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Virtual History Talk
"Our 1841 Adobe"

Orinda Historical Society
March 31, 7 - 8pm

Guest Speaker: Kent Long, President of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe

More info - email TalkInfo@OrindaHistory.org



Angora goat Boots is ready to work

Eagle Scout Troop 810 working in the Campolindo Garden

Photos Vera Kochan

Eagle Scouts and Angora goats tend Campolindo Garden

By Vera Kochan

A small patch of land between Campolindo High School's stadium and parking lot has been designated the Campolindo Garden for nearly nine years. Surrounded by a fence, the garden currently contains a small bed of flowers along with six beds of beans, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, beets and kale.

According to project lead Justin Seligman, who teaches video production, art and photography classes, "Quality veggies are shared with students and the community. Veggies that aren't up to snuff are composted or offered to the goats." Although not a crop, the garden also boasts a chicken coop with approximately seven egg-layers.

Normally tended by Campo's Environmental Club with help from the Leadership Club, Seligman

stated, "On Mondays, there would usually be students out here, but it's been difficult with COVID." That's when Walnut Creek's Eagle Scout Troop 810 decided to pitch in and help with path clearing and upgrading the irrigation system. Scout Master Bruce Lezer's troop will earn community service merit badges for their efforts.

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Police make progress after recent spate of robberies



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Plywood, recently painted, covers broken windows following a Feb. 23 robbery at Moraga Ace Hardware and Lumber.

By Sora O'Doherty

Police in Lamorinda have been busy following a recent

have been responsible for several of the incidents. According to Lafayette Police Department Sgt. Charlene Jacquez, a breakthrough resulted in the arrest of the suspect during the commission of another commercial burglary in Sacramento.

The suspect had been identified for a series of commercial burglaries over six days beginning Feb. 17 that included at least nine burglaries, five attempted burglaries and three bicycle thefts. In addition, the suspect is believed to have taken multiple credit cards from the businesses and used them to make fraudulent purchases. The burglaries were linked by a common method, the premises were breached by use of a crowbar.

Jacquez credits diligent citizens, cameras and busi-

ness footage for helping police to identify two suspects. The information developed mostly linked a male suspect to similar crimes in Orinda, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Benicia, Sacramento, and Butte County, operating with the assistance of a local female. The suspect was detained on Feb. 27 but fled on foot. He was captured on March 6 while committing another burglary in Sacramento and is currently in custody in Sacramento County.

The suspect's name is not being released at this time, but it is known that he is from out of state. He is a white male adult in his 30s. The female suspect is a white female in her 30s. Jacquez said it was "definitely very frustrating for businesses going through so much with [the]

pandemic, suffering so much, to be victimized in that way, it was horrible." Jacquez added that the authorities are very pleased to put a stop to the activity and hope to see justice through the judicial system, adding that there is no nexus to the burglary of the Moraga Ace Hardware store when an SUV rammed into its front glass door on Feb. 23.

Lieutenant Brian South of the Moraga Police Department reported that the investigation of that incident is ongoing. Two unidentified masked suspects loaded power tools into a shopping cart and fled the scene. The incident appears to be unrelated to another a day earlier, when rototillers were stolen from the storage area of the nearby Moraga Garden Center.

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Local youth use time during COVID to make a difference in their worlds - Page B1



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Shortened football season begins its six-week run - Page C1



Spring plantings highlight the joys of St. Patrick's Day - Page D1





See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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City formally requests state help with law enforcement on freeway overpass

By Pippa Fisher

City leaders took the next step in their attempt to deal with what they see as the ongoing distractions to traffic by protesters on the overpass in Lafayette by formally requesting help from state agencies.

The council voted unanimously at its March 8 meeting to escalate the situation with a resolution urgently requesting law enforcement on the bridge, to be sent to the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol.

There was no discussion from the council or members of the public at this meeting, however the topic has been before the council earlier in the year,

including at a February meeting, which was also attended by CHP Officer Captain Ben Moser and by Caltrans Region Manager Will Hauke.

Pro-Trump protesters have used the El Curtola Boulevard overpass as a frequent and regular location for demonstrations since August 2020, attracting the attention of the heavy traffic passing underneath on Highway 24 with flags and signs attached to the chain link fence.

In her letter to Caltrans and the CHP, Mayor Susan Candell notes, "We were informed by your representatives that this is in violation of Streets and Highways Code 720-734, yet no action has been taken to correct it and the signs continue to be a

distraction to the motorists."

The demonstration has attracted counter-protesters on occasions, and the Lafayette Police Department has received numerous calls for service. Recently a flag was thrown from the bridge onto the freeway below by a counter-protester.

The challenge enforcing the law in this case is complicated by its being a bridge located in Lafayette but not owned by the city; a bridge owned by Caltrans which is not an enforcement agency, and over a freeway patrolled and under the jurisdiction of the CHP, which says it is not responsible for encroachment issues unless requested from Caltrans.

Complicating the issue still

further is the city's sensitivity to protesters' rights to free speech. "While the city of Lafayette recognizes and respects the First Amendment rights of all protesters, we are increasingly concerned about the safety of the motorists on the highway," said Candell in the letter.

In an email to the city dated March 8 Beth Colombini wrote that her daughters were "violently rear ended under the El Curtola overpass on Highway 24 on Friday, March 5 at 5 p.m. as Trump supporters were protesting." She said that she arrived on scene only to find out there were two accidents in the span of 15 minutes, and while they were talking to the CHP a third accident happened

right in front of them.

In another letter to council Carl Kalauokalani, however, urged caution in addressing the protests. "I ask that you reject the notion that expressing an idea atop a pedestrian walkway be considered anything other than a group of Americans giving voice to their concerns, and that you continue to preserve the right of all to express themselves in similar fashion."

The city has received multiple emails from people both concerned with traffic safety issues and impacts on residents in the neighborhood, as well as from people concerned that the city is trying to silence the protesters' message.

Exciting new public art coming to Lafayette



Renderings showing public art coming soon to the Lennar development.



An example of Aileen Barr's work - tiled steps in San Francisco.

By Pippa Fisher

It takes more than a pandemic to slow the work of the public art committee, it seems, judging by a recent presentation made to the Lafayette City Council highlighting the past year's work and giving a glimpse of future projects coming to the city.

In addition to the many areas of work highlighted in

the presentation, PAC Chair Susan Loria explained that during 2020-21 the committee has worked collaboratively with sponsors on seven new building projects – a 200% increase over the previous year. The art provided by new building projects has high visibility to the public, she noted.

Loria took the council through a series of slides

showing some of those projects. The Lennar Homes site – the three-story, residential and retail project at 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at the intersection of Dolores Road – will have two projects. The first, a large 12-foot tall, conical shaped, stainless steel, laser-etched sculpture, with a low energy LED lighting feature illuminating a pattern of migratory birds will be located

in the public plaza between retail space and a restaurant. Currently final adjustments are being made to the design, which will be subject to PAC approval. It is the work of design team Wowhaus, which has worked on projects in Oakland, Walnut Creek, Seattle and Boston.

The second art project at Lennar will be even more visible, said Loria, with a 200-foot length of colorful, mostly handmade ceramic tile mosaics by artist Aileen Barr on the planters and the staircase that leads to the trail being constructed to eventually run between Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the BART station. The black birds on a blue background featured on the staircase echo the design on the sculpture. Barr is also known for her mosaic work on outdoor staircases in San

Francisco.

On the other end of town, at the intersection of Brown Avenue and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, four art pieces by Joe Bologna will grace the site of the Mill at Brown, featuring two sculptures called Bird Row (brightly colored birds on a ledge), with a further two pieces called Friendly Gathering on Mt. Diablo Boulevard (birds on a utility pole, constructed specifically to keep sightlines clear for traffic).

Lenox Homes, at 210 Lafayette Circle, will be home to a painted steel, 10-foot sculpture called "Flight" by J.P. Long.

Additionally art projects are being considered for several other sites around the city.

... continued on next Page

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Hamlin Nature Park, self-guided audio tours to get public weigh-in



Photo provided

Members of the Hamlin Nature Park Subcommittee walk the area March 7 in preparation for creating self-guided audio tours for the public.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is looking for input on the future park development of a hillside, tree-studded open space, for trails and walking, tucked away right next to homes, alongside St. Mary's Road.

In preparation for creating guidelines that will shape the master plan for the parkland – Hamlin Nature Park – the Parks, Trails and Recreation Department is seeking the public's feedback.

It's been over two years now since the city, with the help of the John Muir Land Trust, acquired the hilly, 19-acre swathe of land that sits between St. Mary's Road and Sweet Drive. The area was formerly known as the "Batwing" property because of its shape, which when mapped out, resembles a flying bat. Its location puts nature trails just steps from neighborhoods.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, The Hamlin Nature Park Subcommittee is working to set up self-guided audio

tours of the property. Members of the committee together with staff toured the site March 7, mapping out the guided tour and preparing walking areas. Currently PT&R Commissioner Lauren Herpich is working with staff to produce audio, waivers and signage for the self-guided tours, with the expectation that the audio tours will be made available to the public March 20 until April 4.

During that timeframe participants will be able to email or mail in their comments for review by the subcommittee in early April.

Lafayette PT&R Director Jonathan Katayanagi says that socially distant guided tours of the Hamlin property by subcommittee members might be conducted if requested. Details on how to request a tour will be sent out with promotion for the self guided property tour.

To be added to an email list to receive notifications about the Hamlin Nature Park residents should email ace@lovelafayette.org

Public art coming to Lafayette

... continued from Page A2

Loria also updated the council on the Town Center/BART pathway project by Kinematics Lab known as the Dandelion project, now on hold awaiting a decision on funding from the County Transportation Authority, delayed due to COVID.

Loria went on to mention an upcoming project that is in fact not public art since it will be on private property on the wall just below Uncle Yu's restaurant – a diversity, equity and inclusion mural by local artist Lara Dutto, proposed by a local nonprofit, to be done in conjunction with young artists from Lamorinda. Loria said there had been considerable excitement and interest about the mural featuring flowers, monarch butterflies, a panther and a dragon, but notes it is prompting the committee to consider guidelines for art on private property that is publicly visible.

Recognizing the need to update and expand its list of preferred artists through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion, as explained in the

staff report, the PAC noted interest from residents in community-based artistic expression in response to current events, including the movement toward social justice and racial equality, as well as the experience of the COVID pandemic. An example of such an installation is the BIPOC rock garden created by Stanley Middle School student Adam Dolberg, currently on loan to the city until September 2022 at the Lafayette Community Center.

Noting that two of the development projects requested a waiver of the public art requirement under the state density bonus application process (with one of those since rescinded), Loria said that waivers do raise some concerns for the PAC, "that as more projects come along and more waivers are taken, it will diminish our ability to bring more art to the city of Lafayette." However the committee welcomes and supports the \$2 million donated from the developers of Lafayette Lane in lieu of public art to the restoration of the Park Theater. "We will only benefit from that," said Loria.

An interactive map on the PAC website can be found at www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/public-art-committee/public-art-map/-fsiteid-1



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, April 5, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Council provides direction to staff regarding Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative

By Vera Kochan

The sixth cycle Housing Element deadline is December 2022. Also on the table are an Environmental Impact Report, a re-zoning of the Bollinger Valley Study Area, a General Plan update, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation and compliance with new state laws.

A Housing Element provides an analysis of a community's housing needs for all income levels, and a strategic response to provide for those housing needs.

According to a staff report presented by Planning Director Afshan Hamid during the March 10 town council meeting, the town's RHNA

increased from 229 new housing units for the fifth cycle to 1,118 new housing units for the sixth cycle.

New housing legislation, over the past four years, has made it increasingly easier for developers to secure housing projects without interference from local governments. This includes: Mandatory Accessory Dwelling Units laws and amendments; Senate Bill 743 (transportation demand based on Vehicle Miles Traveled); Housing Affordability Act (allows the state to limit the ability of local government to restrict new housing); Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (designates sites for affordable housing in high opportunity

areas and decreases segregation); Senate Bill 330 (speeds up the approval process for housing developments); and Senate Bill 35 (ensures access to affordable housing and authorizes streamlined multi-family housing developments that involve very low to moderate income households).

Beginning in 1969, California has required its cities to comply with the RHNA by determining how many new homes must be built and how affordable they should be within an eight-year period. The period is called a cycle, hence the upcoming moniker – Sixth Cycle, which would cover the period of 2023-31.

The regional agency, Association of Bay Area Govern-

ments, determines through data and analysis what recommendations to make to the state regarding the Bay Area's housing needs.

In order to meet its Sixth Cycle requirements, the town staff has created a timeline of events in order to adopt the housing element by the state deadline of January 2023. The tentative schedule is: a Request for Proposals (March 2021); award a Consultant Agreement (May/June 2021); begin Housing Element and Bollinger Valley Re-zone Project (Summer 2021); Public Outreach (throughout 2022); Planning Commission and Town Council Study Sessions (throughout 2022); draft Environmental Impact Report

(Summer 2022); Planning Commission recommendation (November 2022); Town Council Adoption of Housing Element (December 2022); final submittal of Housing Element to California Department of Housing and Community Development (January 2023); begin Re-zone and General Plan update (Winter 2023); complete Re-zone (Summer 2023); and complete General Plan update (Winter 2024).

Moraga's council members were overall pleased with the aspects of the staff timeline and encouraged the planning department to stay the course.

Town to erect fence around Lamorinda Skatepark due to non-compliance of rules and vandalism

By Vera Kochan

What began as a great place for skate boarders of all ages to hang out and hone their craft has turned into a headache for the town of Moraga.

Since opening in 2003, through a joint funding effort with Orinda and Lafayette, the facility located in the Moraga Commons Park has seen a steady increase in problems. According to a staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt and Moraga Police

Chief Jon King, "This is largely due to the inability of the town to effectively 'close' and secure the skatepark which is sometimes necessary due to significant occurrences of vandalism, need to complete routine maintenance, inappropriate conduct by users including bullying, fighting, drug use, and failure to obey safety rules and ordinances."

More so within the past year, the town and the County Health Department have received a steady stream of complaints from residents regarding non-compliance of COVID regulations (lack of

mask-wearing and social distancing). Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg acknowledged that the skatepark has seen ongoing problems for several years prior to the pandemic.

MPD has responded to many of the behavioral complaints, only to have the activities resume once officers have left the premises. The police have been hesitant to pursue punitive measures at the risk of creating a hostile relationship with the mostly juvenile offenders. The constant monitoring of the skatepark has become less



Image provided

Aerial view of proposed perimeter skatepark fence

cost-efficient and takes police away from focusing on overall public safety and crime.

During the March 10 town council presentation, King stated, "My officers were met with such language, that I'm not going to repeat it in this public forum, by young teenagers who were using the park and took offense to the fact that the police officers were there, including me, trying to enforce the safety rules and what have you."

Town staff has looked into less drastic measures before coming up with the final permanent fence option. The possibility of a temporary chain link fence was explored. While it would close the skatepark, its design would not effectively keep users out, and it would cost approximately \$7,000 to install, not to mention mounting labor costs required to set up and remove a temporary fence on a regular basis.

Another option was to have a non-sworn staff person onsite serving as a "monitor." However, given the hostile reception MPD has received at the skatepark, the idea was rejected. Additionally, the facility is open daily and may require monitoring for months or years to come making it cost-prohibitive. Liability concerns to the town are also an issue given that the facility would be staffed by a town employee and fall into the category of childcare.

After researching skateparks in Concord, San Ramon and Walnut Creek staff has determined that the fencing would fall under three main categories: chain link, ornamental iron and architectural welded iron. Brandt and King recom-

mended the installation of a permanent 6-foot-tall fence, constructed of ornamental iron with two lockable access gates for users to enter and exit the facility. Because the Lamorinda Skatepark is set into a hillside, style options were limited. The proposed fence will compliment the existing 4-foot-tall fence currently situated along the All-Access Playground. It will be set back approximately 30 feet from Moraga Road.

The proposed fence would be locked as needed to control vandalism, safety, compliance issues or during maintenance. Typical closure durations could last between one to three days with signs posted explaining the reason why. It is hoped that these informational postings would encourage well-behaved skatepark users and offenders alike to understand and hold each other accountable for the closures. "Nobody wants a fence," said Brandt, "but everyone's hoping for a solution."

The town council approved the skatepark fence installation with a 3-2 vote, with Council Member Renata Sos and Council Member David Stromberg voting no.

The project is expected to take 90 days to complete at a cost of \$56,490. An appropriation was made by the town council during Fiscal Year 2020-21 Mid-year Budget Adjustments into Fund 750 – Asset Replacement for the Skatepark Fence Project – pending approval (\$48,000). The Moraga Parks Foundation will donate \$9,000 to help complete the project.

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Town council votes for an earlier meeting start time

By Vera Kochan

After years of an official start time of 7 p.m. for the Moraga Town Council regular meetings, members voted unanimously to approve an earlier 6:30 p.m. start time during its March 10 session. The purpose of the move is to ensure that items of importance are heard earlier

in the evening.

The meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Council Chambers located at 335 Rheem Blvd., Moraga (when not under COVID social distancing mandates). The public may currently view the meetings live on television or on the internet.

In addition to changing

the start time, meetings – unless otherwise adjourned – will now be automatically adjourned at 10:30 p.m. rather than 11 p.m. The council could extend the automatic adjournment to 11 p.m., if necessary, through a majority vote. A further adjournment to postpone beyond 11 p.m. would require a unanimous consent not

later than a specified time.

The new meeting time will take effect 30 days after

adoption or when the town council holds its scheduled April 14 meeting.



Town Council Wednesday, March 24 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings :
Special Board Meeting Tuesday, April 13, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted in the midst of COVID



Photo Vera Kochan

Signs of spring as daffodils bloom along Moraga Way in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley was determined to

honor its annual tradition of planting daffodil bulbs in winter, even in the middle of COVID mandates. However, the project is usually done

with a large group of volunteers. This was where human ingenuity stepped in.

This year's tribute to spring can now be seen at the intersection of Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Lane on the Moraga Country Club side of the road. Kiwanis Secretary Sam Sperry was tasked with creating a safe and socially distant environment for the team of helpers. Unfortunately, invitations to participate had to be withdrawn for the Moraga Garden Club and Boy Scout Troop 212 in order to limit the planters to family groups.

Sperry marked off three planting areas with stakes and yellow tape making sure they were no closer than six feet apart. Each planting station had separate bottled water for each participant along with hand sanitizer and paper tow-

els. Additionally, he used a temporal thermometer to take each volunteer's temperature upon arrival and just prior to planting. "I also asked each participant to confirm upon arrival that he/she was not experiencing any symptoms of illness and had not been advised of having been around anyone who tested positive for COVID," he said. "I also had each of them sign a legal instrument I prepared, which I entitled a 'Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk', to protect our club and its affiliated foundation from any liability for COVID-related claims stemming from their participation; and of course each participant was required to wear a mask." Sperry himself made certain to keep a minimum of six feet away from the workers while he doled out a steady supply of daffodil

bulbs.

"I structured the planting work in two shifts of two hours each," explained Sperry. "One from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the other from 1 to 3 p.m., thereby honoring the recommendation that 'outdoor gatherings' be limited to two hours. For each shift, I limited participation to no more than three households."

The morning shift included Kiwanis member Karl Davis, his wife and three children, who at the end of two hours had planted an astounding 700 bulbs. The afternoon shift had three Club members and their spouses, John and Darlene Haffner, Steve and Peggy Woehleke, and Leslie Engler with her husband Ethan Bortman. These three teams planted an equally impressive 600 bulbs in two hours.

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 www.cityoforinda.org
 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
 www.orindaassociation.org

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:

Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

Regular Meeting:

TBA

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

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Orinda downtown development swings toward greater housing density, taller buildings

By Sora O'Doherty

Downtown development continues to be a focus of Orinda government, and the city council received an update on March 2, which was followed by another on March 16, and then, perhaps, action in April. Planning Director Drummond Buckley told the council that the city is unlikely to add housing in an amount sufficient to bring substantial new retail to downtown Orinda, but yet must consider it in order to meet state demands that cities provide for housing. Outgoing city manager Steve Salomon, retiring next month, said that the elephant in the downtown planning room is the juggernaut in Sacramento. State government continues, and will continue, in Salomon's opinion, to demand that cities provide for more housing and if they fail to do so, the cities run the risk of losing land use control to the state.

"We know we have to meet RHNA requirements, we want to improve downtown; how do we fit these together?" mused Buckley, concluding, "If we don't plan carefully, it could be a real mess."

Jason Moody, the city consultant from Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. presented to the council the Economic Analysis for the Orinda Downtown Precise Plan containing economic analysis, build-out assumptions, and potential building height increases. He explained that because Orinda is mostly built out now, development would have to occur on already developed parcels, and the cost of land acquisition and assembly is a major factor.

"You need more density than you already have to incentivize development, but higher density is likely to be infeasible without the density bonus," he told the council, "except the Masonic Cen-

ter which is likely feasible without density bonus." Although increased density would likely not increase the total amount of retail, Moody thought that it might result in better retail, increased assessed values, and increased retail sales in the downtown area.

In public comments, Nick Waranoff branded the city council as "absolutely heartless" to existing businesses and urged it to defund the downtown development process. Charles Porges agreed with Waranoff, but Matt Fogerty said, "I welcome redevelopment of downtown and having higher density." Forgarty said he has lived in Orinda for 20 years and believes that higher density housing and more retail will improve downtown.

In council discussion, Council Member Inga Miller described downtown development as a complicated process. "We need to look at the numbers suggested. We

have a huge RHNA number to accommodate," she said, that caused her to be "increasingly concerned that we don't lose having restaurants in our community, or losing a grocery store. I would hate to see where we are forced to get rid of retail because we have to accommodate housing for people to work in San Francisco.

"We don't need an Apple store," she concluded, "but you should at least be able to buy an apple in Orinda!"

Vice Mayor Dennis Fay questioned how Orinda can protect existing businesses.

Mayor Amy Worth commented that Proposition 19, which limits tax benefits for certain transfers of real property between family members, will have a huge impact on this. Costs to maintain the buildings under Proposition 13 have been very low. Any property that was going to be transferred had to be transferred by Jan. 15.

Miramonte students return to city council to urge ban on Styrofoam

By Sora O'Doherty

After clarifying that the Contra Costa County ban on Styrofoam takeout food containers only applies to the unincorporated areas of the county, a group of students intent on banning such containers in Orinda returned to ask the city council again to consider such a ban. In addition to the county ban, 10 cities in the county have also instituted such bans.

Mayor Amy Worth asked to meet with members of the student group via Zoom, and frequent contributor to the public forum, Nick Waranoff, a retired attorney, volunteered to help the students draft a proposed ordinance for the council.

The group of students from Miramonte High School addressed the city council on various aspects of the problem. Devon Bradley talked about the county ordinance, and the other 10 cities in the county that have already

banned polystyrene food containers, commonly called by the trade name, Styrofoam.

The Miramonte Environmental Club has been running a community-funded project launched last July to promote environmental sustainability and help restaurants during the pandemic. Since restaurants have been conducting their business solely through takeout, they are having to purchase more takeout supplies and most of these materials are made from plastic. The group has been donating compostable takeout supplies to restaurants since July, and has raised over \$1,100 dollars so far.

Sheng Shu, who read from the CCC Ordinance, suggested that the county legislation can be used as inspiration for Orinda and said that the students were working hard on draft legislation that should be ready by the next city council meeting.

Leo Cardozo informed the council of the results of an informal survey conducted by the students on Feb. 6 when they were delivering environmentally friendly food packaging to 21 restaurants in Orinda. Of the 21 restaurants surveyed, only four reported that they are still using Styrofoam. Those four restaurants are Europa, Baja Cali, Serika, and Sushi Island. Cardozo said that there might be a couple more, but the actual number of restaurants affected by the ban would be small because most have already stopped using Styrofoam takeout material.

Joseph Manio talked about how to implement the ban and incentivize compliance. He told the council that the project can supply local restaurants with compostable containers through the rest of the pandemic, having recently obtained support from Sustainable Lafayette.

Miramonte sophomore Alexis DeBusschere, the granddaughter of Dan DeBusschere, a frequent attendee at city council meetings, informed the council that Styrofoam is not recyclable anywhere around the world, and talked about the deleterious effects of the material, which winds up being ingested by fish and humans.

Worth explained that the council could hear comments but could not legally discuss the issue until it is placed on a city council agenda, but she invited the students to arrange to meet with her in a Zoom meeting.

Waranoff asked the students to be sure to include food trucks operating in Orinda in the draft proposed ordinance because, he said, the city has already given them a very large advantage over brick and mortar restaurants.

More information on the student project, is available at heartorinda.org.

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Orinda launches all-email Poul Anderson writing contest



By Sora O'Doherty

The Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest is now open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. The contest is run by the Friends of the Orinda Library and is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a friend to the community for 40 years. For the first time this year, entries

will be accepted by email only, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As in the past, there are four categories: Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may

submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 16 at noon.

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of local judges who are involved professionally in reading, writing or publishing. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$500 prizes at the close of this school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

All electronic submissions must be Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments. No Google Doc or Dropbox links will be accepted. Electronic submissions must be emailed to contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org

More information is available of the Friends of the Orinda Library website, <http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org>

Lamorinda Idol contestants undeterred by pandemic

By Sora O'Doherty

The Lamorinda Arts Council hosted a live, online event March 14 to announce the winners of the latest Lamorinda Idol contest. Finalists in categories including kindergarten through second grade, third through fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade and high school were named by the Lamorinda Arts Council in January. There were over 90 entries, some individuals, some groups, competing as soloists or groups. Videos of competition final perfor-

mances were then made available on YouTube. Public voting was open until March 10.

The audience award is given to the participant who is not a category winner but had the highest number of public votes, adjusted for category size and number of total category votes. Winners were selected by a panel of three judges, and will receive cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$400.

The Lamorinda Idol event, chaired by Steve Harwood, was open for the first time to all students in Contra Costa

County and was judged by "a total of eight judges," according to Harwood, "all with musical backgrounds; the judges have been assigned three to a category; and the combined votes of the three judges determined the finalists in each category."

Available videos include full performances, as well as short compilation videos with a 30-second clip of each singer in each category. Videos of the finalists can be viewed at <https://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol-winter-finalists/> ... continued on next Page



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Lamorinda Idol contestants

... continued from Page A6

According to Harwood, this is the 15th edition of Lamorinda Idol, which started in 2006. "There has been a tremendous response from the very beginning," Harwood said. He explained that for the virtual contest, "absolutely wonderful singers provided well over 100 audition tapes,

from which we selected finalists from seven categories. Esteemed judges from the professional ranks as well as the public selected the winners. The public cast 2,700 votes. Harwood believes that the contest filled a gap for the kids during the pandemic because singing had to be curtailed in the schools. In addition to developing their singing skills with workshops

with Rena Wilson, co-founder of performing academy headquartered in Lafayette, Harwood said participants had the opportunity to learn a new skill, have a lot of fun, and they all turned out to be video makers. Harwood found that the competition was both a fun and a growth activity for the participants and a gift to the community.

And the winners are ...

- K-2 Solo: Jessica Yu
- 3-5 Solo: Anna Tanner
- K-5 Group: Power of Two
Cara Impallomeni
Miranda Klein
- 6-8 Group: Crescendo Voices
Curtis Resnick
Alliana Lili Yang
- 9-12 Group: Mina & Jaden
Mina Lim
Jaden Maspaitella
- 6-8 Solo: Isabelle Porcella
- 9-12 Solo: Sabrina Hernandez
- Audience Award: Isabella Mucha



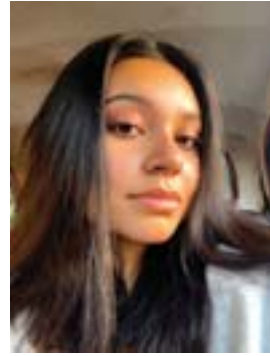
Jessica Yu



Anna Tanner



Isabelle Porcella



Sabrina Hernandez



Isabella Mucha



Cara Impallomeni and Miranda Klein



Alliana Lili Yang and Curtis Resnick

Mina Lim and Jaden Maspaitella



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Lamorinda CERT steps up to help stop pandemic



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Lamorinda CERT Registrar Julie Luckenbach hands information to someone who just received a COVID-19 vaccination at the Hercules vaccination site.

By Sora O'Doherty

Not limited to helping in disasters within Lamorinda, volunteers from Lamorinda CERT, the Citizens' Emergency Response Team, have been stepping up to help run a vaccination clinic in Hercules. The drive-through clinic, located at the Valley Bible Church in Hercules, started out administering 500 vaccinations per day, according to

Lamorinda CERT Registrar Julie Luckenbach, but quickly discovered that they could do more, and the rate rose to 1,000 per day.

The well-organized operation, hosted by the fire service, is one of three being held in west county (Hercules), east county (Brentwood) and south county (San Ramon) covering the entire county fire district. The sites are being staffed by a wide

variety of fire and Sheriff's personnel, as well as volunteer groups such as CERT, County Search and Rescue and the Medical Reserve Corps. According to ConFire Public Information Officer Steve Hill, fire department staff are volunteering to serve on their own time but are being paid overtime for their service. Lamorinda CERT provided volunteers for well over half the shifts in Hercules, along with other volunteers from Richmond, El Cerrito/Kensington, Martinez, Hercules and Walnut Creek.

People with appointments drive up to the site and are directed to vaccination tents. After receiving their vaccinations, they are then directed to one of two waiting areas. The largest area is for people with no history of adverse reactions who need to wait 15 minutes to check for any complications. A smaller area was set aside for those who need to wait 30 minutes before leaving because they had a greater chance of experiencing a reaction. CERT volunteers direct drivers to the correct area and hand out printed information including

a list of common side effects, and how to register with CDC for the V-safe program which sends vaccine recipients texts to check how they are feeling and reminds them to get their second shot.

In the event of an adverse reaction, CERT personnel are instructed to phone 911. Although she has not seen any adverse reactions, Luckenbach said that they have seen some cases of anxiety and have heard of a wide variety of reactions from recipients.

Luckenbach has been working at the clinic each week. "Having all these people work together is so amazing," she said, "because we're getting practice for an unplanned emergency." She explained that by working with other emergency personnel, "you get to know them, and in a disaster, you'll know how to work with them." Luckenbach is not a stranger to emergencies, however, having been awoken in the past to deal with the problem of feeding firefighters in the

middle of the night during the 2019 Sander's Ranch fire in Moraga.

Lamorinda CERT Public Information Officer Virginia Merrifield added that although Lamorinda CERT is not currently conducting in-person classes due to the COVID pandemic, they plan to resume classes as soon as it is safe and have been working on a new, revised curriculum. "In the meantime," she said, "we encourage all Lamorinda residents to visit our website at <https://lamorindacert.org> as a resource for emergency preparation and fire safety updates, as well as attend our virtual monthly meetings. These meetings cover a variety of safety topics delivered by experts. If interested in attending, please contact the registrar at registrar@lamorindacert.org. You will learn everything from what to pack in your 'go bag' to preparing your home to be more wild-fire safe. We think you'll agree these meetings will be time well spent."

Information on the CDC's V-Safe after vaccination health checker can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

Coyote responsible for multiple Lafayette and Moraga attacks captured

By Vera Kochan

The coyote linked to five attacks on humans within the Lafayette and Moraga area, according to a DNA match, has been trapped and euthanized.

The announcement was made by Captain Patrick Foy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife: "The coyote walked into a trap on Thursday March 11, set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services, off of Calle La Montana in Moraga," he stated during a phone interview. "It was an adult male."

The capture ends an eight-month spree of attacks upon adults and children alike that took place within two miles of each other. A concerted effort to trap the offender was conducted not only by CDFW and USDA-WS, but with the help of Contra Costa County Animal Services, as well as Lafayette and Moraga police departments.

"It was an excellent example of a unified multi-agency effort," confirmed MPD Lt. Brian South, "and we are very appreciative of the CDFW team and the experts from the USDA-Wildlife Services for

their hard work to remove the offending animal. We also appreciate the community support and their help by reporting sightings and communicating with us. We plan to continue working with CDFW to bring a wildlife awareness program to the community moving forward."

While the coyote in question "showed no outward signs of rabies," according to Foy, the UC Davis veterinary staff will perform the test. "Because of the severity of the disease, it is standard operating procedure in an animal attack investigation such as this one. Rabies tests can only be done post-mortem."

Foy noted that California is home to a healthy coyote population. As such, sightings will continue to be a common occurrence. "Only report a

coyote if it exhibits aggressive behavior. It is the sincere hope of the agencies that locals can recreate outdoors in the area again with significantly reduced anxiety and that the community knows that outdoor recreation is still very safe."

He also stated, "I have a great respect for the cooperation of the local community. I have never seen this much citizen involvement."

For more information about coyotes and other animals that share our environment visit: www.keepmewild.org. Additional questions may be directed to Moraga Police at (925) 888-7055, ext 0, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 508-7095. As of press time on March 15, the rabies test results were not available.



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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

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 27, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
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Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



Feb. 21 - March 6

Alarms	36
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	80
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	20
Suspicious Vehicle	26
Service to Citizen	56
Patrol Req./Security Check	78
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	21
Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3200 Block Marlene Dr.	
600 Block Augustine Ln.	
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.	
700 Block Glenside Cir.	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
Burton Dr./Glenside Dr.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
3300 Block Betty Ln.	
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.	

Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3600 Block Boyer Cir.
Blackwood Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Wb Sr 24 Central Lafayette/

Moraga
Tc - Property Damage
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
Traffic Pursuit
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Vehicle Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Computer Fraud
300 Block St Marys Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses
1000 Block Cavallero Ln.
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
10 Block Rimrock Rd. (2)
1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.
20 Block Cosso Ct.

Grand Theft
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
Identity Theft
1100 Block N Thompson Rd.
3300 Block N Lucille Ln. (2)
Police Department (2)

Panhandling
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Petty Theft
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft Bicycle
1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2)
Petty Theft From Vehicle
Police Department

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
4000 Block Tilden Ln.
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Disturbing The Peace
El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music
3500 Block Plaza Way (2)
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Loud Noise
700 Block St. Marys Rd.
Marsha Pl./Silverado Dr.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1300 Block San Reliez Ct.
Loud Party
3300 Block Walnut Ln.
Public Nuisance
Old Tunnel Rd./El Curtola Blvd.
Woodview Dr./St Marys Rd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Eb Sr 24
600 Block Murray Ln.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Lizann Dr.
Silver Springs Rd./Moraga Rd.
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.

Vandalism
700 Block Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Animal Services Info
20 Block Northridge Ln.
Lucas Dr./Lucas Cir.
Brandishing Weapon
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fireworks
Little Ln./Foye Dr.
Threats
3500 Block Brook St.
Trespass
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
Police Department
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
Violation Restraining Order
Police Department
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Feb. 23 - March 8

Alarms	14
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	30
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Pubic/School Assembly Check	2

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
800 Block Augusta Dr.
400 Block Moraga Rd.
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
St. Andrew Rd./Moraga Way
Moraga Rd./School St., Laf
Moraga Way/Villa Ln. (3)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (4)
Canyon Ifo Staging Area
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.

Tc - Property Damage
Wells Fargo
Starbucks
Other criminal activity
Burglary
Ace Hardware
Grand Theft
1200 Block Larch Ave.
10 Block Inverleith Terrace
Petty Theft
Tj Maxx
Rimer Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
70 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)
Disturbing The Peace
Rancho Laguna Park
Drunk In Public
Safeway
Loud Noise
Sanders Dr./Canyon Rd.

Loud Party
Not Available
Vandalism
1300 Block School St.
Joaquin Moraga Int. School
Other
Mentally Ill Commit
600 Block August Dr.
Unwanted Guest
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Feb. 21 - March 6

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	37
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
Public/School Assembly Check 2

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
30 Block Carisbrook Dr.
Chevron
Manzanita Dr./Camino Pablo
60 Block Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Oak Dr.
Brookside Rd./Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas

Auto Burglary
Wilder Sports Fields
Vehicle Theft
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
10 Block Mira Monte Rd. (2)

Other criminal activity
Grand Theft
10 Block Donald Dr.
Grand Theft From Veh
Starbucks
Identity Theft
10 Block Bates Blvd.
Panhandling
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo
Petty Theft
10 Block Paintbrush Ln.
Robbery Armed
40 Block Don Gabriel Way
Shoplift
Beverages And More
Warrant Arrest
10 Block La Madronal
Wilder Rd./Eb Sr 24

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
10 Block Scenic Dr.
60 Block Brookwood Rd.
Loud Music
20 Block Bryant Way
Brookbank Rd./Miner Rd.
Public Nuisance
10 Block Theatre Sq.
Vandalism
20 Block Miner Rd.

Other
Threaten Exec Officer
Rite Aid
Unwanted Guest
10 Block Bates Blvd.
Chevron
Violation Restraining Order
500 Block Moraga Way (3)



Letters to the editor

The unfairness persists

Measure R says that road and storm drain maintenance are "essential City services". And yet 30 miles of Orinda's roads, and their associated storm drains, are denied this essential public service. Thirty miles of publicly used but privately maintained roads are identical to the thirty miles of publicly repaired and maintained cul-de-sacs. With the passage of Measure R, privately maintained road residents are again being forced to subsidize public road residents and are not allowed to benefit equivalently.

We all depend on all our roads for evacuations. We all depend on all our drains to prevent landslides and flooding. We all will pay the same measure R taxes. We all have paid past taxes and bonds to repair roads. Why has Orinda forsaken over 20% of its residents? It is time to stop finding creative ways of blaming the victims to justify this. The status quo is clearly unjust. We are all equally vulnerable members of one community. With our new measure R funds the City Council and Measure R commission can address this inequity. An economically viable process to allow openly publicly used privately maintained roads to become publicly maintained must be found.

Charles Porges
Orinda

5G needs more discussion

At the March 10 Meeting, the Moraga Town Council discussed a Master Licensing Agreement with Verizon that will streamline the application process for the installation of dozens of Fifth Generation (5G) small cell wireless facilities (cell towers) in Moraga. Currently our municipal ordinance is not sufficient to ensure a responsible implementation of this technology as it does not prioritize the best interests of residents.

An example of this potential outcome: After such an agreement was signed in Oakland, two different site developers submitted plans for 70+ cell towers EACH, in a 1½ square mile area! Do we want this kind of proliferation of cell towers in Moraga?

The current Moraga Municipal Code (Chapter 8.144) which governs the deployment of these towers is extraordinarily weak compared to other cities, including Orinda and Lafayette. There is absolutely no public notification or transparency in our code. There are no restrictions on tower placement or hard data required to justify tower sites, no minimum setback from homes or schools, no liability insurance requirements, and no oversight to ensure that radiation emissions are within FCC guidelines.

We need to revise our ordinance immediately to reflect a proactive, well-informed planning strategy to ensure responsible placement of this technology. We should contract with an attorney who specializes in this field to advise on this matter and include provisions that Lafayette, Orinda, and many other California cities have adopted. The Council should not sign this, or any, MLA until we have done this.

Visit www.ca4safetech.org/moraga or contact us at Safer5gMoraga@gmail.com for more information.
Amanda (Malmquist) Conrad
Moraga

De-stress activities not for everyone

I'd just like to comment on Vera Kochan's March 3 article on "SMC Students De-Stressing." As a parent of an SMC student, I can tell you that the 650 students allowed to de-stress on campus live on campus. The few thousand students who live off campus do not have accessibility to those services. The college has not allowed students, living off campus, to even set foot on campus, since the start of this pandemic (or thereabouts). They have made exception for D1 athletes (who also enjoy the luxury of weekly Covid testing, like the on-campus students do) and my only guess for that is that those sports potentially draw in future enrollment. Had the college required on-campus students to stay on campus, I could imagine agreeing with their decision. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Again, if I had to make assumptions, I would believe the extra room and board expenses that fund the college provide these students these perks. I can tell you that the off-campus students are suffering the same stress over this horrific pandemic. I expected more from a small, private school.

Darren Chilimidos
An SMC Dad

Housing concerns in Lafayette

There have been an abundance of building projects within walking distance to Lafayette's downtown and BART station either recently completed or currently in-progress. It strikes me as disingenuous to read City Manager Niroop Srivasta's claim last week that the city needs the Terraces of Lafayette project to fulfill its affordable housing requirements. With all of the housing units that have recently gone up or are in progress at Woodbury, the former Celia's site, behind Pet Food Express and elsewhere within a half mile of the BART station,

how has Lafayette ended up with a 255 unit deficit in its affordable housing quota?

Worsening sprawl should not be the price for affordable housing

Ms. Srivasta, like Mr. Falk before her and our Planning Commissioner Gregg Wolff seem to measure their success by population growth in Lafayette. Instead, their performance should be measured by how balanced are our local mobility (e.g. the last mile connecting BART to the outlying neighborhoods), school capacity and other aspects of growth. By that measure, I feel they have failed and continue to fail Lafayette. Much has been said in the Bay Area about the need to advance transit-friendly affordable housing and much of it I can accept. But in reality highly profitable luxury condominium projects have flourished close to BART while the Terraces project, which is at least a mile and half away from the BART station, is cited to fulfill the shortfall. The Terraces site is not a comfortable walking distance for BART commuters; it will be dumping hundreds of daily car trips on increasingly congested highway bypasses (Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road). I'm not opposed to affordable housing or bringing greater equity to Lafayette. But I am opposed to unhindered development that exacerbates the sprawl and imbalances that have encroached on Lafayette; Ms. Srivasta's kowtowing to developers at the broader community's expense and self-serving justifications for the City's failure to meet its quotas with other projects more proximate to the BART station is reprehensible.

Ian Kallen
Lafayette

How our Orinda works

On or before December 1st our city Councilmember Fay wanted an accelerated Orinda chipper program "to have an impact on the next fire season". The council

agreed and budgeted funds. It was intended as a fire prevention activity that was to occur before the measure R commission had its first meeting. Today, the earliest we can expect a chipper is in June, when fire season starts.

What happened? I was told in a joint city-MOFD meeting that "it's complicated" by our city manager Salomon. In the subsequent city council meeting he clarified what he meant. He said that a) the city had to negotiate a contract with MOFD which involves lawyers. b) Ordering a chipper has a 3 month lead time. c) It has still not been decided whether to lease it or buy it. And d) The crew will need a six week training program after the equipment arrives.

Why is it so complicated? Because city staff clearly stated that they didn't have the required expertise! Had the city not involved MOFD it might have hired a tree service company that could have started in January (as is often done by MOFD). Or the city could have decided to buy the chipper outright and hired a trainable crew, possibly with one extra city staff person to manage the chipping program, with some MOFD advice. Really, how hard is it to order the equipment that MOFD tells you to, and train two guys to chip wood? Surely not more than five months, which would be an April start.

Instead of doing whatever was necessary to accelerate the program the city chose to spend the upfront money on lawyers and contracts because the city staff said they have to delegate the job to the "expertise" of MOFD. MOFD will still have to get the equipment, and then train the crew, after the lawyers, City Council and MOFD Board all agree.

That's politics and your government in (accelerated) action.

Let's hope we have our chipper before September.
Charles Porges
Orinda

Downtown development in Orinda

The City of Orinda has been patiently, carefully – a bit languorously – working on Downtown revitalization. Good on ya', City!

Since Covid, downtown is more important than ever. Livable, walk-able, relaxing outdoor spaces more precious. My older buddies and I meet for outdoor palaver and coffee right outside Caffé Teatro, next to Orinda Way. Today, Friday, the area sun-splashed, almost all tables filled. Skipping 3-year-olds, moms and dads, retired folks, delivery person, walkers, dogs.

Quiet vibrance.
But, I'm hard pressed to think of another such place in Orinda.

With coffee cup in hand, I'd respectfully remind the Council, the Planning Commission, the new City Manager, Directors, staff – that most Orindans will embrace more life – more zip – downtown. (Our past elections so demonstrate.)

We all want to leave the car, stroll, meet old, new friends, read a book, sip coffee, someday a wine spritzer ...knosh, ...shop...breathe fresh air, gaze the beautiful green hills.

Most of my cohort will not come to Council meetings, write letters. But, we are here, we support you, we wish for good things to happen.

So, humbly urged: step it up.

There are naysayers who will bend your ear. God love 'em. Who profess to want progress, but at the same time toss roadblocks in the way. Perhaps here and there, some value added.

Keep ears open to all. But eye on the ball, and the wheels of change – good change – rolling forward. Toward a lively downtown.

David Anderson
Orinda

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

The Spring Market is off to a wild start! Now is the time to list and sell



341 Camino Sobrante, Orinda | Offered at \$2,600,000
This Mid-Century home offers the best of California indoor-outdoor living: open floor plan, floor-to-ceiling windows, sweeping views of the Orinda Hills and golf course, and a sparkling pool surrounded by a Brazilian hardwood deck and pergola.
www.341caminosobrante.com



40 Camino Del Diablo, Orinda | Offered at \$1,585,000
The home features amazing views of Briones reservoir, day and night, and a panoramic view that stretches to the edge of Mt. Diablo beyond Briones Reservoir and a recently remodeled IPE deck to enjoy the views easily from the family room.
www.40caminodeldiablo.com



32 Via Farallon, Orinda | Offered at \$1,525,000
This charming Mid Century single story home in the Orinda Country Club neighborhood is close to downtown, Lake Cascade and the BART. First time on the market in 65 years! This home features all the stylish elements of the 50's with modern touches and updates.
www.32viafarallon.com



56 Camino Del Diablo, Orinda | Offered at \$1,700,000
One of the true Orinda Jewels the Original Delaveaga Estate Secondary Home! Built in 1947 as part of the complex. Perfectly set on a mostly flat .78 of an acre with a huge flat front grass lawn and formal gardens and stone walls, paths and patios, and various fruit trees.
www.56caminodeldiablo.com



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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 **Hot Topics**
Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@lovelafayette.org

Application deadline April 1, 2021.

1208 Vacation Drive, Lafayette, 3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | +/- 1450 sq. ft.



ERIN MCCOIN
415.370.8874
erin.mccoin@compass.com
erinmccoin.com
DRE#01410378

A Lafayette Oasis
Offered at \$1,249,000

This updated, open concept home is tucked away on a tranquil cul-de-sac surrounded by rolling hills just minutes from downtown Lafayette and Walnut Creek, as well as public open spaces and trails, with convenient access to the freeway and BART.



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California operating under multiple licenses. 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Police make progress after recent spate of robberies

... continued from Page A1

Footage from traffic cameras is being analyzed to try to identify the vehicle used in the hardware store burglary. Other Moraga incidents in February included a package stolen from a residential mailbox and a license plate stolen off a car.

A suspect is now in custody for assaulting an Orinda police officer on March 1. The officer was conducting a walk-through of the Rite Aid on Orinda Way when he was alerted by employees that a person was fleeing after stealing items. The officer chased the suspect on foot in an attempt to apprehend him. The suspect entered a vehicle in the parking lot, and when the officer tried to open the driver's door, the suspect struck the officer with his vehicle before fleeing on westbound Highway 24. The officer suffered minor injuries but has recovered.

Detectives from the Orinda Police Department and the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff were able to identify the suspect, who was spotted March 4 in Richmond. The suspect fled, leading deputy sheriffs from the Sheriff's Office J-Team in pursuit until the suspect's vehicle became disabled on Adeline Street in

Berkeley. He was arrested by deputies after a foot chase. The suspect is identified as 28-year-old Delvente Murry of San Francisco. He is being held at the Martinez Detention Facility on the following charges: assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, felony evading, obstructing a peace officer, and probation violation. Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to contact Sergeant S. Valkanoff of the Orinda Police Department at (925) 253-4217. For any tips, please email: orindatip@city-of-orinda.org or call 866-846-3592 to leave an anonymous voice message.


According to Orinda PD Sgt. Valkanoff, recent burglaries in Theatre Square have cost victims thousands of dollars; the department is following leads and awaiting surveillance video from Theatre Square. There is a chance, Valkanoff said, that the incidents may be tied to one suspect. On the village side of Orinda, a suspect is in custody and charges have been filed in connection with an armed robbery at McCaulou's. Clean Cleaners in the Village was also burglarized in February.

There has not yet been an arrest in the home invasion robbery, now the main crime being investigated in Orinda,

Valkanoff said. On the afternoon of Feb. 28, Orinda police officers responded to Don Gabriel Way for a report of an armed robbery at a residence. The victim was confronted by two men, one of whom was armed. The suspects stole valuables and then fled. The victim, who was not injured, called the police. Police searched for the suspects using a helicopter, drone and a police K-9 but were unable to locate them. Orinda PD Chief David Cook told the city council March 2 that while they have not been able to identify the suspects, the vehicle associated with the crime was taken by the sheriff's office after executing a warrant.

The suspects are described as two African American males. One was wearing a green fluorescent construction vest, black hoodie jacket with a red stripe, black pants and white shoes. The other was dressed in a baby-blue hoodie jacket, black pants, and black and white shoes.

Contra Costa Sheriff's Director of Public Affairs Jimmy Lee asks that anyone with any information on this incident contact Sheriff's Office dispatch at (925) 646-2441, email tips@so.cccounty.us or call (866) 846-3592 to leave an anonymous voice message.



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local youth find inventive, productive ways to spend time while sheltering at home



Sabrina Kane, 15, shows off two of her amazing breads from Sweets by Sabrina.



Myra Gakhar, 11, hard at work on one of her resin products



Lamorinda Peer Tutoring co-founders Michael Wen (left) and Ryan Chan

or delivered locally. Kane donates 50% of her profits to charity. (sweetsbysabrina.

godaddysites.com) ... continued on Page B2



Dane Darby, Royal Chess Academy founder, helps one of his students



A squirrel dining table made by Finn Girdlestone
By Diane Claytor

Discussing stocks with 17-year-old Sam Safahi feels like meeting a group of investment brokers. The fast talking, extremely knowledgeable Miramonte senior tosses out stock names and investment lingo as easily as counting to 10.

Safahi initially invested a small amount of money in cryptocurrency. He made a profit. "I kept spending money on useless stuff, like clothes I didn't wear," he admits. "I got tired of wasting it."

He was also tiring of Netflix and playing endless video games during the COVID-forced lockdown. Remembering how much fun it was to invest, Safahi spent almost every waking hour for several weeks learning everything he could about investing. He read, researched, watched YouTube videos and soon started buying and selling. It was a good market. He made money and lost some. He taught himself about futures and day trading, tech stocks, options and index funds. And after several months, the totally self-taught Safahi proudly says he earned a net profit exceeding \$100,000.

In spite of his incredible financial success, Safahi states unequivocally, "I'd trade all the money I made to have my pre-COVID life back. It was so much better going to school, playing lacrosse, hanging with friends. I miss it a lot."

Like Safahi, many young Lamorindans searched for ways to pass their time while sheltering in place. Albert Einstein once said, "The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative

mind." The imagination and creativity of our local youth exemplify this quote. New skills have been learned, talents perfected, businesses opened. While none were quite as profitable as Safahi's, they were all equally impressive.

Tutors

At the beginning of the lockdown, Campolindo junior Michael Wen realized that, like him, many kids were struggling. He knew it was often difficult to find reasonably-priced tutors that were sincerely invested in helping students. Wanting to help the community, Wen and several friends formed Lamorinda Peer Tutoring (lamorindapeertutoring.com), a service offering free tutoring on a myriad of subjects, including English, Mandarin, cooking, and art. Their 30 tutors, predominantly high school-aged, have worked with more than 50 students.

Tutoring is one-on-one so "students are able to bond with their tutor," Wen says. "A lot of young kids are struggling with distance learning. They're not getting much interaction."

Co-founder Ryan Chan, a College Prep junior, states that the students are not the only beneficiaries of this tutoring program. "We foster leadership and communications among the staff," he explains. "I've personally gotten much better at communicating." Wen agrees. "The tutors are also learning organizational skills and time management."

Teaching Games

Springhill Elementary fourth-grader Dane Darby is a chess champion after only two years of playing. "A lot of people couldn't leave their house once the lockdown started but chess was something that could be done inside," Darby notes. Guessing there were kids who might want to learn the game, Darby set up a website (theroyalchessacademy.com) which says he will teach "the strategies to become a great chess player."

Charging very reasonable rates, Darby has already taught more than 40 students, one from as far away as

Japan. Some take a one-time class, learning the basics, while others learn strategies in multiple lessons. He donates a portion of his fee to the Berkeley Chess School, which is where he learned to play.

Toby Barton, a Campolindo sophomore, decided to use his Minecraft skills to virtually teach the popular video game. "I was looking for a 2020 summer job," Barton explains, "and then the pandemic happened so I needed another way to make some money." He taught mostly elementary school students and organized different classes by skill and level. He's again hoping to find a summer job but if that doesn't work out, Minecraft camp will again be open.

Selling Products

With a love of baking and time on her hands, Orinda's Sabrina Kane, 15, thought it would be fun to share her baked goods with the community. She makes cakes, cookies, cupcakes, cake pops and bread. Her specialty, she says, is chocolate cake. Custom orders are welcome and yummy baked goods may be picked up

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Statement From Rotary International



At Rotary, we have no tolerance for racism. Promoting respect, celebrating diversity, demanding ethical leadership, and working tirelessly to advance peace are central tenets of our work.

We have more work to do to create a more just, open and welcoming communities for all people.

We know that there are no easy fixes, and that challenging conversations and work lie before all of us. Rotary's strength has long been our ability and commitment to bringing people together. We will tap into that strength now, as we stand with those who are working for peace and justice.

Rotary will do our part to listen, to learn and to take action to ensure that we continue to contribute to making positive change.

Endorsed by all five local Rotary clubs – Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, Rotary Club of Orinda, Rotary Club of Moraga, Rotary Club of Lafayette, Rotary Club of Rossmoor. For further information on Rotary, contact District Governor Mark Roberts at markrotary5160@gmail.com.

A scrumptiously simple concoction to top your favorite frozen dessert



Caramelized Pear Sundaes

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This recipe for caramelized pears is super simple, which is probably a good thing after the last two recipes we've featured. Serve it over your favorite vanilla frozen concoction, whether it's ice cream, frozen yogurt or some other variation, like coconut milk or soy "ice cream" and you have an easy, delicious dessert. You can make the caramelized pears ahead of

time and reheat them, or just start them as you serve dinner and they'll be ready to go by dessert time. Gather together a pear, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, cardamom and pear or apple juice and you're ready to go. If you prefer apples, you can also make this very same dessert with apples, too. Honey Crisp is our apple choice for this recipe. Serve this over pancakes, too, for a fun breakfast treat.

Caramelized Pear Sundaes

Serves 4 for dessert

INGREDIENTS

1 large red Anjou pear, (use a firm pear, not one that's too ripe)
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon cardamom
Dash of salt
1 cup pear or apple juice
*Optional: 1 tablespoon brandy or calvados (add in with the last cup of juice)
Garnish: 4 cinnamon sticks
Vanilla Ice Cream

DIRECTIONS

Then slice each quarter into thin slices, approximately 5 slices per quarter, for a total of 20 slices. Heat butter in a skillet over medium-low heat. When melted stir in brown sugar, cinnamon, cardamom and a dash of salt.

Arrange pear slices on top of the butter brown sugar mixture, and cook over low heat for approximately 12-15 minutes per side, or until just beginning to turn golden-brown. Add 1 cup of juice and simmer over low heat for 30 minutes or so, until the pears begin to caramelize. The juice will reduce down and thicken to a syrup during this process.

Serve the warm pears over vanilla ice cream and spoon the syrup over all. Garnish with a cinnamon stick.

That's it! Enjoy!



Before caramelized



After caramelized

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



19 Lamorinda students named National Merit finalists

Officials from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) named finalists for the 66th Annual Scholarship Program. Nineteen of the nation's brightest students are right here in Lamorinda, all seniors at Acalanes, Bentley, Campolindo, Miramonte and in home school.

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Less than 1% of the students performed well enough from this nationwide pool to be-

come the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Contra Costa County in total had 96 Semi-Finalists.

National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Acalanes lead the area with six students: Kai Feinberg, Jamie Lattin, Morgan Mason, Isaiah Orlando, Madison Payne and Jackson Steele. "We at Acalanes are so proud of these amazing Dons and their noteworthy accomplishment!" said Acalanes Principal Travis Bell.

Bentley boasts two students: Dora Kocs-Meyers and Nathaniel McManus. Campolindo finalists include Zoe Heidersbach, Joshua Liao, Noel Seo and Hari Stoyanov. Principal John Walker noted, "Campolindo High School is so proud of our National Merit Scholars. These students have demonstrated tremendous academic achievement. The entire Campo community celebrates their accomplishment."

Miramonte High School students include Jenna Foster, Joshua Morganstein, Preston Nibley, Sarah Svahn, and Edwin Yu. Two homeschool students include Jack Armstrong and Jerrae Schroff.

"At Miramonte, celebrating our National Merit Scholars is a tradition that we look forward to each year!" said Miramonte Principal Julie Parks. "We are so proud of these students for their accomplishment during this unusual time."

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2021. Every finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 corporations and business organizations for finalists who

meet their specified criteria. In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution. In total, more than \$30 million is awarded in scholarship money.

NMSC is a not for profit organization that was established in 1955 to provide scholarships to recognize academic excellences. Prior National Merit Scholar recipients include Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates. - J. Wake

GCCP presents 'Love Story' March 20



Photos provided

The Delphi Trio and Pamela Freund-Striplen. From left: Liana Berube, Allegra Chapman, Pamela Freund-Striplen and Tanya Tompkins

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

Gold Coast Chamber Players continue their virtual concerts at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 20 with "Love Story" - the fourth of six Main Stage Virtual Concerts in 2021 that continues the season theme celebrating love and diversity.

Virtual links remain available for one week follow-

ing the concert date. "Love Story" explores romantic music by a 19th century power couple, Clara and Robert Schumann. "Love Story" pairs Clara's Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17 with Robert's Piano Quartet, op. 47, written in what is considered his "chamber music year" of 1842.

Clara Schumann's only Piano Trio was a direct influence on her husband's own trio, written the following

year. Though Robert was supportive of Clara, he was more focused on her performing his own compositions than in her work as a composer. Women's History Month is an ideal opportunity to highlight this story.

Bringing this program to life is the Bay Area Delphi Trio (violinist Liana Berube, cellist Tanya Tompkins, and pianist Allegra Chapman) and guest violist Pamela Freund-

Striplen. Delphi Trio is recognized for commanding, compelling performances that draw audiences into their musical world. The trio prioritizes unity, artistry, vulnerability, and musical risk-taking, creating performances that are infused with spontaneity, humor, and joy.

Founded on the principles of community, connection, and artistry, they believe firmly in art's ability to make

a difference in the world and are committed to using their musical platform to bring people together, regardless of background or beliefs. As three strong women, the trio prioritizes the presentation of works by female composers alongside the better-known classic repertoire. Musicologist Kai Christiansen provides insight and context during the performance.

A Zoom After Party with the musicians is available to those watching on March 20. The concert link is available for one week. Single ticket: \$30, Mini Series (three concerts): \$70. Concerts are streamed via YouTube. Purchase online at www.GCCP-music.com or by calling (925) 283-3728.

Visit gccpmusic.com to find regular updates about concert offerings, to make donations, and to purchase tickets.



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Local youth find inventive, productive ways to spend time while sheltering at home

... continued from Page B1

Orinda's Myra Gakhar, 11, opened her own Etsy shop during the pandemic, selling her colorful, personalized, homemade resin ornaments and coasters (etsy.com/shop/pinkstarcreations). "This is not just a hobby or pastime but something I want to continue putting my time and effort into," she says. She donates a portion of her profits to the animal shelter where she found her puppy.

Wagner Ranch fifth-grader Finn Girdlestone says he "wanted to spend more time with my granddad and

make stuff with him." Deciding what to build was challenging until they saw a picture of a squirrel dining table (imagine a picnic table for squirrels). That was it! Made with scrap wood, close to 150 were made (with a little help from brother Lennon); all were sold. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the Monument Crisis Center. Girdlestone says he is working on improving the design and then he and his granddad will get back to building more.

Finally, Orinda's Toby Henstrand, 14, didn't sell anything but he did use his sheltering time to hone his writing

skills and expand his knowledge of politics and history. Writing for the Institute for Youth in Policy, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that highlights youth voices, Henstrand researches and writes about "issues that are kind of hot buttons but not necessarily talked about a lot." Recent articles include "The Case for More Congressional Members" and "Lowering the Voting Age." (ypinstitute.com/author/toby.henstrand)

These young people, along with hundreds of their peers, instill confidence that the future will, indeed, be bright.

Summer Camps 2021

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see ad

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Cougar Youth Football Camp

see ad

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School July 12-16 & 19-23. Cost is \$500 with all equipment including T-shirt supplied. Registration forms online. Register at www.cougarcamps.com

Eclipse Soccer

see ad

Summer Soccer Camps - Eclipse Soccer Club will be hosting half-day soccer camps this summer in the Lamorinda area. The camps will mix a variety of individual technical skill building activities with lots of fun games to test the newly improved skills of the players. For more information, visit www.eastbayeclipse.com.

Galileo Innovation Camps (Lafayette)

see ad

Galileo has the perfect mix of hands-on learning and big summer fun. Campers from pre-K through rising 8th grade unlock their inner innovator, creatively problem solve, and try new things. www.galileo-camps.com. Get \$25 off your enrollment with code CampGLM!

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see ad

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Rob's Skate Academy

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Sienna Ranch Lafayette

Sienna Ranch is offering full day 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Outdoor Summer Camps for Kids PreK-8th Grade. Join our Sienna Ranch outdoor instructors for nature exploration, visiting our animals, learning survival skills, nature based crafts and more! If you have any questions please reach out to toadmin@siennaranch.net or call (925) 283-6311. www.siennaranch.net/programs/summer-camp/

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español

see ad

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts and crafts, science projects and cooking. During each weeklong camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Wondrous Outdoors at the Reservoir or Secret Agent Camp. Full day, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Before/after-care available. Half-day options also available. (925) 962-9177 www.vivaelespanol.org

Summer Art Camps

Enhanced Personal Development will be hosting several half-day art camps this summer in the Lamorinda area for kids ages 5-17. The camps will include the opportunity to learn different art techniques and use varying mediums. For more information, visit www.enhancedpersonaldevelopment.com

Are we missing your Favorite Camp? Look for our next CAMP section April 12. Email info to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

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



SUMMER CAMPS 2021

Not to be missed

ART

An ebbing pandemic has led the Moraga Art Gallery to double its hours. The gallery is now 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.

Starting March 23 the Valley Art Gallery will feature "A Spring of Many Hues" - its 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; (925) 935-4311.

MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players virtual concert: "Love Story" at 7 p.m. March 20. Music for strings and piano by Clara and Robert Schumann. Tickets: \$30 through www.gccpmusic.com. Concert link is available through March 27.

Diablo Ballet will present its 27th Anniversary Gala virtually at 7 p.m. March 20 hosted by company dancers, Jordan and Raymond Tilton, and will include an evening of performances, interviews and a

champagne toast with the dancers all from the comfort of home. The performance will include the Diablo Ballet premiere of "Carousel (A Dance)" choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, inspired by the Broadway musical. The performance is filmed in Diablo Ballet's transformed black box theatre and some of the event will also be live. Virtual tickets are being sold through Diablo Ballet and can be purchased by calling (925) 943-1775 or at diabloballet.org. Tickets are just \$27 in celebration of the Company's 27th Anniversary.

THEATER

Shotgun Players presents Every Time I Feel the Spirit April 2 - 11 (Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. PST, Sundays at 5 p.m. PST), at Virtual Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. This world premiere follows a young pastor's attempt to navigate her congregation's shift to online worship. When we can't congregate, we find a way. Cost: Pay What You Can \$8 - \$40. For more info see <http://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/spirit> or call (510) 841-6500 or email Jayme@shotgunplayers.org.

OTHER

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Claudio Saunt & Mickey Huff: Unworthy Republic: A Zoom event on Wednesday, March 31, 6-7 p.m., at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. Claudio Saunt and Mickey Huff discuss Saunt's new book, "Unworthy Republic: Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory." Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see www.eventbrite.com/e/claudio-saunt-mickey-huff-tickets-137141043553.

Not to be missed

Lafayette senior services online classes: Cooking: Spring Main Dish Salad. Byron Park Chef d' Cuisine Bill Capps. Spring is on its way - time to transition from heavier winter comfort foods to lighter, fresher fare. In this demonstration-style class via Zoom, Chef Bill will share recipes and guide you through the process of creating Grilled Thai Beef Salad; Quinoa Salad with Avocado, Cucumber, Grape Tomatoes, Olives, Chickpeas, Kale and Peppers; Asian Grilled Chicken Salad. Prepare one of these recipes as a main dish and it will serve as a healthy, flavorful lunch or dinner for several days. There will be time for Q&A. Fee: Members: free, Non-members: \$10, Date: Thursday, March 18. Time: 2 to 4 p.m. Location: via Zoom. Register: Lafayette Senior Services, Seniors@LoveLafayette.org, (925) 284-5050 <https://apm.activecommunities.com/lafayetterec/Home>

Document Your Life Story. Debbie Weiss: MFA in Writing from Saint Mary's College, 2020. If you have wanted to write the stories, memories and experiences of your life but haven't known where to start, begin right here. You will be guided through the process of leaving a living history for future generations - what a gift! This course will be facilitated by Debbie Weiss, a blogger and writer with essays published in The New York Times' Modern Love, Elle Decor, Woman's Day, Good Housekeeping and The Huffington Post. Her memoir is forthcoming from She Writes Press in Fall of 2020. She previously taught an essay class for Writing Pad, a Bay Area writing school. Fee: Members, Free; Non-members: \$10 per meeting. Dates: April 1 and 15, May 6 and 20,

Not to be missed

June 3 and 17, July 1, 2021. Time: 3 to 5 p.m. Location: via Zoom Register: Lafayette Senior Services, Seniors@LoveLafayette.org, (925) 284-5050 <https://apm.activecommunities.com/lafayetterec/Home>

GARDEN

The Montelindo Garden Club meets on the third Friday of every month, September through May. Our April meeting begins Friday April 16 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Cymbidiums! Speaker: Paul Ashby. Paul Ashby is an expert on Cymbidiums, and will provide valuable information on repotting, dividing, and fertilizing for their optimal care that differs from much of what you might have heard or read. He will also discuss outdoor mounted and terrestrial orchids suitable for the climate of Lamorinda. With over 30 years of experience gardening and landscaping in Northern California, he provides gardening, maintenance, landscaping and consulting services to customers in Lamorinda. To request a Zoom link to attend this meeting, email: montelindogarden@aol.com

Come join the Walnut Creek Garden Club for its virtual meeting on April 12 via Zoom, starting at 10 a.m., with guest speaker Shawna Anderson of Lafayette's Orchard Nursery beginning her presentation at 10:30 a.m. Anderson has been with Orchard since 2004 and is known for her container gardening and is a certified horticulturalist, who has lead many classes at Orchard. In 2016 she became the Custom Container Designer and Manager for Orchard. She plans to enlighten our club on "Plants That Attract Beneficial Insects." We

Not to be missed

invite guests to join us via Zoom. You can contact our Co-President, Maureen Little, at mrlittle44@gmail.com for your invitation. Please check out our club at www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org for more information.

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.

Registration for the free, virtual 17th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sundays April 25 and May 2, 16, and 23, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., is now open. This award-winning tour will be kicked off with a presentation by the inspirational Doug Tallamy, feature 25 beautiful native plant gardens, Q&A sessions with garden hosts, "Ask the Experts" opportunities, garden design and plant selection information, and more. Check out the schedule of events www.bringingbackthenatives.net/welcome-to-our-2021-virtual-events, and Register for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour now.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
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www.holyshepherd.org

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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.

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www.christianscienceorinda.org

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If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email cathy.w@stanselms.ws 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, www.stanselms.ws



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‘Hamilton’ actor speaks to Moraga students about diversity and inclusion in the arts



Leslie Odom Jr.

By Jenn Freedman

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) hosted an inspiring conversation Feb. 26 with Leslie Odom Jr., acclaimed actor and singer who played Aaron Burr in Broadway’s “Hamilton” (and earned a Grammy Award and Tony Award for his role). Nearly 500 families tuned in to this virtual event where two Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students, three Campolindo High School students, and faculty members from both schools talked with

Odom about diversity and inclusion in the arts.

Student panelists were nominated by faculty members and chosen by the school administrators. They discussed topics such as mentors, the value in taking risks, tokenism, color-conscious casting/hiring, why the arts connect us, the impact of performing “Hamilton” in front of the first Black U.S. president, and more. Odom was humble during the discussion, asking the student panelists questions and letting them shine.

When asked by a student

what they can do to make a difference, Odom said we should “start with our own corner of the world. Our homes, classrooms, teams, or bands. ... It starts with the people who are in direct contact with you. ... Whatever you want to see in the world, make sure you see in your own community.”

Another message Odom shared that was profound for students and parents alike was the idea of do-overs, that we have the chance to do better for as long as we are alive. He also shared his favorite

quote: “There is no failure, we either win or learn.”

“We are so grateful to Leslie for sharing his time with our students – this was such an inspirational event,” said Ana Moon, MEF vice president. The first 150 JM and Campo students to register were given a copy of Odom’s book, “Failing Up,” which was donated by an anonymous MEF donor.

To view the recording, go to <http://www.moragaeducation.org/videos>. To make a donation to MEF go to www.moragaeducation.org/.

Girl Scout creates Contra Costa native plant garden in Lafayette



Ceanothus



California Fescue

Photos provided

Acalanes High School senior Corina McTigue has always been passionate about the environment, and plans to study something that will help her protect or restore natural areas. As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, McTigue took out non-native plants and re-vegetated the land at Lafayette Community Park with a selection of local native plants.

McTigue worked with Greg Travers, the park maintenance supervisor in the Public Works Department for the city of Lafayette, to find an area and get the project approved by the city. The park includes a variety of plant species, all of which are native to Contra Costa County. She started the planting aspect of the project over winter break on Dec. 28 with just a few people from her family due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

“Native plants are beneficial to the native wildlife species and insects that depend on the plants for their survival. This native plant area will provide an ideal location for native insects and animals to live and thrive,” said McTigue. “Native plants are also beneficial because they are sustainable. They do not require excessive fertilizers or water to grow and are naturally adapted to the area’s climate and soils. Another benefit of native plants is that they are drought tolerant. Non native plants often need to be watered frequently and die during

droughts, creating fire hazards. The plants that are native to this area are naturally drought tolerant and can survive these droughts.”

The plants do not require as much maintenance as non-native plants, so McTigue will only be watering them every week this summer and once every month next summer. “After about a year or two, the plants that survive should be established enough to not only sustain themselves but to thrive on their own,” she said.

The plants will need some slight weeding until they are established. All of the plants in the garden are deer resistant but as they are so small right now, a deer just trying the plant can really hurt it. Since there are so many deer in the area, McTigue constructed and installed plant cages on many of the plants. “These plant cages will be taken off after the plants grow a little bit bigger,” she said.

“I hope that people visiting the Lafayette Community Park will enjoy the native plant garden and that some will consider adding some native plants to their own gardens because of the natural beauty that native plants have to offer and because of their many benefits to the environment and wildlife.”

McTigue wants to thank Orchard Nursery, which donated to her project.
– J. Wake

COVID increased the importance of diversity essays on college applications: Four questions to help you brainstorm

By Elizabeth LaScala PhD

Diversity statements are an increasingly common requirement on college applications. These questions are going to become even more common in upcoming cycles because of the ways the COVID pandemic has changed college admissions. With more colleges offering test optional admission, a far greater number of historically underrepresented individuals are applying to more selective and highly selective schools. Since schools are using this opportunity to expand racial and ethnic diversity on their campuses, diversity prompts are expected to increase in both number and importance.

For some of you, talking about diversity might be easy. For others, it is often much harder. Here are four questions to ask yourself when brainstorming your diversity response:

- 1) What exactly is diversity? It’s easy to get stuck on a single definition of diversity. But diversity is, in a word, diverse. Sure, it includes traditional personal types of diversity, like race, ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual orientation. But it also goes well beyond these personal attributes to include academic ability, physical ability, mental health, neurodiversity, cultural background, citizenship status, veteran status, adversity, and socioeconomic barriers. There are many other categories. Make a list of things using my recommended categories as jumping off points, and then go beyond as needed to consider how you might add to the diversity of the college. Go beyond the list you develop to write about how each category specifically applies to you.
- 2) How have I supported, advocated for or otherwise helped others who are diverse?

While this is important for all applicants to consider, it is particularly important for people who have low measurable personal diversity. For example, do not be tempted to claim hardship when you have largely experienced privilege; instead, acknowledge your position of privilege, and talk about how you have used your advantages in life to promote/support diversity. Colleges are interested in knowing that applicants accept others who are dissimilar to themselves and advocate for those who may have less chance to advocate for themselves due to systemic biases prevalent in our society.

3) How does a cause I am passionate about relate to diversity? This is a helpful question for applicants to ask themselves if their service projects or other endeavors do not directly align with promoting diversity. If this is the case, think about how your acts of service could be used to promote diversity goals. For example, you may not think that climate change and environmental causes are obviously aligned with diversity. However, climate change disproportionately affects minority groups and environmental justice is a current issue of importance. Deeper

reflection and some targeted research can help you make connections between causes you care about and how they may promote or at least relate to diversity.

4) What actions will I take going forward?

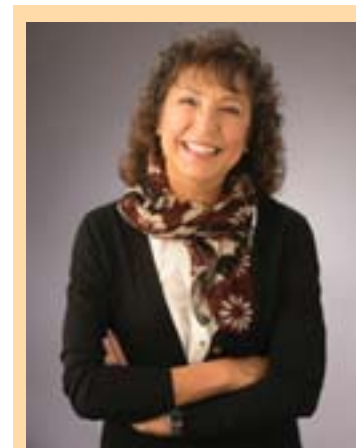
Diversity statements should not just state who you are and what you have done, but also what you will continue to do. Do some research into the service and other types of programs offered by the school you plan on attending or community-based organizations nearby the college that have similar missions. Explain how you will continue promoting equity, diversity, and social justice by getting involved as you earn your degree. Drafting your diversity statement: After brainstorming, pick one or maybe two clear themes that ring truest, fit the prompt and, if given, fit the university’s definition of diversity. If you are unique in many ways, it may still be easier to explain one or two aspects of your diversity in detail instead of spending a limited word count essay describing your many attributes.

Examples of Diversity Prompts:

“How does equity, diversity, and social justice shape an issue that is of interest to you. How does this issue relate to the field or major you are applying to at our university?”

“Tell us about a life event you personally experienced or that you witnessed another person or group experiencing that changed your viewpoint about social justice, educational barriers or other societal inequities?”

“How do you see yourself contributing to diversity at our college?”



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

~ Celebrations ~

Campolindo graduate on Broadway



Dr. Joseph A. Mele, M.D., FACS, made it to a marquee on Broadway in an unusual way. No, not for acting, although he did appear in a Moraga Playhouse production of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” The Campolindo High School graduate won The Top Surgeon West Award.

Dr. Mele has a private practice in Walnut Creek specializing in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

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.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Excitement and relief as football season begins



Brady Huchingson

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

Yes, Virginia. There is a football season in Lamorinda. Sixteen months after their last games, the football programs at Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte, which many were ready to write off, began their preseason practices as a precursor to a six-game season.

The coaches all felt that it was necessary to have any type of season. "It's important to have a season, particularly for our seniors," Acalanes head coach Floyd Burnsed said. "They have all worked hard to play."

Miramonte Head coach Jack Schram echoed those sentiments: "It's a feeling of relief and excitement. I'm glad for our seniors. We've been running conditioning style camps since June so it's great to finally get the opportunity to play."

It's more than just playing the games that is so crucial for the players, according to Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy. "It was more than important to have a season, it was critical, particularly for the seniors who had nothing this year," Macy said. "Everything about high school has been taken away from the students, beyond the distance learning. Playing football is another connection

they can have with the school. Plus, for our freshmen, it's the first time they have stepped on campus and it's their first exposure to our program."

The protocols and precautions are never overlooked. "I have to keep telling them to keep their social distancing and their masks on," Macy said. "Our practices are super regulated, socially distanced drills with masks on at every moment."

Everything is done outside so the teams have a big screen TV set up on the track and the players can watch film while sitting in the stands while still practicing social distancing. "It's harder because we're not allowed into the classrooms to have meetings," Burnsed said.

Miramonte has been running install type drills since June so Schram has not needed to utilize the outdoor screen, but the restrictions go far past using the classrooms. "We haven't been able to use our weight room or locker room," Schram said. "In fact, only one person at a time is allowed to use the indoor bathroom."

Acalanes is the only team with a returning, starting quarterback. With a 9-3 record and making it into the second round of the playoffs last season, Burnsed is very optimistic about the team's prospects this season.

Brady Huchingson had a dominant junior season completing 63.2% of his passes along with 29 touchdowns and only five interceptions. Huchingson picked up where he left off with a dominant performance in a scrimmage against Granada. "He's the real deal," said Burnsed. "He's a good athlete that throws the ball well with good arm strength. There is still a lot of upside to him."

Despite the graduation of Jake Delaney, last year's leading rusher, the Dons will still have a solid running offense with seniors Dane Jenssen (326 yards) and Nic Rossi (323 yards). Juniors Evan Malmquist, who averaged 9.2/yds per carry for last year's undefeated JV team and Dante Montgomery will both be used in the backfield and as wide receivers.

With last year's seniors catching 87% of the team's receptions, Burnsed is relying on a strong junior class, besides Malmquist and Montgomery. "We have four junior receivers that are all learning," Burnsed said. "We may have senior Sam Hammond who is coming off a knee injury last year. If he is physically able, he could start at the X for us. Junior Will Berrien is also playing well as our Z receiver."

The offensive line, with two seniors, J.J. Sterner and Branden Clark, two juniors, Mike Kuhner and Anthony Ortale and sophomore Tyler Murphy, is a good combination of youth and experience.

The defensive line is led by Joe Carillo, who has committed to play at UC Davis next year. Carillo led the team with 20 tackles for loss last season. Josh Ramian and Dan Jenssen are also expected to be factors on the line.

At linebacker, with seniors Niko Cortessis (62T, 13TFL and 9.5 sacks) and Graham Oh (58T, 5TFL and 1 sack) proving to be leaders both on and off the field, it's a position that Burnsed is counting on for talent and stability.

Senior Joe Evans will be the leader in the defensive backfield with several juniors competing for playing time.

Not to be overlooked is kicker Hunter Ridley who according to Burnsed, "has developed into a Division I kicker." Ridley was named on the preseason watch list for kickers by

the East Bay Times and confirmed his status by kicking a 47-yard field goal in a scrimmage against Granada.

Burnsed remains cautiously optimistic about the upcoming season: "We have a tough schedule with no breaks. We're young in a lot of key spots and made a lot of mistakes in our scrimmage which we're trying to correct as soon as possible. We have a lot of good players that just have a lot to learn."

The Dons won their opening game against Monte Vista, 33-27, highlighted by Huchingson's four touchdown passes.

It's proving to be a numbers game for Coach Schram and Miramonte. "We're thin on numbers due to the multiple sports occurring at the same time," Schram said. "Some kids have chosen to only play one sport which has thinned us out a bit."

With the graduation of Matt Meredith who led the team in passing and rushing, Schram feels he has found a suitable replacement in senior Russel Diep, a transfer from De La Salle High School. "Russell throws a good ball and will throw a lot more here than he would have at De La Salle," Schram said.

Seniors Aiden Brown and Jake Doran, the second and third leading rushers last season, will be expected to carry the ball more with Meredith gone. Junior Anthony Ricevuto is also being counted on to be a contributor.

Jameson Braitber (32 receptions) and Sam Ross (21 receptions) are expected to be the starting receivers with Peter Reeves also being counted on to be more of a factor this season. Tyler Dutto and Ben Murphy, guards on the Matadors basketball team have chosen to come out for football for the first time and have shown well in practice. Dutto has looked very athletic and will also be lining up at linebacker

The offensive line looks to be the strength of the team with four returning starters. Besides being solid players, Greg Hemming, Stradley Fouch, Roenigk Straug and Donald Frank have all taken on the role of leaders on the team. "These four are captains and great leaders," Schram said.

... continued on Page C2

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Orinda all-girl robotics team makes it to NorCal championships



Team Stampede (from top left): Sophie Davis, Alexia Gkatzimas, Grace Kosla, Trisha Madannavar, Lina Parikh, and Lauren Stuffmann

Submitted by
Roxanne Christophe

Team Stampede, an all-girl robotics

team from Orinda, made it through a highly competitive round of the FIRST LEGO League robotics qualifiers and headed to the Northern California RePlay Championships on March 14.

While they didn't advance at the championships, the team had a wonderful time participating. Made up of fifth-grade Wagner Ranch Elementary students Sophie Davis, Alexia Gkatzimas, Grace Kosla, Trisha Madannavar, Lina Parikh and Lauren Stuffmann, the team has been busy for the past year designing and preparing their robot and beat off stiff competition Feb. 13 to win the award for "Best Robot Design" at the FIRST LEGO League robotics tournament.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge introduces science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children ages 9-16 through fun, exciting hands-on learning. Participants gain real-world problem-solving experience through a guided, global robotics program. The program is designed to inspire participants to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

According to UNESCO, only around 30% of all female students select STEM-related subjects in higher education with robotics engineering being a male dominated field. These courageous young ladies are evidence that it may not stay that way for long.

"From where we started to where we are now, we have accomplished a lot. We have learned to always stay motivated and excited for what is to

come even when we are hitting a bumpy road. Whether it is succeeding in a mission or finding what we enjoy, we wouldn't be able to do it without each other. During the process, we learned that even though challenges occur, the best feeling is when you stick with it and overcome the challenge as a team," said members of Team Stampede.

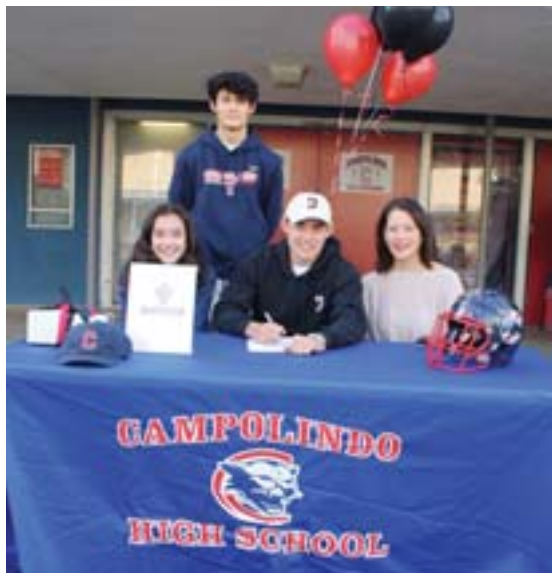
Team Stampede Coach and mom to Trisha, Deepa Bangalore, said, "It's so inspiring to watch the girls work so well together and pull for each other. Since the qualifiers, the girls have been on overdrive, and they've set themselves some rather lofty goals to make their robot even better for the NorCal RePlay Championship."

According to Team Stampede moms, one of the main criteria the teams are judged on is the FIRST LEGO League Core Values of Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun and the team hit the mark with all of those values.

The girls say they are thankful to Elise Chang of Miramonte High School who was instrumental in helping launch Team Stampede last year.

If you would like more information about forming a robotics team email Christine Gkatzimas at cgkatzimas@yahoo.com. For more information on FIRST LEGO League visit www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fl

National Letter of Intent signing day for Campolindo football seniors



Maxwell Weaver

Submitted by **Lauren Fritch**

Campolindo High School recognized seniors Matai Bell and Maxwell Weaver for their com-



Matai Bell

Photos provided

mitment to play Division 1 football at Army West Point (Bell) and Davidson (Weaver) during National Letter of Intent signing day on Feb. 3.

Rain or Sunshine Run Club participates in virtual events



Photos provided

5K Finishers (Feb. 11) from left: Cameron, Cody, Taejin, Colbie, Dash, Brendan



10K Finishers (Feb. 2) from left: Coach Diane, Junior Coach Namratha, Cate, Lauren, Colbie, Cameron, Sadie, TJ, Brendan, Sam

Submitted by **Diane Batchelor**

For five weeks, meeting three afternoons a week for an hour the Rain or Sunshine Run Club athletes (seventh- and eighth-graders) trained for a Virtual 5K and/or 10K. Their training took them up to the Lafayette Reservoir to run a loop or two and various sections of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail. Along with running, the athletes work on strength training and discuss fueling the body for running. For many it was their first time running a 10K

(6.2 miles) and all worked on improving their 5K (3.1 miles) time. The timed course took them from the Lafayette Community Center to Moraga Commons and back on the trail. As the group name implies – Rain or Sunshine – it rained on their 5K but that didn't stop them from achieving their goal of finishing with fantastic times. The team, coached by Diane Batchelor and Junior Coach Namratha, has enjoyed a break from Zoom lessons all day and is now back training for five weeks and another virtual event.

The reinstatement of outdoor sports in Lamorinda

By **Jonathan Pham**

Under new guidelines released by the California Department of Public Health, outdoor recreational sports resumed as of Feb. 26. Even though the Contra Costa County's COVID-19 cases placed it within the purple tier of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, athletes throughout the county may now compete in outdoor sports.

"I'm super excited to get out there for a couple games this season with my squad. I think it's super important for all the athletes in California. It gives us something to look forward to and enjoy in such a rough period of time," Miramonte High School junior and varsity football wide receiver Sam Ross said.

Disregarding a county's

COVID-19 tier designation, the key metric in determining whether or not outdoor recreational sports may resume is the number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people. The new guidelines allow outdoor high-contact sports in counties at or under 14 cases per 100,000. Contra Costa County currently sits within the threshold at 9.3 cases per 100,000.

Players over the age of 13 in sports such as football, basketball, rugby, and water polo will have to submit weekly COVID-19 tests. This is because participants in these sports are more likely to play with face-to-face contact without masks. On the contrary, sports with moderate contact such as baseball, softball, and cheerleading may continue without weekly testing.

"It's great that students

will have the choice to participate in high school sports again. Some families may choose not to, but I know that having the kids play sports, interact with each other and their coaches, and set goals again will be extremely beneficial for them. We will strictly follow guidelines from the state and county to ensure that our coaches and athletes stay safe," Miramonte High School Athletic Director and men's water polo head coach James Lathrop said.

Coaching staff, spectators, and athletes are required to wear face coverings when observing games. Spectators for high school sports must be members of a participant's immediate household.

Jonathan Pham is a junior at Miramonte and writes for the school's newspaper, The Mirador.

Excitement and relief as football season begins

... continued from Page C1

Hemming (30T, 3.5 TFL, 2.5 sacks) and Fouch (24T, 7TFL, 2.5 sacks) are also the leaders on the defensive line.

The linebacker corps is comprised of returning starters led by Sam Ross who led the team with 56 tackles and 10.5 tackles for loss, Ricevuto (23T, 1TFL, 1 Sack) and Jake Doran who had 17 tackles in only six games last year.

With Aiden Browne moving back to free safety combined with Hayden Simon, the defensive back group is another group with both talent

and experience.

"We do have a good core of returning players at every position," said Schram. "The key for us is to stay healthy."

The Matadors open their season with a non-league game at Berkeley this coming Friday.

For Campolindo, Macy's initial concern in returning to practice was the mental state of the team. "The player's minds are still with us after all the distance learning and sitting in zoom classes. It's like we skipped the season and went right into the playoffs so we're looking at a lot of loaded teams on our schedules."

Coming off a 10-3 season, the first need on the field for Campolindo was replacing last year's starting quarterback, Grant Harper. Senior Jacob Griessell is going to have to learn on the run, having only thrown nine passes last year. Macy is optimistic from what he has seen so far. "Jacob's arm strength has really improved, and he has also filled out physically," Macy said. "It's just going to be how he does in the pocket."

Equally challenging for Macy will be to replace last year's runners which accounted for 95% of the yards

gained rushing. Dilan Thoms will be one back and linebackers J.T. Clarke and Jake Leuteneker will also be used in the backfield. "They'll be fine," Macy said confidently.

Griessell will be helped by the return of veteran receivers. Seniors Maxwell Weaver (31 receptions), who will be playing for Davidson next year, Joey Schmidt (25 receptions) and Zach Raphael (8 receptions) will provide a lot of stability in the passing game.

The offensive line is an experienced group led by tackle Matai Bell who will be playing for West Point next

year and junior Elijah Klock. "Just about all of them got a lot of playing time," Macy said.

On defense, seniors Daniel Wheeler (8.5 sacks) and Cole Curtiss (2.5 sacks) are key returners along with J.T. Clarke, "whose motor is always roaring," said Macy.

This was to be a celebratory 25th season for Macy but he's adjusted as have the players to what has transpired.

The Cougars won their opening game 27-23 at Freedom High School, led by Griessell's four touchdown passes and Thoms' 132 yards passing.

As Seen in Lamorinda

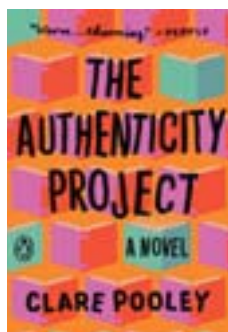
The air was filled with the hum of helicopters March 12 after a small plane landed on the ridgeline behind Calle La Montana in Moraga. Next step? Getting the craft off the hilltop.
- S. O'Doherty



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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 17, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Top of the Morning!**



The beautiful blooms of the purple plum trees at Moraga Commons Park. Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

*“May your thoughts be as glad as the
shamrocks
May your heart be as light as a song.
May each day bring you bright
Happy hours that stay with you all the year
long.” ~ Irish blessing*
My first introduction to the Emerald Isles

arrived when I was 7. First grade was the beginning of my education since preschool and kindergarten did not exist in our neck of the woods. A new school had been constructed with young teachers dressed from head to toe in black with white collars who arrived from a faraway land called Ireland. These exotic nuns told the most marvelous tales of a land where mischievous little people known as leprechauns lived in

tiny houses, worked as shoemakers, and hid their gold in pots at the end of the rainbow. Magical green shamrocks blanketed the fields and dales that were used by the legendary St. Patrick in the 4th century to explain the Holy Trinity to those he wanted to convert to Christianity. Best of all, we learned he had driven out the snakes.

Rattlesnakes were everywhere on our ranch so the thought of being able to run barefoot through a field of clover sounded spectacular. By the age of 9, letters were flying across the pond to my pen pal in Dublin and, finally when I was 18, I visited her in this mythical landscape to become an adopted Irishwoman. Since then, I've spent many days traversing the island, soaking up the hospitality of the people and the beauty of the stones, seascapes, landscapes, cottages, and shamrocks. Most charming are the tiny doors built at the base of trees where the leprechauns live.

... continued on Page D16



A tree full of camellias

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	14	\$965,000	\$5,250,000
MORAGA	11	\$494,000	\$2,950,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,300,000	\$3,100,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 1 Foothill Park Terrace, \$1,370,000, 6 Bdrms, 2806 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 02-05-21
 101 Greenbank Drive, \$2,918,500, 6 Bdrms, 7066 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 02-01-21,
 Previous Sale: \$710,000, 03-30-98
 1787 Ivanhoe Avenue, \$1,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1338 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 01-26-21
 3408 La Caminita, \$5,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 5034 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 01-20-21
 3611 Lincoln Way, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 01-20-21
 3878 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3626 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 02-03-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 08-06-09
 3477 Monroe Avenue, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3351 SqFt, 1906 YrBlt, 02-03-21
 3615 Mosswood Drive #3617, \$1,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 01-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,139,500, 05-19-16
 3976 South Peardale Drive, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 01-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 12-07-09
 44 Prado Way, \$3,850,000, 5018 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 01-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$525,000, 10-21-11
 364 Read Drive, \$2,525,000, 5 Bdrms, 4134 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 01-29-21
 1076 Serrano Court, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1844 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 01-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,446,500, 10-14-19
 1470 Sunset Loop, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 2523 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 02-01-21,
 Previous Sale: \$265,000, 03-01-92
 1003 Woodbury Road #208, \$965,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 01-26-21

MORAGA

- 2051 Ascot Drive #104, \$494,000, 2 Bdrms, 1180 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 02-04-21
 1 Barnes Court, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3907 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 01-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,700,000, 06-25-20
 793 Country Club Drive, \$1,172,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 02-02-21
 149 Cypress Point Way, \$1,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 01-22-21
 124 Greenbriar, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 01-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-08-99
 27 Indian Wells Street, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 02-01-21,
 Previous Sale: \$419,000, 08-01-88
 2 Julianna Court, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 4324 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 01-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 06-23-11
 231 Los Santos Court, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 02-03-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,110,000, 11-12-19
 25 Merrill Circle, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4155 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 01-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,810,000, 08-01-13
 1926 Saint Andrews Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1889 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 01-22-21
 29 Winslow Place, \$2,035,000, 4 Bdrms, 2287 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 01-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 03-13-15

ORINDA

- 128 Catherine Court, \$3,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4501 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 02-05-21
 38 Crestview Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 01-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 06-18-16
 32 Heather Lane, \$1,575,000, 6 Bdrms, 4048 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 02-01-21
 683 Ironbark Circle, \$1,868,000, 5 Bdrms, 4256 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 01-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$567,500, 05-28-98
 10 Kittiwake Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4436 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 01-25-21,
 Previous Sale: \$168,500, 04-01-88
 10 Orchard Court, \$1,526,000, 3 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 01-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 11-19-15
 226 Overhill Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1306 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-29-21



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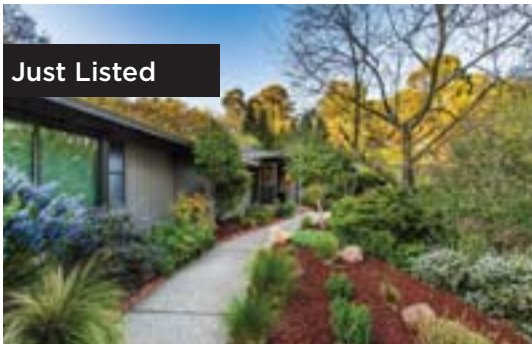
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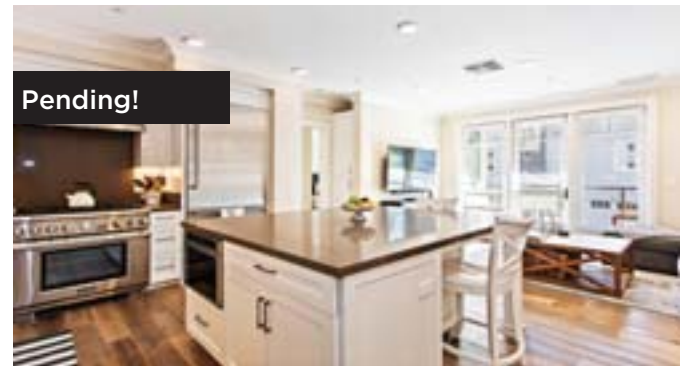
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Local landscape consultant focuses on tree health

By John T. Miller

The lion's share of longtime Orinda resident Michael Baefsky's work for private clients is tree consulting. "The trees of Lamorinda and the greater Bay Area have a strong hold on me," says Baefsky, who owns the landscape consulting firm, Trees, Bugs, Dirt. "It's satisfying to work with the people here who love their trees as much as I do."

Recently, his work has been addressing concerns about bark beetles devastating the Monterey pine trees and sudden oak death

killing local species of homeowners' oak trees. "People don't realize that the presence of the pests isn't the only part of the problem. They are there and thriving because of other environmental factors, like insufficient water and excessive heat for the pine trees and excessive moisture, like fog or irrigation, in the oaks."

Another statewide problem, especially in many school districts, is ground squirrels undermining sidewalks and other structures. Using poisons to eliminate the pest can lead to secondary and tertiary poisoning, according



Michael Baefsky

Photo provided

to Baefsky. "The question became how can you design a landscape to avoid pests in the first place?" The correct type of fence can prevent or reduce the problem.

Baefsky was recently awarded the California Department of Pesticide Regulation first ever Lifetime Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award. He was given the award for his "ongoing dedication to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) implementation through professional, advisory and teaching endeavors [which] has enriched and will continue to benefit the people of California," according to the DPR.

... continued on Page D12



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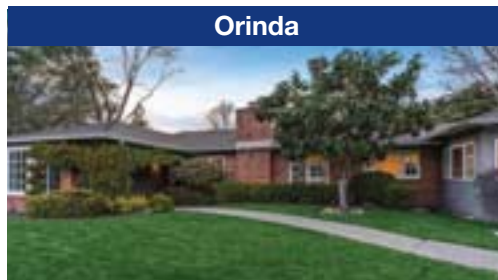


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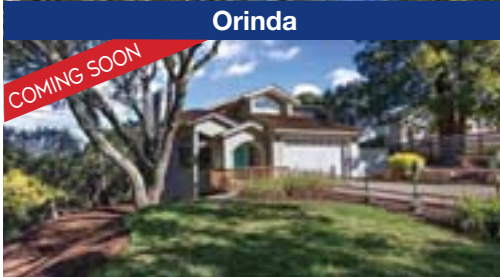


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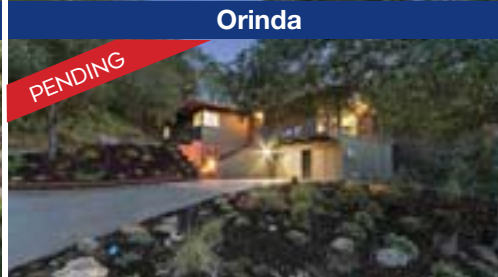


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Local landscape consultant focuses on tree health

... continued from Page D4

IPM began in the 1950s out of discontent over a purely insecticidal approach to insect control, which came to prominence with Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring."

Baefsky formed his landscaping and consulting firm in Orinda after receiving a degree in Pest Management from UC Berkeley in 1985. He provides professional tree, pest and soil consulting to both public and private clients. Baefsky advises and consults with clients encouraging sustainable practices in the landscape that include re-using materials on sites as mulches, minimizing wasteful irrigation practices by monitoring soil moisture and watering as needed, eliminating pesticide use when alternatives exist, and using materials and methods that match specific sites.

He has held tree and IPM related advisory positions in the Bay Area and helped develop many IPM publications, most recently working with Dr. Chris Geiger of the San Francisco

Department of the Environment to coauthor "Pest Prevention by Design – Landscapes" which focuses on elements of design to prevent pest invasion.

Shortly after the California Healthy Schools Act (HSA) was passed in 2000, Baefsky traveled up and down the state working with districts on mandatory IPM training and providing information about pesticide use at public schools. He has also taught classes on Insects and IPM Pest Management at Merritt College, and on trees, pests, diseases and soil at Diablo Valley College.

"Teaching is my favorite tool," says Baefsky. He recalls an "Aha" moment when giving a workshop for the city of San Francisco a few years back: "There were about 120 participants at the Hall of Flowers who were used to more passive types of learning through PowerPoint presentations with the lights out. I gave them all a worksheet and turned it into a problem-solving treasure hunt with tables and exhibits filling the

rooms. Everyone got excited and involved."

Ever since, Baefsky discovers the joy of hands-on interactive workshops, going beyond the lecture format to present stimulating learning situations. He is a strong proponent of organic gardening, but not an absolute purist. "If an approach is environmentally sound, I'm willing to use it. I'm also a firm believer in following university research," he says.

COVID-19 has affected face-to-face contact for Baefsky, but he observes that people's increased involvement with their homes during the pandemic may have led to even more calls. His current protocol is to phone the client on arrival to their property, take a look at whatever the problem is, and then call back with his observations and suggestions, while often following up in writing.

People interested in Baefsky's work may contact him at treesbugsdirt@gmail.com, or call (925) 254-7950.

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Garage door troubleshooting



There are two sensors on both sides of the garage door to check for spiders, leaves or dirt.

By Jim Hurley

Long ago, everyone enjoyed stopping in the driveway, getting out of their car, manually opening the garage door, and getting back in their car to drive into the garage, because they had no choice. (Unless, like my dad, you had children to assign to the task.) Thank goodness, the automatic garage door is a reliable feature of our homes that we take for granted – unless it stops working.

Garage door styles have come full circle, in a manner of speaking. Originally “carriage house” doors were double wide panels, with big tee-strap hinges on each side, that opened out manually. Over time, carriage house doors were replaced by single panel tilt-up doors which were then replaced by roll-up doors. Now, new roll-up doors are made to look like the old-fashioned carriage house doors. Everything old is new again.

When your opener stops working, your first goal is probably to get the car out of the garage since you were leaving for some reason. The solution is to open the door manually. At the front of the door, near the top of the bar that connects the door to the opener, there is a clip with a pull cord attached. Pull down on the cord and the clip should click into a downward position. This releases the door from the opener’s drive shaft. You should now be able to lift and roll the door open easily. If the door does not open easily, there is more trouble than just the opener not working. We will get to that below. For now, take care of your errand, but when you close the garage door be careful to bring it

down gently (do not let it drop!)

When you get back it is time to start debugging the opener’s problem. First check to see that the opener can work. If the motor does not try to run or even make a sound when you push the button, there may be a problem with the outlet that it is plugged into. Get a step ladder, unplug the opener from the outlet and plug the opener into a heavy duty, (16 gauge), extension cord. Plug the extension cord into an outlet that you know is working and see if the garage door opener runs. Remember that you disconnected the drive from the door when you pulled the clip down, so the motor may run without the door going up.

If the opener runs, your next step is to restore power to the ceiling outlet. Check the circuit breaker panel for a tripped breaker. If the breakers are all on, then it is possible the ceiling outlet is wired into a CGFI outlet somewhere. Check each of the CGFI outlets, (I sense another article coming), to make sure they are working. If you find one to reset, check back on your opener’s outlet. If you cannot get the outlet back on, you can leave the opener plugged into the extension cord and still use the door until your handyman or electrician comes to fix the outlet.

If the opener refuses to run, it is time to call the garage door repairman. There might be a sticker by the opener button on the wall of your garage of the company that installed the unit, or you can search Garage Door Repair online. A specialist will have the right parts, the experience to adjust the new opener if needed, and get the job done with little inconvenience to you.

Was the door heavy and difficult to lift when you disconnected it from the drive earlier? The springs on your garage door counterbalance the weight of the door. When a spring breaks, the door becomes too heavy for the power opener to lift and the motor will start acting sketchy, like starting to open and stopping, or pulling with a loud racket. When this happens, unless you’re in the Super Handy Do-It-Yourselfer category, it’s best to call the garage door repairman.

One other problem that may occur is that the door goes up but will not come down. There is an electric sensor near the ground on either side of the door. These are a safety feature that prevents the door from closing if anything (like your car or a child) is in the way. Check to see if something was placed or fell in front of the sensors, or they might become misaligned. Once, we had a spider build her nest in the sensor and block the beam with a leaf. The sensors have a red and green light.

If the path is clear and they can “see” each other, the lights will be lit. If there is something blocking the path, the lights will either not light or blink. Check the sensors, clear the path, or adjust the alignment to make the lights stay on, this should fix the closing problem.

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.





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Shelter in style. Kitchen/great room, living room with vaulted ceiling. Large, wooded yard with flat lawn, patio and deck, plus a detached office. The perfect home in the heart of sought-after Glorietta.

4 BED

3.5 BATH

±2,600 SQ FT

0.63 ACRE

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Michelle Holcenberg

Coldwell Banker Top 20 East/North Bay Region

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Top of the Morning!**



The yellow flowers of the shamrock, also known as oxalis.

... continued from Page D1

Shamrocks grow in my garden in the colors of pink and yellow. There are over 500 species of Oxalis, known as sorrel or shamrock. Many people consider them a weed because they do multiply. Because I love the Irish lore, I love my spreading shamrocks. They grow from a small bulb and in March sprout mounds of beautiful green clover-shaped leaves with flowers that open

at the top of the morning and close at the end of the day. I started my collection by growing shamrocks indoors in a pot and eventually moved the plants outdoors. When the foliage turns yellow and begins to die, cut the leaves to let the plant sleep. Next season, the shamrocks will burst forth again. The tiny bulbs or tubers can easily be moved or transplanted elsewhere. Be aware that shamrocks can become invasive. If you have a small yard, it may be best to keep them in a container. Or designate one area of your

garden for the shamrocks and don't allow them to escape.

Wear green on March 17 and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a pot of shamrocks on your table. They may not bring you a pot of gold, but shamrocks are a reminder that once we can travel again, visiting the land of leprechauns is at the end of the rainbow.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. Erin go Bragh!

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

Since I've been writing this column since 2008, I often mistakenly assume that readers understand that I encourage the use of organic and safe garden practices for feeding, fertilizing, spraying, or eliminating pests. There are always ways to create a beautiful garden without the use of toxic chemicals, insecticides, herbicides, and pesticides. Keeping our children, pets, and wildlife safe and healthy is of the utmost importance. Whether I specify an organic method or not, please always use eco-friendly products. By doing so, we'll also heal our planet.

ELIMINATE SNAILS: Non-toxic to children, chickens, and other pets, Sluggo and Natria are two organic baits containing iron phosphate which naturally occurs in soil. Non-ingested bait degrades and becomes part of the soil.

Other ways to purge snails and slugs include:

- a. Handpicking them. I often go out at night with a flashlight and a bucket. If you have chickens, ducks, or geese, they'll feast on escargot. Otherwise, at the risk of sounding cruel, you must kill them. We do the snail stomp. Put on boots and dance around. Other ways include drowning them in a bucket of water.
- b. Trapping them. Snails like to hide in damp, dark refuges under flowerpots, boards or plants. Gather them in the morning after their nightly raid.
- c. Beer bowls. Snails are attracted to the fermenting yeast of beers. If you put out saucers or shallow bowls of beer, they will fall in. They don't get drunk. They drown in the beer.
- d. Copper barriers. Copper bands or strips are probably the most effective barrier to keep snails and slugs out of pots and plants. It is work-intensive and more expensive, but especially useful around trees.
- e. Decollate snails: These predatory snails have been used in Southern California to control young small brown snails in citrus groves. However, they cannot be used in Northern California as they would endanger other mollusk species.

Once you have killed your snails, you can add them to your compost pile where their moist bodies will decompose quickly. The shells will take a bit longer but will add nutrients as they compost.

UPGRADE your outdoor living to be a place that encourages peacefulness and solitude. Create an area where you can work and listen to the sounds of nature.

SUPPORT National Farmworkers Awareness Week March 25-31 by purchasing produce from socially responsible vendors.



Stone wall at the site of the 7th Century Seven Churches of the Aran Islands ("Na Seacht Teampall" in the Gaelic) with lawn daisies growing.

... continued on Page D22

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March



Herbs in a Galway Garden



Irish ivy on an Irish stone wall.

... continued from Page D21

TRY a solar-powered sonic mole deterrent that emits vibrations through the ground to keep these velvety creatures at bay. Moles do produce unsightly molehills and undermine plants with their shallow tunnels which can cause roots to dry out. They also do positive chores by feeding on slugs.

STORE garbage cans out of reach of scavengers. Don't feed wildlife. Skunks, racoons, and coyotes have become frequent neighborhood visitors and can be dangerous.

FEED your lawns. Healthy soil grows healthy strong grass. Top your lawn with ¼ inch of compost or use a slow-release organic fertilizer that disseminates their nutrients through animal, plant, and mineral matter. It is best to fertilize before rainfall.

TURN on lawn sprinklers to check the heads have not been covered by new growing grass.

DESTROY weeds and poison oak without toxic chemicals.

For weeds in sidewalk cracks, borders, and areas where lawns, flowers, and

other plants won't be affected, mix one tablespoon Dawn dishwashing detergent, a cup of salt, and a gallon of regular white vinegar in a pail. Pour into a spray bottle and spray on the weeds on a sunny day. The sunlight works the magic. Be careful where you spray as this solution is harmful to grass and plants. It will kill your weeds.

For poison oak or super-tough weeds, buy a gallon of 30% white vinegar and put it in a spray tank undiluted. Spray poison oak as it emerges in spring and do it on a warm, sunny day. The 30% white vinegar is very potent and will kill everything it touches. It is the safe and effective alternative to using Round Up for a similar amount of money. It also is useful for cleaning brick and stone patios, driveways, greenhouses, and hothouses. It will dissolve calcium, mineral, and lime buildup.

SPRING for spring on March 20. Enjoy the rebirth of our gardens and start digging deeper.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring!



The trinity of leaves of the shamrock.



Cynthia Brian sitting in an Irish garden under a full moon.

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

Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD.

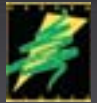
Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

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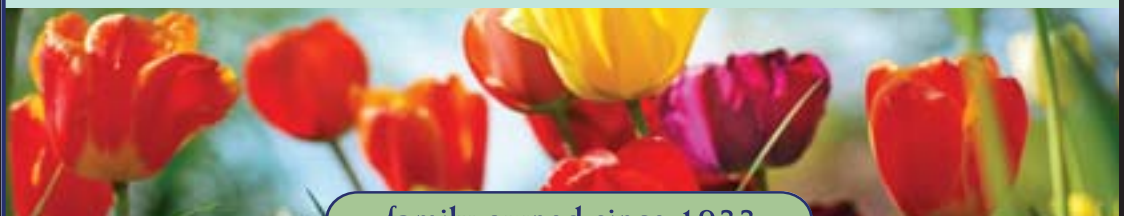
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Gated estate on secluded cul-de-sac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin. **\$5,795,000**

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New Listing!

53 Parklane Drive

Sensational 5 bed/ 3.5 bath Ranch-style 3170 sqft Glorietta home w/ park-like backyard, pool, & sports court. **\$1,995,000**

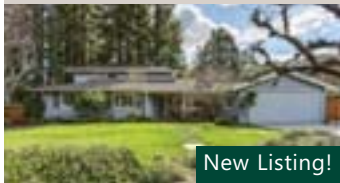
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42 Camino Lenada

Charming ease of living 3 bed/ 2 bath 1601 sqft home at end of private cul-de-sac in prime Country Club area. **\$1,399,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

47 Estabueno Drive

Traditional 4 bed/ 3 bath custom home in popular Del Rey neighborhood on tranquil lush .31 acres. **\$1,599,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

52 Evergreen Drive

Classic one-level 4 bed/ 3 bath home on .48 acre knoll w/ patio & pool. Close-in location. Not to be missed! **Call for Price**

ORINDA



Lot!

20 Oak Court

One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views! **\$780,000**

ORINDA



67 Brookwood Road # 3

Rarely available 2 bed/ 1 bath first floor condo in charming Orinda Oaks, close to BART, shops, theater & restaurants. **\$525,000**

LAFAYETTE



22 Northridge Lane

Fabulous gated entry ridge line retreat w/ 4 bed/ 4.5 bath + office/den. Minutes to downtown w/ views of Reservoir! **\$2,895,000**

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**

LAFAYETTE



Coming Soon!

1006 Woodbury Road #102

One level 2 bed/ 2 bath corner unit w/ private entrance. Premium south facing location w/ views of Mt. Diablo. **\$1,565,000**

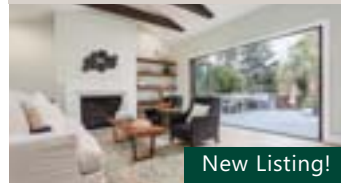
WALNUT CREEK



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



New Listing!

181 El Dorado Road

Renovated one level 4 bed/ 3 bath charmer in sought-after Saranap neighborhood w/ inviting deck & expansive lawn. **\$1,495,000**

ALAMO



10 Serenity Lane

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

LIVERMORE



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**

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