



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

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

**Orinda Public Meetings**

**City Council**

**Regular Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

# Library extends feature to Orinda Community Park pending reopening



Photos Sora O'Doherty



Young girls read Storywalk signs in Orinda Community Park.

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Do your kids want to read a book, but still want to play in the park? Orinda has you covered.

The Friends of the Orinda Library extended big thanks to children's librarian Lin Look who recently installed a Storywalk in Orinda Community Park. Repurposing old campaign signs, she built and installed a free-standing version of Eric Carle's "Very Hungry Caterpillar" along the path between the swing set and tennis courts. The signs reach just the right height for little ones.

Returning to the library itself is also drawing near. Beginning Monday, April 26, Contra Costa County Library will reopen most community

libraries to the public for Grab & Go service. The libraries will be open with limited occupancy and offer select services. Patrons will be asked to limit their time in the library to no more than one hour and to abide by all safety protocols including social distancing and mask requirements.

Available services will include computer use for no more than one hour, reference and counter help, holds pick up, browsing, checkout and returns, and copies and printing. Library manager Michael Beller is also excited that Link+ has just relaunched. Beller says that for Link+ users, "that's really huge." This catalog of more than 4.5 million unique titles available from over 60 academic and public libraries

across California and Nevada allows users of the library to access materials not available from the Contra Costa County Library collection.

When the library re-opens, seating will only be available at selected public computers to encourage social distancing. Toys and high touch play items will be removed from the library for the present. Services that will still not be available for safety reasons include the use of study and meeting rooms, in-person events, and the use of tables and chairs for reading and studying.

Safety enhancements include the installation of plexiglass shields at service desks; enhanced cleaning of "high-touch" surfaces such as doorknobs, door push bars, and elevator buttons. Addi-

tionally, the following safety protocols will be in place: customers over the age of 2 are required to wear a mask or face covering, social distancing reminders will be placed throughout the library, building capacity will be limited, hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and sanitizing wipes will be available for customers to sanitize shared surfaces.

Beller says that he has to remind himself that the reopening process is gradual and that the library will move to the next phase (with better access) as soon as they are able. "I can't wait to see everyone back," Beller said. "I just hope that our patrons will be patient with us for not offering all of the resources that they're used to us offering."

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# Registration opens for Lamorinda Idol 2021

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Young singers may register to compete in the Lamorinda Idol 2021 competition until April 30. The competition, once again, will be virtual, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, with contestants submitting video performances.

Established in 2006, Lamorinda Idol is a singing

program open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who either attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Singers may enter as soloists or in groups. Students from outside Contra Costa County are permitted to participate in the group categories, provided that at least one member of the group meets the residential

requirement.

Audition videos will be due May 15 and finalists will be announced June 1. Finalists will submit their final performance videos by July 31, and the winners of the competition will be announced Aug. 15.

After singers submit their videos, judges will select finalists and then win-

ners in each category who will receive cash prizes. Singers can compete as soloists or as groups in seven categories: K-2nd grade soloists, 3rd-5th grade soloists, K-5th grade groups, 6th-8th grade soloists and groups, 9th-12th grade soloists and groups.

Videos of past winners' performances can be accessed from the Lamorinda Arts Council website, <https://lamorindaarts.org/idol-past-winners/> Participants' Information Packet for Lamorinda Idol 2021 is available online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol-audition-information/> Questions may be sent to [idol@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:idol@lamorindaarts.org).

# Creativity required for LAC's SuperShorts movie competition

**By Sora O'Doherty**

The Lamorinda Arts Council has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging participants to relieve pandemic stress by becoming filmmakers. Com-



petitors are asked to make a film up to three minutes long that respects safety protocols. Participants must live, work, or attend school in the Lamorinda area, including the Acalanes Union High School District area.

Creativity is encouraged, and all types of films are welcome - drama, comedy, day-in-the-life, documentary, musical, animation, claymation, etc. Films may be submitted in categories by age. The submission categories are youth (under 18), adults (18 and over), and family (for collaborative efforts including youth and adults in the same household) Participants may submit one film per category. Entries are \$5 per submission, which may be waived upon application. The deadline for entering films is May 14 at midnight on FilmFreeway.

Each of the top three

films by category receives a \$20 gift card and winning films will be showcased in a live Virtual Film Festival Awards Show at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 19. In addition, films will be posted to the Lamorinda Arts Council YouTube channel and publicized through the Lamorinda Arts Council website and social media channels.

Under the contest guidelines, competitors must shoot their film on any device, including cell phones, tablet, and cameras. Films must be G-rated and suitable for all audiences, must run three minutes or less and be shot according to national, state, and county protocols for social distancing, and other COVID-19 precautions. In person collaboration outside the household of the primary filmmaker is not permitted, but virtual collaborations are allowed.

More information on the contest may be found at [www.LamorindaArts.org/SuperShorts/](http://www.LamorindaArts.org/SuperShorts/) Submissions for the Lamorinda Arts Council SuperShorts movie competition may be uploaded at <https://filmfreeway.com/LamorindaSuperShorts>

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