Block Walnut Ln.	
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.	
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
10 Block Henri Hill Ln.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Disturbance-fight	

1000 Block Laurel Dr.	
Disturbing The Peace	
Via Los Colorados/Los Palos Dr.	
Loud Music	
3500 Block Plaza Way	
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24	
Loud Noise	
Old Tunnel Rd./El Curtola Blvd.	
800 Block Santa Maria Way	
El Curtola Blvd./Camino Diablo	
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Crescent Dr.	
3700 Block Rose Ct.	
Rose/St Francis	
3400 Block School St.	
Vandalism	
3300 Block Springhill Rd.	
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
300 Block W Lowell Ln.	
Other	
Brandishing Weapon	
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.	
Covid19 Violation	
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
500 Block Merriewood	
Fireworks	
3400 Block School St.	
500 Block Merriewood	
Harassment	
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Mentally Ill Violent	
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
Neighbor Dispute	
1100 Block Bacon Way	
Ordinance Violation	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Threats	
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	

Trespass	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block 2Nd St.	
Unwanted Guest	
3300 Block Helen Ln.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Violation Custody Order	
1200 Block Warner Ct.	
Violation Restraining Order	
1200 Block Warner Ct.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 1 - Dec. 14



Alarms	15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	2
Welfare Check	0
Pubic/School Assembly Check	3
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Moraga Commons Park	
Reckless Driving	
Rheem Bust Marys Rd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Safeway	
Vehicle Theft	
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Grand Theft	
Not Available	
1100 Block Sanders Dr.	
100 Block Natalie Dr.	
Ace Hardware	

Identity Theft	
Augusta Dr./Bal Tusrol	
Petty Theft	
Not Available	
1100 Block Moraga Rd.	
90 Block Courter Ln.	
100 Block Calle La Mesa (2)	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Not Available	
Loud Music	
Calle La Montana/Calle La Mesa	
Loud Noise	
10 Block Laird Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Draeger Dr./Claudia Ct.	
Other criminal activity	
Battery Domestic Misd	
10 Block Canning Ct.	
Mentally Ill Violent	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Other Infraction	
Larch Ave./Trinity Terrace	
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.	
Warrant Arrest	
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time

Letters to the editor

Lafayette Council contradicts itself on tree preservation

Is anyone else confused by the Lafayette City Council's double standard when it comes to preserving trees in the city? In November, the City sued and received a temporary restraining order to stop PG&E from removing 17 trees. A few months earlier, the City Council approved Richard Holt's building application and the removal of a grove of 13 mature redwood trees and a beautiful, large oak tree. Only Council Member Susan Candell recognized that Lot 66 is not suitable for development.

The 17 trees that PG&E wants to cut down are on a regional trail.

The 13 trees that the City is allowing Mr. Holt to cut down are on the Briones Trail easement.

The City claims PG&E is not following contractual procedures. However, the only difference between the trees that the current City Council members chose to protect and the trees that they are allowing to be cut down is Mr. Holt's personal influence. Mr. Holt is a former planning commissioner with deep political ties in Lafayette. He publicly supported Council Member Teresa Gerringer's election campaign, personally knows all of the City Council members, and has worked with staffers in the Planning Department for many years. Council members say they are not extending "special privilege" to Mr. Holt; if not, what constitutes "special privilege?" The City has granted Mr. Holt permission not only to cut down more than a dozen majestic trees, but also to build on a swale, ignore easements on the lot, reduce required setbacks, and invade neighbors' privacy.

It all comes down to legal bluff poker. The City knows Mr. Holt will sue (again) if they denied his permit like it did in 2009. At the same time, the City is willing to spend taxpayer money to delay PG&E even though the trees will eventually come down. We need to question this double standard.

Jeff and Pam Swarts
Lafayette

Continued response to Letter to Editor

On Nov. 25, a letter to the editor written by Jared L was published. We are a group of young women growing up in Lamorinda and have several concerns regarding their statement. As emerging leaders, we are constantly advised to be open minded. In the AUHSD, we attend cohort academy where we are edu-

cated on topics such as racism and implicit bias; not only to learn, but to also reflect upon our biases. Our initial reaction when reading Jared L.'s piece was confusion and anger at the ignorance displayed. On second review, we realized that this is our reality, and the reason we started our group, The UMBRELLA Committee, to provide near-peer diversity education.

Recent events have shown the true colors of our hometown. We believe Jared L. is not one individual; rather a group. This group's freedom to say and bring negativity to conversations is their hidden advantage, and that they can do so without taking full responsibility is privilege in itself. Every student is required to put first and last name on every assignment. This opinion piece has harmed various communities, bringing negativity into the homes of many Lamorinda residents. Jared knows that the article is inflammatory because they were afraid to put their last name and stand by what they said. Everyone knows we are women when they look at us, all shades of color, and we are proud of our identities. Go ahead; judge us by how we look, because we are the future. Take it from the young people in our community: change is coming. We agree with your call for unity, but we do not believe that change is dividing us. More than ever, we see people from all backgrounds coming together to fight for race education, re-examination of biases, and most importantly, truth. We hope you'll join us, Jared L. and all those with similar viewpoints, in building a more equitable and accepting community for all.

The UMBRELLA Committee (Understanding, Mentoring, Belonging, and Racial Equity through Listening, Learning, and Advocacy): Zoya Acuña, Siena Billings, Elsa Braunstein, Cassidy Keely, Melina Nath, Taryn Veronda

Charity, Tolerance, Understanding

I too read Jared L's editorial and the subsequent remarks in the Dec. 9 printing. My impression of Jared's editorial was far more charitable than the rebuttals. I discerned his intentions to be addressing that we judge people on their character and nothing else. My interpretation was that Jared was suggesting that no matter the identity people choose, the common factor that binds us all is our individual character. His message to my understanding was not condemning anyone but suggesting we have more in common than specific, narrow identi-

ties. Contrary to the respondents on the editorial page, I did not find his words inflammatory or disparaging.

What bothers me is that everyone calls for a conversation on the racial and social issues but would deny any voice to those with whom they disagree as was suggested by the respondents. To deny another a voice does not make a conversation but a discourse at best or a diatribe at the worst. Whereas conversation is an informal interchange of thoughts, a dialogue has a meaningful purpose and is a cooperative interchange between people. It is not a debate to convince the other participant they are wrong and yourself right on an issue. Rather, a dialogue is to gain understanding of the other person's ideas and does not mean I have to agree with their ideas but at least I understand their position.

As citizens we must be able to express evidence and argumentation on the issues. Equally, it means that those who espouse a position must be accountable for good reasoning. It is only by free expression with candid debate of our respective claims of injustice or social barriers will we refine our theories to gain nuance and understanding of the truths. When citizens cannot rebut or otherwise reconcile disconfirming evidence, then they must disavow their claims or risk being ignored by their fellow citizens. Conversely, when our own arguments fail, we cannot distract from the truth by shaming or making disrespectful insults to silence our opponents. No citizen should be afraid to speak

out and no citizen should be afraid to allow another citizen to speak.

No matter your thoughts about Jared L's editorial, we have started a dialogue of some sorts. I believe this is how the Federalist Papers started that was the platform to create our Constitution. Perhaps we can contribute to positive changes through this forum.

Chuck Boyer
Lafayette

A response from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

The Lafayette School District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee submits this response to Jared L's letter on November 25th, 2020. We urge our community to acknowledge that racism continues to deeply impact Lamorinda. Aggressions towards People of Color are perpetrated daily. Some are made public, while many go unseen and are experienced quietly. Some examples from our own community include the video that surfaced this past summer of students using racist slurs, a swastika painted on a Lafayette home, and the shooting and killing of a young Black man named Miles Hall, who was in crisis.

Lafayette Police Chief Alldritt has stated that the police receive many calls from the community reporting non-white people in the neighborhood as "suspicious." Is it any wonder that People of Color like Campolindo High School's new Associate Principal Vanessa Knight, may feel unsafe in

our community?

At the systemic level, the data shows that we have an opportunity to understand and reduce two disturbing trends: The academic achievement gap for LAFSD Black and Brown students, and the disproportionately high suspension rates for Students of Color in AUHSD. We are pleased that our schools are working on an anti-racism policy that states their commitment to examining existing curriculum for bias against marginalized communities, teaching anti-racism, and establishing a robust system which responds appropriately to acts of racism. We believe education is the most valuable tool to dismantle racism, and to help foster a sense of belonging for all. Student voices have shared the importance of integrating the history of all people into their curriculum.

A diverse, historical accurate education helps students to become empowered, knowledgeable and advocate for inclusion and equity. Our DEI Committee was established to ensure all of our students feel safe, thrive socio-emotionally and academically so that they may achieve their full potential. For those who want to learn more about racism in our community, please attend the school district workshops, read primary sources that speak from lived experiences or join the City Racial Equity Task Force. We invite you to learn with us.

Lafayette School District DEI Committee

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Mayor Mike Anderson

... continued from Page A3

Many spoke of Bliss' intelligence, good humor, compassion and noted appreciation for all the work he has accomplished on the legislative committee. He in turn and with characteristic modesty, likened himself to Bobby Hebb opening for the Beatles, as the conversation turned to Anderson's retirement.

"It's not easy," said Anderson. "But it's time."

He acknowledged that the council has been in the trenches on a number of tough issues, referring to challenges such as legislative issues and loss of local control, and he said that it's not over yet.

He expressed confidence in the current council and gave special praise to City Manager Niroop Srivatsa and her staff. "We have a very lean operation in Lafayette and yet we are able to get everything that we need to get done, done with a reserve

in our financial position."

Anderson's remarks focused largely on the community. He noted that this is an intimate community where people wave to you. "I think that going forward that will be a challenge to maintain that and that those of us here now are going to have to make sure we welcome new residents."

Members of the council thanked Anderson for his calm manner of leadership, for welcoming all, for his integrity, and for his ability to bring people together. As Lafayette resident Wei-Tai Kwok commented, for the example he sets in being able to disagree without being disagreeable and in the words of Lafayette resident Kathy Merchant, a most effective listener and facilitator.

Merchant perhaps summed up the general sentiment best when she referred to Anderson as "the ultimate diplomat."





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Service Clubs Announcements

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Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

January 2021 Weekly Speakers

- 1: No meeting
- 8: Farah Papaioannou, CEO of Edgeworx
- 15: Con Jenkins, The Quarterly Big Rotary Picture
- 22: Mark Roberts, District Governor
- 29: Bob Marino, Member Magazine

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Changes in design reduce visual impact of Terraces development



Viewpoint 6 - existing

... continued from Page A2

Instead, Terraces Project Manager Dave Baker, along with Jessica Musick of KTG Architecture, and landscape architect David Gates of David Gates & Associates shared slides showing proposed changes, swapping the locations of the two-story and three-story buildings, relocating the taller buildings away from the most visible areas of the site when viewed from off-site. The new renderings also show carpools and parking moved to the periphery of

the site.

Architectural changes include a lowering of roof pitches and a more broken up massing of the buildings. The color scheme has been changed to earth tones to better blend in with the surrounding hillside.

Commissioners were given details of landscaping and planting – mainly native and evergreen trees for screening around the perimeter and more decorative trees in the interior.

Gates explained the vision of trying to create a "vil-

lage," with a trail loop and areas for residents to gather.

For the evening's only public commenter, however, the lawsuit was not forgotten. Richard Drury, the attorney representing Save Lafayette, called for the matter to be tabled until after the conclusion of the litigation that challenges what SL says is the city's failure to follow CEQA law.

Commissioners all acknowledged what Design Review Chair Glenn Cass called the "vast improvement," and liked the softening of the lines and lower roof pitch along with the relocated higher structures. They suggested more variation in palette to avoid a "monotonous look" and urged the design team to push further with their improvements.

Revisions will be brought back to the Jan. 27 meeting for further review and must be finalized by a third DR meeting within 90 days of the first.



WARMEST HOLIDAY WISHES

FROM ALL OF US AT DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP

We want to thank the Lamorinda community for the support it has shown during this unprecedented time. Though there have been challenges, the past year has enabled us to view the joyful moments with special appreciation. While real estate continues to be an essential function, this year has also taught us new ways to be of service to the community, and for that we are extremely grateful.

We sincerely wish you and those you love much joy this holiday season, and a happy and healthy New Year.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local lifelong conservationist receives awards



Photo Scott Hein

Moraga's Malcolm Sproul, lifelong conservationist, at the 320-acre Irish Canyon.

By Diane Claytor

In a world where statistics indicate that the typical person changes jobs an average of 12 times during his or her career and moves from one home to another more than 11 times in his or her lifetime, Malcolm Sproul is somewhat of an enigma. He has lived in the East Bay his entire life, been married to his high school sweetheart for 46 years, owned his Moraga home for almost 35 years, and has worked at LSA Associates, an environmental consulting firm, since 1979.

Earlier this year, Sproul was honored for his 27 years as a board member (and two-time president) of Save Mount Diablo, a nonprofit organization focused on preserving lands on and around the mountain as well as educating the public on its natural values. He received its highest form of recognition – the Mountain Saver Award – for his “lifelong dedication to preserving open space, his stellar contributions to wildlife conservation, and his fierce love of the mountain.” Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo Land Conservation Director, acknowledges that this award was “long overdue,” noting that Sproul “has played a key role in a vast expansion of protected land and is a model of truth and integrity.”

According to Adams, Sproul’s “knowledge, expertise, and leadership have been a major force in spearheading conservation efforts in the East Bay region and have had a lasting impact on the health and sustainability of local wildlife habitat and preserved lands.”

If that award wasn’t enough, Sproul, a lifelong conservationist, was honored this month by Diablo Magazine, who called its five Threads of Hope honorees “local heroes who go above and beyond to make a difference.” Sproul, the magazine noted, “has left an indelible stamp on the natural landscape of the East Bay.”

Sproul explains that he has “literally” been interested in the natural world his entire life. “I think I was born with it,” he states definitively. “It feels as though I’ve always just gravitated to the outside environment.” Growing up in El Cerrito, Sproul continues, there was lots of open space where a kid could wander. “I was the kid who hiked around the hills and brought back frogs and snakes and lizards and caterpillars, the kid who loved the outdoors,” he recalls.

His introduction to Mount Diablo as a young Boy Scout furthered his love of nature and gave him a deep appreciation of the mountain’s natural resources. This, coupled with the annual summer trip to the family cabin in the Sierras built by his grandparents in 1928, enhanced his passion and dedication to the

environment.

Sproul has a master’s degree in environmental planning/landscape architecture from the University of California, Berkeley; while there, he conducted research on the effect of suburbanization on bird populations. After describing his research, Sproul was asked if he’s a bird-watcher. “I’m not a bird-watcher. I’m a birder,” he declared, stating that he’s much more serious about birds. “I have, scattered around our house, a pair of binoculars at just about every window so if I see something, I don’t have to go running from room to room searching for them.” This is in addition to the numerous bird feeders he has placed around his yard.

Sproul is a leading expert on predatory birds. He has led trips for the Golden Gate Audubon Society and, in keeping with both his passion and his staying power, Sproul has been involved in the National Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Bird Count since the mid-1970s. Enthusiasm for this yearly event is evident in Sproul’s voice as he describes the hours spent watching and counting the wide variety of species seen in one day.

Surprisingly, Sproul says that both shopping centers in Moraga are great places to find certain bird species that may be harder to find in other locations. He also commented on something many Lamorinda residents deal with — the increase in the turkey population. “When I started doing the bird count, there were no turkeys around. Now they’re everywhere.” Unfortunately, this long-running (since 1900) wildlife census, designed to assess the health of bird populations and help guide conservation actions, is canceled in the Lamorinda area this year because of COVID-19.

In keeping with his belief in public service and the need to find ways to contribute to his community, Sproul has been active in the Preserve Lamorinda Open Space group, working to preserve scenic hillsides and ridgelines as well as protecting local open space from overdevelopment.

He worked with Moraga on aspects of planting when the new West Commons Park was being developed and advised the town on exotic species removal from the Mulholland Ridge Open Space.

Save Mount Diablo’s Adams perhaps described Sproul best when nominating him for Diablo Magazine’s Threads of Hope award: “Malcolm is a student of and lives up to the ideals of John Muir — he treasures living things ... he understands that everything in the universe is connected ... he is a citizen activist of the highest caliber. His commitment to working tirelessly with local conservation organizations is an inspiration.”



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Single Family Home Customers – 2021 Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

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Week of Jan 4-8	Customers in the cities and unincorporated areas of Danville and Walnut Creek, plus Alamo, Diablo, and Blackhawk.
Week of Jan 11-15	Customers in the cities and unincorporated areas of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.
Week of Jan 18-22	Customers who missed prior tree collection.
AFTER Jan 22	Cut and place in organics cart; or call (925) 685-4711 for on-call, organics-only cleanup.

Tree Pickup Do's & Don'ts

- Do:**
 - Remove lights, ornaments, and tinsel from branches before placing at curbside.
 - Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular garbage collection day during your city's tree collection week.
 - Cut in half all trees that are 8 feet or over in height.
- Don't:**
 - Flocked trees can be collected curbside for a fee or be included in your once-a-year on-call garbage cleanup, but must be scheduled in advance. Call (925) 685-4711. If cut to fit inside with the lid closed, flocked trees may be placed in your landfill cart.
 - Do not leave stands (whether plastic, metal, or wood) on the tree. Trees with items still attached cannot be picked up.

Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular garbage collection day, during your city's assigned week.

COLLECTED TREES WILL BE COMPOSTED.



This coconut-lovers' cake is perfect for the holiday season



King of Coconut Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I love coconut! People usually have very strong opinions about coconut ... they either love it or hate it, but rarely do you find a person who is ambivalent about coconut. I can't get enough of it, whether it's in macaroons, a Ritter Sport candy bar, 7-layer bar cookies, or even as a condiment for chicken curry. It's especially good when paired with coconut cream cheese frosting on this layer cake.

This cake is super moist, and I think the reason is because it's made with sweetened cream of coconut, like a Coco Lopez or Real Gourmet Cream of Coconut ... the kind your friendly bartender uses in Pina Coladas. I use it in both

the cake itself and the frosting. And, if I happen to have a little bit of extra on hand, I sometimes spread a thin amount on the middle layers before covering them with frosting.

For this cake, I also added a chocolate element by mixing a portion of the cream cheese frosting with chocolate. This was kind of a fun alternative and you can also add your own little twist by spreading a thin layer of raspberry or your favorite jam between the layers before frosting them. It's delightful with a hint of lime, too, for a summer twist on this cake.

If you branch out to add your own touches, please email me to tell me what you did to make your coconut cake just perfect for you!

King of Coconut Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients

2 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup (2 sticks or 8 oz.) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 3/4 cups granulated sugar
1 cup canned, sweetened cream of coconut, such as Coco Casa Coconut Cream
4 large eggs, separated
Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup buttermilk
Cream Cheese Frosting (recipe below)
4 cups sweetened, shredded coconut

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two 9-inch cake pans with parchment paper. Lightly spray paper with cooking spray. If you use the magic baking strips, dampen them and wrap them around the sides of each of the pans according to the directions. This will really help to bake a nice even cake. (Thanks to Sora O'Doherty for this great tip!)

Separate egg whites and yolks. Put whites in a mixing bowl and yolks in a small bowl.

In a medium bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt to blend. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter together with sugar until light and fluffy. Add coconut cream and continue to beat until well-integrated. Beat in egg yolks and vanilla. On low speed beat in dry ingredients alternately with buttermilk, starting and ending with dries.

Using clean, dry beaters, beat egg whites with a pinch of salt in the separate bowl until stiff, but not too dry. Gently fold beaten egg whites into cake batter.

Divide cake batter evenly between the two prepared pans. Bake cakes until tester inserted into cakes comes out clean. Anywhere from 25-35 minutes, depending on your oven. When done, remove cakes from oven. Cool cakes on rack for about 10 minutes. Then run a sharp knife around the edges to loosen cakes. Remove cakes from pans to racks, and cool completely.

To Assemble

With a long bread knife, cut each cake layer in half horizontally. Place first half layer on plate.

Spread chocolate coconut frosting over this layer

and lay other half layer on top. Spread plain

coconut frosting on top of this first whole layer.

Then sprinkle 1/4 cup of shredded coconut over

the plain frosting. Repeat the process with each

half layer, ending with cream cheese frosting on top of cake. Spread remaining frosting all

around sides of cake. Completely cover sides of cake with shredded coconut and pat gently into frosting with the palm of your hands. If you want to go all out, cover the top of the cake with shredded coconut too!

Cream of Coco Cream Cheese Frosting

INGREDIENTS

1 8-oz. packages cream cheese, softened to room temperature
1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature
3-4 cups powdered sugar, sifted
1/2 cup canned, sweetened cream of coconut
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

For the chocolate frosting for between the layers:

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, or 2 oz. bittersweet chocolate, melted and cooled

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar, alternately with cream of coconut and beat until fluffy and well-blended with each addition. Add more or less powdered sugar to arrive at desired spreading consistency. Add vanilla and beat once more.

For the filling, separate out about 1 cup of the frosting and blend in either the cocoa powder or the melted and cooled bittersweet chocolate. This will be the frosting for between the half layers of cake!



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>



You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Food tab: www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html

New rules for pet air travel: What's an Emotional Support Animal?



Illustration Jaya Griggs

By Mona Miller, DVM

It has become common to travel on airplanes with animals under the classification of "Emotional Support Animal," which has allowed travel in the cabin with minimal restraint. This policy has produced conflicts, challenges and controversy. How does an animal travel safely, with guarantees of no aggression or anxiety produced by the often distressing nature of navigating airports, planes, loud noises, unfamiliar scents and generally scary conditions? This classification has received criticism for pet owners who abuse the privilege, as evidenced by pet owners asking for sedatives or anti-anxiety medications for these same pets that are supposed to provide comfort to their anxious owners. Perhaps this has been a way for pet owners to bypass more regulated restraint during travel, such as confinement to appropriate-sized carriers, and to avoid placing pets into baggage compartments.

The height of the controversy, in my opinion, reached an interesting peak in 2018 when United Airlines denied recognizing Dexter the peacock as an Emotional Support Animal, and refused to allow

him to fly from Newark to Los Angeles. While this provided some humor, it highlights the probable over-reach of some pet owners in their attempts to transport animals. At the time, Delta Airlines released a statement that "customers have attempted to fly with comfort turkeys ..., snakes, spiders and more. Ignoring the true intent of existing rules governing the transport of service and support animals can be a disservice to customers who have real and documented needs." In my opinion, Delta's statement says it all.

From the veterinary standpoint, there are two major issues with ESA classification. The first starts with the documentation required. Several years ago, the original forms that airlines required had a section for veterinarians to sign, stating they could guarantee that this pet was well-behaved and would show no signs of aggression during air travel. Very quickly, airlines had to change this statement when veterinary organizations (such as the American Veterinary Medical Association) protested. It is impossible to make that guarantee and it makes the signer veterinarian liable for bite incidents - because any individ-

ual (human or animal) might very well lash out under stressful circumstances. A prominent Veterinary Behaviorist Specialist likes to say, "The question is not whether this dog will bite, it's under what circumstances." Very rarely, dogs will just curl up quietly in the corner when they are feeling cornered, anxious, fearful, stressed - at some point, it is reasonable to assume that they will, in fact, seek a way out - and in doing so, exhibit aggression behavior that is actually quite reasonable given the circumstances.

Thus, airlines changed the form to require a veterinary statement that "the pet owner has indicated to me this pet has not shown signs of aggression and has never bit anyone." This statement provoked less controversy in the veterinary community, but I know many vets who still refuse to sign this, because it has an implication that potentially induces liability to the signee (the veterinarian).

The second issue with ESA classification occurs when the pet owner asks the veterinarian for "something to calm the pet down" during travel, because he (the pet) is so anxious. There's an inherent contradiction in this: How can the ESA pet actually do the job for which he is classified (i.e., provide emotional support to a human) when he himself is under a mind-altering medication that quite often produces sedation? That's akin to drug warnings that state: "Don't operate heavy machinery when taking this medication." You can't do your job when you are mentally or physically unable to do your job. A properly-trained service animal knows how to provide their service under stressful, loud and confusing situations, remaining calm and focused in their duties.

In any event, this decision-making process for pet owners and veterinarians has just been clarified by the Department of Transportation in its recent ruling that emo-

tional support animals are recognized as pets, not service animals. The goal of this statement is to "ensure that ... air transportation system is safe for the traveling public and accessible to individuals with disabilities."

The new statement provides a clear definition of a service animal as "a dog that has been trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability." It also provides some specific key points in allowing airline carriers to require a harness/leash system, as well as the requirement for a DOT-generated form to attest to the animal's training, good behavior and health (including current Rabies vaccination). This form puts the responsibility of this statement on the owner, rather than the veterinarian. This ruling will take effect most likely in January 2021.

You can read the specifics of the DOT Ruling at this link: www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-12/Service%20Animal%20Final%20Rule.pdf

Local residents flock to outdoor locales during lockdown



Photo Jennifer Wake

While the Bay Area Region is now under stricter stay-at-

home orders due to an upsurge in coronavirus infec-

tions, outdoor parks and recreation areas in Lamorinda are seeing a steady stream of visitors enjoying the mild winter weather. The parking lots at Lafayette Reservoir and Commons Park in Moraga are regularly filled on weekends, even with masking restrictions that apply for park visitors. One 82-year-old Lafayette resident, who spends most days alone in her apartment, says heading to the Reservoir parking lot to watch the sun sparkle on the water while she eats her lunch in her car is one of her many joys during this difficult time. - J. Wake

Lamorinda decks the halls



Photos Pippa Fisher



Homes across Lamorinda are looking extra festive right now. It seemed that more and more folks were stringing the lights a little earlier this year, in an attempt to bring much needed light and joy after a year sorely in need of

light and joy. In Lafayette's Burton Valley many homes were decked out, some complete with musical recordings and flashing lights.
- P. Fisher

Campolindo Leo Club spreads holiday cheer



Photo provided

Leo Olivia, Leo Luca, Lion John and Lion Bob and Leo Marina

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

This the 20th year that the Leo Club has wrapped and delivered Christmas gifts to the patients at Moraga Post Acute Rehabilitation Center in Rheem. Normally the Leos and Lions would deliver the gifts and sing Christmas Carols with the patients. However, this

year the gifts were delivered at the door to Leticia Trevino, social director at the center in time for Christmas. Hopefully next year things will return to normal. The Leos and Lions are involved in several local service projects. For more information contact Bob Murtagh at bobmurtagh@gmail.com.

Elementary students climbing the walls during shelter-in-place



Photos provided



Third-grade twins Isaiah and Clara Sargent, age 8, who have been taking online classes through the Meher School in Lafayette, have literally been climbing the walls during their shelter-in-place experience. "They call their new hobbie 'wedging,'" said mom, Carolyn Talmadge, "and have been doing it often for the past two weeks." They started "wedging" after seeing it done by the donkey in the movie "The Star," Talmadge explained.

- J. Wake

In Memory

David "Scott" Treter

December 1, 1970 - November 9, 2020



David "Scott" Treter of Lafayette, Calif., passed away peacefully in his sleep on Nov. 9 at the age of 49 after a nine-month battle with Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

Scott was born Dec. 1, 1970 in Berkley, Calif., and raised in Orinda, Calif., where he attended Del Rey Elementary School, Orinda Middle School (OIS) and graduated from Miramonte High School in 1989. He went on to the University of Southern California (Fight On!) where he studied economics in the entrepreneurship program and graduated in 1994. Scott then worked as Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley for 25 years.

A devoted husband, father, son, brother and friend, Scott is survived by his wife of 19 years Sharon DeLauer Treter, his son Nathan Cole Treter (17), daughter Addison Nicole Treter (14), his parents Diana Ferry Treter and Douglas Earl Treter of Orinda, Calif., his brother Jonathan Paul Treter of Denver, Colo., as well as many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sharon was the love of his life and they shared a 35-year friendship that eventually "caught fire" after college. He was a staunch advocate and champion of his beloved children and will always be remembered as an incredibly adventurous and loving father.

Scott loved the great outdoors and especially the beauty of Tahoe. True to his warrior's heart, his greatest passion was downhill mountain biking with friends, bombing hills with the few who could keep up and snowboarding with his family. His sharp sense of humor and playful nature was infectious, but his genuine, unconditional love and support for others set him apart from the rest.

Scott will always be deeply loved by his family and an incredible tribe of lifelong friends and clients.

Due to the Coronavirus no immediate memorial service is planned, but a Celebration of Life will be held later next year.

In Memory

Glenn Jay Robak

August 16, 1943 — November 17, 2020



Glenn Robak passed away suddenly at age 77 in Houston, Texas. He was born in Richmond, Calif., to Joseph Robak Jr. and Bernice Robak. He was an avid Cal Bears fan, having attended University of California at Berkeley where he received a bachelor's degree and followed by a law degree. After university, Glenn met Carol Thompson (Robak) at the YMCA in Richmond and married in 1969. They moved to Moraga, Calif., where Glenn taught at Camino Pablo Elementary School for 35 years. He was devoted to his students and loved teaching academics and athletics to Moraga children.

Glenn was a devoted family man and loving husband to Carol Robak for 42 years until she passed in 2011. For the final two years of his life, he was a partner to Barbara Gorman. Glenn had many interests including lighthouses, antiques, crossword puzzles, travel, football, tennis, museums and galleries. He enjoyed cooking and often spent time exploring new recipes. Glenn enjoyed being in his workshop, calling it his "happy place." He was very handy with tools and enjoyed helping others with their household projects. Glenn had a strong spirit, a silly sense of humor, a loving/caring demeanor, and a love for life. He was always welcoming to everyone who walked into his life. He had a remarkable ability to lift your spirits so that you could thrive.

Glenn is survived by his children, Carrie Robak Gifford and her husband Michael Ryan Gifford, and Jason Robak and his wife Marianne Green Robak, and grandchildren, Joseph Robak and Caroline Robak. He is also survived by his sister Joan (Robak) Ostenberg and her husband Gary Ostenberg and their children Kevin, Richard, and Brian. He was an uncle to many nieces and nephews, close to many students in the Moraga community, and had many wonderful longtime friends. He will be deeply missed by family and friends. We are all forever changed by his presence in our lives. The family will be hosting a celebration of Glenn's life at a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Glenn may be made to the American Heart Association at <https://www.heart.org>, The Parish School at parishschool.org, or Assistance League Thrift Shop at the Wayside Inn, Lafayette, Calif.

In Memory

Jackie Reising



On Monday, Nov. 9, Jacqueline Jewell Reising passed away at the age of 82 in Walnut Creek, Calif. Jackie was born in Gary, Indiana to Pauline and Edward Jewell, the eldest of three children. She was a loving mother of three and took great pleasure in being a doting grandmother. Jackie now reunites with her late husband Paul Reising, after 49 years of marriage. While they lived all across the country together, they considered Moraga, Calif., their home.

Jackie was the consummate entertainer, the woman with never-ending recipes and menus. A meal at her house was never to be forgotten. She had a passion for volunteering and was active in service organizations, including the Moraga Women's Society, Garden Club and Diablo Assistance League. She will be remembered as a class act—a charming, caring, intelligent woman who loved her family around her.

She is survived by her brother, Richard, her children, Patti, Jenny, and John, and her six loving grandchildren, Kendall, Jake, Shannon, Nicole, and Olivia.

She was preceded in death by her husband Paul and her brother, Robert. A gathering will be held in her honor when it is safe to do so. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Diablo Assistance League.

Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new art exhibit, "Spaces, Inside and Out" which runs through Dec. 24. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. and is currently open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. For information, visit the Moraga Art Gallery website: <https://moragaartgallery.com>.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces the exhibit "Tiny but Mighty: Honoring RBG" at the Main Street Arts Gallery in Martinez, showcasing the artwork of 26 Lamorinda Arts Alliance member artists. The work includes mixed media, collage, photography, monotype, oil and cold wax medium, and paintings in watercolor, oil and acrylic. Lamorinda Arts Alliance member artist Ruth Stantant curated this exhibit of abstract and representational 2D artwork that is bold and powerful just like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Pat Calabro, a Pacheco resident, is our featured artist. Her abstract digital acrylic collages are bold and full of intensity — so much intensity that she finds she must tone down areas to make places for the eye to rest. Calabro exhibits her artwork throughout the Bay Area and as far away as in Ghent, Belgium. A reception is tentatively scheduled from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, pending Contra Costa County COVID-19 regulations. The show will also be available online starting January 8 on the gallery website: <https://www.mainstreetarts.net>. The Main Street Arts Gallery is located at 613 Main Street in Martinez, and is open Friday through Saturday noon to 4 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MUSIC

After a semester of successful online rehearsals, boys with unchanged voices are now being considered for the San Francisco Boys Chorus. Auditions will take place online in the coming weeks. Sign up at www.sfbc.org/auditions. Until further notice rehearsal locations in San Francisco, San Rafael, San Mateo and Oakland are closed, but training continues for boys ages 5 to 12 online. For more information visit www.sfbc.org or call (415) 861-7464.

Acalanes HS Instrumental Virtual Winter Concert Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Enjoy the amazing musical talents of the Acalanes Instrumental Bands this month! Instrumental Music Director Ms. Lauren Gibson will be showcasing performances by each ensemble (Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Orchestra) as well as chamber music. Best of all, you can hear all this beautiful music safely from the comfort of your home via Zoom video conference. (<https://auhsschools.zoom.us/j/88034652625>) This concert is free to the public but donations are always welcomed! Look for more details on <http://acalanesinstrumental.music.com> or <http://ahsperformingarts.org>.

LITERATURE

January 2021 events at Orinda Books: Tues. Jan. 5, 4 p.m. Pat's Book Club will meet via Zoom to discuss "Rules for Visiting" by Jessica Frances Kane. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone (925-254-7606) or email Orinda

Books (info@orindabooks.com) giving your email address. You will receive a link to the Jan. 5 event. Orinda Books 276 Village Square, Orinda, 925-254-7606, www.orindabooks.com.

The Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay presents the 46th Annual Books on Review program, virtually this year, featuring four Stanford authors speaking about their books. Join us via Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. to noon. Free, or make a donation to the club's scholarship fund for East Bay Stanford women students. Featuring: Alka Joshi, "The Henna Artist," Frances Dinkelspiel, "Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California," Daniel Mason, "A Registry of My Passage Upon the Earth," Angie Kim, "Miracle Creek." Register online at <http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/bor2021>. You will need to create a username and password. You do not need a Stanford affiliation. A link to the Zoom webinar will be sent before the event.

OTHER

Community Concern for Cats' Holiday Giving Tree Fundraiser is continuing through Dec. 31. This end-of-the-year event will raise funds for its Cat Hospital where it provides spay/neuter services and medical attention for your neighborhood's homeless and abandoned cats and kittens. To show your compassion, please donate online at communityconcernforcats.org, their Facebook page or go to their thrift shop, Rescued Treasures, 1270 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, and purchase an ornament from their countertop tree, and have in hung on their Giving Tree in the window

with gratitude. This 34-year-old-cat rescue organization has spayed/ neutered and given medical attention to over 3,000 cats this year. It has found loving homes for 645 cats in 11 months.

Christmas Eve Community Event. Dec. 24, 3:45 p.m. Our Saviors Lutheran Church and Creekside Commons host an outdoor, drive-in, Christmas celebration for the whole household or your COVID bubble. Bundle up the kids, fill a thermos full of hot cocoa, pick up some battery-powered tea lights, and grab a parking space at 1035 Carol Lane Entry B in Lafayette. Tune your radio to 99.9 FM for a carol sing with local Singer/Songwriter Laura Zucker, and ground your holidays in the spirit of Christmas with Pastor Dan. A pdf of the song sheets are available for download at www.oslc.net.

GARDEN

The Montelindo Garden Club January meeting begins Friday Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Inviting pollinators in; Speaker: Janet Sluis. Janet Sluis is a well-known horticulturist specializing in organic, low water, regionally appropriate, easy-care plants. She is the Sunset Western Garden Collection's curator and plant expert. Sluis will speak about what people can do to address declining bird and insect populations by selecting appropriate plants and trees, including those that will provide year-round habitat and food sources. To request a Zoom link to attend this meeting, email: montelindogarden@aol.com

The Orinda Garden Club, along with several other Bay Area garden

clubs, together are sponsoring a free, virtual symposium: Bay Visions 2021: "The Power of Plants Will Protect the Bay." Please join us for this discussion on Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., for an inspiring look at adaption, regeneration, and the powerful role plants play in mitigating the challenges facing San Francisco Bay. Speakers include Karina Nielsen, Professor and Director, Estuary & Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University; Dr. Katharyn Boyer, biology professor at San Francisco State University's Estuary & Ocean Science Center; and Josie Iselin, author of *The Curious World of Seaweed*. Register (for free) here: www.eventbrite.com/e/bay-visions-tickets-127648342629

We invite you to join our zoom meeting of the Walnut Creek Garden Club on January 11. Our business meeting starts at 10 a.m., and our speaker presentation will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. We are pleased to announce that Brian Kemble, Curator at Ruth Bancroft Gardens since 1980, will showcase the iconic plants of the Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Mr. Kemble is highly regarded in the horticultural world and is a prolific writer and lecturer on drought tolerant plants. His column "On the Dry Side" has appeared in several local newspapers. To join us, please contact our Co-President, Maureen Little at mslittle44@gmail.com for your zoom invitation.

Please submit events: calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com

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Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words):
letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Delivery issues:
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sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;
andy@lamorindaweekly.com,
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake;
jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977,
Wendy Scheck;
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Vera Kochan;
vera@lamorindaweekly.com,
Pippa Fisher;
pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,
Nick Marnell;
nick@lamorindaweekly.com,
Sora O'Doherty;
Sora@lamorindaweekly.com,
Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian;
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
Food: Susie Iventosch;
suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers:
Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor,
Michele Duffy, Fran Miller,
Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller,
Kara Navolio, Moya Stone,
Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs;
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics:
Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, 1480
Moraga Road STE C202,
Moraga, CA 94556 Phone:
925-377-0977;
Fax: 925-263-9223; email:
info@lamorindaweekly.com
website:
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Rowing through the pandemic



Shirley DeFrancisci, DeF-Stop Photography

Matty Shepherd, Head of the Oak Regatta, at San Pablo Reservoir on Oct. 17.



Danielle DeFrancisci rowing during the Tail of the Turkey Regatta, at the Oakland Estuary on Nov. 21.

By Jon Kingdon

Rowing (crew) is a sport whose origins reach back to Ancient Egyptian times. Modern rowing as a competitive sport can be traced to the early 17th century when races (regattas) were held between professional watermen on the River Thames in London. Since 1974, the Oakland Strokes rowing club has carried on this tradition for middle and high school students on the Oakland Estuary.

In March, with the onset of the coronavirus, the staff of Oakland Strokes, utilizing great anticipation and perspicacity, quickly realized that eight-person crews would not be at all workable with the anticipated social distancing rules. According to Dana Hooper, the executive director at Oakland Strokes, "We had a group discussion about what was happening with the coronavirus and someone mentioned only using single boats. I can't claim that I had that moment of clarity but I immediately put in an order for more singles. We may have been the first club to put in a big order and we soon went

from 16 single boats to 30. We had to get creative putting all of the other boats into the nooks and crannies of our boat house to be able to fit in the new boats, but it's definitely been worth it."

Rowing in an eight-person boat and then rowing as a single is a major change for the rowers. "It's a huge adjustment," said Hooper. "It's a little bit like trying to learn how to write with a different hand."

Steve Stewart, a native Australian who has coached all over the world, has been the Director of Men's Rowing at Oakland Strokes since 2019 and lives in Orinda. He saw firsthand the initial difficulty some of the rowers had in adjusting to a single boat. "The first six weeks, there were a number of kids that were falling out of the boats, though none in the last six weeks," Stewart said. "There also had to be a bit of a mind shift. In the eight-man boat, the pressure is on you to not let your teammates down. In the single, the pressure is to not let yourself down."

Danielle DeFrancisci, a junior at Campolindo, has

been rowing with Oakland Strokes since the seventh grade, used her experience to adjust to the demands put on her in the single boat. "It was somewhat difficult," DeFrancisci said, "but I already had the foundation and rowing has taught me to tackle new challenges by being coachable and open to criticism so I was able to pick it up rather quickly."

Even with a grandfather, a father and two brothers who were rowers along with an uncle who rowed in the Barcelona Olympics, Matty Shepherd, a senior at Acalanes, did not join Oakland Strokes until his junior year only at the urging of a friend and describes it now as "one of the best experiences of my life."

In a sport that demands extreme effort and discipline, the camaraderie in the eight-man boat is what allows the rowers to fight through what Stewart concedes "is not an easy or really fun sport."

It's the group mentality that Shepherd found most satisfying, "You don't want to let down your coaches and teammates. If you don't like to

work hard, it's not the right sport for you. You just fight through it and you figure that out on your own."

Shepherd is one of those who has yet to fall out of the single boat, and accepted the challenge of rowing in a single head-on. "I had to restart because sculling in the single boat (sweeping in the eight-man boat) is a new stroke, but the hardest part was learning to balance in the boat. Even though I am pushing myself in the single, we are all close enough to be able to hear each other and are able to work together that way."

The ability of the rowers to adjust to the new conditions has been a key to the success of the program through these difficulties. "I've been pleased at the resiliency of the kids," said Hooper. They're not in the same boat together but metaphorically they are, in that they are all trying to do the same thing."

Cooper Alford, a senior at Campolindo, has been rowing for nearly five years and is one of the most senior rowers at Oakland Strokes, so for him it was not quite as difficult to

adjust to the single boats: "I had some experience with singles. However, even some of the seniors struggled initially with it. In a single boat, when you make a change, it's immediately apparent. You have to have the right posture with sharper, cleaner rowing strokes. I'm more than certain that this will translate well when we get back to eight-man boats."

Even though the rowers are putting in the same effort they did prior to the pandemic, the competitions and regattas were canceled, much to the dismay of everyone. "That's one of the big things I missed," Shepherd said. "From getting on the bus with the team and being together and enjoying each other's company. Now we get in trouble if we get within six feet of each other. It's totally different."

To compensate for the lack of regattas, Oakland Strokes put on their own competitions among themselves with the single boats. The last race for the fall season was on Dec. 12, though the weather did not cooperate.

... continued on Page C2

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Rowing through the pandemic

... continued from Page C1

“The water was so rough that we were joking that it was the perfect metaphor for 2020,” said Hooper. “We had to move the race to a different part of the estuary so that we could get into the wind shadow. We persevered and were able to hold the races.”

Prior to the pandemic, Oakland Strokes would have over 200 kids out on the water in the afternoon through the day with slightly staggered starting times. For Hooper, it’s

been a logistical nightmare planning for practices for eight people at a time as opposed to just having everyone show up at once. “It was a heavy lift but it’s been very rewarding.”

There is no halfway commitment to the sport with all of the demands it makes on the rowers. “Prior to the pandemic, we would go six days a week,” said Shepherd. “Now we only go in four days a week but I use the ergometer (rowing machine) when I don’t go to the boathouse.”

Oakland Strokes has been very conscientious about doing what they can to avoid any exposure to the virus. “There have been no outbreaks at the facility,” said Stewart. “We’ve been very strict. No one is allowed there without a mask and all hands are sanitized.”

Time management is an essential for the rowers. “This is the first year that we have had morning practices,” said Alford. “Waking up at five after doing homework late the night before can be brutal. It does keep you driven and

motivated and to work hard and then get right on to the next thing to focus on.”

So what is it that keeps them all coming back for more? For DeFrancisci, “It’s learning how to manage the pain by convincing yourself that you are not at your maximum effort and to go places you never thought you could and to work harder than you ever thought you could.”

For Shepherd, it’s both the challenge and the serenity of rowing. “Being on the water in the morning with just you

and the boat, it’s very peaceful,” Shepherd said. “There were days where I got in the boat and had a feeling that made me forget everything. Where I could look down the gunwale at my friends and realize that we had never rowed that good before and yell and laugh at our success. Where we would get to the end of the estuary, look out at the sun setting beautifully over the San Francisco skyline and just enjoy life, only to row all the way back to the boathouse moments later.”

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OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 22 Wednesday, December 23, 2020



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Home (and garden) for the holidays!



Arizona Roses will continue to bloom until January pruning.

By Cynthia Brian

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year!" ~ Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol"

One sentiment was universal this season in the holiday cards and emails ... hope for a safe, healthy, prosperous future. This has been a year of enormous challenges, chaos, and crisis amid a frightening pandemic that rendered many people feeling hopeless and helpless. Even with shelter-in-place mandates and Zooming taking the place of "being there," resilience will rule the roost as we celebrate at home during the holidays.

Gardening has seen a rise in popularity throughout this year as people craved fresh air while social distancing. Farm fresh food graced the city tables after fruits, vegetables, and herbs were planted by first time gardeners.

Green thumbs were grown!

Every day those who tend gardens work hand in hand with Mother Nature. As the Grand Dame, she is always in charge. Gardeners are her faithful stewards, nurturing the land that feeds our bodies while clothing our spirits with beauty, fragrance, and spiritual wellness. As the earth settles down for its winter nap, we also slow our pace in our outdoor spaces with preparations for the at-home holiday celebrations and a new year.

Being in a garden provides relief from stress and lowers blood pressure. Gardening transports us to another realm where nature charts the course. Even looking at a beautiful photograph of nature will enhance your mood and elevate your joy.

I have spent more hours in my garden these past few months than ever before. No matter how well I know my landscape, it is ever-changing, never ceasing to amaze and awe me. My body is getting extra exercise from hauling redwood chips to my barren hillsides to stop erosion and enrich the soil. When it began to rain, I fertilized and planted more perennials including guara and golden breath of heaven plus more bulbs for next season. Jonquils are already blooming with their heady fragrance wafting through the chillier air. Azaleas and rhododendrons have burst into bloom and the cyclamen pops with luminous colors. The delicate orange persimmons dangling from the almost leafless branches and the glimmering red pomegranates masquerading as ornaments hanging on the tree fill me with wonder at their annual holiday display. Both delicious and nutritious, they are my December garden gifts.

This is a good time to cut branches from redwood, pine, fir, or other low-hanging conifers to swag staircases and doors with fresh garlands. This practice accomplishes two

goals: 1) you get free, fresh holiday greenery and 2) you are preventing future fire-laddering by removing the branches.

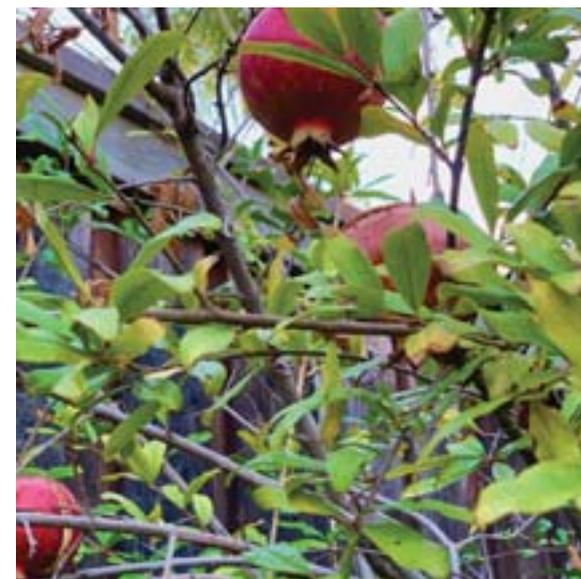
For those unable to celebrate in person with families scattered far and wide, this will be a quieter, less ebullient Christmas. Yet the magic of the season will buoy hearts as we anticipate a vaccine allowing us to gather in 2021.

Devote a few hours to hoe, hoe, hoe and the melancholy of the past 10 months will help you carol ho, ho, ho even while you observe the holidays home alone.

Waving a magical virtual wand over your home and garden, I wish you a blessed, safe, and healthy holiday.

We'll be together again next year with faith, hope, and love!

Happy gardening. Happy growing. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Photos Cynthia Brian

Bright red pomegranates resemble ornaments hanging on the tree.



Happy Holidays!

During this time of year, we can't help but think of how grateful we are for all of our clients, friends, and family. Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community. On the surface, it may seem that we are only in the business of helping people find or sell their home, but we are also introducing and educating people to the special nuances that each town has to offer.



As so many families and friends are brought together during this magical time of year we want to remind you that it's about being together, making those lasting memories, catching

up during a walk around the reservoir, creating that favorite family dish with a child, or repeating that silly holiday story for the umpteenth time. The holidays are a time to reflect, relax and rejoice.

GLENN BEAUBELLE
KELLIE BEAUBELLE
LYNN MOLLOY
NANCY STRYKER

925.254.1212
TheBeaubelleGroup.com
Email:
Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com



Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	16	\$594,000	\$2,510,000
MORAGA	8	\$737,500	\$2,695,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,025,000	\$3,300,000

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

- 3402 Black Hawk Road, \$1,485,000, 3 Bdrms, 1835 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,238,000, 01-26-16
- 3172 Camino Colorados, \$2,510,000, 5 Bdrms, 3206 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$838,000, 07-01-09
- 1207 Camino Vallecito, \$2,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 4185 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$1,795,000, 03-14-15
- 1070 Carol Lane, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$275,000, 08-20-98
- 3281 Isola Way, \$1,301,000, 3 Bdrms, 2719 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 09-13-15
- 3267 Marlene Drive, \$594,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$157,500, 06-22-99
- 1308 Martino Road, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 1865 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-03-20
- 1209 Monticello Road, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-02-20
- 14 Northridge Lane, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 3186 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,743,000, 07-13-10
- 3132 Sandalwood Court, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1599 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,062,000, 09-13-13
- 3546 Silver Springs Road, \$2,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 1834 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,695,500, 02-29-16
- 3445 Solana Court, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3359 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 04-09-18
- 1024 Via Nueva, \$2,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 3723 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-05-20, Previous Sale: \$110,000, 06-01-91
- 1107 Via Roble, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3264 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-02-20
- 11 Westminster Place, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 1968 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-06-20, Previous Sale: \$122,500, 10-01-79
- 3265 Wooded Creek Lane, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-06-20, Previous Sale: \$297,000, 07-01-91

MORAGA

- 1379 Camino Peral #B, \$737,500, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$300,000, 08-27-01
- 3972 Campolino Drive, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 11-05-20
- 12 Crockett Drive, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3012 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 06-02-11
- 2 Crockett Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3453 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$1,180,000, 07-16-01
- 152 Danefield Place, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 08-21-17
- 208 Fronteras Drive, \$2,031,000, 4 Bdrms, 3270 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 11-02-20
- 3933 Paseo Grande, \$1,345,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-03-20
- 8 Southard Court, \$2,695,000, 5 Bdrms, 4152 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 11-05-20, Previous Sale: \$2,230,000, 03-19-14

ORINDA

- 10 Bates Boulevard, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 07-06-17
- 32 Candle Terrace, \$3,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 4856 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$3,140,000, 11-13-18
- 4 Candlestick Road, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2375 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$1,117,000, 08-14-13
- 705 Ironbark Court, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 3858 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 11-26-13
- 48 La Vuelta, \$1,025,000, 5 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-05-20, Previous Sale: \$325,000, 03-01-88
- 60 Southwood Drive, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2505 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$810,000, 12-06-10
- 57 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-04-20, Previous Sale: \$870,000, 08-10-00

YOUR CB ORINDA REALTORS:

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 BEVERLY ARNOLD
 EMILY BAHN
 MARAM BATA
 VLATKA BATHGATE
 ALBERT BERNARDO
 NANCY BOOTH
 ROBERT BROWN
 ROBERTA CALDERON
 TONY CONTE
 KELLY CRAWFORD
 COLIN ELBASANI
 JOANNE FISHMAN
 LANA FITZPATRICK
 SUZANNE GEOFFRION
 JEFFREY GILLET
 SORAYA GOLESORKHI
 HANK HAGMAN
 ANDREA HARRIS
 MARGARET HARTWELL
 PETER HATTERSLEY
 YAN HEIM
 MICHELLE HOLCENBERG
 WENDY HOLCENBERG
 DICK HOLT
 COOKIE JAVINSKY
 SHELLIE KIRBY
 SHERYL KORTRIGHT
 MEREDITH LINAMEN
 MARY BETH MACLENNAN
 LARA MARKEL
 CHRISTINE MASON
 CHRISTINA MCCORMICK
 MICHELE MCKAY
 CHAD MORRISON
 PEYMAN MOSHREF
 AUDREY NEALE
 WALTER NELSON
 BRUCE NEWMAN
 DIANE PETEK
 MARGARET PRICE
 SUSAN SCHLICHER
 CATHY SCHULTHEIS
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 TOM STACK
 TED STREETER
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 ANA ZIMMANK



Orinda
20 Hacienda Circle \$3,825,000
 6 Bedrooms/6 Baths, 8063 sq. ft. State of the art, architecturally designed craftsmen estate.
 Melanie Snow /Laura Abrams
 925-360-0344/510-697-3225
 20haciendacircle.com Lic#00878893/01272382



Orinda
2 Camino Del Cielo \$2,288,000
 4 Beds/ 3.5 Baths. 4083 sq. ft Flat .87 ac panoramic view lot, pool and hot tub!
 Melanie Snow
 925-360-03440
 www.1201cambridge.com Lic #0878893



Orinda
34 El Toyonal \$799,000
 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 Mid-century modern on large lot.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 represented buyer Lic#01272382



Orinda
10 Chelton Court \$1,300,000
 3 Bedrooms/ 2.5Baths. Del Rey rancher with to roam/expand on 0.49-acre parcel
 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte
 925-324-6246/925-708-1396
 10CheltonCt.com Lic #01480008/00959101



Lafayette
1201 Cambridge \$3,195,000
 4 Beds/ 3 Baths. Happy Valley Elegance including an extra 600 sq ft Guest Cottage
 Melanie Snow
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Lafayette
1 Dead Horse Canyon Rd \$2,495,000
 Ultimate Shelter in Place Home!
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 1deadhorsecanyon.com Lic #01878803/00827803



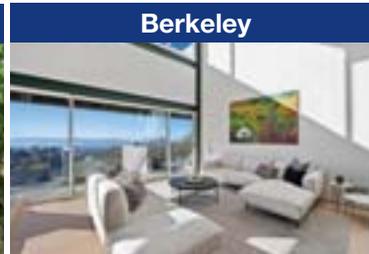
Lafayette
1076 Serrano Court \$1,485,000
 3 Beds/ 2 Baths. Quintessential Lafayette rancher with Farmhouse style charm.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 Lic#01272382



Moraga
315 Constance Place \$1,780,000
 4 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths. Perfect for entertaining with pool, spa, koi pond & more.
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405
 Lic #01373412



Moraga
142 Ascot Court, #3 \$499,000
 2 Beds/ 2 Baths
 Fabulously updated cozy condo
 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte
 925-324-6246/925-708-1396
 142ascotct3.com Lic #01480008/00959101



Berkeley
109 Strathmoor Dr \$1,998,000
 2 Beds/ 2.5 Baths. 2662 sq. ft. designed by world-renowned architect, Stanley Saitowitz!
 Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257
 http://bit.ly/3744CPz Lic #01251227



Martinez
95 Hampton Rd \$1,695,000
 5 Beds/ 3.2 Baths. 5.12-acre estate.
 Horse barn, 2 corrals, tack room, & more.
 Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257
 Lic #01251227

ARRIVING SOON



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IN LAMORINDA

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Regional Director Ron Mintz

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LEVERAGE
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Feng Shui

Lighting 101 and the Fire Element



Photos provided

By Michele Duffy

Winter's chilly temps typically drive us indoors as the days grow shorter and the nights longer and colder. Any winter, but especially this year, our collective craving of more light, warmth, illumination, and the promise of a better time ahead are particularly pronounced. Light lights the way and comforts us in ways anew in 2020, but one thing is always present in light and that is an uplifting of any dreariness associated with the winter season and warmth to keep us cozy.

We all have experienced the "atmosphere" candles create around our dining tables or in our homes and this quality of light is also unique. Incorporating the warmth of the Fire Element in winter addresses our human capacity for comfort and will go a long way to balance out the home environment for maximum enjoyment – especially with so many of us spending more time at home in 2020. Without the Fire Element in our

homes, and the expansive energy this element delivers, they can become dull and cold. Remember, that Feng Shui doesn't dictate right or wrong; instead, it invites us to trust our own intuition about what is working or not working in our space and then asks us to have the courage to make changes as they arise. Fire Element of Bagua summary:

- Fire rules the Fame/Reputation Bagua area;
- Fame and Reputation relates to how powerful we are, what we want illuminated or what we want to be known for;
- Fame and Reputation rules our hearts and blood pressure;
- The Fire Element is represented by the very active color red;
- The Fire Element represents passion, anger, spontaneity and movement;
- The Fire Element is represented by the triangle, and also spiky shapes;
- Since Wood creates Fire, layering cacti or "firestick" plants is excellent;

... continued on Page D6

AFTER A YEAR LIKE THIS, WE COULD USE SOME EXTRA HAPPY HOLIDAY WISHES.

Happy Holidays to all of my
buyers, sellers, fellow agents,
friends, and neighbors.

2020 Transactions

18 Daisy Lane, Orinda
511 Kiki, Pleasant Hill
117 Southwind, Pleasant Hill
1146 Upper Happy Valley Road
257 Ivy Place, Orinda
863 Camino Ricardo, Moraga
222 Overhill Road, Orinda



2020 Transactions

3226 Lucas Circle, Lafayette
112 Canon Dr, Orinda
95 Camino Encinas, Orinda
1091 Pereira Road, Martinez
46 Martha Road, Orinda
2 Middle Road, Lafayette
172 Glorietta Blvd., Orinda

925.980.3829
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ShannonConner.com

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Villageassociates.com
925.254.0505


shannon conner

villageassociates.com | @villageassociates | 925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.

Village
ASSOCIATES



HOME IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER



Thankful now more than ever for our wonderful community. From my family to yours, wishing everyone safe and healthy holidays.

www.holcenberg.com

Michelle Holcenberg

Coldwell Banker Top 100 SF Bay Area

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

BRE #01373412

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Feng Shui

Lighting 101 and the Fire Element

... continued from Page D4

- Fire is generally yang or activating, but fireplaces, candlelight or house lights are examples of Yin or calmer Fire;
- Fire elements direction is south and energetically directed upward;
- Fire element represents the sunny summer season;
- Fire element-infused décor includes red throws, blankets and pillows.
- Candles create atmosphere of warmth, gathering together and sharing, an accessible common sense Fire Element fix for long wintry months.
- All light fixtures should function safely and be replaced when needed;
- Fire element electrical systems correspond to our heart health.

Why would we turn our attention in our homes to the Fame and Reputation Bagua area? If you want to be recognized for your skills or talents, if you are publishing a book, if you lack clarity or passion, if you want to be rewarded as an employee, if you want to improve how others

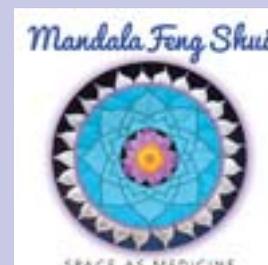
perceive you, or if you feel inactive or lackluster, then Fame is where we begin.

These characteristics of the Fame and Reputation area apply to both professional and personal arenas. Remember that when we address a specific Bagua area we audit the back center area of our home, master bedroom and garden or yard. Visualize what you want to manifest in great detail, incorporate a vision board or place images of your goals as a way to activate this Bagua area. Placing the color red or triangles or candles in these locations will activate the Fame area as well.

Since the Fire Element is so Yang or strongly activating, exercise caution when using it. A little goes a long way. Fire also has a complicated relationship with a few of the other elements. In these Bagua areas use the Fire Element very purposely, but not in the kitchen where we already have a strong Fire element in the stove.

However you introduce warming Fire Element this year, may it lift your spirits and warm your hearts this holiday season! Peace on Earth!

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. Visit mandalafengshui.com.



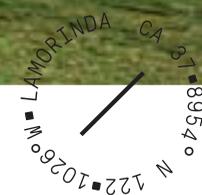
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1191 Camino Vallecito, Lafayette
5 Bed • 3 Full Bath / 2 Half Bath • ± 3,821 Sq Ft • ±.69 Acre • \$3,250,000
1191CaminoVallecito.com



The holidays may look a little different this year though the love and spirit carries on. Please stay cozy while you're at home for the holidays.

Happy Holidays.

*From our Families to Yours,
Lisa & Kristi*



BRYDON & IVES
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
925.285.8336
bi@brydonivesteam.com
brydonivesteam.com
DRE 01408025 | 01367466

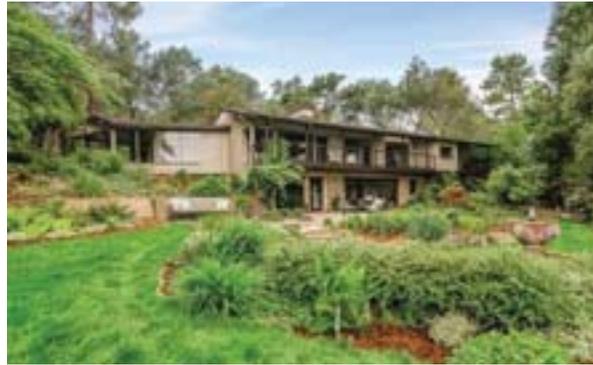
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Paddy Kehoe Team



3980 Woodsite Ct, Lafayette \$1,575,000
Represented Buyers | 4 bed | 2.5 bath | 2,534 SF



50 Charles Hill Rd, Orinda \$2,100,000
Represented Buyers | 5 bed | 3 bath | 3,013 SF



10 Rheem Blvd, Orinda \$1,887,000
Represented Buyers | 5 bed | 3 bath | 3,439 SF



649 Vine Hill Way, Martinez \$1,400,000
Represented Buyers | 4 bed | 4 bath | 3,564 SF



3 Briones Vw, Orinda \$1,461,000
Represented Buyers | 3 bed | 2 bath | 1,477 SF



18 Charles Hill Cir, Orinda \$3,450,000
Represented Buyers | 5 bed | 5.5 bath | 6,137 SF



8 Vista Via, Lafayette \$1,250,000
Represented Seller | 3 bed | 2 bath | 1,337 SF



3885 Los Arabis Dr, Lafayette \$2,410,000
Represented Seller | 5 bed | 4 bath | 3,426 SF



1045 Timothy Ln, Lafayette \$2,180,000
Represented Seller | 5 bed | 3.5 bath | 3,320 SF



Paddy Kehoe

925.878.5869
paddy@paddykehoeteam.com
DRE 01894345



Leslie Lomond

650.799.2110
leslie.lomond@compass.com
DRE 01968517



Mary Staten

925.890.6875
mary.staten@compass.com
DRE 01947354



Dave Schurhoff

925.997.9569
dave.schurhoff@compass.com
DRE 01834201



Christine Frazier

925.550.2130
christinefrazier@compass.com
DRE 01949722



Brittany Hogan

925.233.9061
brittany@paddykehoeteam.com
DRE 01990287



2020 Year in Review



32 Sleepy Hollow Ln, Orinda **\$2,035,000**
Represented Seller | 5 bed | 3 bath | 2,306 SF



1045 Los Arabis Ln, Lafayette **\$1,800,000**
Represented Seller | 4 bed | 2 bath | 2,306 SF



1092 Sanders Dr, Moraga **\$1,410,000**
Represented Seller | 4 bed | 2.5 bath | 1,886 SF



1985 Reliez Valley Rd, Lafayette **\$1,650,000**
Represented Seller | 4 bed | 3 bath | 3,078 SF



1581 Huston Rd, Lafayette **\$1,695,000**
Represented Seller | 4 bed | 3.5 bath | 3,199 SF



7 Butler Dr, Lafayette **\$2,200,000**
Represented Seller | 3 bed | 2.5 bath | 3,606 SF



1418 Reliez Valley Rd, Lafayette **\$1,720,000**
Represented Seller | 6 bed | 3 bath | 2,765 SF



23 Coffee Berry Ln, Orinda **\$2,375,000**
Represented Seller | 4 bed | 4.5 bath | 3,512 SF



3 Songbird Ct, Lafayette **\$749,000**
Represented Seller | 2 bed | 1 bath | 766 SF

11 Sellers

12 Buyers

\$40+ Million in Sales

There is still strong buyer demand due to low inventory and historically low interest rates.
Call us to get your home ready for what should be a hot 2021 spring market.

e: paddy@paddykehoeteam.com m: 925.878.5869

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SORAYA GOLESORKHI
REALTOR®

HAPPY SELLERS:

- 1000 Circle Creek, Lafayette
- 11 Francisca Drive, Moraga
- 972 Carol Lane, Lafayette
- 215 La Espiral, Orinda
(Co-listed w/Nancy Booth)
- 1600 Oakmont Drive #4, Walnut Creek
(Represented Buyer and Seller)
- 59 Martha Road, Orinda
(Co-listed w/Nancy Booth)
- 1146 Nogales Street, Lafayette
(Co-listed w/Nancy Booth)
- 14 Edmund Court, Walnut Creek
- 5143 Coach Dr., El Sobrante-Richmond

HAPPY BUYERS:

- 38 Buckingham Drive, Moraga
- 1972 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek
- 1001 Springfield Drive, Walnut Creek
- 1600 Oakmont Drive #4, Walnut Creek
(Represented Buyer and Seller)
- 803 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek
- 1148 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette
(Represented Buyer w/Nancy Booth)
- 944 La Gonda Way, Danville

Oh what a year!

Happy Holidays and best wishes to all for a healthier, happier, more peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Call me! I love helping my buyers and sellers get what they want.



Soraya Golesorkhi
925.808.8390
sg@soraya4homes.com
soraya4homes.com
DRE #01771736



COLDWELL BANKER | 5 Moraga Way, Orinda





Happy New Year

I'm thrilled to announce that I will be kicking off the new year with Compass, a technology-driven real estate company. With innovative tools and exclusive programs, Compass empowers me to redefine the buying and selling experience for my clients.

Thinking about a new address in 2021?

Let's talk.

-Emily

COMPASS

DRE#01942438

EMILY ESTRADA

REAL ESTATE

925-708-8116 // EMILY@EMILYESTRADA.COM // EMILYESTRADA.COM



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chrisswim.com



**TRACY
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925.766.1137

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tracykeaton.com.com

**CONTACT US TODAY
TO PUT OUR EXPERTISE
TO WORK FOR YOU**

*"The secret to living the life of your dreams
is to start living the life of your dreams today,
in every little way you possibly can."*

- Mike Dooley

**New Year.
New Plans.
New Memories.**

Wishing everyone all the happiness a heart can know!

If you are thinking of selling in 2021, now is the time to start planning.

Our pre-marketing plan is a proven strategy to build anticipation,
drive demand and help you get the best offer faster.

Let us help you prepare your home now for the 2021 spring market!

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Top Notch Energy

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John Notch owner
Cell 510-703-6956

Call for appointment





HERE'S TO 2021

Looking forward to another year
supporting this great community.
Contact me for new listings in
your neighborhood.

Let me welcome
you home in 2021.

- finola

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finolafellner
REAL ESTATE

finola.fellner@compass.com | 925.890.7807 | DRE 01428834

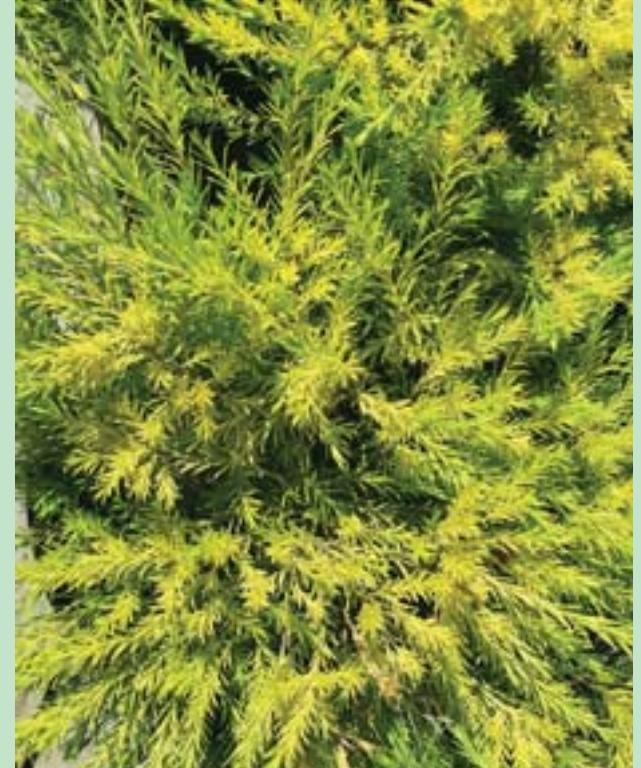


Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

- **FERTILIZE** trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
- **APPLY** snail bait to areas where slugs and snails do damage.
- **SPREAD** elemental sulfur to citrus, azalea, rhododendron, camellia, and hydrangea to lower the soil PH.
- **DEEP** feed smaller shrubs to accelerate growth in the gaps of hedges.
- **ADD** a swath of fluorescent red, white or pink cyclamen to add pops of color to the winter landscape.
- **DEADHEAD** roses to extend blooming until heavy pruning in January or if you prefer, allow the rosehips to form. Rosehips are a source of vitamin C and can be harvested for tea.
- **STUFF** stockings with gardening goodies including a hand trowel, gloves, seeds and a garden guide. "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" offers 12 months of helpful advice and comes with free seed packets and a relaxing CD. www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store
- **CUT** branches of berries from heavenly bamboo, cotoneaster, holly, or pyracantha to add to mantels and wreaths.
- **RAKE** leaves from lawns to keep them from matting.
- **MOVE** mower to a higher cutting level and don't mow when the ground is too wet.
- **PROTECT** tender plants from frost and freeze by moving potted plants inside or close to the house.
- **BUY** camellias now in the colors to suit your landscape décor while they are stocked as blooming specimens in nurseries.
- **CUT** back chrysanthemums to six inches after blooms fade.
- **PLANT** any remaining spring-blooming bulbs.
- **CELEBRATE** your home and garden for the holidays!



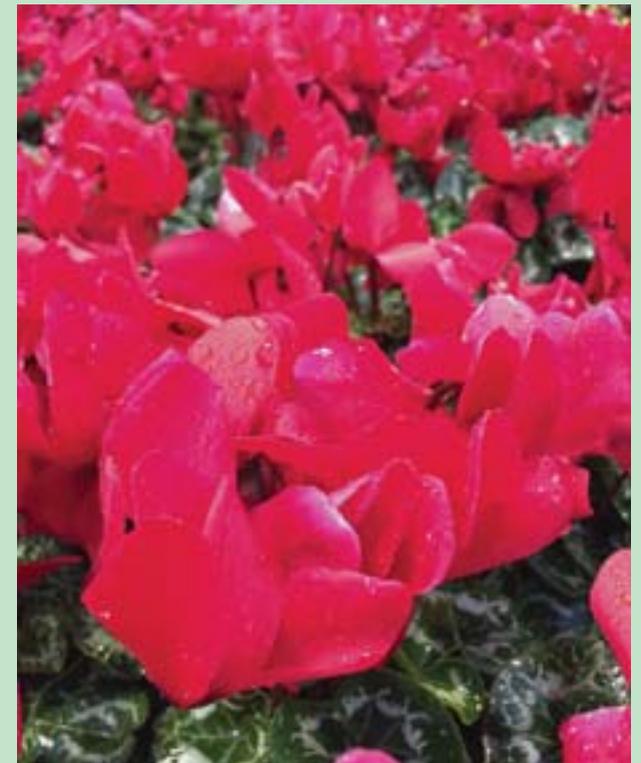
Hachiya persimmons are ripe to make a yummy Christmas pudding.



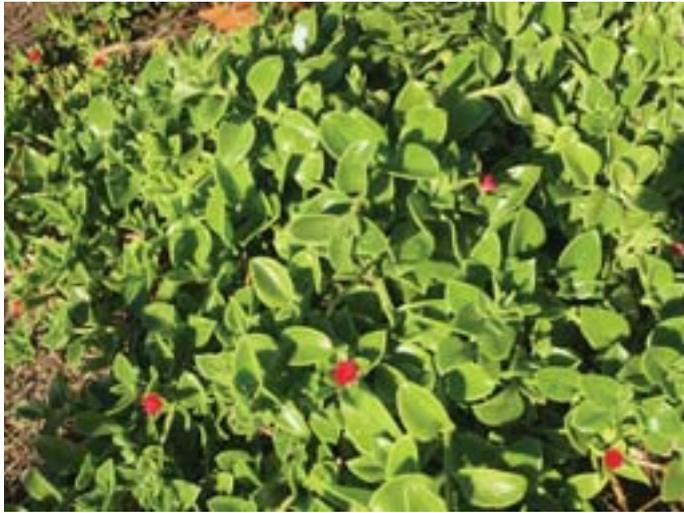
Golden Breath of Heaven (*Coloconem pulchrum*) translates to "pretty" in Latin will bear pink flowers.



Incorporate the red berries of heavenly bamboo holiday wreaths and arrangements.



The fluorescent red cyclamen illuminates any holiday landscape. Photos Cynthia Brian



Aptenia, also known as red apple, is a firewise and drought-tolerant ground cover.



Rosehips can be harvested for teas rich in vitamin C.



Cynthia Brian is at home and in her garden for the holidays.

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

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