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Jonathon Flinn, ConFire Photos Nick Marnell Kim Jackson, AMR Mark DeWeese, MOFD Jerry Lee, MOFD



Athan Koutsoubinas, ConFire, gets his shot. Photo provided

First responders receive first round of COVID-19 vaccine

By Nick Marnell

More than 350 first responders received the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 28 at a drive-in event hosted in Concord by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The clinic is one of four

staged by Contra Costa Health Services, which plans to inoculate fire service employees and other patient contact employees in the county by Jan. 7 as part of its Tier 1A distribution phase.

Patients who were given the vaccine were ordered to remain in their cars for 15 minutes before departing the premises. "We did not anticipate any

adverse reactions, and we have received no reports of any," district spokesman Steve Hill said.

The health department says there is a minimum 28-day waiting period before patients can receive the second and final round of the vaccine. "At this point, we are not sure when that shot will be available," Hill said.

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El Charro in Lafayette closes its doors after 73 years

By Pippa Fisher

In an announcement on social media, Lafayette's long-established Mexican restaurant shared that it would be closing its doors for good.

Although rumors had swirled for several weeks, the owners of El Charro made the announcement via their Facebook page Dec. 29 saying, "It is with heavy hearts that we announce El Charro Mexican Dining, a Lafayette community staple of 70+ years, will be permanently closed beginning this Friday, January 1st, 2021."

Very quickly hundreds of comments appeared on the page; memories of happy times spent at the restaurant with many saying they remember eating there from childhood onward and that the news is "devastating."

Demand during the last two days for takeout was a clear indication of how much the place meant to locals, as people lined up around the block Dec. 30 for a final order of chips and El Charro's special blue cheese garlic dip, waiting in some cases for over three hours as the kitchen was so overwhelmed.



Loyal customers called the news of El Charro's imminent closure "devastating" as large numbers waited in line Dec. 30 for a final chance to enjoy the Mexican food. Photo Pippa Fisher

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

Lafayette resumes its Business Assistance Program

By Pippa Fisher

The City of Lafayette is once again offering one-on-one help to its local businesses and nonprofits in navigating through the maze of loans and funds to help them identify which assistance programs might be available to them.

With recent approval by Congress of a second stimulus package, the city announced the restarting of its Business Assistance Program effective Jan. 4.

Townsend Public Affairs, the city's consultants, helped more than 100 local busi-

nesses and nonprofits in the first phase of this program, offering guidance for both federal and state programs.

"Restarting the BAP for our businesses and nonprofits is a great way to start off 2021," says Mayor Susan Candell, who hopes the partnerships formed between the city and these groups will be as successful as the previous cycles when stimulus money was available. "Helping businesses and nonprofits navigate the process with excellent guidance from Townsend and Associates is a win-win for Lafayette, and we as a city are glad to help," says Candell.

Participants need to register with the city and will be expected to verify that they are a Lafayette business or nonprofit. Once qualified, LBA will connect with business owners to evaluate their goals and desired outcomes in order to identify which programs they might be eligible for. Further details can be found on the city website.

The mayor and Townsend Public Affairs will be hosting a webinar at 10 a.m. Jan. 6 to provide more information about the new funding and to highlight the services offered by the BAP.

Local businesses seek financial support from the community

Local business owners are turning to the community for help as they struggle financially during the coronavirus pandemic, utilizing crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe as a way to stay afloat. Karen Gaskins, owner of the small Lafayette business, Ms. Karen's Place, where she specializes in children's haircuts, has had her business shuttered for months, but according to the GoFundMe account created by organizer Lindsay Klein, Gaskins has had to pay rent this entire time. Although she was briefly able to reopen, taking careful precautions to protect her clients and herself, she will now be shut again due to the county's new rules for at least the next month.

"I have served the community with love for all my children in the Lamorinda area for 18 years," Gaskins said. "It's been a honor to watch your children grow and be a part of their lives and I'd love to continue to do so in the future!"

Klein is urging the community to "help this wonderful woman during this difficult time."

For information on how to help, visit: www.gofundme.com/f/help-ms-karen-stay-afloat?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp_guide_do&memberId=7218096

Registration for this webinar through the city website is required.
www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-strong/lafayette-business-assistance

Dr. Fauci talks with Lafayette council member, says light at end of tunnel



Screen shot provided

Dr. Anthony Fauci talks with Council Member Cam Burks Dec. 22

By Pippa Fisher

otherwise known as Dr. Anthony Fauci Day in Lafayette.

The honor was bestowed on the fa-

'Twas the night before Christmas ...

mous doctor and director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases during a Dec. 22 one-on-one virtual chat with Council Member Cam Burks, to mark Fauci's 80th birthday on Dec. 24. Fauci, who has become a household name across the country for his leadership during the pandemic, said he was honored to accept.

Burks congratulated Fauci on receiving his first vaccination shot earlier that day, which he said was uplifting to see, and took the opportunity to let Fauci know that in Lafayette residents are adhering to safety guidelines, saying he was proud of the community.

Acknowledging the reality of "COVID fatigue," Fauci nonetheless en-

couraged the community to keep it up, noting, "You've done a very good job in keeping your community safe to the extent that you can." And he reminded viewers of the light at the end of the tunnel – the vaccine, which he indicated should be more widely available to all by March or April.

Responding to a question from Burks about the length of immunity the vaccine might offer, Fauci said that was not yet known but said he believed that if 70-85% of the population gets vaccinated it would essentially put an end to this outbreak. "If we will subsequently need booster shots to keep the immunity up, so be it, that's not so bad," he said.

Sustainable inclusion project a win-win-win

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette school kids are channeling their creative talents, learning leadership skills, and making the community more welcoming and inclusive all

while keeping a significant amount of trash out of landfill. And all of this is a result of an idea to repurpose all those Measure L signs.

It was an idea that first came to Lafayette School District Governing Board President Rob

Sturm following his 2016 election campaign when faced with the many signs he had bought and the question of what to do with them.

"Sustainability is a big deal for me and it pained me to see so many of these signs becom-

ing landfill," said Sturm. "It occurred that the signs could easily be reused as a children's art project with whitewashing."

Sturm said his children enjoyed making welcoming signs and planting them in the neighborhood back in 2016.

Now the idea is being enthusiastically welcomed as a way to keep hundreds of the district's Parcel Tax Measure L signs from becoming landfill following the March election.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2021

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Marechal Duncan – the heart of Lafayette history



Photo provided

Marechal Duncan at the Historical Society in February 2019.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette lost a beloved member of the community with the recent passing of Marechal Duncan at age 98.

It wasn't just that his many years of volunteerism, benefiting many different organizations have made the community a much better place, although they have, but it is the man himself – his wit, his charm, and his humor – who touched so many lives, that so many will miss.

“Marechal enlivened every event he organized and attended, and that included a large number of events,” says Former Mayor Don Tatzin. “With a calm manner, Marechal earned the fondness and commanded the respect of citizens because he knew what he was talking about, brought good ideas, and was kind and courteous to everyone.”

Duncan was recognized for his many areas of community service by being named Lafayette Citizen of the Year in 2015.

Born in 1922 in Massachusetts, at 1 year old he moved with his family to San Diego, where he grew up, joining the navy following his high school graduation. After Pearl Harbor he served in the Guadalcanal campaign. He earned numerous medals and citations including three Bronze Stars.

Duncan attended the University of California at Berkeley and later earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. He went on to work for several companies including Motorola for 28 years.

He married Doris Paulson in 1947, and together they moved to Lafayette in 1955, buying a house in the Silver Springs neighborhood. He threw himself into community involvement, serving as an LMYA coach, and a Scout

leader with Troop 204 while their children were young.

He was a founding member of the Lafayette Community Foundation where he established the group's Liaison Committee for Seniors. A true history buff, with a love for Lafayette's historic fire truck Old Betsy, he served from 1991 until 2019 on the Lafayette Historical Society board, and he co-chaired the Lafayette Sesquicentennial celebration. Additionally he was a founding member of the original Lafayette Toastmaster's Club and was a past president of the Silver Springs Homeowners Association. He was a member of SIRS Branch 8 and a Master Mason. Duncan served on Lafayette's Open Space Task Force and the Senior Needs Assessment Committee.

“Marechal was the embodiment of what it means to Love Lafayette,” says Mary McCosker, executive director of the Lafayette Historical Society. “During his life he was involved in so many activities that benefited so many parts of the community.” And McCosker adds that he was always such a charming, friendly person with a dry sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye.

Former Mayor Anne Grodin who was, with Duncan, one of the founders of the Lafayette Community Foundation, explains how Duncan became involved in an ad hoc committee formed back in 1997 to brainstorm ideas for a new library.

“The Historical Society had long wanted a place to display all their historical artifacts but did not have the ability to raise funds to build and maintain a home of their own,” says Grodin. “By joining forces the two groups were the foundation of the movement to get a new library in Lafayette.”

... continued on Page A5



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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

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 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>



MORAGA

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 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
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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

Council recommends garbage collection rate hike



Garbage collection in Moraga Dec. 29

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga Town Council Dec. 9 quietly recommended a 6.75% garbage collection rate increase for residents starting in March. The recommendation passed unanimously with no council discussion or public input.

Solid waste disposal in Moraga is managed by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, a joint powers authority operating as RecycleSmart. The authority contracts with Republic Services to collect trash and recyclables from homes and businesses, and with Mt. Diablo Recycling to package the recycled product and sell or otherwise dispose of it. The JPA negotiates rates annually with the contractors for five Contra Costa County municipalities and unincorporated portions of the county.

Moraga Council Member

Renata Sos sits on the RecycleSmart board of directors.

"The rates set for each jurisdiction are based on a variety of jurisdiction-specific factors such as garbage vehicle impact fees that are collected by the jurisdiction, rate increases in prior years, rates charged by neighboring jurisdictions, and reserve levels that are used as a hedge against significant future rate increases," Sos said.

Every year, Republic must submit to the JPA a rate request application. "Republic's compensation from the rate application is allocated out to the member agencies based on their annual tonnage, annual route hours and number of accounts," said Ken Etherington, RecycleSmart executive director.

The rate application is a complex document including 36 spreadsheets that cover labor charges, capital require-

ments, tonnage, and revenue requirements for the upcoming year. The application shows that in the last fiscal year, Republic collected more than 4,450 tons of solid waste in Moraga from residential and commercial properties, plus 4,800 tons of organic waste and 2,900 tons of recyclable material. Those were the lowest tonnage figures of the member JPA municipalities.

Republic states in its application that the 2021 revenue requirement for Moraga is \$4.59 million, also the lowest among JPA municipalities. Etherington broke down the Moraga total at \$2.97 million for hauler compensation, \$842,000 in vehicle impact fees, \$174,000 in recycling costs and \$602,000 in franchise fees and other expenses.

Under the proposed 2021 agreement, in order for Republic to reach its revenue requirement, monthly rates for Moraga residential service would rise to \$41.10 for a 32-gallon container, and commercial rates would increase between \$15.07 and \$45.21, depending on the level of service. Though Moraga produces the lowest solid waste tonnage among the JPA member municipalities, the town's container rate is second highest, behind only Orinda's.

The municipalities will enter into year seven of a 10-year franchise agreement with the contractors. The RecycleSmart board plans to adopt the 2021 rates at a public hearing Jan. 28, with the new rates to be effective March 1.

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Expansion in the works for Moraga Country Club



Moraga Country Club prepares to expand

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Country Club received a green light during the Planning Commission's Dec. 7 meeting for a request to expand its facilities. Included in the plans is a new 6,600-square-foot fitness facility, a new 4,300-square-foot courtside grille, a sports court to include bocce ball and pickleball courts, additional parking and upgraded landscaping.

Commission members gave high marks to MCC for one of the most comprehensive applications ever turned in for review and consideration.

The MCC was originally developed in 1974, approximately six months before

Moraga became incorporated. It included homes, a clubhouse, golf course, swimming pool and tennis courts. In 2011-12, the original clubhouse and pool were demolished to make way for a new pool and a 20,271-square-foot two-story clubhouse which features a reception desk/lobby, lounge, golf pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, restaurant, bar, kitchen, banquet and conference rooms, and administration space for staff. All of these and future amenities/facilities will continue to be available to MCC residents and members only.

The proposal includes a demolition of the existing 1,200-square-foot tennis shop in order to construct the new



fitness facility, courtside grille and an 860-square-foot recreation pavilion adjacent to the existing clubhouse on opposite sides of the swimming pool.

The courtside grille would lead from the pool deck down to the adjacent sport courts and have two levels. The main deck would include a bar, dining room and kitchen with a wrap-around outdoor terrace. The grille does not intend to hold any outdoor events, live music venues or performances. It would offer food, beverages and alcohol service.

The single-level fitness club building would contain a weight/fitness machine room, a workout studio, a children's activity room, restrooms, and reception area with administrative office.

The new recreation pavilion will be located below the clubhouse complex at the tennis court level and contain a lobby, restrooms, and provide equipment rental for members using the sport court facilities.

The project's architect has designed the three new facilities in a way that is complementary to the clubhouse's Mediterranean Revival style. This was done intentionally to create a campus-like setting that is contextual with the existing building. Project planners hope to begin the expansion in early summer of 2021.

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Best wishes for a healthy, happy and safe 2021!

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Marechal Duncan

... continued from Page A3

Grodin says he was always helping others and had the vision to see what was needed in his hometown. "More importantly he had the ability to make things happen – always with hard work and humor," says Grodin, noting that his years of service to so many different organizations are hard to fathom.

He was passionate about helping seniors age in place and, as a member of the Lafayette Community Foundation's Liaison Committee for Seniors, he played a large part in establishing the annual Senior Symposium – a resource fair for seniors – co-chairing the first event over 12 years ago.

Lamorinda Village Board Member Don Jenkins, who also devotes his time to helping seniors age in place

says that Duncan was his role model. "The way that he cared for his wife was an inspiration to all of us as we try to care for one another as we age in our wonderful community," says Jenkins.

Jenkins recalls first meeting Duncan in 1999 during the creation of the Lafayette Community Foundation, serving with him on the board of directors. He says that in the monthly board meetings, as they all worked to get the Lafayette Library created, built and funded, "Marechal was usually the last to speak on an issue if he chose to speak. When he did speak he used humor, wisdom and conciseness to make his point."

For over 10 years until recently Duncan never missed a Community Liaison Meeting. Judy Carney, the meeting organizer, remembers how he loved hearing about

everything going on around the city.

Carney remembers that Duncan never missed a Pearl Harbor Commemoration Day. "He always reminded us about it. And every year he would tell us, and the very thought brought tears to his eyes," says Carney. "Everyone who came in contact with Marechal knew that he cared about doing the right thing for all Americans. He knew he fought for a reason. He was a very proud Vet. To me he was the essence of the Greatest Generation."

Like Jenkins, Carney recalls that Duncan always liked to speak last at meetings and that he would close each meeting by reminding those in attendance, "What you do today will be history tomorrow."

It is clear that Duncan will always be at the heart of Lafayette history.

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Sustainable inclusion project



Photo provided

Lucy, with her father Francisco Silva, holds up her finished sign.

... continued from Page A2

Additionally the Chamber of Commerce has given the Res Run signs for repurposing, adding to already donated signs leftover from Prop 22.

According to Sturm, "The concept is to have our LafSD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees arrange for local children to decorate the signs with DEI symbols, artwork and/or welcoming words and

then replant the signs within our community to validate that all people are welcomed and valued in Lafayette."

In charge of this project is Susan Wiggen, head of Rapport – a Lafayette group that serves as the hub for the various Lafayette School District parent organizations. Wiggen explains that the point of this initiative is to empower the children to take on leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She says that at the elementary level the District DEI committee brought No Place for Hate – a self-directed program intended to help members of school communities – to the district, then to principals. The middle school has the SLAM (Student Leaders' Anti-racism Movement) program involving 60 student leaders working with Dr. Lori Watson.

"Although each school is organizing these groups in a different manner, one idea is to really empower our student leaders to help with the anti-racism, etc., messaging," says Wiggen.

Springhill Elementary School fifth-grader Lucy Silva

appreciates the No Place for Hate program.

Lucy explains, "I joined the No Place for Hate committee because I think the world can use more kindness, I believe Black Lives Matter, and I think that making these signs for everyone to see helps everyone feel like they belong."

Wiggen believes that this particular project is a great example of a simple way to empower children's voices, in addition to helping keep valuable, reusable signs out of landfills. "The kids get a sense of pride and ownership while spreading crucial messages around diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our community by repurposing signs that would likely end up in landfills," she says. "And they do this while having fun!"

Sturm describes these creative projects with meaningful, teaching moments as a "win-win-win."

Rapport is working with DEI parent volunteers to distribute the old signs to the students. They hope to have some signs finished during the winter break and to do the bulk of them in early January.

After that the welcoming signs will be appearing around town.

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Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meetings:

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m.;

Saturday, Jan. 16, 9 a.m.

By Teleconference Only

Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. By

Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
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Experienced team moves forward with Orinda governance



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amy Worth takes the helm of Orinda as mayor for the fifth time.

By Sora O'Doherty

Mayor Amy Worth commenced her fifth term as mayor of Orinda in 2020, assisted by Vice Mayor Dennis Fay. Fay is new to the city council, but served for many years on the recently disbanded Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission, including as chair of the CIOC. Serving on the CIOC since its inception was where he met city council member Darlene Gee, also a transportation engineer like Fay, who just completed her term as mayor.

Both Worth and Fay have priorities that they would like to accomplish in the

coming year, and both agree that the most pressing problem Orinda faces is the threat of wildfire. Although 2020 will primarily be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a year that really honed the community's priorities for the coming year, Worth said, and mitigating the risk of wildfire is uppermost in the minds of residents. Worth emphasizes that the city must operate in a fiscally responsible way, and cannot have a deficit. The new oversight commission, provisionally titled the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission, will be tasked with developing programs for wildfire safety, as well as continuing the work on Orinda's roads and drains, which Worth said is a "forever problem, given the terrain we have in Orinda, mainly clay soil that contracts and expands."

Fay emphasized that Orinda isn't changing anything, but is adding something new to what the city council has to deal with. Most important, he said, is implementing Measure R, the new sales tax approved by Orinda voters in the November general election. "The thing we really need to do," Fay said, "is get as quickly as possible

into the wildfire aspects, starting with expanding the chipper program. Next, we need to fill out the commission," he continued, whose first chore will be to develop a wildfire protection plan that prioritizes how to spend the revenue from the new tax. "MOFD has a general plan," Fay said, "which is a very good starting point to figure out what things might be productive, and prioritize those things." He also wants the commission to explore other things, for example, the use of technology, and for the city to partner with the county to think about wildfire fuels in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County that surround Orinda.

Next in priority, according to Fay, is tackling critical public drains that need to be repaired so Orinda doesn't have another Miner Road sinkhole situation. Fay explained that the public roads are now fixed, and, in his opinion, there is sufficient other revenue to maintain them, including revenue from the gas tax and garbage truck impact fees. He imagines that spending Measure R funds on road upkeep will become necessary in about 10 years.

Both Worth and Fay agreed that the next priority is completing the downtown Orinda planning process. Worth said, this is a really good time to be working on the downtown. During the pandemic, she said, "people feel safe in their local communities, they want to be in their downtown." Worth did all her holiday shopping in Orinda. She emphasized how important it is for the community to support local businesses and restaurants. She urged residents to use this time to go through their wardrobes, and bring items to the dry cleaners in town who are suffering badly during the pandemic. She also talked about fundraisers by the Rotary, Miramonte High School and other groups that feature drive-through take-out dinners. Fay explained that once the downtown plan is finished, the city council will have to take certain actions to implement it, such as

amending the general plan and updating zoning. Fay added that although the county health department has the most important role in controlling COVID-19, the city had to deal with how the pandemic affects the city's revenues, which caused the city to have to lay off staff. He noted that the pandemic affected residents and local businesses, such as the Orinda Theatre. He would like to promote individual actions to keep core things going in Orinda, such as purchasing takeout meals from local restaurants.

Both the new mayor and new vice mayor also expressed the need for greater efforts to promote diversity and prevent discrimination in Orinda. Fay said that he was looking forward to the mayor appointing people to serve on a police oversight commission. Worth is one of two city council members who meet regularly with the Orinda Union School District board as part of a subcommittee designed to strengthen the ways in which both organizations can foster those goals.

Both Worth and Fay spoke about how the city had quickly pivoted to virtual business at the beginning of the pandemic, and Worth was pleased with how the public participated in virtual city council meetings, as well as how well the cities that make up Lamorinda work together.

Fay has two years remaining on his term and is happy to talk to anyone who wants to talk to him. He invites people to call (his phone number is on the Orinda website) or email, and promises that if an email is directed to him, as opposed to the entire city council, he will answer it personally.

Worth, whose term also ends in December 2022, was first elected to the city council in 1998, and has now served for over two decades. Former mayors Darlene Gee and Inga Miller were both reelected in November, and the remaining council member, Nick Kosla's term also expires at the end of 2022.

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The year 2020 was, like for many others, a difficult year for Lamorinda Weekly.

We are also thankful to our team of writers, editors, photographers and producers who all made adjustments to sustain our model of bringing news and life stories to the Lamorinda community and to stay open. We hope normality will return in 2021.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Orinda, Moraga farmers markets thrive during pandemic



Orinda Farmers Market

Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

The year 2020 was when the Orinda farmers market went to year-round operation. When the change was introduced, no one expected 2020 to be the year of the great pandemic. But shoppers at both the Orinda and Moraga markets welcomed the opportunity to buy fresh, local foods directly from vendors in a safe, outdoor environment.

Both markets are now open all year, Orinda on Saturday mornings and Moraga on Sunday mornings. A visit shows that local shoppers are still actively attending both markets to buy both fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, meat and eggs, as well as prepared food of many varieties, including cheeses, jams, dried fruits, honey, popcorn, and restaurant stands with offerings ranging from crepes to tamales. Both markets also boast tempting bakeries, with breads and pastries on offer.

This year, in the face of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, the Orinda market began offering a food box service, known as Good to Go Boxes. These pre-ordered boxes include a seasonal mix of produce, to include vegetables and fruit. All products are from Orinda Farmers Market growers.

In addition, to the pre-selected boxes, shoppers can now select the foods they wish to purchase with a smartphone app called Tap4Markets. Orders must be placed by Thursday for the weekend markets, and the producers get paid directly by virtual checkout. All orders are then available for contactless curbside pickup between 10 and 11 a.m. in

front of the Orinda Community Center. There is a nominal service fee per order. Amaya Deshasier has been working for the Orinda farmers market since the box program started, about six months ago. She says that it has been quite successful and that it makes money for the farmers, which is so important during the pandemic.

Omar Sidiq has also been at the Orinda market for about six months. He works at Donna's Tamales, a business from Martinez selling tamales, burritos, salsa and chips. He said that business continues to be pretty good at the Orinda market. The Upper Crust Baking Company comes down from Davis. Employee Luara Wilson says that business is good for the bakery, which has been at the Orinda market for three years. La Crepe a Moi is a Berkeley restaurant that serves both the Orinda and the Moraga market, and does great business at both serving ready-to-eat crepes, both savory and sweet.

Few vendors have dropped out of the markets, but there are a couple of new ones. In Orinda, it is the first year for Pete's Gold Honey. Beekeepers Peter and Jill Kemel run the family business, with hives in Concord and San Ramon. The two beekeepers have three children, whom they are teaching the art of beekeeping. They sell their all-wildflower honey at the farmers markets in Orinda and also Walnut Creek. Another husband-and-wife team, Katia Berberi and Steve Drapeau, started selling Anne's Toum, their Lebanese Garlic Sauce, at the Moraga market recently, and have been selling out each week. The

company is named after Katia's mom, who passed away suddenly last year, and uses her recipe which she learned from Katia's father's Lebanese family. One little girl comes each week, crying, "Dip, dip!" Her

father says that she eats the garlic sauce like yogurt.

Both markets have vendors of fresh seafood, Billingsgate Four Star Seafood in Orinda says that business is brisk, and From the Sea to You in Moraga. Danny Guzman, the Moraga fish vendor, says that they are blessed to be busier than before the pandemic. Their fish comes from Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, with some from Alaska and Hawaii as well.

Andrew Artadi of Great Valley Poultry says that although business is slower than usual, people keep coming steadily. Maria Ramos, and employee of J&J Farms, said that before COVID they did more markets. All of the farmers markets at Kaiser Hospitals have been closed, and even in Moraga she said that they cannot have more than 10 shop-

pers in their space at one time. But the customers are really good she added, very respectful. J&J also runs a farm stand in Hughson, California.

Anjelica Colliard, the market manager in Moraga, says that the market is thriving as a safe way for people to get food and be in their community. Both the customers and vendors are thankful for the market, she added. Only a few of the older vendors have left, and some younger vendors have joined the market, according to Colliard.

The Orinda farmers market is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Orinda Community Park. The Moraga farmers market is open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road.

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 - Cut in half all trees that are 8 feet or over in height.
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Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular garbage collection day, during your city's assigned week.

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~ Celebrations ~

Local couple celebrates 60 years together

Gloria and Dick Marchick celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a Zoom party on Friday, Dec. 18. Dick, originally from Cheyenne, Wyo., and Gloria, a St. Louis native met at Washington University, St. Louis where he was a medical student and she was getting a master's degree and teaching. In 1966 they relocated to the Bay Area where Dick practiced Obstetrics & Gynecology in Berkeley and Gloria taught and headed the ESL Program for the Acalanes Union High School District Adult Education department. Both are retired.

They have been residents of Orinda for 47 years where they reared their three children, Patti Kogan, David Marchick and Sarah Marchick. Patti and Mark Kogan live in Orinda, Sarah Marchick and Rob Hallman live in Rockridge, and David Marchick and Pam Kurland live in Washington, DC. The Marchicks have six grandchildren.



The marquee at the Orinda Theatre was lit up in honor of their anniversary and gifted by their children. In spite of COVID, the celebrating lasted two days. When asked what the secret to a long marriage is, Gloria said, "We were going to get divorced but neither of us wanted the kids so we just stuck it out!"

Lafayette 'Men's Book Club' fights food insecurity

Funds 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in distress



Photo provided

Men's Book Club founder and president Ross Goodheart hands off a check for \$7,200 to Elana Sissions, annual fund manager for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. With matching funds, the contribution resulted in 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in need.

Submitted by Jeff Album

The Lafayette "Men's Book Club" – an informal group of 48 local dads who know each other through their wives and children – does not read many books. None, in fact. More likely, you will find them in a backyard pitching horseshoes, drinking beer and eating barbecue.

But with pandemic restrictions advising households not to congregate, the MBC opted to come together this holiday season in a different way; by opening their purse strings, seeking corporate matches, and tackling the problem of food insecurity.

"We raised \$7,200 from a few of our members," said Ross Goodheart, MBC's founder and president. "When we turned that over to the Food Bank

of Contra Costa and Solano, they were able to win matching funds, allowing us to net \$14,400, enough to purchase 28,800 meals."

Ross, a market trader with a local financial firm, notes that MBC members volunteer annually at the Food Bank's Concord warehouse, doing so since the club's inauguration in 2010. He readily admits his self-anointed title of president is tongue-in-cheek, but none of the other members seem to mind and the MBC doesn't exactly have rules.

"My only demand is that members answer my email invitations, whether to get together or to volunteer or make a contribution," said Ross. "The answer can be yes or no, but if you don't bother to respond, as another president might say, 'you're fired.'"

In Memory

John Michael Reidenbach

Oct. 23, 1944 – Dec. 2, 2020



John Michael Reidenbach, born Oct. 23, 1944, passed away Dec. 2. Mike is survived by his siblings Sandy, Patty, and Jim, his wife Patty, his three children Peter, David, and Sarah, his seven grandchildren Finley, Fisher, Joe, Dane, Samantha, Kelly, and Maisie, and his beloved cat, Stinky.

Mike excelled at giving and taking care of others. Raised in Berkeley by parents Nancy Gilliland and John Reidenbach, Mike was the oldest of four children and went on to excel academically at Stanford and Hastings Law, and professionally at the Alameda District Attorney's office, as legal counsel

at Pacific Gas & Electric for over 40 years, through his self-built insurance company that he ran alongside his son, by becoming a published author, as a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and by serving as Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves for several decades.

Mike was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian. He treasured collaborating with his BNI friends at their weekly meetings. He was at his happiest rowing a boat on a family vacation at the lake. He was a family man who spent a lifetime trying to do better and better, so he could take care of his family and friends better and better. He strived, worked, and dreamed every day of his life, while also finding time for lifting weights, starting businesses, and being Scotty's body double in a Star Trek movie. Mike especially loved his grandkids, and we will always remember him holding them in his arms as babies, goofing off with and cuddling them as toddlers, and taking pride in giving them thoughtful gifts on every occasion. He lived with the extraordinary enrichment that comes from a generous heart. We are thankful that, after a life of hustle, our dad finally gets to rest. Due to the pandemic, his service will be private but a celebration will be planned for the future. We encourage you to celebrate him in your own way; a glass of red or an act of unsolicited kindness would be appropriate. Memories and condolences are welcome at: michael-reidenbach.forevermissed.com

Donations can be made in his honor to the nonprofit that he sat on the board of: The Cohen Bray house and the Victorian Preservation Center at: <https://www.cohenbrayhouse.org>

Our family spent Christmas at this historic home every year.

Mike was exceptional, accomplished, devoted, and very loved. Rest in peace, Pops. Thank you for everything that you have done for us. We love you so much, and we'll take care of Stinky.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Moraga Lions and Muffin People honor volunteers during pandemic



Photo provided

From left: Lion Bill Hansen, Lion Rich Laufenberg, Jack Dice (Muffin People), Lion Ray Casabonne and Lion Dan Hagan

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

In 1988 several members of the Men's Club at St. Monica Catholic Church in Moraga volunteered to collect from the food stores in Moraga to supply St. Mary's Center, Oakland. It soon became obvious that more food was needed so collection was expanded to six days a week.

In the beginning much of the donations were bakery products. One day at St. Mary's Center, upon seeing their van, one of the women clients called out, "Here come the Muffin Men," and the name stuck. As the program grew to include not just St. Mary's but also St. Vincent de Paul dining room and the Emeryville Community Assistance Program, more volunteers were needed and ladies joined the ranks, so the name became the Muffin People. Each of the three sites provide meals and food products to hundreds of needy individuals and families every day.

Presently the Muffin People collect all manner of food stuffs from all three Lamorinda Safeways, Trader Joe's, Diablo Foods, and Whole Foods in Lafayette as well as Lunardii's in

Walnut Creek. It is estimated that the total value of the donated food exceeds more than \$1.4 million annually. Trader Joe's in Lafayette donates about \$850,000 each year.

Jack Dice, of St. Monica Men's Club, is the program coordinator and schedules the daily pickups. Since four of his drivers, Ray Casabonne, Rich Laufenberg, Dan Hagan and Bill Hansen, are members of the Lamorinda Lions Club, the Lions decided to assist this program by giving a small gift of encouragement and appreciation to the heroes who work these food banks. During Christmas week Messrs. Dice and Casabonne awarded the staff and volunteers at St. Mary's Center, St. Vincent de Paul and ECAP with 65 gift bags to recognize their service during these difficult times.

Lion Bill Ridle, the Lions District Governor for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has recently presented an award to the Lamorinda Lions Club and these four Lions for their efforts in preventing hunger.

For more information about the Muffin People, contact Jack Dice at (925) 376-7189. For more information about the Lamorinda Lions, contact Ray Casabonne at (925) 376-3078.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Status of high school sports remains in flux

By Jon Kingdon

The California Interscholastic Federation announced on July 29 that for the 2020-21 school year, due to the coronavirus, there would be a modified season of sport schedules for the 10 CIF sections, 1,705 schools and over 800,000 athletes. The "fall" season was to begin team practices on Dec. 14 and the spring season on Feb. 22. With the COVID-19 numbers increasing so rapidly, the state of California and the CIF announced that the school's athletic teams would not be able to begin practicing until Jan. 25 at the earliest.

The changes, forced on the athletic programs and businesses, are based on the colored tiers set by the state: Purple, the most restrictive to Red and Orange to Yellow, the least restrictive. Cross Country is one of the few sports that would be allowed in the purple tier. Football and other close contact sports would only be permitted in the orange tier. Gov. Gavin Newsom also stated that the state will roll back or move forward within these tiers after each week.

It was not until mid-December that the state and the CIF updated their guidelines based on the colored tiers. "All that happened right before our winter break," said Campolindo's Athletic Director Raymond Meadows. "The consensus was that here was a rough guideline of a plan to follow and they postponed all competitions until Jan. 25."

Everyone is waiting on tenterhooks to find out the state's new directives on high school sports, which were to be released on Jan. 4 (after press time). Acalanes High

School's athletic director Randy Takahashi is looking forward to getting some direction. "The shelter in place stalled a lot of plans," he said. "There are a lot of meetings that will be happening next week so the state and the CIF will get more guidance on what we're looking at. We have been told that whatever the counties have in place is going to be trumped by whatever the state has in place."

When practices were scheduled to begin in December, there was a concern that there would be major logistical issues with so many sports overlapping. Since starting dates have been moved to late January, it has made things that much more difficult. With so many things being held in abeyance, it was Tim Kruger, Las Lomas' athletic director who summed up succinctly in an email to the league's other athletic directors the frustration they are all going through: "There is so much to do and there is nothing to do."

Because we're all still waiting, it's daunting to look at how we are going to have the opportunity to do things," said Meadows. "All our coaches and the administrators are flexible and on the same page in that we are going to do whatever it takes to work things out. Things may look drastically different when we do get back. It may mean limiting practice times or cutting practice times and just having to do things a little bit differently than what we did in the past. That is going to be the case for everybody."

What's most frustrating is that they are all flying blind. "It's all been really

challenging, just not knowing," Takahashi said. "We're so used to having a start date and an end date and knowing when the playoffs were going to happen. There is just so much that is in flux that it's hard for those in charge to put out information as well."

According to Takahashi, it's going to be the virus numbers in January and February that may tell the story as to where things are going: "During Christmas and New Year's people are still going to be out and about. We know that is going to happen so we may see a jump in the virus numbers mid-January from what the numbers are. As a rule, people tend to stay at home in January and February. That might help the situation, but it is yet to be seen."

What needs to be determined is how late a start date can be established for each of the sports. It's possible that some spring sports can start earlier in terms of the color tiers. If things were only that easy, Meadows said. "There are weather considerations that need to be taken into account. The question then becomes, how do we arrange things if we keep pushing these start dates back further and still fit it all in within the calendar year?"

Many of the high schools around the state are facing financial pressures. With the booster programs for each of the Lamorinda high schools, it is not as urgent a situation as it is for many of the other high schools. "Financially we are in pretty good shape since we don't rely on gate money as much as other schools," Takahashi said. "We have a very strong booster program that is very helpful. We're going to have to revisit

our budgets based on what changes are made to the seasons so that we will have a good plan in place. Our coaches know that we will need to streamline things because some families may not have the resources to pay for things such as equipment and other items this year so we want to be sensitive to that too. We never want to put families in a position where they're having to make sacrifices at home or feeling guilty about not being able to do so."

It has already been established that there will be no state level playoffs this year. As to whether there will be North Coast Sectional tournaments, that is still to be determined. It's simply a matter of keeping the eye on

the prize as everyone waits to hear the state's new directives.

"Nobody wants to cancel any sports, which is the message that we have been given by North Coast and CIF," Meadows said. "It's been a struggle for everyone but we're trying to stay positive and I keep telling everyone that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are doing our best to try and figure out ways to give our student-athletes something that will resemble a season."

Takahashi has taken the same approach: "The emphasis really is going to be on getting kids participating so that even if the seasons get shortened any more, our goal will still be to give our kids the opportunity to play."



Cooper Alford on the water

Photo provided

Correction

In the Dec. 23 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Rowing through the pandemic," the last quote in the last paragraph of the article – "There were days where I got in the boat and had a feeling that made me forget everything. Where I could look down the gunnel 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." – was incorrectly attributed to Matty Shepherd, when the quote should have been attributed to Campolindo senior Cooper Alford. We apologize for the error.

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Million-yard swim marathon fundraiser concludes successfully



Photo provided

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step and you eat an elephant a bite at a time. In January, David Miller took the first of approximately 740,000 strokes in his quest to swim a million yards before the end of the year. His goal was to raise \$50,000 for the Cancer Research Institute. After averaging 4,000 yards, each day, five days a week, Miller accomplished both missions on Dec. 27.

Coming into this last day, reaching the magic number of \$50,000 appeared to be unattainable. "This morning, we only had \$38,200 donated," Miller said. "However, at 9 a.m., we got an anonymous donation of \$10,000 which put us just \$1,800 short of our goal. We put that out on our social media and before I started swimming, we had

reached the \$50,000 mark. As of now, donations have reached \$51,490. Contributions can still be made at www.swimamillion.org. Just hit the "Donate Button."

This last day was not a solitary effort for Miller. There were 33 other lanes that were used by individuals and couples who donated \$250 each to gain the privilege of swimming with Miller to the finish line. There were also several spectators cheering them on. Campolindo graduate and Olympic medalist Kim Vandenberg, who currently lives in Southern California, was in town and swam alongside Miller. "When I learned that Kim was going to be in the area for the holidays, I invited her to swim with us," Miller said. "She brought along her mother and grand-

mother and it was perfect with three generations of her family swimming alongside me."

There was only one drawback for Miller with Vandenberg swimming in the next lane: "Kim swam half as fast as she normally does and still swam twice as fast as me.

"The event was a wonderful, warm and emotional finale to a long and complicated year but even the fear of COVID couldn't suppress the enthusiasm of all those present," Miller said.

As Miller approaches his 60th birthday, what will be his next challenge? "I haven't convinced myself of anything in particular," Miller said, "but there's always something in the back of my mind. I'll figure it out soon."

By Jon Kingdon

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 23 Wednesday, January 6, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Garden trends for 2021**



Add acanthus to your landscape for lush greenery and interesting spring floral spikes.



Climbing sweet peas will brighten any trellis or fence.



Purple society garlic is deer-resistant and blooms in winter.

By Cynthia Brian

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right!”~ Oprah Winfrey

Hellooooo 2021! We have been holding our collective breaths for the past 10 months desperately anticipating a new beginning with a new year.

Are you feeling a renewed enthusiasm for living? Are you ready to dig in?

Every year the Garden Media Group

releases information on what trends are formulating for the next season of horticulture, with 2021 being dubbed “The Great Reset,” which is aptly titled given that we are still sheltering in place, connecting with loved ones and friends mostly online and by phone. The world is connected through this shared experience of a global pandemic as we impart information to help one another cope and prosper.

The year 2020 was deemed the year where gardens, open spaces and nature, in general, became a priority for maintaining

wellness in body, mind and spirit. Roomier homes with large backyards or acreage were in high demand as social distancing developed into the norm. Gardens became the bridge to building confidence and resilience while connecting communities and neighborhoods.

In 2021, the great outdoors will become even more critical as classes of all creeds move outside. Expect to experience yoga, dance, workouts, art, cooking, entertainment, and activities for kids scheduled in outdoor spaces.

... continued on Page D4

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 15 Candlestick Rd, Orinda
 34 La Cuesta Rd, Orinda
 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
 14 Berkeley Ave, Orinda
 1571 1st Ave, Walnut Creek
 42 Knox Dr, Lafayette
 5316 Woodgrove Ct, Concord
 70 Coral Dr, Orinda
 59 Canyon Green Way, San Ramon
 112 Spring Rd, Orinda
 10 Rheem Blvd, Orinda
 25 Longridge Rd, Orinda
 807 Paseo Roble Ct, Walnut Creek
 1128 Sanders Dr, Moraga
 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	24	\$840,000	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	19	\$472,500	\$1,835,000
ORINDA	35	\$305,000	\$3,700,000

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

3539 Boyer Circle, \$1,642,000, 4 Bdrms, 2464 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-17-20,
 Previous Sale: \$875,000, 10-24-13
 918 Dewing Avenue #A, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 11-17-20,
 Previous Sale: \$790,000, 03-20-17
 940 Dewing Avenue #A, \$840,000, 2 Bdrms, 1260 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-13-20
 3190 Diablo View Road, \$1,507,000, 4 Bdrms, 3024 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 11-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,155,000, 12-11-13
 3954 El Nido Ranch Road, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3459 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 07-14-14
 3220 Greenhills Drive, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2956 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
 Previous Sale: \$480,000, 07-01-87
 3230 Greenhills Drive, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4899 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 09-26-12
 23 Greentree Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3486 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-09-20
 3702 Happy Valley Road, \$3,924,000, 5 Bdrms, 4079 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-23-20,
 Previous Sale: \$3,550,000, 08-04-17
 3720 Highland Court, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1988 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
 Previous Sale: \$990,000, 11-04-15
 1000 Howard Hills Road, \$1,057,000, 4 Bdrms, 2507 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 11-25-20
 1581 Huston Road, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 3199 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-20-20,
 Previous Sale: \$605,000, 06-05-07
 2 Middle Road, \$1,905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 08-11-15
 1146 Nogales Street, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 3171 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-13-20
 1148 Oak Hill Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-19-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 01-17-18
 3891 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 3528 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-20-20
 1982 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 3361 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 11-03-20,
 Previous Sale: \$235,000, 03-31-98
 3164 Somerset Place, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2194 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-16-20
 3179 Stanley Boulevard, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-20-20
 3259 Surmont Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2962 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,493,500, 12-23-15
 3371 Sweet Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1732 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-19-20
 1223 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3865 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
 Previous Sale: \$2,835,000, 06-13-12
 15 Via La Cumbre, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 3090 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
 Previous Sale: \$880,000, 09-08-03
 2970 Windtree Court, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3502 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,203,000, 09-29-10

MORAGA

117 Ascot Court #B, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-24-20,
 Previous Sale: \$412,000, 12-09-16
 1921 Ascot Drive, \$825,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-12-20
 818 Augusta Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
 Previous Sale: \$915,000, 12-07-16
 1355 Camino Pablo, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3250 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-17-20,
 Previous Sale: \$335,000, 02-01-89
 3736 Campolindo Drive, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-19-20
 44 Cumberland Lane, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
 Previous Sale: \$222,000, 11-11-20
 148 Draeger Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1402 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-13-20
 11 Francisca Drive, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
 Previous Sale: \$359,000, 10-12-99
 15 Gloria Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2421 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-10-20
 23 Indian Wells Street, \$1,835,000, 4 Bdrms, 3122 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 06-26-18

... continued on Page D8

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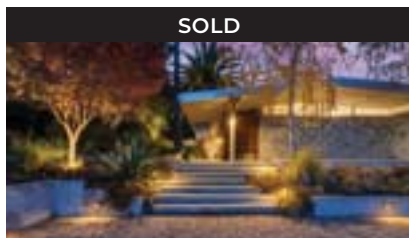
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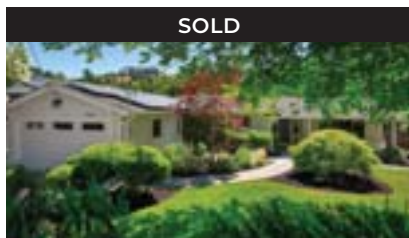
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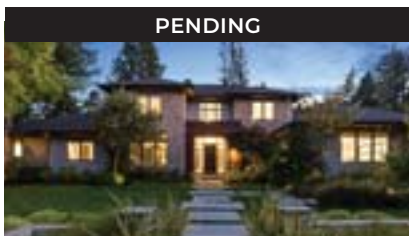


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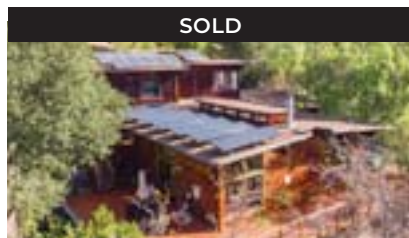
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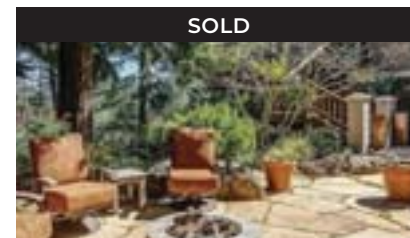
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden trends for 2021



Pick a few sprigs of narcissus to perfume an entire room.

... continued from Page D1

Research indicates that over 16 million people started gardening for the first time during the pandemic and many of them are under the age of 35. More than half of American adults are spending at least two additional hours outside today than before the outbreak started. In 2021, gardening will become a part of everyday life and will infiltrate school curriculums. Currently, 67% of adults are growing or plan to grow edibles. Berries are the most prevalent plus 52% of people are growing vegetables, 33% growing herbs, and 31% growing fruit.

What's trending up for 2021?

- Increased online sales of plants and garden products which offer convenience, speed, and safety.
- Parks, trails, and open spaces will

become an integral part of daily life.

- Interiorscaping will become a new buzzword as stores and businesses bring the outdoors in.
- Greater demand for houseplants for every room, especially home offices.
- Tropical plants will grace new “garden rooms” indoors.
- Certified wildlife habitats and pollinator gardens are spreading.
- Educational courses, how-to videos, and garden consultants will become routine learning tools.
- A surge in home cooking and the fear of food scarcity means growing one's own fruits, vegetables, and herbs is a necessity.
- Canning and preserving food for the future will be re-popularized.
- Children will be introduced at a younger

age to the treasures of nature.

- Miniature plants to grow on windowsills, under grow lights, or under glass for those living in small apartments without yards will be more readily available.
- We will live with nature and protect our eco-systems to save lives.

The benefits of gardening are innumerable and will grow even more fashionable. Increased health, decreased stress, improved wellness, and stronger bodies through garden chores will lead to happier more balanced lifestyles.

In 2021, we will embrace nature as part of our being. Nature is not something “out there” in the wilderness. Nature will thrive in our backyards, on rooftops, balconies, porches and windowsills. Our very existence will depend on creating a sustainable balance between humans and all creation.

My hope is that we will all finally understand that there are no mistakes in the garden. Failure is fertilizer to grow anew. Just garden.

Happy New Year with revived cheer. Let's get it right!



The bright shiny foliage of Naked Lady adds green to a bare yard.

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Lafayette



1201 Cambridge \$3,195,000

4 Beds/ 3 Baths. Happy Valley Elegance including an extra 600 sq ft Guest Cottage
 Melanie Snow 925-360-03440
 www.1201cambridge.com Lic #0878893

Lafayette



1076 Serrano Court \$1,485,000

3 Beds/ 2 Baths. Quintessential Lafayette rancher with Farmhouse style charm.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 www.1076serranocourt.com Lic#01272382

Moraga



212 Sheila Ct \$1,399,000

4 Bedrooms/2 Baths. Single-story home on cul-de-sac with gorgeous resort-like pool
 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

Walnut Creek



1509 Rockledge Lane \$525,000

2 Bedrooms/1.5 Baths, 1049 sq. ft., no steps to entry
 Melanie Snow 925-360-03440
 vimeo.com/487526929 Lic #0878893

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





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DRE 01351931

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Let's Help Others Have A Happier 2021!

I'm pledging \$500 for every closed sale to either Contra Costa Food Bank or Glide in San Francisco. Both are great organizations for helping those in need.

Selling real estate is a constant reminder that many in our communities are living without adequate shelter or food for their families. The COVID pandemic has been devastating for many.

It's been heartbreaking.
Together we can do something that will make a difference!

Best Wishes to you and your family in the New Year!

*2021 home sale mentioning this ad



EXCEPTIONAL HAPPY VALLEY ESTATE

3683 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE • OFFERED AT \$3,495,000



5 BEDROOMS • 3.5 BATHROOMS • 4,574± SQ FT • 1.24± ACRES

Set behind private gates in the sought-after Happy Valley neighborhood, this exceptional estate features a rare combination of privacy, expansive yard with mature gardens, inviting pool area, and pristine Mt. Diablo views.

Please visit 3683HappyValley.com for more information.

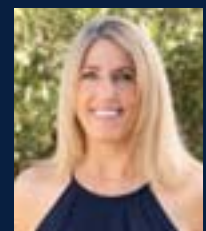


DRE 01882902



JULIE DEL SANTO

BROKER/OWNER
925.818.5500
julie@dudum.com
DRE# 01290985



KAAREN BRICKMAN

REALTOR®
925.351.5049
kaaren@dudum.com
DRE# 01932119



COMPASS



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Represented Buyers



1148 Oak Hill Rd
Represented Sellers



5328 Locksley Ave
Represented Sellers



1079 Underhills Rd
Represented Buyers



123 Devin Dr
Represented Sellers



265 Sandringham Dr N
Represented Sellers



3619 Lincoln Way
Represented Sellers



246 Valleton Ln
Represented Buyers



3468 Midvale Ave
Represented Buyers



2 Jack Tree Knoll
Represented Sellers



17 Cedarbrook Ct
Represented Sellers



1161 Estates Dr
Represented Sellers



Dana Reedy
JD | Broker Associate
415.205.8050
dana@danareedyhomes.com
DRE 01880723



Happy New Year!

**Make the Right
Move in 2021.**

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Regional Director Ron Mintz

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ron@vanguardproperties.com

DRE# 01095341

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM

DRE#01486075



Lamorinda home sales recorded

MORAGA ... continued

- 267 Lakefield Place, \$1,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-17-20
82 Marie Place, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 08-15-19
73 Miramonte Drive, \$646,500, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 09-01-20
262 Paseo Bernal, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-02-20,
Previous Sale: \$679,000, 06-13-05
1855 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,101,500, 2 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 11-09-18
1866 School Street, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$795,000, 04-26-11
817 Villa Lane #4, \$472,500, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$336,000, 09-08-14
17 Wandel Drive, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$868,500, 07-05-13
1052 Wickham Drive, \$1,532,500, 4 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,201,000, 06-28-07

ORINDA

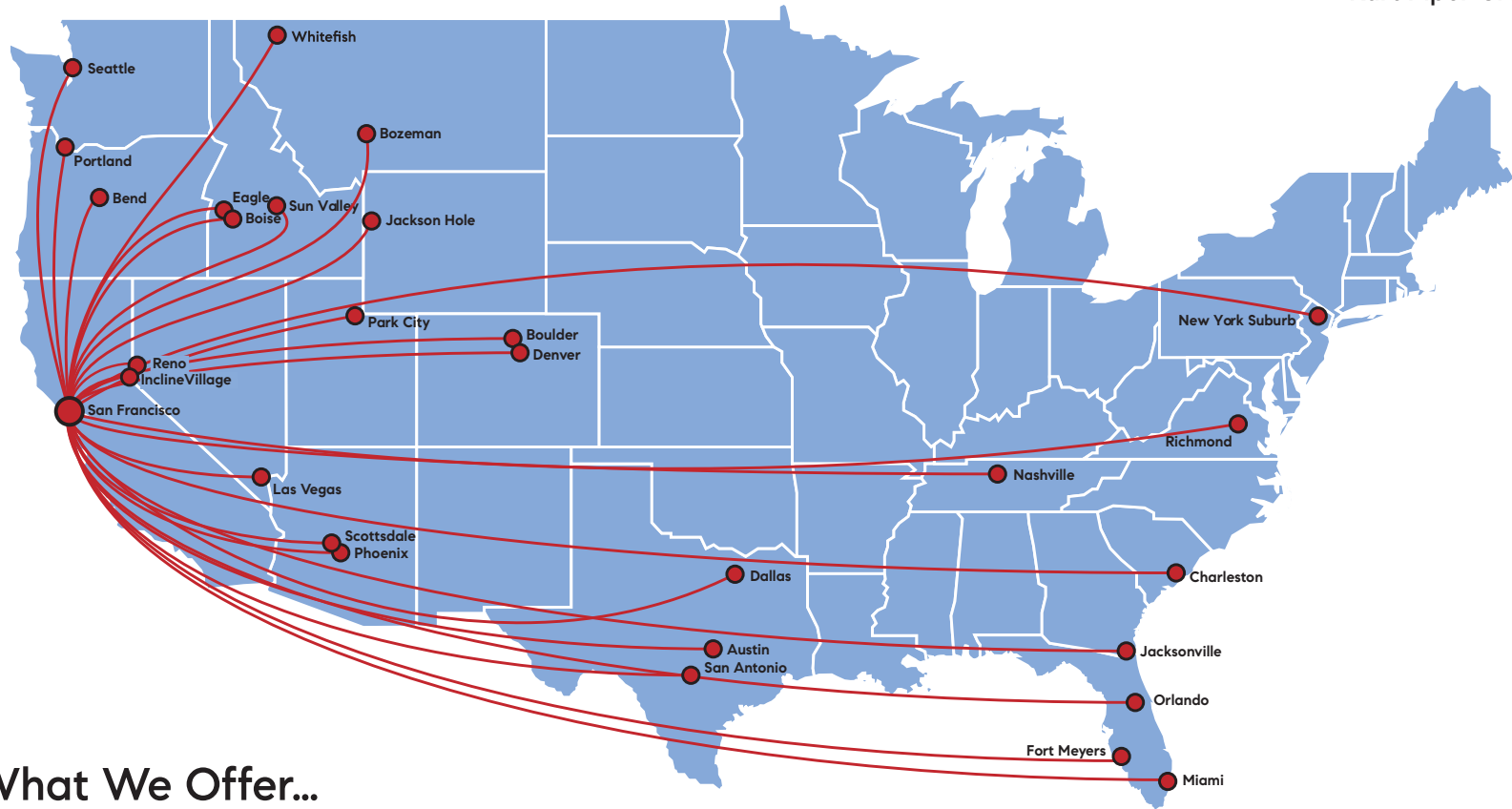
- 38 Brookwood Road, \$1,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 1517 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 11-01-13
14 Camino Sobrante, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2518 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,048,000, 08-06-14
2 Casa Vieja, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 4186 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 11-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 09-27-12
39 Charles Hill Road, \$1,517,000, 5 Bdrms, 3720 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-18-20
48 Charles Hill Road, \$3,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 4738 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 11-13-20
73 Claremont Avenue, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-23-20,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-03-02
41 Donald Drive, \$3,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3469 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 05-10-19
14 Eastwood Drive, \$1,252,000, 4 Bdrms, 1632 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$310,000, 01-01-89
44 El Camino Moraga, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-20-20
10 El Toyonal, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1157 SqFt, 1924 YrBlt, 11-18-20
34 El Toyonal, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-18-20
1 Estabueno Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2303 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-03-20
10 Gardiner Court, \$3,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 5306 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,050,000, 11-02-04
353 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2916 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$585,000, 07-21-99
22 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-13-20
34 La Cresta Road, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2367 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-24-20
21 Los Arboles, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 3736 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-24-20
5 Madrone Place, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1859 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-28-20

... continued on Page 11

Moving out of California? We have you covered.



Kurt Piper Group



What We Offer...

Departure Services

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- Rental price evaluation
- Managing pre-sale improvements
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- Managing all showings of your home

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Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for January

DETACH ornaments, lights, and tinsel from your Christmas trees and leave them on the curb on your garbage pickup day. Flocked trees can be cut up and put in the green bins.

BEWARE of wild boars on the rampage. Boars are causing major damage to landscapes and are a danger to people and pets. Fish and Game offers information. For local assistance with wildlife control including boars, coyotes, turkeys, deer, and more, contact licensed and insured Full Boar Depredation, <https://www.fullboar-llc.com>.

LOWER your anxiety with the Japanese practice of shrinrin-yoku or forest bathing. Take a walk in nature and you'll immediately experience relaxation.

REMOVE wrapping from any holiday gifted plants to allow for drainage.

PRUNE deciduous fruit trees, bushes, flowering shrubs and cane berries. Roses can be heavily pruned toward the end of the month.

SPRAY your second application of a dormant spray aimed to kill the many overwintering insects and diseases after you have pruned.

PICK a few sprigs of narcissus to perfume an entire room.

PLANT all bare root fruit trees, perennials, berries and vines. They cost less and will adapt quickly to their new home.

ADD acanthus to your landscape for lush greenery and interesting spring floral spikes.

BUY healthy meal kits with farm-fresh ingredients from Sun Basket if you aren't growing your own. <https://bit.ly/2DipPsT>

BUILD a river rock dry creek to direct runoff rainwater.

ORDER bare-root roses from your local nursery or find beautiful, fragrant cultivars at www.DavidAustin.com.

BRIGHTEN your winter landscape with sweet peas, society garlic, and guara (which looks like floating butterflies).

CONTINUE wearing your mask, social distancing, and washing your hands.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing! Cheers for 2021!



Damage to a lawn from the wild boars invading neighborhoods. Photos Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian wears a glitter mask outdoors for the 2021 New Year!

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. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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196 Moraga Way • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wednesday - Sunday

Lamorinda home sales recorded

ORINDA ... continued

- 46 Martha Road, \$2,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2648 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-12-20,
Previous Sale: \$915,000, 05-14-03
- 432 Miner Road, \$1,640,000, 3 Bdrms, 2193 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 10-26-18
- 191 Moraga Way, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1369 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-23-20,
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-20-20
- 8 Nobi Lane, \$2,320,000, 5 Bdrms, 2874 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 09-01-91
- 37 Oak Road, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 4672 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 11-23-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,447,500, 04-21-11
- 282 Orchard Road, \$305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 01-11-10
- 31 Orinda View Road, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3519 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-19-20
- 2 Rabble Road, \$3,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 5363 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 09-15-15
- 34 Sanborn Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2500 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$907,000, 05-06-14
- 32 Scenic Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,055,000, 06-18-10
- 56 Sunnyside Lane, \$2,300,000, 6 Bdrms, 3138 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-19-20
- 521 Tahos Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2614 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 10-02-15
- 46 Valley Drive, \$1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 2658 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-10-14
- 38 Valley Drive, \$2,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 11-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,485,000, 07-12-12
- 28 Via Callados, \$1,920,000, 5 Bdrms, 3288 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 11-12-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,665,000, 08-08-18
- 18 Wild Lilac Way, \$2,163,000, 4 Bdrms, 3006 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
- 57 Windy Creek Way, \$2,282,000, 3 Bdrms, 3643 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 11-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15



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1638 Grand View Drive | Berkeley | Offered for \$1,940,000

This 4,783 square foot 5BD/3.5BA beauty spans four levels and looks down on Berkeley from its hillside perch. The adjoining guest cottage is nearly 700 square feet with its own full bathroom.

1638Grand.com



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ORINDA



10 La Punta

Gated estate on secluded cul-de-sac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin.

\$6,250,000

ORINDA



33 Dias Dorados

Lovingly restored Spanish-Mediterranean 6 bed/ 6 bath/ 2 half bath home w/ guesthouse on 1.67 gated acres.

\$4,350,000

ORINDA



56 Via Floreado

Exceptional 5 bed/ 4.5 bath 4248 sqft home on .54 acres w/ updated kitchen & panoramic views of Orinda. Minutes from Hwy 24.

\$2,595,000

ORINDA

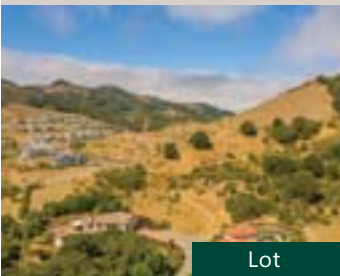


42 Oak Road

Spacious 4 bed + bonus room/ 3 bath 2860 sqft home on .28 acres. Close to town, BART & Hwy 24. Excellent schools!

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



Lot

20 Oak Court

One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views!

\$875,000

ORINDA

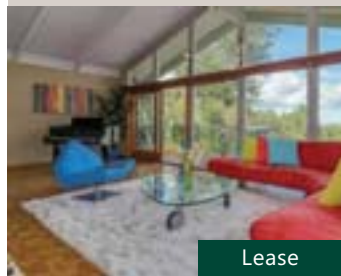


67 Brookwood Road # 3

Rarely available 2 bed/ 1 bath first floor condo in charming Orinda Oaks, close to BART, shops, theater & restaurants.

\$550,000

ORINDA



Lease

8 Via San Inigo

Beautiful 4 bed/ 3 bath home w/ great commute, flat yard space, solar panels, electric car charger & views!

\$6,000/ Monthly

ORINDA



Lease

4 Los Dedos Road

Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath home located in Orinda Country Club. Includes laundry room & separate work shop.

\$5,495/ Monthly

MORAGA



124 Greenbriar

3 bed/ 2 bath 2486 sqft home updated throughout in Moraga Country Club. Garage holds 2 cars plus a golf cart.

\$1,349,500

LAFAYETTE



21 Hidden Valley Road

Custom 4 bed/ 3 bath 3679 sqft home on .48 acres minutes from commute, BART, shopping, & top rated schools.

\$2,750,000

LAFAYETTE



1000 Dewing Avenue #307

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath 1568 sqft condo close to vibrant downtown Lafayette w/ private patio & in-closet laundry.

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

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Village

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