

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

26,000 FREE copies www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-4

**VILLAGE HYPNOTHERAPY**  
 Life-changing results for anxiety, trauma, bad habits, careers & more



**Jason Akel, Cert. Hypnotherapist & Life Coach**  
 villagehypnotherapy.com | 925.255.5157



View of Mt. Diablo from Lafayette Ridge trail with Jenn and Tchoupper

Photo Lisah Kmet

## Discovering dog-friendly trails during pandemic

By Jenn Freedman

Exploring the great outdoors has been one of this past year's silver linings. Another bright side for many families has been the addition of a "COVID dog" because ... why not now? Together, a new (or

old) furry friend and the glorious Lamorinda hills make a winning combination for endless expeditions right in our backyard.

While popular paved trails like the Lafayette Reservoir and the Lafayette-Moraga Trail are convenient options, they are heavily-trafficked and can be a bit distracting, especially for puppies. Plus, ex-

ploring a road less traveled often brings the reward of breathtaking views.

After nine months of exploring miles per day, my COVID dog, Tchoupper, and I have discovered some pretty epic dog-friendly Lamorinda trails.

... continued on Page A10

Advertising

Letters to the Editor	A9
Not to be missed	B4
How to contact us	B4
Community Service	B3
Obituaries	B3
Classified	C1
Love Lafayette	C2



**Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices**

**22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda**

**Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am;**  
**Sun 6 am - 11 pm**



## Search continues for coyote linked to Lafayette and Moraga attacks



Bigstock images

By Vera Kochan

For the past eight months, a lone coyote has been attributed to five DNA confirmed attacks within Lafayette and Moraga which have taken place primarily at dusk or dawn.

The first attack, on July 9, 2020, involved a 2-year-old boy near the parking lot restrooms at the Moraga Commons Park. A second attack, on Dec. 4, took place at the Campolindo High School stadium where a man was bitten while exercising. Another attack came on Dec. 15 behind Lafayette's Diablo Foods while an employee was taking a break. The

next incident occurred on Feb. 16 when a 3-year-old girl was bitten during a walk with her mother two blocks away from Campolindo on Calle La Montana. The most recent attack on an adult male came Feb. 19 near the Kwik Stop in Lafayette.

According to California Department of Fish and Wildlife Captain Patrick Foy, the last attack almost went unreported by the victim until a female friend encouraged him to report it two days later. Since his wound was already administered to prior to the reporting, officials were lucky to find that his pants had not been washed or thrown away thereby enabling a DNA match.

There was one additional animal attack at the Moraga Country Club on July 17, 2020, when a man was bitten while sitting around an outdoor fire pit with friends. "The incident at the Country Club was not able to be confirmed," stated Moraga Police Lt. Brian South. "The victim was not able to provide a description of the animal that bit him, and he was not able to meet with investigators until it was too late to take swab samples to compare DNA. That is why we are not including it in the list of confirmed attacks."

Nearly one year ago, in Dublin Hills Regional Park, a 6-year-old girl was bitten by a coyote on her neck and ear while she was on a walk with her

mother and brothers. It was reported that two other coyotes lingered nearby while she was being attacked.

An Urban Coyote Research article stated, "Although coyotes live in family groups, they usually travel and hunt alone or in loose pairs. In this way they are different from wolves, which sometimes leads to the impression that coyotes do not form packs since they are usually seen alone. In addition to resident packs, the urban population also consist of solitary coyotes that have left packs and are looking to join groups or create their own territories." Solitary coyotes can be male or female and typically between 6 months to 2 years old.

The DFW continues to be the lead agency working in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Contra Costa Animal Services and both Lafayette and Moraga police departments. A detailed survey of the terrain, game trail cameras and field tracking have been used to determine the coyote areas of activity and patterns. Numerous trap lines have been set up on private properties along with agency personnel periodically monitoring the areas around the clock. The padded gripping body traps resemble steel-jawed traps, but have rubber linings to reduce injuries.

... continued on Page A8

<b>Civic News</b> A1-A12	<b>Life in Lamorinda</b> B1-B4	<b>Sports</b> C1-C2	<b>Our Homes</b> D1-D16
Lafayette gives go-ahead to Golden Gate Way apartment project – Page A6	Moraga mom lands coveted spot on 'Jeopardy' - Page B1	SMC men's soccer returns to the field, set for success - Page C1	Careful planning required for the perfect spring garden views - Page D1
<b>Fire Districts</b> A8	Rescue One receives \$200K donation - Page A8		



**LAFAYETTE**  
ESTABLISHED 1849 INCORPORATED 1854

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Lafayette:**  
 www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
 Phone: (925) 284-1968  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.lafayettechamber.org



**9 Shannon Court, Moraga | Stunning Sanders Ranch Retreat**  
 4 Bedroom + Office + Media Room | 3 Full + 2 Half Baths | 4966± Sq. Ft. | 1.54± Acre Lot  
 Offered at \$3,295,000 | 9ShannonCourt.com

**Lamorinda's #1 Realtor Since 2010**  
 925.339.1918 | DanaGreenTeam.com | DRE 01482454

**COMPASS**



## Housing 101 – opportunity to weigh in on the housing element update



Photo courtesy Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

**Currently, higher density housing such as the Towne Center condos are focused in the downtown area.**

### By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is on a mission; a mission to teach residents about the housing element – an overview of what it is,

background on why it needs to be updated, how it affects the community and to provide an opportunity for residents to make their voices heard.

To that end the city is

holding a series of six Zoom webinars, each focusing on a specific neighborhood or group with opportunities for residents to meet their representatives on the General Plan Advisory Committee.

The first of these virtual meetings was held Feb. 25 for the Burton Valley district and had an attendance of over 130.

City staff gave an overview, explaining that the General Plan is a blueprint of a community's vision for the next 20 years, consisting of "elements" such as the housing element, with goals, programs and policies that guide decision-making to ensure day-to-day decisions align with the vision. California state law requires all cities and counties to have a current general plan.

The housing element must be updated by law every eight years, with Lafayette's next

update due in 2023. It considers housing in relation to other general plan elements such as transportation, parks and open space.

Staff then went on to explain that by law local jurisdictions must ensure there is enough land zoned at appropriate densities to allow development of housing for all income levels, but they emphasized that thus far, it is not a mandate to build. Not having a certified housing element carries risks, including loss of local control over how and where housing is built, and heavy fines.

Each city is given a regional housing needs allocation number, arrived at through methodology approved by the state's Department of Housing and Community Development and distributed regionally through the Council of Governments. For

Lafayette in this sixth cycle (2023-31) the allocation is currently 2,114 units, with 28% (or 599 units) for very low income. This compares with the previous cycle (2015-23) in which the total allocation was 400 units.

And this is why the city wants to hear from its residents, while it continues to examine zoning, currently and historically largely single family residential, with downtown density at 35 units per acre, as it looks to prioritize where and how much to upzone.

While no decisions are being made at any of these informational webinars, city staff were listening to residents. At the Burton Valley session several residents asked questions, including about infrastructure and schools.

... continued on Page A12

## City holds webinars, answers questions on free business assistance program

### By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette is once again making available the Business Assistance Program to assist Lafayette-based businesses and nonprofits as a resource to help navigate the maze of loans available with the latest round of federal stimulus packages.

Any Lafayette business with less than 300 employees, gig workers and those without employees can qualify for the free consulting service, overseen by Townsend Public

Affairs – a service paid for by the city.

Currently 152 local small businesses have registered for free guidance with the BAP.

According to TPA Associate Johannus Reijnders, these 152 businesses reflect over 910 employees and independent contractors within the Lafayette community. Total reported Paycheck Protection Program funds, self-reported by those businesses that choose to share the information, currently come in at \$232,000, which, says Reijnders

in a Feb. 17 memo to the city, "is in addition to the \$1.5M in 2020 awards that we are continuing to guide to forgiveness and grant compliance."

The BAP is providing webinars to discuss the PPP and to offer tips for successful applications, including a Q&A panel for answering questions live, with the next one planned for March 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. (See link below to register.)

Those Lamorinda businesses located outside of

Lafayette should not fear the process either, however, according to Lamorinda Weekly Co-Publisher Wendy Scheck who says that the application process has been streamlined for this second round of funding.

With Lamorinda Weekly's revenue impacted by COVID shutdowns, Scheck, who is responsible for the company's accounting, decided earlier this month to apply for a PPP loan. As a Mechanics Bank customer, Lamorinda Weekly used the bank's online appli-

cation process.

"All necessary documents were reports in our accounting and payroll systems and of course a copy of the tax return was needed," said Scheck. "We decided to apply for the loan instead of reducing costs again. The pandemic and its impact should eventually come to an end and we hope the loan will help us to keep our service to the community going," Scheck added, noting that the loan was approved and funded within a week.

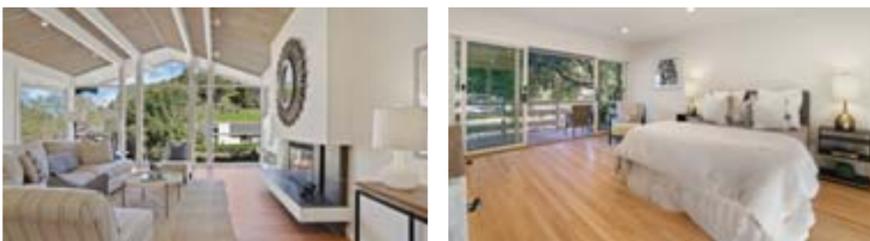
For more information on the BAP, go to: [https://www.lovelafayette.org/businessassistance?fbclid=IwAR0ix70hMz\\_8QnCZZ1L8Lr9lxWZf6S7cwERnC84g\\_meqtsUhq1IVbEgTeh4](https://www.lovelafayette.org/businessassistance?fbclid=IwAR0ix70hMz_8QnCZZ1L8Lr9lxWZf6S7cwERnC84g_meqtsUhq1IVbEgTeh4)

To register for the webinar, go to: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8894497526695144719?fbclid=IwAR1JmybtNgUKibkM6R2ilpIMbZoSdVS-sjncqOZszIX3dkeWR9f625k3oCY>

## Just Listed 126 Castle Court, Lafayette Offered at \$1,698,000



Kurt Piper Group



Welcome to 126 Castle Court – a remodeled **4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2692 sq. ft.** home tastefully designed by Barb Brawner of the Kurt Piper Group. Tucked back in one of Burton Valley's most quiet and private courts you will discover this very unique contemporary-ranch style home with modern finishes and one of the most versatile floor plans found in this popular Lafayette neighborhood. Just minutes to downtown Lafayette, downtown Walnut Creek, trails, parks and award winning public schools....it's safe to say that **126 Castle Court has it all!**

Go To Site



**Kurt Piper**  
 Realtor® | Broker Associate  
 925 818 8000  
 Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com  
 kurtpipergroup.com  
 DRE 01130308



**Barb Brawner JD**  
 Realtor  
 925 212 7672  
 Barb@BarbBrawner.com  
 DRE 01922264

**COMPASS**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

## B. JUST LISTED 1771 Poplar Drive, Walnut Creek



Absolutely Charming & Picturesque

All Single Level Living in Parkmead  
 Level Lawns & Gardens – A Great Backyard for Outdoor Fun  
 Fantastic Location Close to Vibrant Downtown & Top Schools

Offered At \$1,050,000



**Ashley Battersby**  
 Broker/Partner  
 DRE# 01407784  
 (925) 323-9955  
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com  
 @ashleybattersbyhome  
 www.ashleybattersby.com



It's Village. Of course.

# Golden Gate Way apartment project gets the go-ahead



Photo Pippa Fisher

The current buildings on Golden Gate Way will be demolished to make way for the 71-unit complex.

## By Pippa Fisher

The city council has approved a new four-story, 71-unit, residential development in downtown Lafayette – construction that some say is out of balance for the area and which neighbors describe as an invasion of their privacy.

The Feb. 22 meeting was the fifth hearing, and therefore the last allowable under state law, on the Madison Park Apartments proposed for 3483 Golden Gate Way, just south of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at First Street and located alongside the creek. In what has become commonplace in Lafayette these days, the meeting went until 2 a.m. the next day as council members worked hard to finalize details and conditions of approval in what they noted was an important and highly visible part of the downtown area.

The 53-foot 6-inch building will provide 65 apartments and six townhomes, including 10 units at below-market-rate, qualifying the project to receive concessions and waivers per

state density bonus law. It will replace the current two-story, 47-unit retail/residential building.

This was the second hearing for the city council of the five total meetings for the project that's been in the works for two years. The council, following its Jan. 22 meeting, had asked the applicant to return to this final meeting with various modifications, which, explained Madison Park Director of Development Claire Han, had mostly been addressed with added solar water heating, increased bicycle parking, nine EV-ready spaces (as opposed to merely EV-capable), trash receptacles, and plaza seating to make the proposed parklet area more generational-friendly.

However most of the time was taken up addressing issues of privacy for neighbors to the south who will be most impacted by the four-story building overlooking their homes and yards, and also addressing the issue of having the project be compatible with plans as they develop for a creekside path.

... continued on Page A12

# Collaboration could expedite downtown playground



Photo Pippa Fisher

Could the underutilized LLLC amphitheater be the future location of a children's play area?

## By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette community stakeholders and city leaders have been looking at alternatives for bringing a children's playground to downtown and, although the idea is in its infancy, they are now looking at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center amphitheater as a possible location instead of Leigh Creekside Park.

Residents might remember the acrimonious meetings from more than five years ago regarding the development of a play area at Leigh Creekside Park, pitting young parents desperate for a place to let their young children run, climb and enjoy, against residents in the area who just as passionately argued for keeping the small, leafy park next to the creek passive, for the enjoyment of nature and tranquility.

So it comes as something of a surprise to see various members from both sides of that polarizing argument coming together to explore a possible alternative.

The city council received a letter co-signed by Park, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi, members of the PT&R commission and subcommittee, and three volunteer community stakeholders, and heard a preliminary presentation of the idea at the Feb. 22 council meeting.

Parks Subcommittee Chair Mark Poole explained that they would be asking the city to put the Leigh Creekside Park environmental impact review on hold, and allow staff to use the \$25,000 currently budgeted for that and add \$25,000 from Fund 12 to hire consultants to work with the LLLC and the community to develop a proposal.

... continued on Page A9



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

### City Council

Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 8, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 15, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Design Review

Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



# KEITH KATZMAN

I'M SELLING LAMORINDA!

Moraga resident since 1966. Successfully selling real estate for over 33 years.

925.376.7777  
keith.katzman@compass.com  
DRE # 00875484

## Year to Date Snapshot of Lamorinda Sales

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
8 Cherry Hills Court	4	2	1707	\$1,005,000
963 Workshire Ct	3	2	1773	\$1,375,000
1540 Old Mountain View Dr	4	2	1662	\$1,008,000
1 Footfall Park Ter	6	3	2806	\$1,870,000
1699 Highland Rd	4	1	1727	\$1,225,000
1293 Helen Ln	3	1	1291	\$1,410,000
1277 Serrano Ave	2	1	1994	\$1,000,000
1905 Berta Ln	3	2	2085	\$1,477,000
1842 Woodhome Ct	4	1	2168	\$1,225,000
1615 Woodwood Dr	4	2	1950	\$1,320,000
1115 Wilcrest Dr	4	2	1557	\$1,293,000
1310 Moraga Blvd	4	4	1328	\$1,445,000
1026 Terrace Court	3	2	1909	\$1,425,000
1325 Walnut Ln	4	1	2143	\$1,600,000
80 Southampton Place	3	2	2424	\$1,650,000
1399 Angelo St	4	3	2055	\$1,650,000
1278 Sweet Dr	4	2	1778	\$1,740,000
1470 Sunset Loop	5	3	2523	\$1,500,000
1207 Woodborough Rd	5	3	2934	\$1,600,000
1315 Beechwood Drive	4	2	2218	\$1,600,000
141 Peaceful Ln	5	4	3918	\$1,650,000
1847 Taylor Blvd	4	2	2850	\$1,813,000
1330 Hillside Ter	4	2	4019	\$1,975,000
1145 Marina Rd	4	3	3922	\$1,950,000
1155 Sandalwood Ct	5	3	2234	\$1,996,000
948 Oak View Cir	4	3	3145	\$2,000,000
1878 Los Arroyo Dr	5	3	3709	\$2,100,000
1370 Stage Coach Drive	4	4	4068	\$2,100,000
961 Oak View Cir	5	4	3101	\$2,100,000
1976 S Peavater Drive	4	2	2637	\$2,625,000
793 Harmony Ct	4	2	2813	\$2,395,000
892 Los Trampas Rd	5	4	4081	\$2,700,000
1400 La Caminita	4	2	3516	\$3,069,000
1295 Phillips Rd	5	3	4168	\$2,800,000
21 Hidden Valley Rd	4	3	3679	\$2,675,000
184 Reed Dr	5	4	4134	\$2,525,000
1477 Mountain Avenue	4	3	3311	\$2,845,000
1808 Bolero Valley Blvd	4	3	4026	\$2,845,000
1133 Camino Valiente	5	3	1871	\$3,125,124
44 Pebble Way	4	4	5136	\$3,825,000
1428 Woodstone Dr	5	4	6199	\$4,395,000
1808 La Caminita	6	5	5619	\$5,320,000

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
12 Mayfield Pl	3	3	2105	\$1,600,000
27 Wintonia St	4	2	1998	\$1,605,000
50 Buckingham Dr	4	2	1980	\$1,670,000
31 Arroyo Dr	4	2	2419	\$1,535,000
17 Sullivan Drive	4	2	2013	\$1,500,000
17 Sullivan Dr	4	2	2013	\$1,500,000
78 Greenfield Dr	4	2	2244	\$1,435,000
1252 River Dr	4	2	2285	\$1,620,000
28 Kater Ct	4	3	2632	\$1,620,000
115 Constance Pl	4	2	2705	\$1,615,000
8 El Paraiso Court	5	3	2703	\$1,615,000
11 Williams Dr	4	2	2665	\$1,625,000
7 Magee Ct	4	3	2920	\$1,625,000
224 Sandringham Dr	4	2	2577	\$2,250,000
229 Corbin Dr	5	3	3204	\$2,200,000
25 Merrill Circle	6	4	4219	\$2,250,000
2 Juliana Ct	4	3	4324	\$2,200,000
1311 Los Santos Court	4	3	3315	\$2,600,000

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
226 Overhill Rd	3	1	1306	\$1,300,000
120 Spring Rd	4	3	2440	\$1,320,000
245 Ivy Pl	3	2	1769	\$1,350,000
10 Orchard Ct	3	2	2195	\$1,526,000
11 Rue Drive	4	2	1812	\$1,685,000
28 Sunnyside Ct	4	2	2170	\$1,540,000
83 Charles Hill Ct	4	2	2276	\$1,630,000
28 Ivy Drive	6	4	3050	\$1,880,000
32 Heather Ln	6	4	4048	\$1,575,000
108 Casa Vega Pl	5	3	3085	\$1,785,000
130 Fanta Cir	4	3	2837	\$1,776,000
253 Maranatha Dr	4	4	3591	\$1,861,000
683 Ironbark Cir	5	4	4848	\$1,868,000
683 Ironbark Circle	5	4	4848	\$1,868,000
11 Mira Loma Rd	5	4	3041	\$1,850,000
25 Sun Way	5	3	4171	\$2,000,000
6 Valencia Blvd	5	3	2798	\$1,975,000
10 El Estero Rd	6	4	4436	\$2,100,000
8 Frigo Lewis Way	4	3	3338	\$2,450,000
114 Ramon Court	4	3	3361	\$2,400,000
11 Fairbush Lane	5	4	4109	\$2,640,120
11 Fairbush Lane	5	4	4109	\$2,640,120
11 Sunrise Hill Road	8	5	4385	\$2,761,500
180 Miller Ct	5	4	4335	\$1,413,000
68 Whelan Blvd	5	4	3888	\$1,600,000

As always, I am here to help ... I listen and I care

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

# COMING SOON

COMPASS



## SIMPLY FABULOUS IN BURTON VALLEY

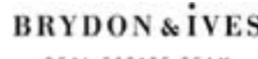
320 Lowell Lane East

4 BD • 3BA + ±120 SF ADU  
±3,115 SF • ±.46 Acre

CALL US FOR DETAILS



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



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property directly listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

COMPASS

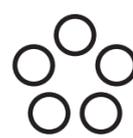


**MORAGA**

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**Town of Moraga:**  
 www.moraga.ca.us  
 Phone: (925) 888-7022  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.moragachamber.org  
**Moraga Citizens' Network:**  
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Clear guidance, strategy, and market expertise when you're ready to move. Your Moraga real estate advisor and neighbor.



**Tara Rochlin**

925.586.3442  
 TaraRochlin@gmail.com  
 TaraRochlin.com  
 @tararochlin.realestate  
 DRE 01330630

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

**Laguna Creek Restoration Project holds community input meeting**

By Vera Kochan

Trying to avoid another major flooding like the one that occurred at the Hacienda de las Flores during the wet winter of 2005-06, with storms that triggered the Laguna Creek's rise and subsequent flow over

its banks in the western vicinity of the Hacienda Pavilion, the town has begun the Laguna Creek Restoration Project.

The storms damaged the wooden footbridge and wrought-iron gate, more than 200 feet of chain-link fence,



Photos courtesy Moraga Public Works

Laguna Creek's existing 8-foot diameter culvert at Hacienda de las Flores (see photo below)

walkways, retaining walls, head walls, wing walls and banks of the creek bend were either damaged or washed away. Additionally, the creek slope failed causing the Pavilion to flood.

Moraga Public Works Department Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers led the Feb. 23 presentation and community meeting via Zoom to seek public input on the project. The meeting included an update on the design effort and options.

The project will consist of removing the existing 8-foot diameter culvert adjacent to the Pavilion building; constructing a natural channel to provide habitat for endangered species; relocating a Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer line; constructing a vehicular bridge over the creek; and improving public accessibility and protections.

Project Engineer Sravan Paladugu, with BKF Engineers, explained that in addition to excavating the creek bed and laying back the banks, the money for the project is tied to habitat creation.

Grant requirements and project goals include restoring 242 linear feet of Laguna Creek; restoring 4,250 square feet of aquatic habitat (pools); restoring 22,550 square feet of riparian habitat; realigning a portion of the existing Hacienda Trail along the restored creek; providing new habitat for native wildlife and the California Red-Legged Frog; and containing FEMA's 100-year flood to avoid damage to the Pavilion.

There are several challenges to the project. The space for the restored channel is limited by the Pavilion and steep banks and is considered historic. The ideal geomorphic section for the creek is not within the project's budget. While the goals of the project can be met, compromises need to be made in order to stay within Grant mandated budgets. Additionally, rocks and walls will be needed to allow for the widest and most natural channel possible.

Restoration Design Group Design Director Anneke Swinehart explained that bridge sizing tied to ADA parking, public path surfacing and guardrail aesthetics were all open to public input and desires.

The project's completion of design is at the 15% stage with the primary differences being the width and scale of

the bridge, and the location of the ADA parking space at the Pavilion. Design Alternative One consists of a 35-foot-wide spanspan bridge; parking relocation; connecting the creek-side Hacienda Trail to western trails; and improving hospitality and service access on the north side of the Pavilion. Design Alternative Two consists of a 55-foot-wide spanspan bridge; parking remains as is; the trail along the creek would be blocked when the ADA space is occupied; and hospitality and service access would also be blocked when the ADA space is occupied.

Possibilities were presented regarding trail surfacing with the choices being a stabilized decomposed granite or leaving the existing trail informal with mulch. Guardrail varieties could include the existing 4-foot solid wall extension; other existing wooden guardrails that are not up to code; or new guardrails of either wood, wire, metal or solid wall extensions.

Once the slideshow presentation was made, the floor was opened up to public input of which there were only two: Planning Commission Vice Chair Kerry Hillis, who liked the Alternate One model; and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tom Shephard who requested a walk-through of the proposed construction site with Director Breyana Brandt before he could form a definitive opinion.



**LIVING TRUST**

**\$895**  
 COMPLETE  
Valid until April 14, 2021

**FREE** INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of **Lauren Smykowski**

**Plan Includes:**

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property
- Advanced Health Care Directive

**Notary Services Included!**

(925) 257-4277  
 www.smykowskilaw.com  
 laurensm@gmail.com  
 Office Located in Walnut Creek

**TREE SCULPTURE**

**COMPLETE TREE CARE**  
*Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!*  
 Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977  
 (925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

**Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.**  
 Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556  
**Phone (925) 819-2100**

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation • Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial • Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups • Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445

**Town Council** Wednesday, March 10 7 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** TBA  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings:** Special Board Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 6 p.m.  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

Linda Ehrich  
Realtor  
93 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925.698.1452  
Linda@LindaEhrich.com  
www.LindaEhrich.com  
DRE# 01330298



LINDA EHRICH



**Have Fun and Get Paid!**  
**Summer Positions Available**  
**Apply Online**

**moragarec.com**  
**925-888-7045**



## Moraga welcomes new engineering technician/construction inspector



Photo provided

New Public Works staff member Hussain Arya

By Vera Kochan

With new and continuing infrastructure projects keeping the town's public works department constantly busy, this January Moraga hired Engineering Technician/Construction Inspector Hussain Arya to join the team.

"He's basically filling a much needed position," replied Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp. "The position has been empty over four years, and with our steady stream of projects requiring his type of attention it was more cost effective to hire someone full-time rather than contract

out." Knapp also explained that with Arya's skill set he can provide input on overlapping projects.

Arya earned the United States equivalent of a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from a regionally accredited institute, which is now under Kabul University in Afghanistan. Over the past 18 years, he has been involved with construction of large infrastructure and development projects.

"I have about 10 years of experience working on Army Corps of Engineers projects in Afghanistan," said Arya. "Most of them were for large

army and police compounds. These facilities were like small towns, containing barracks, dining facilities and administration buildings for thousands of soldiers."

Three years ago, Arya moved to America with his wife and three children "through the Special Immigration Visa program for Afghan nationals who worked for the U.S. government in Afghanistan. Immigration is not easy. You can never imagine how hard this is to decide to leave your country, your friends and families."

Upcoming town projects for Arya include encroach-

ment permitting, construction inspection, and assisting in the creation of new Capital Improvement Program bid documents for routine maintenance projects such as street, sidewalk and storm drain repairs.

Arya is happy to be a part of the town staff. "I am appreciative to the Town of Moraga for hiring me and giving me the opportunity to work in municipal engineering," he stated. "I am hopeful my extensive work experience and dedication will be beneficial to the town."

## SMC students 'de-stress' on campus at highly-rated rec center



SMC students use outdoor Strength Station. Photo Rebecca Harper

By Vera Kochan

Raquel Corral, a Saint Mary's College senior majoring in psychology, feels that COVID has contributed additional stress to her last year of college. Rather than experiencing special school moments and celebrations with friends she is saddened at the prospect of no formal commencement ceremony and a bleak job market.

Approximately 650 students currently live on the Saint Mary's College campus – an increase of nearly 200 from the fall semester. For many on campus, finding a way to release the stresses of college life during a pandemic is paramount, and visiting SMC's 60,000-square-foot Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center, completed in March 2015 and recently making the list of 50 Best Campus Recreation Centers at No. 15, is one way they combat that stress.

SMC is not letting COVID suppress the need for students to use the facilities to help de-stress. By making reservations 24 hours in advance, students can partake in outdoor recreation opportunities including using cardio equipment such as spin bikes and Erg (rowing machines); participating in lap swim; strength stations (where students bring weight equipment outside); and outdoor fitness classes.

"We offer so many different exercise opportunities and activities that cater to all the students here at SMC," said Savannah Gagnon, a junior majoring in business who also works at JARC. "Before COVID, it was the place that most students spent their time."

Corral was disappointed when county mandates closed JARC's indoor facilities just as she was becoming a daily user. "Not being indoors anymore is really frustrating, because I don't think our facility neces-

sarily contributed to the spread of COVID due to the constant disinfecting by attentive staff members. We had minimal cases in general," she said, "so I truly believe the facility should be open to support students' well-being. It has been more challenging now because of the restricted outdoor use, and I know it doesn't only impact my well-being, but many others at SMC who use their own workouts as an escape. I still go daily, but my workouts have definitely changed. I think as someone who puts a lot of value in exercise for mental health, it is important to be grateful for the access I do have and remaining optimistic for the future of opening instead of dwelling on the frustrations."

A sophomore majoring in economics, Erich Storti admits that COVID has made his college experience a challenging one. "Transitioning to remote learning was a difficult hurdle to overcome, and not being able to spend time with your friends and family has also been tough."

As a member of the SMC Men's Rugby Team, Storti said using the JARC has helped him significantly throughout the year. "While following the laws of our county, we are able to be as a team and workout. The JARC gives us a place where we are able to step away from a chaotic world. It has been extremely helpful in giving us a break from the constant Zoom meetings and providing a place for us to alleviate any stress."

Gagnon considers herself lucky to live on campus this year and hopes that by her senior year she and her fellow classmates can look forward to the college experience that she has always dreamed of. Into her third year working at JARC, she has noticed an increase in students using the facilities "even with the restrictions placed due to COVID-19."

Mentioning all of the outdoor prospects for a workout, Gagnon said, "With this, it gives on-campus students a different variety of exercise opportunities to de-stress during these times. Many students come in for their routine workouts, but there have been many new faces, which I believe is due to some anxiety surrounding COVID-19."

Corral praised the campus community for doing its part to keep everyone safe. She named weekly testing and efficient housing protocols for any who test positive for the virus, along with student cooperation in adhering to the school's mandates. "Even though I can admit to frustrations, I know we all have to do our part and keep gratitude near to prevent more stress and cope with the pandemic as a whole."

"We hear from students and parents who appreciate the opportunity to have this facility," Senior Director for Campus Recreation Rebecca Harper said. "When the county moves to the 'Red Tier' gyms can operate inside, and we will offer indoor use to the students."

While the indoor center is currently closed due to COVID restrictions, pre-pandemic amenities include: a 14,000-square-foot fitness area with state-of-the-art cardio equipment, top of the line weight machines and Olympic weight lifting area; three basketball courts (one of which can be converted to an indoor soccer court); a group exercise room with hardwood floors and wall-to-wall mirrors; a Functional Training room with additional weight equipment; a Spin room with 24 indoor cycling bikes; a climbing wall with opportunity to belay with a partner or automatic belay device; an Aquatic Area that includes a pool deck and patio for lounging, a Hydrotherapy spa for relaxation and a 10-lane pool with diving board and large shallow end; locker rooms with showers and lockers for students; and locker rooms with showers and lockers for faculty and staff. Services include weekly fitness classes, personal training opportunities, CPR & Lifeguard Training, and endless student employment opportunities.

Harper recollected the all-too-brief period last year when gyms were allowed to resume activities. "Campus Recreation, as a department, worked endlessly to reopen the facility. Protocol was developed with industry guidance, and the procedure in place made it safe for our members. We were one of the first colleges in the Bay Area to open its doors and offer services to students. This is in part to the dedication and hard work of Campus Recreation."

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

**Mary H. Smith D.D.S.**  
A Professional Corporation  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry




We are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of making and maintaining beautiful smiles. We always welcome new patients. Our office delivers the highest quality and service. Consults are always complementary.

1 Bates Blvd. Ste. 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824

Carefree Moves  
MOVE COORDINATORS



CYNTHIA NOLAN, OWNER

All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years

**COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS**

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

**FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES**

**PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
plan, sort, pack, label and help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

**UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business

**925.330.1988**  
hello@carefreemoves.net  
www.carefreemoves.net



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

**Orinda Public Meetings**

**City Council**

**Regular Meeting:**

Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

**Planning Commission**

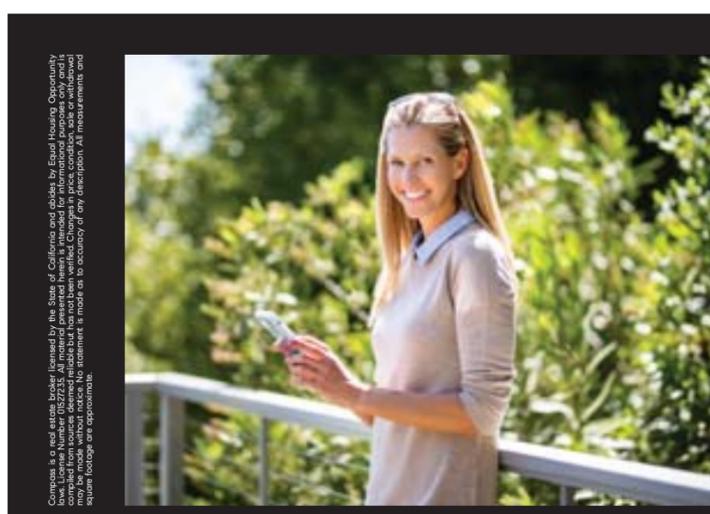
Tuesday, March 9, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED  
 30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd  
 in Lafayette  
 925-284-4440  
 lamorindafloors.com

LAMORINDA  
 FLOORS



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and holds a Real Estate Commission License Number 01827235. All real estate advertised herein is intended for informational purposes only and it may be subject to change without notice. No attempt is made to make any representation as to the accuracy of any data from any source. All square footage are approximations.

COMPASS

This Spring...  
 Make the Right Move!

Contact me any time for  
 a market update.

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



**City staff update council on upcoming housing element**

By Sora O'Doherty

The dreaded housing element, a requirement for how much housing each town, city and county in California must provide for, is coming up again. The housing element runs in eight-year cycles. The current cycle is 2015-23, and planning is now starting for the next cycle, which must be adopted by Jan. 31, 2023.

Recognizing that local governments play a vital role in developing affordable housing, in 1969 California mandated that all cities, towns and counties must plan for the housing needs of residents – regardless of income. This state mandate is called the Housing Element and Regional Housing Needs Allocation. As part of RHNA, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) determines the total number of new homes the Bay Area needs to build – and how affordable those homes need to be – in order to meet the housing needs of people at all income levels.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) then distributes a share of the region's housing need to each city, town and county in the region. Each local government must then update the Housing Element of its general plan to show the locations where housing can be built and the policies and strategies necessary to meet

the community's housing needs.

The staff presentation was introduced by Director of Planning Drummond Buckley and presented by Jennifer Gastelum of Placeworks. The staff included an update on recent state legislation bearing upon the housing element. They also fielded questions from the council.

The most difficult "piece of the pie" for Orinda will be the site inventory, Gastelum said. This is owing to the large increase in the RHNA numbers. In the fifth cycle, Orinda's RHNA number was 227, but the draft sixth cycle jumps that number up to 1,359.

Vice Mayor Dennis Fay asked about a controversy over double counting by HCD in the RHNA numbers. Buckley responded that the Embarcadero Institute talked about some double counting of RHNA numbers. According to the Embarcadero Institute, the double count was an unintended consequence of Senate Bill 828, and has exaggerated the housing need by more than 900,000 units in four regions in California, including the greater Bay Area, which along with Southern California are the most impacted by the state's methodology errors.

The presentation covered penalties for non-compliance, which include, among others, a city's general plan being found inadequate, a city being vulnerable to

lawsuits and fees, and losing local control over land use decisions through court intervention (AB 72). AB 101 provides for fees of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per month for continuing non-compliance after one year, increasing over time. In case anyone was wondering what might happen to the city if it failed to comply, Buckley directed attention to what happened to Pleasanton, which was sued by the Urban Habitat Program. The case was eventually settled, with the city paying almost \$2 million of the plaintiff's legal fees and agreeing to stop capping growth in the city.

Council Member Darlene Gee asked about the myriad pieces of pending housing legislation. "How does that play into what happens with our housing element?" she wondered. "If new legislation becomes law, does that have to be incorporated?" She also asked about currently pending lawsuits, particularly those from Southern California.

Gastelum responded, "nothing is off the table" and pointed out that AB 686, a bill that requires public agencies to administer its programs and activities relating to housing and community development to affirmatively further fair housing, is already law. She reviewed the potential effects of AB 1397 affecting non-vacant sites; SB 166 on net-loss zoning; SB 35 on streamlined approval

for housing projects; SB 330, the housing crisis act of 2019; and the housing accountability act, adopted in 2017.

Orinda is considered a metropolitan area with a default density set at 30 units per acre, which is presumed to be suitable for lower income housing. In public comment Nick Waranoff said that he is working with a statewide group on the housing issue. The central problem, in his opinion, is that to meet its RHNA goal, Orinda would need 25 acres at 30 units per acre. But, he pointed out, Orinda does not have 25 acres of vacant land. Therefore, he concluded that the housing element will have to focus on non-vacant lots. This will require knowledge of every existing lease, Waranoff said, and the city will have to go well beyond RHNA numbers in order to account for the reality that not everything zoned for will be developed.

According to Gastelum, whether talking about a vacant site or a non-vacant site, to be considered adequate sites must be available for residential use during the planning period, have infrastructure availability, and be free from unmitigable environmental constraints. She added that the city may need to consider zoning updates to increase available density and adjustments to development standards, such as parking, open space, height and lot coverage.

**Council presents proclamation on Black History Month to Stuart House**



Stuart House (center) marching in Montgomery, Alabama.

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

During items for the good of the city at the Feb. 16 Orinda City Council meeting, members presented a proclamation recognizing Black History Month to Stuart House, the Orinda Union School District director of facilities, owing to his historic work with the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama.

In accepting the proclamation, House spoke of his history with the civil rights movement, which he joined when he was just 13 years old. Almost 56 years ago House participated in the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama as a part of the voting rights effort led by King. House worked with King, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the other civil rights organizations supporting the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which, House noted, is up for consideration

again by the Congress.

"It's a John Lewis bill," House told the council. "John Lewis and I worked very closely together as well, and he was a good friend of mine."

House, who has also served on the Traffic Safety Commission, has been a resident of Orinda for the past 16 years, living with his wife Kathleen, who served on the Art in Public Places and the Parks & Rec commissions, in the home he built himself.

In 1926, Carter Goodwin Wilson, a Black historian, established a week to recognize the accomplishments of Black American citizens. Wilson chose the second week in February because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12 and that of Frederick Douglass on Feb. 14. The month of February is now recognized as Black History Month.

House came from a Michigan community of well-to-do African Americans and from what he understood to be a not so atypical African American family. His dad was a psy-

chiatrist, and his mother was a teacher with a master's degree. He had an aunt who was circuit court judge, and another who was a noted chemist. His step-father was a Yale law school graduate, who graduated from Yale at 18 years old. His grandparents were both college graduates in Mississippi who graduated from Alcorn College.

"We were a very well-to-do family. I lived in a community of other African Americans who were also very well-to-do, very much like Orinda," House said. "A lot of people don't know this about African Americans."

In accepting the proclamation, House said, "I have spent my entire life working for freedom, justice, diversity and inclusion, and I commend the city council for its efforts in that area and for its resolutions and proclamations and this proclamation for Black History Month." He added, "It's important that we do this, and we have a lot of work to do, as you well know."

He expressed his pride in his neighbors, many of whom are in industry, corporations, and professions like lawyers, as well as others who have stepped up to the Black Lives Matter movement, which, he said, he thinks is just amazing and wonderful and needed.

"It makes me very proud about the Orindans who have exercised their conscience about these matters of injustice around the world and in this country," he said, acknowledging the council's efforts to raise their own consciousness, and noting how the Orinda Union School District among staff and its board, are helping people take a deeper dive into understanding and fighting racism. "It's so insidious and so pervasive and so institutional, so we've got to work hard at understanding it and its manifestations, and rooting it out so that we can ulti-

mately have a community that respects all human beings of every race, creed, color, nationality, and in the spirit of Dr. King and his vision, his dream."

Mayor Amy Worth, thanked House for his beautiful words, saying that they were so inspiring and that Orinda is fortunate to have him as a part of our community. "You are absolutely right that we have a long way to go and much to do," she said, "but I think that the thoughtful conversations and discussions in our community and the actions we can take are really important." Worth praised House as an amazing guy, with incredible experience, courage and grace.

Council Member Darlene Gee said it was lovely to have House at the meeting. Gee and Worth are participating with OUSD board to move forward to improve diversity and inclusion in the city and at the schools. She added that it was inspiring to hear his story and a pleasure to have him share his personal experiences. Council Member Inga Miller agreed that his sharing his stories is just a wonderful thing to do, to keep alive the memories of the people you met with and worked with. House agreed that the kids love to hear to hear him talk about Rosa Parks, who was a good friend of his, and they also love to hear him talk about the time he was arrested for trying to buy an ice cream cone at a Dairy Queen.

House has been featured in a recent book, "Tip of the Arrow," a detailed reflection on the nonviolent movement and events surrounding the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voters Rights Act of 1965. The author, Charles A Bonner, now an attorney in San Francisco, told House that he inspired him when he came to Selma.

# Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

**GUARANTEED**

**FREE In-Home Inspection, Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount**

**Call 925-433-3988**

[www.honestrodentproofing.com](http://www.honestrodentproofing.com)

Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



## It's a Great Time to Sell a Home!

Leading analysts expect the current strong seller's market to continue due to low mortgage rates, limited supply of homes and steady buyer demand for all that beautiful Lamorinda has to offer.

Call me today for an accurate property evaluation. Use my 20+ years of local real estate success to obtain the highest return on your sale.

*Integrity* ♦ *Knowledge* ♦ *Results*

**Frank Woodward**

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist

T. 925.788.4963

E.Frank@FrankWoodward.com



**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**



©2021 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

## Daisies lead council in Pledge of Allegiance



Del Rey Daisies Troop 308111 charmed the Orinda City Council by leading them in the Pledge of Allegiance Feb. 16, along with troop leader Karlene Stern. The Daisies are Girl Scouts in grades K-1. Daisy Alexia Domenech shared with the council that they are working on a journey badge to learn how to take care of pets and animals in the wild.

– S. O'Doherty

Photos provided

## Friends of Moraga Adobe start spring fundraising as they close in on goal

By Sora O'Doherty

The final deadline for the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe to submit the last payment to J&J Ranch LLC to acquire the county's oldest building is coming up in September, and the friends are embarking on a vigorous fundraising campaign. In addition to seeking sufficient community support to secure the building, the Friends are also looking for funds that will be necessary to outfit and run a cultural center at the Moraga

Adobe. The building is located in Orinda, above Del Rey Elementary School.

The group will be putting up banners and yard signs urging contributions via its website. In addition, there is an ongoing paver program, in which contributors can donate and have a paver inscribed with their information. President of the FJMA, Kent Long, will be giving a talk about the history of the adobe on March 31 as part of the spring fundraising drive. In the past, the Friends have hosted a fundraising annual fandango,

but have not been able to do so during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe is a group of community members from Orinda, Moraga and the surrounding area who are dedicated to preserving the Moraga Adobe and making it accessible to the public as a History and Learning Center. The Friends have agreed, as part of its acquisition of the adobe and its surrounding 2.3 acres, to raise and contribute \$500,000 to the cost of its renovation.

... continued on Page A8



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**With later additions removed, the adobe is back to its original footprint and restoration is proceeding. Temporary supports hold up the roof pending reinstallation of the old pillars.**

## COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



**WALNUT CREEK | \$1,385,000**

Fresh, bright and lovely on a beautiful court atop a hill, this spacious home has an excellent floorplan and owned solar!

**Soraya Golesorkhi** 925.808.8390  
sg@soraya4homes.com | CalRE #01771736



**OAKLAND | \$949,500**

A slice of heaven, this Montclair 2br/2ba single-level urban escape overlooks a peaceful nature embraced oasis. 6960coltonblvd.com

**Vlatka Bathgate** 925.597.1573  
vlatka.bathgate@cbnorcal.com | CalRE #01390784



# STAR POWER.

The real estate brand that shines like no other.

For the past 23 years, Coldwell Banker Realty has been the #1 real estate brokerage from coast to coast in closed residential sales volume\*. Contact us today.

\*Realty Brokerage Group LLC (f/k/a NRT LLC) is ranked #1 in closed residential sales volume (calculated by multiplying number of buyer and/or seller transaction sides by the sales price) from 1996-2019 in the U.S. Data obtained by REAL Trends Survey, 1996-2020. Coldwell Banker Realty is a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group. Statistics include sides/sales volume for all subsidiaries.

**ColdwellBankerHomes.com**

**GUIDING YOU HOME SINCE 1906**

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2021 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

# One-of-a-kind Bargains!



At a Hospice Thrift Shoppe, you'll find fabulous bargains on vintage clothing, heirloom treasures, estate jewelry, and unique furniture—all at amazing prices!

And with six locations to visit, you're sure to find your own unique treasures!



Alamo • Concord • Danville • Martinez • Pleasant Hill • Walnut Creek

Use this coupon at our any of our six locations and receive

**25% off** your purchase!

Not combinable with other discounts; offer expires March 31, 2021.

[HospiceEastBay.org](http://HospiceEastBay.org)

## Longtime Moraga resident bequeaths \$200K to Rescue One



Photo courtesy Tony Nuccio

**Angie Sakalay passed away on Sept. 1, 2020.**

**By Jennifer Wake**

As part of her lifelong commitment to give back to the community, over the past several years Moraga resident Angie

Sakalay made an annual donation to the Rescue One Foundation – a nonprofit that collects and administers funds to purchase medical equipment on behalf of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Sadly, Sakalay passed away on Sept. 1, 2020. In the fall, according to Rescue One-Treasurer Gregory Reams, the nonprofit was notified by her brother and trustee, Tony Nuccio, that the nonprofit was named as a beneficiary in Sakalay's trust. Last month, Rescue One learned that Sakalay had bequeathed \$200,000 to the organization – the largest single donation the nonprofit has received since its inception in 1977.

"During any time, these truly significant donations enable us to grant funds to MOFD for items that may be more costly," said Rescue One presi-

dent Maridel Moulton. "Rescue One has always partnered with MOFD particularly to grant funds for the purchase of 'cutting edge' technologies and trainings. That reflects our founding intent when forward-thinking citizens of Moraga went door to door and raised funds to purchase a van and retrofit it to serve as our very first district ambulance while also sending two firefighters to Stanford to be trained as paramedics."

Over its 44-year history, Rescue One has purchased, with donated funds, over \$580,000 in advanced medical and safety equipment, supplies, and educational services for MOFD, said Reams. Some examples included multiple LUCAS devices at \$14,000 each, multiple thermal imaging cameras at \$10,000 each, multiple defibrillator/monitors,

ranging from \$8,000 to \$31,000 each, and multiple AEDs (automated external defibrillators) at \$2,000 each.

In 2016, at the Moraga 24-Hour Fitness, operations manager Kiley Yeaman used an AED to revive a client who had suffered a heart attack. She had learned how to use the device during a CPR certification class. Thanks to generous donations like Sakalay's, AEDs have been installed at multiple

locations throughout Lamorinda.

"The dual challenges of the pandemic and wildfires has prompted continued donations to maintain the very high quality of MOFD services so valued by our community residents," Moulton said. Rescue One is currently working with MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker "to identify the best way(s) to utilize these funds and to honor Angie."

### Fire District Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, March 17, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, March 9, 1:00 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



## Friends of Moraga Adobe

... continued from Page A7

This will be matched by the developer, who will further absorb any additional costs. Beyond this \$500,000 the FJMA is committed to raising an additional \$500,000 as an endowment, to provide for ongoing costs, for a total fundraising goal of \$1 million.

The Friends currently need about \$80,000 to make the final payment of \$365,000 in September, which will complete the \$500,000 purchase price agreed to under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends and J&J Ranch, a housing development on the lands around the adobe. Under the MOU, J&J will renovate the building to its appearance as depicted in the earliest available documentary evidence (circa 1848), provide a parking lot and

another small building with ADA-compliant bathrooms and room for storage of artifacts.

The Joaquin Moraga Adobe is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. It was built in 1841 by Don Joaquin Moraga as one of two family homesteads on the 13,000-acre "El Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados" land grant from the Mexican Government. It has been recognized as a California State Historic Landmark since 1954 and was designated as an Orinda City Landmark in 1995. J&J Ranch is named after Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Juan Bernal, recipients in 1835 of the Mexican land grant.

More information on the adobe can be found on the Friends' website, where contributions can also be made. [www.MoragaAdobe.org](http://www.MoragaAdobe.org)

## Search continues for coyote

... continued from Page A1

Foy explained that any trapped coyotes must eventually be euthanized and then tested for rabies, which requires a brain tissue sample, and can't be done with a live animal.

Researchers say that coyotes that traditionally inhabit wildlands are drawn to suburban environments where they can take advantage of water sources, pet food, household garbage cans, and even house cats and small dogs as prey. When asked if MPD has received reports of coyote attacks on pets, South replied, "I have no data on that other than anecdotal stories. There would be no way to know for sure that the coyote responsible for the human bites has ever attacked a pet."

Digital Commons at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, published a report stating that "in the absence of harassment by residents, coyotes can lose their fear of people and come to associate humans with this safe, resource-rich environment. This problem is exacerbated by people who intentionally feed coyotes. In such situations, some coyotes have begun to act aggressively toward humans, chasing joggers and bicyclists, confronting people walking their dogs, and stalking small children."

For more information on coyote safety visit [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org). To report a coyote sighting to either Lafayette or Moraga Police call: (925) 284-5010.

As of March 1, no new developments were reported.

### 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](http://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](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

#### Lafayette Police Department

#### Incident Summary Report

Fe. 7 - Feb. 20

Alarms	47
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	87
Suspicious Circumstances	13
Suspicious Subject	19
Suspicious Vehicle	20
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	46
Pubic/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	17
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Attempt Auto Burglary	3100 Block Rohrer Dr.
Auto Burglary	1900 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.



#### Reckless Driving

Moraga Rd./Brook St

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.

#### Tc - Property Damage

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.

St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.

Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

700 Block Moraga Rd.

#### Vehicle Theft

3500 Block Brook St

#### Other criminal activity

##### Commercial Burglary

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Cir.

3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

##### Fraud Credit Card

10 Block Roxanne Ln.

##### Fraud False Pretenses

3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.

3300 Block Moraga Blvd.

##### Grand Theft

3200 Block Withers Ave.

Grand Theft From Veh

3200 Block Glenside Dr.

##### Identity Theft

3300 Block Victoria Ave.

1100 Block Orchard Rd.

3900 Block Woodside Ct.

1100 Block N Thompson Rd.

##### Petty Theft

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.

3100 Block Stanley Blvd.

##### Petty Theft From Veh

600 Block Murray Ln.

##### Shoplift

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

#### Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic

3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.

1000 Block Dewing Ave.

3200 Block Andraesen Dr.

##### Disturbing The Peace

Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido

Ranch Rd.

##### Loud Motorcycle

700 Block St. Mary's Rd.

##### Loud Music

Las Trampas Rd./Phillips Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

##### Loud Noise

4000 Block Mario Way (2)

3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

3300 Block Sweet Dr.

1000 Block Brown Ave.

#### Loud Party

1100 Block Rahara Dr.

#### Public Nuisance

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way

3400 Block Golden Gate Way

El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Vandalism

3900 Block Canyon Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

#### Other

##### Covid19 Violation

700 Block Silver Crest Ct.

El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24

##### Trespass

El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

##### Unwanted Guest

3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.

##### Violation Custody Order

3300 Block Moraga Rd.

##### Violation Restraining Ord

600 Block Sweet Ct.

#### Moraga Police Department

#### Incident Summary Report

Feb. 9 - Feb. 22

Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	34
Patrol Req./Security Check	14
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Pubic/School Assembly Check	4
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Dui Misd	
Nations	
1300 Block Camino Pablo	
<b>Excessive Speed</b>	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Hardie Dr.	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	



#### St Andrews Dr.

Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.

Moraga Rd./Delores Ct.

Eastwood Dr./Moraga Way, Ori

Rheem Blvd./Harold Dr.

Moraga Way/Leslee Ln., Ori

#### Hit And Run Misdemeanor

1900 Block Ascot Dr.

#### Reckless Driving

2100 Block Ascot Dr.

Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

#### Tc - Property Damage

Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.

#### Vehicle Theft

300 Block Draeger Dr.

#### Other criminal activity

##### Identity Theft

100 Block Walford Dr.

10 Block Bal Tusrol

Petty Theft Veh Parts

2100 Block Ascot Dr.

#### Nuisance to the Community

##### Loud Music

Francisca Dr./Josefa Pl.

2100 Block Ascot Dr.

##### Loud Noise

200 Block Sharp Dr.

##### Vandalism

Alta Mesa Dr./Via Joaquin

Library

#### Other

##### Indecent Exposure

Moraga Commons Park

##### Trespass W/ Vehicle

Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)

##### Violation Restraining Ord

90 Block Buckingham Dr. (2)

#### Suspicious Circumstances

4

Suspicious Subject

4

Suspicious Vehicle

8

Service to Citizen

68

Patrol Req./Security Check

119

Supplemental Report

4

Vacation House Check

0

Welfare Check

7

Pubic/School Assembly Check

2

#### Vehicle violations

##### Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24

Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante

Way

Bear Creek Trail/Wagner Ranch

100 Block El Toyonal

##### Vehicle Theft

</

# Letters to the editor

## Thanks for the lights

This is a thank you to some wonderfully generous person or persons on Brown Avenue in Lafayette.

At Christmastime a generous display of lights appeared across our valley from tress lit by white lights somewhere near Brown Avenue. From Hawthorn Drive, they appear as beautiful bunches of grapes hanging in the night sky.

I don't think this person or persons know how much joy and love they have provided so many of their town neighbors. This must have been a huge task and I (we) want to say how much we appreciate their efforts and kindness.

Mary Ann Hoisington  
Lafayette

## Correction of Lafayette City Manager comments to Editor

In a letter to the Editor, the Lafayette City Manager recently wrote a correction to a Save Lafayette Ad. Unfortunately, the correction was misleading. Under its State-approved Housing Element, which is effective through the end of 2022, the City identified various parcels in the downtown that could accommodate enough units to meet or exceed the State's quota. The City is not required to build the units, but only to show there is enough land zoned at appropriate densities to accommodate the need, and that its codes and requirements

do not unduly constrain the building of those units. The proposed Terraces apartments were not included in the current Housing Element's list of sites. In fact, the Terraces (even if still approved after the current legal process) cannot be built and occupied before the end of the life of the current Housing Element - it will take nearly a year just to do the massive amount of grading required. Therefore, the Terraces cannot be counted towards the current quota of affordable units. We also dispute that the ad contained "many inaccuracies". We suspect that the "inaccuracies" the City Manager is referring to are differences of opinion and facts that form the basis of the current lawsuit and will be resolved by the courts. And we stand by our statement that the City needs to protect its businesses, jobs and commercial space downtown, and not sit by and see them all go away and be replaced by just housing, which is what is happening currently. Save Lafayette strives for accuracy in the information it provides to the public and is open to any clarification. Unfortunately, The City Manager's correction was inaccurate.

Michael Griffiths  
President, Save Lafayette

## Not So Fast

It appears we will be moving back to the Red Tier in the next few weeks. A third vaccine is now approved for emergency

use. So what changes after you have had your two doses? The answer is "not that much." And here is why this is so important. A year into this and we have all had it. Enough already! But it is a little more complicated and imperative that we don't make the same mistake every time we seem to get some control on the pandemic. For the sake of our families, friends and the businesses that have struggled since they were first shut down. Dr. Virk specializes in Infectious Diseases gives us three good reasons to continue Social Distancing, wearing masks and washing hands.

"Number one, while the vaccine reduces your risk, it does not eliminate the risk of being exposed to having the disease and asymptotically transmitting the virus to others."

"Remember that even the best of these vaccines is about 90%-95% effective, meaning, you might still have a 1 in10 or 1 in 20 chance of being exposed and getting the disease. So the mask is protecting you."

The third reason is related to these new mutant variants and other variants still to come. "The vaccine might protect you against death, but maybe your protection against disease ends up being about 50-60%," says Dr. Poland. "If that's true, then we still want to wear masks to prevent disease, and prevent the spread of those variants, which could then mutate further causing even more infections."

We all want our "normal" back. And the only way we are going to get there is understanding that even with vaccines and a path to "herd immunity", we have a lot more work to do. Let's do it together...

Jay Lifson  
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

## Moraga Municipal Code regulating celltowers

On March 10, the Moraga Town Council will be voting on an important matter: the acceptance of a Master Licensing Agreement with Verizon Wireless. This will open the floodgates to development of dozens of Fifth Generation (5G) cell towers. We estimate that there will be as many as 70 of these towers throughout Moraga for each telecom carrier that wants to provide 5G service here. These towers pose all kinds of risks:

health, fire, property devaluation. The town of Moraga is woefully unprepared for this onslaught. Our Municipal Code provides for no transparency, no restrictions, no testing, etc. This will have a real impact on the lives of Moragans. I think this is an important civic matter that your publication should do a feature story on. I am not a person who is anti-big business or distrustful of the government. To the contrary, I had a 27-year career in Federal law enforcement and retired as a Special Agent-in-Charge. But I have researched this issue and I feel there is definitely cause for concern, and that it is prudent for our local government to proceed cautiously when implementing this new 5G technology.

Mike Seitler  
Moraga

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

# High schools moving toward hybrid opening in mid-March

By Sophie Braccini

If the downward trend in the number of new cases of COVID-19 persists, high school students should experience in the coming weeks the same happy return to in-person education that local elementary and middle school students have experienced. The administrators of the Acalanes Union High School District that manage the high schools in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, along with Las Lomas in Walnut Creek, are ready to ring that school bell and hope for a reopening on March 16.

The California Department of Public Health requires counties to keep the secondary schools closed until their geographic area is in the Red Tier. Although data collected in Contra Costa County show satisfactory numbers for testing positivity and equity investment, the number of daily new cases per 100,000 was 12.6 on Feb. 23. This number, still consistent with a downward

trend, is enough to allow for lower grade schools to reopen, but fails to reach the required 7.0 that will toggle the district into the Red Tier and high schools into reopening. The CDPH used to require that counties maintain these data for five consecutive days before reopening the high school, but new guidance now allows for immediate reopening.

At the Feb. 17 AUHSD board meeting, students who represent the different high schools channeled their peers' desire to return to on-site learning, while staff representatives asked that teachers and other high school personnel get priority vaccination.

AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson and his team are tracking the county and local public health data and projecting accordingly. With their current projections, the AUHSD would shift to hybrid and remote schedules on March 16. Sixty-five percent of families have opted for sending their children physically back to school, while 35% pre-

fer to stay in remote instruction until the end of the year.

The week leading up to the reopening, the district will offer one professional development day for staff, and four days of student training and in-person orientations.

... continued on Page A10

# Collaboration could expedite downtown playground

... continued from Page A3

Poole noted that downtown parks have long been a priority for the city, and that with increased housing, that need would only increase, even for small parks. Describing it as a win-win, he said it could play a key part in a vibrant downtown located near the Park Theater, opposite the soon to be developed plaza at Golden Gate Way, and near the creeks trail as it is developed in the future, and would attract people to the library while taking advantage of the underutilized amphitheater area.

One site, known as "Library Park" that had been identified in the city's downtown specific plan as a possible park location disappeared from consideration with the approval of the Madison Park Apartments development in its place.

Public comment was positive with parents welcoming a play area downtown. LLLC

Foundation Executive Director Beth Needel said that the foundation was looking forward to hearing more about the idea at an upcoming meeting. Needel said that while it is still premature she is intrigued and certainly understands the necessity for a downtown public park.

Katayanagi explained after the meeting that as part of the EIR work required for Leigh Creekside Park, reasonable alternatives for the project or its location had to be found. Although in 2017 when the EIR work began he said no one was ready to collaborate, as tempers cooled parties were more willing to explore ideas together.

The PT&R will work with the LLC, the Friends of the Library and the Lafayette Historical Society to engage and look for their support and partnership ahead of reaching out to members of the public. If it is well received it could be back to the city council in the spring.



## Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following City Lafayette Commissions/Committees

- Capital Projects Assessment (CPAC)
- Community Center Foundation
- Citizen Advisory Committee to CCTA
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- DSIMPIC
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Transportation and Circulation Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website: [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org) **Hot Topics**  
Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, [jrobbins@lovelafayette.org](mailto:jrobbins@lovelafayette.org)

**Application deadline April 1, 2021.**

## MARCH INTO SAVINGS & RECEIVE UP TO

# 50% OFF

ON SELECT UNITS RENT NOW THROUGH MARCH 31ST 2021

CALL US FOR MORE DETAILS









Hours of operation  
Mon-Sat 9am -6pm  
Office and Yard.  
Or call for an appointment.



455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F  
(925) 643-2026  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)





# PEANUT BUTTER CAN MAKE A MESS OF RECYCLING, TOO.

**WIPE OR LIGHTLY RINSE YOUR CONTAINERS AND PLASTICS, AND PREVENT CONTAMINATED RECYCLING.**



**Empty. Clean. Dry.** When you follow those three words you're helping to keep our recycling valuable. Bottles, cans and plastics that are dirty with leftover food or liquids can contaminate valuable recycling. Do your part. Keep it clean and recycle smart!



[recyclesmart.org](http://recyclesmart.org)



**TG HARDWOOD FLOORS**  
Moraga California  
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION  
**925-376-1118**  
Lic # 974653

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Since 1993!  
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator



**Building Foundations**

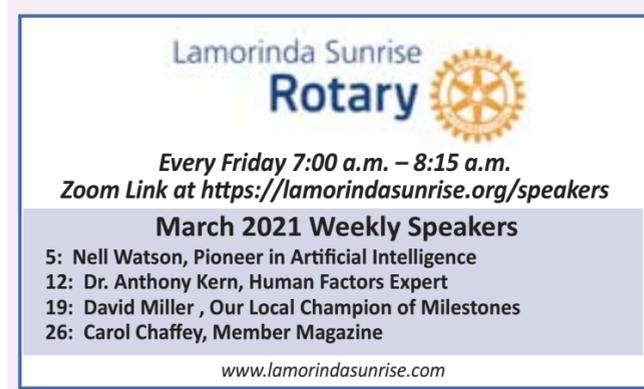
- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

**UNDERPINNING**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 067120

**707 310-0602**  
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 067120

**Service Clubs Announcements**



Lamorinda Sunrise  
**Rotary**

Every Friday 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.  
Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

**March 2021 Weekly Speakers**

5: Nell Watson, Pioneer in Artificial Intelligence  
12: Dr. Anthony Kern, Human Factors Expert  
19: David Miller, Our Local Champion of Milestones  
26: Carol Chaffey, Member Magazine

www.lamorindasunrise.com

**TAX / AUDIT SUPPORT / BOOKKEEPING**  
**IRS / FTB / CDTFA REPRESENTATIONS**



**SCARLETT LUEDER**  
CPA EA QBs Pro

Weekends Only

WWW.CPASCARLETT.COM  
925-388-0456 ASK@CPASCARLETT.COM



**When I say "good," you say "neighbor."**

Mike Rosa  
Agent  
925-376-2244  
Insurance Lic. #: 0F45583  
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106  
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL



**galileo**

**REDISCOVER SUMMER FUN!**

At Camp Galileo kids engage in hands-on art, science and outdoor activities that build their creative confidence and deliver unforgettable fun.

Programs available for kids  
Pre-K - rising 8th grades.

ENROLL FOR 3 WEEKS & SAVE  
**\$175**  
BEFORE 3/15!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS.  
VISIT [GALILEO-CAMPS.COM](http://GALILEO-CAMPS.COM) TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAR YOU.

Photo taken prior to Covid-19. Face masks and distancing are now required for all campers and staff.

**Experienced, Tenacious, Resourceful** 827 La Gonda Way, Danville

Contact  
Julie Georgiou  
925-200-8246




Custom home set on serene and private 1/2+ acre with heritage oak trees. Move-in ready with two master suites, updated kitchen and newly remodeled baths. Convenient central location near downtown, restaurants, schools. Easy freeway access.  
Represented Buyer **SOLD for \$1,202,500**

**Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE** RELIANCE PARTNERS

CalBRE # 01043977 salesbyjulie@gmail.com www.salesbyjulie.com

**Golden Gate Way apartment project**

... continued from Page A3

For increased privacy, Han explained that they have reduced the size of the fourth floor windows on the south side of the building, will provide top down/bottom up shades to all bedroom windows on the third and fourth floors, and are adding horizontal exterior cladding to balconies on the southeastern building façade.

Although previous direction from the council suggested exploring the addition of trees and fencing on the neighbor's side of the creek for screening, Han explained that in a meeting with the Flood Control District they learned that such planting within the easement would not be permitted.

Residents to the south whose homes will be overlooked asked for the removal of balconies on the third and fourth floors and suggested that from such a tall building new residents will be staring directly into their yards and bedrooms. They urged the developer to plant trees, with one resident saying it was an "unbelievable invasion of privacy."

Longtime Lafayette resident Libby Henry said that the tall four-story building would set a precedent in the city and

echoed others in pointing out the lack of balance in the project, particularly with the loss of current small businesses.

Council Member Gina Dawson suggested thinking outside the box and wondered if perhaps the developer would consider offering a payment for those neighbors directly affected so they could plant their own trees.

The developer's attorney David Blackwell pointed out there was no legal requirement for them to do such planting on adjacent properties prompting Council Member Carl Anduri to respond, "You have to realize you are coming into the neighborhood and completely changing the neighborhood, so I understand the legal argument ... but you've got to understand the way the neighbors feel about this," noting that residents south of the property never imagined such a tall building would be built overlooking their properties.

Following suggestions from city staff that the developer might consider an in lieu payment for planting new trees to the seven homes impacted for a total cost of \$7,500, the developer agreed.

The council also heard from Creeks Committee Member Jeff Gilman who reiterated

the committee's goal to construct a creekside trail and strongly suggested the construction of the project's retaining wall along the southern property line should be coordinated with the city to allow for this, something the developer had so far expressed reluctance to do since detailed creek trail plans are as yet unknown.

Again, with some suggestion on wording from city staff, it was eventually agreed that the developer would work collaboratively with the city's engineering department on the construction of the project's retaining wall to a design standard sufficient to accommodate the creekside trail. Should costs exceed \$100,000, the city would reimburse the rest of the cost to the developer if they chose to go ahead.

And so the project was approved unanimously (minus Council Member Cam Burks who was absent), subject to modified conditions of approval.

Anduri summed up the long night's work. "There's been a lot of give and take and we appreciate that, and now we're at the stage where we've approved the project. We all have the same interests - that is the best possible project for the city of Lafayette."

**Housing 101**

... continued from Page A2

And while concerns were expressed at the meeting, and have been expressed previously too by members of the city council questioning the methodology, some residents are embracing the chance for Lafayette to affirm inclusive housing, encouraging development near transit, and pushing for the up-zoning of certain areas outside the downtown.

In a letter to the city council, planning commission

and the GPAC, local grass roots organization Inclusive Lafayette says that historic practices of housing discrimination and resistance to multi-family development have helped make Lafayette one of least diverse communities in the Bay Area:

"While current residents of Lafayette may not have had a direct role in the policies and practices that have resulted in our community's segregation, we have an opportunity to rectify the legacies of these exclusionary practices. Our community must allow more

affordable housing development, and denser multi-family development typically hosts more affordable units."

Remaining webinars will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on March 3 (special session for community organizations), March 4 (special session for youth), March 11 (Acalanes Valley and Happy Valley district) and March 18 (Reliez Valley district). Registration is required.

More information can be found at [www.planlafayette.org/](http://www.planlafayette.org/)

**Marking time**

Moraga mom Cathy Harris chronicled a return to the classroom for her sons - fifth-grader Bodhi Harris, who attends Los Perales Elementary, and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-grader Riley Harris - with plaques marking the number of days since the beginning of the pandemic and the date they returned to campus.

- J. Wake



Riley Harris



Bodhi Harris

**As Seen in Lamorinda**



Photo Pippa Fisher

The warm weather is bringing up the daffodils near Happy Valley Road and Deer Hill Road - a sure sign that spring is on its way in Lafayette.

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Moraga mom crosses item off bucket list



Photos provided

Tiffany Seitler on the Feb. 10 episode of "Jeopardy."

By Diane Claytor

It will likely be some time before Tiffany Seitler will forget that the Hindenburg was named after the second president of the Weimar Republic. Why should the Moraga mom of two care about the naming of the German passenger ship destroyed in a fire back in 1937? Because that was the final question on the Feb. 10 episode of "Jeopardy" – and the question that took her from second place to third on the popular TV game show. Seitler acknowledges that she had no idea the answer to that question. "As friends pointed out, I went down like the Hindenburg," she laughingly reports.

Apparently, there's a whole mathematical strategy to betting in final "Jeopardy." Seitler admits that her final bet was perhaps not as carefully thought out as it should have been. With \$8,000 she bet \$7,900. "At that point, it really didn't matter," she notes. "The third place contestant and I were so far behind the champion, there was no way we were going to beat

him. I probably should have bet a little less so I could have at least come in second. Having no idea what the question was, I still had confidence that there was a chance I'd get it right and at least get something." She did get something – \$1,000 instead of the second place prize of \$2,000.

What she absolutely did get was the opportunity to achieve a long-standing goal. In fact, while Seitler says she's taken the written test numerous times, this was the third time she actually moved on to the next level. Her first time was in 2004 and her second attempt was about 10 years later. Both times she got through to the second round of auditions but never got the call to be on the show. The third time – spring 2020 – was apparently the charm.

According to a 2019 champion who wrote on social media, she was told that about 80,000 people took the online "Jeopardy" test, which is the first step in qualifying. Approximately 2,500 people are invited to audition and 250 will actually appear on the show.

The process to apply has changed because of COVID-19. In 2004 and again in 2015, Seitler was invited to the second round game play audition at a San Francisco hotel months after completing the 50-question, timed online test. "Both times, I sat there with hundreds of other potential contestants," Seitler recalls. They are divided up into small groups, given another written test and then stand at a podium with two others, with a buzzer, to play a pretend game. "The producers chatted with us, much like they do on the show, for about a minute and that's it. Our application sits in their file for 12 to 18 months."

Last spring, Seitler took the online anytime test and received a call in November, inviting her to the second round audition via Zoom. The process was the same, she reports, only virtual. But this time, her application didn't just sit in a file somewhere. She got the call. She'd made it. The taping was scheduled for two weeks later.

"Jeopardy," like everything else, has been changed by the pandemic. The day before the taping, Seitler went to the LA studio for a COVID test. On her scheduled day, she sat in a theater-style waiting area several seats away from her neighbors, all wearing masks. The makeup person couldn't touch her so she was given powder, a brush and instructions on what to do. The sound technician couldn't place the microphone on her so, again, she was handed the equipment and told what to do. The podiums are placed further apart than pre-COVID and the host, in Seitler's case, Ken Jennings, never gets closer than six feet from the contestants.

With travel restrictions in place, most recent contestants are California residents. But,



Tiffany Seitler's very proud family, husband Mike and children Jake and Jessica, watch her on "Jeopardy."

Seitler says, in an attempt to perhaps sound more global, she was not introduced as being from Moraga but, instead, "originally from Garfield, New Jersey."

While some "Jeopardy" contestants admit to preparing by watching previous shows and studying a myriad of topics, Seitler states that she crammed on basic facts but "you can study all day. There's just no way you can possibly know the answers to all the questions."

She did determine – after

the fact – that "if I could have buzzed in for every question I knew, I could have done a lot better." There's definitely an art to buzzing in, Seitler says. "If you buzz in too early, you're locked out for a second. Too late and, well, it's too late." One of the things the producers rehearse with the contestants prior to the actual taping is working the buzzer.

Seitler may not have been a big winner, but she had a once-in-a-lifetime experience and she got to cross off one bucket list item.

## Looking Good in Lamorinda Easy Elegance



Photo Debra Szidon

Crossbody bag by Cass Clutch.

By Moya Stone

Word has it in the fashion world that the trend for spring 2021 is Easy Elegance. A full year into the pandemic, many of us have a desire to step away from the sweats and into something more presentable. Designers are on it and this season they are showing longer, fuller silhouettes that provide a sense of protection, comfort, and a touch of elegance.

Harper Greer in Lafayette is our local expert boutique in offering comfortable yet chic clothing. Shop owner Terry Kiskaddon says that customers right now are not buying dresses or pants. "There aren't many special occasions to wear dresses." And since we're attending meetings and socializing on Zoom, "it's all about tops of all kinds but mostly casual," says Kiskaddon.

The brands that Harper Greer carries, such as Eleven Stitch and Tulip, have shifted



Photo Harper Greer

Harper Greer model wears a plaid shirt by Eleven Stitch and hat by FH Clothing.

their designs to casual, relaxed silhouettes, like A-line blouses and boxy sweaters. Kiskaddon tells me that customers are looking for something different to add to their wardrobes, something to "cheer them up." For spring Harper Greer is stocking lots of color and patterns but currently flannel shirts are flying out the door. Customers can shop in person (with a mask) or online, curbside pickup is available. Visit online harpergreer.com.

I have noticed that when I do venture out into the world I'm reaching for my crossbody purses, which allow for hands-free, quick and easy access to the new essentials – mask and hand sanitizer. Local handbag designer Debra Szidon from Cass Clutch has been busy this past year expanding her line to include new shapes and sizes and fun patterned straps that make any bag in the collection into a crossbody bag. "All Cass Clutch handbags can be carried multiple ways and have accessories to coordinate with," Szidon explains. "Flat Pouches with side tabs allow a strap to be attached for crossbody, over the shoulder

or on the hip wear." Check out the new styles at the-classclutch.com.

It was a happy surprise when I recently ran into Eliza Jamkochian from Glamorous Boutique. I reported last year that Jamkochian closed her Lafayette shop but she's selling online and there's more news – she's offering personal stylist services. Jamkochian puts together outfits for her clients and she will hand deliver or pop a package in the mail. Anything that doesn't work is returnable. Follow on Facebook: glamorouslafayette.

At press time, the de Young Museum was still closed to in-person visits, but we can view online the museum's current costume exhibit, "Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving." When the renowned Mexican artist died in 1954, her husband, artist Diego Rivera, sealed off her room and many of her possessions in their "Blue House" located outside Mexico City. Fifty years later the room was opened and now on exhibit are the personal possessions of Kahlo including letters, photos, art works, cosmetics, jewelry and clothing. Known as much for her unique fashion style as she was for her self-reflecting art, Kahlo used fashion as a means to express her identity often wearing Tehuana. She was drawn to the bright colors used in the traditional Mexican dress as well as the full skirts, which covered her polio afflicted right leg. Learn more at deyoung.famsf.org.

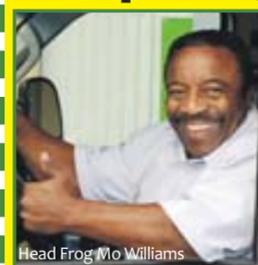
Stay safe out there and ... go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion blogger at www.overdressed-forlife.com.



925-283-8933 or sales@antiguadoors.com  
antiguadoors.com

## LeapFrog Plumbing



Head Frog Mo Williams

Save some WATER 'n save some GREEN this St. Paddy's Day with a re-circulating hot-water pump. There's one to fit your needs (push-button, timer-activated, full-time & more). Tired of waiting for that hot water to arrive? No more water down the drain while you wait for hot water!

Gas  
Water  
Sewer

- Water Heater Specialist
- 24/7 Service

**\$25 OFF!**  
any plumbing job (\$225 or over)\*

**\$100 OFF!**  
Hot water recirculation pump systems & tankless water heaters.

Late model tankless water heaters have integral pumps. Contact us for more information!

\*Expires 3/31/21 Provided & installed by LeapFrog Plumbing. 1 coupon per job.



**We Hop To It!**  
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!

(925) **377-6600**

CA Lic  
929641

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



## Fabulous pasta dish packed with flavor



### Chicken Gorgonzola Pasta with Sun-dried Tomatoes

(Serves four)

#### INGREDIENTS

One 16-ounce bag bowtie pasta (farfalle), or fettuccine  
 8 chicken breast tenders (boneless, skinless)  
 1 tablespoon olive oil  
 1/3 cup julienne cut oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes (drain and reserve tomatoes and one tablespoon oil separately)  
 1 clove garlic, crushed  
 2 medium shallots finely sliced or chopped  
 1/4 cup dry white wine  
 1 1/2 cups chicken broth  
 1/2 cup half & half  
 4 oz. Gorgonzola, crumbled  
 2 tablespoons fresh chopped basil  
 1/3 cup pine nuts, toasted  
 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
 Basil sprigs for garnish

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil and reserved oil from sun-dried tomatoes in large skillet. Add garlic, shallots and chicken tenders and cook over medium-high heat until browned and just cooked through, about 3-5 minutes per side, depending on thickness. Remove chicken from pan, cut into bite-sized pieces and tent with foil. Keep shallots, garlic and pan drippings in the pan.

Add wine to the pan to deglaze, and cook until reduced to approximately 1-2 tablespoons. Add chicken broth and half & half and cook over medium heat until bubbly and slightly thickened, (about 5 minutes), stirring occasionally. Add sun-dried tomatoes and Gorgonzola and cook until cheese is completely melted. Add chicken back into sauce along with basil. Reduce heat to low and keep sauce warm.

Meanwhile cook pasta in large pot of boiling water until al dente. Drain pasta and toss into chicken-cheese sauce. Serve pasta on plates and sprinkle with finely grated Parmesan cheese and toasted pine nuts. Garnish plate with basil springs and serve with French bread.



Chicken Gorgonzola Pasta with Sun-dried Tomatoes Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

What's not to love about pasta, especially one made with sun-dried tomatoes, Gorgonzola cheese, shallots and basil? These fabulous flavors all come together in this tasty and colorful dish. This recipe is one of our favorite pasta dishes because it's bursting with flavor, and it's actually pretty darn easy to make. (Bonus points for that on busy days.) We usually make it with bowtie pasta because the sauce has lots of surface area to coat. But, lately, my son Joel has been

on a homemade pasta kick, and since I've yet to perfect farfalle pasta, I've been making this dish with fettuccine and have to admit, it is just as good!

I think one of the things that makes this sauce taste so good, aside from the wine and Gorgonzola, is that the chicken tenders are browned in some of the sun-dried tomato oil, which gives the chicken an extra burst of flavor. Sometimes we toss in some chopped cherry tomatoes, too, just because they are hard to resist and they go so well with these flavors.

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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>



## Acalanes and Miramonte Mock Trial teams take second and third in academic event



Miramonte Mock Trial team members and coaches, Michael Arkelian and Luke Ellis, on a Zoom call. Staff advisors Ms. Porter and Mr. Compton, as well as a few team members, are not pictured.



Acalanes High School Mock Trial team

Photos provided

### Submitted by Jonathan Lance

Eighteen teams from 19 Contra Costa County high schools competed in the annual Mock Trial competition, with California High beating Acalanes

Feb. 16, taking the championship in the final round of Mock Trials. The match was judged and scored by former judge and current Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton, along with five Bay Area attorneys, serving as Mock Trial scorers. Mira-

monte High ranked third after defeating Hercules High during the same evening's consolation match, which was judged and scored by Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Steve Austin, along with five attorney scorers. Coordinated by the Con-

tra Costa County Office of Education and sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Mock Trial is an academic event provided for high school students. The hands-on educational program was created to help students acquire a working knowledge of

the judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of our society.

... continued on Page C2

## Family Focus

### Healing relationship rifts from different approaches to COVID-19

#### By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Many people I've talked to during the past year have experienced difficulties with family and/or friends over how to handle the threat of COVID-19. Not only has this been a difficult and scary time, but many relationships have suffered from differing approaches and attitudes about this virus.

The most significant problem involves those people who are trying to be extremely cautious. Some may have increased risk for this virus, while others who are not in a high-risk group want to protect loved ones and/or are just plain scared themselves of contracting COVID. When those around them – friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors – show disregard for their concerns and fears, they naturally feel hurt, upset and alienated.

A friend who lives in another state, "Marcy," is not talking to her brother and sister-in-law who live nearby. While Marcy and her husband, "Jack," have been very cautious and haven't been going into stores or inside anyone's home, her relatives have ridiculed them for their behavior. They try to poke holes in Marcy's beliefs about the virus and are highly judgmental. They continue to urge Marcy and Jack to participate in large family get-togethers inside, without

masks, even after they have repeated many times that they don't want to take this risk. Marcy feels disrespected and marginalized within her family, and now avoids contact with them.

A client, "Laura," has gone into her office once a week this past year. Laura has a young child who has asthma, so she naturally has been worried about risking exposure to COVID. At work, her supervisor insists on in-person indoor meetings each week and not everyone wears a mask. The meetings are mandatory, and Laura has developed anxiety and depression because of this alarming situation. She has difficulty sleeping, concentrating, and has become more irritable with her family. In addition, she has started eating large quantities of sweets, which is new behavior for her.

First Laura talked to her supervisor and explained her concerns. She asked if he would require everyone to wear a mask, sit at least six feet apart, and if windows could be open during these meetings. When he refused to cooperate, she went to the human resources department to find out what she could do. She was able to get an accommodation where she could attend meetings remotely on Zoom. However, now she feels like a pariah in her workplace and fears her supervisor will find an excuse to replace her.

A neighbor, "Melanie," lives with her husband and two teen children. Her older son, age 17, has a history of defying his parents' wishes. Melanie is naturally worried that her son is engaging in risky behavior concerning COVID and will expose himself and the rest of the family. He says he's being safe when he gets together with his friends, but sadly she can't trust him to tell her the truth. Melanie is upset that she can't trust her own son. And her son is furious at her because she doubts him. Their relationship is now more strained than ever.

It's hard enough to maintain smooth relationships with everyone in our lives, but COVID-19 has increased complications for many. Personal safety ranks high along with other political, economic, social and racial worries.

How can we ultimately heal from the damaging effects of people in our lives disregarding our desire for protection from COVID? Fortunately, we will soon be able to be vaccinated and hopefully much more protected. But the ruptures in some relationships won't automatically be repaired. The closer the relationship, the more difficult it may be to recover from disregard for our feelings.

When we have been deeply hurt by those close to us, it is important to express this hurt and not keep it sup-

pressed. Therapeutically, this means we won't remain victims of others' intentional or unintentional disrespect. By not suffering in silence, we can empower ourselves and at least give ourselves the respect we have been seeking from others.

How we speak up is very important. Because hurt can quickly shift into anger, often we sabotage our efforts by communicating with angry words and/or body language. At least 70% of our communication is nonverbal – especially reflected in our volume and tone of voice, our facial expressions, and our body positions. Since anger tends to beget anger, nothing is accomplished and usually the relationship suffers.

Instead of expressing anger, it helps to tell people close to us that our feelings are hurt because we have tried to be safe from COVID and it seems that they have been judging us for this. Check out this assumption by asking if they have been critical of us in this way. We need to say all of this in a calm, non-accusatory way.

It will help if the ones who have hurt us will acknowledge our feelings. Of course, if they express remorse, it can be much easier to heal. But, even if they don't offer us signs of regret, it is possible to repair the relationship.

As with many other issues – most notably politics and re-

ligion – we are not going to see eye to eye with everyone in our lives. Once we can accept our differences while looking for what we value in each other, we can move past a good deal of our hurt feelings. Of course, we want to be understood and accepted for who we are. But this concept is a reciprocal one; we also need to try to understand and accept others as best we can. As we need to do with other issues, we can agree to disagree and move on from there.

If we can meet each other in conciliatory ways, we will be able to rise above the tensions and upset from our different approaches to the threat of this virus. Just as we need to take good care of ourselves physically, we always need to look out for ourselves emotionally as well.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local licensed marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com). She is currently working remotely on Zoom, Facetime and by phone.

## Lamorinda Chinese-Americans deliver lunches to frontline health workers during Chinese New Year



Photo provided

Young artists in the community produced artwork and cards for project.

Submitted by **Jamiel Liu and Laura Liu**

For many Chinese-Americans in the Lamorinda area, finding ways to support the frontline workers in the battle against COVID-19 has been their mission during this unprecedented pandemic.

With the vaccines recently becoming available to the public, the admin for the Lamorinda Neighbors WeChat Group, Ye Liu and Alice Zhang, learned that all the vaccination sites are always so busy with high demands that a decent lunch break is rare. Zhang proposed that they use the leftover funds from an earlier PPP outreach effort last March to order lunch boxes for the health workers at the vaccine sites in Contra Costa County as a way to express their gratitude and support.

As Chinese New Year was quickly approaching, Zhang also suggested adding elements from Chinese culture, such as red envelopes, to the lunchboxes. Ye relayed this idea to the fund's volunteer accountant, Hongyu Wang, and the director of a local afterschool program, Aoqi Feng. She received enthusiastic responses from both women – Wang confirmed they had enough funds for over 200 lunch boxes and Feng volunteered to call for young artists in the community to produce decorations and artwork for this project.

After outreach to secure approval from the site coordinators, six vaccine

sites were identified as the lunchbox recipients: Tice Valley Community Gym in Walnut Creek, DVC in Concord, Nick Rodriguez Community Center in Antioch, Pittsburg Health Center, West Contra Costa County Regional Hospital in San Pablo, and Miller Wellness Center in Martinez. Zhang designed the main decoration using red envelopes. On Feb. 7, Feng coordinated a group of young artists who gathered at Commons Park and decorated enough red envelopes. The children enjoyed the project so much that they even painted many beautiful pictures for the health workers to say “Thank you!”

After Alice ordered 250 or so lunchboxes from Oakland Bloom, 14 volunteers were recruited through WeChat and the action date was set for the Chinese New Year. The delivery group was known as the “Blessed Lunchbox Action Team,” as each lunchbox had a sticker of the Chinese character meaning “blessing” on top, besides the red envelope with a golden-foil wrapped chocolate inside. All the volunteers showed up on Feb. 12, the first day of the Lunar New Year, in their elegant traditional Chinese outfits, some also with their children and family, joyfully distributing the decorated lunch boxes to the vaccine sites.

For all, the appreciation they received from the health workers was overwhelming and rewarding, and all the volunteers also expressed how very meaningful this Chinese New Year was for them.

## Lafayette Rotary Club reaches matching goal



Photo provided

From left: Denise Brown, Mike Collier, Matt Pease and Connie Collier

Submitted by **Matt Pease**

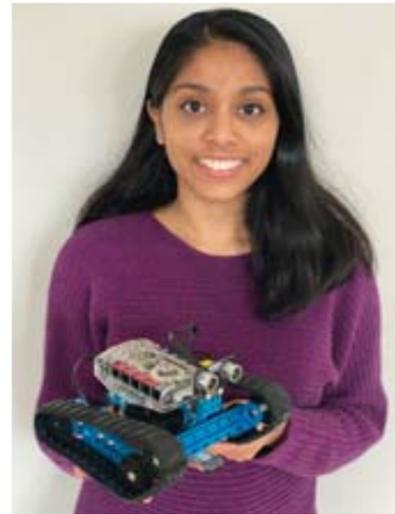
The Lafayette Rotary Club and Lafayette Rotary Foundation raised \$22,000 for the Las Trampas school with great support from club members and from far exceeded expectations from contributors outside the club. This money will be matched by another foundation to \$44,000.

Club members Matt Pease and Denise Brown handed the check to Mike and Connie Collier, co-chairs of the Las Trampas Capital Campaign Committee. “We had tremendous support from Betty Stokes, our longtime member Ed Stokes’ wife, for a sizable donation that really boosted our efforts,” Pease said.

## Volunteer effort to engage girls in STEM bears fruit



Amber Thompson Photos provided



Shefali Goel with a robot.

Submitted by **Ferenc Kovac**

Over the past year, with initial efforts by the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club, a volunteer effort to engage girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities is bearing fruit.

With input from Moraga and Orinda school administration and technical staff, and volunteer efforts by Kiwanis, Girl Scouts, NASA Ames, and UC Berkeley College of Engineering faculty, staff, alumni, and students, three online events on the relevant topics of Cybersecurity Basics, Safeguards, and related Research and Applications are being offered.

Online enrollment is free to local Girl Scouts of America Service Unit 327 (comprising 60-plus troops and over 550 Girl Scouts) on a first come, first serve basis.

Shefali Goel, a current sophomore at Cal and Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, has played a key role in developing and now teaching the curriculum, and says, “As technological knowledge is becoming ever-important, I am passionate about sharing my love and introducing younger scouts to the fields of STEM, to equip them with the resources to be co-creators in society.”

Craig Kovac, an electronic and computer engineer (Campolindo and Troop 212 alumnus) has also been contributing to the effort, primarily focusing on six additional badges dealing with robotics and programming. He will very soon be starting a new job on the East Coast, and Moraga Kiwanis is looking for more volunteers to work with the team to finish the development and implementation. Amber Thompson, an active leader with Orinda Moraga Girl Scouts says: “Community-building through robot-building? It’s fantastic! We are thrilled to see Kiwanis’ support for girls in STEM and excited to put these kits into the hands of Girl Scouts. The selection of this robotics platform will support skill-development and career exploration across multiple scouting levels.”

As programs are developed and successfully completed by the first round of more senior Scouts, one of the goals is to provide them with the tools to step into the leadership role, and teach the younger Girl Scouts those same skills, thus keeping the cycle self-sustaining. Adult volunteers will stay involved to provide supervision, logistics support, and any needed updating of content.

Moraga Kiwanis is currently also hoping to expand its impact by inserting the “A” for Arts in the heart of STEM, and gaining “STEAM” by partnering with community artists and Saint Mary’s College.

For more information on participating, either as a volunteer or member, please contact: moraga.kiwanis@gmail.com or su327@scoutsnorcal.org.

## In Memory

### Charlie Kezerian

June 24, 1926 – Feb. 21, 2021



Charlie Kezerian passed away on Sunday, Feb. 21, at the age of 94, with his family by his side. He was the loving husband of Dorris Kezerian and devoted father to Patti (Peter), Bob (Gail) and Sandi (John). He was the proud grandfather of five grandchildren; Alysia, Courtney, Trent, Alex and Marty.

Charlie was born on June 24, 1926, in Charleston, Massachusetts. The family soon moved to Medford where he spent his childhood. At 17, he joined the U.S. Navy during WW II and spent four years serving in the Construction Battalion throughout the South Pacific. Upon his discharge he resettled in Los Angeles. He attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in chemistry.

In 1958 he met Dorris Soghomonian, the love of his life, whom he married in 1959. They resettled to Orinda where they raised their three children and lived there through their 63 years of marriage. Charlie was a brilliant chemist with 25 patents to his name. He managed a research facility at Stauffer Chemical Company in Richmond, California where he spent a successful 40-year career. He was a devoted and active member of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church in Oakland where he enjoyed a rich social life and was adored by all who knew him.

Throughout his life, Charlie had many unique interests. He was a constant student. He was a beekeeper, much to the dismay of his family and surrounding neighbors. He studied masonry, which resulted in beautiful brickwork in front of the family home. He was an avid gardener, known for his abundant crops of tomatoes. He enjoyed attending Sons in Retirement lunch lectures and even taught several on computers and digital photo editing. Though he and Dorris loved traveling the world, he was happiest in his own home watching a USC football game with Dorris by his side.

Charlie was blessed with many lifelong friends that enriched his life. He was a kind, accomplished, yet humble, man whose company everyone enjoyed. His greatest reward in life was his family who will miss him dearly.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Vartan Armenian Church (650 Spruce St., Oakland, CA 94610) in memory of Charles Kezerian or Craig Hospital Foundation (3425 So. Clarkson St., Englewood, CO 80113) in memory of Charles Kezerian.

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

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

## Not to be missed

### ART

**An ebbing pandemic** has led the Moraga Art Gallery to double its hours. Starting on March 6, the gallery will again be open on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m., and also by appointment. "An Elegant Balance," the current exhibit, which runs through April, features work by two member artists: watercolorist George Ehrenhaft and jewelry-maker K. de Groot. The gallery is located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. For more information, please visit <http://moragaartgallery.com> or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

**Valley Art Gallery current** exhibition, "Wintermission," will continue through March 8. On March 23, "A Spring of Many Hues" opens featuring our new spring collection that highlights a selection of newly-juried works from member artists, reflecting the bright colors and delicate hues of our Northern California springtime. Also available will be a new selection of juried, high quality, handmade crafts and jewelry. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org); (925) 935-4311.

### THEATER

**Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents "Mobsters, Molls and Mayhem" March 4, 9 and 11 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) at 7 p.m. Tickets are free. Call (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) for more information and reservations.

**Town Hall Theatre Presents** "Fantasticland" - a serialized

fundraising event starting March 11. Directed by Alysia Homminga, written by M. E. Ianiro based on "FantasticLand: A Novel" by Mike Bockoven  
Dates: Premiere: Episodes 1 & 2 - March 11; Episode 3 - Tuesday, March 16; Episode 4 - Wednesday, March 17; Episode 5 - Tuesday, March 23; Episode 6 - Wednesday, March 24; Episode 7 - Tuesday, March 30; Episode 8 - Wednesday, March 31; Episode 9 - Tuesday, April 6; Finale: Episode 10 - Wednesday, April 7. Only at TownHallTheatre.com. Tickets: \$25 for access to all 10 episodes.

### LITERATURE

**The Diablo Valley Literacy Council (DVLC)** has a personalized approach to help adult English learners in our community to become proficient in the English language. If you are 18 years or older, enjoy working with people, like to learn (and share) knowledge of other cultures and have interest in supporting literacy then DVLC has a place for you! As a tutor you can help ESL (English As a Second Language) students. Join our Zoom Introduction- how to start, social distance learning, materials to get you going and so much more on March 6. After participating both days, let the one-to-one tutoring sessions begin! Advance \$20 registration at [www.dvlc4esl.org](http://www.dvlc4esl.org).

**Saint Mary's College School of Liberal Arts** presents "Afternoon Craft Conversation with Margaret Wilkerson Sexton" Wednesday, March 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. Online <https://stmarys-ca.zoom.us/j/96071311175?pwd=ZkVCL202eHRWamNrWWdZVEYvSm5UQT09> Passcode for the event: MFACV. The Big Easy: Writing Place as a Character in Fiction.

Wilkerson typically writes about New Orleans, a city that is superficially well known. In this talk, she'll address how she chooses a setting for her stories, the techniques she uses, once she's chosen her setting, to tell the story of the place so the reader is learning about it in textured and nuanced ways. She'll point to other examples of fiction where place was presented in all its dimensions, where it changed over time, where the reader learned about aspects of the environment that they wouldn't have known about unless they lived there. In that way, these places were rendered as vibrantly as characters. Finally, she'll talk about how to avoid cliches and stereotypes when writing about places that people think they already know.

### OTHER

**Hereditary cancer - it's a family** event: virtual seminar. Wednesday March 10, 7 p.m. Please join this important conversation about hereditary cancer and its impact on the men and women in your family. You will hear from medical and subject matter experts offering the latest updates in genetic testing, cancer prevention, and how it impacts you and yours. This will be a free, live event open to all, with the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists. Register at <https://link.sharsheret.org/contracosta>

**American Association of University Women**, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML). General meeting Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. program via Zoom, guest speaker Leslie Pfeifer, "Flying Tigers and Vietnam." The program is free,

and all are welcome. To obtain a Zoom link, visit the AAUW-OML website at [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net).

**KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents** Michael Eric Dyson: Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America on Tuesday, March 23, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Michael Eric Dyson will discuss his new book, "Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America," and answer questions. Hosted by Sabrina Jacobs Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see [www.eventbrite.com/e/michael-eric-dyson-sabrina-jacobs-reckoning-with-race-in-america-tickets-137147695449](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/michael-eric-dyson-sabrina-jacobs-reckoning-with-race-in-america-tickets-137147695449).

### GARDEN

**The Montelindo Garden Club** meets on the third Friday of every month, September through May. The March meeting begins Friday, March 19 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: "Creating a CA Native Garden with Homes for Birds, Bees, Butterflies and More." Speaker: Sallie Bryan, who designs and installs native habitat gardens to attract local bees, birds, bugs, and butterflies. "Even a small garden can become an oasis for the wildlife and homeowner. Finding just the right plants for the space considering soil types, sun, and water needs along with understanding the habits of the desired species is what it is all about." Sally is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and engaging speaker. To request a Zoom link to attend this meeting, email: [montelindogarden@aol.com](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com).

**Lafayette Garden Club Monthly** General Meeting program begins Thursday, March 11 at 10 a.m.

online via Zoom Webinar. Welcome spring with Floral Arranging by Najat Nicola. Najat is a member of Diablo Women's Garden Club. She is a talented Floral Designer who always creates fabulous arrangements. Please join us as a guest at no charge. For details on how to join this presentation and membership information, email [MaryanneKain@comcast.net](mailto:MaryanneKain@comcast.net).

**The Orinda Garden Club** will be hosting a Plant Sale on Saturday, April 17 at the Orinda Library Plaza from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will include a variety of types of plants, including Succulents, Pollinators, Perennials, and Drought Resistant. There will also be over 30 varieties of tomato seeds. The club also plans to provide Firewise educational materials. And lastly, there will be a marketplace gift boutique. All will be socially distanced and spread throughout the outdoor plaza at the Orinda Library, located at 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Open to the public. For more information, see <https://www.orindagc.org/plantsale-public.html> or email [communications@orindagc.org](mailto:communications@orindagc.org).

Please submit events: [calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com)

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

An Open, Affirming & Loving Community

**Virtual service at Sun. 9:00 AM**

If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws) 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)



**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
TRANSFORMED BY THE PATH WE WALK TOGETHER

Join us at **OSLC.NET** for our **Sunday Livestream at 9:00 AM**, or view anytime on our **YouTube Channel**. **DRIVE IN WORSHIP IS SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM**

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 | (925) 283-3722 | [Spirit@oslc.net](http://Spirit@oslc.net)

**WILLOWSRING**  
community church

**Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are.**

[www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)

1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550

**10:45 AM Sunday Service**



**ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA**

**Sunday Service at 10 a.m.**

451 Moraga Way, Orinda  
[www.stmarksorinda.org](http://www.stmarksorinda.org) | (925) 254-5965  
**All Are Welcome**



**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

Worshiping, Learning, Serving  
[www.ststephenorinda.org](http://www.ststephenorinda.org)

**ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
**All are welcome to our on-line services**

Sunday Service 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
See website and join us through Zoom  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)



**JOIN US SUNDAYS**  
**9:30 AM ON THE PATIO**  
OR ONLINE AT [MVPCTODAY.ORG](http://MVPCTODAY.ORG)



**Lafayette United Methodist Church**

Go to to our YouTube Channel:

Love LUMC

for small-batch, home-grown, curated worship playlists and more inspiration

*We're all in this*  
**TOGETHER!**

Join us for worship online

**LOPC.ORG**

*Sundays at 9 a.m.*  
*or any time you wish!*

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422**  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to [facebook.com/HSLCORinda/](https://facebook.com/HSLCORinda/)



Sunday Worship Services are accessible at our website at about 10:15 a.m. each Sunday (after they have premiered on Facebook). Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Delivery issues: [homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Event listings: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Business press releases: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
General interest stories/Community Service: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
School stories/events: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sport events/stories/pictures: [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Sports Editor:** [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Staff Writers:** Vera Kochan; [vera@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:vera@lamorindaweekly.com), Pippa Fisher; [pippa@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:pippa@lamorindaweekly.com), Sora O'Doherty; [Sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Sora@lamorindaweekly.com), Jon Kingdon; [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**website:** [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)



**We're here for you**

**OAKLAND**  
(510) 428-3558

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
(415) 353-2808

**SAN RAMON**  
(925) 979-3430

**WALNUT CREEK**  
(925) 979-3430

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## After 451 days, Saint Mary's men's soccer makes a successful return to the pitch



SMC junior midfielder Sebastian Schacht

Photo Tod Fierner

By Jon Kingdon

Coming off the two best seasons in Saint Mary's history (16-2 and 18-0-2), there was a 451-day hiatus between games for the men's soccer team due to the coronavirus. If nothing else, it gave head coach Adam Cooper the opportunity to appreciate the true dominance of those teams. "I don't know if I can put it into words," Cooper said. "If you look at the history of men's college soccer, what we have done in the last two years was unthinkable for most people. It's really a tribute to all our players, administration, staff, and everyone that was involved in what we were able to do. To go undefeated one year and only lose two games in two years is almost unprecedented in men's college soccer. When you look back and try and put

it into perspective, little old Saint Mary's pulling something off like this was incredible."

Despite having lost six all-league players to graduation, with a roster comprised of 14 freshmen and only three seniors, the Gaels so far have not missed a beat shutting out Pacific (1-0) and Santa Clara (2-0).

It's the intangible qualities of the team that has stood out so far. "We have great character on this team," said Cooper. "I'm super proud of them. We did not have much of an opportunity to train and do a lot of team bonding experiences, so it's just been all out on the field, as much as possible. We only had one returning starter (Sebastian Schacht) for our opening game from our last game against Santa Barbara in the

NCAA playoffs. Everybody is competitive and wants to win but you can just see they were just like kids in a candy store, they were just so excited to play. The players have been great and the character on the team is fantastic."

Last year's graduating seniors scored 35 of the team's 46 goals, so rebuilding the offense should have been a real concern for Cooper, but that has not been the case. "I don't think that we have a singular top scorer like we did last year with Anders Engbertsen (16 goals), but we have several guys that can step up and create for us," Cooper said. "Sebastian is one of the best middle fielders in the country and his leadership is incredible. (Freshman) Cade Cowan is more of an attacking player but we can drop him back to midfield. He had a terrific debut for us and is going to play a big role for us. Luke Andrews is a creator and scorer. Phillippe Van Der Lof will contribute a lot of assists; David Bog will also contribute, and freshman Andrew Rotter earned a penalty kick in the opener and his future is incredible." Cooper was not the only one to recognize Rotter's play as he was just named the WCC Offensive Player of the Week.

With the loss of all-league defender, James Person, due to an injury, the defense is also relying on several new players with only one returning starter, Valentine Kurz. Sophomore Boyd Curry got a lot of experience last year and has taken on a leadership role this year. In the opening game, Saint Mary's started two freshmen on defense, Louis Sterobo and Christian Engmann, and both were standouts, showing great potential with two other freshman, Andre Hoglin and Timothy Stephens, also seeing playing time. Like Rotter,

Sterobo's play was also honored by the WCC, being named the Defensive Player of the Week.

Last year, all-everything goalie Remi Prieur, only gave up 0.8 goals per game. Senior Nicholas Lapinid has taken over and has not missed a beat, stopping all shots on goal so far. "Nick is very athletic and will make some incredible saves," Cooper said. "He is quick with his reflexes and has phenomenal feet which is what sets him apart."

There is great depth behind Lapinid. Freshman goalie Kash Oladapo played half the game against Santa Clara, giving up no goals and being credited with two saves. "Kash is our first backup and is really pushing the envelope and has a bright future," Cooper said. "With Zack Littman and Jackson Buck, it's the best group of goalies that we have ever had."

Cooper has not been phased by having 15 new players on the roster: "They just need more time to grow and get that experience. The direction for the freshmen by Sebastian, James (Person) and the older guys has been great. Talent wise, our new players are well equipped. They're just young. They'll get their experience, but it's just been harder with all of the restrictions in the fall."

Playing in the winter has not been an issue for the team. "Our first conference game will be at Portland which will be our coldest game this year since we don't have to go to Gonzaga," said Cooper. Typically, when we have gone to Portland in the past, it's usually been raining anyways but it's going to be a lot colder than it would have been in the fall so I'm sure that will factor in. Even our field, in the opening game, still had some wet spots from our rain."

Every team in the nation has had to adjust their plans due to the coronavirus. There have been many protocols to be addressed, training restrictions through the fall and limiting how the players live and interact, even avoiding team meals. Due to the limited number of games played this season, the players are going to get a free year of eligibility so for a lot of these freshmen, it's the opportunity to play nine games without using up any of their eligibility, which should bode well for the future.

Cooper feels this team compares favorably with the 2016 team that went on to such great success these past two seasons. "This team is very similar with a lot of freshmen whose future is incredibly bright," Cooper said. "They have everything that it takes for them to be a special group. There's just a lot of learning that needs to be done. Still, at the end of the day, everybody must earn their playing time whether they're a freshman or a senior. They're pushing, battling, and competing every day."

The West Coast Conference picked Saint Mary's to finish second behind Loyola Marymount, which they play in the last game of the season. Having lost so many top players and with so many new players on the roster, it's possible that the Gaels are being underrated, with Schacht being the only Gael chosen to the preseason WCC all-league team.

"We might surprise some people because they may think we're not going to be as good as we were," Cooper said, "but in fact, we are a good team that just needs some experience."

0/0/100 15/15/0/100 40/40/0/100

### Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

**Tutoring**

Miramonte Alum & USC Cum Laude STEM Graduate Offering Tutoring for K-12 Students  
[salinastutoring.com](mailto:salinastutoring.com) (510) 815-9891

**Electrical Service**

**Ideal Solar Lighting & Electric**  
Serving the Bay Area over 20 years!  
Call today! (925)513-4704

**Fencing**

Custom Quality Fencing

**KEN'S REDWOOD FENCING**  
925-938-9836

- Good Neighbor Fence
- Deer Fencing
- Picket/Split Rail
- RV Gates
- Trellis and Arbors
- Retaining Walls
- Insurance/Storm Repairs

licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491

**Real Estate**

**NEED TO SELL YOUR HOUSE?**  
We'll buy "AS IS" condition, all CASH offer, NO closing costs, NO realtor commissions!  
**Call now: 925-800-7510**  
[info@discoverpropertiesolutions.com](mailto:info@discoverpropertiesolutions.com)  
[www.discoverpropertiesolutions.com](http://www.discoverpropertiesolutions.com)

**Construction**

**Concept Builders**  
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction  
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563  
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

**Music Lessons**

**Fun Piano Lessons**  
Learn your favorite song! I teach Certificate of Merit. BM & MM in Piano. Lessons in your home.  
925-984-8322. [lynnf253@gmail.com](mailto:lynnf253@gmail.com)

**Room for Rent**

Nice Room for Rent in Moraga. Responsible female, non-smoker. Clean, spacious home with large backyard.  
**\$1050. Call: 917-749-9273**

**Handyman**

**Quetzal Handyman AC Service**  
NO JOB TOO SMALL  
Electrical, plumbing, concrete, driveways & more...  
Please call Carlos Toledo  
**510-689-7490**

**Plumbing**

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
**(925) 377-6600**  
[LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://LeapFrogPlumbing.com)

**House Cleaning**

**www.totalclean.biz**  
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

**Insurance**

**Totalintegrityinsurance.com**  
20+yr Lamorinda resident. My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. **Call Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE90108

**Furniture Restoration**

**Antique Furniture Restoration**  
25 years exp. - **925 765 0479**  
serving Lamorinda - references avail.  
[www.Cardonarestoration.com](http://www.Cardonarestoration.com)

**Rusty Nails Handyman Service**  
Repair • Restore • Revamp  
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

**Tile Setting**

Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls, Counters  
Cliff 510-697-1125

\$10 per 1/2" classified ad height.  
Email to: [classified@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:classified@lamorindaweekly.com)

# Acalanes and Miramonte Mock Trial teams take second and third in academic event

... continued from Page B2

“As like numerous other counties in California, this was a challenging year for our High School Mock Trial program,” said Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey. “Due to COVID-19, this was the first time in 40 years that we were not able to hold our trials in one of the Martinez courthouses, but instead held the competitions via Zoom meetings. This year’s Mock Trial success was because of a group effort between our volunteer judges and attorneys and our staff, as well as the patient and dedicated team coaches and their determined

students.”

The honored guest speaker, Judge Hardie, told the audience, “I’m so pleased that we didn’t let COVID-19 get in the way of our historic and annual tradition. We are so proud of our longstanding partnership with the Mock Trial program. Here at the county’s Superior Court, Mock Trials is one of our favorite times of the year. And, I heard so many wonderful stories from this year’s volunteering judges. They all agreed about how seamless the trials went this year, especially adapting the competition from our physical courtrooms to virtual courtrooms. The students did not

miss a beat!”

This year’s case, *People v. Croddy*, was the trial of Lee Croddy who hosts a popular YouTube channel called The Right Choice of News (RCN). Croddy was charged with two counts: (1) aiding and abetting in the commission of first-degree burglary by another, and (2) accessory after the fact. This case also featured a pre-trial argument on the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination and as set forth in *Miranda v. Arizona*.

Since the beginning of the school year, teams of high school students worked with teacher coaches and volunteer coaches to prepare their ver-

sion of the criminal case, from both the prosecution and defense perspectives. Students assumed the roles of trial attorneys, pre-trial motion attorneys, witnesses, clerks, bailiffs, artists, and court journalists. During the Zoom meetings, Mock Trial judges and attorneys scored the students’ presentations and provided immediate feedback.

Approximately 60 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys and sworn judges volunteered their time and expertise to serve as Mock Trial attorney scorers and judges. These volunteers represented judges from the Contra Costa County Superior Courts, and

attorney scorers included attorneys from Bay Area county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General’s Office, and the California Department of Justice. Also serving as attorney scorers, were nonprofit, public, private, and corporate attorneys.

California High will represent Contra Costa County at the California State Mock Trial competition, March 18-22.

For all the team and individual results, visit the Contra Costa County Office of Education’s Mock Trial results at [www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/programs\\_for\\_parents\\_students/academic\\_events/mock\\_trial](http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/programs_for_parents_students/academic_events/mock_trial)

# Budding photographer turns a robbery into an opportunity

Miramonte senior Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey has been a photographer since she was little, using her dad’s old Canon cameras and parents’ phones to capture every detail of family trips.

“I got my own Canon camera at age 11 and continued to take photos around the world, hoping to preserve the wonderful memories,” she said. Ackdoe-Pagey turned her love of photography into a way to express herself artistically and capture the beauty of nature from each place she visited. She wants to pursue a career as an environmental photojournalist, but a recent car robbery of some of her coveted camera equipment made her

change course.

Ackdoe-Pagey decided to sell travel postcards as a way to earn money to replace the items that were stolen, with her top priority being to buy a brand new camera. “As an avid hiker, experienced traveler, passionate historian, language-lover, seasoned artist, and a sustainability advocate who is just getting started, I want to use the power of photography to make a difference,” she said.

You can visit [www.naturenotesbynej.com](http://www.naturenotesbynej.com) to order a 10-pack of postcards.

– J. Wake



Postcards offer area for a custom quote in upper right corner.

Photo provided

# Love Lafayette

**MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING**

**WE ARE READY TO SAFELY PRESERVE & BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME**

**925-247-0092**

[MarkBellinghamPainting.com](http://MarkBellinghamPainting.com)

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration  
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair  
Light Carpentry

**For a Quick Preliminary Estimate Email Photos of Project to: [Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com](mailto:Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com)**

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP  
Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

*Anthony's Custom Picture Framers*

After 28 years of service, we are proud to reintroduce ourselves as Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Family owned and operated since 1991. Anthony and Tony look forward to seeing you soon and assisting you with all your framing needs.

1020 Brown Ave, Suite A Lafayette, CA 94549 925-283-7620

Mon: 10am-5pm  
Tues-Sat: 10am-6pm  
[anthonyscPF.com](http://anthonyscPF.com)

\$30 off your next order with this ad!

**The UPS Store**

**Hours:**  
Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00  
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

**Our location:**  
3527 Mt Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette, CA 94549

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services

[store0202@theupsstore.com](mailto:store0202@theupsstore.com)  
[www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202](http://www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202)

**Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946**

**Blodgett's FLOOR COVERING**

“Quality and Service Since 1946” Abbey Carpet.

Larry Blodgett Owner

[www.blodgetts.com](http://www.blodgetts.com)

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807

**LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics

Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a **Complimentary Consultation**

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Ste B110, Lafayette, CA  
**925-284-6150 [www.LafayettePT.com](http://www.LafayettePT.com)**

**Fine Jewelry Repairs & Custom Designs**

CG DESIGNS THE DESIGNER JEWELERS

Catherine Dining- Goldsmith  
3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette  
(925) 937-9570 | [www.cgdesignsinc.com](http://www.cgdesignsinc.com)

**Piano Studio**  
*Keys to success*

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan  
**925-323-8969**  
[ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com](mailto:ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com)

1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette

**Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.**

[www.lafayetteautobody.com](http://www.lafayetteautobody.com)

3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 283-3421

**Watch for Shop Orinda February 3**

**Call for Advertising 925.377.0977**

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 3, 2021

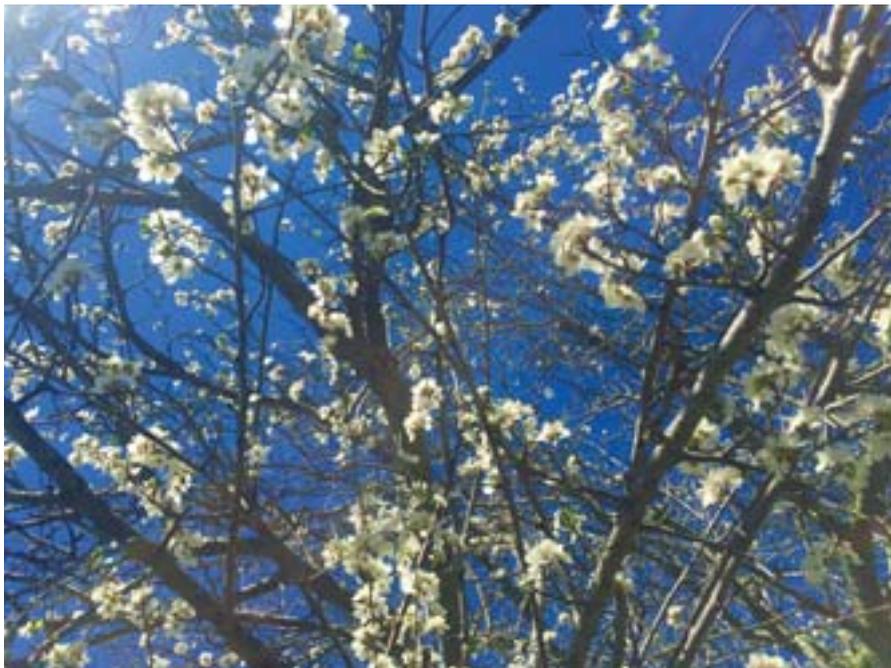


Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Looking out



Plum tree with white blossoms.

**By Cynthia Brian**

*"The heart is like a garden. What seeds will you plant there?" ~ Buddha*

The first vista I witness every morning as I traipse downstairs in my pink fluffy slippers to grab a cup of java invigorates my day. Outside my stairwell window, a tall crimson camellia tree sways in the breeze flanked by a shimmering evergreen flowering pear. Rounding the corner, I look to my right. Through the handmade stained-glass arch, winter and spring commingle. The bright cerise flowers of the peach tree frame the hillside carpeted by sprouting ranunculus, anemones, and hundreds of daffodils in a myriad of colors and textures: yellow on yellow, white and yellow, peach and white, white with white, orange and yellow. Frilly, singles, doubles, clusters ... all with throats singing to the sky. Bare branches of



Columbine blooms alongside the wild strawberry. Photos Cynthia Brian

pistache trees hug the redwoods. Butter-hued Meyer lemons hang like well-placed ornaments. I never fail to be awed by the majesty and beauty regardless of the season.

Looking out to my colorful panoramas was carefully planned many years ago when I planted the first seeds and bulbs. Bringing the outdoors in has always been a priority for me. For over two decades I practiced interior design as a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers. I believe that our landscape is an extension of our homes and as such must reflect our moods, tastes, personalities, and preferential palettes. For me, color is an essential element to my happiness. When I look through a window, I want to see my internal penchants reflected by nature. Looking out is looking in.

... continued on Page D12

**VLATKA BATHGATE**

IF I HAD A BUYER FOR YOUR HOME WOULD YOU SELL IT?

Call me at 925 597 1573

Vlatka@BestLamorindaHomes.com

CalBRE#01390784

**3 Valley View Ln, Orinda**

Private Estate in OCC, Offered at \$2,899,000



[www.3ValleyViewLn.com](http://www.3ValleyViewLn.com)

**229 Hudson Bay, Alameda**

Spectacular lagoon views, Offered at \$1,399,000



[www.229HudsonBay.com](http://www.229HudsonBay.com)

VLATKA CAN HELP YOU WITH BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME.  
[WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM](http://WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM)

©2021 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	9	\$1,005,000	\$2,895,000
MORAGA	7	\$595,000	\$1,825,000
ORINDA	6	\$630,000	\$2,660,500

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**

3399 Angelo Street, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 01-13-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 03-27-15

8 Cherry Hills Court, \$1,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 1707 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 01-13-21

725 Los Palos Drive, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 01-19-21,  
Previous Sale: \$265,000, 05-01-87

946 Oak View Circle, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 01-15-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,032,500, 11-13-18

1698 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 4021 SqFt, 2018 YrBl, 01-14-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,237,500, 07-21-16

30 Southampton Place, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 01-15-21

3370 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4069 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 01-08-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,975,000, 08-06-15

1207 Woodborough Road, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2934 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 01-08-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,305,100, 04-09-15

3342 Woodview Court, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2168 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 01-11-21,  
Previous Sale: \$290,000, 04-01-88

**MORAGA**

315 Constance Place, \$1,815,000, 4 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 01-15-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 08-25-18

789 Country Club Drive, \$1,166,500, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 01-11-21

78 Greenfield Drive, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2244 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 01-22-21,  
Previous Sale: \$864,000, 06-07-04

2 Magee Court, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2920 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 01-08-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 05-21-14

651 Moraga Road #10, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 01-08-21,  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 09-19-18

1900 School Street, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 01-11-21,  
Previous Sale: \$369,000, 09-01-88

37 Sullivan Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 01-13-21

**ORINDA**

108 Casa Vieja Place, \$1,765,000, 5 Bdrms, 3085 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 01-15-21

8 Frogs Leap Way, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3316 SqFt, 2014 YrBl, 01-19-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 09-18-15

245 Ivy Place, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 1759 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 01-08-21

12 Paintbrush Lane, \$2,660,500, 5 Bdrms, 4109 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 01-13-21,  
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 02-09-18

120 Spring Road, \$1,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 01-07-21,  
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 06-19-07

8 Wildwood Road, \$630,000, 4 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 01-07-21,  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 12-01-91

**valor** THE ORIGINAL  
RADIANT GAS FIREPLACE

**Top Notch Energy**

23 Dutton Ave  
San Leandro

John Notch owner  
Cell 510-703-6956

**Call for appointment**



# DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP



WWW.DUDUM.COM



ADAM HAMALIAN



925.708.5630  
DRE# 01917597

CHERYL HATA



510.912.5882  
DRE# 013859346

JANE SMITH



925.998.1914  
DRE# 01476506

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884  
DRE# 02047712

KAAREN BRICKMAN



925.351.5049  
DRE# 01932119

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093  
DRE# 01478540



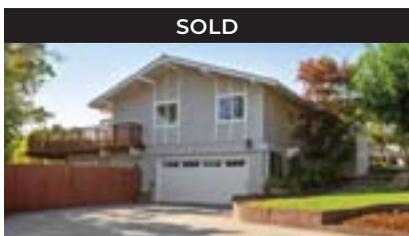
NEW CONSTRUCTION

9 CONTEMPORARY HOMES IN LAFAYETTE  
CALL FOR DETAILS  
MARY PISCITELLI | 925.765.9095



PENDING

20 SNOW COURT, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$1,999,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.708.5630



SOLD

29 KAZAR COURT, MORAGA  
SOLD FOR \$1,620,000  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

330 MILLER COURT, ORINDA  
SOLD FOR \$3,415,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



LORI LEGLER



925.286.1244  
DRE# 00805732

MARY PISCITELLI



925.765.9095  
DRE# 01426129

MATT MCLEOD



925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

PAMELA & DON COLOMBANA



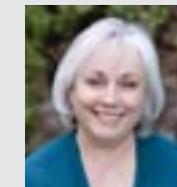
925.878.8047  
DRE# 01979180/01979181

RUTH EDDY



925.788.5449  
DRE# 01313819

SHERRY HUTCHENS



925.212.7617  
DRE# 01320608

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851  
DRE# 01970768

VALERIE DURANTINI



415.999.6116  
DRE# 01376796



COMING SOON

MONARCH RIDGE, WALNUT CREEK  
LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS!  
LISA TICHENOR | 925.285.1093



PENDING

920 HAWTHORN DRIVE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000  
TINA FRECHMAN | 925.925.0851



SOLD

3305 BERTA LANE, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$1,477,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.708.5630



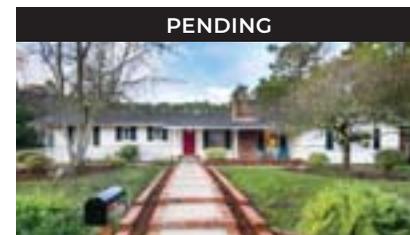
SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

2043 MOHAWK DRIVE, PLEASANT HILL  
SOLD FOR \$1,555,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



PENDING

146 CAMINO SOBRANTE, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$2,750,000  
CHERYL HATA / LORI LEGLER | 510.912.5882



PENDING

268 SCOFIELD DRIVE, MORAGA  
OFFERED AT \$1,399,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.708.5630



SOLD

963 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$1,175,000  
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

651 MORAGA ROAD, MORAGA  
SOLD FOR \$525,000  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500

BRYAN HURLBUT



925.383.5500  
DRE# 01347508

CHRISTINA LINEZO



415.425.3085  
DRE# 01964989

JOHN FONDNAZIO



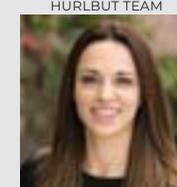
925.817.9053  
DRE# 01938194

JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500  
DRE# 01290985

LAUREN DEAL  
HURLBUT TEAM



925.876.4671  
DRE#02060294



## Mending fences



Large postholes are needed for sturdy fence post installation.



Photos Jim Hurley

### By Jim Hurley

To paraphrase Johnny Cash, “Because you’re mine, I fence the line.” If you are building a new fence or replacing an old one on a property shared with a neighbor it would be wise to have a surveyor come and mark the property line from corner to corner. Your neighbor should be willing to share the expense of the new fence. Talk to your neighbor before you start and decide on the style of fence you want and how to split the cost. If you and your neighbor strongly disagree, California has laws regarding fences between properties, but let us hope it does not come to that.

After building several miles of fence in my time, I have come to this conclusion: Hire a fencing company for long lengths of fence. They will give you a fixed bid (get two or three bids, if you like to negotiate). They can bid low because they hire cheaper labor, get their materials at bulk rates, and are motivated to get the job done quickly. If you have a small repair or a short span to replace, then call a handyman service. The fencing contractors will bid high on little jobs to cover their overhead and a handyman might charge by the hour. If you are feeling

vigorous and enjoy digging postholes, the DIY route is your option.

Use stakes and a sturdy string line to mark a straight fence line. The fence posts should be at equal intervals whenever possible.

Make your design decisions before you start. Your first option is to copy the fence nearest the one you are building for continuity, considering cost, availability, design esthetic, and your neighbors. If you do not care for that style, Google “fence images” to find a style you like. There are a large variety of fence materials.

Digging postholes can be a challenge. I just spent four hours pounding out four postholes for my new replacement fence. The original fence was built in 1974 and from the look of things, it was never replaced. Instead, whenever the old posts rotted out, the owners would attach another post next to it, called “sistering,” which is like putting a splint on a broken limb. At this point, our fence is no longer a candidate for patching and replacing a few posts. So, I was digging out lots of old concrete to put in new posts.

The first tool you need to dig a posthole is a clamshell digger. But the most valuable tool for digging a posthole is a digging bar. A steel digging bar is like an eight-pound pick in a

straight line. My favorite (yes, I have several) has a point on one end and a chisel wedge on the other. The clamshells are excellent for pulling dirt out of the posthole, but they are not strong enough to break concrete. The digging bar is your best friend for loosening hardpan soil and breaking up old fence post concrete.

The digging bar technique takes a little practice; you lift the bar just slightly over the hole and pitch it down, then give the bar a wiggle from side to side. Let the weight of the bar do the work. Use the bar to loosen soil in the hole and then use the clamshells to clean the loose soil out.

To remove old concrete, use your digging bar to attack the corners of the square opening the rotted post left behind. If you are lucky the block will split at the corners and you can break up whole sections to pull out in big chunks.

There are several schools of thought on setting the perfect fence post. I have tried them all with varied results. Pick a method that you are comfortable with and do not spend too much time worrying about it. Just make sure it is in line with the other posts and level.

If you have the luxury to choose a time, the best time of year for digging is in spring. The ground should be soft but not too wet and the air will be cool. There are some who recommend soaking the area with water prior to digging, but I prefer to avoid slogging through the resulting mud. Also, the Lamorinda area soil has a high clay content and sticks to the clamshells when wet. You will find yourself fighting to get wet, sticky mud off the diggers with every scoop.

With the right tools and favorable weather, building your own fence can be satisfying exercise with a visible reward. With perseverance and perspiration, your new fence will provide a solid line on your property for years to come.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25 years of experience in residential repairs. Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.





42 Camino Lenada, Orinda



3 bd | 2 ba | 1601 sqft | .50 ac | \$1,399,000

Enjoy a classic home set w/in the convenient & popular enclave of properties near the Village & elementary school. The private, tranquil lot framed in lush foliage adds to the charming home of its era providing nature at your doorstep.



**CLARK THOMPSON**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES  
CALBRE# 00903367

Office: 925-998-7898 | [ct@clarkthompson.com](mailto:ct@clarkthompson.com)  
[www.clarkthompson.com](http://www.clarkthompson.com)



COMING SOON TO ORINDA

# Modern California Rancher



**89 Tarry Lane**

4 BD | 3.5 BA | 2429 SF | 0.78 AC

Contact us for details.



**EMILY  
ESTRADA**  
REAL ESTATE

[emily.estrada@compass.com](mailto:emily.estrada@compass.com)  
925.708.8116 | DRE 01942438

**finolafellner**  
REAL ESTATE

[finola.fellner@compass.com](mailto:finola.fellner@compass.com)  
925.890.7807 | DRE 01428834



**COMPASS**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.





# *This 'urban suburban' home* **IS SIMPLY THE BEST**



## *65 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda*

Fabulous turn key, home with attention to the environment, detail & functionality in an equally fabulous Glorietta, Orinda location. This Modern Industrial home with high ceilings, clean lines, oversized custom windows, and perfectly designed, thoughtful flow feels and lives much bigger than its said 2242 square feet and is quite simply THE BEST! Open the doors, unpack and you're set!

*Call for price*

<b>4</b> <i>Bed</i>	<b>2.5</b> <i>Bath</i>	<b>.3</b> <i>Acre</i>
<b>±2,242</b> <i>Sq ft</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Car Garage</i>	<b>100%</b> <i>Awesome</i>

**Rebuilt and Remarkable in the heart of Orinda**

Amy Rose Smith  
Village Associates  
925.212.3897  
amy@amyrosesmith.com  
www.amyrosesmith.com  
CalBRE: #01855959



FINDING THE *Right* FIT



**AMYROSESMITH**

villageassociates.com | @villageassociates



925.254.0505 | **It's Village. Of Course.**



**YOUR CB ORINDA REALTORS:**

LAURA ABRAMS  
 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  
 JOEL SHEIMAN  
 MELANIE SNOW  
 TOM STACK  
 TED STREETER  
 BO SULLIVAN  
 NORLA TORRES-TURNEY  
 LINDA VAN DRENT  
 THERESA WANG  
 GREG WATKINS  
 VAL COOK- WATKINS  
 JERRY WENDT  
 SCOTT WINBURNE  
 FRANK WOODWARD  
 JUNE YOUNG  
 ANA ZIMMANK



**Orinda**

**20 Hacienda Circle \$3,825,000**

6 Beds/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**

**550 Orindawoods \$2,950,000**

5+ BD/5.5BA, 5775 sq ft. Gated private estate on 4.59 lot w/Orindawoods amenities include tennis, pool and BART shuttle.  
 Soraya Golesorkhi  
 925-808-8390  
 sg@soraya4homes.com Lic#0177173



**Orinda**

**200 Hall Drive \$2,595,000**

Privacy and security in your own 5-acre county estate  
 Yan Heim  
 Yanheim.com  
 510-499-709  
 Lic #01965925



**Orinda**

**2 Camino Del Cielo \$2,100,000**

4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths, 4083 sq. ft  
 Flat .87 ac panoramic view lot, pool and hot tub  
 Melanie Snow  
 925-360-0344  
 www.2camino.com Lic #0878893



**Orinda**

**56 Camino Del Diablo \$1,700,000appx**

One of the original DeLaveaga homes on magical .73-acre mostly flat lot. Delightful property!  
 Laura Abrams  
 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382



**Orinda**

**40 Camino Del Diablo \$1,585,000**

Fabulous Views and flat areas for play and entertaining! Move right in.  
 Laura Abrams  
 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382



**Lafayette**

**1201 Cambridge \$3,195,000**

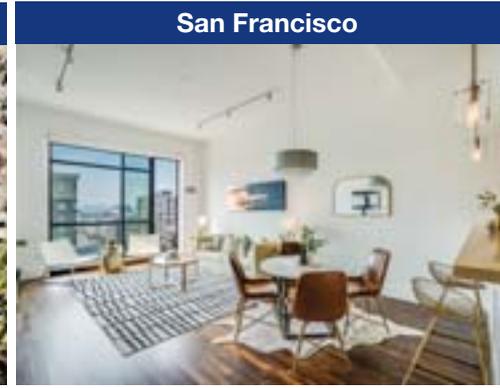
4 Beds/ 3 Baths. Happy Valley Elegance including an extra 600 sq ft Guest Cottage  
 Melanie Snow  
 925-360-0344  
 www.1201cambridge.com Lic #0878893



**Oakland**

**5901 San Pablo Ave. \$929,000**

Charming 3 Bedroom/1Bath Single Family, 1208 sq. ft with yard!  
 Christine Mason  
 925-900-5288  
 www.christinemason.me Lic #02050542



**San Francisco**

**818 Van Ness Ave #804 \$999,999**

Penthouse w/City Views. Building offers roof-top terrace entertaining space.  
 Yan Heim  
 Yanheim.com  
 510-499-709  
 Lic #01965925

# finolafellner

REAL ESTATE



COMPASS

finola.fellner@compass.com  
925.890.7807 | DRE 01428834

## Gorgeous Traditional Lafayette Home

2920 WINDTREE COURT  
4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,750 SF | 1.09 AC  
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.





## NEW LISTING!

1204 Larch Avenue, Moraga

\$1,575,000

1204larch.com



## Recently Sold

48 Charles Hill Road  
Orinda



SOLD \$3,700,000

513 Silverado Drive  
Lafayette



SOLD \$1,875,000

3337 Walnut Lane  
Lafayette



SOLD \$1,785,000

3951 Paseo Grande  
Moraga



SOLD \$1,665,000



**Terri Bates Walker**

Broker | J.D.

510.282.4420

terri@terribateswalker.com

terribateswalker.com

Follow me on:

DRE 01330081

**COMPASS**





## Just Listed: The Jewel of Rossmoor



### 2 Bedroom | Den | Family Room | Formal Dining

Showplace home overlooking the picturesque ponds of exclusive Lakeshire. Stunning Bridgewater model--largest and most coveted Lakeshire floor plan--has been exquisitely renovated throughout with state of the art kitchen and spa-like bathrooms. Enjoy serene water views in this premier setting combining ultimate tranquility with the convenience of easy proximity to fitness center, pool, club house, golf course, theatre, and all the Rossmoor amenities.

**\$2,235,000**

### PLUS COMING SOON:

Fabulous 3900 sq ft Lafayette Trail neighborhood custom home--\$2,195,000  
Orinda nearly new single family close to town (great investment!)--\$1,395,000  
Turnkey one level in Lafayettes's exclusive Woodbury Garden Flats--\$1,579,000

### Presented By THE LINDA FRIEDMAN TEAM

Leading Lamorinda Broker Since 1990



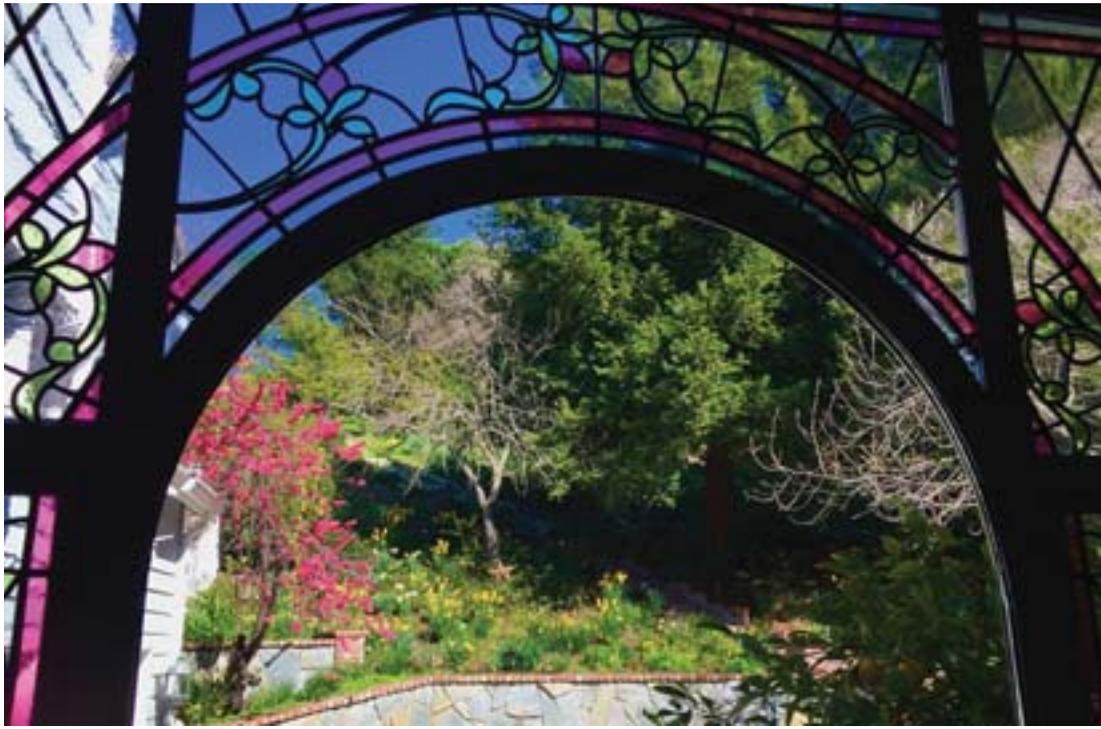
**LINDA FRIEDMAN,  
BROKER, JD**

Direct: 925.899.2336  
linda@lindafriedman.com  
DRE# 00521002

Assisted By  
**PEGGY HARMATZ,  
REALTOR, MBA**

Direct: 925.899.6321  
peggy@lindafriedman.com  
DRE# 01200791





Looking out the window to flowering pear and camellia tree.



Perennial chartreuse Lenten rose (hellebore) is deer-resistant and water-wise.

## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### Looking out

... continued from Page D1

With less than three weeks to go before the vernal equinox, this is an auspicious time to contemplate how we want to orient our window views for the future. When you look out your windows, what do you want to see? Do you want flowering or fruiting trees? Do you want a monochromatic design? Are you like me and want to luxuriate in color? Are bulbs the surprise you anticipate yearly, or do you prefer planting annuals and perennials?

My garden is abloom with pear, peach, and plum trees. Orange, tangerine, tangelo, lemon and lime trees are filled with ripening fruit. Daffodils blanket the landscape, tulips are beginning to pop, columbine, wild strawberry, and vinca minor are flush with flowers. I couldn't finish pruning all my rose bushes because so many were still budding. Nature orchestrates a steady stream of amazement.

Although the nights are still cool, the days are warming allowing the soil temperatures to rise. Weeds are rapidly sprouting, and the ground can be worked in preparation for seeding and planting. Read garden catalogs or books for ideas on how to design spaces that will offer you years of enjoyment. I'm preparing beds in full sun where I'll scatter seeds of Lauren's dark grape poppies. Poppies can handle frost and bloom best when started in early spring. These seedlings will emerge within 14 days. The flowers will boast four-to-five inch chalice-shaped flowers in a showy port wine hue and they will self-sow for future enjoyment.

Another favorite perennial plant that I'm adding to my garden is the Lenten rose, or hellebore. These plants that feature chartreuse, white, pink, and purple flowers with evergreen foliage are hummingbird friendly, deer-resistant and water-wise. They thrive in part sun to full shade and are hardy to minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

What will you plant in your spring garden as you look out?



**SORAYA GOLESORKHI**  
REALTOR®



**NEW LISTING**

**550 ORINDAWOODS DRIVE, ORINDA**

Grand gated estate in the coveted Orindawoods neighborhood. 5+BR/ 5.5 BA, 5,775 sq. ft. on 4.86 acres. This super "Smart house" has an excellent floorplan with many fabulous indoor and outdoor spaces and views! Great for quarantining and entertaining! Spacious rooms with plenty of work from home and study from home areas. Delightful, bright open concept kitchen w/ window seat, two huge pantries, a fireplace and family room which open to a charming outdoor dining spot reminiscent of the wine country. Enjoy the cozy patio with modern gas firepit and built-in seating area, great for roasting marshmallows any night of the week. The large flat yard and two play structures offer plenty of stay-at-home entertainment for the kids. This "teched-out" home is equipped with technology that allows you to easily control the security system, lights, locks and watering system from your phone. Orindawoods HOA amenities include tennis, pool and BART shuttle! Top Orinda schools & top commute location!



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

COLDWELL BANKER  
5 Moraga Way, Orinda



**VANGUARD PROPERTIES**

**EAST BAY TOP PRODUCER 2020**



CONGRATULATIONS,  
**BEN OLSEN**  
925.381.2151  
TheOlsenTeam.com

GET TO KNOW OUR GROWING EAST BAY TEAM!

New to Vanguard Properties:



LARRY HERTZ  
925.330.7416



SHIVA JAFARZADEH  
925.876.2290



CHRISTY TONG  
925.330.9937

**RICK MERRITT**  
415.308.6207

**TAMARA SORENSON**  
760.218.8636

**JOY RAYNER**  
408.881.4790

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
**Regional Director Ron Mintz**

925.872.0968 | ron@vanguardproperties.com DRE# 01095341

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM

DRE#01486075



## Cynthia Brian's March Gardening Guide

- **RESTORE** your mental and physical healthy by planting a beautiful vista outside your windows.
  - **FILTER** your indoor air with houseplants. According to NASA, 87% of volatile organic compounds are removed by live plants naturally. Now that is nothing to sneeze over!
  - **RETHINK** the design of your landscape to coincide with your interior spaces.
  - **PULL** weeds as they sprout.
  - **PERUSE** garden catalogs to plan a 2021 victory garden of healthy vegetables and herbs.
  - **FERTILIZE** lawns.
  - **SCATTER** slug and snail bait.
  - **REACH** horticultural heights with a selection of flowering trees and shrubs.
  - **SUPPORT** the Moraga Garden Club's project, Moraga for Monarchs, by helping to install a Monarch Butterfly Habitat and Education Garden at Rancho Laguna Park. Visit [www.moragagardenclub.com](http://www.moragagardenclub.com).
  - **FORCE** branches of crabapple, quince, forsythia, and red bud by placing your tree prunings in a bucket of water in a dark place until the buds swell. Move the branches to a beautiful vase filled with warm water and enjoy the show. Change the water daily and add a few drops of bleach to ward off bacteria.
  - **TRIM** dead foliage from your ornamental grasses using sharp hedge clippers.
  - **PICK** up camellias blossoms that have fallen to the ground. Decaying blooms harbor petal blight.
  - **AERATE** your lawn. The soil is compacted from winter rains and foot traffic. Leave the plugs to add nutrients back into the grass.
  - **SPRINKLE** poppy seeds as spring advances.
- Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



**Pink knotweed (persicaria capitata) is a perennial ground cover with non-stop pink pom pom blooms**



**Daffodils at sunset.** Photos Cynthia Brian



**A glorious David Austin rose, Lady Hamilton, that has bloomed all year.**



**A favorite morning view of a plethora of daffodils and flowers.**



**A LAFAYETTE FAMILY OASIS**

Welcome to a special Happy Valley estate, where staying home never felt so good. This gorgeous gated compound embodies New England-inspired elegance across 1.5 park-like acres and the estate's three buildings.



**Ann Newton Cane**  
**415.999.0253**

a.newtoncane@ggsir.com  
Lic.#02084093

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

Golden Gate

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



**Cynthia Brian under her tangerine tree.**

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](http://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](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD.

Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
[www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

# McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Flowers • Trees • Succulents • Pottery & Fountains  
Benches • Garden Decor • House Plants • Gifts • Jewelry  
Garden Consultation

[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

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

# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



Coming Soon!

### 519 Miner Road

Resort-like 7160 sqft 5 bed/ 5 bath/ 4 half bath custom gated estate built in 2017 by Diamond Construction. **\$8,995,000**

## 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



New Listing!

### 7 Calvin Court

Charming two story 5 bed/ 2.5 bath w/ oversized bedrooms, big grassy area & brick patio. Close to town yet totally peaceful! **\$1,995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 65 Hillcrest Drive

Fabulously rebuilt 4 bed/ 2.5 bath California Rancher in heart of Glorietta in close proximity to 12 years of top schools. **\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 10 Valencia Road

Located in Del Rey neighborhood, this 4 bed + office/ 2.5 bath home has fenced vegetable garden, fire pit & sprawling lawn. **\$1,595,000**

## 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**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

### 6 Diablo Oaks Way

Stunning 5 bed/ 4.5 bath on .9 acre knoll w/ panoramic vistas, private park like yard, & easy proximity to the Trail! **\$2,195,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 1084 Brown Avenue

Single story 3 bed/ 2.5 bath remodel w/ built-in BBQ & patio + grass play area & large patio. Mt Diablo views! **\$1,649,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 1000 Dewing Avenue #307

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath 1568 sqft condo close to downtown Lafayette w/ private patio & in-closet laundry. **\$1,649,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing!

### 1918 Lakeshire Drive

Beautifully renovated 2 bed/ 2.5 bath overlooking lake w/ easy access to pool, gym, clubhouse, & golf course! **\$2,235,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 2672 West Newell Avenue

Single story 4 bed/ 3 bath home in desirable West Newell enclave of Saranap w/ detached storage garage. **\$1,595,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 1771 Poplar Drive

Updated single level 3 bed/ 1 bath home w/ deck, level lawn & gardens near top rated schools. Views of Mt. Diablo! **\$1,050,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Price!

### 2729 Ptarmigan Drive # 1

Rossmoor level-in condo w/ 2 bed/ 2 bath + den. Washer & dryer included. Great location overlooking lawn & redwoods. **\$769,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 150 Sharene Lane # 114

Well maintained first floor 1 bed/ 1 bath condo close to Iron Horse Trail, Walnut Creek Library & public transport. **\$330,000**

## LIVERMORE



New Lot!

### 10 Storybook Lane

Perfect opportunity to build in amazing setting near Mt. Diablo on 8 acre gated parcel w/ room for horses & stable. **\$895,000**

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby

Patricia Battersby

Shannon Conner

Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Claudia Gohler

Dexter Honens II

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Margaret Zucker

facebook.com/VillageAssociates  
twitter.com/villageassoc  
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com) Click on **Sunday Open Homes**

Village

ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392