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Bob Athayde virtually entertains music fans from the comfort of his Orinda living room.

Photo provided

Music man offers soothing balm through sound

By Diane Claytor

Kahlil Gibran, the famous writer, poet and philosopher, reportedly said, “Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife.” Singer Billy Joel said “music is healing ...”

During these pandemic times, there’s no doubt many of us need way more peace and far less strife. Fortunately, Lamorindans, and, through the wonders of technology, people from around the world, have been able to find some of that comfort and

healing from our very own Bob Athayde. The long-time music director at Lafayette’s Stanley Middle School has, like so many others, reinvented himself over the past year to the delight of music lovers everywhere.

Athayde is a popular local celebrity. In addition to the thousands of students and families he has touched in his 35 years at Stanley’s music department, teaching concert and jazz bands as well as chorus and private lessons, he leads the Lafayette Summer Jazz Workshop and was formerly involved with the Big Band of Rossmoor. Several years ago

Athayde began spending weekend evenings playing the piano at La Finestra Restaurant, entertaining diners as they enjoyed an evening out. As he said back then, “This job is the greatest. I provide background music, playing classic songs ... and enhancing the dining experience.”

Then COVID hit. The schools shut down, the restaurant closed and the perpetually busy Athayde suddenly had more time on his hands. He attended online master classes, listened to Herbie Hancock’s Harvard lecture series and walked the dog more often.

... continued on Page A12

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	A9
Not to be missed	B4
How to contact us	B3
Community Service	B3
Obituaries	A10
Classified	C1
Shop Moraga	C6

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Park Theater on path to reopening

By Lou Fancher

Marking a notable stride forward along the path to restore and reopen the city’s iconic Park Theater building, Tracey Karsten Farrell reported at the April 26 city council meeting that the Park Theater Trust is successfully in contract for an Aug 31, 2021 purchase from the seller. An \$8 million capital campaign is poised to launch and is aimed at renovations in anticipation of a projected late 2022 reopening. Of that overall project amount, roughly \$3 million is for purchase of the building. Minimal fundraising after the opening

will be just enough to maintain the trust’s nonprofit status.

Farrell noted the announcement’s fortuitous timing—the day after the 2021 Academy Awards Night included Oscars for Lafayette community members Madeline Sharafian (best animated short film for “Burrow”, a 2D film written and directed by Sharafian and produced by Pixar Animation Studios) and Pete Docter (winning the longtime Pixar director a best animated feature film award for “Soul”).

Celebrating the return of movies to the Park Theater shuttered since the film “Happy Feet” aired in 2005, Farrell outlined work performed

and the process followed during the last two years by the all-volunteer community grassroots organization. A combination of extensive research, community input meetings, the successful completion of an application for 501(c)3 public benefit corporation status (granted in February 2020), the award of three Lafayette Community Foundation Excellence Grants as well as private donations collectively position the Park Theater Trust closer to the organization’s ultimate goal: to purchase, protect and preserve the theater building as a performing arts center for generations to come.

... continued on Page A3

Civic News A1-A12

Pedestrian safety one of top priorities discussed at Moraga council meeting – Page A4

Public Safety A8

Wildfire preparedness event held in Orinda - Page A6

Life in Lamorinda B1-B4

Local artist hopes to inspire creativity in others - Page B1



Sports C1-C6

Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy celebrates 25 seasons - Page C5



Summer Camps C2-C3

Camp listing - Page B5



Our Homes D1-D20

Lafayette Juniors Tour focuses on outdoor living - Page D1





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Lafayette police chief updates council on crime rates, emergency preparedness



Photo courtesy Lafayette Police Department

by a white police officer in Minneapolis – among other unarmed Black men and women killed or critically injured last year by police – Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt's annual report included local crime rates and important information about community emergency preparedness.

While adjusting to the challenges of safely delivering service to the community and maintaining a healthy work force during COVID-19, Alldritt reported the department responded to 14,000 calls for service and filed 1,300 reports. Violent crimes continued to track at low rates (the 2020 yearly total

was 292; the highest in a 10-year comparison was 517 in 2015). An uptick in armed and strong-armed robbery (5 and 6 incidents, respectively) and commercial burglary (28 crimes) and drops in residential burglaries to 9 from 22 burglaries in 2019, were the most notable. Alldritt said police department and business-owned cameras in the downtown core provided effective coverage that helped solve some of the burglary cases. Lower residential burglaries he attributed to more people working from home during the pandemic.

After last year's devastating wildfire season and just one week before an early red

flag warning was announced (May 3) for a large area of Northern California from Shasta Dam to just north of Los Banos, Alldritt's presentation with updates about the Emergency Preparedness Commission's activities received critical attention. The last time the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning in early May for Northern California's interior was in 2014.

Referencing two public safety power shutoffs during 2020, Chief Alldritt said the department's generators were successfully deployed to provide power at several key traffic intersections.

... continued on Page A3

By Lou Fancher

Summarizing 2020, a year that saw a global pandemic, systemic public health and

safety disparities and social justice protests leading to calls for police reform at local and national levels following the murder of George Floyd

Council approves study of proposed downtown growth scenarios

Draft growth geometrics

- # Area Name
- 1 Downtown West End (north)
- 2 Downtown West End (south)
- 3 Downtown Core (north)
- 4 Downtown Core (south)
- 5 Downtown East End (north)
- 6 Downtown East End (south)
- 7 BART
- 8 Deer Hill Corridor
- 9 Oakwood / DeSilva
- 10 Village Center
- 11 West Road (MRT)
- 12 Bickerstaff / Crescent
- 13 Dewing / Brook / Rosedale
- 14 Almanor Lane
- 15 The Orchards

Image provided



By Jennifer Wake

Discussions of housing development opportunities in the city of Lafayette continued past midnight at the April 26 city council meeting after the council was tasked to consider approval of two proposed growth scenarios as part of the

sixth cycle of the state-mandated housing element process to be studied in the California Environmental Quality Act analysis.

In December 2020, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) executive board adopted the Housing Methodology Committee's recommendation to distribute the re-

gional housing need of 441,176 units established by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Lafayette's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) is expected to be approximately 2,114 units, according to the report, compared to 400 units in the city's fifth housing element cycle.

The city's CEQA consultant, ESA, will prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report, which is a more general environmental review for long range planning documents, for the potential zoning changes that may be necessary to accommodate the final RHNA allocation. CEQA review is expected to take about a year

and must be finished by mid-year 2022 in order to comply with AB 2923 – state legislation that affects zoning requirements on existing BART-owned property within a half mile of stations in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties.

... continued on Page A10



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It's Village. Of Course.

Park Theater on path to reopening



Image provided

... continued from Page A1

Along with the search for a for-profit partner to lease and operate the site as a movie theater, Park Theater Trust board members and the volunteer task force come with a mission to present multigenerational, multi-ethnic and racially diverse performing arts events. Farrell's Power-Point presentation displayed early architectural renderings for the new theater and community hub. "This will be a multipurpose venue for young and old," she said, "with two intimate theaters with flexible seating, a concession area, a commercial kitchen to serve patrons of the theaters, a mezzanine community space, a rooftop terrace, and the opportunity to create an inviting green space along Lafayette Creek."

Farrell said every community "needs a shining light" and the refurbished building will provide the city of Lafayette, its citizens, and visitors with three things: a signature sense of place and cul-

ture, additional visual texture and variety in the downtown core, and a location where people bond through a shared history.

Work projected to rehabilitate the building requires the roof must be replaced and HVAC and electrical issues addressed. Improvements to reach ADA compliance are necessary and asbestos abatement is likely, along with other aesthetic and code issues. Parking in the downtown core is always a hot button topic; the Park Theater Trust website reports that the city recently developed a surface parking lot with 23 spaces within a 5-minute walk of the Park Theater and an agreement with the city will allow for re-development behind the property to create 33 parking spaces. The Park Theater in the past has also been accessible by foot traffic, ride share, BART, and County Connection bus service.

Reaction from the council and public comments following Farrell's presentation were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Lafayette police chief update

... continued from Page A2

Pleased with the city of Lafayette's emergency operations plan, he shared credit for wildfire safety improvements with the community. Out of Lafayette's 10,000 households, Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) data shows that in 2019, approximately 2,900 households had signed up for CWS. At the end of 2020, signups had increased to 8,688. Alldritt said it demonstrated "a huge growth."

As with crime solving, cameras placed under the ALERTWildfire program - close to 30 installed by the Lafayette Police Department, he indicated - are collectively an instrumental component of public safety when it comes to wildfires. Additionally, establishing the community's own FCC-licensed radio station that transmits emergency information 24/7 throughout the area on AM 1670, Alldritt said, provides real time updates during wildfire emergencies, power outages and other disasters.

Mayor Susan Candell in a question following council members' inquiries about specific crime statistics, asked Alldritt to provide information about a \$250,000 grant recently received by the department. The State of California Office of Emergency Services in 2019 and 2020 offered opportunity for public safety departments to apply for grants related to power resiliency. "I did submit a grant request in 2019 but didn't get it; but in 2020, we did," Alldritt said. "We received a check from the State of California of just shy of \$250,000."

Specifically, the items included in the grant request addressed improvements such as solar panels and a generator

backup for the public works center to increase efficacy during emergencies. The chief also partnered with Acalanes Union School District Superintendent John Nickerson to apply for separate funds to purchase additional radios. The radios will be placed at school sites and on school buses and connect to public safety radio towers operated in Alameda and Contra Costa County by the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS).

Alldritt told the council, "(This) means every Lafayette school site and all city department sites will be supported by the same service the police department uses." He said that with the additional radios, schools can reach out to each other during emergencies, city emergency centers will communicate more efficiently, and the police department can monitor the channel or coordinate with the county sheriff's office to dispatch assistance if necessary. Multiple backups to the channel ensures that even in a disaster, communication will be reliable. If for some reason the entire EBRCS system breaks down, Alldritt said it would mean the disaster is so dire that regardless of radio communications, "we're all in trouble."

Expectedly, response from the council and public comments regarding Alldritt's success in funding additional safety measures for Lafayette were congratulatory. A special city council meeting regarding wildfire preparedness, featuring presentations by Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Lamorinda CERT, Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, and Lafayette PD will be held at 7 p.m. May 17 via Zoom webinar.

Correction: In the April 28 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Council considers potential Conflict of Interest violation," the story should have stated that Design Review Commissioner Kristen Sidell agreed not to bill the client \$855 in fees, not the city of Lafayette.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 24, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Design Review

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m. Zoom
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Town Council

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:
Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Pedestrian safety one of top priorities discussed during Moraga council meeting



Photo provided by Moraga Public Works Dept

Hazardous road conditions near Los Perales Elementary School

By Vera Kochan

A big part of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program concerns traffic and safety issues within Moraga. One of the town council's goals for 2021 is to "continue to focus on traffic safety and explore opportunities for improvement, such as closing the sidewalk gap on Corliss Drive near Los Perales school" – a topic that has received much attention from concerned residents in the neighborhood for quite some

time.

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp's presentation during the town council's April 28 meeting outlined Moraga's traffic and safety areas that need improvement. Also present was Regional Principal-in-Charge Meghan Mitman of Fehr & Peers, a transportation planning and engineering firm.

On the list of safety projects is ADA accessibility. Staff wants to analyze all of the town's buildings, parks, path-

ways, curb ramps and sidewalks in order to determine any shortcomings in that realm. Also, according to a town ordinance, property owners are responsible for maintaining landscapes and walkways in the public right-of-way. A biennial inspection would help to reinforce hazard-free zones.

Knapp's staff report also focused on cyclist improvement projects such as "striping bike lanes and buffer zones, adding bike lanes and signage where bike lane gaps exist, adding new paved shoulders with bike lanes, and adding separated bicycle facilities."

Traffic signal improvements would involve assessments to the aging equipment in order to create a replacement schedule or possibly install more technologically advanced equipment with signal timing synchronization, improved ADA compliance deficiencies, smart timing, and video vehicle detection.

High on the council members' list of discussion concerned pedestrian safety improvements. Knapp's report pointed out some inexpensive enhancements would

include "maintaining existing or upgrading traffic signage and striping improvements for crosswalks. More expensive projects include traffic calming/curb ramp bulb-outs, advance warning systems, and new traffic signalized intersections."

While several intersections made the staff's list with regards to needing pedestrian improvements, council members gave particular focus to Canyon Road/Sanders Drive and Canyon Road/Country Club Drive in large part because of the proximity to the Moraga Shopping Center and student foot traffic to and from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. However, the location most in need of pedestrian improvements, according to public comments and council members alike, is Corliss Drive near Los Perales Elementary School on Wakefield Drive, where many incidents by careless drivers have occurred.

Funding for transportation projects, which includes traffic safety, would come from Measure J along with additional grant programs.

Town Council hears preliminary Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan

By Vera Kochan

In consideration of one of the town council's 2021 goals to "continue work on a financial plan to sustain core operations of the town," which includes asset replacement, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt's April 28 presentation laid out the many improvements and maintenance priorities that have been long overdue within the Capital Improvement Program's scope.

Much consideration was given by staff in determining which of the town's assets would fall under the category. The criteria included: "service life of the asset; condition of the individual asset following assessment; availability of funding in each fiscal year; ability of town to complete the work given the existing workload and limited staff

resources; and economy of scale – in which like projects are completed in a single fiscal year whenever possible as project costs typically decrease with size."

The Five-Year Asset Replacement Program Funding Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021-22 totals \$329,000. Area's of improvement include: replace the Hacienda's wooden fence along the Casita in which shelf life has far surpassed its initial construction in 1977 (\$19,000); Hacienda patio ADA pathway and patio expansion with the help of grant funds (\$28,000); exterior painting of the Casita to cover the patchwork and construction of recent improvements to the building (\$21,000); replace the 25-year-old library carpet (\$65,000); paint the exterior of the library (\$28,000); replace hazardous Commons Park swing

sets which were removed in 2016 (\$33,000); paint the exterior of the Commons Park bandshell in which paint is peeling and chipping (\$21,000); replace a 2015 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$54,000); replace the 2002 Chevy Impala utilized by the Public Works Department (\$30,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$30,000).

The recommendations for FY 2022-23 totaling \$318,000 include: replacing the Hacienda's 1977 dated metal entrance fence and gate (\$42,000); replace the Hacienda Pavilion flagstone staircase (built in 1938) before it becomes a safety liability, Design Phase 1 (\$49,000); replace dry-rotted Rancho Laguna Park picnic tables with 100% recyclable plastic tables (\$53,000); replace the 1974 library sewer lateral line (\$34,000); replace the sewer lateral line at 329 Rheem Blvd. – location of the town offices (\$6,000); replace 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$56,000); replace a 2007 Ford F-250 Public Works maintenance truck (\$46,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

FY 2023-24 recommendations totaling \$294,000 include: Hacienda flagstone staircase replacement Phase 2 – installation (\$206,000); replace 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$56,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

Recommendations for FY 2024-25 totaling \$349,000 include: the Hacienda retaining wall (\$65,000); refinish Hacienda wood floors (\$61,000); trellis at 329 Rheem Blvd. (\$63,000); replace 2018 Dodge Charger police vehicle (\$46,000); replace Public Works dump truck (\$82,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

The last of the Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan for FY 2025-26 totals \$300,000 and includes: Commons Park spray feature



Hacienda fence beyond repair

Photo courtesy Parks and Rec

(\$37,000); Hacienda interior painting (\$22,000); paint the Pavilion exterior (\$24,000); library flat roof (\$63,000); refurbish 335 Rheem Blvd. restroom (\$32,000); replace 2016 Dodge Charger police vehicle (\$55,000); replace Public Works 1999 Bobcat Loader (\$35,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

Council Member David Stromberg questioned the necessity of replacing police vehicles that appear to be sitting in abundance at the town offices. Moraga Police Chief Jon King explained that each vehicle goes through above average wear and tear during use. For that reason vehicles are assigned on a rotation basis to officers in order to maximize their longevity. Also, if vehicles are out for maintenance there are backups available in the fleet. Additionally, any officer who is subpoenaed to court should

appear in uniform and drive a police vehicle. King pointed out that if a vehicle reaches its five-year mark and has proven reliable it's kept in the fleet for another year.

Council Member Renata Sos suggested that repairs and replacements be prioritized for the "must-haves over the nice-to-haves." The rest of the council was in like mind and was pleased with staff's explanations for why items were on the proverbial "honey-do list."

In the past two years the town has invested \$753,707 in Capital Asset Replacement from various funds, with an estimated \$2,523,700 in assets that are past due or due for the next five years. Staff recommended \$1.59 million in projects over that same period, assigning an average annual investment of \$318,000. The council's input will be brought back for approval as part of the town's Five-Year CIP.

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Canyon Bridge closure planned May 17-21

Construction of phase 2 of the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project is underway. The contractor is working Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Expect traffic delays of 15 minutes or longer. Beginning Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21 the bridge will be closed

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to all traffic with the exception of emergency services. The closure will ensure safety of the community and construction team with the installation of the creek diversion system. "We apologize for an inconvenience and appreciate your patience during construc-

tion," said Moraga City Manager Cynthia Battenberg. For current updates, check the town's Canyon Road Bridge webpage (http://www.moraga.ca.us/canyonroadbridge) regularly. — submitted by Sharon Chan



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Walnuts – Moraga’s forgotten cash crop

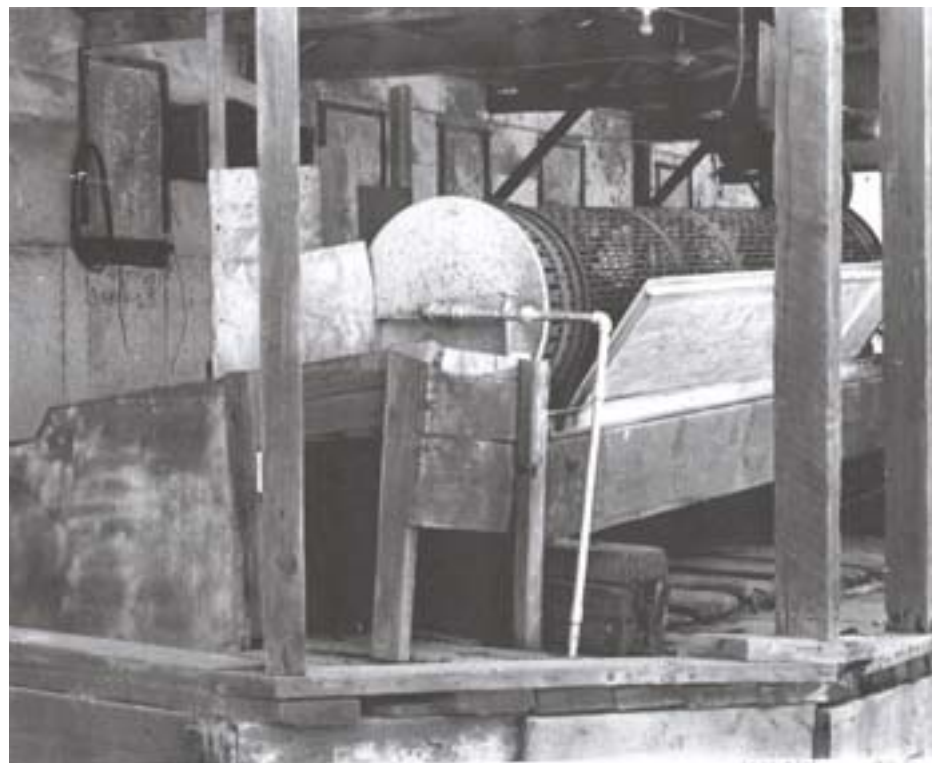


Photo courtesy Moraga Historical Society

Moraga Ranch's walnut huller located on the southwest side of Moraga Way, approximately 200-feet northwest of School Street.

By Vera Kochan

Ask any resident of Moraga what the town symbol is, and the reply will be “a pear.” We annually hold a pear harvest for the local food bank in the summer; a Pear (and Wine) Festival in the fall, but we seem to have collectively forgotten about our cash crop that once came second to the pear – black walnuts. Or, maybe we simply decided to let the city of Walnut Creek do the honors.

Black walnut trees, according to George and Becky Lohmiller of The Old

Farmer’s Almanac, were discovered by early settlers growing in mixed forests from Canada to Northern Florida. They used them for snacks or added them to soups and stews, even grinding them for use when baking. The nuts proved a hearty food source during the winter thanks to their protective shell. The tree’s wood is still valued by furniture and cabinetmakers for its attractive color and durability.

Recognition of the first walnut trees in Moraga appears in documents from the late 1800s, referring to land ac-

quired by the Moraga Land Association. The 12,605 acres were originally awarded to Don Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Don Juan Bernal by the Mexican government in 1835. An 1892 brochure from the MLA boasted, “Streams known as the San Pablo, Walnut and Moraga Creeks run through the tract. Charming drives wind their way along the banks, shaded by the most beautiful walnut and other forest trees.”

Historically speaking, a walnut tree served as the first “post office” in Moraga. A 1958 article in the Contra Costa Gazette stated, “Pioneers still recall stories of Moraga’s mailbag tree, the native black walnut, where early settlers hung a ‘saca,’ a rawhide bag serving as their post office. Mail posted there sometimes remained in the rawhide sack for a month or more until a vaquero rode by heading towards the Alvarados, the Martinez, the Castros, the Peraltas, or to the other ranchos of the era.” Unfortunately, a fire later destroyed the tree.

What we now know as St. Mary’s Road, Glenside Drive, Reliez Station Road, and Pleasant Hill Road was called Walnut Way in 1892.

The later acquisition of the area in 1912, by James Irvine, would become The Moraga Company’s Moraga Ranch. By 1919, the holdings consisted of 11,300 acres extending from Redwood Canyon to the old highway at Lafayette including 54 acres in the city where Mt. Diablo Boulevard cuts through the community. The ranch also extended a mile east of Saint Mary’s College to the Orinda Crossroads. The walnut orchards, planted in the late 1940s, were scattered throughout the area, including land that was eventually developed to build

homes near Camino Pablo Elementary School, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and the campuses themselves of Campolindo and Miramonte high schools.

The year 1971 saw a walnut harvest of over 60,000 pounds, which was considered lower than a good year’s crop of 90,000 pounds. During the nearly 30 years of production, the walnuts were shipped for sale throughout the United States. The Lamorinda area began to turn its attention to the construction of subdivisions, and by the mid-’70s walnut trees and pear trees gave way to bedroom communities. A relic of days-gone-by, the old walnut shed can still be spotted near the corner of Moraga Way and School Street across from present-day Moraga Ranch; lest we forget the magnificent walnut trees that once graced so much of the region.

Special thanks to Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry.

Candied Walnuts

Recipe from an old friend, Udonia Annis

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 cups walnut halves or pieces

Combine first three ingredients and cook to soft ball stage (235 to 245 degrees Fahrenheit on a candy thermometer). Add vanilla and walnuts. Stir until mixture is cool and thick. Turn out onto wax paper and separate nuts quickly to cool completely.

- S. O’Doherty



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-Lon Shapiro, New Viamonte Resident

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

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Orinda begins search for a high priority analyst

By Sora O'Doherty

To begin the search for a senior management analyst to assist the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee (SSTOC) and other priority assignments, the Orinda City Council on May 4 approved a revised job classification and authorized the city manager to initiate recruitment.

Jud Hammon, the chair of the SSTOC, told the council that he was not so happy with one area of the job description, which lacked a requirement for specific knowledge and experience relating to fire safety, disaster management and roads and storm drains, which are the primary responsibilities of the SSTOC.

City manager David Briggs said that the analyst will support activities of the SSTOC, which is advisory to the city council. The position has existed in the past, but has been vacant since May 2018. The job description is fairly broad, he explained, but advertisements for the position will emphasize that Orinda is looking for people with experience in public works, capital improvement, grants, fire prevention, emergency preparedness, etc. Biggs hopes to have the position filled within 60 days.

Former city manager Steve Salomon had identified the types of skills needed for both Measure R and general

support functions including resources to more effectively communicate with the public on issues and topics of interest; coordination of staff training and administration of disaster planning functions; analytical support for research of topics and programs brought to the city council; legislative tracking and advocacy; coordination and support of the SSTOC and programs and services that may relate to their work; and general assistance in preparing staff reports on a variety of topics.

Orinda's human resources manager Ginger Staton undertook an effort to update the job classification, in consultation

with the city manager and Jim Bourgart, currently serving as contract interim program manager for SSTOC activities. According to the staff report, this position could be assigned as the lead position responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities and programs resulting from Measure R, the supplemental sale tax. However, the goal is to retain flexibility to provide support to the city manager in other areas as well. It is also the city manager's intent to assign a department director position to be the lead contact for the SSTOC.

[https://www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/399/Senior-Management-Analyst-](https://www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/399/Senior-Management-Analyst)

Local leaders gather to raise awareness of wildfire danger and push residents to prepare

By Sora O'Doherty

The Directors of the California Office of Emergency Services, the Director of Cal Fire, the mayors of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, the president of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board, MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, and other elected officials were at the San Pablo Reservoir May 3 to try to raise awareness of wildfire danger and help residents get ready for the probability of serious fires this season.

"We now have nine months of fire season," Cal Fire Director Thom Porter began. "We need more resources; we need to prevent fires and promote fire preparedness." Cal Fire is adding 1,400 new firefighters now above the normal hire, which will add more new hires before

peak fire season. Cal Fire's biggest concern is boots on the ground, he said.

In addition to more firefighters, Cal Fire is also adding new firefighting helicopters. The new S70i helicopters are larger and faster and will change the way Cal Fire battles blazes, Porter said. Five of 12 new helicopters have been added now, and numbers six and seven will be added by the end of May.

The director also talked about the Cal Fire Grant Funding for Fire Prevention and Forest Health Projects program. Up to \$317 million is available for forest health, fire prevention, forest legacy and forest health research grant projects. Cal Fire is soliciting applications for projects that prevent catastrophic wildfires, protect communities, and restore forests to healthy, functioning ecosystems while also sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Applications for grants are due by 3 p.m. on May 19.

Porter then turned to what residents can do. He stressed the need to create defensible space around residences and other buildings. "At a minimum," he urged, "meet state requirements." He suggested that there are low cost retrofit options available to harden homes. "Think every area in California can and will burn someday," he said. "Right now we have seen both at the federal and state levels 1,787 wildfires that have burned 8,420 acres." Although he said that the fire season this year is two months early,



Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Moraga Mayor Mike McCluer Photo Sora O'Doherty

it is not too late, but work needs to be done now.

Director of Cal OES Mark Ghilarducci said that last year the agency handled 12,500 mutual aid requests, and 32 counties required presidential disaster declarations. Noting that the day of the event was a red flag day, he said that the pattern is not slowing but instead we are having fires sooner. "As the Governor said, the hots are hotter and the

dries are drier," he quoted. Fires are more extreme and require newer equipment and more technology, and \$2.9 billion has been invested. OES has added 100 new pieces of equipment across 60 jurisdictions. Ghilarducci talked about positioning resources in advance of fires, a technique that was utilized very successfully by MOFD in Moraga last year to fight the Sanders Ranch fire. ... continued on Page A8

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City Council Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

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Popular Orinda Union School District superintendent retires



Carolyn Seaton

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

After five years, superintendent Carolyn Seaton is leaving the job; indeed, leaving the state, to retire in Colorado where she will be closer to her family. Seaton has completed 37 years in education, including last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, which presented

challenges unknown in education for over 100 years.

Born in Dallas Texas, Seaton was raised in Torrance, California. But she returned to Texas for her undergraduate degree and master's degree, which she earned at the University of North Texas. Prior to coming to Orinda she worked 19 years with the Manhattan Beach school district in Southern California as executive director of educational services and executive director of human resources. She had previously taught in a suburb of Dallas for 13 years.

When Seaton was recruited for the position of OUSD superintendent, she was working on her Ph.D. and wasn't interested in a career move. However, the recruitment firm pursued her, and convinced her that the OUSD would work with her to permit her to defend her dissertation. Seaton was recruited by Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, the same firm now recruiting for her replacement. Seaton had high praise for the firm and is convinced that they will produce excellent candidates to replace her.

Before last year, Seaton would have said that her major challenge at OUSD had been the public safety power shutoffs, but then came the pandemic, which proved to be much more challenging. "There really wasn't a road map; we hadn't dealt with this in our lifetime" she said. Seaton is really proud at how the educational community in Lamorinda handled such a tremendous shift, and

what they were able to accomplish. She expressed her gratitude to the superintendents of 'Walamorinda,' a nickname that includes nearby Walnut Creek and Canyon. She named John Nickerson, Acalanes Union High School District; Bruce Burns, Moraga School District; Richard Whitmore, Lafayette School District; Marie Morgan, Walnut Creek School District; and Lucia Sullivan, Canyon School District, as her helpful colleagues.

Not an epidemiologist, Seaton suddenly found herself giving pandemic updates at every OUSD meeting. "It's interesting" she mused, "what you become an expert in." One of the tricky parts, she recounted, was that there were still unknowns as we were working through this; experts disagreed, and she didn't want OUSD decisions to cause any student or staff to contract COVID-19.

During the pandemic, Seaton added, the OUSD board has been incredible, working so hard; the number of meetings alone was unbelievable, especially as all the board positions are voluntary. Seaton expressed herself to be so impressed with this particular board, "such smart dedicated individuals, respectful of each other and with me." Throughout the pandemic, she said, "they remained focused, and moved on even when we didn't agree. Orinda is really so lucky to have them."

Her successor will certainly have the mental health of students and staff as a very important issue. Still, she

noted, "students are amazingly resilient, they always inspire me." That having been said, it will be important to look for students who continue to be affected and need intervention, perhaps in the form of some counseling. The OUSD is currently looking at a tool that they might be able to use to help assess where students are and provide a data point. Right now, Seaton said, there is only the California Healthy Kids Survey, and it isn't enough. "I like to say, there are many COVID silver linings. As difficult as they year was to adjust to, there are many highlights in the ways we have learned how to cope that we can take with us. We know that students learn best when we aren't dealing with significant mental health issues. A little bit of anxiety is a good thing, a lot isn't."

Seaton hopes ways to assess students more regularly can be found and adopted. "We have literacy assessments, but just in the past few years we've tried to address elementary school students with mental health issues." The board is currently looking at ways to expand counseling at elementary and middle school using additional funds from the state and potentially from the federal government.

Seaton garnered universal praise from OUSD board members. Cara Hoxie said, "Dr. Seaton has been a transformative leader.

... continued on Page A9

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Police warn residents of three phone scams

Phone scams can cost you money and mental anguish, and three specific scams are on the rise in Lamorinda. According to the Moraga Police Department, the first scam involves someone calling to say that you owe money to PG&E and your power will be turned off unless you go to Safeway and

send money or buy some type of gift card. PG&E representatives do not call and demand money or threaten to turn off power.

The second scam being perpetrated involves callers saying that a purchase has been made on an Amazon.com account, and asking the victim to call "support."

This is a way to obtain account or credit card information. If you are concerned about an Amazon.com purchase log into your account directly.

Finally, residents are reporting receiving calls saying there is a problem with their bank account which is being investigated by the "Depart-

ment of the Federal Reserve law enforcement branch" and a warrant is being issued for their arrest. The scammers ask for personal and banking information to clean out accounts.

If you have questions, hang up and contact the involved group using information that you obtain (i.e.

PG&E's number from your bill or their website). Lastly, if you receive a call from a number you do not recognize, let it go to voicemail. If it is important, they will leave a message.

– J. Wake

Letters to the editor

Dissolving MOFD and merging into the County Fire District proposal

At the request of MOFD Director Baitx, the MOFD Board on May 19th at 7 p.m. Zoom meeting will discuss the process for dissolving our local fire district and merging Moraga and Orinda into the County fire district (ConFire).

Merging MOFD into the county fire department is bad for Moraga and Orinda:

1. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) is one of the highest performing, top-ranked, efficient, effective and innovative fire districts in the State of California. This community cares deeply about its locally-controlled fire district.
2. Our fire district was established in 1997 to provide high quality paramedic and fire protection services to Orinda and Moraga that are tailored to local needs and that surpass the services provided elsewhere in the County.
3. Should our fire district dissolve and merge, the citizens of Orinda and Moraga will lose the following: Im-

proved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district; Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs (for example, fire breaks, neighborhood chipping, and Firewise); The locally-elected, locally-focused MOFD Board, which would be replaced by the County Board of Supervisors that looks out for the County as a whole; The deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our terrain, network of narrow roads, vegetation, and abundant open space; The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district; Extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

4. Much of our area has been designated by the State of California as a high fire hazard

severity zone. It is therefore imperative that our community not lose its high-performing, nimble, well-funded, innovative, efficient, and locally-controlled fire district.

5. The public portion of the May 19th MOFD Board meeting (held using Zoom links available at www.mofd.org) where this will be discussed is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Sue Severson

Orinda

Proposed MOFD merger with ConFire

As a retired veteran firefighter from ConFire, I can assure you that giving up our invaluable local control of our great MOFD would be a huge mistake!

ConFire does a good job of Fire/Rescue/Medical issues, but it is totally subject to the whims and budget constraints of the county board of supes. They do not give a damn about our special needs and would close stations and reduce manpower as needed to balance the county budget! They

have done this many times in years past!

We need to maintain local control of our specific safety and fire issues that our MOFD provides to our citizens. This year is probably going to be a critical fire year yet again, due to our ongoing drought and many dead trees and brush that have not been addressed by Orinda City, EBMUD, & PG&E! It makes no sense to drop our local control.

Who is behind this attempt to rob our citizens of local control?

Don Moresi

Orinda

Wagner Ranch Nature Area

What an extraordinary resource we have in Orinda - and it would not be possible without the dedication and determination of Toris Jaeger and

the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The OUSD almost closed the Nature Area some years back, but thanks to the resolve and talents of Reg and Kathy Barrett, Bill Hudson and Steve Gentry (to name a few long standing volunteers) WRNA was saved and flourished. Volunteers, including Jane Voll, Arman Marchiel and the BOD, have created an exceptional outdoor education experience for children, which shows the power of volunteers in a community. Importantly, their example has inspired young people to donate their time and energy to environmental projects as well. It takes a village and we applaud you.

Cinda MacKinnon

Orinda

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

Local leaders gather to raise awareness of wildfire danger

... continued from Page A6

Ghilarducci urged residents to practice evacuation routes both in the daytime and at night, when they look different. Other things he recommends include having battery backups for all devices, keeping your car's gas tank filled at all times, having supplies ready to go, and don't wait to evacuate.

That theme was echoed by Assistant Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, Rich Stewart. "Don't wait, don't put first responders in danger," he urged. He talked about how frightening and dangerous wildfires are, how fast they move. It is the job of law enforcement to go in and rescue people, he said. If you

are trapped by a wildfire, he advised calling 911.

Robert Baird, Director, Fire and Aviation, Pacific Southwest Region at U.S. Forest Service, said that this year is set up to be another destructive year. One area of concern is tree mortality. He urged residents to be extra vigilant in recreational areas.

Last year fires were set by lightning. He also talked about mutual assistance. "We can draw from across the United States, Canada and Mexico," he said. In addition, the U.S. Marines and Army provide assistance, including night flying helicopters to fight killer wildfires after dark. "We need you to help, to

reduce fuels and to create defensible spaces," he said. "It used to be, 'Ready, Set, Go!'" he said, but not anymore. Now it is just "Go!"

Also in attendance at the event were Marguerite Young, director of the East Bay Municipal Utility District,

Lafayette Mayor Susan Candel, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, Moraga Mayor Mike McCluer, MOFD Chief Winnacker, MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein, and Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 19, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 18, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 18 - May 1

Alarms	41
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	74
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	17
Suspicious Vehicle	23
Service to Citizen	42
Patrol Req./Security Check	35
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	35
Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
1000 Block Carol Ln. (3)	
DUI Misd	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Panorama Dr.	

3600 Block Boyer Cir.
Reckless Driving
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Springbrook Pool
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./Scenic Ln.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - No Details
Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
Camino Colorados/St. Marys Rd. (2)
900 Block Carol Ln.
E Lowell Ln./Silverado Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.
3600 Block Brook St.
3100 Block Camino Diablo
1000 Block Dolores Dr.
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Grand Theft
10 Block Eleven
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Leland Dr.

Identity Theft
10 Block Toledo Ct.
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Misc Burglary
800 Block Avalon Ave.

Panhandling
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3600 Block Hastings Ct.
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.
900 Block Risa Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.

Loud Music
1000 Block Los Arabis Ln.

Loud Noise
20 Block Chapel Dr.
700 Block Solana Dr.

Loud Party
900 Block Hough Ave.
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Powell Dr./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.

3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3Rd St./Moraga Blvd.
Public Nuisance
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.
Oak Hill Rd./Terrace Way
1St St/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Carol Ln./Moraga Blvd.

Vandalism
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)

Other
Fire/Ems Response Info
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block School St.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
Police Department

Violation Restraining Order
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 20 - May 3

Alarms	4
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	21
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	35
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	8
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	6
Public/School Assembly Check	4

Vehicle violations

Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Delores Ct.
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Moraga Way/School St.
Moraga Rd./Corliis Dr.
Moraga Rd./Camino Ricardo
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Stuart Ct.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.



Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Vehicle Theft
30 Block Arroyo Dr.
Alta Mesa Dr./Paseo Bernal

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
800 Block Crossbrook Dr.
1100 Block Sanders Dr.

Identity Theft
1400 Block Camino Peral

Residential Burglary
50 Block Fieldbrook Pl.

Shoplift
CVS
Ace Hardware

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Police Department
St. Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Loud Music
10 Block Francisca Dr.
Donald Dr./Carroll Dr.
1400 Block Camino Peral
1700 Block School St.

Loud Noise
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Loud Party
80 Block Miramonte Dr.
Bollinger Canyon Rd./Joseph Dr. (2)
Not Available

Other
Vandalism
Not Available

Dependent Adult Abuse
200 Block N Sandringham

Mentally Ill Commit
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way

Possession Of Burg Tools
1000 Block Sanders Dr.

Alarms 10 |

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 3 |

Traffic 8 |

Suspicious Circumstances 0 |

Suspicious Subject 8 |

Suspicious Vehicle 5 |

Service to Citizen 49 |

Patrol Req./Security Check 39 |

Supplemental Report 8 |

Vacation House Check 0 |

Welfare Check 5 |

Public/School Assembly Check 7 |

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24

Accident Property
Overhill Rd./Moraga Way
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way

Auto Burglary
Orinda Way

Reckless Driving
Big Leaf Rd./Wilder Rd.

Vehicle Theft
20 Block Watchwood Ct.
90 Block Via Floreado

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
70 Block Moraga Way (2)
60 Block Moraga Way
200 Block Brookwood Rd.

Forgery
30 Block Tara Rd.

Grand Theft From Vehicle
10 Block De Soto Ct.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
40 Block Hillcrest Dr.
40 Block Hillcrest Dr.

Petty Theft
10 Block Evergreen Dr.
30 Block Haciendas Rd.

Petty Theft From Vehicle
100 Block Ravenhill Rd. (2)
300 Block Glorietta Blvd.
20 Block Watchwood Ct.

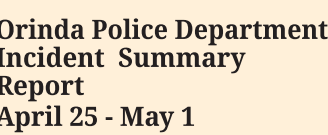
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Monkeyflower Ln./Windy Creek

Public Nuisance
Moraga Way/Estabueno

Other
Drunk In Public
Theatre Square

Fireworks
80 Block Ivy Dr.

Vandalism
80 Block Hillcrest Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 25 - May 1

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Longtime choral teacher takes new position



Photo John T. Miller

Bruce Lengacher directs his "hybrid" group of choral students in warm-up exercises at Acalanes.

By John T. Miller

Bruce Lengacher, longtime choral teacher at Acalanes High will be leaving the school at the end of the year to take a position with the Acalanes Adult Education

Center. The popular educator has been named the director of music and theater in the Acalanes Continuation and Independent Study program.

Lengacher is excited with the prospects of his new position, adding that he will miss the energy and joy the stu-

dents brought to his high school program.

"I'll also miss the frustrations," he added. "It was never boring, and always worth the frustrations. The students could do something that was a cut above what you usually see in high school."

In contrast to most other teachers, Lengacher got to watch students grow over the course of four years. "I once had a freshman who was so nervous to perform, she threw up in the bushes. By her senior year she blossomed into one of our top soloists."

He will also miss his colleagues, saying, "They were like my family, with the same approach to Arts Education as I had."

He started the Acalanes Choral Boosters, Inc., which became the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters (APAB) with a regular board and a nonprofit group, using the money for scholarships so that a low-income student

could manage to go on tour.

The choir has gone to Seattle, New York, Chicago, England, Switzerland, France, Vancouver, Southern California and many other locales.

Wendy Gilberd, whose two children graduated from Acalanes and participated in the choral program all four years, praised Lengacher, saying, "Bruce's passion, dedication and enthusiasm made him an exceptional teacher. He worked tirelessly to promote performing arts education at Acalanes. Bruce and his students produced high quality musicals and concerts. Watching my kids performing on stage with their friends will always be one of my most cherished memories as a parent."

Adult education principal Steve France, a former principal at Acalanes, recruited Lengacher for the position. "We are excited to add a vocal music and theater program to our course offerings," he said. "Bruce and I have worked to-

gether for many years and I look forward to the passion and knowledge he will bring to our program."

The admiration is mutual. Lengacher appreciates France's approach to the arts. "It's nice to have an administrator who recognizes the importance of arts education providing a well-rounded experience for all students."

The adult ed program will include a voice lab, a choir, and a musical theater workshop with both performing and technical tracks. Lengacher will also be in charge of the Del Valle theater.

"I'm looking forward to an arts education of a diverse population," says Lengacher. "From English Language Learners, to kids who don't fit in with the typical high school program, to Golden Agers and members of the community, I'm excited that they can share the experience with each other."

AUHSD to host on-site vaccine clinics in the coming weeks

By Sophie Braccini

The Acalanes Union High School District is planning to start the 2021-22 school year this coming August with the same schedule as pre-pandemic. In order to do so safely and in anticipation of health authorities approving the Pfizer vaccine for teens 12 and up, the district will host two vaccination clinics on two campuses in May, open to all and in particular to students.

At the May 5 governing board meeting, Superintendent John Nickerson insisted that the schools would prefer all the students to be vaccinated. The day-long clinics will be on May 18 or May 25, or at the latest June 1. Families will receive directly detailed information on hours

and exact location.

The superintendent noted that vaccination will be the best response to incidents such as a recent outbreak involving 21 students who tested positive for COVID-19 and the resulting quarantining of 100 students in the district. Nickerson confirmed that the cases were related to a party, not to hybrid on-site instruction, and that no spread on campuses was noted.

During that same governing board meeting, Aida Glimme, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, said that families of incoming students had been asked to confirm their desire to have their students attend school in-person or remotely next school year. Within the four high schools that comprise

the district, only 20 families indicated that they would prefer their student(s) to continue to study remotely. Glimme explained that this small number, spread among

four different grades, was too small for the district to commit resources to such a program. She will contact each family individually to discuss with them how either the

Acalanes Center for Independent Study (ACIS) or the standard campuses with additional staff support will provide an adequate solution.

Superintendent retires

... continued from Page A7

Her ability to collaborate with teachers, staff, parents and community members has been the key to navigating this incredibly difficult past year. I am enormously grateful for all she has done for our district!"

Jason Kaune agreed that Seaton has been transformational. "Collaborating with our parents, she helped recreate our foundation as one of her top priorities. She earned confidence from our community to fund the rebuilding of our campuses and built new relationship with our city partners. Inspiring our educators, she accelerated Orinda's academic excellence, even as the state reduced our share of funding. She has a knack for hiring - 'getting the right people on the bus,' she calls it. During the pandemic crisis she steered us through uncertain waters. Orinda schools will

benefit from her leadership for a generation."

Liz Daoust also found Seaton to have been an exceptional leader for OUSD the past five years. "She has an incredible gift for bringing people together and understanding the needs of all stakeholders. Our entire community has benefited from her vast teaching and administrative experience, visionary approach, and boundless positive energy."

"During all of her years in Orinda, but most especially this past extremely challenging pandemic year, she has gone above and beyond in her work with the singular goal of supporting all students, teachers, staff, and parents. She is the true definition of dedication and commitment, and we are extremely grateful for her service to our District. She will be deeply missed, but we wish her all the best in her retirement."



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In Memory

John E. Carey, Jr.

June 15, 1945 - April 23, 2021



Friends and family remember John Carey as larger than life. He was hard to miss in a room—thanks to both his towering stature and his reverberating presence. True to his Irish heritage, John possessed the “gift of gab,” known for his wild stories, incisive wit, and passionate debates. He loved to hold court at the family dinner table and engage strangers in conversation at Moraga Safeway.

Born in Newport, Rhode Island to Dr. and Mrs. John E. Carey, John cultivated a love of the ocean from

an early age. Throughout his life, he was most at peace navigating a sailboat. He left Rhode Island to attend Georgetown University in 1964, but remained a proud Newporter until his final days.

After serving as an intelligence officer in the Army, John moved to San Francisco in 1972 and attended UC Hastings College of the Law, where he played on the school’s rugby team and built friendships that would last a lifetime. He went on to practice as a civil litigator for over 45 years, fueled by a gift for oration and a belief that everyone deserves an advocate. Outside of his legal practice, he was known for his generosity—regularly providing legal guidance to friends and family.

John was fiercely loyal to his large family, and will be greatly missed by them, including his wife of 36 years, Sherri (née Gasparini); children Morgan (Derek Schaufli), Shauna, and Brendan; two young grandsons, Grady and Tate; his five siblings; and more than 20 nieces and nephews.

John was guided by a belief that all people deserve equal justice under law. In this spirit, his family asks that those who wish to honor his legacy donate to the ACLU in his name.

Council approves study of downtown growth scenarios

... continued from Page A2

According to a staff report presented by Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff and Housing Consultant Diana Elrod, state law requires not only to identify general areas that could accommodate growth, but also to identify individual “opportunity sites” where housing development could occur within the 8-year cycle. Since HCD may reject one or more opportunity sites identified by the city, staff recommended an initial target buffer of at least 50%, or about 1,000 units.

The General Plan Advisory Committee has completed two of three community workshops regarding the general plan and housing element and will conduct a review of sites and may potentially add more or make modifications. The next virtual GPAC community workshop is scheduled for May 13 (planlafayette.org).

Two scenarios for consideration were put forward to the council: the “Distributed Scenario,” which distributes density throughout the Downtown at 50 units per acre, the BART sites at 75 units per acre, the Deer Hill Road corridor, the neighborhoods adjacent to and immediately south of the Downtown plus the Oakwood/DeSilva sites at the west end of Mt. Diablo Boulevard at 20 units per acre; and the “Downtown Only Scenario,” which seeks to accommodate almost all growth within the existing limits of the Downtown commercial districts. According to the report, the density in this scenario would need to increase to about 115 units per acre to accommodate a maximum 62% buffer. Current zoning in this area allows for up to 35 units per acre. Typically, developments at 115 units per acre are four to five story buildings over a garage podium or below grade garage.

“We’re looking on a macro scale of what could potentially be upzoned in the city,” said Luke Evans, the EIR consultant for ESA. Wolff pointed out early in the meeting that “no decision tonight will be about upzoning of any parcels.” The purpose was only to move forward with ESA, he said.

More than a dozen local residents attended the virtual meeting, however, with many voicing their concerns about upzoning in their neighborhoods. Colin Elliott, a professional housing consultant who, according to Mayor Susan Candell, knows Lafayette well, said, “You can get 2,345 (units) without any upzoning at

all.” CEQA analysis without any upzoning is much easier to do, he added. Yet Evans said the method would be problematic: “We need a general sense of where this development could occur.”

Council Member Cam Burks said he was completely against upzoning any part of the city and felt the council shouldn’t vote in favor of launching the EIR. “I will never be in favor of upzoning in our neighborhoods ... ever. The planning commission has made great decisions on downtown in the core. We have a vibrant downtown. I believe if growth is to continue it has to be downtown. I think it’s absurd to consider moving into neighborhoods of this city. It will change the character of this city forever.”

Council Member Carl Anduri noted that the council was not being asked to vote on rezoning at the meeting, but Burks said by voting on the performance of an EIR, that could lead to rezoning. “My position is we should challenge the state law,” Burks said. “We should fight it. We’re going down the slippery slope of enabling a broken legislature and terrible public policy.”

Anduri said if they identify additional opportunity sites, then the council could lower the high level of zoning. Council moved to accept analysis of the “Distributed Scenario,” with the proposed density in the downtown area at 50 dwelling units per acre, while removing the Village Center, West Road, Bickerstaff/Crescent, Almanor Lane and The Orchards areas from the proposed list, described as inconsequential by Candell.

Candell said, “My concern is that we’re not trying very hard to look at as many opportunity sites as we can. I feel that if we leave these artificial numbers, we’re not going to try very hard. We need a certified housing element based on reality today.”

Anduri agreed: “The message from the city council is to have GPAC find as many opportunity sights as possible. I can’t even imagine a density of 115 along the Mt. Diablo corridor, but our goal is to bring that down.” A motion was made for the council go forward with the study of the “Downtown Only” scenario as presented.

Council Member Gina Dawson wanted to confirm that the 115 density is just a ceiling and a guide. “Staff will commit to finding as many opportunity sites as possible, in working with GPAC,” Wolff said.

Both motions passed 3-2, with Candell and Burks opposed.

In Memory

Mary Elizabeth Tierney

August 30, 1940 – March 21, 2021

Resident of Moraga



Mary Elizabeth Tierney, 80, passed away peacefully on March 21, only 39 days after the passing of her beloved husband, Dennis. Born in Poughkeepsie, New York to John and Violet Mahoney she was the second youngest of six. Mary and Dennis met at the local college bar when Dennis was a student at Marist College. Dennis’ buddies bet him he couldn’t get a date with Mary. It took a week for her to agree to a date and they went on to share over 56 years together. His career took them from New York, to Hawaii and they eventually settled in Moraga, California in 1976.

Mary had a zest for life, could make conversation with anyone and made friends easily. She had the energy of three people and always jumped in with two feet. While raising

three kids, managing multiple rental properties and volunteering at her children’s activities she was also active in the Newcomers Group, Moraga Tennis & Swim Club, the Moraga Garden Club, multiple bridge groups, the Niners at Moraga Country Club and their wine tasting group among other things. For years, if it was a Thursday everyone knew that Mary would be found with Mary Jane, Diane and Sue at MTSC playing tennis and bridge and shoeing children out of the clubhouse. We kids new better than to interrupt “Holy Thursdays”!

Mary and Dennis traveled the world together including multiple trips to Mary’s favorite city, Paris, France. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico held a special place in their hearts and they visited annually for over 25 years. They also loved Tahoe and had many happy and cherished times with their children, grandchildren and friends at their cabin in Northstar, on the mountain skiing and at Sand Harbor Beach.

Above all, Mary treasured her family and friends. She loved being a mom and especially a grandma building special relationships with each of her grandchildren. At family gatherings she was often found sitting at the kids’ table chatting with her grandkids and keeping up with each of their interests and activities.

Mary will be terribly missed by her three children, Darren, Deborah (and her husband, Paul) and Renee (and her husband, Lee). Her eight grandchildren Logan, Katie, Matt, Jack, Emily, Michael, Anna and Luke and great-granddaughter Peyton-Marie will miss all her hugs and infectious enthusiasm. She is also survived by her brother Donald (Carol), her sisters-in-law Elizabeth, Patricia and Eileen, many nieces and nephews, and extended family Nancy Lawrie Stuckey (her husband Chris and their children Brittany and Bobby) and Scott Lawrie (his wife Dana and his daughter Peyton Juliana) and many dear friends. She is predeceased by her parents John and Violet Mahoney, her sister Dorothy, and brothers Jack, Harold and Robert.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Mary’s memory to the Bruns House (www.hospiceeastbay.org) who took wonderful care of Dennis or to the Moraga Garden Club.

In Memory

Bonnie Lafaye Hoydal



Bonnie Lafaye Hoydal of Snoqualmie, Washington, loving mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Saturday, April 17, 2021 in Issaquah. She was 90.

Bonnie was born on June 8, 1930, in Logan, Utah. She married Sid in 1956. In 1969 Bonnie and Sid settled in Moraga, California. Bonnie and Sid shared 44 beautiful years before Sid passed away in 2000. In 2017, as dementia slowly became more prominent in Bonnie’s life, she moved in with her son, Jeff, in Snoqualmie, Washington.

Her grandchildren will remember her as a Mimi that empowered them to follow their dreams. She was the rock-solid foundation of love in their lives. Her family will miss hearing

her laugh and seeing her eyes light up as she listened to music.

Bonnie was as elegant as they came. Those that knew her understood just how much she loved to be in the kitchen, baking or cooking. They too knew how much she loved her family, socializing with friends, and especially adored her granddaughters.

Bonnie is survived by her children Kim Geraghty, Jeffrey Hoydal, and David Hoydal; her brothers, Bruce Schaffer and Boyd Schaffer; her grandchildren, Kathryn Geraghty, Clare Geraghty, Anne Geraghty, Alexis Hoydal, and Katelyn Hoydal; and her great-granddaughter, Charlotte Kate Wright. She is preceded in death by her husband, Sidney Earl Hoydal, and her brothers, Darwin Steffenhagen and Eldon Steffenhagen.

A celebration of life is scheduled for May 2, 2021, 1 to 5 p.m. with words of remembrances at 2 p.m., at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge.

Friends are invited to view photos and share memories on the family’s tribute wall at www.flintofts.com. Flintoft’s Funeral Home and Crematory, (425) 392-6444.

Common symptoms to look for in pets during foxtail season



Image provided

The Outfox Field Guard (designed by a Bay Area local) is a basket of mesh that encircles the dog's head, allowing him to see effectively, but with small enough mesh that it's very difficult for a foxtail to penetrate through.

By Mona S. Miller, DVM

For those of us in the veterinary field, we anticipate the start of "foxtail season" with some degree of dread, since these little plant awns can burrow into any part of an animal's body. Foxtails are the plant dispersal unit for a wild annual grass that is prevalent throughout California. Foxtail "season" starts in early spring, when the awns are initially green, but quickly turn to tawny tan/brown, and lasts through into fall. It is impossible to miss this grass plant if you go into any un-landscaped area.

The name refers to the bushy spike arrangement at the top of the grass that resembles the tail of a fox – it is a cluster of spikelets attached to a main stem. Each cluster comes off the plant easily, and tiny barbs clasp onto material (socks, fur, etc.). Then, the sharp point at the base of the cluster allows it to move forward into the material. This is

the plant's adaptation for dispersing its seeds throughout an area. For most wild animals that live in the same native environments that foxtails are found, their fur is short enough that the foxtail does not migrate into the skin. Instead, it is transported and dropped off, allowing for successful seed dispersal. However, for our domestic pets we often find that the foxtail point will migrate into tissue and thereby cause problems.

I have seen foxtails in every part of an animal's body. Symptoms are related to the body part affected. Some areas are easier than others to find and remove the foxtails – such as in-between toes, the undersides of paws, ear canals and conjunctival lining of the eyes. Even in these areas, though, there may be significant pain associated with the foxtail, and its resultant inflammation and infection. Some dogs may need sedation or even anesthesia to remove it, especially if it has burrowed deep into tissue. Dogs who lick their paws, shake their heads

and ears, and have swollen painful eyes should be checked for a foxtail.

Other areas are more hidden – full anesthesia would be required in the majority of cases to visualize and remove foxtails in the throat and nose. The classic case of a dog inhaling a foxtail into his nose would be one running around in open space, and starting to sneeze violently. The sneezing may subside as the foxtail settles over the next few hours to days, but this is something to check with your veterinarian. Coughing and gagging are common symptoms when a foxtail (or blades of grass) gets stuck in the tonsil area.

Most dogs will demonstrate symptoms of foxtail abscess, but I recently anesthetized a small dog for a routine dental cleaning and evaluation, and found a medium-sized foxtail partly embedded under the tongue. This little dog had shown no symptoms of pain at all to her owners!

Foxtails in cats are much less common, possibly because cats are meticulous cleaners, but I have seen foxtails in cats' eyes and ear canals.

When a foxtail gets embedded into tissue, it is only a matter of time before it will start to penetrate inside. Foxtails can form abscesses in the fat tissue under the skin, and also inside the lungs and abdomen. The deeper the foxtail migrates into the body, and the more it creates tissue inflammation around it, the harder it is to find. It is common to need two to four recheck probes in some cases, or even deep surgery to remove the affected tissue to find the foxtail hidden inside. Obviously, it is best to address a foxtail problem before it has advanced inside the body and requires

subsequent surgical diagnosis and removal.

Prevention is difficult if your dog is an active, outdoors hiker, since the most effective prevention is avoiding any areas where foxtails might be found. Alternatives include keeping your pet shaved during the summer, especially around the paws and face. There is a product called Outfox Field Guard (designed by a Bay Area local) which is a basket of mesh that encircles the dog's head, allowing him to see effectively, but with small enough mesh that it's very difficult for a foxtail to penetrate through. This is an effective strategy to prevent foxtails in the nose, mouth, eyes and ears.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/news/foxtails-cause-serious-health-risks-animals> <https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/foxtail-grass-and-your-dog#1> <https://outfoxfordogs.com>

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTE 3-2 TO PREPARE MASSIVE GROWTH SCENARIOS FOR APARTMENT/CONDO DEVELOPMENTS THROUGHOUT LAFAYETTE



HOW COULD THIS IMPACT YOU?

The proposed growth scenarios are in preparation for the State's next Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Process (2023 – 2030). **Effectively the scenarios open up most of the city to Apartment/Condo development, even in neighborhoods currently zoned for houses - look at the impact in Santa Monica <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEFEVXggCw>**

But the city has enough capacity within its existing zoning to meet Lafayette's RHNA requirement of 2114 units plus a "buffer" (units above and beyond the State's RHNA requirement). Below are some key reasons why current zoning is sufficient:

1. **City staff is recommending a 60%+ buffer** (1269 additional apartment/condo units) in its distributed scenario on top of the 2,114 RHNA units. However, the State recommends only a 15%-30% buffer. A buffer of 15% equals 317 units, which would eliminate 952 units from the Staff's numbers (down from 3,383 to 2,431).
2. **The 15% buffer would be sufficient for several reasons:**
 - During the last RHNA cycle, developers proposed projects on properties that were not on the list of the City's RHNA identified sites, thus freeing up unused sites for consideration in the upcoming cycle.
 - The state's population is declining because of lower birth rates, higher cost of living, companies leaving the State, fewer jobs and people working remotely - this creates a justification for fewer RHNA units.
 - In 2014 Lafayette's RHNA allocation was only 400 units, yet today - even with lower California census data - Lafayette has been targeted for 2114 units.
 - Due to pending legislation and lawsuits, Lafayette voters could regain control over the number of mandated new units.

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN?

Using current zoning limits, The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), a pro bono group of residents, should first analyze the general downtown area around Mt. Diablo Blvd., given the large number of projects (16+) already in the pipeline there. This analysis would identify which additional opportunity sites, if any, would need to be included in the site inventory in order to meet the RHNA target plus a 15% buffer. If - following that analysis - the conclusion is that some sites need to be upzoned, the relevant data will be readily available.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Email/write to GPAC, generalplan@lovelafayette.org
2. Organize your neighborhood – contact Save Lafayette in this regard at savelafayette94549@gmail.com
3. Support Save Lafayette (which has a very successful track record on controversial city matters).
Send your tax-deductible donation payable to Save Lafayette, PO Box 1183, 3641 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette CA 94549.

Many thanks for your continued interest and help,

Michael Griffiths
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Music man offers soothing balm through sound

... continued from Page A1

Knowing how much local diners were likely missing their live music, a friend suggested Athayde begin playing on Facebook Live from the comfort of his Orinda living room. "I initially thought it was kind of silly," Athayde admits, but he decided to try it. Apparently it was not a silly idea at all. Hundreds of listeners have been tuning in to his hour-long piano concerts every Friday and Saturday night. Sometimes his son, Kyle, joins him in these performances, playing a variety of instruments. "He's the guy who can play these really phenomenal solos, burning the walls down," the proud father says. "I'm playing the classics, easygoing stuff, the kind of music I usually play for the dinner crowd."

The comments audience members stream in real time while listening to Athayde clearly demonstrate how important this is to them in these difficult times. "Bob is back ... and now all is right with my world. ... Thank you for keeping us sane and happy!" one wrote. Mika Watanabe, who has eighth-grade triplets in Athayde's music classes, says she always thought he was "a great teacher for my children to have. Watching him during COVID play on weekends ... and listening to his music has really created a sense of comfort to my children and me. We are so fortunate to have him and Kyle." Barbara Williams reports that the weekend concerts are a "brief return to normalcy."

Always the consummate teacher, Athayde doesn't simply play the piano. Sometimes he sings. Often he talks off-the-cuff about the music he's playing, the composer, the arrangement, past experiences, his family, the community in which he lives. "There you are, virtually sitting in your friend's living room, maybe with a glass

of wine, listening to great music and being led by the best teacher I've ever known who still squeezes in some lessons. Bob is a gift to the community," Williams continues.

Athayde acknowledges that this Zoom-filled year has been somewhat of a technological challenge. "Technology is not necessarily my thing," he notes, "but lots of people who know way more have helped a lot." He has experimented with different equipment before finally finding what he believes delivers the right sound. He does admit that he hasn't been able to keep track of all the live comments coming in. "If someone makes a request, unfortunately I don't see it in real time," he says. "So I'll add it to my list and the next time I play, I'll give a shout out to the requestor and play the song."

Like other educators, Athayde has been teaching virtually which, he says, has been both wonderful and difficult. "I can't wait for August because hopefully we'll be back in person," he exclaims. The 2021-22 school year will be his last, Athayde announces. "I'll have 45 years in and I just think it's time to step aside and let other people teach." Through a generous grant from The Julia Burke Foundation, he plans to help schools and teachers in need. "I can hopefully show these underserved schools many of the mistakes I've made so they can avoid making them. I can still do my music but not be on a regular fixed schedule," he says.

La Finestra's Jeff Assadi has already made sure Athayde will be back at the piano as soon as the state allows the restaurant to serve 50 percent capacity. When that happens, Athayde vows to continue playing on Facebook Live for his now worldwide audience.

To listen to Athayde play beautiful music, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/athaydelive/>.

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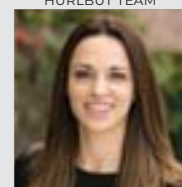
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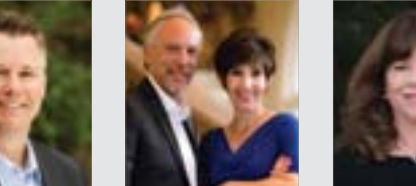
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local artist hopes to inspire creativity in others



Ann Marie Quinn

Photos provided

others. When I put myself out there, hopefully it inspires others to also."

As her process evolved she wondered how she might combine the beautiful handmade papers with paint, and from that she created her multi-media paintings. After working with the owner of White Barn Home on some consulting, she was given the opportunity to sell some of these framed pieces in the store on Lafayette Circle. Ranging in size, all combine the handmade paper with swatches of paint seen through cutout windows offering visually interesting design. Some pieces are also available on her website: amqcreative.com.

But Quinn's goal has always been to share her work in order to inspire others. "I believe everyone can be creative. If I inspire other people, that's what's important to me."

In addition to her art, Quinn has also taken up other new ventures since leaving Wells Fargo. She consults with small businesses on marketing, communications and operations, leveraging her past experience in the corporate world. And she recently became a CASA volunteer. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers are trained to advocate for foster youth in the court system and to be a constant adult support during a youth's time in the foster program. "I love having the balance between volunteering, consulting and creative work," added Quinn.

You can follow her journey on Instagram at amqcreative and hopefully be inspired to explore your own creative side too.



By Kara Navolio

Believing in what is next for your life without knowing exactly what that is takes courage. That's often what artists must do. It's what 32-year Lafayette resident Ann Marie Quinn did when she transitioned from a full-time career with Wells Fargo to a life of making art.

Even as a vice president handling marketing, communications and branding, Quinn found time to be creative in her free time, doing crafts with her kids, making jewelry and selling it as a San Francisco street artist, and starting Lafayette Elementary School's International Night over 15 years ago.

But in 2016 the time was right for her to take the leap into a more creative life. She didn't know what that would be, but her mantra for the year

was "be brave." She planned a family trip to Tahoe that summer, but everyone ended up having a conflict. So she went to Michael's craft store to load up on supplies and went to Tahoe alone. She just began to explore with paint. "I believe everyone has a creative side," said Quinn. "So much of art is letting it evolve." And that's what she did while in Tahoe ... just let her art evolve.

Those initial color swatches, combined with her background in design, led her to want to explore other materials. She was drawn to high quality handmade paper, which she began making into decorative bowls. She made wooden bracelets, wrapped in Washi tape. Both are now sold at Emerson Grace, a store on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. "I never thought about selling my art," she explained. "It was more about sharing my joy with

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Tangy, zesty chimichurri slaw a perfect fit for outdoor entertaining



Chimichurri Feta Slaw

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Chimichurri is a deliciously fresh and zesty sauce of Latin American origins made from fresh herbs, chilies, garlic, olive oil and vinegar. We also include cilantro and lime juice for an extra tangy finish. Really, I can't think of a thing that isn't better with a splash of chimichurri! It is often served with grilled steak, but it's fabulous on chicken, fish, or veggies and makes a delightful dipping sauce for bread. Plus it's super easy to make. One of our favorite ways to use it is blended with feta and tossed with chopped romaine, shredded green cabbage, fresh cilantro leaves, yellow cherry tomatoes, and avocado for a tasty slaw. It's fun to garnish the salad with an

avocado rose, and if you've never made one before, they are fun to do. I've included a link in the recipe directions for a tutorial video.

By the way, if you've ever wondered ... the word "slaw" is simply short for "coleslaw," which is a salad consisting of shredded cabbage often with other shredded veggies. The word coleslaw is derived from the Dutch words koolsla, with kool meaning cabbage and sla, meaning salad. So it truly is a cabbage salad!

This recipe is divided into three parts – Chimichurri, Chimichurri Feta Dressing, and Chimichurri Feta Slaw. You can make the chimichurri and the dressing a day or two ahead and refrigerate until you're ready to make the salad.

Chimichurri

(Makes 1/2 cup)

INGREDIENTS

2 jalapeños or Fresno chilies, stems, veins and seeds removed and coarsely chopped
1/2 bunch cilantro leaves (or about 1.5 cups loosely packed)
1/2 bunch Italian parsley leaves (or about 1.5 cups loosely packed)
2 tablespoons fresh oregano leaves, or 1 teaspoon dried oregano
2 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

DIRECTIONS

Put peppers, garlic, cilantro, parsley and oregano in the food processor and pulse until it reaches the texture you like. Some like it quite chunky and others like it puréed smooth. Either way, once it's chopped, transfer the veggies and herbs to a bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Use right away or store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.



Chimichurri Feta Dressing – makes 1 cup

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup chimichurri
1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
Place all ingredients in the bowl of your food processor (the same one you used to make the chimichurri), blend until smooth.

Salad Fixings

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

1/2 head romaine lettuce, chopped
1/2 head green cabbage, finely chopped or shredded
1 cup cilantro leaves, loosely packed
10 yellow cherry tomatoes, quartered

Garnishes:

1/4 cup feta cheese crumbles
Extra cilantro leaves
Avocado slices or avocado rose (see link below for instructions on how to make these)

DIRECTIONS

Toss all salad fixings with Chimichurri Feta Dressing. Garnish with feta cheese crumbles, extra cilantro leaves and avocado slices or an avocado rose. Visit this link to learn how to make an avocado rose: <https://healthynibblesandbits.com/how-to-make-avocado-rose/>

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



IFS features 'Riders Of Justice' inside newly reopened Orinda Theatre



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda can reconquer the full breadth of its international culture now that the International Film Showcase returns to a reopened Orinda Theatre. The first movie is "Riders of Justice" a USA premiere from Denmark opening on May 14 featuring Mads Mikkelsen. A powerful and sometimes violent reflection on making sense of loss, the film is humorous and surprising, bordering on the absurd – a fitting feature for our troubled times.

Markus (Mads Mikkelsen) is a deployed soldier return-

ing home to take care of his teenage daughter after his wife is killed in a subway accident. The only way he knows to cope with trauma and pain is by reacting violently. At home, he finds Mathilde (Andrea Heick Gadeberg) his daughter, whom he does not understand. Those two do not do much to help each other, until a small group of misfit computer and math geniuses find Markus and tell him that his wife's death was the result of a deliberate attack. The unlikely team then launches a revenge expedition that will bring many surprises.

In an interview to CineEuropa, director Anders Thomas Jensen explained that his movie builds a universe that questions the meaning of life. He adds that there are different ways of reacting when there is no response to the question "Why?" and that revenge is one of them. Jensen explained that there are three different layers in his story: a drama, an action movie and an unbridled comedy. He built his film so spectators can at times laugh at something totally crazy then feel a completely different emotion. He wants people to be unsettled, asking themselves if they should laugh, and if they do, should they be embarrassed if the next scene is really dark.

Mads Mikkelsen, one of Denmark's best-known actors, is a moving pillar of locked-up grief. All he knows is to toughen it up. A kind of Danish Hulk, he does not know where his strength can take him. Mathilde, his daughter, tries to make sense of her mother's death through finding a logical string of events,

and a foundational occurrence that could explain it all. Otto, the math whiz, who was also involved in the accident, is not better adjusted than Markus. He too, along his two friends Lennart and Emmenthaler, go through life carrying enormous pain that they each mitigate in their own way. Seeking revenge is a catharsis for the four – Mathilde has no part in it – and at first it gives them meaning. But an interesting twist brings everything on its head.

This dark and definitely adult movie is highly entertaining, fast paced, and carried through by an excellent cast. Mikkelsen (that IFS aficionados will remember from "The Hunt") has a very powerful presence that immediately sets the tone of the movie. Facing him, Mathilde, still exhibiting the soft features of childhood, takes her place with strength. The three nerds, serious misfits, add the element of a tragic-comedy as awkward and deeply wounded human beings, bal-

ancing Markus' deep dark personality.

The movie is finally somewhat optimistic as these troubled individuals manage to bond and help each other, in their bizarre ways. It also questions the frailty of human testimony especially when powerful emotions interfere. It shows that it is convenient to overlook details when a hypothesis fits what we want desperately to believe; or to paraphrase the Skeptics Society's founder Michael Shermer, "We marshal the facts to fit the beliefs we already hold."

IFS's founder Efi Lubliner highly recommends that people wanting to see the movie at the Orinda Theatre purchase their seats in advance. To observe the COVID-19 restrictions, the film will play at the middle size theater restricting attendance to 50 people at each screening. There will be three screenings per day at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; no screenings during the week.

Tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/international-film-showcase-riders-of-justice-tickets-151742555067

LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series presents 'Guarding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'

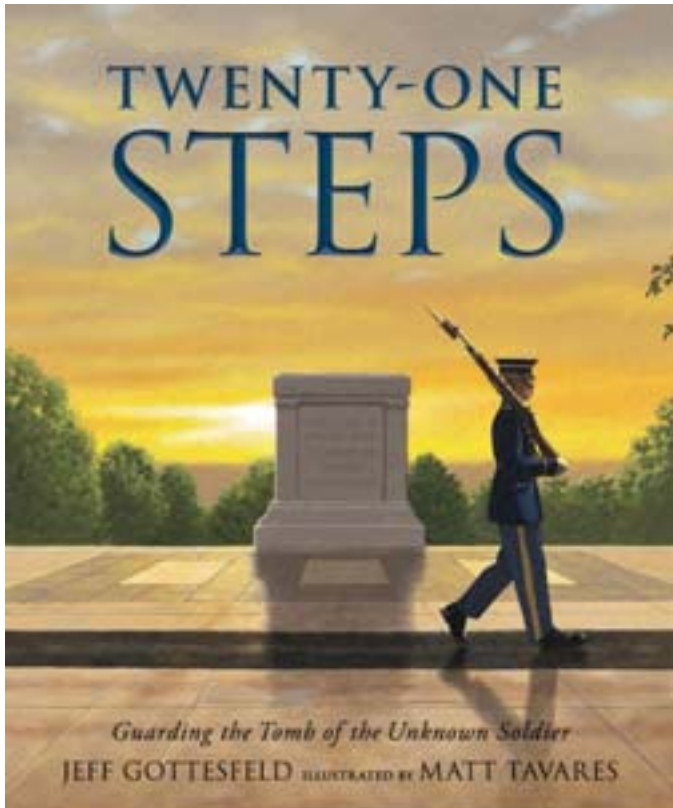


Image provided

By Diane Claytor

One of the more popular programs sponsored by Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) is their Distinguished Speaker series. Pre-COVID, prominent authors would discuss, and often read, their books to an in-person audience. These days, of course, the presentations are done virtually.

On May 20 at 2 p.m., Jeff Gottesfeld will read and discuss his newest book, "Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." It's the story of the sentinels, those men and women who pay homage to America's fallen as they keep constant vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sarah Blumenfeld, development and programs director for the Foundation, is particularly excited about this presentation.

"It's being done right before Memorial Day and is a great civic message demonstrating our deep respect for America's soldiers," she says.

Although geared towards third- and fourth-graders, Gottesfeld says that he always writes with the intent of delighting older readers as well, often providing previously unknown information. Writing from the viewpoint of the Unknown Soldier, "Twenty-One Steps" offers a perspective that adults will absolutely appreciate.

Gottesfeld has written for TV, theater, the stage and even wrote a movie. "Writing for kids like this is super special," he says. "It's an artistic challenge to tell a full, great story in less than 1,000 words. I write books that I think matter about people that are significant, even if they are not famous. The values of my books are very important to

me."

Kirkus Reviews states that Gottesfeld's book "impeccably honors its subject ... it's instantly personal and instantly heart-rendering." The Wall Street Journal says that this book, luminously illustrated by Matt Tavares, is a "work of sobering beauty." Penguin Books calls it "a tale that honors the soldiers who honor the fallen."

Steve Shodeen, a Bay Area resident and former sentinel (November 1991 through March 1995) will join Gottesfeld to share his experiences as a sentinel and answer questions. "Jeff and Matt put in a lot of effort to get everything just right. This book absolutely captures the honor and solemn attitude of the sentinels," Shodeen says.

To register for the May 20 program, go to cclib.bibliocommons.com. "Twenty-One Steps" may be purchased at Bel and Bunna's Books in Lafayette.

Boys Team Charity celebrates six-year commitment



Photo provided

From left: Jack Bender, Max Duff, Drew Isola, Jonathan Fuentes Executive Director of POL, Peter Caprio, Ben Burleigh, Tucker Gannon, Owen Wardy, Drew Davidson

Submitted by Anouschka Wardy

Several of Boys Team Charity (BTC) Class of 2021 TeamMates ended their six-year commitment on April 18 with an in-person final volunteer shift at Points of Light in Oakland. Over the years, they volunteered for many of the 40 philanthropies BTC works with – POL being a favorite for many.

Every Friday night and Saturday morning, Oakland youth and children escape for a couple of hours a week to a safe environment surrounded by supportive leaders and volunteers at Sequoyah Church and its playground.

BTC TeamMates have helped serve breakfast, play games with the kids every Saturday, and helped with Easter and Christmas events.

For their senior project, the class purchased and built a new picnic table, ordered a custom sandbox cover, weeded the yard, and replaced the sandbox sand. Diamond K donated the sand and delivered it for free.

On May 16, during the end-of-year General Meeting (Zoom event), BTC TeamMates and coaches will watch a video highlighting the senior boys' time together volunteering for many local philanthropic institutions.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary makes vital donations to Putnam Clubhouse



Photo provided

Putnam Clubhouse member Nkrumah Lewis demonstrates use of newly acquired smartboard.

Submitted by Thomas Black

Raise your hand if you know what a “blackboard” is. Those who know went to school ages ago. They also know what chalk is. What they may not know, however, is what an “interactive whiteboard” is. Also known as an “electronic smartboard,” not only is it white in color, it also incorporates technology that enables its use as a remote learning tool. How so? By allowing images from a computer screen to be displayed onto a classroom board from a digital projector. And, because it can make the learning experience more fun, it is being rapidly adopted in

instructional venues everywhere.

Thanks to the generosity of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Putnam Clubhouse in Concord now has a 55-inch, 4K smartboard of its own. In addition to the smartboard, Lamorinda Sunrise donated a new commercial-grade refrigerator and a new freezer. The combined value is close to \$6,000.

Since its founding in 2008, Putnam has offered mental health services to adults seeking to rebuild their lives. It is operated by Contra Costa County Clubhouses, itself a nonprofit. Putnam is the first such program to be accredited by Clubhouse International. All services are offered at no cost to participants, known as members.

Saint Mary’s offers spring musical film on-demand



When a group of young strangers join a new online meeting space during a once-in-a-lifetime mystical event and a once-in-a-century pandemic, will they find the connection they seek, and will they unravel the mysteries of love, life and adulthood before the stars appear to collide? With a soaring score and intimate stories, “gather ‘round” – presented by the Saint Mary’s Performing Arts Department and written and composed by guest artist Karen Ann Daniels (American Theatre Magazine’s “People To Watch,” April 2020), in collaboration with the student com-

pany – is a musical film for this most singular of times.

“The Saint Mary’s community – through this short film – reminds us that we can dance, cry, laugh, sing and hold our fellow travelers close, no matter the distance,” said Artistic Director Maog.

The ensemble includes Sejal Bahl, Rynne Biernat, Hannah Chylinski, Trent Cox, Emily England, Collin Fisher (Sev), Naomi Kalter, Alex Mendiola, Zoe Prior, Raelaine San Buenaventura (Rae Lane), Sarah Shaughnessy, Will Thompson, and Gabriella Thomas. Instrumentalists include Eden Llodra, cello; Melanie Moyer, violin; Sarah Mameesh, flute; James Vaughan, saxophone; and Ryan Ford, guitar, Benjamin Harte, trombone. Crew members include Sophia Courtemarche (Stage Manager), Brenna Bortner, Rylee Cagle, Skyelar Clouse, Maya Dahlbacka, Audrey Edmondo, Nadine Mhedbi, and Torren Valera.

Performances will be available on demand through Sunday, May 23. There will also be a “gather ‘round” Talkback/Q&A at 5 p.m. Friday, May 14, which will feature members of the cast, crew and creative team to answer questions about the production.

E-tickets: \$8 SMC students; \$12 SMC faculty and staff, non-SMC students; \$15 general. Purchase online www.stmarys-ca.edu/gatherround For more information, call (925) 631-4670. – J. Wake

Miramonte students bring community together with gift of song



Six singers from Miramonte High School perform a Songram. Photo provided

Submitted by Kathy Merchant

After sheltering-in-place for six months and taking classes online due to the pandemic, Miramonte student Stef Moore knew she wanted to create something that helped keep people connected, especially during the isolating times of the pandemic.

That desire, combined with her love for singing, made Moore think of the first version of Songrams: high school students delivering a singing telegram (a Songram) in their neighborhoods to foster a sense of community and caring.

“I envisioned people in my small town sending each other songrams (for \$20 per song) and the money being donated to the Bay Area Rescue Mission, a local nonprofit organization providing shelter for the homeless,” Moore said. “I thought this would be a brilliant way for singers to share their talent to help uplift others.”

Moore pitched the idea to her choir teacher, Mr. Roberts, and he liked it so much he encouraged her to use his class time to recruit singers. “Having an idea is one thing, but having to ‘sell’ the idea to upperclassmen, to me, was a pretty daunting task. But after my presentations, I was thrilled that 13 singers had signed up to be part of Songrams!”

Two weeks later, they got their first “gig” to do a virtual Christmas performance for the Lafayette Happy Valley Garden Club. After a couple of hiccups, and a few of the singers dropping out, Moore came to realize the remaining singers were not only talented but also very committed and a couple of weeks later, people in their neighborhood started requesting songs. But just as they were about to go deliver their first in-person Songram, California went into

another lockdown.

“I felt really bad for everyone who had already been feeling isolated and I thought of my elderly neighbor who had not left her home for eight months,” Moore said. “That is when I came up with the idea of transitioning into e-cards.” With e-cards, people could connect with friends and family living anywhere in the world without the uncertainty of COVID-19, but Moore didn’t know if an e-card would have the same effect as delivering an in-person song. “It wasn’t until we created an e-card that felt homemade and personal, that I knew we made the right choice.”

Once their e-cards and website were ready to go, Moore reached out to Rainforest Trust. “We wanted to use Songrams as a platform to raise awareness to a cause important to us singers,” Moore said. “As young adults, we are very concerned about climate change and the future of our planet. We decided to link Songrams with the Rainforest Trust because it buys land and works with local organizations to protect our rainforests.”

While Moore says she isn’t sure if Songrams will really take off and people will send each other e-cards, she says one thing is certain: “I have discovered the gratuitous generosity and kindness of people like Mr. Roberts, the Happy Valley Garden Club, the staff at Rainforest Trust, Songrams’ members, our audio and video editor Miguel, and so many others.”

“I think people support Songrams because they also believe in the importance of caring for each other and the environment,” Moore added, “and lucky for us, that means affirming a handful of high school singers.”

For more information or to order a Songram, go to www.songrams.com. To learn more about the Rainforest Trust, visit www.rainforesttrust.org.

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

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Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces the exhibit "Slice of Life" at the aRT Cottage in Concord, May 4 - June 25. The concept of everyday life and adapting to the new normal has taken on an especially poignant meaning during the COVID-19 crisis. "Slice of Life" is about reflecting a moment, an era, a part of everyday life or an exceptional memory. The reception is pending Contra Costa County COVID-19 regulations. Located at 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord. Open Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lamorinda Arts Alliance is an organization of local artists and friends who reside or work in the area. www.laa4art.org

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show pays an "Homage to Nature." During stressful times like these art and nature can provide a measure of solace. "Homage to Nature," highlighting the work of two member artists wedded to the natural world. In etchings and monoprints with a distinctive Asian flair, Lafayette's Pat Prosek renders stylized classic cranes doing what they are meant to do: fly, nestle, groom themselves, wade, search for food, etc. A handsome four-paneled screen, "Love and Long Life," a traditional theme in ancient Asian art, serves as the centerpiece of the display. 432

Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, open from noon to 4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. <http://moragartgallery.com>, moragaartgallery@gmail.com, (925)376-5407

Art Embraces Words: Call for Writers & Visual Artists - Theme: "Courage & Heroism" Webinar May 30. 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 21 to be presenters at this free live program on Sunday, May 30 at 2 p.m. For more information on how to apply, to register as an audience member or access links to previously recorded programs visit the Lamorinda Arts Council website at <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>, email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call (925) 359-9940.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, May 1-30 "California Impressionism & Sailboats." The Lamorinda Arts Council is excited to announce the partial reopening of two exhibit spaces at the Library gallery. Look for paintings on two wood walls as you enter the Library. View Sydney Cheney-Thomas' oil paintings with the theme "Sail Away." Lisa Gunn's plein air paintings recall California Impressionism. All COVID-19

precautions observed. You can also see the artwork online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

Art Gallery at Wilder, May 1 - 30 Virtual Exhibit: "Around the World in 12 Portraits." View Annie Jacquemet-Barrington's oil paintings, many of which are based on photographs of people from around the world. Her husband, Michael Barrington, known for his humanitarian work, often returns from faraway places with intriguing photographs of people involved in these projects. Many of these photos inspire her portrait paintings. Virtual solo show at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's Performing Arts Department invites you to reserve tickets to "gather 'round," a new musical created with and for Saint Mary's students and the community. Join a free "gather 'round" Talkback/Q&A, Friday, May 14 at 5 p.m. Members of the cast, crew, and creative team will answer questions about the production. On demand performance dates for "gather 'round" run through Sunday, May 23. Tickets online www.stmarys-ca.edu/gatherround

Crowden Music Center presents Hear Together: A Free Daylong Outdoor Piano Festival on Sunday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. A free day-long, outdoor celebration of the diverse range of pianists and composers in the Bay Area. Five concerts with advanced tickets only. Cost: Free; Tickets must be reserved in advance; walk-ins will not be accepted. For more info see <https://jonwinet.wixsite.com/alternating-currents/hear-together> or call (510) 967-6977 or email concerts@crowden.org.

St. Paul's Concert Series is excited to present Guitarists Travis Austin and Robert Owens, as ensemble Austin & Owens, in a live performance broadcast from St. Paul's Episcopal Church Walnut Creek on Saturday, May 29 at 7 p.m. This live performance will be broadcast online only (no live audience attending). Travis Austin and Robert Owens have been performing music together now for over 15 years. As a traditional guitar duo they have performed all around northern California. Ticket registration: www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series

LITERATURE

The Alta Mesa Center for the

Not to be missed

Arts presents: an afternoon with writers Maria Baranda and Paul Hoover, translators of "The Complete Poems of San Juan de la Cruz." Join us on zoom at 4 p.m. May 16 for an engaging hour-long discussion. Register here for a Zoom link: <https://forms.gle/HtyVnBL72Zgqrhtx8>. Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, an interfaith arts hub, is housed and sponsored by Orinda Community Church. Questions? Contact Mary Volmer: maryvolmer@gmail.com

Author Rachel Michelberg visiting Orinda Books. Her first book, "CRASH: How I Became a Reluctant Caregiver," comes out on April 27 from She Writes Press. Michelberg will appear at Orinda Books on May 19 at 7 p.m., where she will be in conversation with Mark Lukach. Michelberg's memoir tackles a pervasive dilemma in our culture: the moral conflicts and societal expectations involved in caregiving for a disabled or cognitively impaired family member.

OTHER

International Film Showcase. IFS will open in Orinda on May 14 with the USA premiere of "Riders of Justice" from Denmark. Trailer: <https://youtu.be/j90kx5teGBQ>. (See story on page B2)

John Muir Land Trust's annual spring Twilight events are free, family-friendly experiences that celebrate the magic of the East Bay Hills. Join us for a little science and a lot of fun! Thursdays, May 20, May 27 and June 3; online 4 to 5 p.m. Register at <https://jmlt.org/get-involved/calendar/>

"Taste of Lafayette" restaurant stroll! Tuesday, June 22, 5 to 8 p.m., Downtown Lafayette. Yes, you saw that correctly! The Lafayette Chamber is preparing for its first community event of the year, the Taste of Lafayette! Tickets are now on sale, \$50 early bird through May 31, \$55 thereafter. The "stroll" begins when ticket holders head out at their own pace to stop at any or all of the participating restaurants for sampling. Open-air shuttle bus will be provided. Will call and bar will be at Lafayette Plaza Park from 5 to 8 p.m. Evening includes music throughout the stroll. Tickets are limited and the event will account for any state/county health and safety guidelines. Please note you may be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result within 72 hours of the event. High risk or those not feeling well should not attend. Face coverings will be required unless immediately eating or drinking. This is a fundraising event for the Lafayette Chamber and the Lafayette Community Foundation. Purchase Early Bird Tickets at <https://lafayettechamber.org/taste/>

GARDEN

This year's Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour starts Sunday! If you haven't already, now is the time to register. The free, virtual 17th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place on Sundays May 16, and 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This award-winning tour, which will be kicked off with a presentation by the inspirational Doug Tallamy, feature 25 beautiful native plant gardens, Q&A sessions with garden hosts, "Ask the Experts" opportunities, garden design and plant selection information, and more. www.bringingbackthenatives.net

Please submit events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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Sunday Worship Services are accessible at
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda boys' basketball leads the way in talented DAL



#2 Chase Bennett, Campolindo and #23 Noah Bloch, Acalanes Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

If you want to find any type of positive from the coronavirus, it would be the newfound appreciation in participatory sports. This was true even when the teams were prevented from practicing indoors.

Miramonte practiced outside with no contact and no defense, focusing on skill work, footwork, and shooting. "The best thing we got from working outdoors was a sense of gratitude," said Miramonte head coach Chris Lavdiotis. "The team was able to connect with their teammates and the coaches."

For Acalanes head coach Sol Henik, just being on the courts after all everyone has been through and is going through is half the battle. "We're very grateful that we have a season despite all of the challenges," Henik said. "I see the gratefulness and patience of the players and parents who have gone through these obstacles." **Campolindo**

Campolindo and head coach Steven Dyer have continued their success from the past two seasons (53-13) winning their first nine games, defeating Bishop O'Dowd last Saturday, playing mostly without all-star junior Aidan Mahaney who left early with a hand injury, having only recently returned to the team from an ankle injury, and sophomore Loren Robinson who has been sidelined with a hip injury. The slack has been picked up by all-league senior Emmanuel Callas, and Chase and Cade Bennett who have stepped up in their absence.

"Emmanuel has improved a lot and has done a great job on the court and in his role as a leader," Dyer said. "Chase is our hardest worker. He and Cade are good shooters and Cade has been our most improved player."

Center Matt Radell (6'6") has been solid inside and sophomore guard Shane O'Reilly has been averaging 10.5 points per game. "Shane has had to step up and he's done a great job," Dyer said. "He is talented and has

risen to the challenge."

"We're playing a 7- to 8-man rotation and we'll get deeper when Aiden and Logan get back," Dyer said. "We're shooting fairly well and have done a good job in not turning the ball over. We can always get better defensively, and our shot selection can also improve."

As league play commences, Dyer appreciates the quality of the teams in the Diablo Athletic League: "This is one of the best leagues in Northern California and it's underrated. Acalanes and Miramonte are always good along with the rest of the teams in our league and it's going to be really competitive."

Miramonte

With a 4-2 record, Miramonte is heading into the heart of their league season with optimism. Miramonte head coach Chris Lavdiotis has not allowed the pandemic to prevent him from expanding his team's offense. "We're using a faster style and more of a 5-out offense," said Lavdiotis. "Playing outdoors gave us a sense of grit and our guys are in really good shape."

Leading the team in all areas on the court has been senior Niya Olabode, averaging 15.2 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game. "Niya has really grown into his game this year," Lavdiotis said. "He plays all the positions but is primarily playing the 2-3-4 spots. He is aggressive and his shooting has really improved."

The Matadors have a lot of size inside, led by center Caden Breznikar. "Caden's a real battler inside and is capable of hitting from 3-point range," Lavdiotis said. "He is great to have on the team."

Ryan Schwarz (11.5) and Tyler Dutto (13.7) have proven to be an effective scoring combination. "Ryan has gotten really good at running the show at a nice speed and Tyler can do it as well," Lavdiotis said. "They complement each other, and both are good finishers going to the basket." Sophomore guard Ethan Conley was being counted on to play this season but suffered a torn labrum and will be sup-

porting the team from the bench.

Besides Breznikar, Andre Sidlauskis and James Frye have been forces inside. "Andrew has done yeoman's work inside and James is very good around the rim," Lavdiotis said. "I've also got a ton of 3-point shooters with Olabode, Schwarz, Frye, Dutto and Ben Murphy."

Acalanes

The Dons have begun the season with a 4-3 record. Acalanes head coach Sol Henik took a different approach to the preseason with his players. "I took the opportunity to watch Saint Mary's College practices, videos and talking to their coaches. I picked up some offensive schemes and concepts that I am putting into our offensive repertoire."

Practice time for Henik has been limited to 1.5 hours a day. "I know the season is somewhat dedicated, so the seniors and I want to make sure that we have time to practice," Henik said. "We have a good process in place, and this will lead to more wins and losses. With that said, I really like this team."

The Don's backcourt is talented with a good depth. Jackson Aris-Dumas is the team's point guard along with several talented shooters, led by Scott Ruegg (15.0) along with Graham Smith and freshman Marcus Robinson. "Scott is a great leader that brings the team together," Henik said. "Graham has a great basketball IQ and is a very accurate shooter and Marcus shoots the ball with extreme confidence and accuracy."

The front court is led by sophomore 6'8" Jake Davis (7.2 rpb) and 6'5" Tyler Murphy. "Jake has shown great improvement so far," Henik said. "He's a huge part of our team. Tyler has shown stretches of brilliance with low post moves and playing great help side defense. We have a lot more size this year and we can use that to our advantage."

Henik is aware how tough league play is this year: "All the schools are tough where you can't look past anybody. We are emphasizing on just improving every single day."

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Job Offering

Job Title: Tennis Instructor
Job Description: Plan, organize, and teach tennis lessons. Assess students' tennis skills to determine areas in need of improvement and determine a lesson program that meets the students' needs. Teach recreational tennis players of all ages through ranked USTA athletes for recreational play, games, and tournaments. Adjust coaching techniques, based on the strengths and weaknesses of athletes. Identify the learning styles that work best for each student and adapt coaching methods accordingly. Instruct individuals and groups in tennis rules, strategy, and principles. Teach students various tennis skills in a planned manner over time to improve the quality of each students play. Email resume to darrinc@diablocc.org
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Berkeley Rep

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see ad

California Magic Soccer Club

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see ad

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 open now. Phone: (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

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.

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 & 19-23. Cost is \$500 with all equipment including T-shirt supplied. Registration forms online.

Register at www.cougarcamps.com

see ad

Summer Camps 2021

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.

Galileo Innovation Camps (Lafayette)

see ad

Galileo has the perfect mix of hands-on learning and big summer fun. Campers from pre-K through rising 8th grade unlock their inner innovator, creatively problem solve, and try new things. www.galileo-camps.com.

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. wwirthman@hotmail.com; Phone 510-504-5683

LMYA Swim

LMYA swim team is a competitive, recreational summer swim team that offers dedicated coaching and technique instructions to swimmers of all ages and skill levels. Registration is open at www.lmyaswim.com

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 wellbeing 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

Oakland Strokes Rowing

see ad

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Sherman Swim School

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Sienna Ranch Lafayette

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Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español

see ad

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

Summer Art Camps

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

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

Camp at Wagner Ranch Nature Area

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www.berkeleyrep.org/school

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Musical Theatre Intensive - July 6th - 10th
Entering 7th - 11th grades
Virtual, Tuesday - Saturday 1-4pm

High School Company - July 12th - 23rd
Entering 10th - 12th grades
Hybrid, Monday - Friday 10:30-4pm

High School Film Intensive - July 26th - August 6th
Entering 9th - 12th grades
Virtual, Monday - Friday 1-4pm

Thank You Advertisers!

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Bill Drury
Keith Dudum
Brad Eastham
Drew Elliott
Matt Fitzpatrick
Brad Foster
Dan Furlong
Scott Gwilliam
Al Han
John Harris
Ben Hoopes
Kirk Lewis
Mike Peers
J.P. Petrini
Jason Robak
Dave Robinson
Kevin Roth
Joe Splendorio
Justin Storm
Joe Van Noy
Mike Wahlander
Michael Silver

1997

Jon Ambrose
Jared Banks
Mike Bonetto
Mike Crist
John Davis
Bill Drury
Drew Elliott
Brad Foster
Dan Furlong
Scott Gwilliam
Mike Heidt
Matt Kosta
Nick Lewis
Ben Ortiz
J.P. Petrini
Rob Pezzoli
Mike Reymann
Tom Rogers
Kevin Roth
Scott Smigielski
Stefan Snapper
Robbie Sproul
Justin Storm
Marc Tausend
John Vandenberg
Chris Verrips

1998

Jourdan Anderson
Jared Banks
Dominic Blossil
Mike Bonetto
Matt Cavallero
Jeremy Conkling
Jonathon Danton
Peter Grubin
Kyle Irving
Matt Kosta
Nick Lewis
Ben Ortiz
Matt Panzer
Rob Pezzoli
Mike Reymann
Tom Rogers
Scott Smigielski
Stefan Snapper
Robbie Sproul
Ben Tanaka
Marc Tausend
John Vandenberg
Ty Vernon
Mike White

1999

Jourdan Anderson
Bowdy Broeker
Matt Cavallero
Casey Cole
Tom Connolly
Kevin Coupe
Chris Cuneo
Jon Danton
Ryan Donnelly
Dino Duryea
Nick Enzweiler
Matt Fontenet
Jason Friedman
John Grubin
Cliff Hamm
Kyle Irving
Eric Lowe
Bryan Maag
Ryan Otis
Ryan Preston
Evan Price
Nick Ramirez
Dan Reymann
Spencer Sayles
Matt Scullin
Sean Sherbert
Ben Tanaka
Salmon Taymuree

2000

Sean Sherbert
Tom Connolly
Jon Felso
Ryan Preston
Mike Towers
Eric Roth
Dan Reymann
Mike Haffner
Adam Smith
Brian Rankin
Eric Tausend
Mark Loewenstein
Scott Sproul
Justin Bonetto
Bryan Maag
Ryan Donnelly
Nick Corcorran
Ben Lewis
Ryan Otis
Zack Meers
John Grubin

Kevin Coupe
Casey Cole
Joey Keeperman
Ben Maxon
Matt Cunha-Rigby
Tim Gliebe
Eric Lowe
Kevin Erspamer
Dos Piggot
Jason Friedman

2001

Jimmy Connolly
Adam Smith
Brian Rankin
Justin Hughes
Eric Tausend
Jon Felso
Nick Coulter
Scott Sproul
Patrick Noonan
Brad Benson
Mike Haffner
Justin Bonetto
Ben Kraus
Zack Meers
Chirs Eckstrom
Alex Kidd
Ben Lewis
Matt Cunha-Rigby
Garret Solis
Sean Pfalzer
Evan Clayburn
Keith Dixon
Adam Randall
Grant Rubini
Barney Barnard
Brent Nakamura
Greg White
Manny Darabi
Tim Gliebe
Julian Hua
David Lippman
Shaun Garff
Jonathan Choy

2002

Aaron Poreda
Eamonn Daily
Brandon Parrill
Alex Breaux
Justin Hughes
Nick Coulter
David Felso
Jimmy Connolly
Mark Ambrose
Ryan Magee
Alex Kidd
Kyle McKenzie
Billy Colonna
Derik Holzheimer
Blake Dyer
Michael Persons
Jason Banister
Sean Irving
Scott Kidd
Sean Pfalzer
Kenneth Andujar
Julian Hua
Keith Dixon
Mark Cunha-Rigby
Jordan Perkins
Joey Meltzer
Jonathon Choy
Grant Bettencourt
Kyle Schlinkert
David Lippman
Manny Darabi
Jeff Kneis
Nick Drury
David Wonder
Patrick Galligan
Jeff Kinney

2003

Aaron Poreda
Eamonn Dailey
Alex Breaux
Michael Rankin
Sean Irving
Brandon Parrill
Michael Persons
David Felso
William Yeack
Mike Vandenberg
Jason Banister
Kyle McKenzie
Jordan Perkins
Mark Ambrose
Derik Holzheimer
Jeff Garcia
Todd Dishor
Scott Clifton
Jeff Kneis
Scott Kidd
Kurt Krikorian
Ian Vianu
Conrad Drinkwater
Nick Graziano
Patrick Galligan
Phillip Galligan
David Wonder
Ryan Kathon
Joey Meltzer
Tom Martin
Paul Ceconi
Billy Colonna
Alex Solomon
Gabe Humphery

2004

Michael Angelides
Brain Antono
Gavin Bettencourt
Oliver Canbazoglu
Paul Ceconi
Jason Chow
Brendan Cleak
Scott Clifton
Billy Colonna
Conrad Drinkwater
Ricky Doyle
Alex Field
Phil Galligan

Nick Graziano
Stephen Haffner
Bryan Holbrook
Will Holm
Greff Irving
Rady Kolev
Kurt Krikorian
Tom Martin
Nick Mirante
Mike Rankin
Paul Reams
Emre Sezgin
Jordan Shively
Kevin Smith
Alex Solomon
Michael Swatt
Kava Tyrell
Mike Vandenberg
Ian Vianu
Braden Williams
Will Yeack

2005

Alex Alotte
Michael Angelides
Brian Antono
Mac Bernie
Tyler Bettencourt
Oliver Canbazoglu
Brendan Cleak
Trevor Cleak
Zach Cohen
Grant Cushing
Jack Dailey
Matt Dokos
Jamie Duringer
Alex Field
Will French
Andrew Gutierrez
Mike Hodgkinson
Bryan Holbrook
Will Holm
Gregg Irving
Andy Kneis
Raddy Kolev
Bryan Kurtz
Chad Marino
Nick Mascheroni
J.R. McCrery
Connor MacDonald
Miles Macy
Stephen Maurer
James Meyersieck
Brad Miller
Brayton Noll
Anthony Peri
CP Perrella
Connor Perkins
Evan Peters
Jackson Rice
Tyler Rittenour
John Rhoda
Anthony Rodriguez
Ben Rudolph
Max Schenk
Cameron Smith
Tommy Stephens
John Triebsch
Patrick Wirth

2006

Mike Constable
Grant Cushing
Jack Dailey
Trevor Cleak
Harry Thomas
Scott Scharff
Robert Huddleston
Nick Moore
Zach Zaharoff
Jeff Schroeder
Kurt Drinkwater
Patrick Nelson
Clayton Roth
Mike Greco
John Petrovich
Andrew Ertola
Tyler Bettencourt
Connor Breslin
Jimmy Adranly
Dan Phillips
Nick Mascheroni
Zack Cohen
Jamie Duringer
Bo Richter
Luke Crossley
Michael Yeack
Evan Schlinkert
Wesley Ahlborn
Chris Gormley
Adam Panetta
T.J. Meyersiek
Kyle Gaskin
Andreas Antono

2007

Zack Zaharoff
Justin Hill
Scott Hogland
Harry Thomas
Robert Huddleston
Nathan Kinney
Jackson Rice
Evan Peters
Mike Constable
Joe Durantini
Patrick Nealon
Ty Fach
Kurt Drinkwater
Will Coleman
Mike Greco
Andrew Ertola
Scott Sharff
Anthony Fadelli
Bo Richter
Connor Breslin
Luke Crossley
John Petrovich
Miles Macy
Cameron Smith
Nick Mascheroni
Mike Boyer
Garret Holmes
Tyler Rittenour
Greg Andelides
Sam Cohen
Ryan Fruin
Adam Panetta
Kawa Kazzaz
Conner Perkins
Evan Schlinkert
Justin Batchellor
Jeremy Hauser
Kyle Gaskin



Anthony Rodriguez
Andreas Antono
Andrew Choi
Giorgio Tavecchio

2008

Greg Angelides
Justin Batcheller
Jackson Bengston
Michael Boyer
Sammy Cohen
Will Coleman
Cody Cushing
Sean Doyle
Joe Durantini
Dan Eden
Ty Fach
Anthony Fadelli
Greg Field
Ryan Fruin
Stephen Gilmour
Tyler Giles
Jeremy Hauser
Jimmy Hilk
Michael Hoffman
Scott Hogland
Garrett Holmes
Kawa Kazzaz
Nathan Kinney
Colin Leahy
Connor MacDonald
Miles Macy
Stephen Maurer
James Meyersieck
Brad Miller
Brayton Noll
Anthony Peri
CP Perrella
Connor Perkins
Evan Peters
Jackson Rice
Tyler Rittenour
John Rhoda
Anthony Rodriguez
Ben Rudolph
Max Schenk
Cameron Smith
Tommy Stephens
John Triebsch
Patrick Wirth

2009

Marco Tavecchio
Sean Doyle
Karl Thornton
James Meyersieck
Patrick Wirth
Sean Wraith
CP Perrella
Derick Margerum
Tommy Stephens
Erik Baker
Andrew Ahr
Alexander Currier
Nick Zolintakis
Jarrod Milner
Bradley Miller
Michael Hoffman
Joey Bertrand
James Christian
Grant Hansen
Charlie Zaharoff
Dan Fadelli
Patrick Ranahan
Jamie Vega
Stephen Maurer
Arian Motamenzadeh
Tyler Giles
John Triebsch
Jimmy Hilk
Jason Brown
Cody Cushing
Roland Barber
Michael James
Justin Martin
Vito Latu
Anthony Tataseo
Scott Lyness
Amir Hakimjavadi
EJ Varsovia
Stephen Gilmour
Connor Toda

2010

Andrew Ahr
Eric Baker
Roland Barlier
Matthew Brown
Alexander Currier
Andrew Egelston
Jacob Eliason-Meno
Dan Fadelli
Vince Graziano
Amir Hakimjavadi
Aaron Havel
Michael James
Vito Latu
Scott Lyness
Nate MacDonald
Derick Margerum
James Marvel
Joe Mascheroni
Tim Meler
Jarrett Milner
Arian Motamenzadeh

Pierce Naton
Sam Peri
Griffin Piatt
Patrick Ranahan
Connor Rosenbaum
Gabe Samaniego
Brett Stephens
Anthony Tataseo
Marco Tavecchio
Robbie Tenerowicz
Karl Thornton
Connor Toda
EJ Varsovia
Jamie Vega
Quinn Vesley
Sean Wraith
Charlie Zaharoff
Nick Zolintakis

2011

Greg Weissler
Jamie Vega
Nate McDonald
Griffin Piatt
Sam Peri
Jack Davis
Partick Kalvass
CJ Toohey
Ilya Lopez
Tim Meier
Dan Fadelli
Vince Graziano
Karl Thorntom
Joe Holden
Aaron Havel
JJ Ewing
Parsa Bakhtiari
Jack Simmons
Ryan Hooper
Danny Fox
Jack Kallgren
Black Snider
JD McPhee
Gabe Samaniego
Chris Maag
Connor Rosenbaum
John Santaguida
Andrew Wong
Matt Yoklavich
Joe Mascheroni
Jack Phipps
Wes Brumbaugh
Mason Windatt
Ryan Hoffman
Reiner Ebarle
Tyler Luckhurst
Nicky Aikawa
Zach Remotto

2012

Nicky Aikawa
Andrew Anahzie
Cristian Antezana
Wes Brumbaugh
Andrew Cassidy
Justin Dunn
JJ Ewing
Peter Golesorkhi
Moses Havel
Ryan Hoffman
Joe Holden
Ryan Hooper
Harrison Hughes
Patrick Kallgren
Patrick Kalvass
Stephen Lehman
Will Leonard
Ilya Lopez
Tyler Luckhurst
JD McPhee
Tyler Moore
Zack Noble
Jack O'Donnell
Tyler Petite
Jack Phipps
Kyle Pringle
Phillip Rei
Zach Remotto
Hunter Rosenbaum
Daniel Samaniego
Evan Sanders
John Santaguida
Will Simmons
Scott Singh
Blake Snider
Brett Stephens
Damian Stoner
Christopher Jr. Toohey
Rohit Verma
Greg Wiessler
Mason Windatt
Matt Yoklavich
Andrew Zolintakis

2013

Andrew Zolintakis
Isaac Christian
Justin Dunn
Ryan Geistreiter
Daniel Samaniego
Tyler Moore
Tyler Petite
Sterling Strother
Tiger Garcia
Cody Kiriaze

Will Leonard
Sam Gelmis
Jack Stephens
Jack O' Donnell
Brian Chaney
Brendan Dooley
Will Simmons
Jack Shurtz
Eric Dunning
Michael Samaniego
Caleb Whalen
Justin Yam
JV Baldwin
Hunter Rosenbaum
Scott Singh
Phillip Rei
Nick Fadelli
Cristian Antezana
Kevin Hull
Tanner Hines
Andrew Ahazie
Adam Remotto
Peter Golesorkhi
Akshaye Pal
Rohit Verma
Conner McNally
Moses Havel
Kevin Lehman
Mark Santaguida

2014

John Petite
Jack Stephens
Nickolas Fadelli
Conner McNally
Adam Remotto
Tiger Garcia
Maxwell Flower
Sterling Strother
Dante DeLuca
Jonathan Hughes
Jack Shurtz
Matthew Blair
Nicolas Fafoutis
Sean Thi-Smallwood
Ryan Geisreiter
Brendan Dooley
Samuel Gelmis
Myles Harris
Parker Duncan
John Vincent Baldwin
Madison Young
Eric Dunning
Maxim Dossiyoukov
Jack Cassidy
Michael Samaniego
Justin Yam
Caleb Whalen
Tanner Hinds
Devin Regan
Kevin Hull
Mark Santaguida
Cole Farrand
Andrew Ventrelle
Akshaye Pal
Griffin Whiting

2015

Matthew Ringquist
Noah Wood
John Poole
Christopher Brahney
Adam Shafer
Brett Smith
Michael Hooper
Kyle Wiggins
Branden Bocobo
Chase Abbott
Alex Baldwin
Nickolous Moore
Joshua Christian
Kannah Cruickshank
Andrew Cirelli
Jack Cassidy
Myles Harris
Madison Young
Cole Farrand
Tomas Vega
Kyle Hinds
Devin Regan
Ryan Duncan
Jonathan Hughes
Jacob Westphal
John Torchio
Lev Garcia
Ryan Doyle
Alexander Capurro
Nicolas Fafoutis
Wyatt McNeil
Maxwell Flower
Sterling Strother
Raymond Berzins
Dante DeLuca
Matthew Blair

2016

Brett Smith
Matthew Ringquist
Noah Wood
Nathan Moranville
Shun Ishida
Adam Shafer
Christopher Brahney
John Poole
James Finegold
Joshua Christian
Aaron Moranville
Michael Hooper
Francis Orman
Travis Brainerd
Carter Whiting
Kannah Cruickshank
Ryan McNally
Grady Eglin
Vincent Mossotti
Andrew Cirelli
Justin Ehrenberger
Paul Gannett
Ryan Regan
Colin Jones
Branden Bocobo
Alexander Capurro
Tomas Vega
Parker Windatt



Lev Garcia
Jackson Rothman
John Torchio
Ryan Doyle
Jake Walgenbach
Connor Peterson
Alex Baldwin
Charles Larsen
Logan MacDonald
Jacob Westphal
William Walker
Raymond Berzins
Foster Jones
Cole Berzins
Jacob Monkarsh
Parker Godsey

2017

Mateo Larson
Michael Brewer
Marco Nykodym
Nathan Moranville
Christopher Brahney
Benjamin Nelson
Spencer Drennan
Ian Concepcion
Kyle Leuteneker
Travis Brainerd
Francis Orman
Brett Donat
William Faoro
Ryan Regan
Aaron Moranville
John Campo
Luke Campo
Shun Ishida
John Cirelli
Ryan McNally
Dominic Chilimidos
Jack McLean
Maxwell Schoenberger
Jack Walgenbach
Paul Gannett
Justin Bocks
Steffen Westphal
James Finegold
Vincent Mossotti
Colin Louis
Connor Peterson
Ryan Dougherty
John Torchio
Parker Windatt
Jacob Monkarsh
Justin Ehrenberger
Riley Breul
Grant Harper
Colby Schnayer
Parker Godsey
Charles Larsen
William Woolsey
Cole McNeil
William Walker
Patrick Buckley
Lucas Allen
Cole Berzins
Cooper Davis

2018

Mateo Larson
Dominic Gillibert
Jean-Luc Axelrode
Benjamin Nelson
Ian Concepcion
Thomas Raftis
Marco Nykodym
Michael Brewer
Ryan O'Neil
Jonathan Dow
Jack Daugherty
Dylan Grausz
Tyler Darr
Rexford Curtiss
Braden Maher
Brett Donat
Benjamin Hogan
John Campo
Charlie Craig
Brandon Manty
William Windatt
Luke Campo
Jonathan Cirelli
Jeremy Gunderson
Steffen Westphal
Jake Crumbaugh
Joseph Arth
Riley Breul
Ryan Fritch
Colby Schnayer
Justin Bocks
Maxwell Schoenberger
Ryan Dougherty
Jackson Wheeler
Lucas Allen
Patrick Buckley
Mason Mastrov
Cole McNeil
Copper Davis
Grant Harper

2019

William Antonios-McCrea
Mason Januszewski
Rexford Curtiss
Nicolas Mossotti
Max Heffernan
Cole Jeter
John Bennett
Cooper Krznicar
Jacob Leuteneker
Jean-Luc Axelrode
Chongwoo Chang
Abraham Chu
Ryan O'Neil
William Windatt
Brandon Manty
Charlie Craig
Austin Walker
Jack Clarke
Jacob Tabibian
Aydin Mosaddad
Elijah Klock
Walker Rhodes
Lars Ahrens
Daniel Wheeler

Coleman Curtiss
Maxwell Weaver
Jake Crumbaugh
Zachary Raphael
Joseph Schmidt
Jack Daugherty
Ryan Fritch
Jason Vorhauer Jr.
Jackson Wheeler
Jelani Matai Bell
Mason Mastrov
Matthew Koob
Benjamin Jules
John Walker
Jacob Griessel
Grant Harper

2020-Varsity

Jacob Tabibian
Michael Coane
Joey Schmidt
Daniel Wheeler
Adam Harper
Max Rittmann
Maxwell Weaver
Connor Fritch
Walker Rhodes
William Monkarsh
Zach Raphael
Scott Linden
Jacob Griessel
Cooper Ciruli
William Ryan
Max Heffernan
Cole Jeter
Chonwoo Chang
JT Clarke
Ryan Mandell
Zion Adams
Dylan Thoms
Ben Jules
Tarek Antonios-McCrea
Collin Krznicar
Brendan Ball
Robby Horst
Jake Leuteneker
Griffin Brown
Wiley Winkley
Jason Vorhauer, Jr.
Stephen Briskman
Tyrona Tuavale
Nolan Flanagan
Jack Walker
Lars Ahrens
Aydin Mosaddad
Jelani Matai Bell
Matt Koob
Elijah Klock
Bradley Nestal
Charlie Wheeler
Cole Curtiss
Hudson Reicher

2020-JV

Dash Weaver
Brendan Comerford
Evan Louis
Patrick Sebree
Kevin Cunningham
Roan Fetting
Robbie Mascheroni
Sean Spillane
Lucas Concepcion
Ryan Sintchak
Spencer Larsen
Alfonso Gonzalez
Charlie Hansen
Griffin Bartis
Joe Walgenbach
Hudson Orman
Maddex Mastrov
Zac Faber
Vito Crudele
Charlie Murrin
Tyler Brobak

2020-Freshman

Asher Menke
Tim Daugherty
Cort Woodford
Brandon Mayo
Jack Becker
Isiah Ortiz
Palmer Rhodes
Amanuel Telahun
Kyle Fossen
James Erickson
Nino Crudele
Scott Lyon
Matthew Vonderbrink
Rylen Salvi
Brandon Lorie
Jack Spencer
Colin Spencer
Sebastian Antonios-McCrea
Landon Fly
James Giordani
Nolan Walker
Max O'Balle
Josh Tsai
Henry Fitzinger
Sean Jimu
Elijah Segoria
Egor Dobrolyubov
Maxwell Polk
Andrew Vaughn
Bradley Schoenberger
Kadin True
Jaylen Marion
Ryan Martinez
Shane Harris
Jake Ruffolo
Cameron Imberg
Nick Walker
Owen Fitzmaurice
Bryce McLaverty
Aiden Connolly
Frank Anderson
Pinkie Schnayer
Nicholas Lopez
Nolan Cuddihy
Piper Laddi
Jackson George
Gunnar Chapman

Miramonte Girls Water Polo end Acalanes' 59-game winning streak



Photo Gint Federas

ramonte came out on top 8-6, stopping the Acalanes winning streak at 59 games. Miramonte coach Lance Morrison appreciated the quality of the win but was not going to allow the team to bask too long in it: "Any time you get to beat a team that snaps a winning streak as impressive as Acalanes' was, you're going to be pretty happy and proud. You can't say enough good things about Acalanes, their coaching staff and program. We celebrated and then we quickly changed our eyes towards our next opponent." Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel always knew that the streak would end at some point and shared that from the beginning of the year

with the team: "We talked about the possibility of losing in advance. We once broke another team's long-term winning streak, and they were devastated by the loss. I thought no team should have this expectation based on the cycle of sports. We did not want the players to think of the season as a failure if we were to lose a game. That's not healthy." For Morrison, it was a team victory and some individual standouts. "All the credit goes to the girls," Morrison said. "We played a lot of people and their ability to play together is what really got the job done. Lindsay (Lucas) had a really good game in the goal and Fiona (Young) had an outstanding

game and was really the heartbeat of our play." Buchel and the players took the loss in stride. "The streak was a lot of fun, but we learned from it and take the mistakes that we made as individuals, coaches and as a team and try to improve next time. We play sports for these games because they're so much fun and you don't know what's going to happen and that was the message we gave the team." Message received. The next day Acalanes began a new streak defeating Davis and Miramonte continued their own streak defeating San Ramon Valley 13-2. The teams will meet again on May 19 at Miramonte.

By Jon Kingdon

On April 10, in a game looked forward to all season by both Miramonte and Acalanes, Mi-

Kevin Macy – 25 years at Campolindo



Kevin Macy at the 2014 Championship game



Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

This was to be a celebratory 25th season for Campolindo Head Football Coach Kevin Macy but the coronavirus split it in thirds. "In December, I finished season 25A. The season in the spring was 25B. You're doing this story in now 25C." The Macy coaching career began 41 years ago at Skyline (1980-85) to College Park (1986-1988) to Oakland Tech (1989-1994) to Bishop O'Dowd (1995) to Campolindo (1996 - present). Macy's coaching career began when he was a senior at UC Berkeley. He was interning at a nuclear engineering firm, working half days, which freed up his afternoons to become the JV head coach at Skyline where his brother

Mark was playing. Macy's first varsity head coaching job at Oakland Tech was memorable, in that getting enough players on the team was a battle. Even with limited numbers, Macy and Tech went on to break a six-year league losing streak. Getting the head job at Campolindo was due to a fortunate set of circumstances for Macy. Dan Hagen, the Campolindo coach, recommend Macy to Mike McGinnis, the Campolindo athletic director. "John Knox, who has been my friend since high school, was working out with McGinnis who said we can't find this guy we're looking to hire at Campo. Finally, he dropped the name Kevin Macy and John told him that he knew how to contact me. It's possible that if it weren't

for that conversation, I may never have made it to Campolindo." Like at Tech, it was an uphill battle for Macy at the start. "I was the head coach for the varsity and JV teams my first year," Macy said. We had about 42 kids all together. They were a warrior group that had to go both ways." When Bob Wilson became Campolindo's athletic director, it pulled things together for Macy. "Bob was awesome," Macy said. "He was the real deal in getting things done and we have a real good athletic director now in Ray Meadows." If there is an operative term for his coaching staff, it would be family – literally in many cases. Macy's brother Matt and their brother-in-law Bill Leavy have been with him

since Oakland Tech, along with his son Miles. Macy's wife, Claire, has been with him through thick and thin. "I keep joking as to why my wife is still with me," Macy said. "When I started, we just had a baby, and I was putting in crazy hours. I don't know why she kept me." There were good and bad seasons during Macy's first 15 years at Campolindo when football was not that important to the community. "It was just a high school sport to play," Macy said. "Winning was not the mentality. So, we started a youth summer camp where we put kids in full gear. We began with fourth-graders on up. By the time they got to high school, it was in their blood." Macy's career record at Campolindo is 215-89 (.707).

These past 10 years it's 113-20 (.850) with a 30-6 playoff record, two East Bay Coach of the Year awards (2011 and 2014), five NCS championships and two state championships in four appearances. What is his secret? "We've built into our program that our goal is to surprise every team with our toughness," Macy said. "Who can expect a little school from Moraga with kids that do not look like football players to play tough. That's part of our hidden formula." Macy is not one to oversell the team, said his brother Matt: "Kevin likes to play the underdog. After winning the state title, he had to find another way to do that. Now that's creative – that's Coach Macy." ... continued on Page C6

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Kevin Macy – 25 years at Campolindo

... continued from Page C5

With so many memories and big games, it's one person that still causes Macy to choke up when speaking about him – Bob Wilson.

"In 2014, prior to our playoff game against Marin Catholic, Bob was bedridden and not doing well and I was told that we needed to see him," Macy said. "I brought the team over and his wife Emily

invited us all in. Bob perked up and kept asking the players questions. Bob hadn't spoken or been awake for over a week and rallied with all the kids there. The emotion we had for that game is something that people just didn't know. After we won our first state championship game that year, I told the reporters that there was some divine intervention with the way that game ended, and all the credit goes to Bob."

The victory over Acalanes this year also brought a great deal of satisfaction to Macy. "Coming out of COVID, I felt that this was the most important win in the school's history for the school and the community," Macy said. "There had been nothing to smile about for over a year. The school had nothing going on and there was no life on the campus, and it was a rivalry game. I felt that it probably saved the

school year. It was the first time in a year that our community had a chance to celebrate and feel good about anything."

Senior quarterback Jacob Griessel said the team knew how important the season was to Macy. "We were aware it was Coach's 25th year and we wanted to make it a memorable and cherished season," Griessel said. "He really brought a bright spot to prac-

tice every day even when it looked like we would not have a season."

Does it seem like 25 years? "Well, the last year seemed to last quite a bit," Macy said. "The players from my first decade have sons that I may be coaching soon, and they have said to me that you have to be there when my kids get there. It's funny how fast it has all gone, but I'm still planning on doing a few more."

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 12, 2021



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D16

Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Photos Sora O'Doherty

This Happy Valley home boasts spectacular views that can be enjoyed from the pool or hot tub, the sauna, or the heated loggia.

By Sora O'Doherty

Sparkling pools, outdoor kitchens, vegetable gardens and chicken coops were some of the elements shared by the homes on the Outdoor Living Tour hosted by the Lafayette Juniors on Saturday, May 1. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year the Juniors had to cancel their usual spring kitchen tour,

and this year, for the sake of safety, the tour was limited in size and only to outdoors. Six homes in different areas of Lafayette and Saranap were featured on the tour.

The sold-out tour will benefit Youth Alive, a nonprofit that works with violently wounded people, helping them heal themselves and their community, and also Loaves and Fishes, whose mission is to provide

community-based food programs.

The Outdoor Living Tour was designed to be a socially distant, self-guided tour showcasing unique and masterfully designed outdoor spaces at six beautiful Lafayette homes. Each ticket holder was also furnished with a Gourmet Nosh Box provided by local kitchen My Sustainable Table.

... continued on Page D4



Mostly single-level living, the home showcases almost 2,600 sq. ft. of living space, a brilliantly light-filled and open floor plan with four bedrooms, three baths, hardwood floors, high ceilings, recessed lighting, oversized windows, and smooth textured walls. The classic farmhouse design graces the quarter-acre, ultra-private, and gated property in the popular Saranap neighborhood. 630 Center Street, Walnut Creek Offered at \$1,895,000



Fresh contemporary features include a new chef's kitchen, a sumptuous master retreat, a fabulous new front garden entry, and a resort-style backyard with new pool and spa. The estate property celebrates natural light and inspiring indoor/outdoor living in Orinda's coveted Country Club neighborhood. Coming Soon | 513 Miner Road | \$4,598,000



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CABRE# 00678426, 01165322

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	22	\$885,000	\$3,300,000
MORAGA	19	\$605,000	\$3,900,000
ORINDA	14	\$1,200,000	\$3,515,000

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

- 3218 Apache Court, \$3,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3602 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-31-21
 1045 Buchan Drive, \$1,580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-02-21
 3938 Canyon Road, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3505 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-01-21
 750 Grondine Drive, \$1,590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1912 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-29-21
 917 Hough Avenue #2, \$885,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 03-18-21,
 Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-23-14
 15 Julie Highlands Court, \$2,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 3539 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 03-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 05-09-18
 1005 Katherine Lane, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1371 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-22-17
 136 Kendall Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 03-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$690,000, 12-18-12
 1244 Laurel Lane, \$1,785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 03-18-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-28-13
 120 Marsha Place, \$1,886,000, 3 Bdrms, 2426 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
 Previous Sale: \$240,000, 10-01-87
 1225 Monticello Road, \$2,495,000, 5 Bdrms, 3987 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,865,000, 09-23-14
 943 Mountain View Drive, \$1,400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
 Previous Sale: \$367,000, 10-22-99
 3140 Old Tunnel Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1510 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,298,000, 06-17-19
 3607 Powell Drive, \$2,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 03-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 03-19-15
 1009 Regio Court, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3045 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-01-21
 1731 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 2522 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
 Previous Sale: \$986,000, 04-27-10
 3197 Somerset Drive, \$2,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2850 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$670,000, 10-26-01
 8 Vista Viax, \$1,655,000, 2 Bdrms, 1176 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 03-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$90,000, 10-01-77
 2 West Creek Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-18-21,
 Previous Sale: \$741,000, 05-04-16
 2920 Windtree Court, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2750 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 03-30-21,
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 11-20-98
 1003 Woodbury Road #108, \$942,500, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
 Previous Sale: \$875,000, 12-02-16
 1003 Woodbury Road #304, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 09-02-16

... continued on Page D13

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115 Bates Court, Orinda



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1090 Marguerite Court, Lafayette



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DRE#01486075



Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Many of the existing features of this Saranap home needed sprucing up, including this rustic chicken coop.

... continued from Page D1

The tour included two homes in Burton Valley, on Crofton Court and North Lucille Lane, two in Reliez Valley on Ranch View Drive and Silver Dell Road, one in Happy Valley on Rahara Drive and one in Saranap on Freeman Road.

Enjoying the tour were Bob Epstein, his daughter Stacey Epstein and granddaughter Aliyah Henik, age 8. Mr. Epstein flies in from Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Juniors' tour each year. He first attended the Lafayette Junior's Kitchen Tour with his daughter about eight years ago. They enjoyed it so much, they decided to make it an annual event, although last year the tour was canceled owing to the pandemic.

... continued on Page D14



Melanie
Snow



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83 TIGER TAIL CT, ORINDA | 4,500 SF | 5 BR | 4 BA
1 ACRE OF PRIVACY AND VIEWS \$3,595,000



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4 Bedrooms + detached office | 2.5 Baths | 2,538± SqFt | 1± Acre

Built on a stunning 1± acre property that reflects the picturesque and ever-changing views of the Orinda Valley and the reservoir, this modern-style beauty offers considerable privacy, an abundance of interior natural lighting, unparalleled views, and meticulous custom appointments including a cedar infinity hot tub, gorgeous IPE decks, and a wine cellar. This sleek and spectacular turn-key home is the essence of sophisticated Orinda living. Understated from street view, one must enter the home to experience the beauty within.

244ElToyonal.com Offered at \$1,975,000

• •
• •

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives

925.285.8336

bi@brydonivesteam.com

brydonivesteam.com

DRE 01408025 | 01367466



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Country Club Beauty: 212 Camino Sobrante, Orinda | 4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 3779 sqft | .66 acre | \$2,595,000



A Super Family Home : 23 Woodland Rd, Orinda | 4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 2913 sqft | .53 acre | \$2,350,000



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Orinda

83 Tiger Tail Court \$3,595,000

5 BD / 4 BA. Beautiful Mark Becker Spanish Hacienda style charm yet modern vibe.

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Orinda

NEW LISTING

3 Totterdell Court \$1,775,000

4 BD / 3 BA. Stunning home in premium location with VIEWS!

Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 3totterdellct.com Lic#01480008 / 00959101



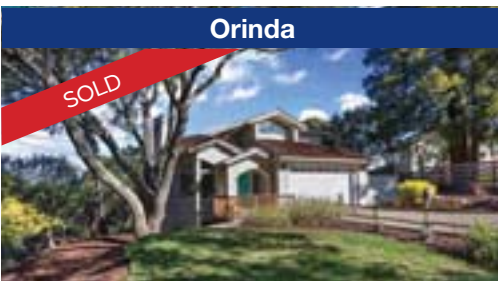
Orinda

SOLD

85 Orchard Road \$1,705,000

3 BD / 2.5 BA Sun filled single story Glorietta home

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 85Orchard.com Lic#01272382



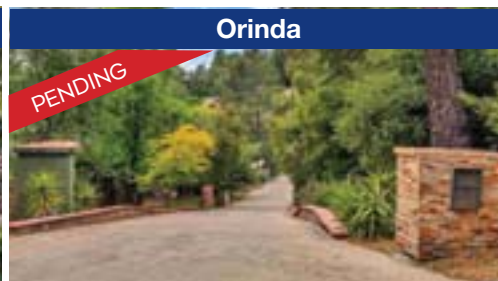
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 40caminodeldiabo.com Lic#01272382



Orinda

PENDING

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Yan Heim 510-499-4709
 Yanheim.com bit.ly/3vWXkr9 Lic #01965925



Orinda

SOLD

120 Scenic Drive \$1,695,000

4 BD / 2 BA Views from dusk to dawn, Pool!

Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832
 120scenicdr.com Lic#01878803

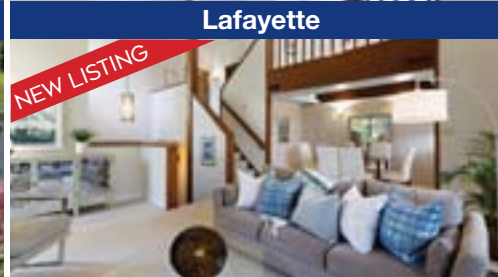


Lafayette

3776 Mosswood Drive \$1,395,000

4 BD / 2 BA / +- 1961 sq. ft. Single level on roughly .25 acre sparkling pool and stately oaks. Updates throughout.

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Lafayette

NEW LISTING

921 Dewing Avenue \$899,000

Sun-filled beautiful second story contemporary with lovely views, vaulted ceilings in prime location.

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 921Dewing.com Lic#01272382



Moraga

PENDING

1009 Larch Ave \$1,249,000

3 BD / 2 BA Represented Buyers

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Oakland

SOLD

3801 Ardley Ave \$925,000

2 BD / 1.5 BA Updates, cute yard. Located in Glenview!

Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769



Walnut Creek

PENDING

3266 Ptarmigan Dr., #4A \$979,000

2 BD / 2 BA / 1,521 sq. ft. Stunning level-in condo in Rossmoor with Mt. Diablo view!

Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 Lic#01480008 / 00959101



Walnut Creek

SOLD

407 Monticello \$1,475,000

4 BD / 2 BA, single level, 2371 sq ft. Resort living, pool, tennis court.

Maram Bata 925-899-3952
 vimeo.com/533111142 Lic #01435229



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LAMORINDA Q1 MARKET SNAPSHOT

SOLD LISTINGS

193

↑ 42% YOY

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

25

↓ 9 DAYS YOY

MEDIAN HOUSE SALES PRICE

\$1.85M

↑ 20% YOY

Source: Per MLS single family home sales for Q1 2021. Data from sources deemed reliable, but may contain errors and subject to revision. All numbers to be considered approximate.

Andrea
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AndreaRentals, I have a great rental property, but my tenants just gave notice and the thought of dealing with it makes me want to scream. **Save me!**

We're moving out of Lamorinda, but we don't want to sell! **AndreaRentals**, can you find us some great renters who will love and care for the house while we're gone?



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63 Moraga Via, Orinda



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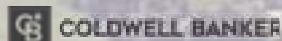
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3. Make a contingent offer—buy first and make it contingent upon the sale of your home.
4. Obtain a bridge loan to buy your new home while you are preparing your current home for sale. (A good choice right now.)
5. Sell your home and leave the state! (Easiest option!)

There are pros and cons to each situation.

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COLDWELL BANKER
5 Moraga Way, Orinda



Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #B, \$605,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 02-05-18
- 787 Augusta Drive, \$2,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 3007 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 03-20-18
- 31 Birchwood Place, \$2,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3071 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 20 Brandt Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2945 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 03-15-21
- 1043 Camino Pablo, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 08-26-14
- 244 Claudia Court, \$2,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 3349 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,650,000, 06-26-17
- 116 Corliss Drive, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-19-14
- 360 Deerfield Drive, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2379 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$879,500, 05-20-04
- 1885 Joseph Drive, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 1204 Larch Avenue, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 08-23-11
- 28 Merrill Circle, \$2,489,000, 4 Bdrms, 4808 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-07-12
- 9 Moraga Valley Lane, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2583 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-29-12
- 367 Redfield Place, \$1,920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2259 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 03-13-15
- 1751 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 03-29-21
- 4 Via Barcelona, \$1,023,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-01-21
- 9 Shannon Court, \$3,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 4966 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 03-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 02-02-17
- 104 Wallace Circle, \$1,072,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 03-18-21
- 106 Wallace Circle, \$1,099,500, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-01-21
- 503 Woodminster Drive, \$768,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$602,000, 09-29-15

ORINDA

- 25 Dias Dorados, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 02-13-14
- 46 El Gavilan Road, \$1,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 2859 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 04-26-12
- 81 Estates Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 03-18-21
- 114 Meadow Lane, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3055 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 04-02-21
- 19 Monte Vista Road, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-02-21,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-21-13
- 42 Oak Road, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2860 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 07-07-10
- 2 Snowberry Court, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2566 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 03-19-21
- 89 Tarry Lane, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2401 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-17-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,218,000, 06-02-14
- 10 Valencia Road, \$1,770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2389 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,187,000, 07-28-06
- 71 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,876,000, 1 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 07-26-12
- 78 Van Tassel Lane, \$3,515,000, 7 Bdrms, 5117 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 09-03-03
- 45 Via Farallon, \$1,764,000, 3 Bdrms, 2296 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 03-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 07-18-14
- 44 Via Floreado, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2028 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 03-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 03-11-15
- 66 Windy Creek Way, \$2,430,500, 4 Bdrms, 4149 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 03-31-21,
Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15

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Lafayette Juniors tour focuses on life in your own backyard



Residents and guests of this Saranap home can play bocce ball on this convenient court, while spectators relax in the adjacent swing.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page D4

This year was the first time they were joined by Aliyah. Together they loved the “awesome backyards” they toured this year.

The tour brochure, which for the first time was available only online, included photos of each property as well as descriptions and highlights. A special section for each property listed the resources, such as general contractors, landscape architects or designers, pools, nurseries, patio, accessories, solar power generation and storage, greenhouses, chicken coops, turf and gravel, flooring, lightening, furniture, ADUs, saunas, fencing, and outdoor kitchen resources such as countertops and appliances.



The residents of this Burton Valley home generate their own power and grow their own fruits and vegetables, using runoff water collected in an underground well.



The owners of this Reliez Valley home wanted to have flexible spaces in the garden, such as this secluded bench on its own small terrace off the path that winds along the property.

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Photo Sora O'Doherty

This Saranap home is perfect for outdoor entertaining, featuring a sports court, bocce ball court, a swimming pool, outdoor pizza oven, and even a renovated guest house.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden party hacks



Azaleas do well in shady areas and will bloom profusely.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“I was reared in the garden, you know.” ~ Emily Dickenson

If you are like most people who have been hibernating and following CDC social distancing protocols during the pandemic, you are probably itching for a gathering of friends and family. If you have been vaccinated (and, I hope you have), small outdoor get-togethers without masks are considered relatively safe.

Is your garden and patio area ready for a party? While many people have baked bread, learned to crochet, or tackled puzzles, I have been busy helping clients prepare their landscapes for small garden shindigs as well as creating quiet spaces as a peaceful, restorative sanctuary.

You don't have to do an entire expensive makeover to make your place look pretty and presentable. There are several ways to get a

streamlined look on a budget that you can afford.

I call these “garden hacks” and I'll share suggestions with you.

Walk around your exterior perimeter and take notes. What areas need more TLC? Do you have debris anywhere or everywhere? What about weeds, broken or dead branches, or an overabundance of fallen leaves? The first thing you want to do is clean. Remove whatever is broken and not fixable, recycle or re-purpose other items. Rake the leaves and put them in the compost pile or green bin. With pruning shears, cut any dead branches on shrubs or trees and remove dead or dry foliage.

Next, tackle the weeds. If weeds are growing in beds, it is best to pull them by hand. If they are on a hillside or area without many other plants, you might be able to use a weed-eater. My preference is always hand-pulling to get the roots. Pulling out the roots ensures that

they won't sprout again this season.

Once your garden is free of weeds, check the soil. If it is hard and compacted, it behooves you to bring in bags of enriched compost before planting. Soil is the foundation of verdant growth. With our glorious spring weather, blooming flowers, trees, and shrubs are in abundance at nurseries and garden centers. Before it gets too hot, you'll want to add any shrubs or color spots. Until plantings are established, you will need to water deeply and often. I prefer to plant colorful perennials, biennials, and bulbs that will return in future seasons. Some of my favorites are azaleas, foxgloves, delphinium, lavender, roses, and calla lily, all available in several colors. To soften a fence or arbor, I recommend clematis, honeysuckle, or jasmine. Wisteria is a strong, spreading vine that requires heavy-duty support systems. Also, seek drought-tolerant species and succulents. In my garden, I like to create a painter's palette of color with minimal spacing between plants, however, strategically placing just a few select plants is impressively impactful.

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Calla lilies are elegant and flower annually.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden party hacks



Photos Cynthia Brian

Purple statice fills the back of a former solar light pelican

... continued from Page D16

Ornamental grasses are easy to care for and add a natural stream-like flow to a garden. Clumping bamboo is excellent as a rustling screen that blows in the breeze. Both offer a feeling of serenity and calmness to any space.

After you have planted, you'll want to top-dress with mulch to enhance the aesthetics, increase moisture retention, and minimize weed growth. You can buy wood chips in at least three different colors: red, black, and forest brown by the bag or you can order other varieties in bulk. Any flammable mulches such as chips, bark, straw, or pine needles must be distanced two feet from structures as per the fire ordinance. Gravel or rocks can be placed around the structure as a preventive measure.

Add steppingstones surrounded by small pebbles or pea gravel to enhance a dirt path. Gravel and rocks add texture, and the crunching sound is soothing. If your porch or deck needs refinishing and that project is not in your current plan or budget, buy inexpensive indoor/outdoor carpeting or rugs in natural tones to temporarily cover the flaws and make walking comfortable and splinter-free.



The former dirt path is improved with black pebbles, steppingstones, and lined with mulch.

When it comes to patio furniture, take an inventory of the condition of what you have. Can it last another summer with a bit of cleaning and updating? Do you need new pillows and pads, or can you just wash and refresh the ones you own? I recently worked on a project where the homeowners were going to discard their table and chairs because they were rusting. Their dilemma was that they didn't have the time nor the money to invest in new patio furniture before a scheduled garden get-together for a few vaccinated friends. My suggestion was to use a little elbow grease: scrub, sand, and spray-paint. It took only a couple of hours, and the result was that the set looked brand new. Painting is one of the greatest hacks offering immediate, inexpensive results.

Another hack that I employ regularly is adding cut seafoam statice to area pots or beds where a little pizzazz is needed. Bunches of straw-like statice will hold their purple color for weeks without additional water. Shaded areas with comfortable seating invite a cooling, quieting, and relaxing experience. Umbrellas add sophistication to a patio and two or three strips of vintage-looking LED Edison-bulb lighting to provide a warm inviting glow in the evening. Lay a row of tube lights on the ground be-



As a highlight to your vaccinated outdoor gathering, make charcuterie cones with a slice of orange and a sprig of rosemary.

hind hedges for ethereal illumination.

The smart choice when planning the party bites is to offer individually cupped appetizers to eliminate people double-dipping. Home-grown (or farmers' market) carrots, celery, and peppers cut into long slices standing on top of hummus in tiny tableware mount a pretty display as well as a nutritious one. Cones with charcuteries adorned with sprigs of rosemary, orange slices, and berries will entice any carnivore. For drinks, individual bottles or cans of favorite beverages will quench thirsty friends. Glasses can be marked with the names of the guests.

Finally, fresh, free-flowing flower arrangements picked from a profusion of blooms from your garden will be a conversation starter. The ones I created for the event were a mixture of calendula, Jupiter's beard, Mexican sage, mixed with mock orange which added a heady perfume to the outdoor occasion. After the festivities, the bouquets became fragrant favorites indoors.

I was reared in the garden and am proud of being a nature lady. By using these simple hacks, you are ready to host your outdoor garden party with your vaccinated friends. Give it your best shot!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Before planting, no mulch sedona garden



After planting sedona garden

Photos Cynthia Brian

Note how different this area looks with plantings of foxglove and petunias and filled with dark mulch.



The repainted table holds a loose arrangement picked from the garden: calendula, Mexican sage, Jupiter's beard, and mock orange blossoms.



Sliced celery, peppers, and carrots in an individual cup of hummus are a tasty appetizer.

REMINDERS

- Compliance deadline for wildfire risk is June 1. Make sure to cut your tall grasses, prune tree limbs to a minimum of six feet from the ground and away from roofs. Keep two feet of combustible ground covers including bark or mulch away from structures. Gravel is a good medium to use in this area. Also, plantings need to have a one-foot clearance above the ground. Clean out gutters and roof area of debris. Trim trees away from chimneys and remove flammable liquids and other matter away from your home.
- Once your daffodils, tulips, woodland hyacinths, and Naked ladies'

foliage have dried, remove them from the plant. By allowing the leaves to yellow, the plant is receiving its nutrition to develop flowers for the next season. The leaves can be added to the compost pile.

- Keep a bucket in your shower and use the water on your indoor plants.
- Empty all outdoor vessels of standing water. Even a teacup saucer will breed mosquitoes.
- Snakes are now out and about. Garter, King, and gopher snakes are great friends to our gardens.



A blue clematis is a great addition to a fence or arbor.



Cynthia Brian in the spring garden with yellow freesias and blue woodland hyacinths.

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

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

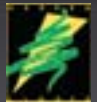
Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

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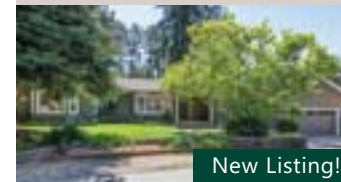
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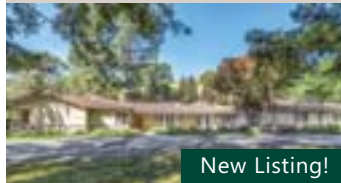
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