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Top left: Moraga Commons Park bustles with activity; lower left: Moraga police officers talk with skateboarders. Upper right: Patrons enjoy coffee and food on Lafayette Circle; lower right: Orinda Farmers' Market bustles with activity.

Photos V. Kochan, S. O'Doherty and J. Wake

Lamorinda makes slow return to a sense of normal

By Vera Kochan, Sora O'Doherty, and Jennifer Wake

With June 15 anticipated to be the marker for a return to a sense of normal for most Californians, signs that the world is reverting back to familiar times are being seen throughout the three Lamorinda communities.

Tutu's, The Cooperage, and American Kitchen were replete with diners – both inside and out – and Papillon in La Fiesta Square and the Coffee Shop tables on Lafayette Circle were brimming with patrons June 4, with sounds of laughter and chatter filling the air as residents enjoyed each other's company and even shared occasional hugs as they greeted one another on the street.

Moraga Commons Park was bustling with visitors enjoying a warm, sunny morning June 3 with a little bit more "freedom" than people have been used to for over a year. From toddlers to older citizens, the park welcomed the types of activity that it was built to handle.

Kids amused themselves in the sandbox and on the playground equipment, and could be heard squealing with delight while their parents sat nearby catching up with each other's news. Every picnic table in sight was occupied with lunch-goers or craft activities. Boys played a casual game of baseball on the shaded lawn. Mothers had their babies in strollers out for walks on the paved paths. Elderly folks strolled along through the park at a leisurely pace, while joggers weaved their way through young and old alike, adding to the joyful

sights and sounds of returning normalcy.

The June 5 Orinda Farmers' Market was quieter than usual, with shoppers choosing to continue wearing masks, but lunchtime was busy at the food stalls and live music was back. Many in-person openings and summer events were announced the week of June 1, including the reopening of Orinda Library Gallery (see story Page A7), the East Bay Open Studios in-person event (see story Page B2), the return of the Taste of Lafayette (see story Page A3), and plans for Hacienda Nights to start up again at the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga July 15.

As Lamorinda awaits final details surrounding the June 15 lifting of restrictions, mask-wearers throughout the three towns are a visual reminder to all that we're not out of the woods just yet.

But, oh, we're getting there!

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Split city council OK's Orinda parade on the Fourth of July

By Sora O'Doherty

In the face of Fourth of July celebrations being canceled by nearly every nearby municipality in the East Bay, the Orinda City Council voted to allow the annual parade to go on this year. Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Inga Miller voted against the resolution, which allowed it to pass by a majority of one.

The event will be a scaled down version, allowing for the parade and some music in the Community Park, but no food will be purveyed and the event will be subject to the new guidelines expected to be issued by the CDC and Contra Costa County on June 15. While it is expected that

there will not be a mask mandate, masks will be encouraged, and the Orinda Association hopes to sell bannanas with parade-associated designs. Masks will also be available at the event, for those who don't bring their own, and decorated masks will be distributed to all children.

There was discussion about what the usual attendance has been in the past, and what attendance might be expected this year. Concerns were expressed that if the Orinda parade is the only public event in the East Bay area, it might attract larger crowds of visitors from outside the city.

The resolution was passed at the city council meeting on June 1, which was the last date that would allow for

the parade to go forward. The council did not have the luxury to wait longer in order to see exactly what the new requirements will be. Orinda Association President Bill Waterman and board of directors member Diane Lautz attended the city council meeting to discuss plans for the parade.

Former Orinda Association president Carlos Baltozano tried to speak on the matter, but was prevented by technical difficulties at the Zoom meeting. Latika Malkani, working as a captain with the OA on the parade, said that safety has been a priority measure, with plans to double volunteers to maintain social distancing. Malkani said that while she is concerned about the risk of community

transmission, there have already been a large number of community events in Orinda, including graduation ceremonies and parties. "Orinda has been out, but we are not seeing a rise in infections," she said. She added that Orinda has an extremely high vaccination rate, with over 80% having received at least one shot, which will be higher by July 4.

Shannon Pedroni said, "It would be so wonderful to have a Fourth of July parade this year. We have been so careful; we'll come masked and keep apart. I would feel comfortable and confident," she said, while her 6-year-old daughter told the council, "I want a Fourth of July parade!"

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COMPASS



City continues fight to keep local control on housing development

By Jennifer Wake

In an effort to retain local control over housing development in the city of Lafayette, council members and staff have entrusted the help of Townsend Public Affairs State Capitol Director Casey Elliott to lobby for local control and to engage with Sacramento legislators as they push bills forward at the state capitol.

According to a staff report presented by City Manager Niroop Srivatsa at the May 10 city council meeting, since 2019, Townsend has assisted Lafayette in developing positions on over two dozen bills and participating in lobbying efforts to amend others. "This work, conducted in partnership with other cities," she noted in the report, "has

resulted in amendments to several bills and the defeat of others like SB 50 which failed to garner the required votes on the Senate floor."

Also in 2019, in reaction to the CASA Compact – the Committee to House the Bay Area, convened in mid-2017 by MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to tackle the region's housing crisis – and the resulting housing bills, the 19 cities in Contra Costa County came together in an unprecedented move to draft and adopt a countywide Housing and Policy Framework, Srivatsa stated.

"The Framework promotes a balanced and nuanced approach to addressing the housing shortage by considering existing resources and constraints, location of

jobs, and availability of transportation and transit. It emphasizes the importance of a balanced approach to regional planning and the need to consider housing in the context of jobs, the transportation infrastructure and the environment," she said.

The city maintains a strong partnership with its legislative representatives Sen. Steve Glazer and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. The council also created a legislation committee composed of two council members to work with Townsend and the city manager on legislative matters, Srivatsa said.

Bills the city opposes in-

clude Senate Bill 6 (the Neighborhood Homes Act involving housing in commercial zones), SB 9 (which would change the approval process of accessory dwelling units), SB 10 (which involves rezoning in transit-rich or jobs-rich areas) and Assembly Bill 989 (which would create a Housing Accountability Committee to review appeals of affordable housing projects denied by local government). On June 1 Elliott gave the legislation committee an overview of many of these bills and addressed the timelines involved in the proposed legislation. "We will lose a little bit of time as the legislature takes up the budget," said El-

liott, who has been limited predominantly to phone calls and Zoom meetings with legislators due to COVID restrictions. "The majority of the bills will be after June 14, so council can take action."

Mayor Susan Candell, who sits on the legislation committee with Council Member Cam Burks, noted that Glazer, who abstained, and five other senators "had our backs" when voting against SB 9, which was recently approved by the Senate 28-6. "That was not an easy vote," she said.

Elliott plans to report on the proposed housing legislation at the June 14 city council meeting.

To view a summary of proposed bills, visit:
https://lafayette.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=5523&meta_id=132053

Council approves reflective beacon alert installation at St. Perpetua crosswalk

By Lou Fancher

At the May 24 Lafayette City Council meeting, consensus was reached regarding the addition of a reflective beacon alert and radar speed sign at a crosswalk near St. Perpetua School on Hamlin Road. After a roughly 60-minute discussion that included a report from Engi-

neering and Public Works Director Mike Moran and public comments, council members voted unanimously to approve funding the project with \$45,000 drawn from the city's General Fund. The council also approved adding to the agenda for the upcoming June 14 meeting consideration of establishing a proposed 15 mph speed zone in

the area.

Concern for schoolchildren using a crosswalk at a blind curve with a steep downslope approach on the road drove the community's request for additional safety mitigation measures and the council's decision to support and join in funding the project. A recent study showed that 1,850 crossings occurred



Photo provided

Location of proposed Advance Warning Sign for RRFB (driving up the hill on Hamlin Road)

daily during pre-COVID school days, not including people crossing to attend activities at St. Perpetua Church or to walk in the neighborhood. Officials at the school and church and

local residents requested the council partner the safety mitigation effort with approval and funding of half of the project's projected costs.

... continued on Page A8

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www.lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org

Lafayette Homeowners Council Position on the Housing Element of the General Plan Update – May 2021

The Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) recognizes and supports over 50 neighborhood homeowners' groups as well as individual homeowners within the City of Lafayette.

Whether condominium, town home, or single family home, the homeowners within the City form the backbone of residents who have chosen to live, participate, and invest in their neighborhoods and our community.

Our residents have chosen to live in Lafayette because of its natural beauty, its many amenities and quality of life available to all residents. We believe a variety of housing types and neighborhood choices are part of what makes Lafayette a very special place.

The LHC supports the creation of both owner-occupied and rental housing units available to people of all economic levels.

The LHC strongly supports inclusiveness and diversity in Lafayette, which makes Lafayette a better and more vibrant place to live.

The LHC highly values protecting our open space, green hills, protected ridge lines, parks & trails, great schools and vibrant downtown commercial district. We support increasing the quantity and quality of these community assets.

The LHC supports City efforts and those by individuals and groups to limit state control of land use decisions. We believe in local control.

The City faces the challenge of meeting State mandated addition of 2,114 housing units within Lafayette. This includes the addition of affordable housing units as well as market rate units. The LHC supports and encourages the City to explore ways to reduce this excessively high number of units.

Our downtown district with its pedestrian and bicycle access to our commercial corridor, a variety of amenities, and a BART station is where the LHC recommends the majority of the new housing units be built and is most logically suited. This can provide a greater diversity of housing types, both rental and owner occupied. We see the appeal of this area growing as housing units are built. It is important to note that 943 of the 2,114 units must be produced in Low Income and Very Low Income

categories which can be built by developers using economies of scale. Therefore, apartment buildings, condominiums, and town homes are the only way to realistically create such a high number of affordable units and it makes sense to locate these units in or near the downtown core.

Outside the downtown and east/west corridor, we are a town of hills and valleys with limited access and vehicle traffic using curvy two lane, narrow roads. Several of these areas have also been identified as high-fire danger zones or are surrounded by them. Housing in these neighborhoods is mostly single family homes. This type of housing provides quieter, semirural neighborhoods that many residents desire and are part of their lifestyle choice. We support the development of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) housing in these areas but believe that multi-unit housing would significantly change the character and feel of these neighborhoods, exacerbate the access problems, and increase exposure to fire and safety risks – all without providing for the affordable housing that is required.

While not perfect, the current Terraces project is supported by the LHC because it not only provides 315 new housing units, but it also designates 63 of those units for affordable housing. The LHC also supports reasonable development of the BART parking lots. While we have concerns for development close to a high-fire danger zone area, development of this area would provide housing types close to the amenities of our downtown core area. We believe significant parking for both residents and commuters would also have to be provided as part of any development plan.

People generally have a choice of where to live and the LHC supports the need for development of increased housing stock for all income levels. But we need to be careful about changing with a broad stroke the character of our city and neighborhoods. Not all areas should try to be converted to mini-cities. Suburbs like Lafayette exist for many good reasons and should be nurtured for all they are and provide.

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First of Lafayette's large events already a sold-out success



Photo J. Wake

Postino will be one of 33 participants in this year's sold-out Taste of Lafayette event.

By Lou Fancher

Liberated by the lifting June 15 of California's COVID-related public safety capacity regulations and color codes restricting large gatherings, the 2021 Taste of Lafayette is already a sellout affair. Tickets to this year's annual restaurant stroll were snatched in record time as has been true in past years, but event host and sponsor Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invites community members without tickets to participate in the celebration. Anyone can purchase food from any downtown restaurant and join with Taste ticket holders and others at Plaza Park on June 22 to enjoy free live music and a no-host bar from 5 to 8 p.m.

At the May 24 Lafayette City Council meeting, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson told council members the popular gathering qualifies as a "Mega Event." Defined by the State of California and Contra Costa County as any indoor gathering with more than 5,000 people or outdoor events with more than 10,000 people in attendance, Taste of Lafayette will comply with mega event safety recommendations. To follow current standards issued before and beyond June 15 by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA), certain restrictions will apply.

Lifson said indoor events require that people show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test taken within the last 48-72 hours. Although a vaccine or test "passport" is not required to attend outdoor mega events, he said the Lafayette dining stroll would operate on "the honor system." The Chamber and its members encourage people, especially people not yet or not able to be vaccinated and

children under age 12, to wear masks. "We feel we can do our event and do it safely," Lifson told the council.

Note that activities operating under California's Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart are subject to shifting Center for Disease Control or California Department of Public Health masking and other requirements, so checking the CDC website for updates is recommended.

Other than the masking recommendation and reminders to practice safety protocols when parking and moving through the downtown core, the evening is open for unrestricted celebration. A promising sign that the community is eager for relief and regaining a sense of "normal" after 15 months of lockdown and dining restrictions is the number of participating establishments. Approximately 33 restaurants and business are participating. Among the restaurants and bars are longtime favorites such as Uncle Yu's, Postino, Metro Lafayette, Mangia Ristorante & Pizzeria, Amphora Lafayette, RoundUp Saloon, RÈVE and others. "Intermediate" or "newer" entries include Locanda Positano, Batch & Brine, Amarin Thai, Vitality Bowls and many more.

At Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, which occupies a prominent corner at the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road just opposite Lafayette Plaza, harpist Wendy Tamis will perform. Other music will include the Tune Riders (Plaza Park) Pat Nevins (between The Coop and Lafayette Public House), Mari Sitzman (Lavash Mediterranean Restaurant), UnConcord (in the Mercantile near Social Bird), M. Fearless (RoundUp Saloon) and Flute duo, Gold Coast Chamber Players, in a location to be announced.

Lafayette School District warns seniors about phone scam

Lafayette School District Superintendent Richard Whitmore said in a June 3 announcement that the district is working with the Lafayette Police Department regarding telephone scammers who are calling local seniors with phone numbers created to look like they are coming from LafSD. "To be clear, the district is not making these calls," Whitmore noted.

Called "spoofing," scammers change a telephone

number or email to disguise the actual source, making it seem like a trusted source. These calls or emails typically originate from other countries, making catching these scammers incredibly difficult. Community members are reminded to never provide any sensitive information to an unknown source. To report a scam, contact the Lafayette Police Department at (925) 283-3680. - J. Wake



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 21, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, June 16, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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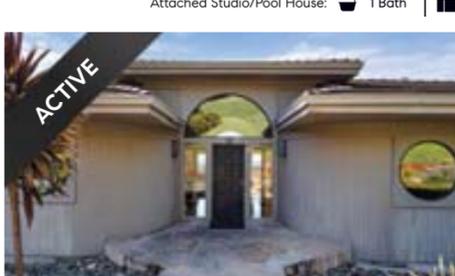

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Moraga amends employment agreement with town manager

By Vera Kochan

The town council was tasked with approving and authorizing the mayor to execute the third amendment of the employment agreement between Moraga and Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg during the May 26 council meeting.

The initial agreement was dated March 12, 2018, and provided Battenberg with an annual salary of \$197,000. It was agreed that an annual performance review would take place every April.

On May 23 of that year, the council approved a resolution authorizing a first amendment to the agreement, which would

eliminate the town's payment of a portion of Battenberg's required California Public Employees Retirement System contributions in favor of increasing her salary by 4.58%.

A second amendment, effective March 12, 2019, increased Battenberg's annual salary by 8.5% to a rate comparable with other city managers such as those from Pleasant Hill, Lafayette and Orinda. An April 2020 performance review was conducted by the town council, but no salary adjustments were made at the time.

In April of this year, an ad hoc subcommittee, consisting of Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke

and Council Member Renata Sos, met with Battenberg to evaluate and negotiate the upcoming salary compensation, once again taking into consideration neighboring municipality benefits. A salary increase of 3% was agreed upon based on the town manager's performance over the past two years.

According to town attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon's staff report, part of the consideration was founded on Battenberg's "strong leadership, competency in achieving, and exceeding her defined responsibilities, resulting in significant benefit to the town, its operations, and finances."

High praise was given for Battenberg's detailed understanding of the town's overall financial situation and implementation of tracking procedures; strategic addressing of the town's infrastructural needs; reduction of Moraga's interest payments by \$175,000; participation in the successful negotiation agreement with East Bay Municipal Utility District to stabilize the hillside near Canyon Bridge at no cost to the town; and launching of a staff training program with regards to specialized work, thereby cutting costs of hiring outside contractors.

The town council unanimously (with Mayor Mike Mc-

Cluer absent) to approve the third amendment to the employment agreement. Battenberg's adjusted annual salary will be \$247,983, which also includes cost of living adjustments for the years 2020 and 2021.

"It's a pleasure working for the town of Moraga," stated Battenberg. "It's a lot of work, but we're seeing great things happen that makes me proud. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge each and every one of the department directors for their work." She went on to thank all of the additional staff and the council members.

Town continues long-standing dispatch services with county sheriff's office

By Vera Kochan

When the Moraga Police Department was established in 1979, the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department was contracted for dispatching services, which also included 911 and non-emergency services.

In 1987, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff was contracted by the town to perform police dispatching services above and beyond



Photo Vera Kochan

what EBRPD provided. A main benefit was that both Lafayette and Orinda police departments were on the same radio frequency and channel as MPD, often times providing a tri-city assist in emergencies. Additionally, the sheriff's office constantly upgrades its technology and is known for its excellent service to Moraga.

"The Office of the Sheriff maintains a professional dispatch center at their headquarters in Martinez," stated MPD Chief Jon King in his staff report during the May 26 town council meeting. "The center is staffed 24/7 with trained dispatchers and overseen by a sheriff's lieutenant. The dispatch center is also directly connected with the county's Community Warning System (CWS) to expedite emergency community messaging during a disaster or other type of emergency." King also said that the county keeps MPD connected with statewide law enforcement telecommunication networks.

To cast an even wider net of communications, the sheriff's office also provides dispatch services for Pittsburgh, Oakley, Danville and Blackhawk. Other beneficiaries of their services are Animal Control, the Probation Department, and the District Attorney's Office.

During orientation training for new dispatchers, trainees are mandated to pay a visit to the various areas that they serve. King has been informed that the dispatch staff loves providing

service to Moraga.

The town council approved a new four-year agreement contract with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 absent (Mayor Mike McCluer). The new agreement is not to exceed \$1 million. Currently the rate is approximately \$174,000 annually, but could potentially rise to \$250,000 depending on Dispatch Center costs or town activity. "Historically, these costs have increased at a reasonable rate and have actually decreased in some years due to changes in the level of use," King explained. "If the town were to establish its own dispatch center and bring these services in-house, the costs would far exceed the current expenditure. If the town were to seek services from another agency, MPD officers would not be on the same radio channel as officers from the adjoining agencies, losing critical operational advantage and potentially decreasing the safety of our community and level of service to residents." The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget includes \$184,000 toward Contract Services – Dispatch Services for police.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg informed the council, "One thing the chief doesn't tell you is, he does a lot of behind-the-scenes work with donuts and other visits to the dispatchers, so we're on really good terms with the dispatch service."

King replied, "Anything I can do, to ensure the very best service to our town."

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A Saint Mary’s College fixture – Brother Mel Anderson, FSC, passes away at 92



Brother Mel Anderson in 2011

Photo Andy Scheck

By Vera Kochan

The Saint Mary’s College Community received a formal notification on May 22 from President James A. Donahue stating: “It is with heavy heart and deep sadness that I inform you that our beloved Brother Mel An-

deron, FSC, who was a Christian Brother for over 67 years and a devoted member of our Saint Mary’s community, passed away this morning.”

Born Harold Fabian Anderson in Oakland on Sept 28, 1928, he seemed destined to be linked with the name

Saint Mary’s throughout much of his life. Anderson attended Berkeley’s Saint Mary’s College High School in the 1940s; received a BA from Moraga’s SMC in 1952; was a director/principal/teacher at his high school alma mater in the 1960s; served 28 years as SMC’s president from 1969-1997; was Director of Special Projects back at his former high school during 2003, before returning to SMC in 2004 as residence hall director/instructor until his retirement in 2019.

During Anderson’s tenure as president, he was considered a mover and shaker with regards to policy changes and educational standards. A formerly all-male campus, he turned the 900-student facility into a co-educational college that grew to over 4,000 members in 1970. Anderson once wrote, “It was my conviction that men and women should share the same curriculum and classroom. Men and women should mature together. This way, they may get to know one another better on a higher level and make better choices for a spouse, for the future, for

having children, etc.”

Anderson also initiated the Collegiate Seminar – whereby a small group of students and a professor sit around a table and talk about classic works. In 1974, he established SMC’s Graduate and Extended Ed programs; oversaw dedication of the Hearst Art Gallery in 1977 and the Brother Cornelius Art classrooms in 1979; and was involved in the 1996 completion of Garaventa Hall – all this, while living on campus in one of the residence halls.

As if he wasn’t busy enough, Anderson managed to write a book entitled, “Years of Yearning: A Memoir of Saint Mary’s College 1969-1997,” which was released in 2011. The book chronicles his 28 years at the helm of SMC, including the many changes that involved political, financial, philosophical, cultural, pragmatic, liberal and conservative complexities.

During a January 2011 SMC interview, Anderson stated, “As a student of Saint Mary’s College, I was a philosophy major. That was a great help in organizing my thoughts in teaching; in

mapping out a plan; and eventually to assume an administrative position both in high school and then eventually at the college. My personal education gave me a fundamental, basic background that carried me all the way through life.”

Anderson’s Funeral Liturgy was held, fittingly, in SMC’s Main Chapel on June 1, with only close family and friends in attendance in order to comply with social distancing restrictions. However, the service was conducted via Livestream for public viewing. He was remembered for his generosity, leadership, kindness, caring, wittiness, inspiration and fairness. One mourner recalled, “He was fundamentally a humble man.”

Anderson passed away at Mont La Salle in Napa on the same day that SMC’s “Commencement” 2021 graduation ceremonies were taking place. The coincidence was noted during his funeral. The night before, he was asked by a nurse’s aide what his favorite song was, to which Anderson replied in a booming voice, “The Bells of Saint Mary’s!”



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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 joins in proclaiming June LGBTQ+ Pride Month

By Sora O'Doherty

Declaring that it is important for communities to both show support for residents and stand in opposition to intolerant treatment and discrimination of lesbian women, gay men, bisexual people, transgender and questioning people, the city

council declared the month of June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the city.

The proclamation says that Orinda has a diverse LGBTQ+ community, including many current and past residents, students, city employees and business owners who contribute to the enrichment of the city. The city joined states, municipalities,

businesses, educational and religious institutions across the United States in recognizing and celebrating June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Flying the rainbow flag throughout the month of June further symbolizes the celebration of diversity and support for the LGBTQ+ community, according to the proclamation; the flag has

been a symbol of pride in the LGBTQ+ social movement since the 1970s.

In signing the proclamation, Mayor Amy Worth invited everyone to “reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding.”



Orinda garden club again joins Bouquets to Art at the De Young Museum



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Garden Club members created an arrangement to complement this small but ornate chair from Ghana.

By Sora O'Doherty

After a gap in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bouquets to Art is happening once

again at the De Young museum in San Francisco. Continuing a 20-year tradition, Diana Kennedy and Phoebe Kahl will be representing the Orinda

Garden Club again this year.

Kennedy told the Lamorinda Weekly that this is the first time ever that the group has been assigned a piece of furniture as their art. Bouquets to Art invites floral artists to create arrangements that complement a specific piece of artwork in the museum. Kennedy and Kahl this year are working with a small but ornate royal chair from Ghana. Not only is this the first piece of furniture they have worked with, but it is also the first time that they have ventured into African art. The chair is made of wood, leather, and copper and is ornamented with small animals.

Kennedy admitted, “We’re pretty excited about it. Normally we have worked with artwork from Europe or America.” In the past, she said, there has been a lot of art in the modern galleries, which are now closed for another exhibit, and the African has now been opened to Bouquets to Art. Floral designers are invited to come to the museum and select five different choices of art to work with for the exhibition. Kennedy and Kahl were notified about three weeks ago that they were given their fifth choice, the chair. “It will be fun,” Kahl added.

The chair is protected by a plexiglass cube. Floral designers can use a pedestal for their arrangement provided by the museum or bring one of their

own. Kennedy and Kahl will use one provided by the museum. It is 14 inches square and about 36 inches tall and beige in color. The placement of the floral arrangement is critical; if it were to fall over, it shouldn’t hit the artwork.

In addition, the museum asks floral designers to avoid fabrics, or dried things in order to avoid introducing termites into the museum. Such materials can be used only with special permission and treatment, such as freezing the material for two weeks. Kahl and Kennedy normally purchase all the materials they will use, “unless” they say, “we have something spectacular in our garden.” And because the exhibition is in early June they do expect to be able to use some spectacular things from their gardens.

OGC member Caroline Lavoie commented, “We’ve done ikebana class. Less is more, but not skimpy. We use things where we can highlight the plant material, focusing on line, mass and color.”

The floral designers put their arrangements in place on June 7, and the arrangements have to last until the following Sunday, June 13. The designers are allowed to refresh the arrangements in the mornings before the museum opens or after closing. Kennedy and Kahl say that they try to use materials that are long-lasting but have backup materials, just in case. If an arrangement is wilting, the designers will get a call from the museum.

The tradition of Orinda Garden Club participating in Bouquets to Art was started by Sue Seifert, who used to have a floral shop in Orinda and also another by Mountain View cemetery. When Seifert died, Kennedy and Kahl picked up the tradition and continued with it. Another garden club member, Mari Tischenko, is also participating on her own.

Bouquets to Art, will be on display at the de Young Museum June 8-13. Unfortunately, owing to the pandemic, attendance numbers are reduced and in-person tickets are sold out at this time. However, members and non-members can enjoy an in-depth look at every floral design in the galleries with a ticket to for a virtual visit filled with behind-the-scenes details, curator picks, and more. Tickets are free for members and \$10 for the general public and are available on the museum’s website: www.famsf.org

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Orinda library art gallery reopens to in-person viewing



Karen Hildebrand. "Hand Carved Design, Raku" 8.5" x 5.75", ceramic



Janell Lumley, "Reflections" Oil on Canvas, 16" x 20"

Photos provided

By Sora O'Doherty

June brings back in-person art appreciation in Orinda. Following many months of only online exhibitions, the Lamorinda Arts Council has announced that it's June exhibitions in the Orinda library gallery will be open to the public, while the exhibition at the gallery at the Art & Garden Center at Wilder will continue to be available online only in June.

At the Library Gallery, photographer Nancy Rubin and writer Cynthia Overbeck Bix's "Reframing Aging" exhibit explores eight vital people aged 70 to 96, including former UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor Russ Ellis.

Wendy Liang is a recent graduate of the California College of the Arts. Her exhibit "The Peaceful Life," features her luminous watercolors. Liang says that watercolor is her favorite medium because its transparent and fluid qualities gives her the freedom to create her desired mood and atmosphere.

Karen Hildebrand exhibits 40 ceramic pieces, done with multiple firing techniques, includes art vessels as well as utilitarian ceramics. She often uses botanicals taken from her garden for surface treatments.

This exhibit runs June 1-30 during normal library hours, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., The gallery is closed on Sundays. The exhibit can also be seen online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

The virtual exhibit for June at the Art Gallery at Wilder is entitled "Déjà vu on the Wall – Paintings of Faraway Lands." Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Walnut Creek artist Janell Lumley and her husband traveled to faraway places where they took copious photos. Lumley derives her paintings from their photographs. She says that her oil paintings allow her to revisit faraway places. Déjà vu is the feeling that one has lived through the present situation before. Lumley invites you to view her paintings at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/ to see if you travel with her to any faraway places.

Poul Anderson Writing Contest winners announced

By Sora O'Doherty

Friends of the Orinda Library has announced the winners of the 2021 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest for students who reside in or attend high school in Orinda.

The winners received prizes of \$500 each along with certificates of recognition from the Friends of the Orinda Library. Winners of honorable mention received \$50 apiece as well as recognition. The Friends of the Orinda Library congratulated

all the young writers who "stretched their imaginations" and submitted their work for competition.

The contest was judged by Sally Hogarty, Orinda News Editor; Anne Lowell, Glorietta Librarian and author; Sarah Morgan, Campolindo Librarian; and Elizabeth Perlman, Director of the Intuitive Writing Project.

The Poul Anderson Writing Contest is named in memory of the beloved Orinda resident who wrote more than 80 works of science fiction.

The winners, who all attend Miramonte High School, are: Malayna Chang, 11th Grade Essay/Memoir/Biography; Wendy Mapaye, 11th Grade Poetry; Chaya Tong, 12th Grade Essay/Memoir/Biography; and Jarret Zundel, Ninth Grade, Short Story.

Honorable Mentions were given to Sajda Amiri, Eloise Anagnost, Malayna Chang, Reagan Kaelle, Danielle Kelly, Audrey Lambert, Amber Lee, Willa Mapaye, Rowan Sandhu, and Jonathon Su.

The winning entries, including honorable mentions, can be read online at <https://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/2021/06/01/winners-of-the-2021-writing-contest/>



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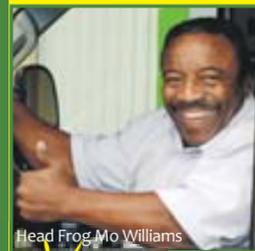
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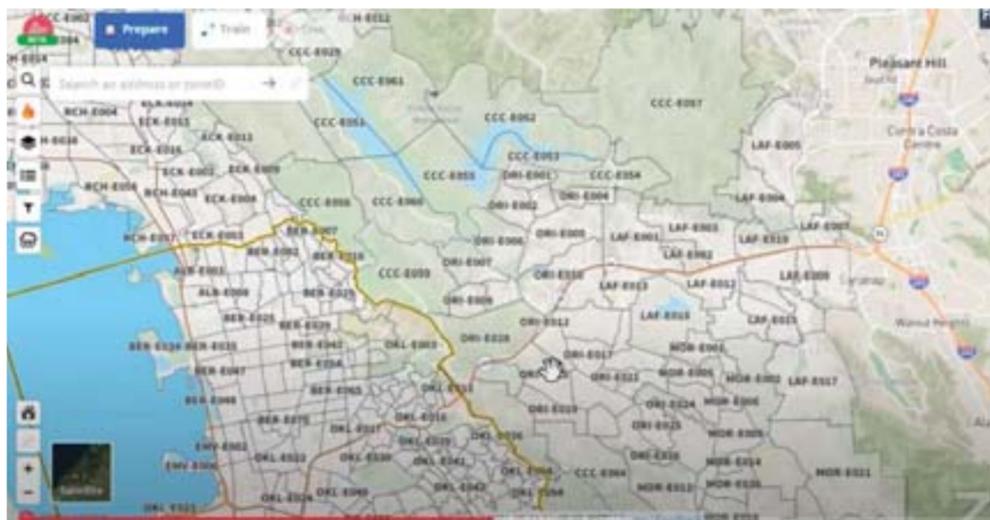
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MOFD board gives green light to use grant for comprehensive evacuation support system



Map shows evacuation zones in participating counties

By Jennifer Wake

In a continuing effort to facilitate communication among emergency services agencies, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board May 21 approved a motion to use \$300,000 in grant money to enter into a software agreement with Zonehaven, Inc. to develop a comprehensive evacuation support system in the amount of \$627,750.

According to MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, the purpose of the grant is to contract the development of a comprehensive evacuation support system consisting of fire modeling, evacuation polygons and an evacuation decision support tool. Winnacker noted that other counties including Marin and Alameda counties are also working with Zonehaven. The board authorized acceptance of the grant at its Jan. 20 meeting.

The grant money would be the first installment of the first year license cost for a three-year contract and, according to Winnacker, the agreement may be terminated with at least 30-day notice at the conclusion of the first year or any subsequent year without penalty.

Director Steven Danziger asked what would be the effect if MOFD did not get any more grant money and canceled.

Winnacker explained the first phase of the contract involves zones. "We have the map layer and a shared understanding of what any specific piece of dirt or homes or population center in the county is called so we're using the same terms, so we establish that interoperability, not only between fire and law agencies, but between fire, law and dispatch sometimes operating in the same jurisdictions butting up against each other." The second and enduring part is access to the system, Winnacker explained, which includes a number of training scenarios and simulations about fire spread as well as the ability to send notifications through the system when there is an actual incident.

after one year, Winnacker explained that MOFD keeps the map layer and physical evacuation books that are derived from the system, "but we lose access to the training and alerting that currently resides in the platform."

With County Office of Emergency Services support, Winnacker said staff is seeking additional grant funding for year two and three of the contract. In the absence of additional funding, he noted, staff will recommend terminating the contract as part of the FY2022 budget process under Section 14.1 before any MOFD funds beyond the current \$300,000 grant are expended.

The motion passed unanimously. Director Gregory Baitx was absent.

If the contract is canceled

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 16, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 13 1 p.m.
Special Meeting: Tuesday, June 22
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Council approves reflective beacon alert installation at St. Perpetua crosswalk

... continued from Page A2

Moran said excessive speeds due to the road's steep downhill grade contributed to the problem. Despite the presence of a crossing guard enlisted by St. Perpetua School, significant public input had demonstrated to the Transportation Circulation Commission the requested safety measures were advisable. A flashing reflective alert signal and funding of half of the project cost as requested by St. Perpetua School was recommended to the council by the commission. The commission had also discussed zoning the area at 15 mph during school

hours. Making such a change would require a traffic study and a change of ordinance by the council. Representatives from the school, Moran said, were interested in the council addressing the reduced speed zone topic as soon as possible.

While allowing that the crosswalk is a public right-of-way whose primary users are local residents, church attendees and children attending a private (not public) school, Moran said making the improvements and sharing the costs was best. "If the school and church don't exist, that crosswalk doesn't exist. The (general) public doesn't need it. If for some reason the school and church went out

of business next week, we wouldn't put a beacon crossing there. We would delete the crosswalk because it wouldn't be placed there in the first place." But, he emphasized, the crosswalk is used by children and protecting their safety is paramount to the neighborhood and the city.

Council Member Teresa Gerringer asked about the history of city-supported speed mitigation actions: who had paid when there was a new school or other new development being built (in that case the developer would pay 100% of the costs, Moran replied) and in what past projects had traffic studies

been funded by the city. Moran said overall and ongoing concerns about the speed of cars in the city, and a grant applied for in 2012, demonstrated traffic safety measures are recurring issues that "finally hit the head" with St. Perpetua's request. Asked about the timeline for returning the topic to the commission and the process leading to an exception to be made to the Assembly Bill 321 code for speeds on two-lane streets, Moran said approval of a new 15 mph zone would require approximately two to three months to complete.

The timeline for adding the safety beacon and radar sign approved at the meeting

Moran said is subject to material delivery schedules. During the pandemic and even as the restrictions of the past 15 months are lifted, schedules for public works projects and other city activities remain difficult to predict. Council members voiced support for the project to move as swiftly as possible and for the speed zone to be considered and implemented prior to the fall and students' return to school. Council Member Carl Anduri offered praise and said the project represented "a case study in neighbors and institutions (the school and church and city council) working together to find solutions."

Public Safety

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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
May 16 - May 29



Alarms	51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	58
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	14
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	58
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	31
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	14
Ordinance Violation	8
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Acalanes Ave./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Ct./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
Glenside Dr./Burton Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Bl./Happy Valley Rd.	
Via Roble/Quail Ridge Rd.	

2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
3900 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Eb 24 P Hill On Ramp

Throw Moving Vehicle
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
500 Block St Marys Rd.

Vehicle Theft
Dewing Ave./Bickerstaff St.
Police Department

Other criminal activity

Fraud False Pretenses
3300 Block Woodview Dr.
4100 Block Coralee Ln.

Grand Theft
Police Department

Identity Theft
400 Block Read Dr.

Panhandling
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle
900 Block Moraga Rd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)
10 Block Eleven Laf

Vandalism - Felony
Police Department

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dolores Dr.

Disturbing The Peace
Gold Ct./Burton Dr.

Loud Music
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Loud Noise
N Lucille Ln/Florence Dr.

Loud Party
1000 Block Aileen St.

Public Nuisance
3400 Block Golden Gate Wy
Camino Colorados/St Marys Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism
900 Block Janet Ln.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.
Old Tunnel Rd./Buchan Dr.
1000 Block Glen Rd.

Other
Fireworks
Reliez Valley Rd./La Caminita
Indecent Exposure
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Mentally Ill Violent
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Trespass
1500 Block Rancho View Dr.
3400 Block School St.
Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Lucas Dr.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



May 18 - May 31

Alarms 10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
Traffic 45

Suspicious Circumstances 9
Suspicious Subject 9
Suspicious Vehicle 6
Service to Citizen 47
Patrol Req./Security Check 16
Supplemental Report 11
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 11
Public/School Assembly Check 3
Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations

Accident Property
Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Center St.

Excessive Speed
Rheem Blvd./Center St
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./Ifo Commons
Moraga Way/Viader Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Reckless Driving
Corliss Dr./Warfield Dr.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd., Laf.
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
40 Block York Pl.

Tc - Property Damage
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

Vehicle Theft
Not Available.

Other criminal activity
Grand Theft From Vehicle
Ascot Ct./Ascot Dr.

Identity Theft
Not Available

Petty Theft
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.
Dollar Tree
Not Available

Shoplift
Dollar Tree

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
20 Block Williams Dr.
Drunk In Public
100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Loud Music
Not Available
School St./Country Club Dr.
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
4000 Block Paseo Grande
10 Block Francisca Dr.

Loud Party
10 Block Miramonte Dr.
100 Block Eileen Ct.
Bollinger Canyon Rd./St Marys Rd.
100 Block Tharp Dr.

Public Nuisance
St Marys College
Vandalism
Canyon Bridge

Other
Mentally Ill Commit
1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.
Revoked License
200 Block Glorietta
Unwanted Guest
20 Block Hardie Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
May 16 - May 29

Alarms 43
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 28

Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 2
Suspicious Vehicle 6
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 Property
10 Block Harran Cir.
Camino Pablo/Bart
90 Block La Espiral
80 Block La Espiral

Auto Burglary
300 Block Camino Pablo

Dui Misdemeanor
Coral Dr/Moraga Way

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
Valley Dr./Heather Ln.

Reckless Driving
Overhill Rd./Tara Rd.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
Miner Rd./Camino Sobrante
400 Block Miner Rd.

Vehicle Theft
60 Block Brookwood Rd.
10 Block Arbolado Ct.
30 Block La Cuesta Rd.

Other criminal activity
Burglary
Camino Pablo
Commercial Burglary
100 Block Camino Pablo

Fraud False Pretenses
40 Block Honey Hill Rd.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
10 Block Irwin Way

Identity Theft
10 Block Oak Dr.
40 Block Valencia Rd.

Panhandling
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24

Petty Theft
Camino Pablo
10 Block Carisbrook Dr.
60 Block Moraga Way

Petty Theft Bicycle
Manzanita Dr.
Petty Theft From Veh
10 Block Harran Cir.

Residential Burglary
San Bruno Rd.

Shoplift
Moraga Way
Warrant Arrest
Moraga Way

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Camino Pablo

Loud Noise
50 Block Stanton Ave.
40 Block Stanton Ave.
40 Block Lost Valley Dr.
100 Block Zander Dr.
30 Block Oakwood Rd.

Loud Party
20 Block Southwood Dr.
20 Block Camino Sobrante
10 Block Monte Veda Dr.

Public Nuisance
Bryant Way
Theatre Square

Vandalism
80 Block Orinda Way

Other
Violation Restraining Order
500 Block Moraga Way

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Resourcefill – a great resource for eco-friendly products



Photo Diane Claytor

Kristin Crotty, co-owner of Resourcefill, shows off some of her eco-friendly products
By Diane Claytor

It was a staggering and disheartening headline in a recent National Geographic article: “A Whopping 91 Percent of Plastic isn’t Recycled.” Look around your house. Think about all the products you regularly use that are made of plastic or come in plastic containers. You use them up and toss them in your recycling bin, thinking you’re doing the best you can for our environment. But only 9% of those items are actually recycled! The rest, 8 million metric tons annually, according to the National Geographic story, become plastic waste, eventually ending up in our landfill and oceans.

Kristin and Paul Crotty are doing their part to offset this environmental crisis. The couple recently opened Resourcefill in their Lafayette neighborhood. The environmentally-driven shop’s mission is reducing the need for single use plastics and paper by offering refills of home and body care essentials.

The Crotty’s have always been environmentally responsible, doing what they could to reduce plastic and paper waste. “We’ve been making our own home and body care products, including lotions, toothpaste and deodorant, for years,” Kristin Crotty declares. “I wanted to make sure the ingredients I was putting in and on my body were actually ingredients I wanted in and on my body.” They made their son’s

baby food and formula when he was an infant. They use and reuse cloth towels and napkins, with Kristin Crotty proudly stating, “We haven’t purchased a roll of paper towels in over 10 years.”

When the pandemic hit, the Crotty’s were both laid off. Like many, they contemplated their next steps, exploring different business ideas. Friends and family, knowing how eco-conscious the Crotty’s were and how they often drove through the tunnel to refill/reuse shops, strongly encouraged them to consider opening a refill store in Lamorinda. Kristin Crotty admits that this idea had not previously occurred to them. In late 2020, they decided to go for it. They found the perfect bright, airy location, spent hours researching to make sure that every step of the process was done as environmentally friendly as possible and last month, excitedly opened Resourcefill.

The store has a wide variety of eco-friendly products and the plan is to expand their inventory. According to Kristin Crotty, they look for non-toxic organic products, animal-cruelly free, safe for gray water systems, locally made if possible and, “most importantly, those we can purchase in bulk and then return bulk containers to be refilled over and over again.” Every product they carry is sampled to make sure it meets their standards. “In addition to being refillable and safe for both the body and environment,” Kristin Crotty notes, “we want to sell

excellent products that work in the way our customers expect.”

The refill stations include bulk hair, bath and body products, as well as home cleaning items. The process is simple. You bring in your clean container (plastic is fine, Kristin Crotty says), weigh it, fill it with one of their environmentally safe products which are priced by the ounce and weigh it again. Resourcefill also sells empty containers of different sizes.

In addition to the many refillable items, the store carries a vast array of reusable products, including unpaper towels, beeswax wraps to replace plastic wrap, and washable dusters. There is a collection of plastic-free biodegradable brushes because, as Kristin Crotty explains, so many of the brushes we use on our hair and in our home contain plastic. “Every time you use one, little micro plastics are breaking off and going down the drain, ending up in our water supply. We’re drinking them, eating them in seafood, breathing them in the air,” she says. “When you’re done with our brushes, you can put them in your compost and they quickly break down.” There are even biodegradable bamboo bandages as well as refillable, plastic-free and compostable pet products.

The Crotty’s have more products coming and more plans to implement. They will be partnering with TerraCycle, an organization that recycles what many think of as non-recyclable products. There will be a reuse room where high-end second-hand items will be sold, with proceeds helping to fund the TerraCycle program. “Our original plan was to simply have the refill shop,” Kristin Crotty explains. “But our space is conducive to bringing even more eco-friendly programs to the community.”

There’s no judgment, Kristin Crotty assures. “Resourcefill is here to help everyone become more aware of what products are made of and switching to those that are friendlier to our earth.”

For more information, visit shopresourcefill.com.



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In Memory

Michael Fraser Madden

February 9, 1938 - May 2, 2021

Lafayette resident



Mike Madden passed away after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. A beloved husband, father, stepfather, and grandfather, he will be dearly missed.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska to Mary Fraser and Joseph Hayden Madden, Mike was the youngest of three children. His parents, brother Joseph, and sister Mary Lou predeceased him.

After a childhood in the Midwest, Mike graduated from the University of Colorado in 1962 with a degree in civil engineering. He worked in that field for well over 40 years for a number of engineering companies.

After his first marriage ended, Mike’s mother suggested he ask Linda Patrick on a date, beginning a loving partnership that lasted until his death. Mike and Linda married in Denver and subsequently moved to California when Mike accepted a position in the Bay Area. They settled in Lafayette, where their home of the last 30 years became a welcoming place for friends and family.

After Mike retired, volunteering became a large part of his life. He was a math tutor at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, and he drove a bus for Lamorinda Senior Services. When not volunteering, he was hitting a tennis or golf ball. Mike loved hiking and camping, and annual trips to Colorado for family and skiing. He was a huge fan of the Golden State Warriors and St. Mary’s College basketball.

Mike is survived by his wife Linda, son Sean Madden and wife Anita, son Brian Madden, daughter Erin Madden, daughter Colleen Tescher, stepdaughter Meghan Cobb and husband Gene, and 13 grandchildren.

Donations in Mike’s memory may be made to the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond, California.

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CVS Pharmacy offers prizes to boost COVID vaccinations nationwide



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga's Rheem Valley CVS location is just one of many distributing COVID-19 vaccinations

By Vera Kochan

Remember six months ago when getting a vaccination appointment after hours of attempts was akin to winning the lottery? Now that the process has become as easy as ordering takeout, CVS Pharmacy has created a sweepstakes to encourage those who have yet to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, by offering an impressive array of prizes as incentives.

According to a CVS Health statement, any eligible customers who have or plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccination through CVS qualifies to enter the #OneStepCloser sweepstakes. Over a period of six weeks, beginning June 1, weekly drawings of valuable prizes are being offered.

"We're grateful for the millions of people who've received one of the well over 17 million doses we've administered at CVS Health, but we have a long way to go," stated Senior Vice President and

Chief Medical Officer of CVS Health Dr. Kyu Rhee. "Getting as much of the population fully vaccinated will bring us one step closer to all the things we've missed during the past 14 months, and keep our country moving in the right direction."

California ranked 24th in the nation with regards to the percentage of distributed vaccines that have been administered (81.16%), as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data tracker as of June 4. The number of doses distributed to the state are 47,603,460 with 38,637,246 of those doses having been administered.

As of June 3, Contra Costa Health Services reports that 65% (641,947 people) of the county's population of 12 and older have been fully vaccinated, while 74.7% (737,969 people) are partially vaccinated.

Lamorinda's statistics are equally impressive within that report. Lafayette's total

population of 25,604 has 78.1% fully vaccinated and 89.1% partially vaccinated. Moraga's total population of 16,946 has 66.1% fully vaccinated and 75.7% partially. Orinda's total population of 19,009 has 72.3% fully vaccinated and 82.8% partially.

Sweepstakes prizes include: Super Bowl tickets; vacation trips; a VIP package to the iHeartRadio Music Festival; cruises; a 2022 Men's College Basketball Championship package; \$500 gift cards and more. The sweepstakes is effective nationwide and includes all customers, 18 and up, who received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or certify that they will have received their first dose at a CVS Pharmacy or off-site CVS clinic by July 10.

The following Lamorinda CVS locations are available for vaccine distribution: 3625 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette; 580 Moraga Rd, Moraga; 1480 Moraga Rd, Suite D, Moraga; and 50 Moraga Way, Orinda.

Letters to the editor

What do the firefighters want?

Last issue's article about MOFD being absorbed into ConFire ended with "it's a dead issue".

The trouble is, the "problem" that was being addressed, has not been solved. Only one person that I heard cut to the crux of the issue and that was Orinda Council Member Nick Kosla who asked "what problem are we trying to solve?" (To which no one had a response at the time.)

But the firefighters' union president did answer that question when he was speaking in Moraga. The article quoted him saying "they (the MOFD firefighters) have some of the worst benefits". So the firefighters want to work for ConFire where supposedly they would get better benefits?

When I read this, my jaw dropped. This year, out of a \$33 million budget, MOFD spent \$29 million on salaries and benefits. \$24 million of this went either directly to or was used to fund the 51 firefighters' salary and benefits. That is an average of \$475,000 per firefighter. This isn't enough???

And even though the district pays this amazing amount, it isn't anywhere near what the District could (should?) spend because additional benefits have caused the district to go \$70 million in debt on unfunded retirement benefits.

I cannot believe that anyone, much less Contra Costa County, pays their municipal employees better, unless they are building up even more debt than MOFD.

And is this an issue? You bet it is. The firefighters' employment contact is coming up for a vote by the board. Director

Baitx is a member of the same union as the MOFD firefighters. And that union spent \$30,000 to get Directors Baitx, Donner and Danziger, who have the majority vote on the board, elected in 2018. What salary and benefit increases will they want to give the firefighters who funded their election? No one knows.

But with a majority on the board, the union-supported (controlled?) board members can hand out anything they want to and we, the taxpayers, will end up paying for it now or later and at the same time being denied any other services; like fire prevention which many of us consider essential. Steve Cohn Orinda

A brief history on the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee

Thank you for featuring The Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) in your May 26, 2021 edition. I was co-founder of the MYIC and I have missed reading about it and knowing what they have been doing. Kaye Yost and I created the MYIC 31 years ago in May of 1990. We established it by jointly issuing an ordinance at a Town Council regular meeting. It was to provide an avenue for young people to be able to get involved in local government and it was the first youth committee in the Lamorinda area. The name of the committee was chosen by the members who were first appointed to the committee. The original committee had a total of 18 members selected from JM Intermediate, Alaramonte, Campolindo, and Acalanes. One Moraga resident represented the private schools, Kaye and I were the adult advisors, and one Park

and Recreation staff member was a liaison member to the council. By now, many of the original members have families of their own and are involved in their communities.

Some of the accomplishments during our first two years were organizing the "HalloRheem" dances at the Rheem Theatre, holding pizza nights, participating with a few of Moraga Seniors at Moraga Beautiful, assisting the Moraga Junior Halloween Carnival and their crab feed which brought funds to the committee, adopting families in December, having a wrapping paper sale, working on emergency earthquake preparedness, holding a tri-community eighth grade dance, organizing a Moraga "Beach Ball" seventh grade dance, getting involved in environmental issues, and hosting over 100 high school students on a "Day on the Bay" boat dance. We also coordinated with Lafayette and Orinda a "Youth Challenge Day" involving small and large group activities, games and provided discussions on developing healthy relationships and fostering decision-making skills. T-shirts were designed, printed and worn by members when they participated in town events. Members presented end of the year reports to the Town Council.

This has been a challenging year for students and for the committee. I will be looking forward to seeing the names of the new members who will be chosen in the fall. Hopefully, we might read about the MYIC and their activities on a regular basis. One of our members wrote many press releases and feature stories about the group and went on to major in journalism in college.

Best of luck to the students as they approach another year with their association in the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee. I will enjoy following them through their website (www.moraga.ca.us/313/Moraga-Youth-Involvement-Committee). Mardi Potts, Moraga Co-Founder and Former Advisor, MYIC

Lafayette voters deserve better legal representation

The City Attorney has failed to advocate for Lafayette for years, creating a very real problem, which needs to be remedied:

On Dec. 4, 2020, the Superior Court ordered the City to pay \$118,625 in attorney fees to residents who challenged a land-use approval by the city council on Las Trampas Road in 2016. In March 2020, the First Appellate District ruled that the city council violated the Brown Act Open Meeting Law by conducting undisclosed closed sessions with the city attorney and staff before each of the public hearings. The City paid \$936,319 in fees – an astonishing amount five times the residents' attorney fees – after the City Attorney refused to cease and desist from the improper practice. In fact, the City had continued holding improper closed sessions 24 more times until the appellate ruling concluded the case.

On Dec. 8, 2020, the State's Fair Political Practices Commission ruled that the architect pre-

senting the above-mentioned application, a Lafayette Planning Commissioner, violated conflict-of-interest provisions of the Political Reform Act in 2015. The FPPC also found he committed four violations for other clients in 2015 and 2016. Previously, in 2008, the FPPC had ruled that a Lafayette Design Commissioner violated the Act by advocating for his client to his own commission. Yet the City Attorney and staff allowed the practice to continue for eight more years into 2016. In 2018, the city council introduced a stronger commissioner code of ethics. Within a week, six commissioners resigned.

In 2018, the First Appellate District ruled that the "City Improperly Interfered with the Referendum Process" by wrongly claiming that the referendum process did not apply to the Homes at Deer Hill. This ruling allowed citizens to vote on Measure L. In 2019, Save Lafayette Trees v City of Lafayette, the Appellate District rejected the City's claim that Lafayette citizens were subject to a special shortened statute of limitations to contest violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In light of these costly and repeated errors, voters have a right to expect the City Council to take remedial action. Linda Reibel Lafayette

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

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Split city council OK's Orinda parade on the Fourth

... continued from Page A1

A representative of Lamorinda Moms Demand Action said that group is excited and enthusiastic Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and the national president of Moms Demand Action have agreed to participate in the parade. They would be masked and riding in a convertible, while other members of the anti-firearm group would walk alongside the vehicle.

Miller led off the council discussion, characterizing the decision as incredibly difficult. She acknowledged that Orinda loves its parade, and praised the OA for raising the money, providing the volunteers, and creating the ambience that "brings us all together."

"Nothing would make us feel more normal," she said, but added, "I don't believe either the OA or the city are prepared to run a parade," noting cities that have canceled events, including Piedmont, Danville, Alameda and Martinez. "If it were easy," she pointed out, "others would be doing it." She quoted Contra Costa County Public Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano, who said that

a parade was safe for people who are vaccinated, but that he would discourage unvaccinated people from attending, and would encourage them to get vaccinated. "We hold the parade for the children," Miller concluded, "and they can't be vaccinated until September."

Vice Mayor Dennis Fay was in favor of approving the parade, noting that the local rate of vaccination is high, "well past herd immunity." He said that Dr. Anthony Fauci says that the chance of transmission outside is very low. Still, he agreed that masks should be encouraged and that any council member participating in the parade should wear a mask. Council Member Nick Kosla said that he was coming at the decision from another perspective. "I was thrilled to go to my kid's 'advancement'" he said, adding, "As long as guidelines are followed, the OA is really commendable for even wanting to try."

Council Member Darlene Gee was particularly agitated, saying there wasn't a more difficult decision that she would want to be voting on. Even though there is an extremely high level of vaccination, Gee said it would have

been her choice to wait another year. But she wouldn't oppose the parade going forward and will attend, wearing her mask.

Mayor Worth did oppose the parade for this year. "I appreciate the work of the OA over the years, their heroic work with seniors around town this year, their amazing inspiration during the COVID pandemic," she said. She said that she had spent a lot of time talking to staff in other cities, so many of which have deferred for one more year. She distinguished the event from graduations partly because of the limitations that were possible to enforce, and also because those events represented milestones in individuals' lives that only happen once. She also was concerned about the intensity of the parade for volunteers and for city staff, noting that the city currently has decreased staffing.

"There are lots of uncertainties," Worth said. "We don't know how many people will come. We may plan for two to three thousand, but get five to seven thousand."

The 3-2 vote was very unusual for a council that is almost always unanimous in its decisions.

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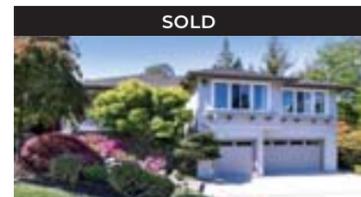
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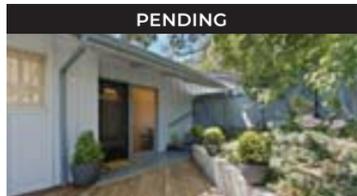
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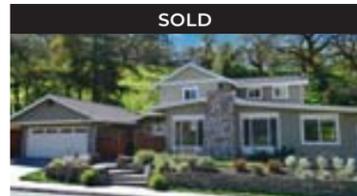
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

At age 99, veteran Vic Smith looks back at a life well lived



Vic Smith with his wife, Fran

Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Vic Smith found God at 300 miles per hour, flying just 20 feet from the ground. He kept God, added a wife, children, and is up to nine great-grandchildren, with a 10th on the way.

Now a resident of Moraga, Smith was born on May 24, 1922 in Leroy, Kansas – a little farming town, population about 1,000 where Smith's grandfathers were farmers. His dad was an auto mechanic, and later a policeman. Smith moved to California with his family when he was 3 years old, but returned to Kansas from time to time in his life.

In 1936, the family bounced back from a short stint in Kansas to California, landing in Los Angeles, where Smith's father became chief of police for the city of Palos Verdes Estates. Smith finished high school in 1940 and went on to junior college.

"I lied about my age when we lived in LA and joined the National Guard when I was 16," Smith confesses. "There was a battalion of four companies in LA that met at the Coliseum." Smith made Sergeant, then Platoon Sergeant. In 1940 they were mobilized to the 160 Infantry in Washington state. But Smith only lasted there one month. It was found that he had a perforated eardrum, so he was rejected, receiving a discharge from the army on physical grounds.

However, the Draft Board wasn't paying any attention to his discharge. In 1942 he was drafted. The examining physician declared that his eardrums had grown back. Smith went into the Air Force, and, following in his mechanic father's footsteps, he worked on the line servicing aircraft at Williams Field Arizona. He then applied for cadet training, in California, where he qualified for both pilot and naviga-

tor training.

When Smith finished navigator training, he went to bombardiers' school, joined a six-man B-25 crew and after finishing their training, went to Savannah, Georgia to pick up a brand new B-25. They flew it to California, where it was altered to add an additional gas tank necessary to make it to Hawaii, then Townsville, Australia. The small plane required about six legs of 1,000 miles each to complete the journey.

But as these things go, all did not go smoothly. In August 1944, the little plane and its crew got to New Caledonia, a group of French Territorial islands in the South Pacific. "The weather was terrible," Smith recalled. "We couldn't fly on to Australia." But their hosts grew impatient, telling them "Australia is only 700 miles away and it's so big you can't miss it."

"Those were the worst conditions I had ever flown in," Smith remembers. "Seven years after Amelia Earhart and her navigator were lost, flying blind, rain and clouds the whole trip. I was looking forward to seeing the Great Barrier Reef, but couldn't." As it turned out, they were 100 miles wide off course, but, with the radio working, they honed in on Townsville, Australia, where they delivered the plane.

Smith and his crew then hopped on a British flying boat to a replacement training center in Port Moresby, the capital of New Guinea. The base was moving to the interior of the island, to Nadzab, about 40 miles in from Lae on the coast. At that time, Japanese soldiers were threatening Australia, and would have gained a huge advantage if they could have gotten over the Owen Stanley range of mountains in New Guinea.

Smith was assigned to the 38th Bomb Group in early Au-

gust 1944. The group was assigned to 822 squadron 5th Air Force on Halmahera in the Maluku Islands, known as the Spice Islands, west and a little north of New Guinea. For two months, their crew led missions from there before moving up to the Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines.

The B-25 was a medium altitude bomber. For those missions, the airplane had a glassed-in nose and the bombardier sat there with a Norden bombsight. "Most of our airplanes had 12 50-caliber machine guns, we struck our targets at 20 feet at 300 miles an hour. The pilot fired all 12 at the same time with a single button on the steering wheel. I had an Astro compass mounted on the instrument panel, I could sight the sun shadow and get a compass correction because every compass is a little off." An astrocompass is a navigational tool for determining the direction of true north through the positions of various astronomical bodies.

All of Smith's crew survived the war and they've held several reunions in the intervening years. Smith was awarded the air medal with the oak leaf cluster for his service.

After the war, Smith took advantage of the GI Bill to return to school and chose the Colorado School of Mines. As a senior, he needed a date to the homecoming dance and got fixed up on a blind date with Fran. Five years younger than Smith, she and her twin are soon to celebrate their 95th birthday. They married, and Smith got a job at U.S. Steel in Torrance, California. In 1949 they had their first child before he was recalled to the military for the Korean War.

Fortunately, this time he wasn't called upon to fight, but to do research at Wright Field in Ohio. He was a scientist at the flight research lab for a two-year period, working on

high strength steel. When he finished his stint, the civilian head of the program offered him a job. "I said no," Smith remembers with a chuckle, "because I wanted to come back to U.S. Steel." It did occur to him later that the job he turned down paid twice what he was getting in his old job.

After the Korean War, Smith did come back to work for U.S. Steel, this time in Pittsburg, California. Smith spent 20 of his 29 years with U.S. Steel in customer technical service. The family lived in San Francisco, then Concord and Orinda before settling in Moraga.

Smith and his wife have three children, and when their youngest was in the third grade, Fran went back to work,

starting a preschool at their church, before becoming the director of the preschool at St. Mark's, where she worked for 40 years. She retired in her 70s, but hated to quit.

In addition to backpacking, the couple has volunteered a lot, traveling with their church to build houses in the central valley of California and also in Mexico where they also donated \$2,000 to build a kindergarten playground. The couple was recently honored for their work for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

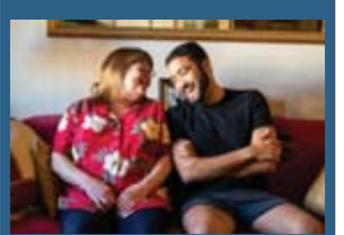
The Smiths live their lives according to Fran's mother's adage, "Busy people are happy people," and in their 70-plus years of marriage, they have proved it true.

Building community, one home at a time.

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'See You Up There' – great film that condenses lyricism, passion and redemption opens in Orinda



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

The film "See You Up There" starts at the end of World War I and talks about the return of

two surviving soldiers to civilian life, as Paris explodes with the Roaring '20s. Albert Dupontel, the movie director, loves to portray communities' marginalized people and their ingenu-

ity to survive. He does it here with a spectacular movie that successfully blends comedy, tragedy, poetry, emotion and adventure.

The cease-fire has been signed ending the first World War, but terrible events are still unfolding. During one last assault in the trenches that separated French and German soldiers, the passions of war are condensed, mixing hatred and fraternity. Albert Mayard (Dupontel) is saved from death by Édouard Péricourt (Nahuel Perez Biscayart), who gets gravely injured in that moment. The two men find each other in Paris after the war. Mayard is a modest employee working at odd jobs to make ends meet; Péricourt, an artist coming from the upper class, does not want to return to his family. ... continued on Page B2

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY
Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

Brown butter shortbread cookie packs caramelized pecan crunch



Toasted Pecan Brown Sugar-Brown Butter Shortbread Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This little cookie is fabulously delicious and really, what isn't when it's made with brown butter? The caramelized toasty, nutty flavor you get when you brown butter just makes anything taste divine, whether it's sweet or savory!

In this shortbread cookie recipe, we used light brown sugar, and added toasted pecans for the perfect tea cookie or afternoon pick-me-up. I think that you'll find snitching the dough is pretty tasty too. When using brown butter for

baked goods, you have to prepare it ahead of time, because you need to brown the butter and then chill it until it's firm again, before you take it out of the refrigerator to soften it for the cookies. I once made an entire wedding cake using this method and it took some extra time just to get enough brown butter for a four-layer wedding cake.

If you decide you love cooking or baking with brown butter, you can make a pound of it ahead of time and store it in the refrigerator. That way, it'll be ready to go when you are.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (8 oz.) brown butter (see notes on how to brown, chill and soften below)
1 cup, packed, light brown sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups finely chopped toasted pecans

DIRECTIONS

How to brown butter:

Cut the cubes of butter (salted or unsalted ... your choice) into smaller pieces (maybe 8 pieces per stick of butter) and bring it to room temperature. Place the butter in a sauce pan with a light colored bottom, if possible, so you can watch the color of the butter as it changes. Heat butter over medium heat until melted, stirring occasionally. Continue to cook until you see the butter foam and little brown crystals form along the edge and at the bottom of the pan. This whole process will take about 6 minutes or so. When the butter is brown, it will take on a rich, nutty smell and look like it has brown bits on the bottom and along the edges. Be sure not to burn the butter, which can happen quickly. Remove the brown butter from the stove and cool to room temperature. Once cooled, refrigerate it either in the pan or in a plastic container until firm. Now you are back to square one and can take this butter out to get it to room temperature just as you would with a regular cube or stick of butter before baking.

Note: You should account for about 15% loss in volume after browning the butter, so make a little extra to make up the difference.

Shortbread Cookies:

Preheat oven to 325 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place softened brown butter in a mixing bowl. Using an electric beater, beat butter with brown sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Add flour and salt and mix until well-integrated. Finally, stir in the toasted, chopped pecans and mix well. The mixture will be rather thick at this point. Place dough on a floured cloth or cutting board and roll out with a rolling pin to 1/4-inch thickness. Using a 2-inch biscuit cutter, cut the dough into rounds. This may take several steps of reshaping the dough after you've cut several of the cookies out. Place the cookie rounds on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until cookies begin to look golden brown. Remove from oven and cool completely before removing from baking sheet. These cookies store well for up to a week in an airtight container.

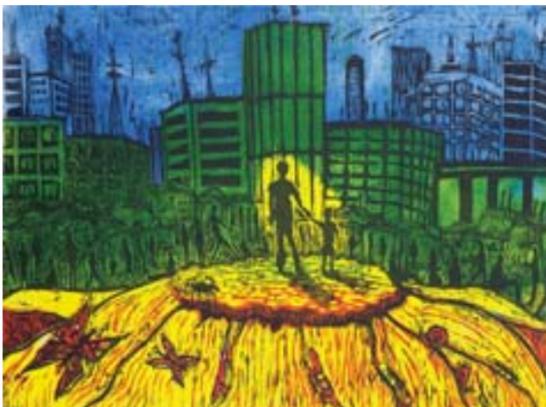
Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Local artists open studios in Lamorinda June 12-13



Artwork by Jennifer Perlmutter



Artwork by Carol Brent Levin



Artwork by Allison Skidgel



Artwork by Jorge Spiropulo



Artwork by Lana Fly

One of the most interesting aspects of art is experiencing it in person and talking to the artists about their work and what inspires them. East Bay Open Studios will once again be offering these in-person opportunities, featuring five Lamorinda artists – Allison Skidgel (Orinda), Lana Fly (Moraga), Carol Brent Levin (Lafayette), Jorge Spiropulo (Moraga) and Jennifer Perlmutter (Lafayette) – as part of its 680 Corridor Artists Weekend 2, Region 2 physical event from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 12-13.

Skidgel, who creates paintings and mixed media, says her drawings begin a creation journey that goes from paper to canvas. "The natural world is my muse," she says.

Brent Levin's printmaking and photography is described as often proactive, "challenging us to ponder humanity's role in our evolving ecosystem." Lana Fly's work is an instinctive natural expression of spirituality and primordiality. And Spiropulo, who works with oils and watercolor, loves painting with bold colors "while offering my interpretation of people and trees."

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette is a sponsor location, which will have guidebooks available. Current state and county restrictions and regulations regarding COVID-19 will apply. For a map, and detailed information about locations, visit eastbayopenstudios.com.
– J. Wake

JM graduates take the stage for next step in education



Photo provided

Submitted by Amy Martinez

The eighth-grade students of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School graduated in person, outdoors in a socially distant ceremony on May 26 at the Joaquin Moraga School Pavilion. Students received their diplomas from members of the Moraga School

District board and walked across the stage as their names were announced. Families cheered them on with "Pomp and Circumstance" playing in the background. Families and students took photos and saw one another briefly while enjoying a beautiful spring evening. Congratulations to the graduates as they move on to high school in the fall.

'See You Up There' – great film that condenses lyricism, passion and redemption opens in Orinda

... continued from Page B1

He chooses to pass for dead and takes refuge in a shop laid out under the rafters, creating unbelievably poetic masks to hide his disfigurement. In order to survive, the two organize a scam using the remembrance business that is starting to flourish and to bring fortunes to the unscrupulous, including to their personal enemy, Captain Pradelle, who caused their misfortune. Love, betrayal, redemption, courage, cowardice, mix in this very human dance of survival.

The movie takes an almost cartoonish tone to portray the business manipulations during and after the war. Lies and sham appearances are the norm as the post-war reconstruction economy becomes a breeding ground for thugs. Dupontel uses caricatures to create a

distance from a reality that could be unbearable otherwise, and adds a well-managed humorous thread to his tapestry.

"See You Up There" is served by wonderful cinematography that vividly transports the viewers from the desperation of the war front, to brilliant salons where decadent parties are held, to miserable districts of the city where Péricourt, the man-without-a-face, symbolizes death but also creativity and poetry. Nahuel Pérez Biscayart inhabits this incredibly romantic character through his gaze and his body; he is simply overwhelming. Director Dupontel plays Maillard with a convincing mix of naivety and craftiness; Laurent Lafitte as Pradelle is the perfectly despicable bad guy; and Niels Arestrup gives Péricourt's arrogant father the right dose



Photo provided

of touching vulnerability.

This imaginative and baroque universe, lyrical and eccentric, should appeal to all audiences. The film is part of the International Film Showcase that presents foreign movies to East Bay audiences, often before they are available nationally.

"See You Up There" opens in Orinda on June 18 for three days and nine screenings; limited seating; tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-film-showcase-au-revoir-la-haut-tickets-154758239059>

~ Healthy Lifestyle ~

Simple, preventative health measures that transcend time



bigstock images

By Dr. Rebecca Parish

As a practicing internal medicine specialist for (ahem) well more than a decade, I have loved getting to know my patients over time. Seeing them though some of life's tougher transitions and helping them create and execute a long-term plan to meet their health goals is both rewarding and challenging in an ever-changing landscape of wellness options.

I am frequently asked by my patients about preventative strategies to maintain health as they age. The dizzying array of offerings seems to keep growing; it is no wonder that many are looking for guidance. I am repeatedly struck by the "circle of life" when it comes to recommendations for health and wellness. Just like crop tops and mom jeans, even those fads that weren't so great (on anyone!) the first time seem to come back around with time and turn the heads of a new generation.

Humans are prone to vanity, to be sure. However, a bigger driver of health consumerism for many seems to be focused on longevity, independence and

living well. This is evident in many ways, easily seen in what we buy: the fortune that we spend on gym memberships and home exercise equipment, supplements that promise an effect of one kind or another, and devices that track our every movement, sleep quality and heart rates (full disclosure: I am wearing one such device right now as I type) are just some examples. Because our desire to maintain a good quality of life while we are living is often on the forefront of our minds, it is hard to avoid being swayed by an article or advertisement touting the latest key breakthrough for youth and vigor.

However, medical research has shown us repeatedly that we can't "put one over" on Mother Nature. Taking supplements and vitamins has never been shown (in any well designed, large scale medical trials) to reproduce the health benefits demonstrated by eating the whole foods containing the same given ingredients. Exercising inside is fine, and better than sitting on one's couch. However, when we do those same gym movements outside, weighted MRIs have demonstrated that additional parts of our brains actually light up. I have yet to find any well

done medical studies showing that a manufactured substitute can hold a candle to benefits of those that are naturally occurring.

While I've had many amazing and brilliant teachers over the years, my patients have taught me much more than those professors ever could. By keeping my eyes and ears open while caring for thousands of people, I've observed a few simple things that seem to transcend cultural, racial, gender and age differences. There is certainly no "one size fits all" approach that would

make sense for people at large, but the common theme that I (and many others) have observed can be boiled down to this simple idea: move as much as you can outside, eat whole foods that contain a variety of naturally occurring hues, maintain your connectedness with your community, and never lose your sense of purpose. These simple, preventative health measures transcend all cultures and stand the test of time, surviving trend after trend ... even perms.



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Dr. Rebecca Parish is a primary care internist based in Lafayette and Walnut Creek. She grew up in the Bay Area and graduated from U.C. Berkeley. She received her medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine and her internal medicine specialty training at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where she participated in endocrine and metabolic research. She loves to teach and received the "Excellence in Teaching" award from the medical students at UCSF School of Medicine in 2020. Dr. Parish believes strongly in the power of local communities to help care for one another and is involved in many volunteer efforts. She and her husband live in Lamorinda with their three kids, two dogs, three cats and a rotating menagerie of foster animals. Unfortunately, Dr. Parish is not accepting new patients at this time.

animals. Unfortunately, Dr. Parish is not accepting new patients at this time.



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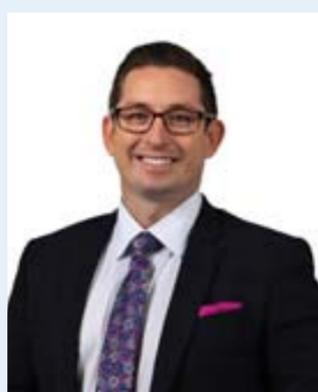
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Dr. Tamplen is a Double Board-Certified Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon. After attending De La Salle High School in Concord, he received prestigious full-tuition academic scholarships at UC Davis for his undergraduate degree and at UCLA for Medical School. Dr. Tamplen graduated ranked #1 at UC Davis receiving the college medal, scored the highest score in the nation on the United States Medical Licensing exam at UCLA, and after he completed his Fellowship in Facial Plastic Surgery, he was awarded the Jack R. Anderson Prize for Scholastic Excellence in 2018. This prize is awarded annually to the Surgeon who achieves the highest combined score on the written and oral portions of the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery exam. This is the most prestigious award given by the ABFPRS to only one graduating fellow per year. Schedule your consultation with the best of the best today!



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Not to be missed

ART

Art and Nature Celebration at the Moraga Art Gallery. As it inches toward normalcy, the Moraga Art Gallery cordially invites art fans young and old to a free reception on Saturday, June 12 from 5-7 p.m. This unique outdoor/indoor event is being held to express thanks to the public for its support during these trying times and to celebrate "An Homage to Nature," a show that features luminous pastels and jewelry by Dalia Alekna and the distinctive monoprints of Pat Prosek. In addition, an array of paintings, photos, ceramics, glassware, jewelry, woodworking, sculpture and other media by more than 25 member- and guest-artists will grace the gallery, located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. Besides a sumptuous visual smorgasbord, guests will also be treated to live music, wine and light snacks. Starting June 1, the gallery will be open Thursday-Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please call (925) 376-5407, or visit <http://moragaartgallery.com> or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival, Saturday, June 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., North Shattuck District, Berkeley. Chalk Art Contest! Chocolate Treats! Free Admission. www.ChocolateandChalkArt.com

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. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. Lamorinda Arts Alliance is an organization of local artists and friends who reside or work in the area. www.laa4art.org

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: June 1-30 Reframing Aging, Peaceful Watercolors and Raku - Gallery Reopening. The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view the June exhibit in the Art Gallery in person at the Orinda Library on all four wood walls near the entrance to the Orinda Library and in the adjacent three-shelf glass case. Nancy Rubin and Cynthia Overbeck Bix's "Reframing Aging" exhibit explores eight vital people aged 70 to 96 including former UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor Russ Ellis. Wendy Liang, a recent California College of the Arts grad's theme "The Peaceful Life," is reflected in her luminous watercolors. Karen Hildebrand's 40 ceramic pieces, done with multiple firing techniques, includes art vessels as well as utilitarian ceramics. All required COVID-19 restrictions are observed in the Gallery for your health and safety. The exhibit runs from June 1 to 30 and can also be seen online at

www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/. At press time a reception date is planned but not confirmed; see www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits/ for more information.

Art Gallery at Wilder, June 1 - 31 Virtual Exhibit: "Déjà vu on the Wall - Paintings of Faraway Lands." Artist Janell Lumley and her husband - prior to COVID-19 - traveled to faraway places where they took copious photos. Lumley derives her portraits from these photographs. She says viewing her oil paintings allows her to revisit faraway places. Déjà vu is the feeling that one has lived through the present situation before. Lumley invites you to view her paintings at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/ to see if you travel with her to any faraway places.

MUSIC

Concert Pianist Natsuki Fukasawa's music career has taken her throughout U.S. cities as well as to Europe, Scandinavia, Israel, Australia, Brazil, Japan and China, performing at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center and Copenhagen's Tivoli Concert Hall. Fukasawa has won many accolades and international prizes, including rave reviews in Strad and Fanfare magazines and the Best Chamber Music Recording of the Year from the Danish Music Awards. This performance is being broadcast online; in-person performances at St. Paul's have been postponed until it is safe to

congregate again. Please visit www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series to access the ticket registration, donation links, and links to the Concert Program.

Diablo Ballet virtually presents the final program of its 27th season, "Love Stories," June 18-27, featuring three ballets, including the romantic duet Carousell (A Dance) inspired by the Broadway musical by renowned choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. Virtual tickets are being sold one per household for \$30 through June 9, after the price goes up to \$35 per household, through the Leshler Center for the Arts by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469) or online at lesherartscenter.org. For additional information, visit diabloballet.org or call 925-943-1775.

OTHER

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents David & Margaret Talbot: By the Light of Burning Dreams on Tuesday, June 15, 6-7 p.m. at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. David & Margaret Talbot will discuss their new book, By the Light of Burning Dreams: The Second American Revolution. Hosted by Greg Bridges Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see www.eventbrite.com/e/david-talbot-margaret-talbot-by-the-light-of-burning-bridges-tickets-151915694933.

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

your own sofa. On June 15, join a Zoom chat to talk about the film and hear from a local advocate for reducing plastic use. The free film series is sponsored by four local environmental groups. Register for the Zoom chat at: <https://bit.ly/3fnOLy4>

Whether you know someone who hoards or are just interested in learning about this disorder, we invite you to join us for a free Zoom workshop called "Hoarding: How to Help Your Loved One," on Thursday, June 17 from 6 to 7 p.m. Hoarding is a major health and safety issue that affects many seniors and is often a major concern adult children have with aging parents. The workshop includes presentations by a marriage and family therapist, a professional organizer, and a code enforcement officer. If you don't know where to turn for help with the person in your life who hoards, start here with this free Zoom presentation. Register in advance at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9259431775>

Wildfire Preparedness: Are You Ready? California's fire season will be starting earlier this year. The more prepared we are as a community, the better we will be able to respond. Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs will speak via Zoom on fire abatement and how the community can get involved on Sunday, June 27 from 7 to 8 p.m. To register: go to the MVPCToday.org website home page and scroll to find the appropriate article with sign up information.

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Burton Valley Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team wins State Championship



Photo provided

Front row: David Siu, Raini Chugh, Lauren Brekke, Sophia Moore; back row: Sanika Khamkar, Olivia Parker, Pareesha Chopra

Submitted by Doug Parker

Burton Valley Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind

Team A took first place in its division for their performance of "Laundry Land" in the Odyssey of the Mind state tournament. Guided by Coaches Maia Siu and Anna

Stubbington, the team won the state competition that was held virtually due to the pandemic.

Beginning in October of 2020, the fifth-grade team met

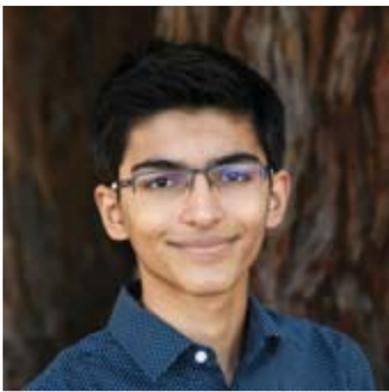
weekly to select and work on their long-term problem. The team chose problem 5, Super-hero Socks: A Cliffhanger Beginning, a story of a Super-hero in peril that begins with a cliffhanger "ending," but finds a pair of Super Socks that give the hero a special power. The team then continued to design how they would solve the problem and incorporate the predetermined elements into their play. During the winter the team created the parts, wrote the script, and built the set. Finally, because of the pandemic, the team filmed their performance live and added an explanatory video on how the components of the performance were put together.

The team placed fourth in the regional competition in March and, along with all of the other regional competitors, they were invited to compete in the State Tournament. Considering the scores they were given in the regional competition, the team

made modifications for the State Tournament where they triumphantly took first place. The team advanced to the World Finals tournament, the results of which will be released later this month.

Odyssey of the Mind is a kid-directed creative problem-solving program involving students from kindergarten through college. Team members work together at length to solve a predefined long-term problem and present their solution to the problem at a competition. They must also participate in the spontaneous portion of the competition by generating solutions to a problem they have not seen before. While the long-term problem solution often takes many months to complete and involves various elements of the theatrical performance, construction and design, the spontaneous portion occurs on the day of the competition. Burton Valley placed first in both the long-term and spontaneous state competition.

Lafayette student creates digital space to keep fellow students connected



Kaveer Gera Photo provided

When the COVID-19 lockdown occurred for 16-year-old Lafayette sophomore Kaveer Gera, he noticed a problem that had arisen at his school after the sudden transition to virtual school: casual connections had been completely and abruptly broken.

"You could no longer ask your classmate about the homework assignment or even make a casual joke as you were walking out of math class. When online class was over, the experience was suddenly and abruptly over," said Gera, who attends Athenian School in Danville. "One moment you were in a classroom with your peers, and the next moment you were in your room alone."

In an effort to repair the problem, Gera configured a digital communication space, which he titled Athenian Community, to replace that casual conversation. "The growth and usage in my school has been incredible, far surpassing my expectations," he said. In the month of May Athenian Community had over 100 members, with students from all four grades. "We even have a majority of the 10th grade," Gera said. "As the pandemic drew relentlessly on, the platform kept us connected and maintained a degree

of normalcy in the most abnormal times we had ever experienced. Instead of being completely isolated, the project helped us stay hopeful and ensured our mental health."

Students, based on their classes, are able to converse with each other in specific places designed for the class. Students have found it immensely useful for getting help for their classes, and the project has served as the best alternative to talking to classmates in person, in addition to helping reduce isolation and boredom during the pandemic. However, Athenian Community has also grown to be significantly more than just communication for classes. "It features a myriad of useful tools for school-related tasks, support for clubs and extracurricular groups, large and reliable administration and moderation teams, and much more," Gera said.

Fundamentally, Athenian Community was created to replace the lost casual connections and communication as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it has done that job very well. Even though Athenian Community was invented as a result of the pandemic, Gera believes its usefulness, versatility, and convenience will enable it to continue to be useful to students even after the pandemic subsides.

"Even as we have transitioned to socially distanced in-person school, Athenian Community has remained helpful because the masks, distancing, and limited exposure still inhibit truly natural social interaction," Gera said. "I'm excited to potentially extend the project to local schools in Lamorinda, because I think it could benefit the students just as it benefits the students at my school."

For information, visit student-community.kaveegera.com
- J. Wake

Justice Murals promote social justice from a student's perspective



Photo provided

Campolindo Vice Principal Laura Lee with Campolindo student Carolyn Considine

Submitted by Carolyn Considine

The Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission (ACC5) is sponsoring a Justice Murals project led by youth commissioner and Campolindo student, Carolyn Considine. Campolindo students were asked to submit drawings and words about what social justice means to them. The muralist, Jaz Alexander (as an aside, he is Steph Curry's brother-in-law) took these drawings and helped incorporate them into a mural. Other high schools in the county will be participating in this social justice project in the fall, and these murals will travel from

school to school to highlight what social justice means from our students' perspective, across the county and beyond. Campolindo is the first high school to pilot this Justice Wall program, and the high school students of the county voices will shine through.

"Projects such as this are important because they elevate and empower student voices showing solidarity and support. Our work as a school is to ensure our actions support the message conveyed in this project," said Campolindo Vice Principal Laura Lee. "As a school community, we have come together to create change. The road is long and the journey is ongoing but together we can accomplish greatness."

Gold Award project helps first responders during evacuations



Rising Athenian School senior Maddy Kim is working on her Gold Award, which is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Over the past two years, the Lamorinda teen learned that there is often confusion during fire evacuations.

"During the Sanders Ranch fire and evacuation last year, I learned that there was a lot of confusion among the residents and authorities about who had evacuated and who had not," Kim wrote on her website. "I realized that it would be more effective if there was a way to notify first responders as to whether or not households had evacuated."

For her project, Kim is making a

double-sided door hanger that can be used during a fire evacuation to make the process quicker and more efficient. "By looking for the door hangers on peoples' doors, first responders will know whether people have already evacuated from their houses or if they need help. My plan is to print enough signs for all the households in Moraga and then enlist help from volunteers to pass them out to everyone. I will also leave extra signs with the police and fire departments and with realty offices so that new Moraga residents can continue to have access to these signs."

Kim is currently working with the Moraga Police Department and Lt.

Brian South, who is also the president of Moraga Rotary. "Working with the Moraga Police Department, I learned about the ways in which they help residents during active evacuations and that there is not an easy way for residents and police officers to communicate, which is what my project would address. I currently have four student volunteers from my school and we will be working all summer and fall to pass the door hangers out, but I am still soliciting volunteers to help me." For information about the project, visit: <https://maddygold21.wixsite.com/evacnow>.

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Jordan Allred – from Miramonte to Moscow ... Idaho



Jordan Allred

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

With the onset of the coronavirus, this was a particularly difficult year for the seniors of Lamorinda – limited to Zoom classes, anticipating graduation, the lack of social interaction, the potential elimination of all sports teams and anxiously awaiting to learn which colleges they would be accepted to and deciding which school to ultimately attend. For Miramonte senior basketball player, Jordan Allred, the college question had long been answered, having committed as a junior to attend, and play basketball at the University of Idaho.

The love of basketball came early and naturally to the Martinez native. “My father (Dave) played basketball at Chico State and still gets out and plays,” Allred said. “My parents never forced me to play but I was inspired to play a game that my dad loved.”

Allred began playing for Cal Stars in the fourth grade, eventually playing for the NIKE 17U Elite Basketball Youth

League. It was in the club teams where she was first exposed to Kelly Sopak, her coach at Miramonte through her junior year. Sopak witnessed firsthand Allred’s evolution as a player. “Jordan started to stand out in the eighth grade,” Sopak said. “Our team at Miramonte was so good, her playing time as a freshman was limited but she just took off as a sophomore.”

With her playing time limited that first year in high school, Allred looked to her family for support. “At that point, I was not much of a play maker so I wasn’t able to really show my abilities which hurt my confidence. My parents were very encouraging, telling me that I had to be a team leader. As I got more confident in myself and what I could do as a player, that was when I began to play more and more.”

From that freshman year, Allred’s scoring, assists, and rebounds increased each season, finishing her senior year averaging 19.7 pts, 7.6 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game. “What often gets overlooked by people is a player’s

IQ,” Sopak said. “Jordan’s basketball IQ is so high; it allows her to do so many things on the floor and that is why she is so versatile.”

Vince Wirthman, in his first year as the Miramonte head coach, came to rely heavily on Allred, with all-star Mia Mastrov opting to graduate early to attend the UC Berkeley. “Jordan naturally took over the leadership of the team and was a lot more vocal this year,” Wirthman said. She is very confident with a beautiful, pure shot and she had the green light to shoot all the time. We needed her to score, and she took good shots and did not force anything. She’s a complete player and has no real weaknesses in her game.”

After playing for Sopak on the club teams and at Miramonte, Allred and Sopak went head-to-head when Carondolet came to play at Miramonte. “Actually, I had coached against Jordan at times with Cal Stars but coming to Miramonte and coaching against her and the rest of the team was really strange.”

Allred had a similar reaction: “It was weird, and it sucked that we lost but I still respected Kelly.”

There was a substantial difference in coaching styles between Wirthman and Sopak. Things were a bit more democratic under Wirthman. “Vince was very good at listening to us,” Allred said. “He wanted to know our ideas and what we thought we should do to make the team better. Kelly was hardcore and he ran everything.”

It was love at first sight for Allred when she visited the University of Idaho. “The campus was beautiful, and I really liked the small town feeling there,” Allred said. “Everyone was very welcoming to me. Plus, they use a fast-paced offense and are good at sharing the ball. Everything was just perfect when I was up there.”

Idaho head coach Jon Newlee agreed with Allred in believing that she will fit right into his program: “Jordan’s an outstanding shooter and in our program, that’s a highly valued skill. We are in the top 10 in the NCAA in shooting threes. I really think that she is the total package, playing physical bas-

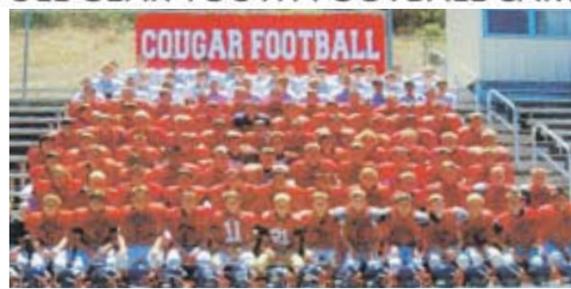
ketball, taking charges, diving on the floor, and making all the hustle plays.”

Unlike her freshman year at Miramonte, Allred is going to have a real opportunity to play upon arrival at Idaho. “I’m not afraid to play freshmen,” Newlee said. “We’ve had the freshman of the year the last couple of years for our league. I love to target them, and I love to play them. We play four guards a lot of the time and that’s where I see her. Jordan can get the rebound and bring the ball up the floor. We want our guards to be able to create, drive, kick the ball out and

shoot the basketball. She’ll certainly be able to fit in as one of the four guards out there.”

Allred, who plans on majoring in business and marketing, is confident in her ability to handle the academics at Idaho even with the travails of this last year, at least socially. “It was really hard because of how scared people were of COVID and it cut a lot of people out. However, on Zoom, school seemed easier. I believe that Miramonte has prepared me for college, and it may even be easier than at Miramonte.”

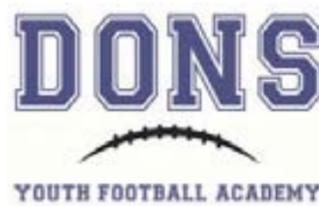
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Matai Bell – from Cougar to Cadet



Matai Bell

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

Campolindo head football coach Kevin Macy claims that the success of his

program down through the years was “to have kids that did not look like football players but played tough.” However, when Antioch native, Matai Bell, (6’4” 320) who has been attending school in Moraga since junior high school, began to play football at Campolindo, Macy was happy to go against form, welcoming Bell, who also brought the requisite toughness.

Commuting back and forth from Antioch imbued Bell with a sense of discipline. When he began attending Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, the wakeup calls for the Bell family began at the crack of dawn. “My mom would take me and my sisters to our schools in Moraga,” Bell said. “With my school starting at 7:30, we would have to get up around 4:30 each morning.”

Sports were an essential part of Bell’s adolescence having played football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and track though he opted to focus on football and track (shot and discus) when he began high school. Campolindo proved to be very welcoming

to Bell from day one. “I could not have asked for a better experience going into my freshman year,” Bell said. “The seniors told us that we may have fun playing freshman football but once you play for Coach Macy, it’s going to be different. Coach Macy would share stories with us about all the Campo alumni and how they had won the NCS championships. In my sophomore year, he told me how big I could be in the future for the offensive line.”

Macy appreciated how special it was to have a player like Bell on the team. “Matai was always big, and we don’t usually find players like that,” Macy said. “He is very personable, athletic and a good student. He will probably play guard at West Point since they are primarily a running team, but he has the skills to play tackle at the next level. He even ran for a touchdown this year against Miramonte, high stepping his way in the end zone.”

... continued on Page C3

Campo varsity girls soccer team goes undefeated



Photo provided

Submitted by Luis Pinto

After a very unique season – one that almost didn’t happen – the Campolindo Girls Soccer 2021 Varsity team went undefeated 10-0 this season. The players and coach decided to give their seniors a season to remember in their last year. The team started on April 16 against College Park and went down on the score 1-0 on the first half, but since then the team hit a spark that never died, according to head coach Luis Pinto. “We fought and gave our best to every team we played and slowly started noticing a winning streak,” Pinto said. “Our confidence went up, we trained better, and we were determined to be back-to-back league champions. And we did it, we won every game and some of our most memorable wins versus a Division 1 school, Clayton Valley Charter, and of course our rivals Miramonte and Acalanes.”

The varsity team worked really hard –

even when the school was struggling with field space for its training, since all sports were back. The team worked it out and took the early morning shift, training from 6:45 to 8 a.m. “It was rough to get high school kids to wake up any earlier than school time but they were determined,” Pinto said. “We honor our seniors Jojo Flower, Gracie McCauley, Kendal Runckel, Julia Ortega, Siena Giordano, Lindsay Davis and Siena DeCarlo. We want to wish all the seniors the best of wishes and to tell them we’re proud of them for pulling it together in such a challenging year.”

This was also the first year the program had two players committed to Division 1 colleges: Kendall Runckel will play for UC Davis and Julia Ortega will play for Arizona State. “What a memorable season we had,” Pinto said. “Thank you to all our players, Campolindo staff and the parents for their support this year. We will never forget!”

MBA's 14U Mavericks finish as 680 League Champs



Photo Shirley DeFrancisi

Back row, from left: Callen Chivers, Brendan Baldelli, Drew DeFrancisi, Jonathan Wang, Reed Norton, Kyle Ting, Joe Revelos; front row: Colin Rutzen, Jack Luster, Ryan Rittmann, Alex Rothery, Jack Mooradian, William Myers

Submitted by Ted Ting

The 14U Mavericks of the Moraga Baseball Association won the 680 Diablo League Championship over Memorial Day Weekend.

This was the culmination of a plan laid out by head coach Hal Marty, assisted by Brian Myers and Ted Ting, which emphasized core fundamentals: Team before self;

you must be able to play catch; always swing hard and compete at the plate; respect your opponent; practice like you play because you play like you practice; and get better every day.

Following this blueprint, the Mavericks finished first in the league with an 18-3 regular season record and went 4-0 in the playoffs, defeating the Lafayette Oaks 9-6 in the championship game.

Submit sports stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com



GIRLS' SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS MINORS DIVISION NORTHWESTERN

BACK ROW: Coach Mike Frazier, Coach Tim Cecchin, Annabelle Sullivan, Coach Brian Myers, Coach Ted Olson.

FRONT ROW: Makenzie Simpkins, Charlotte Myers, Josie Frese, Molly Cecchin, Isla Olson, Brooke Frazier, Madeleine Tuft, Megan Baldelli, Kiera Morris, Quinn Hickey.

NOT PICTURED: Lyla Mediano, Lily Ricksen.



BOYS' BASEBALL CO-CHAMPIONS AAA CARDINALS

BACK ROW: Coaches Kevin Dunphy, Dan Morrill, Yash Mehta, Josh Norek.

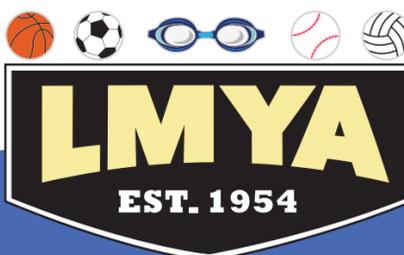
FRONT ROW: Harrison Clark, Dylan Kubiatowicz, Brady Morrill, Christian Dunphy, Declan Krause, Miles Moore, Aram Mehta, Nico Randesi, Alexander Izzo, Madden Wakeman, Dillon Nagar, Kyle Cronin, Jacob Norek.



BOYS' BASEBALL CO-CHAMPIONS AAA YANKEES

BACK ROW: Coaches Matthew Whelan, Kevin Quaresma, Anthony Bishop, Ka Chan.

FRONT ROW: Jonas Lukach, Anthony Bishop, Dominic Quaresma, Brendan Whelan, Edgard Woodall, Kasey Chan, Lucas Nguyen, Jason Rossiter, Finn Mikolavich, Sam Rojas, Stanley Martin, Owen Lee, Aiden Flowers.



Late Soccer Registration will continue until June 15

LMYA SOFTBALL & BASEBALL CHAMPIONS 2021

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Matai Bell – from Cougar to Cadet

... continued from Page C2

Under the tutelage of offensive line coach Bill Leavy, Bell would quickly develop and by his senior year, he would be named to the first team for the following groups: All-Bay Area, West Coast Prep, Chronicle All-Metro and the Bay Area News Group. Bell was also ranked the No. 2 ranked offensive lineman by West Coast Preps. "Bill was hard on us, but he taught us the game by always focusing on the little things. He would know if a play was off immediately. We would hear him yelling at and correcting us from the sidelines."

After Leavy retired, his son Brian replaced him for Bell's senior year. "Brian really focused on getting us in shape over the summer. He really wanted us to pound the ball," Bell said. "Overall, I went through a lot, and I had a truly great experience playing for the Cougars."

It was more than just football for Bell at Campolindo. Bell was part of the group that started the Black Student Union his freshman year and was

a leader of that group as well. Not surprisingly, Kevin Macy was his favorite teacher (math), but the rest of the staff ran a close second. "I loved just about all of the teachers at Campolindo," Bell said. "They took me in, and they knew when I was struggling and when I needed help to get to the next level."

As difficult as things were for everyone with the coronavirus, Bell learned to take things in stride. "After losing the last year and a half, I learned to enjoy the little things. Things were harder for me since I lived so far away so I learned to take everything with a grain of salt and to appreciate how fast things can be taken away from you."

Attending West Point has been a long-held dream for Bell. With grandparents from both sides of his family along with several other relatives having been part of the military, Bell wanted to follow in their footsteps. After taking an unofficial visit to West Point, all doubt was removed from his mind. "Once I saw how beautiful the campus was, hearing all the stories about the history of the Academy, see-

ing the bond between the cadets walking around and saluting each other, I just knew that this was the place I wanted to be. I have always watched the Army-Navy games and to actually have the opportunity to eventually play in that game, it was a no-brainer for me."

The application process was far more extensive than at other schools having to submit a medical form and taking a fitness test twice. Bell will be attending the West Point Prep School so he will not be using up a year of football eligibility but will be playing for the prep team against teams like the Naval Academy Prep Team.

"Attending the West Point Prep School is done to facilitate the academic success of these cadets," said Gene McIntyre, the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Recruiting at West Point. "This one-year program will ensure that Matai and the others will have the foundation to be successful at the academy."

According to Alex Lane, a football trainer at West Point, the players do not receive any special treatment.

"They will go through what the other cadets have to go through – learning how to be a soldier, taking accountability and learning military bearing. Life as a cadet is nothing like their senior year in high school."

Along with the academic demands, there are physical demands that must be met by all the cadets when they show up on July 12. "Primarily, I'm preparing for all these miles I'm going to have to run when I get there," Bell said. "They already know that the big guys are not going to be able to run the times required for all the cadets, but I am still preparing myself to do the best that I can."

Bell, who will be majoring in International Business, understands that going from California to upstate New York will be a new experience. "I'm excited and a little scared since I've only lived in California," Bell said. "It's going to be totally different environment but I'm excited to see new things."

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 9, 2021



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

Using Mother Nature against Mother Nature



A living retaining wall sprouts green on the hillside.



Grosoxx was filled with seed and compost.

Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

After 33 years living in Lafayette in the same house, Gint Federas and his wife, Geni, took on a major landscaping project to halt the erosion of their property. “We originally had a retaining wall which directed the water, but it led to extensive erosion of the land below,” Federas said. “We had a lot of ivy which we removed at the direction of the fire marshal which exposed how serious the erosion problem was.”

This was no small project on a property that measures two-thirds of an acre. Federas, who grew up in an urban environment and now considers himself a “gentleman farmer,” weighed his options as to the best way to stabilize the hill. “I considered building retaining walls with wood or blocks, but I felt it was unsightly and extremely expensive,” Federas said. “So, I did a lot of research on retaining walls and I found someone who was doing creek and river remediation with the heavy-duty polypropylene tubular mesh netting (Grosoxx).” The Grossoxx is designed to stabilize

banks and prevent erosion on waterways and shoreline banks. Besides the ecological benefit of using the Grossoxx, when costed out, it was about 80% cheaper than putting in retaining walls.

The first thing Federas did was to remove the non-native trees. “We cut out all of the pine, palm and other non-native trees. Our plan was to make a “permaculture” where native plants, bushes and trees would not need added water or chemicals to be able to grow anything.”

Federas purchased 16,000 feet (over 3 miles) of the Grossoxx, cutting it into two-to-three-foot lengths, tying off one end and filling it with seed and compost. After mixing 300 pounds of seed and 300 tons of compost, it took Federas and three assistants three months to fill up enough Grossoxx to fill in one half of the hill. Fortunately for Federas, “I discovered a Min-FX machine which is custom made by Filtrexx. It filled up the Grossoxx like a sausage machine, far faster than we could manually.”



... continued on Page D4



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	35	\$1,100,000	\$3,100,000
MORAGA	10	\$468,000	\$2,510,000
ORINDA	19	\$1,220,000	\$5,609,500

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

- 976 1st Street, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 04-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-13-06
- 1197 Bacon Way, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 2039 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 04-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 10-02-13
- 3318 Beechwood Drive, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,349,000, 04-23-18
- 3026 Bradbury Drive, \$1,937,500, 3 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-20-21
- 25 Camino Court, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 3102 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$811,818, 06-09-99
- 4008 Canyon Road, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3490 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,315,000, 04-13-07
- 426 Castello Road, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3069 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 04-22-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,140,000, 11-10-16
- 15 Del Rio Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1863 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 08-06-03
- 181 El Dorado Road, \$1,707,000, 3 Bdrms, 1518 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 08-28-12
- 688 Francis Drive, \$1,430,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 11-10-09
- 3527 Hamlin Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2630 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,276,000, 11-05-09
- 669 Jennie Court, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1150 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-22-21
- 620 Lucas Drive, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2323 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 08-01-89
- 3320 South Lucille Lane, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 05-10-12
- 3235 Mt Diablo Court #103, \$1,635,000, 2 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-28-21
- 3235 Mt Diablo Court #207, \$1,825,000, 2 Bdrms, 2103 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 04-28-21
- 2776 West Newell Avenue, \$1,612,000, 6 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$599,000, 07-18-01
- 1128 Perales Street, \$1,915,500, 4 Bdrms, 2447 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 04-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 05-23-11
- 1556 Rancho View Road, \$3,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3246 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,399,000, 02-28-17
- 3260 Rohrer Drive, \$1,905,000, 3 Bdrms, 2416 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-21-21
- 855 Santa Maria Way, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-27-21
- 1247 Scenic Drive, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-30-21
- 4 Shreve Lane, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 04-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$769,000, 08-26-14
- 1097 Sierra Vista Way, \$1,851,500, 5 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-22-21,
Previous Sale: \$980,000, 09-23-14
- 508 Silverado Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$175,000, 12-01-79
- 624 North Silverado Drive, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 04-20-21
- 3547 Springhill Road, \$3,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 05-19-14
- 41 Sunrise Lane, \$1,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-23-21
- 3411 Sweet Drive, \$1,605,000, 3 Bdrms, 2197 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-20-21
- 3094 Sweetbrier Circle, \$2,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 2371 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,210,000, 04-15-19
- 17 Timber Lane, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1340 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 01-20-05
- 1208 Vacation Drive, \$1,515,000, 3 Bdrms, 1450 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$920,000, 07-15-14

... continued on Page D13

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Using Mother Nature against Mother Nature

... continued from Page D1

In the end, it only took three weeks to prepare the Grososxx for the other half of the hill.

Federas and his crew started at the bottom of the hill and laid each of the Grososxx side-by-side and row-by-row up the hill. “We held the Grososxx in place using geogrid fabric (geosynthetic material used to reinforce soils), particularly in the steeper area,” Federas said. “This would keep the Grososxx from rolling down the hill and was particularly effective on areas that were steepest. We flattened the Grososxx to key them into the hillside and would lay another layer on them, going up the hill continuously. It’s called Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE),” he said. “In soil engineering terms, the goal is to contain, reinforce, and vegetate. Cosmeti-

cally, the ‘living retaining wall’ adds tens of thousands of flowers and attracts natural pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.”

Once the grass seed roots, it ties the Grososxx bags together to form a “living retaining wall” of tubes interlocked above, below and between with root fibers. Deep-rooted, native flowers will replace grass after they start from seed. With over 10,000 planned plantings, buying flats from nurseries would be cost prohibitive.

“We’re ramping up about 1,000 seed plantings each weekend,” said Federas. “All plantings will be deep-rooted and native. Once they get established, their roots will grow deeper through the bag and root several feet into the ground.”

... continued on Page D12

The planting includes vegetables like sweet peas

Photo Gint Federas

Help!

It's so hard to find a place to rent in the Bay Area! Andrea, can you and your team find me a new home and handle all the frustrating details so I can rest easy?

Andrea and Team, I'm a real estate agent who doesn't handle rentals and my clients just closed on a fantastic property they'd like to rent out. **Can you take it from here?**

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

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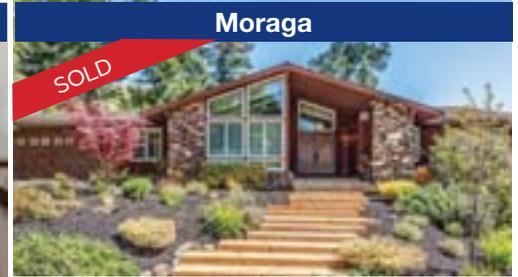
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971 Hawthorne Drive \$1,185,000
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 Bev Arnold 925-788-8516
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76 Ashbrook Place \$2,410,000
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 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405
 Lic #01373412



Moraga
5 Newberry Place \$2,315,000
 Represented Buyer
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 Lic#01272382



Concord
1816 Camino Estrada \$789,000
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Rossmoor/Walnut Creek
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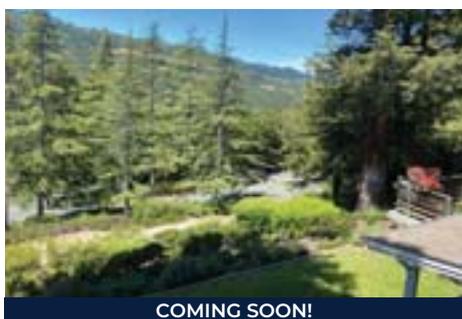
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Using Mother Nature against Mother Nature



Flowers will be deep rooted to conserve water and fertilizer.

Photos Gint Federas



Flowers like this Lupine are growing in pots.

... continued from Page D4

The Federases will be planting numerous flowers for year-round and ever-changing colors. “They are all going to be native, deep rooted flowers like black eyed Susans, echinacea, salvia, lupine, milkweed and African daisies,” Federas said. “It’s important to have them be deep rooted natives because once they deep root, you don’t have to water or fertilize them anymore and they are low maintenance. They’ll seek their own water in the hillside. The tubes shade the dirt below and reduce evaporation, like adding six inches of mulch on top of the soil. Plus, these flowers will attract bees and butterflies and aren’t liked by deer. They will bloom from early spring through late fall. On the shady side, we’re planting Coleus and hosta.”

How many flowers overall will be planted on the property? Thousands and thousands, and then some.

It was on Greenhorizonsenvironmental.com where Federas originally learned about Grosoxx which was invented by Rod Taylor. What must be most satisfying for Federas and his wife is that same website which lists the successful projects using their Grosoxx, the Federas Residence is prominently listed as a case study to emulate.

Federas has been sharing his work on Facebook and welcomes any questions that anyone might have if they are faced with a similar project.

Federas’ next project? “Sleep.”

Correction: In the May 26 article, “The shocking truth about GFCI outlets,” the terms “line” and “load” were swapped; the correct explanation should have read as follows: The outlet has two sets of screws for connecting wires, one is marked Line, where the power comes in, and the other is Load, where the wire and power continue to the next outlet.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

LAFAYETTE ... continued

1064 Viela Court, \$1,930,000, 3 Bdrms, 2078 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$235,000, 07-01-85

3344 Walnut Lane, \$2,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 2265 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-20-21

1006 Woodbury Road #102, \$1,520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 04-30-21

MORAGA

2026 Ascot Drive, \$736,000, 3 Bdrms, 1687 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$455,000, 07-03-14

2129 Ascot Drive #11, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-28-21,
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 12-11-03

2121 Donald Drive #18, \$468,000, 2 Bdrms, 896 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$209,000, 02-06-20

255 Donald Drive, \$1,632,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 04-20-21

264 Draeger Drive, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,564,000, 06-29-17

1133 Larch Avenue, \$1,580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 07-12-06

219 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,689,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 10-12-18

73 Sanders Ranch Road, \$2,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 3929 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 04-27-21

11 Sparrow Court, \$1,862,000, 3 Bdrms, 2573 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-30-21

15 Williams Drive, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2664 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,290,000, 07-27-07

ORINDA

1 Aghalee Road, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,960,000, 05-26-20

20 Alice Place, \$3,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 4471 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,305,000, 04-23-98

40 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,730,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 04-20-21

42 Camino Lenada, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 1601 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$869,000, 08-16-07

135 Camino Pablo, \$1,286,000, 4 Bdrms, 2511 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 04-20-21

27 Ivy Drive, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1520 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 09-11-18

63 Ivy Drive, \$2,020,000, 6 Bdrms, 2965 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,255,000, 06-30-08

23 Martha Road, \$1,945,000, 4 Bdrms, 2285 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-19-21

63 Moraga Viax, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2662 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-23-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,410,000, 04-29-14

38 Muth Drive, \$1,715,000, 4 Bdrms, 2320 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$739,000, 12-03-03

37 La Cintilla, \$1,780,000, 3 Bdrms, 2685 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-30-21

63 La Cuesta Road, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 3637 SqFt, 1931 YrBlt, 04-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 04-08-15

10 La Punta, \$5,609,500, 4 Bdrms, 5508 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 04-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$238,000, 06-01-78

28 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2338 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 08-13-10

53 Tappan Lane, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3346 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 04-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,405,000, 11-14-17

58 Tomcat Way, \$3,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 4239 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 04-22-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,620,000, 06-25-19

14 Vista Del Mar, \$2,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 2994 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-21-21,
Previous Sale: \$815,000, 05-01-92

57 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,615,000, 3 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,530,000, 11-02-20

3 Woodland Road, \$1,820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1546 SqFt, 1920 YrBlt, 04-23-21



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fire-retardant and fire-resistant plantings



Photos Cynthia Brian

After weeding, this hillside is blooming with statice, gaura, geranium, calendula, and ice plant.

By Cynthia Brian

Normally the sound of weed-whackers disrupts the tranquility of living the soulful country life, but this year, I am grateful to hear their constant buzzing. With a summer of historical dryness in front of us bringing a looming fire danger, cutting the grasses on hillsides, paths, and in backyards is imperative. I've been working on my property since early February weeding, cutting, pruning, mulching, repairing, and planting in prepa-

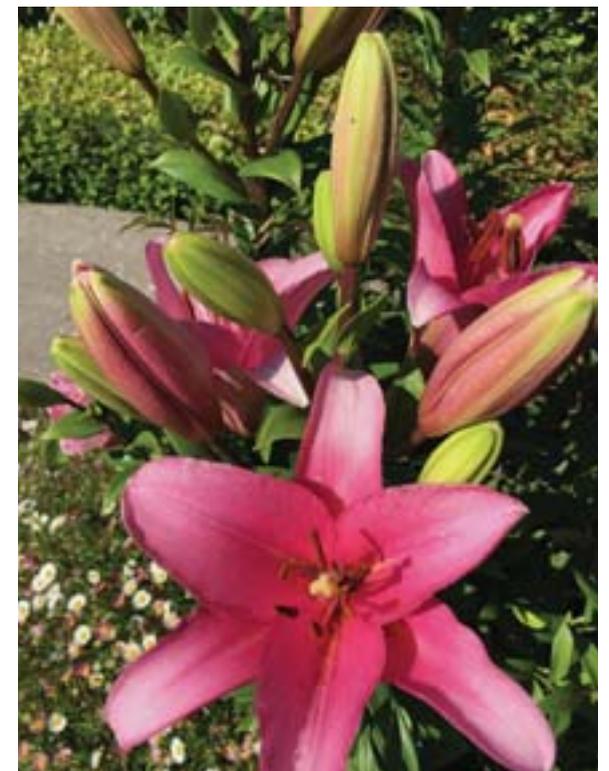
ration for a hot, dangerous year. You are encouraged to walk through your landscape and make sure you are also ready for whatever may transpire. We want to keep our community picturesque as well as safe. We all play a part in protecting our precious land and lives.

My articles on creating an Emergency Go-Bag and Wildfire Protection through Landscaping elicited numerous emails and comments (see story links on Page D14). The No. 1 request was to supply a list of plants

that would be fire-retardant and fire-resistant.

When planning a new garden or adding plants to an existing landscape, it is essential to be reminded that no plant is fire-proof. Everything can and will burn if the temperature is hot enough. Also, even if a plant tag indicates that it is fire-resistant, it must be properly maintained, pruned, irrigated, spaced, and positioned in the correct locations to thrive. Plants that have been infested with pests, are too old, or are stressed will be more flammable. Plants that are not nurtured could create a problem for other vegetation. Inspect your botanicals carefully.

... continued on Page D16



Asiatic lilies and Santa Barbara Daisies are both fire-retardant and fire-resistant.

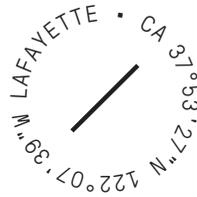
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GARDEN ZONES

ZONE 1: DEFENSIBLE ZONE

Plants within 30 feet of a structure need to be considered for fire-retardance. This is Zone 1, the defensible space of your garden which will be able to withstand extreme heat and flying embers. Plants need to be watered thoroughly, trees are preferably deciduous, and the leaves of plants will be moist, fleshy, and broad.

Groundcovers for this area include:

Lawn grasses
Ajuga
Isotoma
Gazania
Alyssum
Moss
Nasturtium
Vinca
Dwarf Plumbago
Chamomile

Zone 1 Perennials include:

Acanthus
Agapanthus
Artemisia
Bergenia
Canna

Dusty Miller
Shasta Daisy
Chrysanthemum
Coreopsis
Foxglove
Ferns
Geranium
Daylilies
Impatiens
Hosta

Heuchera
Penstemon
Pelargonium
New Zealand Flax
Lamb's Ear
Calla lilies
Bird of Paradise

Zone 1 Shrubs include:
Heuchera
Penstemon
Pelargonium
New Zealand Flax
Lamb's Ear
Calla lilies
Bird of Paradise

Rose
Privet
Boxwood
Camellia
Photinia
Mock Orange
Gardenia
Hibiscus
Pittosporum
Azalea

Rhododendron
Lilac
Viburnum
Oleander

Zone 1 Vines include:
Clematis
Trumpet Vine
Grape

Jasmine
Bower Vine
Wisteria
Zone 1 Trees include:
Fruit trees
Magnolia
Maple
Redbud
Birch
Pineapple Guava
Dogwood
Crape Myrtle
Liquid Amber
Ornamental Pear
Pepper Tree

ZONE 2: FUEL BREAK

From 31 feet to 70 feet from a structure, and even further up on slopes, is the green-belt area which is designed to halt the fire. Plants in this area are the most fire-retardant with low fuels and high moisture content. These plantings can withstand neglect, freezes, droughts, and even insect infestations and still be fire-retardant. Ground covers don't grow over 18 inches. Trees and shrubs have space between them. In general, although succulents and cactus may not survive a fire, they are the best at retarding one.

Zone 2 Groundcovers include:

Succulents
Ice plant
Yarrow
Artemisia
Morning glory
Coreopsis
Santa Barbara Daisy
Wild strawberry
Gazania
Primrose
Osteospermum
Clover
Verbena

Zone 2 Perennials include:

Yarrow
Dusty Miller
California Poppy
Iris
Gaura
Euphorbia
Chrysanthemum
Coreopsis
Statice
Candytuft
Lupine
Red-Hot Poker
Sage

Yucca Zone 2 Shrubs include:

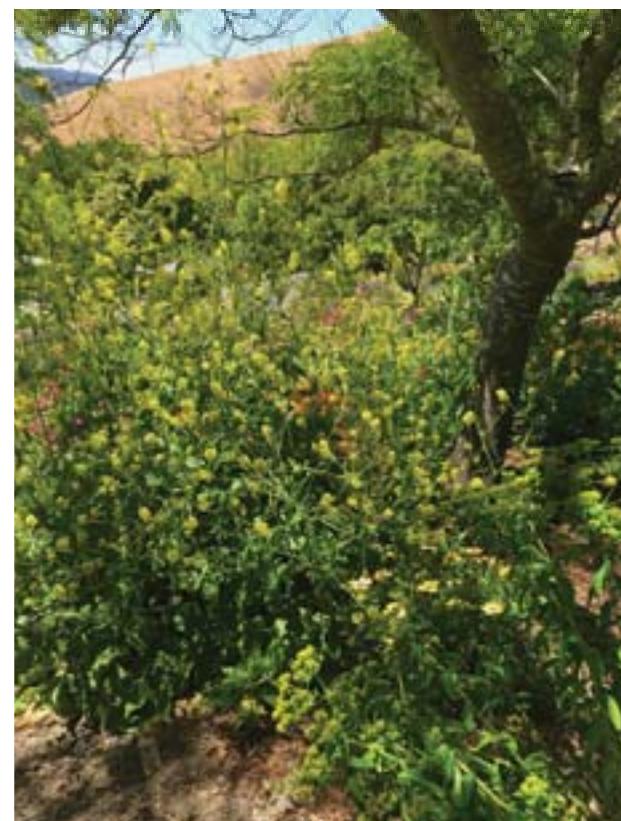
Succulents
Cactus
Oleander
Pomegranate
Rockrose
Zone 2 Vines include:
Virginia Creeper
Lady Banks Rose
Honeysuckle
Nightshade
Senecio Confusus

Zone 2 Trees include:

Carob
Strawberry Tree
Redbud
Honey Locust
Chinese Pistache
California Black Oak
Sumac
Yucca
Joshua Tree



Roses are excellent fire-safe plants. (Mr. Lincoln rose)



Black mustard plant becomes invasive, dries in summer as kindling for fires, and sprouts after fires. Pull it!

Photos Cynthia Brian



Grapes and roses along with love-in-the-mist nigella are fire-safe.



This hillside is prone to wildfire.

GENERAL FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

Although no plant is 100% fire-proof, these plants are less likely to burn. Several are already listed for Zones 1 and 2.

Bulbs (tulips, daffodils, iris, hyacinth, freesia, etc. Cut stalks to the ground when leaves are dry)

California redbud	Yellow or Purple	Evening primrose	Locust
Sage	Ice Plant	Daphne	Fruit Trees (varieties of cherry, plum, pear, peach, apricot, pomegranate, fig)
Penstemon	Creeping Phlox	Boxwood	Black Oak
Heather	Lamium	Rhododendron	Hawthorne
Fuchsia	Sedum	Spirea	Birch
Columbine	Succulents	Dogwood	Aspen
Thyme	Veronica	Mock orange	Poplar
Poppy	Armeria	Azalea	Maple
Wild strawberry	Agapanthus	Currant	Manzanita (prune without deadwood)
Common yarrow	Trumpet Vine	Viburnum	Walnut
French lavender	Daylily	Aloe	California Bay
Lantana	Heuchera	Primrose	Laurel
Lilac	Hosta	Candytuft	California Pepper
Coreopsis	Red-Hot Poker	African Daisy	
Ajuga	Lupine	Calendula	
California lilac	Delphinium	TREES:	
Society garlic	Echinacea	Horse Chestnut	
Jasmine	Lamb's ear	Liquid Amber	
Periwinkle	Yucca	Honey Locust	
Alliums	Rose	Crabapple	
Dianthus	Salvia	Purple Robe	

Remember that deciduous plants are less flammable than evergreen. Gray and silver plants have a high mineral and ash content which makes them more fire-resistant. Vegetation with needles or fine, thin leaves is flammable. The more stored moisture a plant has, the more it can withstand a fire. Use less-flammable types of mulch, such as gravel or decorative rock, or a combination of wood bark mulch and decorative rock to dress your garden, retain moisture, and deter weed growth.

To burn, fires need fuel. By removing debris, planting and maintaining a fire-retardant and fire-resistant landscape, cutting down dead trees, thinning dried branches, spacing, pruning, watering, and keeping trees away from roofs, you will diminish the chance of ignition, lower fire intensity, and reduce the spread of a blaze. Your home will have a better chance of surviving a wildfire.

Best of all, you can still create a gorgeous oasis where you can entertain, relax, and socialize.

Firewise volunteers are available to offer advice in neighborhoods. The Orinda Firewise Council supports and educates the public about wildfire resilience. They are seeking landscapers and nurseries to assist with communicating ways in which homeowners can become more wildfire safe by making their property more fire-resistant. To work together with them to empower and beautify the community, go to <https://www.orindafirewisecouncil.org/contact-us>
Website: <https://www.orindafirewisecouncil.org>

You don't want fires to crawl fueled by unkempt low-lying vegetation, high grasses, or mounds of leaves. Get out the weed whackers and go to work. Be fire safe and enjoy a wonderful summer.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Congratulations to the graduates and Happy Father's Day to all the great dads.

Links to Lamorinda Weekly "Go Bag" and "Firewise Landscaping" stories:

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1507/Packing-an-emergency-Go-Bag.html

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1507/Digging-Deep-with-Goddess-Gardener-Cynthia-Brian-Wildfire-protection-through-landscaping.html



Prune all trees to prevent fire-laddering.



A beautiful arbor of wisteria, roses, and scarlet trumpet vine, all fire-resistant botanicals.



Watered lawn grasses provide a defensive zone.



Cynthia Brian working to make the garden fire-safe.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your 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.

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