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# City of Lafayette pays legal fees award following Brown Act violation

By Jennifer Wake

Following a Dec. 4, 2020 order by Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Edward Weil, the city of Lafayette on April 5 paid an award of attorneys fees totaling \$133,118 (minus credit for costs) to a group of seven Lafayette residents who challenged three closed sessions of the City Council in 2016 involving a land use application for a tennis court cabana on Las Trampas Road.

Last March, the First Appellate District ruled the city council violated the Brown Act Open Meeting Law by holding closed sessions before

three public hearings without identifying the matter and disclosing information on the agenda. The applicant's attorney had told city planning department staff that he would sue the city if the city continued its refusal to allow the cabana project to move forward. The city planner alerted the city attorney, who discussed the litigation threat with the council in closed session on July 25, 2016, but did not provide the council with the city planner's note of the communicated threat, and the note wasn't placed in the meeting agenda packet.

The Court of Appeal agreed with the plaintiffs that

the city violated the Brown Act and ruled the city was not allowed "to thwart its duty of public disclosure in this manner." The Court held that a record of a litigation threat to be discussed in closed session must be included in the agenda packet made available to the public before a meeting.

The Brown Act generally requires that governing bodies, such as a city council, conduct their business in open session allowing for public participation, according to an April 2020 client brief written about the case by Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law. "Under certain excep-

tions, governing boards may conduct business in 'closed session,' out of the view and participation of the public," it stated. "One such exception allows governing boards to discuss pending or threatened litigation in closed session, provided that the closed session discussion is properly noticed and any action taken during closed session is 'reported out' once the board returns to open session."

While the court upheld the issue that a record of a litigation threat should have been included in the agenda packet, the court rejected the plaintiff's argument that the cabana project was null and

void under Government Code 54960.1, which authorizes a court to find null and void an action taken in violation of the Brown Act.

The California League of Cities sought to depublish the opinion on the grounds that "the standard practice of public agencies statewide does not conform to the Court of Appeal's opinion."

Had the opinion been unpublished, Weil wrote, "the Court would find this a case in which a fee award would be unjust," but the award is appropriate since published opinion require changes in the operating procedures of local state governments.

# Orchard Nursery celebrates 75 years of community involvement



Photos provided

Current owner Tom Courtright and Kathy Courtright Rondini

By John T. Miller

A longtime fixture on the western edge of Lafayette, Orchard Nursery recently celebrated its 75th anniversary on March 14.

The celebration was a reminder of the many regular community events hosted by the nursery, including Sunday

socials, an annual Christmas show, and a Harvest Festival with live music, barn animals – goats, sheep, bunnies, etc. – children's storytellers, food vendors, crafters, corn stalks, pumpkins and gourds.

The land originally belonged to the Kergan family, who purchased it in 1935. The Kergans built their ranch on

the frontage of the only main road from Oakland and Berkeley through Lafayette and on to Walnut Creek – a dirt road cutting through open fields.

The Kergan ranch featured cattle with a 'Rocking K' brand, a pear orchard, and fruit stand. The land was purchased by Jack Schneider and his partner Stewart Wade in 1946 who established Orchard Nursery on the site.

The nursery was conceived and designed by internationally famed landscape architect Ernest Wertheim, who helped reinvent the nursery business as something more than just a place that sold plants. Wertheim knew that a full-service garden center was the future of the industry, so he created just that.

In 1955, Schneider and Wade were notified by the state of California that the nursery was right in the middle of the proposed construction of Highway 24



The Orchard Nursery fountain was a focal point for many community events.

and would have to move. After a frantic year of extensions and petitions, the nursery was relocated, but only slightly.

The intersection of Happy Valley Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard was the former entrance to the nursery, but

with the construction of the new highway, customers would now enter from the back of the nursery on Acalanes Road. Dirt removed to make way for the freeway forms the mound that borders the entrance

... continued on Page A9

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## PG&E work continues in downtown Lafayette



Photo Jennifer Wake

**Workers conduct visual gas transmission pipeline inspections April 8 at the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette.**

**By Jennifer Wake**

Picnickers at Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette will have to wait a while longer before regaining access to the popular grassy area currently cordoned off with a black fence as Pacific Gas and Electric Company work continues.

PG&E is conducting visual inspections of sections of a gas transmission pipeline (L-191) that goes through Lafayette. This work extends from Moraga Boulevard through Mt. Diablo Boulevard, up to Deer Hill Road near the BART station, according to PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian. “The safety of our customers and the communities we serve is PG&E’s top priority.”

There are various locations for this work, Sarkissian noted. “Some sites started this inspection work as early as February. We plan to have all locations done by June, with some finishing sooner. There are no planned service interruptions during this work. At this time, no other PG&E gas work is planned in downtown Lafayette for the next couple of months.”

Sod was removed at Plaza Park to access the underground line for the visual inspection, said Sarkissian, but the sod will be replaced “like for like or better” and the fence will be removed as soon as it is safe to do so. “Our goal is to complete the portion of the project at Plaza Park in the coming weeks.”

## LLC offers lectures and author discussions online

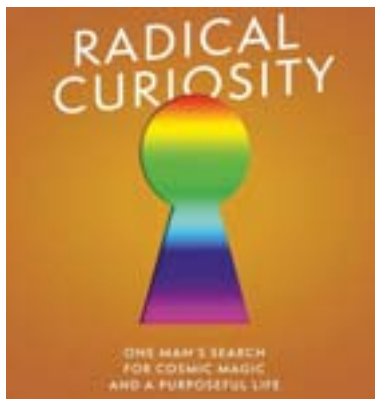


Image provided

While library reopenings are being scheduled in Lamorinda following the move of Contra Costa County into the Orange tier, many programming options will still be available from the comfort of your couch via Zoom. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center is continuing its Authors and Lectures programming in April, starting on April 14 at 2 p.m. with a lecture by Avril Angevine about Dorothea Lange. Best known for her Depression-era documentary work—including the world-renowned “Migrant Mother”—Lange brought the humanity of the

poor into sharp focus in works that resonate with us today.

As part of the Distinguished Speaker Series, Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D., will discuss his book, “Radical Curiosity: One Man’s Search for Cosmic Magic and a Purposeful Life” at 7 p.m. April 17 on Zoom. Widely regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts on aging and longevity, according to the LLC website, Dychtwald offers an entirely different, and far more personal, perspective in his latest book. Triggered by the deaths of his parents, and motivated by his cutting-edge research into the importance of leaving a legacy, Dychtwald dives deep to examine the arc and legacies of his own life in order to show readers his keys to a meaningful, magical and purposeful life.

Ticket price (\$28) includes a copy of Dychtwald’s book. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. RSVP at [www.llcf.org/dss-ken-dychtwald](http://www.llcf.org/dss-ken-dychtwald) - J. Wake

**Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, April 26, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Design Review**

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



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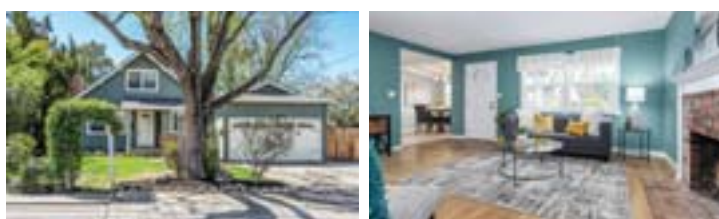


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## Continuation of Canyon Road Bridge replacement begins this month

By Vera Kochan

A soft opening of the inbound traffic lane, held on Nov. 10, 2020, signaled the completion of Phase I of the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project. Part of the process involved the removal of the temporary, one-lane steel truss bridge that had served as a vehicular link between Moraga and Canyon since 2017, when landslides forced the original bridge's closure. The removal of the temporary bridge has saved the town approximately \$11,000 in monthly lease costs. "Phase II of the Canyon

Road Bridge Project is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, April 19 and be completed late 2021," stated Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp. "The contractor will be working Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. To ensure that construction is completed with minimal disruption this year, the town may authorize the contractor to work after regular construction hours and on weekends."

Drivers can expect traffic delays of 15 minutes or longer. There may be instances of complete closures during the

day, at limited times, due to the nature of the bridge work and for safety reasons. The town encourages bridge users to be aware of the construction activities and obey all construction related signs.

Bridge closure day and time updates will be posted in advance on the town's Canyon Road Bridge website: [www.moraga.ca.us/canyon-roadbridge](http://www.moraga.ca.us/canyon-roadbridge) or subscribe to: [www.moraga.ca.us/notifyme](http://www.moraga.ca.us/notifyme).

"We apologize for any inconvenience," said Knapp, "and appreciate your patience during construction."



Current one lane bridge

Photo provided



**Town Council** Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m.,  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings:** Special Board Meeting Tuesday, May 11, 6 p.m.  
[www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us). See also AUHSD meeting page A2

## Town council gives staff a thumbs up on Laguna Creek's early design stage



Courtesy Moraga Public Works Dept.

By Vera Kochan

After input received from public meetings via Zoom, which included a Community Workshop, the Planning Commission and the Park and Recreation Commission, Moraga's town council was given an update by staff as to preferences for the design of the Laguna Creek Restoration Project currently at the 15% stage.

The Project is meant to avoid another major flooding of the Pavilion, located at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga, like the one that occurred during the winter of 2005-06, which also caused major damage to structures and features on the property.

Restoration work will consist of removing Laguna Creek's existing 8-foot diameter culvert adjacent to the Pavilion building; constructing a natural channel to provide habitat for endangered

species; relocating a Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer line; constructing a vehicular bridge over the creek; and improving public accessibility and protections.

Moraga Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers addressed the public's preferences during the council's March 24 meeting. Also present were representatives from BKF Engineering and Restoration Design Group. Major points of discussion were the bridge width, ADA parking, the pedestrian trail, and required guardrails.

It was also pointed out that many dead or dying trees, as well as those not considered California natives, will be removed during construction where necessary. However, restoration planting of oaks, baccharis, buckeye and numerous multi-colored blooming trees will

take their places. The unsightly shed that often makes its photo-bombing appearance in wedding pictures will also be eliminated.

Knapp and Summers' staff report revealed to council the most popular public feedback options. "Move the ADA accessible parking stall to the front of the building to maintain access, facilitate movement around the building, and allow for a narrower bridge." To accommodate pedestrians, "have a decomposed granite (or other durable material) trail that is more accessible for wheelchairs, strollers, and heeled shoes." And, "utilize new guardrails/barriers similar in appearance to the wooden ones used elsewhere on the grounds."

The council was pleased with the public's 15% design stage input and directed staff to proceed with the project.

## Free carwash in Moraga helps chase away the COVID blues



A free car wash and service with a smile

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

On a recent Saturday, at the intersection of Moraga Road and Via Granada in Moraga, several young adults with

hand-painted signs advertising a "Free Car Wash" were enthusiastically waving at all passing vehicles. Was this a joke? Was there a catch? Nope. It was just that; a free

car wash with no strings attached.

Drivers were directed to the parking lot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Lafayette, Orinda Ward) at 3776 Via Granada. There, cars waited in a queue for their turn to experience service with a smile. First the cars were hosed down, followed by a lathery brushing and sponging; hosed down again and finished with a soft towel wipe and squeegeed windows.

The car washers are all missionaries from various cities across the United States. ... continued on next Page

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## Monarch Butterfly Habitat construction begins



Photo Vera Kochan

Some of the many volunteers helping to build the monarch habitat, from left: Moraga Mayor Mike McCluer, Sandy Sohner, Moraga Park Foundation President Clay Serrahn, Moraga Public Works/Parks Maintenance Manager Kyle Salvin, Steve Sohner, MGC President Penny Walwark and project co-chair Bobbie Preston

By Vera Kochan

the monarch butterflies are at critically low levels in western states because of destruction to

Scientific research notes that

their milkweed habitat along their migratory route as human housing expands into their territory and use of pesticides and herbicides increases.

Moraga falls within the western monarch's critical "coastal range," and as such it can provide a nectar and larvae host habitat. It is important to plant milkweed species that are native to California, keeping in mind that it takes one year for the plants to establish themselves and two to three years for them to bloom.

The Moraga Garden Club is establishing a certified monarch waystation at the Rancho Laguna Park with construction having recently begun by clearing out the area that once contained a par course over 10 years ago. The planting area of 2,600 square feet, 58 feet in diameter and 170 feet in circumference is now surrounded by a 6-foot-tall fence made of 2-by-2 inch wire, much like the one already lo-

cated along the Camino Pablo side of the grounds, in order to have a cohesive appearance with the rest of the park.

Additional construction has seen a cardboard, biodegradable weed abatement layer installed; the placement of decorative boulders; and groundwork laid for a fountain. Soil has been delivered and took volunteers approximately two days to spread. Future work will include a new irrigation system; pathway placement; the construction of a pergola within the habitat; and five benches strategically placed around the outside of the fence. Planting is expected to begin April 24.

MGC has made considerable headway toward meeting its fundraising goal of \$35,000. The club is approaching 85% of its intended mark, but even if the goal is reached it would still fall short of including artwork in the garden. To that end, MGC plans on having sales of the

nearly 1,100 milkweed plants they have propagated. The first sale (which will include other monarch nectar plants) takes place April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the Orinda Garden Club's sale located in the Orinda Library Plaza at 26 Orinda Way. Milkweed plants can also be purchased starting April 17 at the Moraga Garden Center, 1400 Moraga Rd., Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There are still some benches available for a donation purchase. Visit: [www.moragagardenclub.com](http://www.moragagardenclub.com) and click onto "Benches for Habitat" in the header. To make a cash donation, click onto the green box "Moraga for Monarchs" on the Home page. For more information on the project, email [Moragaformonarchs@gmail.com](mailto:Moragaformonarchs@gmail.com).

## Free carwash in Moraga helps chase away the COVID blues

... continued from Page A4

When asked whether they would accept a donation, the response was a polite "No." According to Sister Pitovao Wong, "We are doing this to make people happy. Everybody has been through so much because of COVID. It's our way of bringing some joy into people's

lives."

The idea began with a group of missionaries based in San Francisco. When the East Bay missionaries heard of the success, they began their car wash this past February concentrating in the areas of Berkeley and Moraga.

"Washing cars is fun, especially after being in quarantine

for so long," said Sister Nellie Kendell. "Everybody asks if they can donate. We only want to make everyone a little bit happier."

With approximately 20-25 young men and women working all aspects of the process, the entire experience is done in a matter of minutes with nary a grumpy face in sight. The duties

are distributed on a rotational basis. "When the sign holders are tired of dancing in the street," explained Kendell, "they can come over here to wash cars."

While water use restrictions due to California's dry winter and expanding drought conditions may change plans for organizers, the free car

wash is expected to last through the summer either in Berkeley or the Moraga location. The hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday (depending on weather). Call (510) 599-1470 to confirm days and times. Or, just look for the happy faces holding signs on Moraga Road at the Lafayette/Moraga border.



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**The Orinda Association:**  
[www.orindaassociation.org](http://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

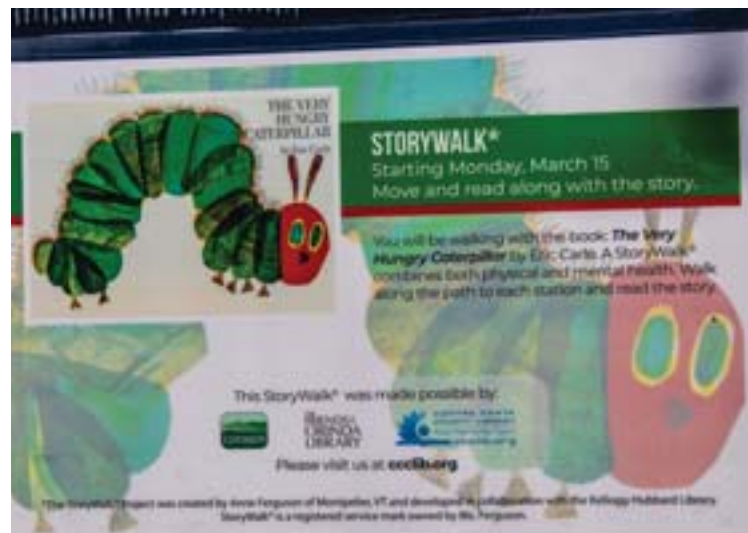
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# Library extends feature to Orinda Community Park pending reopening



Photos Sora O'Doherty

**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



Young girls read Storywalk signs in Orinda Community Park.

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."

# 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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## After 15-year hiatus, Orinda Garden Club plant sale is back



Photos Caroline La Voie



### By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Garden Club plant sale will make its long-awaited return from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 17 at the Orinda Library Plaza. The sale will provide for social distancing, spreading throughout the outdoor venue and will be held rain or shine. In addition to plants, the sale will feature a Garden Marketplace with fun, garden-related products.

With more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, garden club members took on plant propagation as a new activity, according to OGC member Caroline La Voie. The club held propagation workshops last fall, in addition to their regular workshops on tomato seed saving, succulent propagation, and plant division and cutting. Members brought cuttings, succulents, and bulbs from their gardens to Zoom workshops to learn how to propagate them. Members have continued to nurture their cuttings over the winter in preparation for the sale in April.

In addition to plants propagated by OGC members,

there will also be over 30 varieties of tomatoes, 13 varieties of peppers (hot and sweet), squash, beans and herbs. The club also plans to provide a composting demo, a Firewise landscaping exhibit,

and a conservation exhibit on creating native habitats for pollinators. The last plant sale held by the club was 15 years ago. Proceeds of the sale will go toward educational projects.



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# White Barn Home opens on Lafayette Circle



Photo Renee Sweeney

Daughter Kylie (left) and Mother Kim Berry at their new Lafayette store.

By Jenn Freedman

March 16, taking over the former Farmyard Darlings space on Lafayette Circle

White Barn Home opened on

across from Lafayette Square. Former Farmyard Darlings co-owner, Kim Berry, is teaming up with her daughter, Kylie, on this new venture to bring modern country living to Lamorinda.

“Our goal is to make your home your favorite place to be ... your happy place,” Kim Berry says. The store features new modern farmhouse decor with white as the backdrop. The concept is to source primarily from local vendors, with handmade decor styles and White Barn Home’s own furniture designs with plenty of floor samples to choose from. In addition, White Barn Home can customize styles to fit your home.

The store is collaborating with local businesses to cu-

rate a unique modern feel, like Lafayette’s Amphora Nueva olive oils and vinegars, soaps from Alhambra Valley in Martinez, dough bowl candles from Brentwood’s Spindola Farm & Co., Collective Hearts jewelry in Marin, and more. “Our number one goal when opening White Barn Home was to partner and source with as many local businesses as possible. We believe strongly in supporting our local community,” Kim Berry explains.

While Kim focuses on the decor aesthetic and store experience, Kylie manages the marketing, social media, and parts of the sourcing research. Kylie is currently a marketing major in the Carson College of Business at Washington State University.

The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the latest assortment and inspiration, follow them on Instagram @white\_barn\_home.

# Orchard Nursery celebrates 75 years of community involvement

... continued from Page A2

Soon after, the rapid growth of the surrounding communities allowed the store to expand, and the classic Lord & Burnham greenhouse was added for the floral department.

Owner Tom Courtright bought the nursery, which covers 4.5 acres, in 1972. “We’re thankful for the community we’re in. The Lamorinda area is a great place to have a business,” Courtright said, adding about the 75th anniversary celebration, “We celebrated fairly quietly, but had a very nice crowd. It’s pretty significant that we’ve been here so long – and plan to be here another 50 or 75 years.” The nursery gave away free tote bags to the first 500 customers. In all, he estimates over 2,000 people visited on the day.

“It’s been a fun ride. Even

after my 50 years here, I still enjoy coming to work in the morning,” said Courtright, who is considering retirement. “My daughter [Vice-President Kathy Courtright Rondini] and the management team has taken over more of the day-to-day operations.”

One of the longest tenured employees at Orchard, Chris Martinez, shared that the staff there has a family feel, with the loyalty of the workers matching the warmth and appreciation that owner Courtright shows them.

Courtright said, “We’ve been very fortunate to have some great employees stick with us for a long time. It’s not the highest paying industry, so they must enjoy what they do.”

As an attendee at many International Garden Conferences, Courtright has toured over 15 countries and

gone to garden centers all over the world, always bringing home fresh ideas to Orchard Nursery. They’ve done concerts at the ‘Lazy K’ house, evenings in the nursery with wine and hors d’oeuvres, and many other events.

Remarking on the Harvest Festival, Courtright says, “We brought the idea home from the East Coast, where they celebrated the fall season in the nurseries and put it to use here. Where we used to sell firewood out the back of Orchard, I never thought we’d be selling pumpkins.” Laughing, he adds, “Now we sell thousands of them!”

The Courtrights currently reside in Lafayette, but are considering moving to Livermore where Courtright’s wife owns and runs a nursery.




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## Pandemic perks have staying power



Photo Katherine Choi

One of the renowned Moraga coyotes thinks about crashing a recent cul-de-sac cocktails gathering.

... continued from Page A1

Several weeks after the pandemic forced everyone to shelter in place, this reporter, tired of staring at the same walls of her house and frustrated at being unable to socialize with friends and family, had a conversation from across the street with a neighbor. The question: Would she and her husband be interested in a socially distanced glass of wine? From that initial discussion, an email asking the same question was sent to approximately 12 neighboring households.

The weather was warming up, the days were growing longer and the time

forced to stay home was continuing. Everyone agreed the weekly get-together was a great idea and many began showing up every week. "Fridays have suddenly become a whole lot better," one neighbor proclaimed.

Dogs are invited and they seem to enjoy the gathering almost as much as their humans, going from chair to chair performing tricks and collecting treats. Cathy Tyson, who brings Louis, her King Charles spaniel-mini golden retriever mix every week, states that Friday is definitely his favorite day. "As soon as I pick up my chair to take out to the cul-de-sac, Louis can barely contain himself," she says.

Neighbors out for a walk

come by. Delivery drivers smile and wave. In November, a local candidate canvassing the neighborhood stopped by, handing out his pamphlet and answering questions. Other friends, family and neighbors have occasionally joined in, always bringing their own chairs and refreshments.

Recently, an uninvited guest meandered by ... one of Moraga's renowned coyotes slowly approached the circle. He wasn't the slightest bit interested in joining the gathering and left when some in the group chased him back down the hill.

As the winter days shortened and the weather got colder, cul-de-sac cocktails continued. Jackets, scarves and hats were donned, blankets were brought out to cover legs and a small propane fire-pit lit to provide some warmth. The days are once again getting longer and the group pledges to continue getting together.

What started out as a simple diversion to staying at home has evolved into a group of good friends meeting up on a weekly basis. As Jim Kurkjian, one of the regular participants, noted, "I so appreciate how dear we have become to one another in this pandemic."

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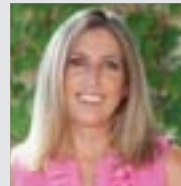
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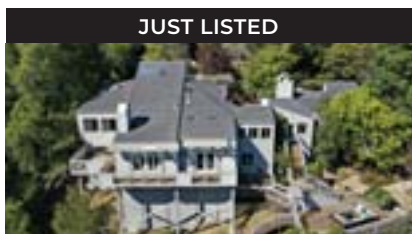


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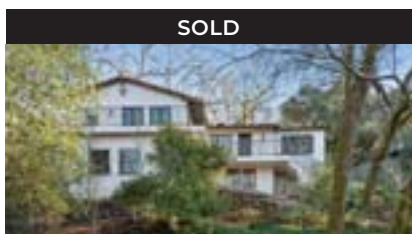
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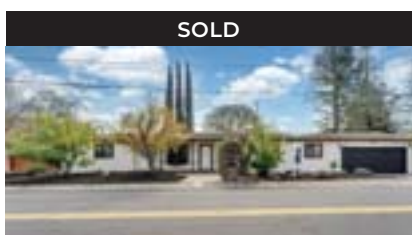
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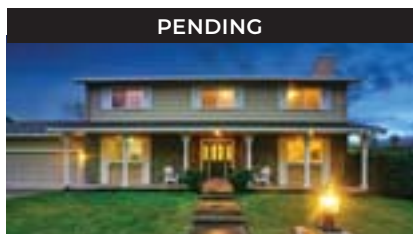
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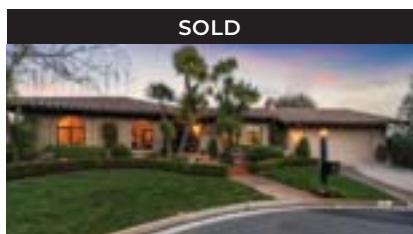
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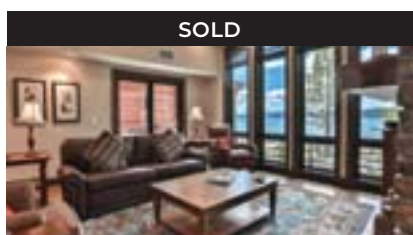
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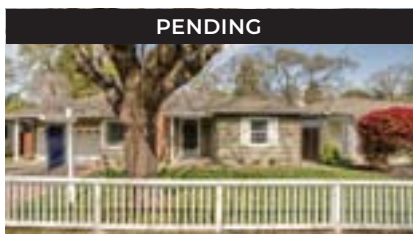
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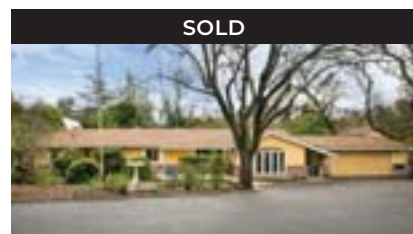
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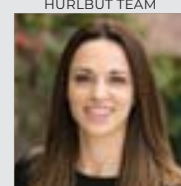
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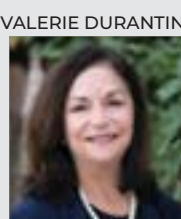


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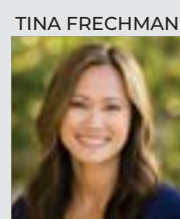
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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## 80 years growing, an Orinda garden hosted generations of one family



Pool and gazebo in upper garden.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

A beautiful two-acre garden tucked away near Lake Cascade was the joy and work of its original owner for 80 years, and during her life, Nancy Shurtleff Miller enjoyed hosting events for her four children, eight grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren in the garden.

She married George Williard Miller, and the couple were gifted a parcel of land in Orinda. They sold it, bought a parcel more to their liking, and in 1940 built their home at 30 Las Cascadas. The land came with a membership to the nearby Orinda Country Club. Nancy Miller died last September at age 101, and the property is now on the market, but daughter Sandra Rowe gave the Lamorinda Weekly a tour of the garden and chatted about her family history there.

Rowe's father, who died in 1982, was in the military during World War II and later president of Dean Witter, which became Morgan Stanley. Her mother was with him in Ft. Stockton, Texas when she was pregnant with Rowe, but came home on the train to give birth in California so Rowe wouldn't be a Texan, Rowe said. Their house in Orinda was built in 1940; Rowe was born in 1942, and the family returned to Orinda and moved into their new home around 1943 or 1944.

At the time, the property was a little over one acre, but over the years the family acquired two additional adjoining lots from the East Bay Municipal Utility District, each about one-half acre, bringing the property up to its current size of a little over two acres.

Nancy Miller did not work, but volunteered a great deal, along with her sister, who at the time lived on Miner Road. As cars were scarce then, the two sisters made their way around in a motorcycle with a side-car. Miller was a member of the Orinda Garden Club, and many garden club tours included the property at Las

Cascadas. According to Rowe, her mother didn't want to live in Piedmont, because she didn't have enough room to garden there. She was assisted in the garden by Santos, who was hired when he was 17 years old and is still working in the garden. Miller also worked with Magic Gardens in Berkeley.

The garden is graced with mature trees and large flowering shrubs, in addition to architectural features such as a gazebo and a moon bridge over an artificial creek. The creek now fills only when there is a lot of rain, but Rowe noted that in the old days, it was filled from a tank and fed the sprinklers. Rather than a large expanse, the garden comprises smaller, discreet areas, connected by winding paths, such as the croquet lawn, where the family played. The vegetable garden has a fountain where just picked vegetables could be rinsed off before their short trip to the house.

There are several ponds, and two stone lions guard the upper garden where the gazebo is located.

One part of the garden features a large rectangular swimming pool. Rowe recalls that it was one of the first pools in Orinda, and would be filled with all their friends. "Mom would beg us to get out of the pool so she could [go inside and] do the laundry!"

Rowe's second daughter was married in the garden. Courtney has now been married for 20 years. Rowe also remembers huge Christmas Day parties each year. Her mother held a Deb Tea for every daughter and granddaughter in the garden in the spring when the dogwoods were blooming. Rowe recalled that her mother had very close relationships with all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "She knew everything about every grandchild," Rowe said. "She texted, they sent her photos, there wasn't one who didn't have a fabulous relationship with her." They respected her and loved her, Rowe added.



Sandra Rowe in the garden her mother nurtured for 80 years


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**Templates and submission form can be found on our website at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)**

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## Dates, maple and pecans make this bar a perfect pick-me-up



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### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. Medjool dates, pitted  
1 cup toasted pecans, chopped  
1/2 teaspoon Himalayan pink salt  
1/2 teaspoon maple extract  
1 teaspoon lemon juice

### DIRECTIONS

Line an 8-inch square baking dish with parchment paper. Spray paper with cooking spray.

#### Toast the Pecans:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place pecans on a baking sheet and bake for about 8-10 minutes, just until beginning to brown. They will smell fantastically aromatic as they are toasting. Keep an eye on them, because you can burn pecans in the blink of an eye! Remove from oven when toasted and cool. Once cooled, finely chop. Set aside.

#### Puree the Dates:

Make sure all of the pits are removed from the dates, or buy pitted dates. (If using pitted dates, I always like to check to make sure they've all been pitted before putting them in the food processor, because inevitably there is a straggler.)

Place pitted dates in the bowl of your food processor. Process into a chunky paste. If there are some chunks left, no problem, they will easily incorporate into the bars.

Remove pureed dates to a mixing bowl. Stir in the toasted, chopped pecans, salt, maple extract and lemon juice. Mix well. Mixture will be sticky.

Turn mixture into the prepared baking dish and press down with your fingers or a flat spatula so that the entire dish is covered with about 1/4-inch of the date mixture. If using your fingers, you may need to coat them with a little oil to keep the mixture from sticking to them.

Refrigerate until firm. Cut into rectangles or squares and wrap each in parchment paper or plastic wrap until ready to eat.



Date, Maple & Toasted Pecan Energy Bars

Photos Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

The combination of toasted pecans, dates, maple flavoring and a little Himalayan salt is delicious! A bit of fresh lemon sets off the sweetness, just right, too. These bars are kind of like Lara Bars or the Thunderbird Real Food Bars and they are a great source of quick and lasting energy. My daughter and I were starving after a hot yoga class one day, and stopped in for a coffee drink at a café on our way home. When I spied the Texas Maple Pecan Bar it struck me as the perfect energy snack that we were craving. It was so delicious that we went home and immediately started plotting out our own recipe. This is

the recipe we came up with and we are very happy with the results.

Dates are a great source of dietary fiber and carbohydrates in the form of fruit sugar. Due to the natural fiber, the fruit is low on the Glycemic Index, and this helps to slow down the sugar absorption, resulting in a no-crash source of energy. Medjool dates, grown in Israel and other parts of the Mediterranean, are known for their soft texture and honey like taste. We use them in our Waioli Date Bars (we will share that recipe soon) and also in this recipe. I think they'd be wonderful skewered with chicken and shallots for a fun Mediterranean kebab, too.

Toasting the pecans makes

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



## GCCP Season Finale focuses on interconnectedness of cultures



ASQ

### Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

Gold Coast Chamber Players conclude their virtual concerts at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 1 with Dvorak's America. Virtual links remain available for one week following the concert date. Q&A with the musicians follows the premiere at 8:30 p.m.

Dvorak's America ex-

plores the impact of Spirituals and Native American music on Dvorak during his time in America, highlighting the interconnectedness of cultures. The program will feature Dvorak's String Quintet, op. 97 and the Lento from his String Quartet op. 96, both nicknamed "the American." Original music by Mary Youngblood for Native American flute, "Within My Heart" and "Beneath the Raven Moon"



Mary Youngblood with Flute

and her arrangement "Amazing Grace," offer music akin to what Dvorak heard during his stay in America.

Perhaps the greatest musical influence on Dvorak during his time in America was hearing African American Spirituals, that he proclaimed are at the heart of American music. Spirituals to be performed are "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "By an' By," and "My Lord What a Morning." Concluding the program will be "Goin' Home" from Dvorak's New World Symphony. This famous melody was transformed into a Spiritual by William Arms Fisher, serving as a unique metaphor for the program theme, and will be



Michele Kennedy

performed by the entire ensemble.

Leading the ensemble is internationally acclaimed Bay Area favorite, the Alexander String Quartet. This concert marks one of the first performances with their new violist, David Samuel. The Alexander String Quartet has performed in the major music capitals of five continents, securing its standing among the world's premier ensembles, and a major artistic presence in its home base of San Francisco, serving since 1989 as Ensemble in Residence of San Francisco Performances and Directors of The Morrison Chamber Music Center Instructional Program at San Francisco State University.

Violist Pamela Freund-Striplen, a frequent ASQ collaborator, joins for the String Quartet. Soprano Michele Kennedy has performed in



Pamela Freund-Striplen

Carnegie Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Bard SummerScape, Getty Museum, Lincoln Center, Powell Symphony Hall, and Washington National Cathedral. San Francisco Chronicle notes that her "graceful tonal clarity was a wonder to hear." Native American Mary Youngblood, half Seminole and half Aleut, is the first woman to professionally record the Native American Flute, and the first woman to win not just one, but two Grammy Awards for "Best Native American Music Album."

Single ticket: \$30. Concerts are streamed via YouTube. Purchase online at [www.GCCPmusic.com](http://www.GCCPmusic.com) or by calling (925) 283-3728. Please visit [gccpmusic.com](http://gccpmusic.com) to find regular updates about concert offerings, to make donations, and to purchase tickets. Link provided after ticket purchase.

## Lynn's Top Five Tax Season 2021 ... while the living's not easy, it's getting better

### By Lynn Ballou CFP®

Well, we made it to another tax season, and "surprise," it's still not quite business as usual. Let's review five things you may want to consider before filing your returns this year, and as you get set up for 2021.

**1) The only constant is change.** And this is a good one. Many filers received unemployment insurance benefits last year due to massive pandemic related unemployment. Happily the latest tax law exempts these payments from federal tax (they were already state tax free). If you've already filed and declared this as income, you might need to file an amended return and receive a refund. However, at this writing, per the IRS website, they are asking that you DO NOT file a return to claim these refunds due. Hopefully they'll be able to review returns where taxpayers have reported this income and handle refunds without you initiating any pa-

perwork. Check the website ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) for more up-to-date information.

**2) Stimulus – Did you receive everything you deserved?** As of this writing there were three rounds of stimulus funds that were theoretically automatically sent to you by the IRS, two of them in 2020. However I've spoken to many who did not receive everything they felt was owed to them. For stimulus funding due to you last year but not received, you have the opportunity when you file your return to report these underpayments and request they be credited to you via your return. Please note that these stimulus funds are NOT taxable to you. If you feel you are due funds that you never received and are not required to file a tax return, this website will help you and those who are filing returns figure out how to access monies owed: Recovery Rebate Credit | Internal Revenue Service ([irs.gov](http://irs.gov))

**3) May 17 is the new April 15?** Partially. Individual tax-

payers can now delay filing their federal and state income tax returns until May 17. And while you can delay filing and paying any balances due for 2020 until the new extended date, please note that you must still pay any 2021 estimated first quarter taxes due by April 15 to avoid interest and penalties when you file your 2021 returns next year.

**4) Last minute tax reduction and tax planning idea.** This year you have until May 17 to fund your 2020 IRA and Roth IRA (if eligible) contributions. For those of you who are self employed and use SEP-IRAs or other types of higher contribution limit retirement plans, as of this writing you can fund your contributions for those plans up until you file, including extensions, which can be as late as Oct. 15 this year.

**5) RMD's – They're back!** Taxpayers enjoyed a reprieve on the forced withdrawal of funds, aka Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), from retirement accounts last year. Be careful as you plan for

2021 because RMDs are back on the table. Don't be caught under-withholding income taxes as you navigate what may be a return to higher taxable income. If you adjusted withholding or estimated taxes last year to account for less taxable income, you need to revisit your withholding and estimated tax plans for 2021 taking into account additional income that is not only taxed, but may in fact put you in a higher bracket. Don't wait until year-end to figure out your 2021 tax situation. Avoid penalties and interest for potentially under-withholding by getting on top of these numbers now and staying on track. Remember that your first quarter 2021 estimated taxes are still due April 15!

Hope this is helpful as you face down another challenging (and longer) tax season and start planning for 2021. On a happier note, with vaccinations on the uptick, I'm sure looking forward to unwinding the pain of the past 13 months and seeing everyone around

town again in our amazing village that is Lamorinda.



Lynn Ballou CFP® is a Senior Vice President and Partner with EP Wealth Advisors. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject(s) discussed. All information is derived from sources deemed to be reliable. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change.

# What's in a name?



Photos Vera Kochan

## By Vera Kochan

What's in a name? The phrase comes from Shakespeare's play, "Romeo and Juliet" – "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." A name is an arbitrary label, but when it comes to Campolindo, Acalanes and Miramonte high schools, almost no one to this day is aware of how they received their names. At the founding of each campus there was enough disagreement on settling for a name which apparently, for some, did not "smell as sweet."

Moraga's Campolindo High School opened its doors in 1962. Campolindo was not named after a person. To break down the name into two words, the Spanish translation of "campo" means "countryside or field," while the translation of "lindo" means "pretty". According to historian Margaret Mahler, Campolindo's first principal, Alex Winchester, wanted to call the school Los Cerros (meaning "little hills"), because of the rolling hills and

valley. The campus stands on what was once a lake – Laguna de los Colorados – part of a Spanish land grant.

At the time of Campo's naming a few disgruntled citizens wrote to the local newspapers of the day complaining about the improper use of Spanish. "They're murdering the Spanish, again," claimed Spanish teacher Helen Ford, who was already upset by the incorrect usage of names given to the local streets.

Ford went so far as to contact the Acalanes Union High School District with her complaint. "May I point out that this name cannot be used, because it is incorrect Spanish. It can be 'Campo' 'Lindo', two words. If we are to use foreign names, I believe that the words used should be correct and correctly pronounced."

Another citizen reasoned that since the school was located in the middle of what used to be a lake bed, it should be named "Laguna." Insisting that the first year of students should have the honor of naming their school, the assumption was that they would rather cheer "Laguna, La-

guna" as opposed to "Campolindo, Campolindo, rah, rah, rah!"

Winchester, besides wanting to call the school Los Cerros, lobbied for black and gold as the official colors. The students overruled him and Campolindo's school colors remain blue and red with the Cougar as the mascot.

Lafayette's Acalanes High School opened in 1940. The name was derived from The "Ahala-n" a Costanoan native village (part of the greater Ohlone tribe) in the area. The Spanish had called the village "Akalan."

The principal-elect at the time, Stanley Warburton, received a letter from A.L. Kroeber, PhD, a professor of anthropology at UC Berkeley, stating, "Use of the name Acalanes by the high school cheering section is within the realm of plausibility, but cheering for Laguna de los Palos Colorados would appear to offer some difficulty in enunciation."

The campus was built on land that was once a field of tomatoes and weeds. School officials wanted the mascot to be an American Eagle, which

was a revered bird to the Costanoans, but the student body intervened and selected the Don (a Spanish honorary title) along with school colors of royal blue and white.

Orinda's Miramonte High School greeted its first students in 1955. Much like Campolindo, it was not named after an individual. After this reporter's extensive research and inquiries to locals and various organizations, no documentation was uncovered as to the naming of the campus. Once again, in breaking down the name into two Spanish words, "mira" means "sight" and "monte" means "hill or mountain."

A paper dated July 1954 stated, "The school was named Miramonte, much to the disgust of a Mr. Maccarro who suggested the name be changed to Orinda High School."

Mahler's notes quoted an observer as saying, "At Miramonte in 1955, one looked over his surroundings and saw no houses at all – it was a beautiful setting. Each morning the fog gradually burned away, just as it does now, exposing the green, rolling hills

of Moraga."

The school's current principal Julie Parks said, "I can't speak to the direct impetus for the name change, but I think we can all agree that the name Miramonte is appropriate! We are indeed surrounded by mountain views!"

Built on a site that was once black walnut fields, the Student Commission chose the school's colors of green and white. The student body chose the Matador as the mascot, although there was a tongue-in-cheek suggestion for a change. The football team's first field was a bulldozed meadow. There was a horrendous infestation of gophers digging up the dirt. Luckily the problem was eradicated or the sign on Moraga Way might now read: Miramonte High School, Home of the Gophers.

Special thanks to: Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry (Moragahistory.org), Orinda Historical Society President Alison Burns (Orindahistory.org) and Michael Beller General Community Library Manager (Orinda).

# Seven simple ways to go greener at home (and save green too!)



Photos Jenn Freedman

## By Jenn Freedman

With Earth Day just around the corner on April 22, it's a natural time to reflect on how our choices impact the environment, and an apropos time to consider some effective ways to go greener at home. One of the biggest first steps to take is to compost and recycle more, and use the trash bin less.

**Compost more, toss less.** We are fortunate here in the Bay Area to have green compost bins available for food scraps, soiled paper, and yard waste. If you don't have one already, contact Republic Services to add a green bin to your plan for no additional cost for single family homes. For condos or apartments, contact your property manager or your homeowners or condo association to coordinate with Republic Services to add compost, and provide food scrap

pails and training for a nominal fee (about \$7 per quarter in Moraga).

Plus, extra large 96-gallon recycle and compost bins are also available upon request for no additional fee in Lamorinda. More good news: you can save almost 50% off your bill by switching to a half-size (32 gallon) trash bin from the standard 64 gallon bin (note: a 32-gallon bin still fits 2-3 kitchen bags).

The most misplaced items? "Styrofoam and wood," according to John Taylor, recycling coordinator at Republic Services. Even if marked as recyclable, styrofoam should be placed in the trash bin. And while branches and other yard waste go in the compost bin, wood from furniture, fences, and other treated wood can not be composted and should go in the trash. For additional information about recycling and compost, visit

www.recyclesmart.org.

### Shop local

Lamorinda is fortunate to have two farmers' markets: one in Orinda from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays in front of the Orinda Community Park, and another in Moraga from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays at the Moraga Shopping Center. When we buy local, we reduce our food's carbon footprint significantly through minimizing transportation and packaging.

**Join Buy Nothing or other "gift economy."** Buy Nothing (buynothingproject.org) is an international project with a mission to offer people a way to give and receive, share, lend, and express gratitude through a worldwide network of hyper-local gift economies. Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette all have a Buy Nothing Chapter through Facebook.

Speaking from experience, Buy Nothing is awesome. I have been able to gift items that may have otherwise gone in the trash, such as used toys, food, clothing, dishes, art supplies, an old sewing machine, and more. Plus, the few times I have asked for specific items to avoid purchasing new (like plastic storage containers), I have received. Finally, I have snagged a few surprise treasures along the way as well, like my rice cooker.

**Consider an Imperfect Box subscription.** According to the National Resources Defense Council, 40% of food goes uneaten in America. A key reason is that farmers are unable to harvest and sell up to a third of their produce because it doesn't look "perfect." Although misshapen or blemished, the food is still perfectly delicious and nutritious. San



Extra large recycle bin, standard compost bin, small trash bin

Francisco-based Imperfect Foods combats food waste and enables fresh food accessibility across America. In addition to salvaging produce, the company offers shelf-stable groceries, dairy, meat, and alternatives.

To learn more about subscriptions, visit [www.imperfectfoods.com](http://www.imperfectfoods.com). My family has received a biweekly Imperfect box for four years to supplement our farmers' market and grocery hauls; we are quite satisfied with both the quality and customer service.

**Use cloth towels and napkins.** In addition to drying dishes, consider using cloth instead of paper to clean up the kids and the surfaces.

**Capture cold water while waiting for the hot.** Waiting for the hot water is such a doozie – especially in drought-prone California. A plumbing fix may or may not be a solution for you. However, it's easy to use most of that captured cold water: water plants (especially from bathroom faucets), fill the tea kettle, cof-

fee maker or pots, or rinse dishes pre-dishwasher.

**Eat more plants, less meat and dairy.** One final way to focus on the planet is reduce meat and dairy consumption. Animal agriculture uses up precious resources like water and land. For example, one gallon of milk requires 880 gallons of water (for raising and grazing cattle, and bottling and processing) and it takes 660 gallons of water to produce a 1/3-pound beef burger, according to data by National Geographic. Beans require about one tenth of that. For comparison, a shower utilizes about 17 gallons (so consuming one burger uses as much water as 39 showers).

Consider starting with at least a small step, like switching to one plant-based meal per week.

Jenn Freedman is the founder of [www.plantpowereddivin.com](http://www.plantpowereddivin.com), a food and lifestyle blog for conscious foodies, vegan dabblers, et al.

# Moraga Art Gallery revives popular tradition

## Submitted by George Ehrenhaft

Early in 2020 COVID-19 put an end to the popular receptions held in conjunction with the opening of each new show at the Moraga Art Gallery. To express their gratitude for community support since then, the

gallery's members cordially invite the public to a special reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24 in the plaza in front of the gallery at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

While some artwork will be displayed in the plaza, guests in limited numbers will

have access to the gallery itself (masks required) to view the current show, "An Elegant Balance," featuring the work of two member artists: K. de Groot, who specializes in striking, Asia-accented necklaces, bracelets and other jewelry, and George Ehrenhaft, a watercolorist focused on Cali-

fornia's matchless scenic beauty. In addition, the gallery has on display roughly 350 original artworks, large and small, by members and guest artists. Of particular note is the gallery's recently-opened "Art Boutique," containing an array of unique, locally-made gifts in wood,

glass, ceramics, and other materials.

The gallery is now open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., and also by appointment. For more information, call (925) 376-5407, or visit <http://moragaartgallery.com> or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

## Wagner Ranch fifth-graders place first in creative competition



From left: Maya Elkind, Sadie Elkind, Raunav Agarwal, Bryce Gordon, Davis Gordon, Brian Volk, Bryce Batiuchok. Photo provided

### Submitted by Regina Gordon and Ritu Goel

The Fifth Grade Team at Wagner Ranch Elementary in Orinda rose to the challenge amidst a pandemic year and placed first in their division at the Odyssey of the Mind SF Bay Regional Competition held in a virtual tournament on Feb. 27. Odyssey of the Mind is a world-renowned program where students learn how to problem solve, create, design, and think outside of the box as a team.

Apart from developing a solution to a long-term problem over several months, the team learned spontaneous problem-solving techniques to “think on their feet.” Their performance, which centered around team-developed technical effects, portrayed a character that must escape a virtual world and defeat a nefarious character. One team member said, “I have learned a lot of hands-on skills through this problem solving competition. The process of building the solution teaches us what works, what doesn’t and how to find alternative solutions. We also have to work within a budget which encourages us to utilize recycled materials. This creates unique looking structures.”

The team’s coach, Leslie Volk (who also heads the Innovation Lab at Wagner Ranch), has been leading members Raunav Agarwal, Bryce Batiuchok, Maya Elkind, Sadie Elkind, Bryce Gordon, Davis Gordon and Brian Volk for the past three

years. “I’m in awe of how this team has grown as creative thinkers, problem solvers, and teammates that support each other to overcome challenges. Odyssey has been a wonderful experience for me as a coach and parent to see the group develop strong friendships while working towards a goal. One of the best parts about Odyssey is that the kids take full ownership over their project and come up with everything on their own.”

Odyssey of the Mind was born out of an industrial design class by founder Dr. C. Samuel Micklus in 1978 who challenged his students to solve unique problems with creative solutions. The professor’s classroom challenges spread amongst other schools and is now a worldwide competition. “We love Odyssey of the Mind because it allows you to be creative while working with friends on a hands-on project and you’re able to compete with other schools,” said the OMers (a nickname used for Odyssey of the Mind participants). For many schools, the Odyssey of the Mind program offers a creative outlet that students may not acquire as part of the general education curriculum.

These Wagner Ranch OMers are looking forward to the NorCal State competition and hope to advance to the World finals in June 2021. For more information on how to start your Odyssey journey visit [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com). Local team and contact information can also be found on this website.

## Troop 204 honors 2021 Eagle Scouts



Photo Mika Watanabe

Top row: Paul Munnely, Joshua Gohres, William Innenberg, Benjamin Thiselton-Dyer; bottom row: Cole Foster, Liam Bodner, Ilhan Evrenosoglu, Charles Wheeler.

### Submitted by Martin Thiselton-Dyer

Lafayette’s Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor nine scouts at the troop’s upcoming 68th Eagle Court of Honor on April 18. These Scouts will each be advancing to Eagle Scout – the highest rank in scouting. There will be a small invitation-only outdoor ceremony in light of current circumstances.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demon-

strate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle service project. Over their years with the troop these Scouts have also joined, planned and exhibited leadership during the annual 50-mile wilderness backpacking trips that have been a hallmark of the Troop 204 scouting experience.

Eagle service projects were necessarily planned, coordinated and adapted by the Scouts during 2020-21 to take account of pandemic restrictions and protocols. They responded to a variety of community challenges and needs of

the times.

With funding from community donations for supplies, Paul Munnely led construction of a wooden deck at the Lafayette Community Garden to enhance the utility of that public space. Joshua Gohres raised funds and constructed plexiglass barriers for the Husky House Child Enrichment Center in response to pandemic safety needs. William Innenberg raised funds and assembled donated and purchased supplies into care packages for members of the U.S. military stationed in areas of conflict. Ben Thiselton-Dyer

## Summer Camps 2021

Looking for **IN-PERSON** music lessons? We are ready for you!



After not seeing our students for over a year, we are excited to reopen our Moraga location and to welcome everyone back for lessons. We offer piano, guitar, ukulele, clarinet, saxophone, flute, drum, voice lessons, and beginner group classes.

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Questions?  
Camp Director Ramon Zambrano  
[ramon@calmagicsc.com](mailto:ramon@calmagicsc.com)

led a drive for the Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank, donating 1,700 pounds of food and funds sufficient for more than 2,500 meals thanks to the generosity of the community.

After students shifted to distanced learning Cole Foster initiated a drive to collect, prepare and distribute surplus computers and tablets to Oakland schools to help address the challenges of unequal access to technology. Liam Bodner coordinated with the Lions Club and led a team of distanced volunteers to process 22,000 pairs of glasses ultimately destined to correct the

vision of patients in need in developing countries. Ilhan Evrenosoglu raised funds and led the construction of storage/book shelves for Lafayette Elementary School. Charles Wheeler led the construction of redwood planter boxes for the outdoor communal area of STAND!’s emergency shelter, where women and children find safety from domestic abuse. Edward Gray (not pictured) designed and created a newly landscaped area in the front of Lafayette Elementary School in coordination with the school’s Green Team.

**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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

# Summer Camps 2021

## Amabile Music



Looking for IN-PERSON music lessons? We are ready for you! After not seeing our students for over a year, we are excited to reopen our Moraga location and to welcome everyone back for lessons. We offer piano, guitar, ukulele, clarinet, saxophone, flute, drum, voice lessons, and beginner group classes. Phone: (415) 682-7738, www.amabilemusic.org

## Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

Let the fun begin! Join us for weekly themed fun and games at Moraga Day Camp. We have designed this camp with your child's safety and well-being in mind. Ages 5.5-11. Register by the week, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 7 - Aug. 6 Extended care available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (925) 888-7045 moragarec.com

## Bay Area Ballplayers

Back for year 2 with Multi-Sport and Baseball Camps. Ballplayer Olympics is a full day sports camp at our artificial turf field in Moraga. Baseball Camps are half day and utilize both our indoor and outdoor facilities. We've hosted more awesome, Covid-Safe youth activities than anyone in the last year! (925) 247-5164 www.bayareaballplayers.com

## Oakland Strokes Rowing



Excellent training for learning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance for 6th-12th grade. Within a week, rowers will gain enough skill to row their first race! www.oaklandstrokes.org

## California Magic Soccer Club



Cal Magic June Soccer Summer Camps are a joy-filled soccer experience for boys and girls ages 6-12. Our coaching staff ensures young athletes gain the sports knowledge and technical skills required for their next step in soccer while also learning life skills such as leadership, respect and hard work. www.calmagicssc.com

## Rob's Skate Academy

Spring is here and it's time to enjoy with an action-packed adventure learning how to skateboard! For beginners, we'll teach you all the fundamentals needed to navigate through a skatepark safely. For advanced skaters, we'll teach you any trick your heart desires. We're here to help you succeed and achieve your goals. Register online: moragarec.com

## City of Lafayette Summer Camps

Camps for all ages at the Lafayette Community Center this summer. Camps include Camp Awesome, Tiny Tots, Skyhawks Sports, Art, Dance, Science, Engineering, LEGOs, Chess and more! Registration Opens April 12! Phone: (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

## 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 admin@siennaranch.net, (925) 283-6311. www.siennaranch.net/programs/summer-camp/

## City of Orinda Summer Camps

Orinda Parks and Recreation staff will offer an adapted Summer Camp schedule that will continue to meet health and safety guidelines and concerns. Find magical, creative, dynamic, and active camps to choose from at http://orindaparksandrec.org/188/Camp-Information Camps start June 7 and will consist of two-week sessions with morning and afternoon sessions.

## Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español



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

## Cougar Youth Football Camp



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

## 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

## Eclipse Soccer



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.

## Town Hall Theatre

This Summer Town Hall Education is holding our classes outdoors and in-person! With three different sessions for second to fifth graders and a longer session for sixth to ninth graders we'll have safe fun as we tell stories and build skills. www.townhalltheatre.com/summer-2021

## Galileo Innovation Camps (Lafayette)



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!

## Lady Mats Girls Basketball Camp

The Lady Mats camp will focus on teaching basketball skills and fundamentals. The camp will have sessions in August for 3rd to 5th grades and 6-8th grades. All camps will be run at Miramonte HS by the Miramonte coaching staff and current and former players. Email for registration and details. wirthman@hotmail.com; Phone: (510) 504-5683

## Are we missing your Favorite Camp?

Look for our next CAMP section May 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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## Not to be missed

### ART

**Moraga Art Gallery revives a popular tradition.** Early in 2020 Covid-19 put an end to the popular receptions held in conjunction with the opening of each new show at the Moraga Art Gallery. To express their gratitude for community support since then, the gallery's members cordially invite the public to a special reception on Saturday, April 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. to be held in the plaza in front of the gallery at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

**Art Embraces Words: Call for Writers & Visual Artists - Theme: "Courage & Heroism."** Writers paint images with words. Artists tell stories with color. Together they enrich our community. Emerging writers and visual artists are invited to apply by May 9 to be presenters at the Lamorinda Arts Council's live program at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 30. For more information, to register as an audience member and access links to previously recorded programs visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>, email [literary@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:literary@lamorindaarts.org) or call (925) 359-9940.

### MUSIC

**Diablo Ballet presents Julia Adam's** fairytale ballet, "Once Upon a Time" May 7-16 as part

of its 27th season. Virtual tickets are being sold one per household for \$30 if purchased before April 28 or \$35 if after, through the Leshher Center for the Arts by calling (925) 943-7469 or online at [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org). For additional information, visit [diabloballet.org](http://diabloballet.org) or call 925-943-1775.

**Berkeley Chamber Performances** presents Curium Trio on May 11, 7 p.m. through June 10, 11:55 p.m., at Virtual Presentation, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Curium brings creative and diverse musical programming by highlighting women composers and performers alongside traditional piano trio repertoire. Cost: \$20. [www.berkeleychamberperform.org](http://www.berkeleychamberperform.org) or call (510) 525-5211 or email [info@bcp1.org](mailto:info@bcp1.org).

### LITERATURE

**23rd Annual Art & Writing Challenge & Youth Activist Grant Awards** is now open for submissions. This year, the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center would like students to consider the significance of the past year and the multitude of ways it has had an impact on their daily lives, families, activism, and concept of the future. We want to hear from students who are attempting to make sense of what we have experienced over

the past year. What do they envision emerging from this moment? Where do we go from here? Entries will be accepted in the following categories: Essay, Creative Writing and Visual Art. For more details on the award categories, full prompt, guiding questions, and online submission form, please visit: [www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com](http://www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com)

### OTHER

**Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer**, will, again, offer a Zoom workshop on Sustainable Coop Principles and Construction. Workshop is free and will be held on Thursday, May 20, 6 to 7 p.m. Registration is required, and here is the link to register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y9NbUtt9-0lSNHBJWjnNepySth189hMm4AEOJOG3yE/edit>. We will send out the Zoom link shortly before the event. The Kiefer Sustainable Coop provides all the natural elements for chickens to be healthy, productive and safe. It is unique in that there is no smell and no cleaning.

**Family fun event: The Child Abuse Prevention Council** is hosting "Soul on the Screen," a drive-in movie fundraiser. Bring the kids and sing-along to the blockbuster movie "SING!" Movie will be shown in the parking lot at St. Perpetua on May 1. Tickets are now

available at: [www.capc-coco.org](http://www.capc-coco.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa** Announces Cycle 17 of Workforce Development Program – Paid Jobs-Training, aimed at helping the unemployed re-enter the workforce and find stable employment. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen millions suddenly find themselves out of work. In these hard times, it is more important than ever that job applicants understand workplace expectations and have the soft skills to be a contributing employee. Mandatory orientation sessions will take place on April 21 and April 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, and on April 28 and May 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 8890 Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood. To register call (925) 439-5060. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

### GARDEN

**The Orinda Garden Club is pleased** to host a free, virtual community discussion with the artists of Ink Dwell at 10 a.m. April 22. We will be holding a Zoom discussion with Jane Kim and Thayer Walker, founders of Ink Dwell and artists committed to the natural world, blending techniques of science illustration and modern fine art. Ink Dwell creates public installations of art and murals. Their recent projects include the Migrating

Mural project and exhibits at museums and other fine art institutions, including a piece entitled Le Papillon at 455 Hyde Street in San Francisco. For more information on Ink Dwell please see <https://inkdwell.com>. Registration is required to attend. Please register at [www.orindagc.org/community-meeting](http://www.orindagc.org/community-meeting). Prior to the event, you will be contacted via email with Zoom login information.

**The Montelindo Garden Club** May meeting begins Friday, May 21 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Cymbidiums! Speaker 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](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com)

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Short but sweet seasons for the Lamorinda golf teams



Miramonte girls golf team

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

Golf, like all other sports, had to make their concessions and adjustments due to the coronavirus. This year, the girls and boys shared the spring season. It was more of an adjustment for the girls, according to Miramonte's girls head coach John Keady. "The weather was colder than what they were used to," Keady said. "They normally compete in the fall when the weather is ideal, so we had to make sure that the girls dressed warmly for their matches. Regardless, there was a lot of laughter and the girls were happy to be out there."

Though competing in the spring, it was not the normal season for the boys either. "Everything was just so condensed," said Jack Schramm, the Miramonte boys head coach. "In February, we were given a week's notice to get ready for the season, so we did not have a lot of time to plan things out. With a six-match season (3-3), we did not get to play non-league matches or compete in any tournaments."

Scheduling was another issue that had to be addressed. It wasn't easy, said Cam-

polindo's boys and girls head coach Gary O'Neill. "Even with the virus, the public was still playing a lot of golf," O'Neill said. "The good news was that Moraga Country Club, Orinda Country Club, and Rossmoor found a way to make it work so we were able to play matches thanks to the management of those entities."

Acalanes' boys and girls head coach Tim Scott welcomed the joint seasons: "It was different, but it was a lot of fun with the interaction between the boys and the girls."

Even though Campolindo lost four players who opted to play football, the team had the depth to go undefeated. "I thought that was a smart choice by those who chose to play football," O'Neill said. "They will be able to play golf for the rest of their lives, but football is a short-lived opportunity."

The Cougars were led by three senior co-captains: Baron Szeto, who will be playing for Cal Poly SLO next year, John Lagomarsino, and Austin Walker. "All three were capable of putting up good scores. John battled injuries but still had a marvelous season."

There is a solid core of sophomores, Justin Rodriguez,

Barrett Dellamar, Dylan Breznikar and Ben Marsen who will be providing a strong foundation for next year's team. The team also benefited by the changes in schedules which allowed Andy Moon (baseball) and Grayer Leenhouts (lacrosse) to play for the team this season.

Miramonte had a young team, finishing with a 3-3 record this season, losing two close matches to Campolindo. The team was led by senior Reilly Sockwell and junior Nathan Rigsby who both played 1 and 2 through the season and Marcus Erickson who was No. 3.

There is a solid foundation for next year according to Schramm. "We only had one senior on the team, and we will have a lot of good golfers coming back next year," Schramm said. "Bowen Sande is a freshman and was in our top six and will be playing in the final league tournament. The tournament will give us the opportunity to avenge our losses to Campolindo."

The joint seasons were not an issue for Schramm. "We would play both of our home matches on the same day with the boys playing first and the girls going off after us," Schramm said. "It also helped that there were no rain days."

Acalanes had a solid core of five players led by Tucker Gannon and Andrew Cusumano. Sam Higgins also came on late due to other sports.

The Dons were fortunate to have additional help from Tucker's father, Dave Gannon, who runs the East Bay School of Golf in Lafayette. "Dave was a real help to us by allowing our players to practice at his facility," Scott said.

Scott was impressed with the power of his players but just felt the need for his and most other young golfers to work on their short games.

"These kids all hit the ball so far and they all did a good job in keeping the ball in play," said Scott. "If I had one recommendation for all young golfers, it would be to really work on their chipping and putting more than just hitting their drivers on the range."

Numbers became an issue for some of the girls' teams. Even with a good core of golfers, Acalanes did not have enough players to be competitive. There were only four girls on the team when the Dons would normally have 12 to 14 girls, but several of them chose to do other things.

"All four of the girls were good players," said Scott. "Our top players were juniors Kendal Geddes and Makena Chelemados. Both are very similar with their competitiveness. Our two seniors were Libby Ross and Carly Arends, who were also solid players."

O'Neill had similar number issues at Campolindo: "We had a small squad due to medical issues and other concerns. Often, we were hard pressed to have enough players for a match," O'Neill said. "On the bright side, we finished 3-3 and the girls that were available showed improvement and did well by our standards."

The team was led by Murphy and Woodford Ainsley, Alisa Lewis-Smith, and Anna Mooradian. "Murphy was consistently our best player," said O'Neill. "Woodford really came on and played well. Alisa and Anna both were solid. Woodford was our only senior and we're excited that we will have a talented group of girls returning next season."

John Keady is in his first year as the head coach for the Miramonte girls' team which was comprised of three seniors, six juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. He acknowledged Bob Rydell who

he replaced and "who left me a very talented team and has been very helpful to me."

Junior Kaylen Tu, the league's MVP last year has not lost a step this year. Sophomore Courtney Scheingart has been Keady's number two. "Kaylen is very strong mentally with great course management," Keady said. "She has great focus, concentration and a very repeatable swing with many elements to being a good golfer."

Under these trying conditions, the three senior co-captains - Hannah Klein, Lucy Marken and Heather Shinn - have been a great help for Keady. "They were very proactive when we learned that the season was going to start. They made it easy for the coaches, parents, and players to communicate. They made my job much easier because they were so open and eager to play."

After 33 years of coaching, this will also be Tim Scott's final match as he has opted to retire this year.

Gary O'Neill is one of many that will miss Scott: "Tim is just one of the all-time sweethearts with his longtime service to high school golf. It's hard to picture a nicer individual. We're really going to miss him."

With so many memories, it was the joy that his players brought to the game that was really special to Scott: "I'll miss the enthusiasm these kids have for this wonderful game we call golf. They're going to get to enjoy this game throughout their lives and that just tickles me. It's been a great 33 years. I'm really going to miss it."

On April 19, the boys and girls teams from Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte, Las Lomas and Northgate will have a final tournament at the Orinda Country Club in lieu of any kind of county or state tournaments.

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# The Campo connection at UCLA



Photo Han Duong

Audrey Pak and Sabrina Smith play for UCLA

## Submitted by Moon Pak and Nadine Smith

Two Campolindo High School graduates, Audrey Pak and Sabrina Smith, closed out the winning match point for the UCLA women's volleyball team March 29. It was the last home match of the season and senior night for Smith, a middle blocker, who has played for UCLA the past four years. "That was really special," said Smith, on Pak setting her the last point. "It was a full circle moment."

Pak joined the UCLA team this past fall as a freshman and rejoined her former teammate,

Smith, once again on the court. "It was really comforting knowing Sabrina was going to be on the team," said Pak. "She was so welcoming." Smith added, "Having her on the team feels like a little piece of home."

Both girls played for Campolindo under coach John Vuong. "I watched most of the games," said Vuong. "I was really proud watching them play at the highest level."

Both Pak, Pac-12 Freshman of the Week, and team Captain Smith are having a successful season at UCLA. The Bruins will be competing in the first round of the NCAA tournament at 7:30

p.m. April 14, which will air on ESPN3.

As Smith wraps up her final season and prepares for graduate school, she's proud of what she's accomplished in the UCLA volleyball program. "I'm happy to walk away knowing that I have left a positive impact on my teammates as well as the culture of the program," said Smith. Pak added, "Sabrina leads by example by always working her hardest and being a supportive teammate," said Pak. "Something I've learned from her is to just always work hard and be positive and it pays off."

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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 14, 2021



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

read on Page D4

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Weeds, weeds, and more weeds



Photo Cynthia Brian

The hillside is lush with weeds, poppies, calendulas, geraniums, and other plants.

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“You may know the world is a magical place when Mother Nature creates her own jewelry.” ~ Maya Angelou*

Spring is the most colorful season of the year with a cornucopia of bulbs, flowers, shrubs, and trees in bloom. It is also the time when Mother Nature shares the ornaments that most gardeners loathe ... weeds!

Although I am aware that a weed is just a plant growing where I don't want it, this year those plants are in profusion everywhere. My garden is bursting with blooms, blossoms and weeds. For the past month, I have spent hours on my knees pulling the roots of numerous unwanted characters to edit my beds to my definition of beauty. Three types of weeds in my landscape are the most egregious: black medic, Carolina geranium, and common grasses that have blown in

from the surrounding hills.

The best method to eradicate and control weeds organically involves several steps. First, it is essential to pull the weeds with the roots attached as they develop. The goal is to get rid of the weeds when they are sprouting and, definitely before they set and scatter seeds. Second, enrich the soil with compost. You will find more weeds will emerge because of the nutrient-rich soil.

Third, go back to step one and remove the second batch of weeds. Fourth, top-dress with three inches of organic mulch which can be bark, straw, cocoa chips, shredded leaves, or even grass clippings.

I am always experimenting with how best to accomplish a weed-free garden. Here are some things I discovered this year:

1. The most densely growing patches of weeds, especially Carolina geranium and hill grasses, were in areas where I had only amended with shredded leaves or had done nothing at all.
2. Where I added two inches of enriched soil without any top dressing, weeds grew lush and full but were easily pulled by hand.
3. In beds where I only added wood chips, a smattering of weeds emerged, mostly black medic.
4. In places where I had brought in new soil and topped it with wood chips, there were fewer weeds easily yanked by hand.
5. In areas where I did a two-step mulch of shredded newspaper and cardboard topped with bark, there were minimal to no weeds. My observations indicate that a two-step mulching procedure worked the best. It is more labor-intensive yet effective.

... continued on Page D16



**A favorite of the April garden, wisteria springs into bloom.**



Lafayette ~ 588 Silverado Drive ~ Burton Valley

4BD | 2BA | 2,113.SF | 37 AC | 2CAR | \$1,548,000

This charming single story rancher on a nicely landscaped flat lot offers new hardwood flooring, carpet, and interior and exterior paint. The used brick fireplaces and wood beamed ceilings in the living room and dining room are beautiful. Ideally located to overlook the backyard are the eat-in kitchen, dining room and living room. Get ready for



summer barbecues in this park-like yard - expansive lawn and flower beds await the green thumb in the family! Walk or ride your bike to the trails, school, and nearby swim clubs.



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	18	\$849,000	\$3,800,000
MORAGA	10	\$720,000	\$2,200,000
ORINDA	11	\$640,000	\$3,415,000

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

- 967 4th Street, \$3,010,000, 5 Bdrms, 3255 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 02-26-21,  
Previous Sale: \$457,000, 02-04-17
- 17 Attri Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2448 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-01-21,  
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 04-04-12
- 3319 Beechwood Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 03-03-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,003,000, 08-24-18
- 3305 Berta Lane, \$1,477,000, 5 Bdrms, 2085 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-24-21
- 501 Florence Drive, \$849,000, 4 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-01-21
- 8 Foothill Park Terrace, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2902 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 08-15-18
- 3683 Happy Valley Road, \$3,465,000, 5 Bdrms, 4401 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$3,250,000, 02-26-16
- 936 Hough Avenue, \$1,425,000, 2 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 02-25-21
- 621 Lancaster Drive, \$1,900,500, 3 Bdrms, 1767 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-03-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,187,500, 05-07-13
- 1171 Monticello Road, \$3,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3570 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 02-26-21
- 29 Sanford Lane, \$3,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 5150 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 03-02-21
- 612 St Marys Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2070 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 03-03-21
- 745 St Marys Road, \$1,633,000, 4 Bdrms, 2713 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-26-21
- 1014 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,745,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,415,000, 12-23-04
- 1311 Sunset Loop, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 02-26-21,  
Previous Sale: \$675,500, 06-07-12
- 3325 Walnut Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-23-21,  
Previous Sale: \$565,500, 03-31-99
- 3337 Walnut Lane, \$1,785,000, 6 Bdrms, 2942 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 02-26-21
- 1008 Woodbury Road #202, \$2,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 03-02-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 04-26-18

### MORAGA

- 503 Augusta Drive, \$1,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 3713 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 01-09-18
- 73 Buckingham Drive, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 03-05-21
- 229 Corliss Drive, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 02-22-21
- 29 Kazar Court, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 2418 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 02-22-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 04-22-15
- 1304 Larch Avenue, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 02-26-21
- 1727 Saint Andrews Drive, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 02-26-21,  
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 01-28-10
- 268 Scofield Drive, \$1,588,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,234,000, 06-29-15



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## The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By **Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T**; Licensed Real Estate Broker

The first quarter of 2021 began with a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The closings that occurred, for the most part, came from properties that went under contract in late November to late February – with no seasonal slowdown that often has accompanied the winter.

Where a year ago the first quarter closings were not affected by the pandemic, early second quarter supply went down as many people took their homes off the market not knowing what to expect. The average sales price has skyrocketed so far this year in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. The days on market remained short and the homes that had multiple offers were plentiful.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through April 14, 76 single-family homes closed in Lafayette – more than double the 35 in the first quarter of 2020 and far above the 40 that closed in the same quarter in 2019. Sales prices ranged from \$992,250 to \$5.25 million, with an average 25 days on the market. The average sales price was, for the first quarter ever, over \$2 million at \$2,062,932. A year ago, it was \$1,825,127 down from the 2019 average of \$1,984,125 but still exceeding the \$1,469,744 in 1Q2018. This change can be due to a larger sample size and more homes selling at the high end of the range.

The median sales price was \$1,849,450 – far exceeding last year's \$1.65 million.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 39, a 50% increase over the 26 in 1Q2020 and a huge increase from the 15 in the 2019 first quarter. Prices so far this year have ranged from \$1.06 million to \$3.9 million. The average sale price was \$1,800,433. In 1Q2020 it was \$1,578,476 and \$1,436,733 in 2019. The average marketing time was 15 days, versus 27 days a year ago.

... continued on Page D12



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**8 Estates Dr, Orinda**

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 Yanheim.com bit.ly/3vWxkr9 Lic #01965925



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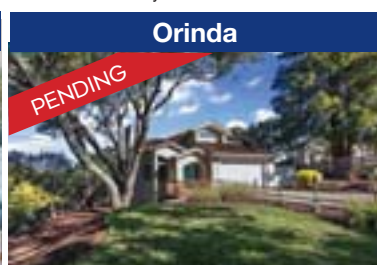
**Orinda**

**23 Martha \$1,685,000**  
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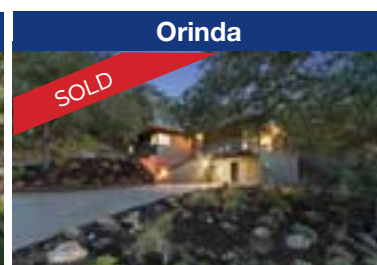
**Orinda**

**85 Orchard \$1,599,000**  
 3 BD/ 2.5 BA  
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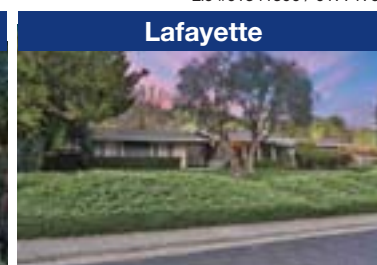
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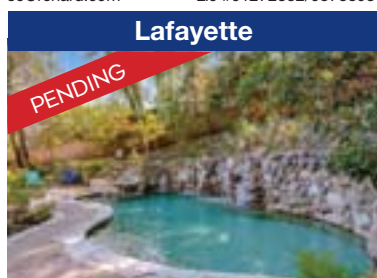
**Orinda**

**32 Via Farallon \$1,555,000**  
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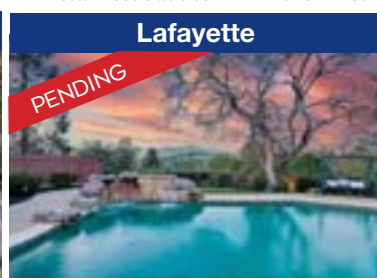
**Lafayette**

**3742 Meadow Lane \$3,595,000**  
 5 BD / 3 BA in Happy Valley  
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**Lafayette**

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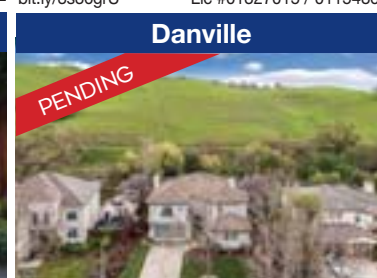
**Lafayette**

**826 Skywood Road \$2,495,000**  
 4 BD / 3 BA, .79-acre lot. Private oasis with pool, views, close to trails.  
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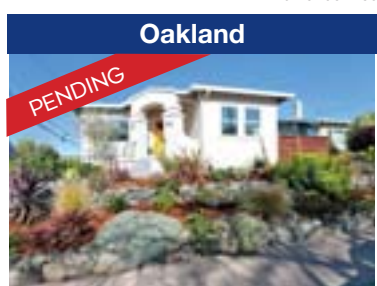
**Lafayette**

**2920 Windtree Court \$1,950,000**  
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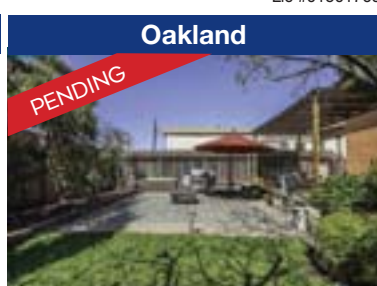
**Danville**

**509 Messian Place \$2,095,000**  
 5 BD / 4 BA  
 Cul-de-sac, pool and backs to trail.  
 Lana Fitzpatrick 925-872-4660  
 Lic #01805218



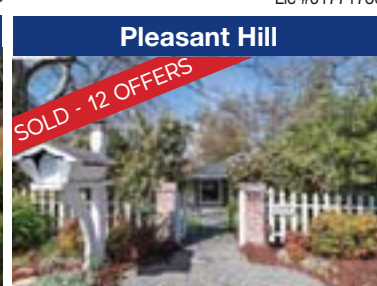
**Oakland**

**3801 Ardley Ave \$925,000**  
 2 BD/1.5BA Updates, cute yard. Located in Glenview! Glenview Charmer.  
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**Oakland**

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**Pleasant Hill**

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**Walnut Creek**

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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from Page D4

In Orinda, there were 54 single-family closings, compared to 44 in 2020. Sales prices ranged from \$1.3 million to \$3.7 million with an average price of \$2,021,192. It was \$1,783,674 a year ago and \$1,587,598 in the first quarter of 2019. It took an average of 28 days on the market to sell a home in Orinda, versus 37 days a year ago.

No single-family homes sold below \$1 million in Moraga, Orinda or Lafayette for the first time ever.

In the first quarter of 2020, Lafayette homes sold at an average of \$737.02 a square foot, a substantial increase from the \$648.43 per square foot in the first quarter of 2020. Moraga came in at 703.47 a whopping increase over a year ago when it was \$594.32. Orinda was at \$703.56 – up from \$635.02 in 1Q2020 and when it was \$617.12 in 2019.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had four closings reported to the MLS. They ranged from \$885,000 to \$1.1 million. Moraga again had 16 ranging from \$490,000 to \$1,171,536. This includes the sales

of some new construction on Wallace Circle and Country Club Drive. Orinda had one on Village Gate Road that traded at the price of \$1,411,100.

As of April 7, there were 132 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities (a year ago it was 53 and 76 in 2019) with asking prices of \$434,950 to \$5.795 million.

Inventory is at 62, less than the 89 a year ago and less than the 103 in 2019.

There are 27 Lafayette properties currently on the market versus 30 properties on the market in April 2020. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$929,000 to \$3.995 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 18 homes, down from 27 homes at this time in 2020. The price range is \$405,000 to \$2.795 million.

In Orinda there are 17 homes on the market. A year ago there were 40. The list prices range from \$525,000 for a condominium on Brookfield to \$5.25 million.

There are no distressed (bank-owned or a short sale) sales available in Lamorinda.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more “affordable” areas. At the high end, 72 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. One year ago there were 28 so the affordability factor is subject to a lot of interpretation. There are 33 currently available above this amount in Lamorinda.

Interest rates have bounced a lot in the last few weeks but have seemingly settled at very competitive rates. Relocation from the corporate side has slowed as many companies continue to have their people work remotely and as such, many of those buyers are on the sidelines at their departure locations before making housing decisions.

Lamorinda continues to be attractive with BART access and highly rated schools. The real estate markets in Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont have continued to be active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more “affordable housing.” Of course, Lamorinda and affordable housing is also subject to interpretation.

We also continue to see a lot of buyers in Lamorinda being represented by agents based in San Francisco and the Peninsula. Prices there have been higher for many years so many have sold there and bought more house for less money in Lamorinda.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices and they do not sell. We also are seeing more homes listed well below true values so that it may encourage bidding wars that sellers hope might generate a higher overall sales price. In the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 76 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2020, 53 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 30 of the 39 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 37 of the 54 sold at or above the final listing price.

... continued on Page D14

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Grand Gated Estate



23 Martha Road, Orinda  
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Represented Seller  
Coveted Glorietta Location



2453 Providence Court, Walnut Creek  
SOLD | \$1,600,000  
Represented Seller  
Light-Filled Hilltop Gem



1304 Larch Avenue, Moraga  
SOLD | \$1,350,000  
Represented Buyer  
Sold Off-Market



241 Corliss Drive, Moraga  
PENDING | \$1,500,000  
Represented Buyer and Seller  
Off-Market Listing | Enchanting Back Yard



2920 Windtree Court, Lafayette  
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## The Real Estate Quarter in Review

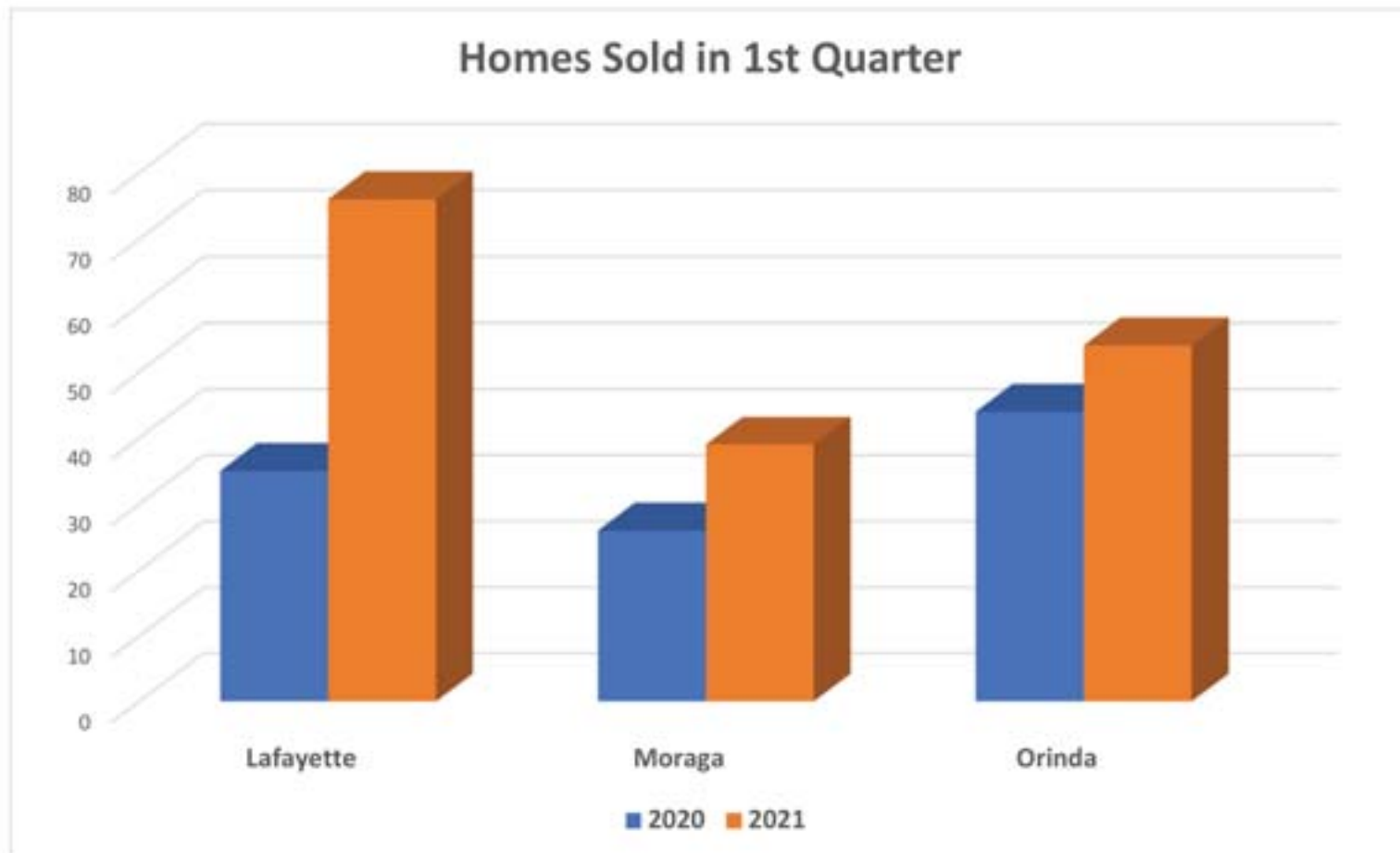
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This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first two weeks on the market. Of the 132 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 103 went pending in 21 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but many agents are setting up marketing plans where they market the home to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market—pointing to a high likelihood

of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

In the detached home category in the first quarter of 2020, the average sale price in Lafayette was 103% of the asking price. In Moraga it was 105.6% and in Orinda it was 104% of the final asking price.

Of course, the ability to market homes at this time has changed as Open Houses are not allowed and there are limitations on how homes can be shown other than “virtually.” Local real estate boards as well as state groups have put limitations on the number of people who can be in a home to see it at one time as well as how the agent can show the house.





## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 112 Via Joaquin, \$720,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$742,500, 03-02-20
- 113 Wallace Circle, \$1,186,500, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 03-02-21
- 27 Wimpole Street, \$1,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 02-22-21,  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-10-03

### ORINDA

- 77 Bates Boulevard, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-04-21,  
Previous Sale: \$979,000, 12-09-02
- 5 Berrybrook Hollow, \$1,915,000, 3 Bdrms, 3332 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 03-03-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,150,000, 05-27-05
- 2 Camino Del Cielo, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4083 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 02-25-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 05-19-06
- 34 Donald Drive, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 3251 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-03-21,  
Previous Sale: \$851,000, 11-12-03
- 255 El Toyonal, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1230 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-04-21
- 130 Fiesta Circle, \$1,776,000, 4 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 02-24-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,488,000, 03-23-15
- 28 Ivy Drive, \$1,880,000, 6 Bdrms, 3009 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 02-24-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 07-20-04
- 330 Miller Court, \$3,415,000, 5 Bdrms, 4355 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 02-24-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,296,000, 02-10-15
- 28 Sunnyside Court, \$1,560,000, 4 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 02-24-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 10-31-17
- 13 Valley View Road, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3949 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 02-26-21
- 10 Whitehall Drive, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1848 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 03-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,258,000, 02-25-16

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

### **Weeds, weeds, and more weeds**



**After the wind, the camellia blooms carpet the ground and must be removed.**

... continued from Page D1

Carolina geranium (*Geranium carolinianum*), also known as cranesbill because of its profusion of half-inch beaks after flowering, is a very dainty and pretty weed when it is young. The palmate leaves are lacy, fern-like, with hairy petiole stalks and tiny five-petaled pink flowers.

For the first month, after it sprouts, it resembles a ground cover. As the weather warms, it seeks the sunlight while branching out two feet or more. The seed has a hard core which allows it to withstand a long dormancy in the soil. Carolina geranium is not edible, but its roots, considered anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and astringent, are used as an external medicinal herb to stop bleeding and as a gargle for sore throats. Hand pulling while it is still young is the best control method.

Black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), also known as yellow trefoil or hop medic, is a broadleaf plant that looks like clover with yellow flowers. It establishes itself in areas that have endured drought, in disturbed soils, or those in need of increased irrigation. As a legume, it fixes its own nitrogen which helps it to overcome lawn grasses in nutrient-poor soils. When the flowers mature, they form a black seedpod which lends itself to the name. A friend of mine informed me about its nutritional value as an herb. In Mexico, black medic is highly desired as an edible green and is expensive to buy.

... continued on Page D17



**The pretty palmate leaves and pink buds of Carolina geranium weed look like a ground cover.**



**The hillside is a bit barren after the weeds have been pulled.**

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

### **Weeds, weeds, and more weeds**



**The clover-like tendrils of Black medic weed entwine around the Naked Lady fronds.**

... continued from Page D14

The leaves are bitter when eaten raw, but when cooked, taste like spinach or collards with a high amount of protein and fiber. It does have antibacterial qualities and is also considered a mild laxative. Bees are attracted to this plant. It makes marvelous green manure. To control black medic, it is critical to hand-weed making sure to pull out the taproot.

Many of the hillsides are experiencing a super bloom of California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) mixed with purple vetch. Having grown up with these beautiful orange globes and vetch, when I witness them growing as natives, I am overjoyed by nature's jewelry. California poppies are the state flower of California. Purple vetch, also known as American vetch (*Vicia americana*) or hairy vetch, is a native nitrogen-fixing cover crop that our family used to feed our cattle on our ranch. It is considered a weed, but I think of it as a valuable wildflower because it is great fodder for wildlife while adding biomass to the soil. The plant attracts beneficial insects to the garden and the flowers entice bees. Growing alongside vegetables, it acts as a living mulch. Vetch is a climber to about two feet and spreads through rhizomes. To control it, cut and leave on the surface of the soil to suppress other weeds. Native Americans consumed vetch as a food and used it for poultices.

Make sure to consult a medical professional before consuming or externally applying any plant that you are unfamiliar with. Although many plants are herbs and helpful, individuals could have conditions

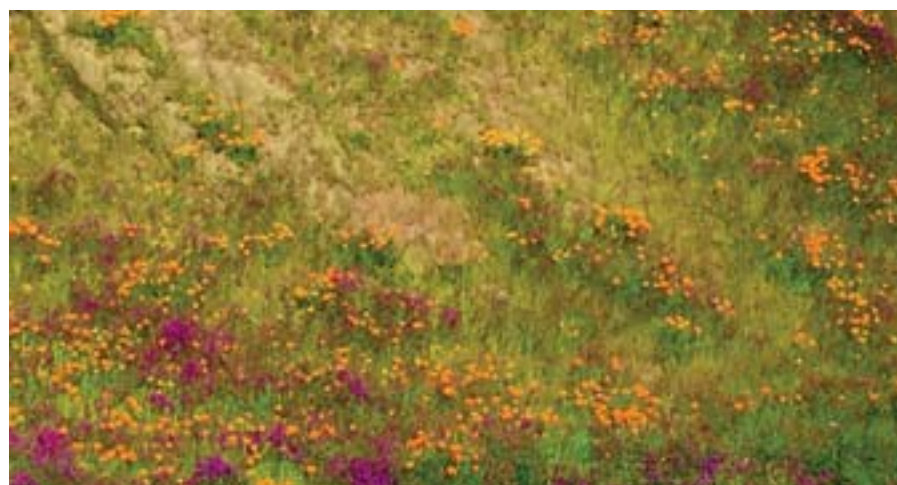


**Without enriched soil, thistles and other weeds thrive.**

that could make ingesting or topically using the plant reactive and dangerous.

Once you've managed the weeds, you will enjoy the bounty of blooms erupting in our neighborhoods.

... continued on Page D18



**A hillside of California poppies and purple vetch look like Impressionistic art.**

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Weeds, weeds, and more weeds



Gorgeous lilacs perfume the garden.

... continued from Page D14

Lilacs, wisteria, hyacinths, tulips, bluebells, calendulas, freesias, Chinese fringe flowers, Dutch iris, bearded iris, Santa Barbara daisies, osteospermum, azaleas, camellias, jasmine, redbud, and even roses are bursting with color. (Make sure to pick up fallen camellias to maintain the health of your shrub.) Fruit trees continue their parade of blossoms including cherry, apple, pear, crabapple and Asian pear.

The grass is green, the weather is mild, and our gardens are the place where we can unwind and connect with the magical natural world. Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and nurture our planet by protecting and appreciating our natural environment. Recycle, reuse, repurpose, reduce. Weed, seed, feed.

Your home will shine with Mother Nature's colorful plant jewelry.

**PLANT SALE:** The Orinda Garden Club is holding a plant sale on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza with members propagated plants plus over 30 varieties of tomato seeds, a Firewise demonstration table, and a garden marketplace. The event will be socially distanced and well-spaced outdoors throughout the Orinda Library Plaza. Look for your special seedlings at this local plant sale. Proceeds will benefit educational projects. Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



The delicate orange petals of a California poppy are elegant.



**Cynthia Brian reminds gardeners to pick up fallen camellia flowers to avoid disease to the mother tree.**

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

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

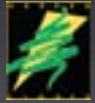
Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

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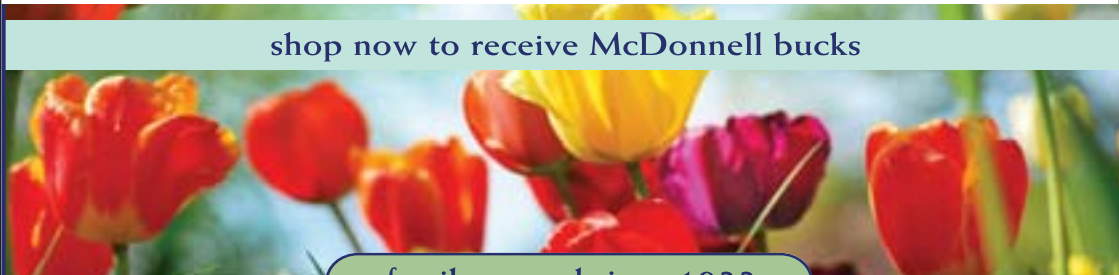
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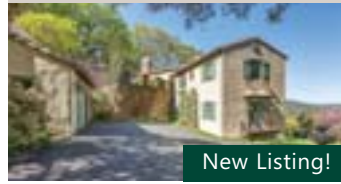
## ORINDA



### 21 El Patio

Custom 5 bed/ 4 bath/ 2 half bath home at end of a private cul-de-sac. Views of OCC golf course & the Berkeley Hills. **\$3,695,000**

## ORINDA



### 63 La Cuesta

Majestic 3 bed/ 2.5 bath home designed by William Avery Rich overlooking the Orinda Country Club on .54 acres. **\$2,895,000**

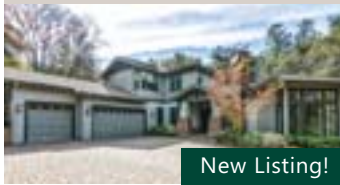
## ORINDA



### 56 Via Floreado

Exceptional 5 bed/ 4.5 bath 4248 sqft home on .54 acres perfectly located in Orinda just minutes from Hwy 24. **\$2,795,000**

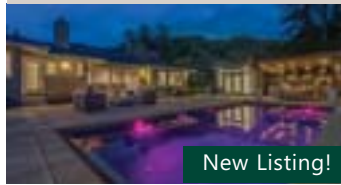
## ORINDA



### 8 Estates Drive

Stunning 4+ bed/4.5 bath 3702 sqft. home on .45 acres. High ceilings, custom millwork & mature landscaping. **\$2,595,000**

## ORINDA



### 15 Donna Maria Way

Amazing 4 bed/ 3 bath home in Del Rey neighborhood on flat .42 acre lot w/ pool, spa, fire pit, & outdoor kitchen. **\$2,195,000**

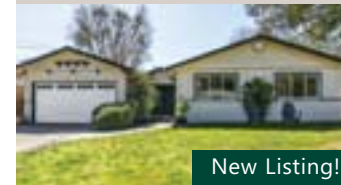
## ORINDA



### 9 Sleepy Hollow Lane

Custom-built 4 bed/ 2.5 bath w/ views of the impeccable, lush & soaring landscaped grounds. Not to be missed! **\$1,995,000**

## MORAGA



### 20 Tia Place

Fabulous 3 bed/ 2 bath home at end of cul-de-sac on .78 acres w/ large lawn, play structure, chicken coop & more! **\$1,425,000**

## MORAGA



### 241 Rheem Boulevard

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath updated in 2018 w/ low maintenance gardens, two lawn areas, all backing to an open hillside. **\$1,370,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 9 Mountain View Lane

Custom 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on 9.93 private acres w/ views of the Lafayette Reservoir, pool, & surrounding hills. **\$7,990,000**

## 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! **\$2,595,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 761 Silver Crest Court

Spacious 4488 sqft 5+ bed/ 4 bath traditional home on 1/2 acre in sought-after Lafayette's Silver Springs Estates. **\$2,495,000**

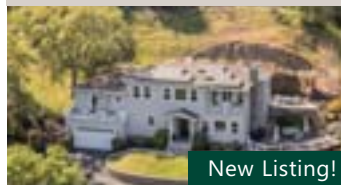
## WALNUT CREEK



### 1918 Lakeshire Drive

Beautifully renovated 2 bed/ 2.5 bath overlooking lake w/ easy access to pool, gym, clubhouse, & golf course! **\$2,050,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 11 Beisheim Lane

Newer 6 bed/ 4 bath home at the end of a private lane in desirable Parkmead neighborhood w/ views of Mt. Diablo. **\$1,795,000**

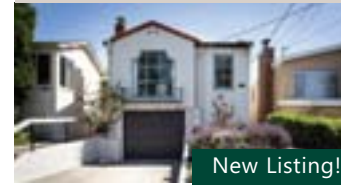
## LIVERMORE



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