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Saint Mary's grad, class of 2020, Matalyn Ament is all smiles in the sunroof of her decorated car.

Photo Vera Kochan

SMC organizes a 'CARmencement' for both 2020 and 2021 grads

By Vera Kochan

In an effort to honor its graduates who studied through an abnormal education experience hindered by COVID-19 restrictions, Saint Mary's College rallied to create a "CARmencement" ceremony that followed all of the protocols of social distancing.

So as not to leave out last year's Class of 2020, SMC scheduled the event to take place over a three-day period: last year's grads, of which 125 students returned for the ceremony from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 21; undergrads from the Class of 2021 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 22; and graduate and professional studies students (a combined two-day total of 731 students) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 23.

The unexpected rainstorm that occurred the Thursday before, put a bit of a scare into SMC's Assistant Vice President of Alumni & Community Engagement (and this year's Coordinator of Com-

mencement 2021), Mary Poppingo, who said, "You can't rain on our parade!"

Typically commencement planning at SMC always begins in October, but with COVID restrictions looming over the college, it wasn't until January of this year that it appeared there could be hope for some form of graduation recognition.

The Commencement Committee was made up of approximately 40 members and volunteers that were broken up into subcommittees: Steering; Program; Communications; and Logistics, in addition to student representatives. All of the college's departments pitched in to help make the most of an unusual situation. "This is a very special time," stated Dean of the School of Economics and Business Administration Elizabeth Davis, PhD. "To be able to achieve this in an unusual way speaks to the adaptability of the school to make this a significant event for the graduates."

SMC Program Director of the Department of Business Administration Mary Alice McNeil added, "I appreciate that we're honoring the 2020 graduates."

This year's Commencement speaker was Angelica Garcia, EdD. An SMC alumna, Class of 1998, she is currently the president of Berkeley City College and the first person in her family to attend college.

In 2019, she was awarded the Saint Mary's Signum Fidei Award for exceptional participation in the goals of higher education, and was the first woman of color so honored.

Running like a well-oiled machine, each grad's car was required to enter a check-in zone just prior to getting into the official "CARmencement" line on the Saint Mary's Parkway.

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Vaccination age drops to 12; clinic opens at Acalanes High School

By Sora O'Doherty

People as young as 12 years old are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, and will be able to do so at many sites in Contra Costa County, including public schools. Acalanes High School in Lafayette will offer vaccine clinics from June 1-5, and June 22-26. The clinics will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment is required, but appointments may be made, if desired, on-

line or by telephone. The vaccine is free.

According to the Contra Costa County Health Department, while not every school will host a clinic, all campuses that host clinics will welcome anyone eligible for the vaccine – including students from other schools, family and community members. People need not live or work in the county to receive vaccinations here.

People under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a

parent or guardian, or have either a written consent from a parent or guardian or have a parent or guardian who can be contacted by phone during the vaccination.

Contra Costa County beat its goal to vaccinate a million people by the end of May. By mid-May 1,261,758 doses had been administered in the county, and over 71% of the county population over the age of 12 was partially vaccinated, with over 60% being fully vaccinated.



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For more information about how to get the COVID-19 vaccine, see <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated>

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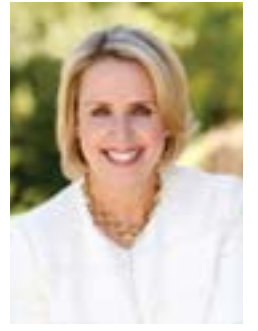
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Crosses continue to grace hillside; Memorial Day event planned



Photo provided

Volunteers help clean up symbols at the hillside memorial during a recent work party.

By John T. Miller

With the war in Afghanistan winding down – at least in terms of the United States' involvement – the Lafayette Hillside Memorial, erected in 2006 to honor the American war dead, will continue to serve as a reminder of the costs of war.

Although the original intent was to take down the display when U.S. troops came home from Iraq and Afghanistan, a nonprofit organization, Lafayette Hillside Memorial, was formed to keep the site maintained, with hopes to create a permanent memorial at the hillside. Lynn MacMichael, a LHM board member and one of the original founders said, "This is a national historic site that has a life of its own. A lot depends on what happens with the land. We do not own the land. The current owner hasn't let us know what his

plans are."

The current owner is Charles Clark, whose parents, Louise and Johnson Clark, gave the founding group permission to use the land for the memorial.

The group's vision for the site was to create an "impactful and inclusive memorial which recognizes and honors national service contributions and encourages individual and public reflection on the unintended, unseen and unexamined costs of war."

The Memorial has endured controversy, yet public sentiment is of acceptance and gratitude. The site has gained worldwide recognition, having an impact that far exceeded the original members' vision.

MacMichael points out that veterans from all wars have come to visit, and related many heartwarming stories, including mothers who bring their sons' hat or dog tags to hang on the

crosses. Gold and Blue Star families pay tribute to loved ones and veterans pay respect to fallen comrades. Travelers on BART and Highway 24 can be moved by the display of war dead.

"This Memorial has changed lives. We hope it opens the hearts of people, showing the cost of war at a personal level," MacMichael said. "We should never forget the cost of war."

The Memorial has evolved into an undeniable cultural asset for Lafayette and has become a place of reflection, community pride and an internationally known landmark.

In addition to the figures in the timeline, Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs found "over 8,000 contractors have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A high percentage of young veterans have died since returning home, many because of drug overdoses, vehicle crashes, or suicide. Coalition partners have also died in large numbers: approximately 110,000 uniformed Afghans, Iraqis and other allies died as of November 2018." These numbers don't include Iraqi and Afghani civilian casualties.

A virtual observation will be held this Memorial Day at 5 p.m. After some welcoming remarks, speakers will include Pastor Dan Senter from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, and Andrew Kodama, executive director of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

Board member and one of the original founders, Janet Thomas, will give an update on the memorial site, followed by a poem from Fred Norman. Music will be provided by Laura Zucker, a country and folk artist whose Memorial Day song can be found on YouTube. For those who would like to receive a Zoom link to the meeting, they can send an email to lafayettehillside memorial@gmail.com. A contact

for donations and support can also be found on the website.

A Brief History

Fall, 2006: The monument was conceived of and erected by longtime war protestor Jeffrey Heaton and hillside landowner Louise Clark. Shortly afterward vandals took down their first 19 crosses. In November, they started over with 300 crosses and a large sign that read: "In Memory of 2,839 Troops Killed in Iraq."

February 2007: The number of crosses increased to over 2,500, with Stars of David and Islamic Crescents, and other religious symbols added.

March 2007: Over 200 demonstrators gather at the site to protest the display in support of the Bush administration handling of the war.

April, 2007: Johnson Clark, 85, passes away. Louise Clark passed away approximately four years later.

October, 2017: The Clark family proposes donating the 2.7-acre memorial site to the city of Lafayette, but they are turned down. Council members say that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits religious symbols and displays on public property.

February 2018: The Lafayette City Council once again considers the fate of the property after the Planning Commission allows Charles Clark to reconfigure the property lines on his two parcels.

April, 2019: A nonprofit organization is created to maintain the Crosses of Lafayette, which is now called the Lafayette Hillside Memorial.

May, 2021: The current count on the hillside is approximately 3,400 symbols, and according to various news sources, 7,975 soldiers killed in the two wars.

Council supports proposed Safe Route to Acalanes High School project

By Jennifer Wake

One of the driving forces for many who move to Lafayette is its schools. But

trying to bike or walk to Acalanes High School or Springhill Elementary School – located on Pleasant Hill Road, which serves as many as 36,000 vehicles per day and connects to Highway 24 on-

and off-ramps – can prove hazardous.

According to a presentation by community member Eric Law at the May 10 Lafayette City Council meeting, there have been five fatal accidents in-

volving cyclists and pedestrians between 2014 and 2021, with 15 bike and 10 pedestrian collisions and 21 injuries reported in Lafayette.

... continued on next Page



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Local businesses struggle to fill staff openings



Photo J. Wake

“Help Wanted” signs grace several local businesses in Lafayette. Reve Bistro on Moraga Road has two cook openings.

By Jennifer Wake

Reopening businesses following the relaxation of strict COVID-19 regulations isn't always as simple as reopening doors to the establishment – especially for those in the hospitality industry. Local business owners are finding it difficult to fill po-

sitions while navigating shifting county and state rules about the pandemic.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce recently published a list of 33 Lafayette businesses looking to fill staff openings, including writer positions at this publication.

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Safe Route to Acalanes



Conceptual image by Robert Lyman of Johnson Lyman Architects

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Law discussed a potential project involving building a multi-use protected pathway down the center of Pleasant Hill Road between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Deer Hill Road/Stanley Boulevard. The pathway, according to a staff report prepared by Director of Engineering and Public Works Mike Moran, would eliminate the need for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross Hwy 24 on- and off-ramps, and connect Pleasant Hill Road to the East Bay Regional Park District's Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

The Safe Route to Acalanes High School Project, which is sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette, has already been viewed by Caltrans and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and would have an estimated cost of \$3.1 million. The purpose of the presentation was to solidify the council's support for the proposed project, so Law's group can start fundraising, and to consider the feasibility to fund the project and incorporate into a future city capital improvement plan.

“Once we get the design money raised, then we'll start the design process,” Law said. “Once we have that design then we can go out for construction bids, and that's when we can nail down the cost of the project. Our goal is during the design phase we can raise money for construction.”

Moran said the city would have to oversee the design and since it's going through Caltrans, it could involve 9-12 months of review time and they need 100% plans before the review. Moran said he could see this being a multiple meeting process, if approved, involving community stakeholders.

Mayor Susan Candell asked that risk assessments are done

as part of the process. “We may lose some bike lanes, we may lose parking ... and it seems this will be worse for cars in the a.m.,” she said. She asked that as the project moves forward they consider outlining concrete risks and try to mitigate as many of those as possible to gain public support.

Council Member Cam Burks said, “We have the ultimate responsibility as elected leaders to put something like this before a lot of other things. I'm not only strongly for this project, but I'm excited about it. We're not making a decision tonight to spend \$3 million or to spend any money; we're talking about evaluating the feasibility to fund the proposed project perhaps through grants, perhaps through fundraising through Eric, and incorporate it into a future capital city improvement program. This should have been done a long time ago.”

Vice Mayor Teresa Ger-ringer agreed 100%. “Obviously there are things that will have to be worked out,” she said. “Staff has already shown a commitment to the project to at least analyzing it and understanding it. Currently it's an in-kind piece of the commitment. We have an opportunity to support [the project] and to move it forward.”

The council voted unanimously to support the proposed project, and city manager Niroop Srivatsa said she would draft a letter for the mayor to send to Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan regarding a potential \$238,000 in state funding that could cover design and environmental costs.

To view Law's presentation, visit www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-council/city-council-meetings and click on Item 5B in the agenda.



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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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MORAGA

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

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Moraga Youth Involvement Committee gives teens a glimpse of civic engagement



Photo Jasmine Bateson

MYIC members sell concessions at a June 2019 fundraiser during Family Movie Night.

By Vera Kochan

Like every aspect of day-to-day life, COVID had an impact on the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee's functional ability this past year. Typically, Parks and Rec relies on the MYIC members for participation in annual events such as the Holiday Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, and Teddy Bear Tea – all of which were canceled this past year.

The only completed undertaking during the social distancing mandates was a goodie bag project for 72 Kaiser healthcare workers. "One of the student designed and led projects this term was to thank healthcare workers for their tireless efforts throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," explained staff liaison, Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson, with the Parks and Recreation Department. "They developed the concept of goodie bags,

came up with the contents, stuffed the bags, and coordinated with Kaiser to make the donation. The contents of the bags were funded by past MYIC fundraisers."

According to its website, "The purpose of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) is to provide youth with opportunities for civic involvement, to implement/assist in activities and services in the community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Town Council on youth related issues."

The committee votes on prospective activities which are brought to the table by its individual members, the Parks and Rec Department, or outside community organizations. Even though this past term's endeavors were interrupted, committee members are looking forward to a new term that promotes advocacy, empowerment, a greater focus on environment and increased engagement in the town's government.

Students involved with MYIC are in grades 7-12, and make an annual term

commitment of approximately eight months (between September through May). There is no school credit; merely the satisfaction each volunteer experiences by making their community a better place. This year's membership had 11 students.

"It was a weird year, and I wasn't really sure what we could do," Bateson said. However, MYIC members felt that much was accomplished through the pandemic by having productive discussions via Zoom, in which they gained a better understanding of how a government meeting was run and insight into the process.

MYIC members go through an application and interview procedure each new term. Parks and Rec then makes recommendations to the town council for appointments to the committee. Council Member David Stromberg serves as the council liaison for MYIC and reports to the council on MYIC matters. Any student wishing to join the 2021-22 term should check the town's website (www.moraga.ca.us) in mid-July.

The MYIC website is:

www.moraga.ca.us/313/Moraga-Youth-Involvement-Committee.

Suggestion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire causes community outrage

By Vera Kochan

With a point that has since become moot, the mere hint of consolidating the Moraga-Orinda Fire District with the Contra Costa County Fire Pro-

tection District caused more controversy since the theory that Mrs. O'Leary's cow was responsible for the Chicago Fire.

During the March 17 MOFD Regular Board Meeting, President of Firefighters Local 1230 Vincent Wells brought up the

topic of consolidation in reference to other fire districts that were looking into annexation as a means to minimize infrastructure and training costs. According to the minutes of that meeting, "Wells stated that their membership in MOFD expressed an interest in looking at consolidating or annexing into the Contra Costa Fire District," and requested the board to examine the pros and cons of such a venture.

Board President Craig Jorgens listed the many reasons why Moraga and Orinda residents were willing to pay for the customized service and stated that the issue wasn't finances, but rather the loss of local control. He felt that Moraga and Orinda should be allowed to weigh in on the process.

Director John Jex brought up the 2009 attempt at consolidation that was not supported and failed, while Director Steven Danziger recommended that MOFD observe the current process that East Contra Costa County and Hercules are going through. Director Gregory Baitx suggested that consideration be given to the consolidation with regards to the financial benefits of a larger organization.

During the April 21 MOFD Board Meeting, Baitx, during the Future Agenda Items portion, asked that the possibility of consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District be looked into financially. The request set off a flurry of responses from local residents, and discussions at both the Moraga Town and Orinda City councils.

At its May 12 meeting the Moraga Town Council discussed sending a letter from Mayor Mike McCluer's office to MOFD's Board of Directors opposing a study of the consolidation/dissolution process.

The mayor's letter gave kudos to MOFD as "one of the

highest performing and innovative fire districts in the State of California. The town of Moraga and its citizens have greatly benefited from the high-quality paramedic and fire protection services that have protected this community since MOFD's inception in 1997."

The letter went on to mention the unparalleled emergency response times; the locally elected board that represents the specific interests of residents; the local control over the use of tax dollars; the many fire prevention programs; MOFD's knowledge of the local terrain; and the proactive approach towards emergency preparedness.

"This is not the first time that the issue of whether MOFD should be absorbed into the ConFire has arisen," the mayor's letter concluded. "As you may recall, in 2009, the Contra Costa County LAFCO Municipal Service Review of Fire Emergency Service Providers recommended that consideration be given to merging MOFD into the ConFire. The Councils of both the Town of Moraga and the City of Orinda unanimously voted to oppose that option publicly." The town council included with the opposition letter all of the emails received from residents voicing their disapproval to any merger.

During the Public Comment portion, one of the first speakers was Wells who asked the council to hold off on sending an opposition letter. "We do have a lot of problems right now with several of the board and how firefighters are treated out there in comparison to the six agencies I represent," he said. "They have some of the worst, I will call them, benefits and what-not, so it's a definite concern from them about whether or not they want to be under this fire board. We're working through that, but that's something that I would just say

– put that off. We're not looking at doing this, moving forward to this, we know that the board of supervisors, the fire chief – nobody's interested in pursuing moving forward with any kind of consolidation. It's kind of an overreaction at this point, so we would ask that you table writing any letters, because I say, on behalf of the firefighters, it's almost like you're taking a position ahead of even hearing our concerns."

Another public comment came from 15-year veteran of MOFD, Captain Mark McCullah, who said the suggestion to review potential consolidation was "simply a due process thing, to see what does the process look like." He went on to defend Baitx, who initially broached the topic be included as a future agenda item, as performing due diligence, and said that the director himself doesn't support consolidation. McCullah stressed that the firefighters are neutral on the topic.

Passionate public comments also came in the form of testimonials from residents who, in the past, needed emergency medical attention and felt their lives were saved thanks to MOFD. Additionally, resident Dick Olsen provided an extensive historical overview that referenced all aspects of the MOFD. Former mayor, Mike Metcalf, said that he'd heard the same kind of statements from Wells back in 2009, the last time a consolidation was proposed. "It became clear, in a very short time, that there was virtually no support within either Moraga or Orinda or Canyon for consolidation. Why is this coming up again? My conclusion is that there's probably some special interests at play here. This is a union which claims to be supporting the interests of constituents. Well, the constituents here seem to be the firefighters.

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Park and Recreation Commission:
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Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Suggestion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire

... continued from Page A4

I have the utmost respect for firefighters, but honest to God, they're employed to serve the residents of the three communities who are actually beneficiaries to their service. Why we would even entertain this idea of consolidation is beyond me."

Metcalf's personal recommendation to the council was to submit an opposition letter immediately, "because if you don't, this thing is going to fester and they're going to go through a political process which is going to try to gain support for them."

In a May 13 email, Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen stated, "The issue of annexation of MOFD to ConFire has never been dis-

cussed or even considered by ConFire staff or the ConFire Board, and there is no valid reason for us to do so. MOFD is a well funded, and well run Fire Protection District. They are meeting their response times, they provide outstanding fire response and emergency medical services, and they have a very robust plan to address emergency preparedness and woodland fires. I would not support annexing a fire district when the local leaders and community are vehemently opposed."

At the May 19 MOFD Board Meeting Baitx said that his intentions were misinterpreted and he had requested that the agenda item regarding the con-

solidation be removed, but Jorgens replied that he wanted it left on in order to allow for what he expected to be an overwhelming amount of public comment.

MOFD received 240 written comments prior to the meeting. After Orinda Mayor Amy Worth read the city council's letter in opposition and Moraga Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke reiterated Moraga's stand on the situation, over 15 individuals made public comments against the consolidation study.

The MOFD Board of Directors instructed staff not to spend anymore time, money or effort on this issue. As Jex put it, "It's a dead issue, and I hope it dies today."

SMC organizes a 'CARmencement'

... continued from Page A1

Each car stopped at the stage in front of Chapel Lawn where the grad exited the vehicle and had the opportunity to hear his or her name called while posing for photos with a diploma cover (all recipients will receive their actual diplomas by mail between June and August). The parade route continued counter-clockwise along De La Salle Drive before returning back to the Guard Gate and exiting the campus grounds, altogether taking about 30 minutes

per vehicle. The campus-wide "CARmencement" celebration will be available for viewing via livestream on SMC's Commencement webpage.

Along the route, cheers and good wishes could be heard following the procession of graduates who were clearly grateful for the experience to acknowledge their achievements after more than a year of unprecedented educational trials.

Dean of the School of Science Roy Wensley, PhD. said, "It's exciting that these students are able to come back." By the looks on their faces and the ear-

to-ear grins, it was apparent that they wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Sad news from Saint Mary's

In an email to the Saint Mary's College community, President James Donahue shared the sad news of the passing of longtime former president Brother Mel Anderson, FSC, on May 22. A tribute article about Brother Mel will be included in the June 9 issue of Lamorinda Weekly.



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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 city council joins school board in honoring Asian and Pacific Island Americans in May



Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

In the shadow of increasing hate crimes against Asian Americans since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Orinda City Council and the board of the Orinda Union School District joined together to proclaim May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The proclamation also condemned discrimination and violence toward individuals of Asian descent.

The proclamation acknowledged Asian American and Pacific Islander history, culture, and achievements and recognized "the troubling history of discrimination towards individuals of Asian descent since California's earliest days, as well as the

dramatic increase in the violent and hateful crimes and incidents targeting AAPI communities during the COVID-19 pandemic," while also expressing deep concern.

The joint proclamation committed both the city council and the school board to not tolerating and condemning discrimination and continued acts of violence and hate as well as affirming the values of inclusiveness, humanity, and respect. "We honor AAPI individuals and stand in solidarity with the AAPI community as we work to dismantle systemic racism," the document proclaims.

AAPI heritage month was originated with a congressional bill in June 1977 and President Joseph Biden issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring May as AAPI Heritage month.

Nick Waranoff in public comments said that while he admires the contributions of the AAPI community and particularly deplores the rise in anti-Asian hate crime that

seems to have coincided with the pandemic, he felt that recognizing only a few groups causes others to feel hurt and left out, "as I do." In responding to his particular concerns about the rise of anti-semitism, Mayor Amy Worth explained that she had recently joined over 600 mayors across the United States who signed onto a statement deploring antisemitism at a recent joint meeting of the American Jewish Committee and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Another public speaker, Cathy Finch, congratulated the city council on its action. "I think that it is wonderful that Orinda is trying to become as inclusive as possible," she said. Council Member Inga Miller said, "Our hearts go out to everybody who was affected," and declared that it was a wonderful time to come together and show support.

Council Member Darlene Gee said that she appreciated the opportunity for herself and the mayor to work to-

gether with the school district. "Many of us have or have had children in the school district," she said, and "we have a very significant population of AAPI students." On a personal note, she added, "I am part of a very large and boisterous AAPI family with a lot of family history. I really appreciate this." In moving approval of the proclamation, Vice Mayor Dennis Fay noted that he has a Jewish wife and is the father-in-law of an Asian woman. Seconded by Gee, the measure passed unanimously.

On May 20, President Biden signed into law the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act intended to combat the dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. The bill passed the United States Senate with a bipartisan vote of 94-1, with 5 members not voting. In his remarks before signing the bill, Biden said, "Hate can be given no safe harbor in America."

The Contra Costa County public library is celebrating AAPI months with a reading list celebrating Pacific Islander voices and cultures:

https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1574600649_cccl_ed/1889256170_celebrating_pacific_islander_voices_amp_cultures?_ga=2.145900669.81879060.1621458263-1877293432.1621458263

Other library resources for AAPI month can be located at <https://ccclib.org/blogs/post/celebrating-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/>

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Additional work to be undertaken on San Pablo Creek restoration

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda will spend an addi-

tional \$59,000 on further studies of conditions affecting San Pablo Creek. In fact, the additional work will actually

cost the city only \$27,000, as the project is currently under budget, according to Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley. The additional amount needed, about \$27,000, can come from the long range planning fund, Buckley said.

Buckley returned to the Orinda City Council on May 18 to respond to questions that arose at the council's March 16 meeting. He explained that Placeworks proposes a more technical focus on the creek, which Buckley said has been neglected for a long time. The creek, which is an essential component of the city's stormwater drainage system, was rerouted in the 1940s and '50s, after which it was completely ignored. Orinda has never put any money toward the issue of the creek since the city was incorporated in 1985, Buckley added.

He gave the council a presentation aimed at explaining why the additional expenditures on the creek are now required. San Pablo Creek is a potential natural amenity, as well as a pedestrian and/or bicycle corridor. He pointed out that other communities have capitalized on creeks in their commercial areas, and that there is a lot of community support for restoring San Pablo Creek, which is currently undergrounded as it passes through downtown Orinda.

The planning director talked about the restoration plans that have been prepared by the Friends of the Orinda Creeks at no expense to the city. He also explained to the council how further study of the creek will be useful in the development of the upcoming Downtown Precise Plan and Housing Element. For example, the data provided from the studies will help the city establish the top of the riverbank and the minimum setback requirements for buildings along the creek. Further, he said, the data will facilitate a substantive discussion of safety and flood risks within downtown Orinda. The location of property lines relative to the creek and surrounding features (retaining walls, outfalls, etc.) will be very useful for the work on the impending housing element.

The creek has not been modeled since 1990, Buckley added, noting that the creek has changed since then. A detailed survey will help determine how things change over time. He also speculated that the concrete channel is not in the best shape right now. Reminding the council of the major disaster that occurred on another Orinda creek and caused the Miner Road sink-hole, Buckley urged proactive identification of existing deficiencies in creek functionality.

... continued on Page A9

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City Council Regular Meeting:
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 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only



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Del Rey Garden to be renamed in honor of retiring principal Kirsten Theurer



Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

After 14 years of devoted service to Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda, principal Kirsten Theurer is retiring and the Del Rey Parents Club will be honoring her by renaming the garden at the school, The Kirsten Theurer Garden. The parents' club brought its proposal to the Orinda Union School District board for approval, and received a unanimous vote of support.

Outgoing parents club president Alycia Shada and incoming president Vinita Anantavat presented the OUSD board with the proposal, which includes the installation of a five-foot bench in a corner of the garden and a new entrance sign, renaming the garden. Shada noted that during Theurer's tenure, the school had won both a blue ribbon

award and a distinguished school award. Shada said that the parents club wished to honor Theurer in a long-lasting way. William Ayers spoke on behalf of a number of members of the parents club in calling the dedications a fitting parting gift.

Theurer is an avid gardener and a fervent supporter of the Del Rey garden and incorporating the garden into the children's educational experience, according to the proposal, which received overwhelming support from Del Rey teachers, staff and the parents club members.

The bench will bear a plaque that will say something very like, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." This Garden is dedicated to Kirsten Theurer, who nourished this garden and our students during her 14 years as Principal of Del Rey."

OUSD board president Liz Daoust commented that the new garden aid and the principal at Del Rey had done so much work to get everything fixed up. The garden is such a source of joy for her on the campus, Daoust said, making this a really a nice tribute.

Board member Carol Brown shared a fond memory from last year. "At that time,"

said Brown, "I put in our very first vegetable garden." Brown was on a video call with Theurer, who walked Brown through her garden, virtually. Brown said that she was very humbled, seeing the expanse of Theurer's garden. "She was very generous and gave me all these gardening tips. I'll be grateful to her for many years for that," Brown said, adding, "I feel great joy that you at Del Rey are going to honor Kirsten in this way."

In response to the action, Theurer told The Lamorinda Weekly, "The garden dedication is so very touching. I was fortunate to land at Del Rey all those years ago: 2007! This community has always come together to provide children with a second to none educational experience and I am proud to have been a part of it. I will forever cherish the children I have come to know and love, the staff that is like family, and the parents who have given so much to Del Rey. Retirement is bittersweet. I will miss every-one but will also enjoy time in my art studio, the garden, hiking, cooking, and time with my family."

The changes to the Del Rey garden will cost approximately \$1,200 and will be funded from the parents' club teacher and

staff appreciation fund. The changes to the garden should be

effected shortly, perhaps in a little as one week.



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Brush Clearance per Fire Regulations

Special Council Meeting outlines wildfire preparedness and response



Image provided

Fire service preparation and planning made a difference in 2020, when fighting brush fires like this one.

By Lou Fancher

At a special Lafayette City Council meeting May 17 addressing 2021 wildfire preparedness and response, robust communication efforts proved to be as important as vegetation mitigation, fire breaks, fire-fighting equipment, access road maintenance and other proactive fire prevention measures. During the Zoom webinar, PowerPoint presentations were given by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, Lamorinda CERT, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, the East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Lafayette Police Department. Mayor Susan Candell began the meeting saying, "It's never too late to start" paying attention to wildfire season. Chief of Police Ben Alldritt followed Candell with comments emphasizing the importance of cooperation and coordination of the entities represented. Increasingly, as the fire season

accelerates in duration and severity, "It's never too early to start," might also apply. Residents and agencies must not silo, but work in combination to keep communities safe and informed, he said. ConFire Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister along with Chris Bachman and Jeff Peter addressed planning, preparedness, prevention and emergency response initiatives. McAlister called last year's "career fires" the new normal. These "career" or mega fires are sometimes spread over a million acres and the Lafayette community is within range of several high-fire areas. Mentioning this year's drought, McAlister said preparedness – grass and vegetation mitigation – in 2020 "paid off." Last year's lightning-caused fires, he said, were unusual, but the risk of pole-related fires continues to be a concern. Added engines and other fleet resources and hiring an extra dispatch person (funded by resources issued from the state) are recent im-

provements. After Fire Station 16 was reopened in 2019, Crew 12 was doubled up to increase from one- to two-hand crews, which work seasonally and use hand-held tools to assist. With increased aerial fleet assist possibilities, more network cameras under ALERTWildfire and the high enrollment of residents in the Community Warning System, McAlister said people partnering with public safety agencies is key to being prepared and safe. Duncan Seiber of Lafayette CERT said there are 19 evacuation zones in the city. CERT teaches people to be prepared because when a disaster strikes, he said citizens (not firefighters) are the first on-site responders. To that end, CERT has sold over 20,000 emergency drinking water drums (191,300 gallons) to residents. "We sell them three times a year, the program really took off big time," said Seiber, who emphasized the need for residents to register for emergency notifications issued by Nixle as well as turning to Lafayette's AM 1670 emergency alert radio station during emergencies and the standardized Channel 123 that connects all of Lamorinda. CERT's Zoom and in-person meetings held on the second Monday night of each month inform and update people about the latest developments and conditions. PG&E's presentation by Senior Public Safety Specialist Les Putnam and Public Affairs Representative Mark van Gorder brought out the most heat during the three-hour meeting. Following information regarding Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), equipment maintenance and additions to the PG&E website aimed at improving communication with residents during emergencies,

Council Member Cam Burks was not satisfied. When Council Member Gina Dawson asked about transformers and other equipment failures, Putnam said such failures are "unfortunate parts of the system." A suggestion was made by van Gorder for residents to phone the PG&E 800 number and also to call and process a ticket with the city to report the date, time and location of equipment problems. "My community doesn't want to hear about processing a ticket for another failure of your utility agency that has a track record of monumental failure in our community and throughout California for the last five to eight years," said Burks. "We don't want to hear, 'That's just how it is,' with infrastructure that's failed over the years." He said the hubris of PG&E representatives' replies were "beyond reproach" and the community had very little trust in the utility company. He called their community response and utility company "broken." Questions posed by members of the public – after Burks asked if the meeting was meant to serve the public or to be "a policy talk" – centered on fire mitigation activities in specific corridors in Lamorinda and oversight of fire code compliance for new developments.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein said the efficacy of last year's fire mitigation efforts during "record breaking times" provide a snapshot glimpse of the future. A creek fire in August 2020 near Fresno was a single-ignition fire and resulted in 387,000 acres burned. It was the largest-ever single-ignition fire in California. With residents living in areas that used to be grassland, dairy farms and orchards, Rein said there is increasing risk to the Lafayette community and preparedness is ever more essential. A key resource mentioned repeatedly throughout the meeting was the Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, which can be picked up at the police department or the local library. Residents can register with ALERTWildfire and the Community Warning System, which can provide text alerts about emergencies, at <http://www.alertwildfire.org/southeastbay/> and <https://cwsalerts.com/>. The meeting remains available for viewing on the City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCBPuox8U4xResM-Pv4T_bSjw). All of Lafayette's council members were present at the meeting.

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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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
May 2 - May 15

Alarms	48
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	66
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	49
Patrol Req./Security Check	46
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	24
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	25
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
15 St./Golden Gate Way
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
800 Block Avalon Ave. (2)
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
900 Block Hough Ave.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
Moraga Rd./Tofflemire Dr.
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.

Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. Lucas Ranch Rd./Lucas Dr. 1000 Block 2Nd St. Del Mar Dr./Withers Ave. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Moraga Rd./Madrone Dr. Silverado Dr./Lucas Dr.	Stolen Vehicle Recovery Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Tc - Property Damage 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. St Marys Rd./Topper Ln. Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave. Moraga Rd./Tanglewood Dr.	Vehicle Theft 3300 Block Betty Ln.
Other criminal activity Commercial Burglary 3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. Defraud Innkeeper 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Fraud False Pretenses 900 Block Moraga Rd.	Grand Theft 1600 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd. 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
Identity Theft 3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd. 3200 Block Beechwood Dr.	Panhandling 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft 3600 Block Brook St. 4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.	Petty Theft From Veh 700 Block St. Mary's Rd. 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft Veh Parts 3200 Block Marlene Dr. 3100 Block Palomares St.	Residential Burglary 700 Block St Marys Rd.
Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5) 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 900 Block 3Rd St.
Loud Music Barn Ln./Acalanes Rd. Springhill Ct./Springhill Rd. 900 Block Hough Ave.	Loud Noise 3300 Block Springhill Rd. Hidden Valley Rd./Diablo Cir. 700 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Loud Party Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd. 600 Block Lancaster Dr. (2) Glen Rd./Happy Valley Glen Rd. 3300 Block Walnut Ln. 3500 Block Rowe Pl.	

Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1100 Block Cambridge Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism
400 Block Castello Rd.
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.
600 Block Sweet Ct.
900 Block Acalanes Rd.

Other
Harassment
Happy Valley Rd./Bart

Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
May 4 - May 17

Alarms	19
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	49
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	2
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	1

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. (2)

Dui Misd
Campolindo High School

Excessive Speed
Camino Pablo/Hodges Dr.
Larch Ave./Wandel Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./St. Marys @ Skate Park

Moraga Way/Viader Dr.
Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Way/School St.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Lemire Dr., Laf.
Campolindo High School
Police Department
Campolindo High School
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Dollar Tree
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
10 Block Kimberly Dr.

Other criminal activity
Child Abuse
1000 Block Sanders Dr.
Corporal Injury Spouse
10 Block Roberts Ct.
Fraud Credit Card
100 Block Quintas Ln.
Grand Theft
Moraga Commons Park
600 Block Moraga Rd.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
10 Block Wandel Dr.
Petty Theft
20 Block Hour Fitness Mor
Not Available
600 Block Moraga Rd.
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
90 Block Miramonte Dr.

Loud Music
1400 Block Camino Peral
10 Block Windler Ct.
10 Block Thune Ave.
400 Block Chalda Way

Loud Party
100 Block Eileen Ct.
80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Vandalism
1400 Block Camino Peral
100 Block Eileen Ct. (2)
1300 Block Camino Pablo

Other
Fireworks
Camino Pablo/Sanders Ranch Rd.
Harassment
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block S Sandringham

Trespass
St Marys College
Unwanted Guest
Cvs
Violation Restraining Order
100 Block Cypress Point Way

Service to Citizen	73
Patrol Req./Security Check	76
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	8
Public/School Assembly Check	3

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Glorietta Blvd./Rheem Blvd.

Accident Property
400 Block Camino Sobrante
10 Block Overhill Rd.
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo

Auto Burglary
60 Block Moraga Way

Other criminal activity
Extortion
10 Block Evans Pl.
Fraud False Pretenses
40 Block Los Dedos Rd.
Grand Theft From Vehicle
300 Block El Toyonal
Petty Theft
Moraga Wy
30 Block Camino/Don Miguel
50 Block Acacia Dr.
Petty Theft From Veh
40 Block Bates Blvd.
10 Block Muth Dr.
Prowler Heard
50 Block Brookside Rd.
Robbery Armed
St Stephens Cir./El Nido Ranch Rd.
Shoplift
Orinda Way
Camino Pablo
Warrant Arrest
St. Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
50 Block Brookside Rd. (2)
10 Block Highland Ct.

Loud Party
Ori 50 Block Brookside Rd.

Other
Failure To Obey
Wb Bryant
Fire/Ems Response Info
Camino Pablo
Fireworks
30 Block Claremont Ave.
Harassment
20 Block La Fond Ln.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
May 2 - May 15

Alarms	43
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	28
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	6

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Letters to the editor

Reengaging with the world post pandemic

I know for the last year it has been hard to think beyond the borders of the United States. With Covid-19 ravaging our country, with the vaccine rollout starting the way that it did, it was hard to make space in our minds for the rest of the world, with occasional exceptions and pitiful glances at TV screens during the early days of the pandemic when countries like China and Italy were suffering what at the time we did not know was coming.

However, our light at the end of the tunnel is coming. That does not mean that everyone else's is. Now that we in the United States and the Bay Area are returning to sense of near normalcy, it is the time to reengage in the world. It is time to expand foreign aid, so that we can beat Covid-19 once and for all, and afterwards, build a stronger, safer, and more economically sound world. Please, call your representatives today. Tell them that you care about ending the pandemic, about ending global poverty, and that they have the power to help you do that. We are finishing strong. Let's help the world do the same. Nina Naffziger Moraga

Open letter to three MOFD Board members

Shame on you for suggesting that MOFD be merged with ConFire. Shame on you for not doing adequate fire prevention and fuel reduction for decades, leaving so much vegetation around us that we are now a high risk fire area. Shame on

you for not funding two year-round chipper crews. Shame on you for refusing to even spend \$17,000 for a chipper service over last summer despite public demand. You have a \$28 million budget. You can and must allocate more to fire prevention. It should not be the city of Orinda that pays for chipper service. That was your job all along. I do not accept your excuse that you may have been looking at cost savings. Yes ConFire may have been able to reduce cost by cutting services but we resident's would still be paying the same taxes to ConFire. Our ambulance response time would increase, personnel reduced, and stations closed. All to the detriment of our cities.

The residents now know that you have failed to "protect and to serve". It has also now become apparent that your loyalties are to the union and not the community. I will do everything I can to remind our community of your actions until the next elections. Shame on you. Charles Porges Orinda

Orinda Unfair to the Handicapped

Orinda is unfair to the handicapped. In 2010 – eleven years ago – the City prepared a list of approximately 36 locations where wheelchair ramps should be installed. According to the Director of Public Works, one-third of those have not been installed. Orinda's stated policy is that such ramps will only be installed when legally required, such as in connection with a street repaving. Meanwhile, all sorts of other public improve-

ments that are not legally required are funded. Notably, Orinda has prioritized bike routes and their signage over wheelchair ramps. Orinda has prioritized countless consultants, including now a plethora of creek consultants whose contract price has grown faster than a virulent cancer. I have repeatedly brought the need to install wheelchair ramps to the at-

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

ention of the Orinda Council, to TSAC, and to Public Works, to little or no avail. The City has even ignored my suggestion to do as San Jose and Los Angeles have done: seek a grant under TDA Article 3. Such ramps also incidentally benefit folks tem-

porarily required to use a wheelchair as a result of an injury, and folks pushing a stroller. Orinda's discrimination against those who cannot walk, let alone ride a bike, must end. Nick Waranoff Orinda

Additional work to be undertaken on San Pablo Creek restoration

... continued from Page A6

In public comments, Ted Fleischman applauded the city council for the work it is doing on San Pablo Creek. Revitalizing the creek will bring back wildlife, plant life, and make the downtown better, he said. Nick Waranoff also commented. He opined that the city staff would later come back to the council for even more money, and that the proposed work could subject the city to liability or inverse condemnation, and would likely increase the cost of flood insurance. He judged the proposed work to be "very unfair to neighboring landowners and the citizens of Orinda."

Council Member Inga Miller, one of the two members of the downtown development subcommittee, agreed that it was a large amount of money in a city where the council takes such pride in being frugal. But this is a good use of city funds, she concluded, to assure that downtown development cares for the creek. Some of the creek-related issues she addressed included recreational opportunities, alternative transportation, the stormwater drainage issue in the face of more severe weather events, including 100-year storms. "The creek is a major storm-water mover," she noted, "and we haven't paid attention to it." Other salient points Miller noted were that the director of public works is

also the Flood Plain director. The creek channel is up against a huge major road, and there are suggestions that the channel is breaking up. "This seems like win-win work," she concluded. The diligent work is needed for city infrastructure and, at the same time, the city is listening to our residents who want us to restore the creek. The other subcommittee member, Council Member Nick Kosla, stressed that he supported getting this work done so that everyone will have this standard.

Vice Mayor Dennis Fay noted that he was one of the council members who had questions at the March 16 meeting, but said that staff had done a good job of persuading him that the study will be useful, and it is important that we need to know. "Being an ostrich is not a good idea," he said. "We have sufficient funds, I'm prepared to move forward." Also prepared to move forward was Council Member Darlene Gee, who also had questions the last time the matter was before the council. But after the presentation, she agreed that there are multiple benefits of doing the additional work.

Mayor Amy Worth thanked city manager David Biggs for the reminder of the city's upcoming responsibilities of storm water management. "We are a watershed," Worth said; "water comes down and into the creeks." The matter passed unanimously.



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Lamorinda Weekly wins journalism award



The Lamorinda Weekly was awarded second place in the 2020 California Journalism Awards announced May 18 for the article "Residents gather for peaceful protests amid pandemic" (published June 10, 2020) by Pippa Fisher and Sophie Braccini. The category was "Coverage of Protests and Racial Justice-News or Feature Stories for Weekly's 11,000 to 25,000." – J. Wake

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1408/Residents-gather-for-peaceful-protests-amid-pandemic.html

Local businesses struggle to fill staff openings

... continued from Page A3

For John and Colleen McCormick, owners of Lamorinda Music, finding student workers hasn't been an issue – but finding adults to fill full-time positions is proving more problematic.

"Over the last several months, we have had a full-time (adult) position open and a part-time (student) position open," John McCormick said. "We were able to fill the student position fairly quickly and we received numerous applications. The adult full-time position was more difficult." They used a combination of word-of-mouth, social media posting, posting on the Chamber job posting board, and posting on Indeed, the job search engine. "For the full-time position, we got zero responses on Indeed. The one place we got a response, and a successful hire, was from an Instagram post. So it was really about local knowledge and networking to make the right connection," he said.

Colleen and John work every day the store is open to ensure the store is staffed. "We are very happy with our recent hire, but we were committed to keeping our standards very high and we would not compromise on what we wanted for an employee. We would not sacrifice customer service, even if it took a while to fill the position."

Laura Magu, co-owner of

Reve Bistro, has been dealing with a cook shortage, even before the pandemic. "It's worse now," she said. "We're not even getting applicants anymore. We have two cook positions open, as well as a food runner position." To try to entice applicants, they have offered employee referral incentives, paid job postings in several locations, and promoted on social media. Magu also reached out to culinary school programs but they are not meeting now so they haven't heard back. "We've also examined ourselves and how we can become better employers and bosses and create a great work environment," Magu said.

One person who had previously worked as a cook decided to "wait until there was more work in solar construction" – he had been laid off two months ago due to lack of work, Magu said. "Two said the BART schedule (lack of p.m. service) kept them from working. Two former employees chose not to come back for fear of health reasons and wanting to try something new. Most people apply, then don't respond to emails or phone calls to schedule interviews."

Magu has been told that the Employment Development Department only requires recipients show they are applying places. "I don't know how true this is," Magu said, but three applicants said they would only work for cash so

they could maintain unemployment. "Some cooks are still furloughed from jobs with corporate kitchens (Google) and are waiting until they know if they can go back when San Francisco opens back up."

For now, Magu said they are filling in personally, "working shifts those hourly workers could be working." They are also using Instawork, a temp service for the hospitality industry, and outsourcing positions that can be outsourced such as night cleaning.

Navigating rules for nonprofits that rely on large public fundraising events is also proving to be a frustrating experience. Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson recently sent a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom describing his frustration, stating how Contra Costa County is following state guidelines on reopening but is not providing guidance to municipalities and nonprofits about preparing to open festivals and outdoor events after June 15.

"Many of these organizations will go out of business without this important revenue source," Lifson wrote, adding, "We need direction and we need it now."

With luck Lamorinda will soon return to normal. Until then business owners and nonprofits are doing what they can ... and are keeping their fingers crossed for a brighter tomorrow.



LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD VACANCY APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Lafayette School District Governing Board has a vacant position due to the resignation of a Board member effective May 13, 2021. The Board is proceeding with filling the vacancy by provisional appointment. The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for District Board members (November, 2022) and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE To be considered a candidate for a provisional appointment to the Lafayette School District Governing Board, an application packet must be submitted no later than Monday, June 14, 2021. The application packet must include:

- Letter of interest
- Current resume
- Completed application form

Application forms are available at the Lafayette School District Office, 3477 School St., Lafayette, or online at www.lafsd.org. All applications are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be viewed by the public upon request.

Candidates are considered eligible if they are: 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, not an employee of the district, and not disqualified from holding a civil office by the constitution or laws of the state.

APPLICATION PACKETS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAIL OR IN PERSON AT THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, 3477 School Street Lafayette, BY NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. on Monday, June 14, 2021.


SELECTION PROCEDURE The Board will interview candidates at a public meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 23, and subject to public notice. The Board will accept oral or written public input and will select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

Within 10 days following the Board meeting, the District will post a notice at all District schools and in the newspaper stating that the vacancy has been filled and that unless a petition is filed that meets the requirements of law within 30 days of the provisional appointment, the appointment will become effective.

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT
3477 School Street, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 927-3500

In Memory

William E. Boyd



On March 30, 2021, William E. Boyd, loving husband and father, passed away at the age of 98.

Bill was born in Auxvasse, Missouri, to Frank and Ruth Bailey Boyd, whose families had settled in the area in the early 1800s.

Bill was raised on the family farm, enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He served as a B-17 bombardier and was shot down over Germany on July 21, 1944. Bill spent the remainder of the war in Stalag Luft I and received a Purple Heart due to taking flak in his right shoulder.

After liberation, Bill graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Business Administration in 1949. He took a sales position for Mex-R-Co Refractories, subsequently purchased by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. He was transferred to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he met Marion Campbell. They were married in October of 1953. Bill was transferred to Mexico, Missouri in 1959, where the family lived until he was transferred to corporate headquarters in Oakland, California in 1973. He and his family settled in Moraga.

Bill worked for National Refractories after retiring from Kaiser, then served as a consultant until fully retiring at the age of 80.

Due to his wartime injury Bill learned to play golf left-handed, an activity he enjoyed into his 90s, when he stopped in order to stay with and care for his beloved wife.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings: Kathryn, Helen, Tom, and Frank, Jr. He leaves behind his wife, Marion (Molly); five children: Ed, Greg, Andrew, Rod, and Libby McLaughlin; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bill was an elder in the Presbyterian church, taught Sunday school, was a Boy Scout leader, a Shriner, a Rotarian, and tirelessly served in many other capacities. He always remembered everyone's name, and he had a gracious word and a warm smile for everyone. He cared for his beloved wife until his dying day. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Graduations planned with as much pomp and circumstance as possible



Photo John T. Miller

Students mingle in the courtyard in front of Acalanes High School the week before graduation, signaling a small return to normalcy at the local schools.

By John T. Miller

Local high schools will be holding more traditional graduations this year, with as much pomp and circumstance as possible, considering reduced capacity. Families are advised to carpool, but parking won't be quite the problem as usual. The senior classes returned to school recently, and many of the students gained a sense of normalcy after over a year of remote learning.

The following is a run-down of each of the school's activities leading up to and including graduation (see list of graduating seniors from the three Lamorinda public high schools on Pages B4 and B5). None of the public high schools will be holding the traditional "Grad Night" after the ceremonies.

Acalanes

Acalanes High School will graduate 338 seniors on Friday, May 28 at the stadium. Students will be allowed four guests each. Speakers at graduation will include ASB president Luke Watson, senior class president Leda Abkenari, and students Katie Bettencourt and Summer Helvey. Principal Travis Bell, who is leaving Acalanes at the end of the school year, will

also speak.

The school hosted a Senior Prom on May 15 with over three-quarters of the class in attendance. Senior Awards was held on May 20, and the second annual Senior Car Rally through downtown Lafayette was held on May 21. A Time of Reflection was held last Sunday, while Senior Sunset yearbook signing will take place on Wednesday, May 26.

Leadership Advisor Catherine Walton said, "With this last month of day-to-day hanging out at lunch and the special activities, the students were able to get more of a feeling for their senior year."

Campolindo

Campolindo High School will graduate 363 seniors Friday, May 28 at Bob Wilson Stadium.

The school sponsored a "Campo Land" outdoor festival May 15 with a carnival atmosphere that was thoroughly enjoyed by the senior class. Last Saturday, May 22, the annual Time of Reflection was held, with student and staff speakers, musical performances, and other activities.

Associate Principal Valerie Knight said, "Having the festival with their friends and a more traditional graduation helped them come together as

a class."

Miramonte

Miramonte will graduate 297 seniors at the campus Stadium Field on Friday, May 28, with 33% capacity. Although parking will be easier, those parking on school grounds without a guest pass will be ticketed.

The school will hold a "Goodbye Rally" the day before graduation on the football field, where seniors and faculty will have the opportunity to say goodbye to each other. The rally is open to all the students, but with no parents.

Orinda Academy

The private school will graduate 23 seniors on campus on Friday, June 4. Each student will be allowed three guests and parking will be at the Masonic Temple next door. Families are advised to drop everyone off at the school and the driver can walk back after parking. An awards ceremony will be held June 1, and parents are invited.

Head of School Sue Porter said, "Traditionally, each senior has a member of the faculty speak on their behalf. This year, we will record these speeches and have them available so that every student will get their personalized tribute."

Students were all invited to a "Prom/Not Prom" on campus last Saturday, May 22. The event was held at their newly landscaped garden patio. Participants had the option of going full-on prom, or dressing casual.

Holden High School

Of the six graduating seniors at Holden High School, a small private school in Orinda, three of them have opted for a virtual Zoom ceremony on Thursday, June 3 so that family and friends worldwide can share the experience, while the other three have chosen to participate in a live observance on Friday, June 4.

The live graduation will take place at the Orinda Community Church outside on the courtyard, limiting the event to the immediate household, expecting about 12 guests, 11 staff, and the three graduates. One special event is

scheduled for the seniors, with a dinner being held outdoors at the school on June 2. Graduates and staff will eat together, symbolizing how the seniors have transitioned from being a student to being peers.

Co-director Kate Knox issued praise to the students

and staff for their flexibility this year. "We went from remote learning to a hybrid model many times and gave every person the option to be on site or remote. Hallelujah we made it through the year." *Editor's Note: Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Bentley School, but there was no reply.*

Service Clubs Announcements

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

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

June 2021 Weekly Speakers

- 4: Budd MacKenzie, Trust in Education
- 11: Dr. Emma Chapman, Era of the First Stars
- 18: Claudia Kalb, Spark – How Does Genius Strike?
- 25: Chuck Yeager, Member Magazine

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A huevos rancheros breakfast homage to Ben



Ben's Huevos Rancheros

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

My husband's cousin Ben (Alameda born and raised) invited us over to brunch one Sunday and he and his wife, Amy, treated us to some absolutely delicious huevos rancheros! It's kind of funny, but I had never made them before, nor had I ever ordered them in a restaurant. I was always more of a chilaquiles girl. But, I was bowled over with how wonderful they were. Fast forward two years, and I've finally gotten around to making them and they are just as great as I remembered.

Ben used La Tortilla Factory

white corn and wheat tortillas, which are the perfect blend of corn and wheat. We love the hybrid tortillas too, but straight corn or flour would also be perfectly good if you can't find blended tortillas. He also used a combination of cheddar and asiago cheeses, which was amazing, but I think Cotija or feta would be great as well. We swapped out his raw green onions for cooked onion because we are just not raw onion people. Instead, we sautéed onions (or shallots) along with diced jalapeño and added these to the black beans. Other than that, this is his recipe and I'm sticking to it!

Huevos Rancheros for Six

(If you have really hungry people, you may want to make two per person, but one is pretty filling!)

INGREDIENTS

6 corn and wheat tortillas (can also use either corn or flour)
6 eggs
2 tablespoons canola or olive oil
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 large or 2 small jalapeños, finely diced (can also use poblano or Anaheim chilies)
1 can whole black beans (14-15 oz.), drained and rinsed
1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper, lime pepper or Tajin
1 cup grated sharp white cheddar cheese
1 cup grated asiago cheese

Garnishes:

3 pitted Kalamata olives, halved
1 cup of your favorite salsa (Ben's salsa of choice is Frontera Double Roasted Tomato Salsa)
1/2 cup sour cream (we use plain nonfat Greek yogurt instead of sour cream for everything, but of course either will work)
1 large or 2 small ripe (but firm) avocados, diced or sliced
2 green onions, chopped
6 sprigs cilantro

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300 F.
2. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat and sauté onions and peppers until onions start to look translucent. Add black beans and stir together. (If you are inclined, add some Tajin, lemon pepper, lime pepper, or salt and pepper to the onion-pepper-bean mixture.) Continue to cook until the beans are heated through. Remove from heat.
3. Heat tortillas in a dry skillet until they just start to puff up. Transfer them to a baking sheet, lined with parchment paper.
4. Spoon a layer of the black bean mixture to cover each tortilla.
5. Cook 6 eggs, sunny side up, but not too well done, since you will be cooking the egg again in the oven.
6. Carefully transfer the cooked eggs and lay them over the beans on the tortillas.
7. Sprinkle a generous layer of the mixed grated cheeses over each egg and the beans.
8. Place the baking sheet in the preheated oven and cook for 6-8 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and egg yolks are cooked to desired doneness.
9. Garnish with diced avocado, salsa, sour cream and diced green onions.

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>



The throwback appeal of the Santa Ynez Valley



Crown Point Vineyards

Photo courtesy Crown Point Vineyards



Zaca Creek

Photo Danielle Honea

By Fran Endicott Miller

The small and very charming towns that comprise the Santa Ynez Valley are clustered together as tightly as the wine grapes from which the region's wonderful varietals are derived. Los Olivos, Solvang, Buellton, Ballard, Santa Ynez, and Los Alamos are all within easy driving (and even biking) distance from each other, making it simple to experience each within a short visit. Two to three nights is optimal, and allows for ample sampling of delicious wines, gourmet meals, and delightful hospitality.

Just less than a five-hour drive from Lamorinda, the area is often overlooked in favor of the higher profile Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. But the east and west detours off of Hwy 101 are worth a stop. Perhaps best known as home of Pea Soup Andersen's, Buellton is ready to move beyond its "Sideways" notoriety.

The brand new Zaca Creek Inn and Tavern provide good reason for an overnight stay.

Go expressly to experience one of the Inn's six distinctive stone-walled suites to which you can retire after a gourmet meal at The Tavern where executive chef Cullen Campbell showcases the best of the Central Coast's varied purveyors in an incredibly creative menu. Featured are local caught seafood including Purple Hotchi, abalone, Grassy Bar oysters, and local spiny lobster, as well as farm fresh produce and steaks.

The cocktail program preserves the allure of the site's historic Tavern Bar, and aims to highlight and enhance the old-style feel. From the most sought-after bourbons and ryes, to the most region-centric agave flavors of tequila and mezcal, guests can taste through a hand-picked selection. The highly curated and extensive wine list features local favorites as well as international selections.

Ballard is home to the charming Ballard Inn, across from which is one of the best reasons to awaken on any day: Bob's Well Bread. This French style bakery features a decadent and bountiful display of pastry in addition to hot dish items, to be enjoyed on its sunny patio. Drive around the corner to see the town's beloved and genuine Little Red Schoolhouse where, since 1883, young Ballard residents have received their elementary school education.

If wine is of interest, make Los Olivos your next destination. At least 30 wine tasting rooms are found within its walkable five blocks. Try Liquid Farm, where owner Jeff Nelson and winemaker James Sparks create Burgundian style chardonnay and elegant pinot noir. Enjoy lunch at Nella, adjacent to the Fess Parker Wine Country Inn, where Pinsas, Roman-style pizzas with flatbread-like crusts, are the starring attraction. And do not

miss fanciful and whimsical J. Woeste home and garden store where whirling wind ornaments, chimes, and every themed garden trinket imaginable can be found.

The main thoroughfare in Los Alamos, at the northern entry to the Valley, is only seven blocks long yet it reflects as much Old West heritage as any small town along California's Central Coast. Santa Ynez is at once equally as historic, yet also sophisticated, as illustrated by gorgeous Crown Point Vineyards where proprietor Roger Bower and winemaker Simon Fauray are making some of California's tastiest Cabernet Sauvignon. Make a wine tasting appointment and accept the offer of a jeep tour in order to experience expansive views from its hilltop vineyard. Back in town, the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Society Museum and Parks-Janeyway Carriage House offer a fascinating dose of Old West heritage.

Finally, a visit to the region is not complete without a Solvang stop for pastry. Long a favorite of visitors the world over, this Danish-settled town maintains traditions of language, folk dancing, music, and cuisine, while also keeping-up with hospitality and restaurant trends. Try the wildly off-theme Ramen Kotori and its decadent bowls of ramen, the Michelin level First & Oak, and coming soon, Coast Range & Vaquero Bar, from a star-studded team of chefs and renowned wine-maker/sommelier, Rajat Parr.

Perhaps what is most captivating about the region is the wide open and bucolic terrain. Vineyards and horse farms intermingle, presenting a distinct vibe of what California must have been like in 'the olden' days. It's relaxing, refreshing, and enchanting, and exactly what we all need right now as we start to venture out after a year of sheltering.

First of three Twilight events presented by John Muir Land Trust



Western Screech Owl

bigstock images

By Jennifer Wake

Nearly 60 bird enthusiasts joined the Zoom webinar, "Twilight – Meet a Screech Owl," May 20, sponsored

by the John Muir Land Trust – which protects and cares for open space with more than 3,500 acres and 17 properties under stewardship – and featuring Lindsay Wildlife Experience Youth Programs Coordinator Matee Manakitivipart, who facilitated the interactive discussion.

Lindsay Wildlife Experience is home to over 70 "Animal Ambassadors," including Cypress – a Western Screech Owl, which is one of the smallest owl species in North America. Cypress came to Lindsay at three days old in July 2018 and was raised with seven other screech owls, which have since been returned to the wild, but Manakitivipart said Cypress became accustomed to people and is therefore non-releasable. And while Cypress' name would suggest a loud screeching call, she makes soft hoots and is perfectly camouflaged against mature tree bark in her natural forest habitat. A cavity nester, screech owls wait for their food to come by and dine on small rodents, bats, insects, crayfish and even rabbits, Manakitivipart said.

"Most owls have very soft feathers to dampen sound as they fly," Manakitivipart added. "But [the feathers] break more easily than other birds."

Manakitivipart said Red Shouldered Hawks are nesting right now and you can find these hawks or White Tail Kites in Marsh areas, such as the Pacheco

Marsh on Suisun Bay and other bird species at the Point Reyes National Seashore. The Merlin Bird ID app is a great way to identify different species of birds, Manakitivipart said. "If you have a picture on your phone, you can upload the photo on the app and it will tell you the likely species of the bird." Xeno-Canto is also a great source for birdcalls, he added.

Manakitivipart reminded participants about how to help keep wildlife safe, such as reducing our environmental footprint by limiting consumption, reusing and recycling, and to leave only footprints when visiting parks. He also implored participants to not use garden netting and sticky traps to kill rodents, as he has seen hawks, owls and snakes get caught in them.

There are two more free JMLT Twilight events planned: The first on May 27, where participants can take a virtual visit to Family Harvest Farm in downtown Pittsburg, and the second on June 3 where folks can see what's up in the night sky and learn about the "Red Planet" Mars with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. To register, visit <https://jmlt.org/calendar-events/twilight-2021/>. For information about Lindsay Wildlife Experience, visit lindsaywildlife.org.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces the exhibit "Slice of Life" at the aRt Cottage in Concord, through 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 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

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

OTHER

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 27 and June 3; online 4 to 5 p.m. Register at <https://jmlt.org/get-involved/calendar/>

The "Green Sofa Cinema Series" debuts Tuesday, June 15 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. In advance, watch the film "Plastic Wars" from the comfort of your own sofa. On

June 15, join a free, one-hour Zoom chat to talk about the film and hear from a local advocate for reducing plastic use. Register soon to get the Zoom link. This fun and informative film series is sponsored by four local environmental groups.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents JoAnn Wypijewski and Kris Welch: "What We Don't Talk About: Sex, Authority" on Thursday, June 3, 6-7 p.m. at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Wypijewski and Welch discuss Wypijewski's new book, "What We Don't Talk About: Sex, Authority and the Mess of Life," and answer questions. Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see <http://www.kpfa.org>.

"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/>

Correction:In the story "Miramonte students bring community together with gift of song" submitted by a community member, the wrong high school was attributed to the students. The students were from Campolindo High School. We apologize for this error.



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Lamorinda's Religious Services



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Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
451 Moraga Way, Orinda
www.stmarksorinda.org | (925) 254-5965
All Are Welcome

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www.holyshepherd.org

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/
Sunday Worship Services are accessible at our website at about 10:15 a.m. each Sunday (after they have premiered on Facebook). Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

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Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

Miramonte Class of 2021



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Shyon Afshar
Fiona Akazawa
Audrey Allen
Jordan Allred
Alyssa Angsupanich
Adrien Argast
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Courtney Ausman
Marcus Austenfeld
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Grace Barmmer
Liam Bartosiewicz
Harman Bath
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Lindsey Bliss
Emerson Bohligh
Amia Bonilla
Drugan Brady
Jameson Braitberg
Grayson Broderick
Kai Brothers
Lauren Brotman
Aidan Browne
Christopher Bruen
Jordan Brunner
Rhys Bubrick
Wolfgang Buchholz
Devon Byrne
Gianna Capozzi
Benjamin Cardoza
Jack Carlson
Isabel Cervantes
Jonathan Chambers
Jeromy Chang
Naomi Cheng

Yanjinbud Chinzorig
Gabrielle Christian
Audrey Cleveland
Reece Clotfelter
Charles Cohen
Mia Cohen
Courtney Coleman
William Coons
Aidan Crowley
Isabella Deanhardt
William Deanhardt
Jasraj Dhillon
Benjamin Diep
Russell Diep
Farish DiFonzo
Stephanie Dolan
Allison Dollard
Caitlin Dolorico-McPeake
James Donn
Giovanni Donofrio
Jake Doran
Kinsey Dunne
Jake Edelen
Ryan Edmister
Jackson Eng
Zackery Essex
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Cole Evans
Alexandra Eversole
Annie Eversole
Alexandra Finegan
Jared Fineman
Tawny Fischer
Emily Fisher
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Isabella Fordyce
Conor Fortune-Thompson
Jenna Foster
Joseph Foster
Stradley Foutch
III Frank
Sofia Gamboa
Diba Ghazvini
Madeline Giron
Sydney Gong
Ryan Gottschalk
Sophia Govea
Claudia Gravano
Bryan Graves
Lily Grenning
Maxwell Grinold

Annika Gubser
Clarissa Gutierrez
Connor Haas
Payton Hall
Griffith Hallahan
Kendra Hardenbrook
Andrew Heilmann
Sydney Heim
Jack Hemming
Lindsay Hemming
Valerie Hernandez-Moreno
Parker Hett
Anna Hillen
Leilah Hodges
Cara Holden
Clara Holland
William Hollerbach
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Maxwell Houlihan
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Haley Lim
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Gabriella Linke
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Annalise Logan
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Family Focus

Having a good relationship with your adult child: part one

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

“Raising children is a spur-of-the-moment seat-of-the-pants sort of deal, as any parent knows, particularly after an adult child says that his most searing memory consists of an offhand comment in the car on the way to second grade that the parent cannot even dimly recall.” ~ Anna Quindlen

It’s often not easy to watch our children grow up and seemingly need us less and less. Of course, parenting is full of times when we must gradually let go and help our kids become as independent as possible. Whether it’s your child’s first day of preschool or kindergarten or their first experience driving on their own, parents must continually try to adapt and accept their child’s progression in life. Some welcome their child becoming more self-sufficient, whereas others miss the early childhood years. Each parent differs as to which stage of childhood they enjoyed the

most. But almost all can agree that they miss many aspects of their children’s earlier years as they witness their passage into adulthood.

We no longer have the same influence and control, and often we’re no longer the most significant people in our adult children’s lives. We go from being the center of their universe when they are little to gradually feeling more sidelined and less essential. We know this development is healthy and necessary for a child’s well-being. But if we have always derived comfort and satisfaction in being needed by our children, we may feel somewhat displaced as they evolve into independent adults.

As in most relationships, it’s important to find middle ground instead of being extreme in one way or another. Katy, age 67, was a recently divorced mother of two grown daughters. She and one of her daughters wanted help with repairing their relationship. Alison lived close by to her mother and was married with two small children. Katy’s other

daughter lived in another state and had infrequent contact with her mother.

Katy felt hurt and abandoned when her husband left her for another woman. Her self-esteem took a nosedive. She became very dependent upon Alison for companionship and emotional support. Katy called Alison several times a day and wanted to be with her as much as possible each weekend. Prior to this time, Katy and Alison had a good and close relationship. But Katy’s needs became overwhelming for Alison, who was already managing her kids and a full-time job.

As a caring daughter, Alison recognized that her mom needed a lot of support during this difficult time. She wanted to help, but she gradually started to resent the conscious and unconscious demands her mother placed on her. Along with resentment, Alison felt guilt for being so reluctant to accommodate her mother.

For her part, Katy was so consumed with her own grief that she wasn’t thinking about

how much she was leaning on Alison. And since Alison had difficulty speaking up for herself, she behaved in a passive-aggressive manner – either waiting a day or two to return her mom’s phone calls or often being short-tempered and rude when she was with her mom.

Their work in therapy was clear-cut; they needed to communicate directly with each other about their needs and expectations. Ultimately, Katy was able to see how her increased dependence on Alison adversely affected their relationship, and she looked for other ways to find additional support and rebuild her life.

It’s a good idea to assess your relationship with your adult children periodically to determine if everyone is comfortable with the amount of contact and communication you have with each other. It helps to have a direct conversation, and preface it by saying it’s important for you to know how they feel so you can make any necessary adjustments. You can assure them that you won’t

take it personally (and hopefully you won’t). Since most parents’ ultimate goal is to have a close and positive relationship with their adult children, you will be paving the way.

In the next column, we’ll look at an example of the opposite situation: an adult child who would like more time with her parents, but the parents have flown the coop – literally and figuratively.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. Her new book, “Family Focus: A Therapist’s Tips for Happier Families,” is available from Orinda Books and Amazon.com.

Packing an emergency ‘Go Bag’

By Cynthia Brian

If an emergency occurred while you were at home, work, or play, and you are forced to evacuate to another location, would you be prepared or panicked? This scenario could happen anywhere at any time. With preparation, you will be ready to go.

A “Go Bag” is a bag filled with all the necessities you, your family, and your animals will need for one to three days. You will want to pack this emergency kit for every vehicle as well as have an additional one in your home in a closet or space closest to your exit door. The reason for keeping a “Go Bag” in your car at all times is because you may be caught in an earthquake, fire, or another disaster when you are not at home. By also keeping a “Go Bag” at home, in the event of an immediate evacuation, you will have additional reinforcements.

Here’s what you need to pack an emergency “Go Bag.” In a backpack, small suitcase, shoulder bag, or roller bag **pack the following:**
First Aid kit
Duplicate chargers for phones, tablets,

and computers
Copies of important documents including passport, drivers license, credit cards, insurance
Work gloves
Warm clothes
Towelettes
Small towel
Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)
Thick blanket
Walking shoes
Socks
Warm jacket
Peanut butter
Honey
Protein bars
Personal hygiene kit with a toothbrush, soap, medications
Matches
Candle
Flashlight and headlamp with extra batteries
Eating utensils and plates
Breathing masks (Niosh-N95)
Clothing change
Reading glasses
Extra set of keys to home, office, etc.
Pet necessities: food, leash, medications

Cash
Toilet Paper
At your home, have a sign already made with your name, phone number, address, and the words “SAFELY EVACUATED” sitting on top of your “Go Bag” accompanied by a roll of blue painter’s tape. In an evacuation, when you exit your home, tape the sign (time permitting) to the door so the first responders will know that you have left. When told to evacuate, do so without question. Take one vehicle to avoid clogging escape routes. Stay calm.

Other things to do in preparation for an emergency :
• Make a rescue plan with your family and practice an evacuation.
• Decide where you will meet up if separated and where to go in an emergency.
• Back up important documents to the cloud or keep paper copies in a safe deposit box.
• Get a landline phone for emergency purposes only. They work without electricity.
• Know how to manually open automatic gates and garage doors.



Photo Cynthia Brian

Pack a smaller emergency bag for your car and a larger roller bag for your home.

- Connect with neighbors to create a support safety team.
- Keep your gas tank full on all vehicles.
- Store your laptop, keys, purse, wallet, and other “must take” items in one place for swift retrieval.
- Sign up for emergency alerts via www.nixle.com and www.cwsalerts.com. Earthquakes may not provide any warning, and a devastating wildfire may give you only a minute or two to grab your family and your bag. Natural disasters are on the rise and catastrophes can happen to you. Get ready to go!



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda girls' volleyball builds foundation for future success



Photo Gint Federas

Three sets of sisters are on the Campolindo roster. Back row, from left: Molly Mitchell, Quinn Heydenfeldt, Kate Dendinger; front: Megan Mitchell, Ella Heydenfeldt, Anna Dendinger

By Jon Kingdon

Though some sports were able to transition, to a point, outside, it was not as simple for the volleyball teams. "We did everything outdoors," Acalanes head coach Haley Walsh said. "There was a lot more retrieving balls and dealing with the elements."

For Miramonte head coach Lindsay Ray, it was a matter of hitting the ground running: "We just started three weeks ago. We only had 2-3 practices prior to our first match."

John Vuong, Campolindo's head coach, focused on getting the team in shape: "We could not practice inside or outside, so we did a lot of conditioning and plyometric training to get into shape. We did a lot of stretching under the guidance of my assistant coach Dave Chan, who is a physical therapist."

Campolindo

There has been no shortage of players for Campolindo with 20 on the varsity, 12 on JV and 12 on the freshman teams. "There are some players that are missing practice due to their club team commitments," Vuong said. "We're just glad to play, particularly for our seniors to finish their careers. I've had some of them since they were freshmen, and to have them not

play this year would have been wrong."

It's a family affair for the Cougars with three sets of sisters on the roster - Kate (Sr) and Anna (Soph) Dendinger, Ella (Jr) and Quinn (Jr) Heydenfeldt and Molly (SR) and Megan (Jr) Mitchell. "This is the first time I've had three sisters and I wanted them to have the experience of playing alongside each other," Vuong said.

The veteran leadership has been crucial under these trying conditions, which Vuong has relied on. "All of our seniors have been leaders," Vuong said. "The younger players have particularly looked up to Kate Dendinger and Molly Mitchell for advice."

On offense, Dendinger and Mitchell have been key players as outside hitters. Olivia Knutson and Erin Thomas, both of whom are all-around players, are also having solid seasons. Freshman Chilotta Bell has shown a lot of potential and will be counted on to do a lot more next season.

Senior Brianna Lee has been solid as the team's libero bringing a lot of playoff and state experience. Junior Olivia Wiseman provides good depth and will step in next year as the libero's starter.

Vuong made it a point to

see that the seniors receive a large amount of the playing time. "I let it be known that this was a special year for the seniors because it's such a short season and because how much they had contributed to the team the prior three years. For the young players, next season will start in only a few short months."

Miramonte

The Matadors have only two seniors on the roster, libero Jenna Foster, and defensive specialist Nicolle Wagner. "It has been going smoothly," Ray said. "We have a lot of sophomores and juniors on the varsity this year."

Leading the offense has been sophomore Amber Chu and junior Natalie Kurtz. "Amber is more confident this year," Ray said. "She's starting to see the blocks a lot better when she's hitting. Natalie, our middle blocker, has also been an offensive threat this year."

On defense sophomore Annika Blas was moved to defensive specialist from the outside. According to Ray, "Annika's confidence has really improved as she is more comfortable playing in the back row. We also have some freshmen that are getting playing time there."

Foster's leadership on the court has been important to the team's stability. "Jenna is a hard worker and gets lots of touches. She brings the team together on the court," Ray said. "If we're struggling, Jenna will talk everyone through their mistakes and makes sure everyone stays calm. She communicates early which helps to avoid collisions and is a real strength in her game."

The short season has become even more abbreviated for Miramonte with two games canceled due to virus concerns with their opponents. With such a young team, Ray is optimistic about the team's future: "With such a short preseason, it's been a little tough. A lot of the girls don't play club, so they haven't had any indoor volleyball training for a while, but it's been coming back to them and we're working through it."

... continued on Page C2

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Athletic directors look back ... and forward

By Jon Kingdon

It's been a year like no other for the high school and Saint Mary's athletic departments. Campolindo's athletic director Ray Meadows summed it up succinctly for everyone. "The end of this year cannot come soon enough," Meadows said. "Every day has been something different. There has been so much uncertainty and unknowing and not having a game plan, constantly confronting new situations. We were dealing with things that we did not have a blueprint for while not knowing what was around the corner."

Despite all the issues, those in charge kept their eye on the prize: get the players participating again. "We were under a lot of pressure to give these kids an opportunity to play sports, particularly for the seniors," said Randy Takahashi, Acalanes' Athletic Director. "We wanted them to be able to look back at something positive and to do it in a safe manner."

For Saint Mary's Athletic Director, Mike Matoso, there were far more than county rules that he had to account for. "Almost 20% of our kids are international so we had to deal with international rules, national, NCAA, state, county, and campus guidelines," Matoso said. "Every step was challenging from a standpoint of assisting with such a small staff."

With sports playing such a major role in the community, the first goal for John Nickerson, the AUHSD superintendent, was to get the athletic programs up and running as soon as they could. "It was a high priority for us to get our student-athletes on the field, the pool deck and in the gym quickly and safely as we could possibly do," Nickerson said. "With over 60% of our students participating in athletics, it's an important part of their life. With the hardships of the pandemic, it was critically important to get them competing or at least participating as soon as possible. We were one of the first districts in Northern California to start our sports camps and became the model for how to do that."

With so many reports coming from so many sources, communication became essential for all involved. "I've tried to stay in contact with the athletes and their parents," Meadows said. "We were fortunate to have John Nickerson and Associate Superintendent Amy McNamara. They were instrumental in meeting with us each week and providing guidance. In talking with the AD's from other districts, it was evident we were getting a lot more guidance and direction than

they were. I always felt their support and that I was getting correct information."

Nickerson saw first-hand what the athletic directors were investing in their programs. "Our athletic directors were absolutely extraordinary and heroic in their efforts," Nickerson said. "They were all working time and a half apart from their regular teaching duties to make this happen. There were a lot of hours that went into it from the district level to make sure things happened. Our top priority was to get the kids into the classrooms, and we had a cleaner, easier path to get them onto the outdoor and eventually the indoor facilities."

Testing was far more extensive at Saint Mary's than at the high schools and it was extensive and expensive process. "It was quite a process and we spent close to \$350,000 on testing this year," Matoso said. "We would do the tests and then courier them down to Santa Clara and wait for the results. We've done over 3,500 tests in the spring with only 18 positives (less than a 0.5 positivity rate). All the teams had their own pledge agreements and held each other accountable and it's why we were able to have played over 250 events this spring and close to 300 for the year and we were able to do it because our coaches, our kids and staff did a great job of managing it all. Our assistant athletic director for sports medicine, Josh Sims, was just phenomenal. He did such an amazing job not just within athletics but across campus with the COVID protocols. It was the same with Sam Holden and Ed Arnold who were in change of running our facilities and game day operations."

There were several unsung heroes at the high schools as well. "We were very fortunate to have a really good athletic trainer and school nurse in Chris Clark and Dvora Citron which enabled us to manage anything that came up," Takahashi said. "Our coaches were very careful in what they were doing when they had the kids together, continuing to tell them to be responsible for themselves, their teammates and their families; to do the right things, not only when they would come to camp but when they were outside of camp as well. I also give the kids and their parents a lot of credit. They were really good at contacting us immediately if something had come up to let us know that their child was not going to be there for 10-14 days."

Meadows was pleased in the way that the community had come together despite the

varied opinions and ideas in how to get things done. "At the end of the day, people came to recognize that in the end, we all wanted the same thing," Meadows said. "I've felt a lot of support in this community from the parents and our athletes and the teachers. There have been a lot of moments that have brought us together."

There were some serious financial ramifications that had to be confronted head on by the colleges and the high schools. For Matoso, it was the alumni and other donors that filled a big gap at Saint Mary's. "We took a huge hit, probably close to \$1 million in revenue," Matoso said. "On the flip side, we're probably going to have our best annual fundraising year ever so I really thank our alums and donors for their support. Without them, this would've been a difficult financial year. Their support was huge for us, helping to make up with some of that other lost revenue."

Meadows called upon all of the teams to make sacrifices: "We've asked all of our programs to try and minimize their expenses and we've cut out things that might have appeared frivolous this year so we're doing okay with all our sports team's budgets. We're operating at a bare minimum level to try and offset the costs and expenses and try to get back to the basics to make sure that we're providing the kids with opportunities safely without preventing anybody from being able to participate."

Takahashi has taken a similar approach at Acalanes: "We were in pretty good shape going into this year, but we are already talking about and planning how we're going into next year because we did have to tap into some of our reserves to get through this year. We'll be okay financially this year but we're going to have to be penny wise."

The school district had its financial concerns: "We had some reserves in place and some one-time money to kind

of buffer the hardship this one year," Nickerson said. "Going through two years of this could crush these budgets."

There is more than a cautious feeling of optimism as these administrators look toward the 2021-22 year. "I'm hoping we're full go next year," Matoso said. "There's going to definitely be some things that are changed. You're not going to have pregame receptions or where people are in tight quarters and splitting hors d'oeuvres and you know we do our Hall of Fame for basketball. You know you're not going to go in there now and have 100 people going in and getting food from the same place? There's going to be different protocols we're going to need to abide by."

The high schools are expecting to be fully open by Aug. 9. "We are also counting on athletics being fully open that day as well," Takahashi said. "We are planning for a best-case scenario. However, if we must make adjustments, that's okay, but you want to adjust back. You don't want to have to adjust forward because then you'll be trying to fill gaps."

As the head of the district, Nickerson is still waiting to

learn what the official policy will be in every area. "I think we're going to learn a lot in the next four weeks in terms of what schools will look like, but our schools will be in-person five days a week and all of our sports teams will be operating in regular seasons. Some of the things that remain undetermined is to what degree will masking be required? To what degree will testing be required? Will we be allowed to have regular crowds in the audience? We will be very thrilled when we are in June and totally focused on next year and bringing it as close to normal as we can."

With all that went on, for so many, it was an opportunity for all to revisit the reasons they chose a career in education and administration. "This has been my largest professional challenge and made me ask, why am I doing this?" Meadows said. "I soon realized that no matter how hard or how difficult or how worked up I was, when I was finally able to interact with the kids and get back to teaching and going to the games, I found that resurgence as to why I initially got into teaching which was to work with the kids."



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Lamorinda girls' volleyball builds foundation for future success

... continued from Page C1

Acalanes

For the Dons, Haley Walsh has found things "a little bit easier because the team was exposed to my system last season." The start of the season constantly being delayed led to a lot of confusion. "We were practicing continually but not knowing we would even have a season," Walsh said. "Finding ways to help the girls face this adversity and building on our leadership were key areas of focus."

On offense, the team is led by senior Erin Meade who moved to setter after playing the right-side last year. "She took over in the setting role and has filled a needed role," Walsh said.

Annika Olson has worked well with Meade, according to Walsh: "Annika has been a strong outside and it's cool to see her and Erin work so well together this year. They are

good friends, and that trust has solidified the chemistry on the team. Mackenzie Sauers has also been one of our top hitters and has become very aggressive."

Two sophomores, Katelyn Olin and Maya Paul, have stepped up in the middle and have proven to be vital players. "They have provided new blood into our team and are young people to build on for next year," said Walsh.

Senior Carly Coffee has been vital behind the service line and the return of libero Sydney Sowerby, who is just returning from an injury, has helped the defense. "We really needed Sydney to step up," said Walsh. "We went through all of our defense specialists and did not have anyone to replace her."

Walsh is already optimistic about the next season. "We're building a foundation here. Our players are buying into our program."

LAMORINDA LACROSSE CLUB

would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2021 lacrosse players!



Miramonte High School:

GIRLS: Lindsey Bliss, Emerson Bohlig, Mina Jenab, Sally Peterson

BOYS: Rigby Blair, Maxwell Grinold, Camrin Jaffery, Alexander Karp, Ethan Medal-Katz, Zachary Safahi, Aidan Stone, Aidan Swenson, Jakob Weiner



Campolindo High School:

GIRLS: Lindsay Davis, Laura Studebaker, Lauren Brewer, Leah Axelrode, Gracie McCauley, Kennedy Merrion, Ellie Olson

BOYS: Sam Rack, Hayden Coakley, Cole Matoso, Jack Hays, Pablo Garcia



Acalanes High School:

GIRLS: Lyla Cox, Lindsey Campbell, Grace Gebhardt, Coco Fellner, Della Pascucci, Maggie Saracevic

BOYS: Owen Lee, Calvin Van Oss, Eric Machtmes, Walter Workman, Harrison Mains, Henry Rogers, Connor Stevens, Arlo Aksu

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Community trash collection fills truck bed



Photo provided

Submitted by Rachel Erickson

May 1 gathering litter along the trails and parking lot area on Mulholland Ridge. As seen in the photo, they gathered enough trash to fill up an entire truck bed.

Forty-five youth and leaders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day of Saints spent their Saturday morning

NCL celebrates its 2021 graduating class



Photo provided

Back row: Grace Barmmer, Helena Bardsley, Mia Castillo, Gracie McCauley, Claire Rowell, Lindsey Bliss, Maddie Tooker, Emma MacKenzie Middle Row: Maggie Buckley, Molly Mitchell, Kate Dendinger, Tallulah Clancy, Audrey Allen, Caroline Sween, Reilly Yuen, Keira Taylor; front row: Spencer Deutz, Lindsay Davis Missing from photo: Evy LaVelle, KiKi O'Toole, Devon Byrne, Olivia Anderson

Submitted by Marci Byrne

The Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League held its Senior Recognition May 9 at the Balestrieri Family Farm. The National Charity League is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership devel-

opment and cultural experiences. Twenty-two seniors from the graduating class of 2021 were honored for their dedication to philanthropic service and cultural enrichment. Over the past six years, these seniors have volunteered over 4,500 hours of community service to organizations in need of assistance.

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.

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 7 Wednesday, May 26, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Wildfire protection through landscaping



Photo Cynthia Brian

Drought-resistant Pride of Madeira grows well on hillsides but is considered flammable.

By Cynthia Brian

"Fire is never a gentle master."~ Proverb

This past year most of our conversations have revolved around the pandemic, mask wearing, and questions about recovery and normalcy. With the impending drought, an urgent topic that is on the minds of Californians is the potential for wildfires. With increasing climate changes and the trend of global warming, it is not a matter of if we'll be faced with fires, it is when.

We can do our part to protect our property as best as possible through firescaping, a landscape design that reduces house and property vulnerability to wildfire. While enhancing the



A river rock canal provides some protection near structures.

beauty of the property and creating a defensible space, we surround the house with plants that are less likely to ignite. Fires respect no boundaries and fires don't honor property lines. With enough heat, almost everything burns.

Our neck of the woods is rural and wooded. We have minimal escape routes and must be extra vigilant. Many of the plants and trees growing throughout our area are highly flammable including pines, cypress, cedar, fir, bamboo, acacia, juniper, Pampas grass, rosemary, ivy, arborvitae, miscanthus, and eucalyptus. Coyote brush, although moderately fire-resistant when it is young and green, is highly combustible as it grows. It depends on fires to regenerate and

grows everywhere in our hills. These plants need to be removed or carefully supervised. Since heat moves up, fire speed and severity are stronger on slopes where vegetation management is crucial.

A defensible space is an area around a structure that has been cleared of ignitable debris and botanicals that may cause a public safety hazard. A watered, green lawn can be considered a defensible space. A large brick, stone, or gravel area could be part of a defensible space.

No plant is fireproof.

Under the right conditions, every plant will burn, especially those that are drought-stressed or not maintained. Pruning of all plants makes them less flammable. A "fire-safe" plant means that it tends not to be a significant fuel source with a chemical composition that resists heat and combustion. It is critical to keep plants around our homes well-tended and pruned as a fire protection tool. The closer plants are to the house, the more care is needed.

Every homeowner is responsible for managing their vegetation to meet fire district requirements. For Moraga-Orinda Fire District requirements, combustible materials must be two feet away from a structure and plantings no taller than two feet high. Low-growing ground coverings and green grass are suitable as well as river rock, gravel, or crushed granite. Trees that are within six feet of the structure need to be removed, specifically eucalyptus, pine, bamboo, and junipers.

Neighborhoods are encouraged to form a committee to receive advice from local fire professionals on how to be Firewise. Being Firewise is dependent on the diligence of everyone in a neighborhood to keep a property fire safe. All properties become indefensible when one neighbor has overgrown bushes, brush, or low hanging trees. Neighbors must protect neighbors by making certain their properties are maintained. Again, fires do not honor property lines. ... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	25	\$840,000	\$8,000,000
MORAGA	18	\$531,000	\$2,315,000
ORINDA	23	\$581,000	\$8,000,000

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

- 1201 Cambridge Drive, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4179 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$715,000, 04-01-91
- 6 Diablo Oaks Way, \$2,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3879 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 05-15-99
- 1009 Dyer Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1713 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 04-08-21
- 3339 Dyer Drive, \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 1732 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$992,000, 04-16-18
- 1012 El Curtola Boulevard, \$2,458,000, 6 Bdrms, 2612 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 04-15-21
- 3247 Elvia Street, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3644 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 06-17-05
- 15 Lombard Lane, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 4176 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 04-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 03-09-04
- 320 Lowell Lane, \$2,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 2960 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-14-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 04-06-18
- 625 Lucas Drive, \$2,912,500, 4 Bdrms, 3095 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 06-16-99
- 11 Lucas Ranch Court, \$5,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 5639 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 02-14-19
- 3279 Mt Diablo Court #16, \$840,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 04-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 01-28-19
- 20 Newell Court, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-07-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 04-18-18
- 2672 West Newell Avenue, \$1,715,000, 4 Bdrms, 2227 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-07-21
- 851 Paradise Court, \$1,620,000, 3 Bdrms, 1646 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 08-09-14
- 3936 South Peardale Drive, \$3,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3050 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,783,000, 10-26-12
- 120 Promintory Lane, \$8,000,000, 6660 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 04-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,060,000, 11-01-02
- 848 Santa Maria Way, \$3,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3174 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-24-00
- 373 Shire Oaks Court, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 1578 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-14-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 10-09-20
- 3551 South Silver Springs Road, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-14-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,545,000, 06-03-02
- 3439 St Marys Road, \$1,721,000, 3 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-15-21
- 3342 Sweet Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2219 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 07-07-98
- 3 Wallabi Court, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2688 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 05-24-18
- 3368 Walnut Lane, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 2346 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-15-21
- 1004 Woodbury Road #301, \$2,345,000, 3 Bdrms, 2931 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,022,500, 05-04-16
- 3265 Wooded Creek Lane, \$1,749,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 11-03-20
- MORAGA**
- 1964 Ascot Drive, \$580,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-14-21,
Previous Sale: \$430,000, 07-10-06
- 1965 Ascot Drive #3, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-06-21
- 1988 Ascot Drive #A, \$735,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$695,000, 07-23-19
- 2016 Ascot Drive #B4, \$802,000, 3 Bdrms, 1682 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 04-06-21
- 754 Augusta Drive, \$1,515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1556 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-11-17

... continued on Page D10

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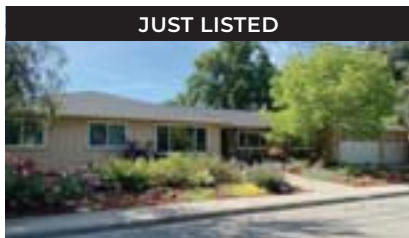


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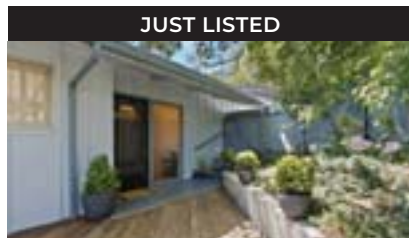


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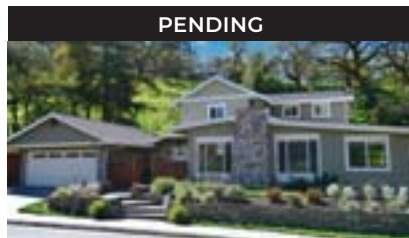
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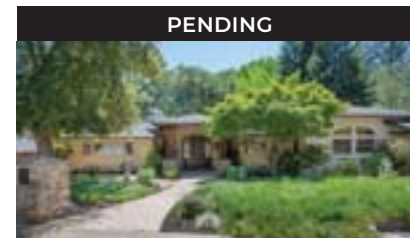
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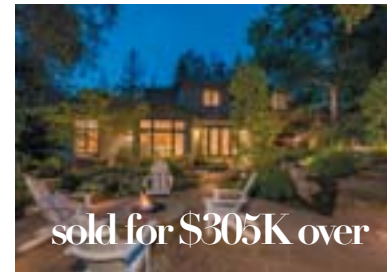
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The shocking truth about GFCI outlets

By Jim Hurley

In the third season of “Goliath” (a somewhat noir series, but worth watching if you haven’t), Diana and Wade Blackwood, portrayed by Amy Brenneman and Dennis Quaid, play an intense game where one of them sits in the bathtub full of water and the other throws in a toaster. Apparently, the thrill is in not knowing if the toaster is plugged in when it hits the water. Of course, I have a little trouble suspending disbelief because I know that building codes require GFCI outlets in any bathroom, kitchen, and outdoor area where water may be accessible. The submerged toaster would trip the GFCI outlet in the blink of an eye, cutting off power to the outlet, and no one gets electrocuted.

The Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet is designed to save lives by preventing electrical shock. The GFCI device monitors the current passing through the outlet and automatically shuts off, when it detects an unrestricted flow.

By GFCI Device, I mean that odd outlet you see in homes with the buttons that say “TEST” and “RESET.” A GFCI outlet can also be installed to protect additional outlets connected in series further down the wire. But wait, there’s more! A GFCI Circuit Breaker could be installed in your electrical panel to protect every outlet on that circuit.

Hard to believe? Here is how it works: Your house outlets are wired as sets of circuits. Each circuit is attached to a breaker in your electrical panel. The wire goes through the wall to the first outlet in the circuit and on to the next like a daisy chain. By installing a GFCI breaker in the panel, all the outlets are under the super sensitive protection of that breaker. If one outlet pops the breaker, all the other outlets are shut off until you reset the breaker. This is great protection from shocks, but the downside is a trip to the electrical panel if it pops.

Some people install a GFCI outlet at every receptacle near water, but one outlet can actually protect other outlets on the same circuit. The outlet has two sets of screws for connecting wires, one is marked Load, where the power comes in, and the other is Line, where the wire and power continue to the next outlet. If additional outlets are added on the Line side of the GFCI outlet, the outlet will pop when any of those outlets sense an overload. In this case, you need to find the GFCI outlet that triggered to reset the rest of the outlets.

Here is where it can get tricky. One client called to say their garage door had stopped working. It turns out the outlet in the ceiling was protected by a GFCI outlet on a wall that was concealed by storage boxes. It took a while to find that. Another client had GFCI protection in her upstairs master bath, as required by code, but the GFCI outlet was located downstairs in the garage. That took a very long search to find.

The protection offered by the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter is wonderful, until you find yourself searching for the place to restore power when it has popped. If an outlet has stopped working and none of your breakers have tripped, you need to find and reset the GFCI outlet somewhere in the middle. Though I do recommend to my clients that they put additional outlets on one GFCI if the protected outlets are in the same room. Or possibly, two bathrooms if they are near each other. The bottom line is, I never recommend you make toast while soaking in a tub.



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



63 La Cuesta, Orinda - \$2,900,000

10 El Sueno, Orinda - \$3,707,000

17 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda
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519 Miner Road, Orinda - \$8,000,000

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- 46 El Gavilan, Orinda \$1,825,000
- 17 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda \$2,450,000 (pending)

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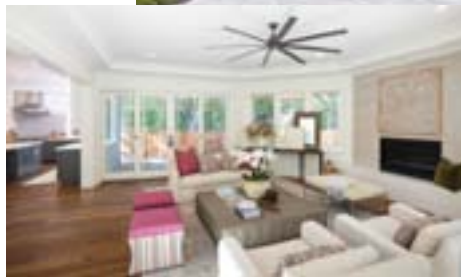


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property offers an ultra-private mecca for outdoor entertaining and living under gorgeous towering oak trees. Additional features include a neutral palette of colors, smooth textured walls, dual pane windows, shiplap accent walls, high ceilings, and gorgeous crown molding. Bocce ball court and large pool/pool house site not pictured above.



Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle

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For more information:
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 44 Corliss Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2663 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-15-21
- 804 Country Club Drive, \$1,160,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$742,500, 05-09-16
- 738 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,861,000, 4 Bdrms, 2261 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$131,500, 01-01-78
- 131 Donald Drive, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2453 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-16-21
- 2145 Donald Drive #4, \$531,000, 2 Bdrms, 1190 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 06-14-02
- 141 Greenbriar, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2388 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$644,000, 12-04-00
- 5 Hansen Court, \$1,002,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 04-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$554,500, 06-22-04
- 7 Natividad Lane, \$1,015,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 04-16-21,
Previous Sale: \$860,000, 09-04-19
- 5 Newberry Place, \$2,315,000, 5 Bdrms, 2795 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,655,000, 04-17-15
- 1744 Saint Andrews Drive, \$925,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$120,000, 09-01-77
- 1818 School Street, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-06-21
- 115 Wallace Circle, \$1,213,000, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-09-21
- 118 Wallace Circle, \$1,213,500, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-08-21

ORINDA

- 55 Berkeley Avenue, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2995 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 08-05-19
- 73 Brookwood Road #35, \$581,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-07-21
- 21 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,765,000, 4 Bdrms, 3457 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 06-07-13
- 146 Camino Sobrante, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2535 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,095,100, 12-15-16
- 32 Claremont Avenue, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1095 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$759,000, 06-24-13
- 5 Dale Court, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1928 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-13-21
- 33 Dias Dorados, \$4,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 6244 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 04-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$3,500,000, 08-21-13
- 56 Dolores Way, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2105 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 07-29-14
- 17 Donald Drive, \$1,815,000, 4 Bdrms, 2433 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-06-21
- 34 Donna Maria Way, \$1,757,000, 3 Bdrms, 1969 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-08-21
- 47 Estabueno Drive, \$1,779,500, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-08-21
- 52 Evergreen Drive, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2744 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-09-21
- 9 Fleetwood Court, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3075 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,327,500, 08-05-16
- 22 Greenwood Court, \$2,655,000, 5 Bdrms, 3319 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 07-21-99
- 31 Honey Hill Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-14-21,
Previous Sale: \$140,000, 06-15-05
- 129 Lombardy Lane, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2550 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 04-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,045,000, 06-03-15
- 519 Miner Road, \$8,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 6400 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 04-05-21,
Previous Sale: \$3,000,000, 05-03-13
- 177 Moraga Way, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2514 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 04-07-21,
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 07-07-14
- 116 Ravenhill Road, \$1,454,000, 2 Bdrms, 2141 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 09-18-18
- 28 Tara Road, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 2112 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-11-07
- 32 Via Farallon, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 1757 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-09-21
- 328 Village View Court, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 04-20-19
- 24 Watchwood Court, \$1,715,000, 3 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 04-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 04-15-04

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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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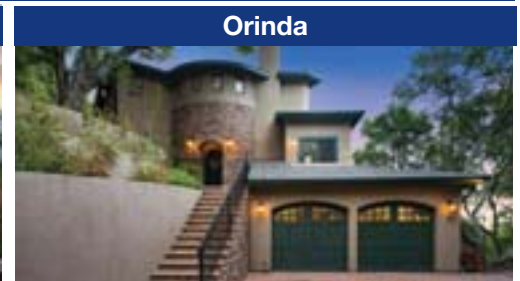


Orinda

69 Windy Creek Way \$2,595,000

4 BD / 4.5 BA. Stylish and pristine w/views! Enjoy the Wilder amenities. pool, clubhouse, gym and more!

Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390
 69windycreek.com Lic #01771736

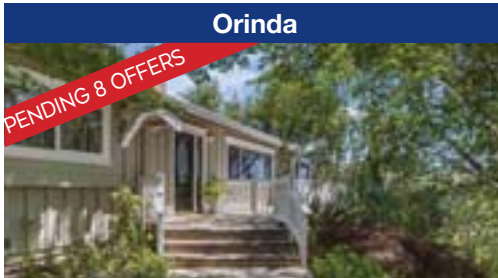


Orinda

10 La Madronal \$1,899,000

4BD/3.5 BA plus versatile room. Stunning Views, outdoor kitchen, fireplace and firepit.

Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
 www.10LaMadronal.com Lic#01390784



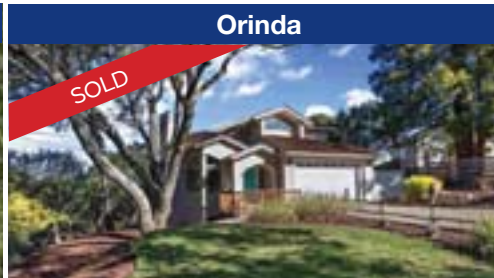
Orinda

PENDING 8 OFFERS

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
 3totterdelct.com Lic#01480008 / 00959101



Orinda

SOLD

40 Camino Del Diablo \$1,730,000

First time on the market! Move right in. Fabulous Views.

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 40caminodeldiabo.com Lic#01272382



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



Lafayette

PENDING 9 OFFERS

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

SOLD

921 Dewing Avenue \$1,075,000

2 BD / 2.5 BA / +1,300 sq. ft. Sun-filled beautiful 2nd story, lovely views, vaulted ceilings, prime location.

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



Lafayette

1061 Orchard Rd. \$1,075,000

Carmel Cottage walk to town and Bart, plus a detached studio.

Kelly Crawford 925-998-5599
 Bev Arnold 925-788-8516
 Lic#01327015 / 01154860



Moraga

SOLD

1009 Larch Ave \$1,249,000

3 BD / 2 BA
 Represented Buyers

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



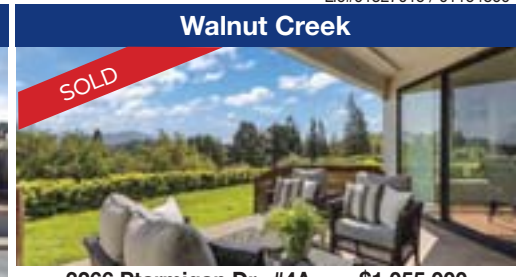
Concord

SOLD 4 OFFERS

1816 Camino Estrada \$789,000

Represented Buyer

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



Walnut Creek

SOLD

3266 Ptarmigan Dr., #4A \$1,055,000

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
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Wildfire protection through landscaping



Photo Cynthia Brian
Add gravel near a wooden porch to reduce flammability.



Agave is drought tolerant. All parts are toxic, except the flowers.

... continued from Page D1

Characteristics of highly flammable flora

- o Dry and dead leaves, twigs, branches
- o Abundant, dense foliage
- o Needles
- o Low moisture foliage
- o Peeling, loose bark
- o Gummy sap
- o Leathery, dry, or aromatic leaves
- o Content of terpene, oils, or resin
- o Dry uncut grasses

Characteristics of reasonably fire-resistant plants?

- o Hardy, slow-growing plants that don't produce litter or thatch.
- o Drought tolerant natives with internal high-water content.
Generally, but not always, California natives are more tolerant of fire and deer.
- o Trees with thick bark that restrict the growth of invasive shrub species and hardwood trees such as walnut, cherry, maple, and poplar are less flammable. Deciduous trees and shrubs are more fire-resistant because they have higher moisture content when in leaf, lower fuel volume when dormant, and usually do not contain flammable oils.
- o Supple, moist leaves with little to no sap or resin residue.
- o Low growing ground covers.
- o Bulbs with dried leaves cut to the ground.

... continued on Page D14

SOLD OFF MARKET

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traci.miller@compass.com



Erin Schroeder
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erin.schroeder@compass.com

Thinking about selling your home?
Give us a call.



114 Meadow Lane, Orinda
5 BD | 3.5 BA | \$2,500,000



887 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek
4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$2,100,000

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COMPASS

Tom Stack
REAL ESTATE



PENDING
9 OFFERS

3776 Mosswood Dr, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,395,000

"I'll treat you like a Rock Star"



SOLD
3 OFFERS

1009 Larch Ave, Moraga
Represented Buyers

COLDWELL
BANKER
REALTY
BRE #01501769

925.878.9964
TomStack.com
Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com



SOLD
9% OVER ASK

826 Skywood Rd, Lafayette
Offered at \$2,495,000



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Wildfire protection through landscaping



Photos Cynthia Brian

Angel Face Roses surrounded by flagstone and gravel for fire-resistance.

... continued from Page D12

What can you do now to create a more fire-resistant landscape?

- o Include pavers, bricks, pavement, gravel, rocks, dry creek beds, fountains, ponds, pools, and lawns.
- o Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground with a low sap and resin content.
- o Plant the right plant in the correct location. Leave space between plants.
- o Minimize the inclusion of evergreen trees within 30 feet of structures. Clear the understory. Keep trees 20 feet away from chimneys.
- o Remove invasive species or swaths of flammable plants including ivy, rosemary, broom, coyote brush, chamise and juniper.
- o Keep mulch moist. Create zones of rock, brick or gravel. Bark and leaves are not mulches recommended near structures.
- o Prune trees 6-10 feet above the ground to hinder fire laddering.
- o Keep appropriate clearance to reduce the threat of burning embers from decorative features such as gazebos, fences, sheds, porches and junk areas.
- o Irrigate and maintain all flora, lawns and hillsides. Clover, groundcovers, and grasses that are kept low and green are excellent alternatives.
- o Due to soil erosion, bare ground is not recommended.



Strawberries planted as a low ground cover would reduce ignition.

Prone to Ignite Plants

If you have these specimens in your garden, prune and maintain appropriately or eliminate them.

Acacia	Ivy	Palm
Arborvitae or Thuya	Cypress	Pine
Bamboo	Eucalyptus	Rosemary
Greasewood or	Juniper	Cedar
Chamise	Burning Bush or	Douglas Fir
French, Spanish,	Gas plant	Coyote Bush
and Scotch Broom	Pampas Grass	Pride of Madeira

General Rules of Fire Safety

Heed the checklist from our local fire departments to create a defensible space around your home. Follow fire district recommendations:

- o Prevent embers from igniting your home by clearing leaves, needles, and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- o Mow grasses and weeds.
- o Keep your garden watered.
- o Prune tree limbs to keep the lowest branches 6-10 feet from the ground.
- o Reduce "fire fuel laddering" by not allowing bushes or trees to touch one another.
- o Keep combustible materials 15-30 feet away from structures.
- o Maintain your property and be alert for any fire danger.

Weed abatement must be completed by June 1. Get out there and get your landscape more fire-resistant. We all have a responsibility to one another to help keep our community from experiencing a wildfire.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Be fire safe.



Rose cuttings from February are now sprouting and ready to be planted.



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.

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ORINDA



New Listing!

16 Fallen Leaf Terrace
Traditional 5 bed/ 4.5 bath home w/ on .55 acres in Orinda Downs, one of Orinda's favorite neighborhoods. **\$2,795,000**

ORINDA



48 Oak Road
Custom 3+ bed/ 3 bath 3594 sqft home on .82 acre lot. Master suite includes fireplace, reading area, & private deck. **\$2,395,000**

ORINDA



43 Camino Don Miguel
Luxuriously developed 4 bed + office/ 3 bath home w/ spectacular views across the Orinda Country Club valley. **\$1,975,000**

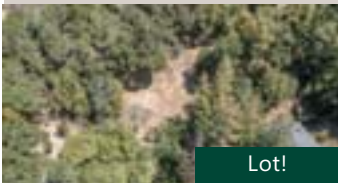
ORINDA



New Listing!

1 Crane Court
Charming 4 bed/ 3 bath mostly-single-level traditional home nestled in the heart of desirable Sleepy Hollow. **\$1,950,000**

ORINDA



Lot!

23 Kittiwake Road
Private residential .43 acre lot in one of Bay Area's most sought after neighborhoods. Close to Highway 24 & downtown. **\$725,000**

ORINDA



67 Brookwood Road # 3
Rarely available 2 bed/ 1 bath first floor condo in charming Orinda Oaks, close to BART, shops, theater & restaurants. **\$525,000**

LAFAYETTE



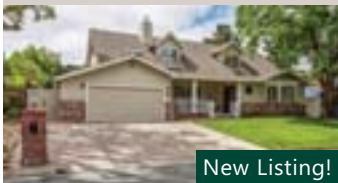
9 Mountain View Lane
Custom 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on 9.93 private acres w/ views of the Lafayette Reservoir, pool, & surrounding hills. **\$7,990,000**

LAFAYETTE



1207 Upper Happy Valley Road
Contemporary 5 bed/ 3.5 bath home on park-like setting w/ views from every room. Minutes to downtown, Hwy 24, & schools. **\$2,849,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3175 Cordova Way
Expanded 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home offers a generous 3234 sqft & is set on a quiet street of mature trees & white picket fences. **\$1,899,000**

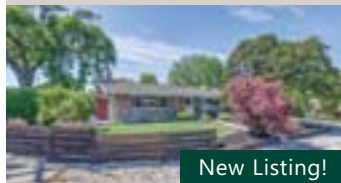
LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

1039 Buchan Drive
Single level updated 4 bed + office/ 2 bath Ranch home w/ spacious, flowing floor plan & plenty of natural light. **\$1,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

851 Avalon Court
Adorable 3 bed/ 2 bath home w/ bonus room, putting green & large bbq patio. Steps from award-winning schools! **\$1,395,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3364 Mildred Lane
Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath Rancher w/ detached bonus room in desirable Lafayette Valley Estates neighborhood. **\$1,295,000**

WALNUT CREEK



26 Alder Avenue
Single level 5 bed/ 2 bath 2157 sqft home on stunning .46 acre parcel w/ majestic redwoods & oversized front yard. **\$1,495,000**

OAKLAND



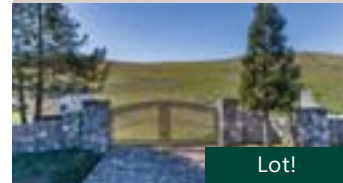
3576 Brunell Drive
Renovated 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home in Oakland's popular Woodminister w/ views of the Bay & Downtown Oakland. **\$1,349,000**

ALAMO



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

LIVERMORE



Lot!

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

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