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A lone flag flies on a hillside home in the Bluffs.

Photos Vera Kochan

William and Roberta Klaproth decorate their Moraga yard with American flags for the Fourth of July (far right).

# Fly flags to show patriotism on Fourth, not fireworks

By Vera Kochan

Another year of drought brings warnings from local authorities about being fire-wise. Conditions are bad enough without adding Fourth of July fireworks into the mix.

With the scaling-down of sanctioned fireworks displays due to social-distancing, some celebrators are looking for ways to add a “bang” to their festivities by using what has traditionally been touted as “safe and sane” fireworks.

According to FireworksLand.com, “The term ‘Safe and Sane’ was popularized in the late 1950s and 1960s to refer to a new generation of consumer

fireworks. These new fireworks were thought to be safer than the ones sold in previous decades, which did include very large firecrackers and a wide variety of other devices such as rockets and aerial shells.” The newly classified fireworks are not supposed to fly or explode and are sold by legal vendors, however the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District reminds residents that all fireworks, even those marked “Safe and Sane” are illegal in the county.

“The only safe and sane approach to fireworks in Contra Costa County is to simply not use them,” noted ConFire Chief Lewis T. Broschard III in a June 10 statement. “They are uncontrollable and dangerous, illegal, and their use – especially in our current

drought conditions – is irresponsible posing the very real possibility of causing wildland fires that could easily destroy homes and threaten lives in this time of critically high fire risk.

To that end, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted a new fireworks ordinance (Chapter 44-2 of the County Ordinance Code) on June 8 strengthening regulations regarding the possession, manufacture, sale, use, and discharge of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The new ordinance declares that property and vessel owners are responsible for ensuring that the use of illegal fireworks does not occur on their property.

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# Could a miracle save Orinda from PG&E transmission towers?

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's Downtown Subcommittee heard a tale of overwhelming obstacles to moving or undergrounding the unsightly Pacific Gas and Electric Company transmission towers that run right through downtown Orinda on June 10. But, buried in the doom and gloom was a tiny spark of hope, fanned by someone with experience of removing towers from Orinda. The meeting was attended, on Zoom, by Mark van Gorder and Vic Baker, who are stepping into the very large shoes vacated by the death of longtime community relations executive Tom Guarino, who died at the end of last year from complications of COVID-19.

Baker and van Gorder came prepared to discuss the issue of whether anything could be done to relieve Orinda of the burden caused by the transmission towers, which have the greatest impact on the Village side of the city.

The downtown subcommittee consists of city council members Inga Miller

and Nick Kosla. Kosla took the lead at the meeting, as the two rotate running the meetings. The benefits and challenges of either placing the wires underground or moving them to a different location were reviewed. Undergrounding would eliminate the visual impact of the towers, and potentially could reduce the risk of fire. But the cost of undergrounding is huge, and even if the lines were undergrounded, structures could still not be built over the lines or the setbacks. Moving the lines could result in more open space for greater development potential, and might reduce the visual impact of the towers in downtown, although they would still have an impact where they were moved to. While the cost would be less, it would still be very large. Other concerns include increased fire risks and concerns from residents, in addition to the fact that topography grading might be required for the towers, which might also touch lands owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District or in the unincorporated part of Contra Costa

County where it borders Orinda.

The restrictions are that only landscaping and parking is allowed under the towers. No elevation is permitted, not even for a parking structure, nor a golf course. The same restrictions would apply even if the lines were undergrounded.

The costs of undergrounding the lines or moving the towers would be borne by the city. When a number of towers were moved from the valley that is now Wilder, the developer OGLLC paid to have the towers moved to the adjacent hill. Asked after the meeting, Bruce Yamamoto of OGLLC said that he recalled that the project cost over \$10 million.

The PG&E representatives were reluctant to give an estimate of costs without having all the parameters, but said that generally the cost of undergrounding transmission lines, which are distinct from distribution lines, runs to about \$100,000 to \$250,000 per linear foot, and might be even higher depending on the circumstances.



Photo Sora O'Doherty

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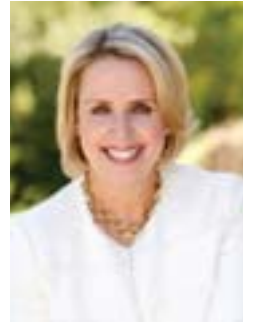
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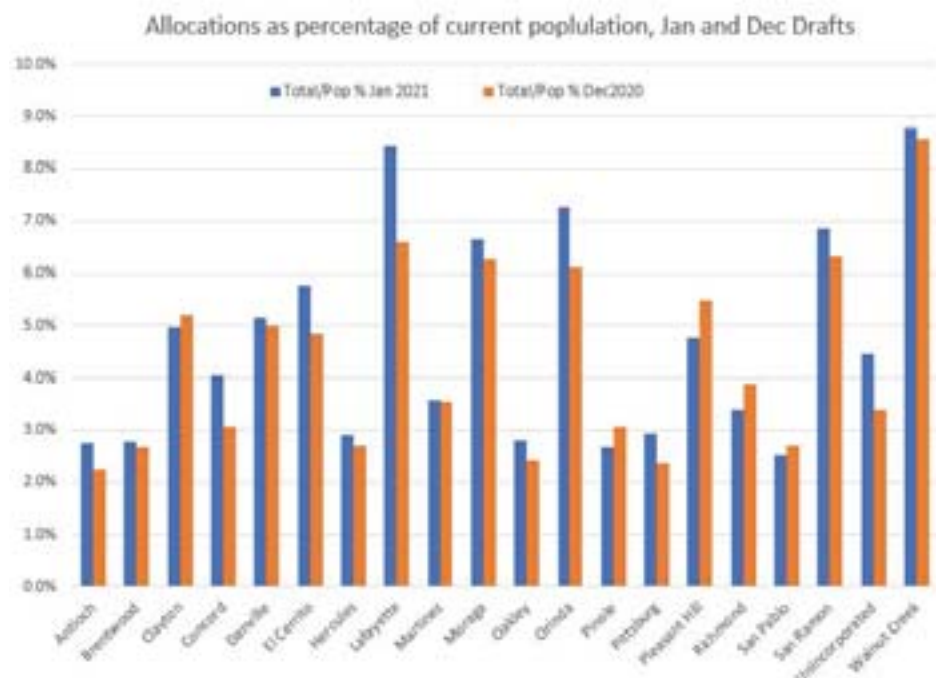
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## Council approves Planning Department FY 2021-22 Work Plan; discusses RHNA appeal



By Jennifer Wake

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges and hurdles for many businesses as residents learned to live in a new normal under strict health guidelines. The city of Lafayette's Planning Department was no exception. Of the 32 prioritized items on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Plan Task List staff completed or made progress on 17 tasks.

The FY 2020-21 budget required the city to reduce spending and instituted a

hiring freeze in case of dire financial consequences stemming from the pandemic, according to Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff in his June 14 staff report presented to the city council. While short-staffed and responding to the demands of the pandemic response, customer service and daily planning activities took precedence over long-range tasks.

The Planning Department experienced a significant increase in both planning and building permit applica-

tions throughout 2020, and planning staff also took on a number of additional tasks beyond the traditional responsibilities of the department during the COVID-19 pandemic, Wolff noted in the report. "Planners worked with the Engineering Department and Chamber of Commerce to manage adjustments to City code to aid local businesses. For example, the department worked with City Manager [Niroop] Srivatsa to establish a business assistance program and using public parking spaces for outdoor dining in the downtown to support local business operations and comply with public health orders."

The city council was asked to approve state mandated tasks and offer direction and prioritize non-mandated tasks for the 2021-22 Work Plan.

Ten of the 12 priority tasks in the proposed 2021-22 Work Plan are mandated by the state. The other two – updating the tree ordinance and implementing a call-before-you-dig-program – related directly to public health and safety, Wolff said. The 10 state-mandated tasks include the Housing Element Update; Housing Element Annual Progress Report; AB 2923 – BART Transit-Oriented Development Implementation; AB 939 – Waste management, recycling, composting, programs and annual report to state; SB 35 – Develop checklists, applications, and comply with streamlining for affordable housing; SB 743 – Implement transition from

Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled; AB 2911 Compliance – work with Cal Fire to identify all areas of 30+ homes with only one ingress/egress and develop mitigations; Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance – adopt an ordinance and submit annual reporting on all projects to the State; General Plan Update; and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) – participate in and comment on RHNA allocations.

The Housing Element is one of seven required elements of the General Plan. Lafayette last updated its Housing Element in 2015 and is required by state law to do so every eight years. The Housing Element Annual Report and the comprehensive Housing Element Update are required by law to be completed by January 2023.

Of the non-mandated list presented, Council Member Carl Anduri made a motion to add as secondary priorities to the list of 12 mandated items that Planning bring a recommendation on how to handle the Density Bonus applications to the council (review of hearing body for concessions and waivers); and explore an electrification ordinance and land value recapture. Council Member Gina Dawson said the jobs housing balance, which would analyze loss of office and commercial to multiple-family residential development, is important for economic recovery and commercial planning and asked that it be added as a priority item ... continued on Page A9

## Principal movements in AUHSD

By John T. Miller

Three of the four high school principals in the Acalanes Union High School District will be leaving their posts, with only John Walker at Campolindo High School remaining in place.

Travis Bell will vacate Acalanes to pursue a mid-career choice; Dr. Julie Parks, principal of Miramonte, has accepted the job of superintendent of the Moraga School District (see article, Page A9), and Tiffany Benson, Las Lomas, has

been offered a position with the Travis Unified School District.

Bell will be retiring from public service for the opportunity to work in the family-run business, the Lapham Company based in Oakland, a part of the Residential Real Estate Brokerage and Management Industry.

After nine years at Acalanes – four years as associate principal and five years as principal – Bell summed up his experience: "It's been a joy. I've loved working with the community, watching the community rally around our stu-

dents. I've had the privilege of working with a dedicated staff with high caliber teachers. I'm proud of the way our school adjusted and shifted, which includes adding the Academy period to help students, the implementation of our wellness center and adjustment of curriculum to be more inclusive of all students and multiple perspectives."

Bell described the mid-career change as an excellent opportunity that presented itself. "I wanted to see if it would work for me while also being more accommodating for my family."

Bell has three children in the lower grades.

A statement from AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson said, "Bell offered extraordinary leadership to usher through so many school initiatives to improve academic achievement and the school experience of all students."

Dr. Parks will be leaving Miramonte after eight years, and will transition to working with the K-eighth grade programs.

... continued on Page A10



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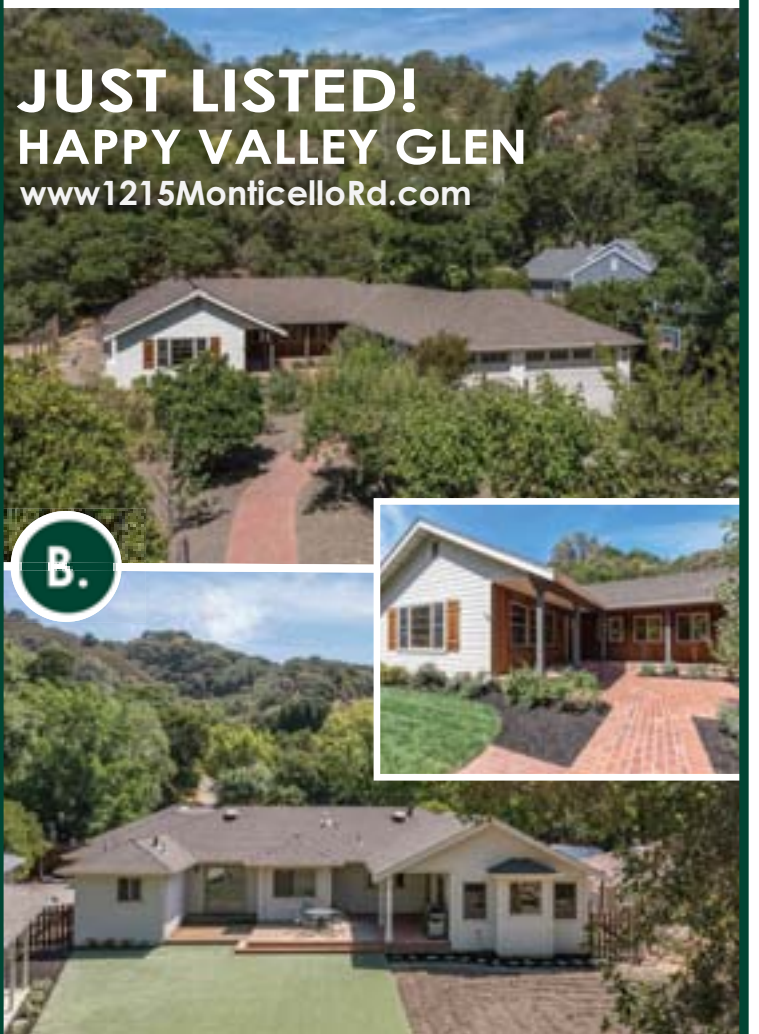


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# Town Hall Theatre preps for its resurgence



Photo Suzie Shepard

Dennis Markam at work behind the scenes at Town Hall Theatre.

By Lou Fancher

People who attend and appreciate live theater know that marvelous onstage magic arrives largely due to remarkable behind-the-scenes machinations – props, sets and backdrops are repaired or finessed into place, costumes are adjusted or replaced at the last minute, sound and light checks happen, actors pace or stand alone in secluded cubbyholes backstage rehearsing troublesome lines, dancers in a musical stretch or practice partnered movements.

During the drama that has been the pandemic, the shuttered Town Hall Theatre has been similarly engaged in a bevy of backstage machinations. Managing Director Dennis Markam says that although the year has been difficult, support from longtime donors and subscribers has helped the theater to remain afloat. “We also were able to take advantage of some government programs which have given us the funds to start hiring some people back. Over the course of the year we’ve had a couple of staff people step away to pursue other opportunities, and we have reorganized which eliminated a couple of positions, but now we’re in a hiring phase.”

With the help of the Education Director and Patron Services Manager, the community theater is gearing up for a Bay Area Celebration July 10 at Moraga Commons that will feature local singers and spoken word artists based in five Bay Area counties. With themes of hope, renewal, equity, resilience, home, inclusion and celebration, the outdoor summer theater presentation promises to speak to the times in which we live. Education director Madison Gerringger directs the eight acts that will be accompanied by the Steve Carter Trio, an East Bay Groove Funk band.

The summer camp outdoor, in-person education classes and productions for youth returned in June, along with plans for an improvisation course for adults with a schedule TBA. Information about fall education programs, ongoing fundraising virtual presentations and the Winter Season mainstage productions are available on the website.

During the last 15 months, work behind the closed doors of the historic Town Hall that was built with community funds on land donated by Frank and Rosa Ghiglione and completed in 1914 has been similar to a teardown and reconstruction related to inclusion and equity issues. No timber was moved or seating replaced, but an examination of the organization’s practices and

principles received a thorough overhaul.

Asked in what changes are in store, Markam says, “The biggest change to our programming is having more diversity not only on the stage but in our production selection process. Our first performance back is going to be in October with the launch of our New Voices program. Twice a year, as part of our regular season, we’ll be producing two smaller-scale productions by local playwrights that give audiences a taste of what local talent has to offer and give those playwrights structured feedback as they develop their work.”

Markam says “getting the word out” to Bay Area playwrights and others about the refocused initiative is a priority. “It’s a new thing for us so we’re not on a lot of folks’ radars. Also, in doing that, we want to make sure that the selection process is equitable and inclusive so that we can feature as many voices and experiences as possible.”

Markam is so excited about the July 10 Bay Area Celebration because it’s a way to “kick off our new programming that features more local artists.”

“These Bay Area artists, a lot of whom haven’t worked with Town Hall before, are presenting pieces that mean something to them rather than us deciding what we want them to present,” he says. “That’s not really something a lot of companies made space for pre-pandemic, especially on this side of the tunnel. It’s also a great chance for audiences to re-familiarize themselves with Town Hall and get a taste of what kind of passion and artistry we have locally.”

While energized by the sight of young theater camp participants at last “interacting outside of a Zoom box,” and bolstered by community support that through the pandemic provided crucial financing to stay operational, Markam admits the year took its toll on staff, performers and audiences alike.

“Getting through this last year has had obvious downsides,” he says, “but I think it should be noted that we’ve used this year for self reflection and to reimagine what Town Hall could be. We’re in a better position now to be a more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just a company which can serve our community and beyond in more ways. My primary objective is to make sure that these changes stick. There have been companies that made bold declarations this time last year and are releasing seasons that don’t look substantively different than what they offered before. It’s important to me and to all of our staff and board that we don’t backslide.”



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Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.  
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<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

#### Design Review

Wednesday, June 30, 7 p.m. Zoom  
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# Moraga's FY 2021-22 Operating and CIP Budgets set a course for the town's future goals

By Vera Kochan

The past year was decidedly an unconventional one thanks to COVID, but Moraga managed to adjust to the circumstances and stay the course while continuing to provide day-to-day services for the community.

According to a June 9 staff report to the town council by Administrative Services Director Norm Veloso and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, "The General Fund proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 is \$10.39 million in revenue and \$10.31 million operating expenditures, including non-operating transfers. The projected fiscal year-end General Fund Re-

serve is \$4.98 million, which meets the town's General Fund Reserve policy of 50%, established in 2015 by Resolution 5-2015."

Other funds include accounts where money can only be targeted for specific programs such as one-time developer fees (Palos Colorados Settlement Funds), Measure K and the American Rescue Plan Act. ARPA is the federal stimulus package adopted to include relief for local governments to assist in the public health response and economic recovery during COVID. The staff report explains, "For FY 2021/22, the total revenue of \$8,058,208 for Other Funds includes the first tranche of the town's ARPA

disbursement of \$1,673,630. The total expenses of \$6,251,606 include transfers out of \$1,336,393 to the General Fund and \$3,068,000 to Capital Improvement Program projects."

The CIP involves 21 different funding sources such as: one-time developer fees; grants; public safety funding; transportation funding; asset replacement funds; and Measure K. The CIP "includes \$3.7 million in project appropria-

tions for FY 2021/22, with a carryover from the previous fiscal years of \$5.8 million for a total CIP Budget of \$9.6 million."

There are five main categories of projects which are: Buildings and Facilities (Municipal); Creeks and Drainage (Storm Drain System); Parks and Open Space; Transportation; and General Government, as well as new projects. Improvements to vehicular and pedestrian safety; maintenance

or repair of buildings, parks, storm facilities and streets; and continued improvements to the town's infrastructural needs are all on the CIP table.

The draft operating budget projects a surplus of \$75,424 and the previously mentioned year-end General Fund Reserve level of \$4.98 million which will be presented for consideration and adoption at the June 23 town council meeting.

## Town contemplates Hacienda lease agreement with Wedgewood Weddings



Photo Vera Kochan

Hacienda de las Flores hosts many events around the fountain.

By Vera Kochan

For years, the town of Moraga has been looking for a partner, as it were, to share the costs involved in the upkeep of the Hacienda de las Flores located at 2100 Donald Dr. At one point, there was a possibility of turning the property into a bed and breakfast. A more feasible concept was to turn it into a restaurant. In May 2018, La Finestra nearly became a tenant, but backed out due to liability and improvement concerns.

During October 2019, the town held a community meeting to gain feedback as to what type of restaurant residents would like to see at the Hacienda. Later that month, the town council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals in the search for a restaurant operator. The RFP was released in January 2020, with COVID creating a stumbling block for any interest from potential operators who were fearful of opening such a venue during the pandemic.

However, the town did receive one proposal from Hacienda Partners, LLC, a joint partnership between Thomas Capital Investments and Pacific Meritage, a Danville-based restaurant business. It proposed a public-private partnership with the town. The first phase of their plan did not include an on-site restaurant, but would allow for catering and alcohol service for future events. While Wedgewood Weddings didn't submit a proposal, it was interested in the Hacienda's property with regards to exclusive event management rights and a public-private partnership with Moraga. Eventually, Hacienda Partners' interest waned, while Wedgewood continued its discussions with staff.

In March of this year, the

development Kevin Lyons to residents and answer any concerns regarding the "marriage," of this partnership. There was a concern about public access to the Hacienda grounds during private events, to which assurance was given that it would remain open access. Citizens were curious as to what capital improvements Wedgewood plans to make.

Improvements to the kitchen, flooring, furniture and external lighting are planned, all the while maintaining the historic integrity of the facility. Noise levels were a concern to immediate neighbors, but Wedgewood assured that their in-house music vendors would constantly take decibel readings to monitor the levels, as they have every intention of being a good neighbor.

Further concerns were about the town signing such a long-term lease in the event that dissatisfaction or complications arose; whether there be enough parking; if Wedgewood handled events other than weddings; and who would pay the utility costs? Since the maximum capacity of guests at the Hacienda is 200, the 88 parking spaces available could easily handle that number of guests, because usually people arrive in groups of two or more, the Wedgewood reps said. Wedgewood often handles more than just weddings and is happy to extend their services for any occasion. The utilities are included in the base monthly costs, but if there is a marked increase in charges then the cost will be reviewed by the town.

While the town council is excited about the partnership with Wedgewood, there are three sticking points to the lease agreement. Just as members of the public pointed out, a 20-year commitment contract is too lengthy. The town would rather have a 10-year term with mutual consent for the additional two options of five-years each to extend. Because neighbors in the near vicinity weren't given enough advanced notice regarding the lease agreement, the town will work on mailing an informational letter to all residents within 500-feet of the Hacienda. Lastly, the council would like an assignment provision in the event that Wedgewood decides to sell its interests to a company that may not have the town's best interests at heart. These directions were provided to staff and will be revisited during the June 23 town council meeting.

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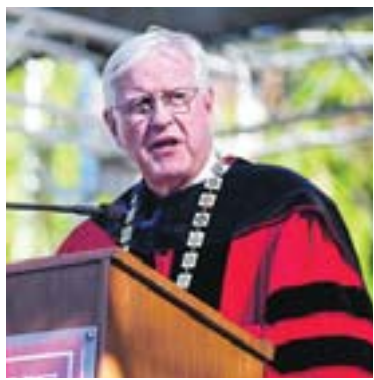
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# SMC holds farewell celebration for retiring president, James A. Donahue



**James A. Donahue** Lamo archive  
**By Vera Kochan**

In April of 2020, Saint Mary's College President James A. Donahue made an official announcement to the Gael Nation, sharing his plans to retire in June 2021, at which point he will have served at the college's helm for eight years. Donahue leaves as the 29th president of SMC, and the first lay-person to hold the position in the school's 150-year history.

Looking back over his time at SMC, Donahue acknowledged his pride in leading such an academically rich institution. "What makes this the right time to transfer the reins of leadership is that Saint Mary's today stands securely in a strong position with a promising future," he stated. "We are fully prepared to move on to our next stage - academically, financially, culturally, and educationally."

The college held a socially-distanced "virtual farewell celebration" on May 26 at the SMC campus honoring Donahue's accomplishments during his tenure, including his final year, steering the school through the challenges of education during COVID's demands. The select handful of attendees also included his wife, Jane, who commented on how welcoming everyone was to them when Donahue began his presidency back in July 2013.

Moraga Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke presented Donahue with a town proclamation honoring his service to SMC which stated, "President Donahue steadfastly upheld and advanced the Lasallian, Catholic and liberal arts mission of the College while elevating the College's reputa-

tion as a top-ranked West Coast liberal arts college and, consequently, the visibility of the Town of Moraga during a dynamic time in American higher education."

Among the many honors conceived to thank Donahue for his work on behalf of the college, SMC created the James A. Donahue Presidential Endowed Scholarship intended to leverage public and private funding to provide full-tuition scholarships for students with strong academic promise and high financial needs; the Gaels men's basketball team presented him with a framed jersey bearing the number 29, in honor of his rank as the 29th president of the college; and Donahue and his wife were made honorary alumni.

Many accolades describing Donahue's characteristic attributes were expressed throughout the celebration: A gentleman, scholar, kind, caring, deep moral backbone, man of compassion, integrity of faith, nice guy, and a very hands-on president. Students appreciated his leadership, availability and presence during school events.

In his farewell speech Donahue thanked his wife and family for their support and stated, "It has been an incredibly marvelous experience. It hasn't been a job - it's been a vocation. I've always looked for ways to balance tradition with innovation."

Donahue was touched by the casual encounters he's had with others, "The essence of Saint Mary's College is relationships and people. We meet each one of our community members with respect for who we are." He also felt that SMC has helped to shape him by allowing him to recognize the changing needs of the school. "I have tried to lead with empathy and vision. It was important to hire the right people for the college."

After acknowledging the services of the late Brother Mel Anderson, FSC, Donahue concluded, "Saint Mary's College does what other colleges and universities only aspire to do."



**Town Council** Wednesday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, July 6, 6:30 p.m.,  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings:** TMA  
[www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us)



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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 Public Meetings**  
City Council  
**Regular Meeting:**  
Tuesday, June 29, 7 p.m.  
By Teleconference Only  
**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, July 13, 7 p.m.  
By Teleconference Only  
**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
Wednesday, July 14, 6:30 p.m.  
By Teleconference Only

## Orinda agrees to accept Wilder Road as public road

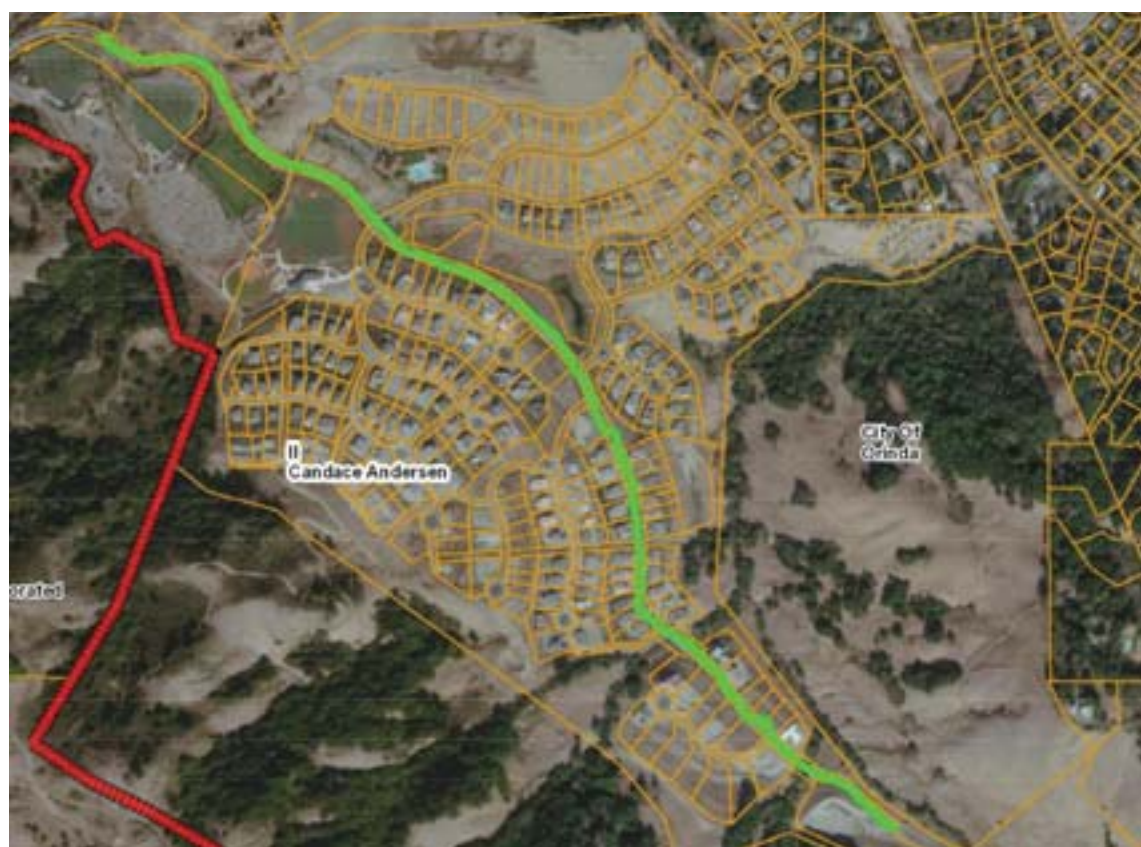
By Sora O'Doherty

In accordance with the development agreement for Wilder, the city of Orinda agreed to accept Wilder Road as a public road upon being requested to do so by the developer, OGLLC. The matter was removed from the city's consent calendar at its June 15 meeting in order to allow public comment and discussion of the matter. A dozen Orinda residents submitted written comments on the Wilder Road acceptance.

Since the early days of planning the development of Wilder, it has been envisioned that Wilder Road would be a public road. Originally it was to lead to the Art & Garden Center, but that was later moved closer to the front of the valley, near the Wilder play fields. However, it will still be used by the public to access the Red-Tailed Hawk Staging area, a public facility for accessing trails. Some Wilder residents expressed concern during the city council meeting on June 15 that making the road public would increase security disruptions. Bob Finch wrote that the acceptance would afford 24/7 public access, even though neither the staging area nor the trails are yet in existence. Finch urged the city council to delay acceptance of the road.

Dave Korpi, who lives in the house closest to the staging area, both wrote and spoke at the meeting. He reviewed the types of unwanted activities he has experienced near his home, including bonfires, vandalism, drug use, and unauthorized camping. "I can't think of a single good reason anyone should be up there, out of sight, outside of the dawn to dusk hours," he said.

Council Member Darlene Gee asked if there were any up-to-the-minute reports on



Wilder Road marked in green

Image provided

recent incidents. Orinda Police Chief David Cook said that in the past six months, excluding the play fields, there were two thefts from porches and no calls about the staging area. Bruce Yamamoto, a representative of OGLLC, explained that one reason for the turnover to the city is to allow the OPD to patrol. He added that the turnover has financial significance for the developer, who must maintain a sewer bond.

Eric Egan asked if the chain could be left up during constructions. Long term, he said, he wanted to remind the council that Director of Public Works Larry Theis and city staff had presented an option to gate the staging area, with the gate locked from sunset to sunrise.

Kori agreed that the chain has worked magic. "Cars come in at 2 or 3 in the morning," he

said. "They see the chain and turn right around." City Manager David Biggs said that it is the plan to maintain the chain, and to also add signage.

Deputy city attorney Fran Layton said that the design does include a gate, and that the East Bay Regional Park District has been involved in the decision. Theis said that the city can restrict parking during certain hours. Mayor Amy Worth added that the city will implement a gate to prevent entry to the emergency vehicle access and that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District will have access to the lock on the gate.

Council Member Nick Kosla suggested that it is time to revive the Wilder subcommittee, which has been dormant during the COVID-19 pandemic. The council voted unanimously to accept Wilder Road and directed the city

clerk to work on scheduling a meeting of the Wilder subcommittee to work on an enforcement plan for Wilder Road.

At the same meeting, the city council also received the annual review of the Wilder project. Worth said she was so sad about the passing of Scott Goldie. She noted that Goldie had been instrumental in developing Wilder and recently was killed in a traffic accident. "This is a particularly tough time for all of you," she said. "Our hearts go out to you and his family and the whole community." In comments after the meeting, Yamamoto said that he had worked with Goldie since 1996 and that he will miss him greatly as both a mentor and a friend.

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## Orinda city council talks budget, capital improvements, though changes are expected

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda will soon be receiving additional federal funding under the America Rescue Plan Act as well as new revenues from Measure R. Even though things will change, Administrative Services Director Paul Rankin opened preliminary biennial budget discussions for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 with the city council on June 15.

At the same meeting, City Manager David Biggs, Director of Public Works Larry Theis and Senior Engineer Scott Christie presented a capital improvements document detailing the current status of FY 2020-21 projects and providing information and funding for proposed projects in FY 2021-22, and future planning through FY 2024-25. Although the CIP is a five-year plan, the biennial budget authorizes CIP project spending only for the next two years.

Mayor Amy Worth thanked staff, including the recently retired City Manager Steve Salomon, for exercising fiscal prudence to keep the city on track during the

COVID-19 pandemic without a deficit. Both the budget and the CIP will come back to the council for adoption on June 29.

Rankin noted the significant accomplishments of the city in fiscal 2020-21, which included adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic by switching to teleconference remote meetings and establishing a virtual planning counter to schedule Zoom meetings with applicants and the public. The city council placed Measure R on the ballot which was approved at the general election in November 2020, and staff began working on new services, including the new chipper program dedicated to Orinda. The Orinda police department implemented a body-worn camera system, and the city approved an updated fire code and adopted a Wildland Urban Designation Ordinance.

Although total expenditures for FY 2021-22 of \$30.2 million are higher than revenue due, it is because some funds collected in prior years will be used; the budget is balanced, said Rankin. Revenue for FY 2022-23 is pro-

jected to be higher, but expenses lower. The major components of the budget's operating expenses include staff salaries and benefits at 32% and contract services at 48%; the largest component of contract services is the budget for police services which at \$4.9 million, represents 59% of the category.

Although city staffing will increase, it will remain below the number prior to FY 2017-18. A new, full-time employee is being added, and the position is being funded 80% with Measure R revenue and 20% from the general fund. This will bring city staff total to 34.5 full-time equivalent positions.

Following the adoption of Measure R, the city established the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee, which replaced the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission that for 20 years had overseen expenditures of the previously approved sales tax. The SSTOC is currently in the process of establishing separate committees, one for fire prevention and one for emergency preparedness.


...continued on Page A10



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## Historic landmark status recommended for Orinda home, despite neighbors' objections



View of subject property south façade, November 24, 2009. Source: Homeowner, Nathan Ogle.

By Sora O'Doherty

The first of several steps has been taken to designate the private residence at 12 Charles Hill Circle as a historic landmark. On June 8 the Orinda Historical Landmarks Committee voted to recommend to the Planning Commission that they recommend to the city council that the residence, owned by applicants Jeanne Huang Li and Nathan Ogle be designated

a historic landmark. Neighbors on each side of the residence and across the street spoke at the public hearing in opposition to the application.

The city staff report was presented to the committee by Planning Director Drummond Buckley. Buckley said that staff recommended that the applicants' request be granted, and presented a draft resolution, which was later adopted by the committee, with members Tania DeGroot, Bobbie Landers,

and Lori Smith voting in favor. Bill Waterman was only able to join a portion of the meeting and so abstained from voting.

In order to be designated as a historic landmark, the applicant must meet at least three criteria, and Buckley said that the applicant met at least three, and perhaps four. The applicant's presentation was given by Hannah Simonson of Page & Trumbull. She told the committee that the home was designed by architect Paul Hamilton and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, who, according to the staff report, demonstrated the importance of siting and respect for nature in Modernist residential design.

The staff report said that the application was based on the importance of this home as an example of Modernist design, the work of a notable architect, and an artifact of Orinda history. "Designed by an architect of local significance, Paul Hamilton, in 1951, the residence at 12 Charles Hill Circle is a well-preserved example of the Second Bay Tradition, a regional idiom of Modern architectural design. It served as the personal residence and studio of Paul

Hamilton from 1951 – 1960." Staff concluded that the residence is a key reminder of a critical time in the history of Orinda, the post-war boom. Many houses of this modernist style were constructed around the city during a time that saw Orinda expand and transform.

The staff report also stressed that the application applies only to the subject property at 12 Charles Hill Circle. and does not apply to any other properties, including homes in the immediate vicinity of 12 Charles Hill Circle. This reflected claims by neighbors that the applicants had already used the potential historic landmark designation to attempt to prevent the neighbors from dealing with their own property, or threatened to do so.

Neighbor Leslie Lundin stated that the applicants are trying to prevent neighbors from completing restoration of their property. In addition, Lundin said that the applicants have done nothing to restore their property and have showed "zero intent" to do so. The Lundins withdrew an application concerning their property when the applicant

demanded that they pay for a full environmental impact report, and are currently in dispute over the Lundins' application to remove a tree for fire safety. Lundin advised the committee, "This application doesn't meet any of the requirements for historic landmark." Pointing out that no building designed by Paul Hamilton has been granted historic landmark status, Lundin urged the committee to reject the application, which, according to the commenter, "is a hoax."

Neighbor David Twist also objected, as did preservation expert Mark Hulbert, and Richard Drury. Attorney Todd Williams, who represents Leslie Lundin, argued that the subject home has been extensively changed with no restoration efforts. Attorney Dave Trotter, who represents the applicants, also stressed that the application does not affect any neighboring properties. But neighbor Dan Rath disagreed, telling the committee that the primary purpose of the application is to interfere with other people's efforts to improve their property.

... continued on Page A9

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### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
 Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, July 21, 6 p.m.  
 For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



**ConFire**  
 Board of Directors  
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 Tuesday, July 13 1 p.m.



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**Brush Clearance per Fire Regulations**

### By Jennifer Wake

Some say it takes a village to raise a child, but Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker suggests it's equally true that it will take a village to protect each other from wildfire.

Hardening homes from the threat of fire by trimming bushes and trees to provide a 1-foot air gap under bushes, and a 6-foot space below tree branches, and removing mulch so it's between 2 to 5 feet away from homes are just a few ways local residents can help one another prepare for what is looking to be an historic fire season, Winnacker said at the June 14 Lamorinda CERT meeting.

"This is the fourth lowest rainfall in history," Winnacker explained. "There is a lack of live fuels – green things that should be holding moisture never sprouted and we saw fires in April down south like mid-season fires they don't usually see until August." Winnacker said there's a 30% chance of another lightning event this year and the drought has weakened trees and spread disease. "Monterey pines and Eucalyptus are dying off in record rates; entire groves are dying off quickly." It is a homeowners' responsibility to remove dead trees if their

homes are on parcels of less than one acre. "If a pine tree is red, it's dead. It needs to come out," he said.

The Lamorinda area is no stranger to wildfires. In the Mediterranean counties of California, pre-European settlement, fires burned every three to five years. In 1923, a wildfire burned out of Wildcat Canyon up and over into the city of Berkeley, into the downtown and didn't stop until the wind let up, Winnacker said.

The 1970 Fish Fire, up by the intersection of Fish Ranch, Skyline and Grizzly Peak, burned down several homes. And in 1991 the Tunnel Fire burned with tremendous ferocity and exceptional spread rates downslope, and mimicked the 1923 fire. "All of these fires happened in the fall, in conjunction with the Diablo Wind event, where we saw very dry winds out of the north or northeast at the end of the summer season where fuels had not seen rain for as much as 270 days since the last wetting rain, and the conditions were set for explosive fire spread aided by the very dry air."

Nothing has changed since 1923 or 1991, he said. "In fact, there is more fuel now than there was then. And while we have more fire fighting resources, a fire of the size and intensity of those

fires cannot be stopped during its initial runs. ... We have a very real threat here."

All Lamorinda residents should sign up for Community Warning System alerts and know their evacuation zones, said Winnacker. "Get neighbors to sign up for CWS, and if you get evacuation orders, leave immediately, honk your horn, knock on doors, and get neighbors in cars." Preparing for evacuations in advance is vital, since any delays can mean you are likely to run into downstream traffic on the few arterials leading to safety. "We do not have surface street capacity for everyone to get on the roads at the same time."

In the event of a large fire where an evacuation may not be possible, Winnacker said your home may become the default location for your safety, so hardening your home against fire becomes all the more essential.

While Winnacker said he would prefer all landscaping involve only gravel, planting ground cover or succulents close to structures or having nothing on the ground that can burn near your home is ideal. "Create a situation where fire needs to work to burn," he said. "Fuel is the only thing we can mitigate. It's critically important that residents do their part."

To view Winnacker's entire presentation, visit:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaMKre4qbXU&ab\\_channel=Moraga-OrindaFireDistrict](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaMKre4qbXU&ab_channel=Moraga-OrindaFireDistrict)

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 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221  
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 Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com  
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**Orinda Police Department:**  
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 Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)  
**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**May 30 - June 12**



Alarms	62
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	71
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	17
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	37
Patrol Req./Security Check	49
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	23
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	5

**Vehicle violations**  
 Auto Burglary  
 60 Block Lafayette Cir.  
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
 Reckless Driving  
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Taylor Blvd.  
 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
 Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
 Wb Sr 24 Central Lafayette/Moraga  
 Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute  
 3500 Block Brook St.  
 Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.  
 1000 Block 2Nd St.  
 Tc - Minor Injuries  
 Moraga Rd./Rosedale Ave.  
 Tc - Property Damage  
 20 Block Lafayette Cir.  
 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 Mt. Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd.  
 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.  
 Mt. Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cir.  
 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.  
 Vehicle Theft  
 Reliez Valley Rd./Gloria Terrace  
**Other criminal activity**  
 Assault W/ Deadly Weapon  
 900 Block Hough Ave.  
 Fraud False Pretenses  
 3300 Block S Lucille Ln.  
 Grand Theft  
 Police Department  
 1000 Block 2Nd St.  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 Grand Theft From Veh  
 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
 1000 Block Sierra Vista Way  
 Grand Theft Veh Parts  
 3200 Block Marlene Dr  
 Misc Burglary  
 1000 Block Carol Ln.  
 Panhandling  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
 Petty Theft  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 900 Block S Thompson Rd.  
 Reliez Valley Rd./My Rd.  
 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift  
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
 Disturbance-domestic  
 3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.  
 Disturbing The Peace  
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 Loud Noise  
 1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
 3300 Block S Lucille Ln.  
 1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
 Loud Party  
 3500 Block Oliver Ct. (2)  
 Barn Ln./Acalanes Rd.  
 800 Block Tanglewood Dr.  
 Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd. (3)  
 Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave.  
 Hillcrest Dr./Laurel Dr.  
 Public Nuisance  
 Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.  
 Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.  
 Golden Gate Way/2Nd St.  
 Sweet Rd./Sunset Ln.  
 1000 Block Lindsey Ct.  
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 900 Block Moraga Rd.  
 Vandalism  
 1000 Block Orchard Rd.  
 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 100 Block Camellia Ln.  
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.  
 1000 Block Leland Dr  
 20 Block Shreve Ln.  
**Other**  
 Animal Cruelty  
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 Battery  
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 H&S Violation  
 600 Block Michael Ln.  
 Mentally Ill Violent  
 10 Block Southampton Pl. (2)  
 Threats  
 10 Block Fiesta Ln.  
 Trespass  
 3300 Block Oak Ct.

Unwanted Guest  
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
 Violation Custody Order  
 800 Block Solana Dr.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



**June 1 - June 14**

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	58
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	9
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Ordinance Violation	1

**Vehicle violations**

Accident Injury	1
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	1
Dui Misd	1
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.	1
Excessive Speed	1
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd. (4)	4
St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	1
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	1
Larch Ave./Shuey Dr.	1
Moraga Way/Sanders Dr.	1
Reckless Driving	1
Safeway (2)	2
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	1
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	1
Rimer Dr./Walford Dr.	1
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	1
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.	1
Traffic Pursuit	1
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.	1

**Other criminal activity**  
 Petty Theft  
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
 Disturbing The Peace  
 1600 Block Camino Pablo  
 Rimer Dr./Juniper Way  
 Loud Noise  
 300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
 Loud Party  
 Eileen Ct./Camino Pablo  
 Tharp Dr./Camino Pablo  
 1000 Block Sanders Dr.  
 Public Nuisance  
 1000 Block Sanders Dr.  
 400 Block Center St.  
 Vandalism  
 Not Available  
 Joaquin Moraga Int. School  
**Other**  
 Failure To Obey  
 Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.  
 Fireworks  
 1100 Block Larch Ave.  
 Hailed By Citizen  
 Redwood Rd.  
 Loitering  
 Los Perales Elementary School  
 Trespass  
 St. Marys College  
 Trespass W/ Vehicle  
 Sanders Ranch Rd./Camino Pablo



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time**



# Dr. Julie Parks to succeed Bruce Burns as superintendent of Moraga School District



**Dr. Julie Parks** Photos provided



**Bruce Burns**

**By Jenn Freedman**

Julie Parks, Ed.D., will become superintendent of the Moraga School District beginning July 1, the Moraga School Board announced last week. Parks was most recently the principal of Orinda's Miramonte High School in the Acalanes Union High School District, a position she has held for the past seven years.

Parks has been an educator for over 18 years. Prior to her tenure at Miramonte, she

worked as an assistant principal, vice-principal, student services coordinator, and middle school teacher. In 2019, Parks was recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as the principal of the year.

Parks completed her doctorate (remotely) in Organizational Change Leadership at University of Southern California earlier this year. Her dissertation "Connectedness and Distance Learning: A Study of Student, Parent and Teacher Perceptions" was nominated as

a Dissertation of Distinction at USC.

"I am honored to continue to serve the Lamorinda community as superintendent of the Moraga School District. As a leader, I am focused on equity, building capacity, and connectedness, and I look forward to entering this post-pandemic year with energy and excitement," Parks shared.

Parks lives in Lafayette with her husband, Sean, and two sons, Liam (11) and Lucas (8). "They are my biggest supporters and have generously 'shared me' with my work for years!" Parks passionately added.

Superintendent Bruce Burns announced his impending resignation in mid-February. Burns has served in the District for 25 years, the last 11 in his current role. He began his career in the MSD in 1996, when he reopened the previously shuttered Los Perales Elementary School as principal. He subsequently served as the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School principal, before being

appointed to the role of superintendent in 2010.

During his tenure, Burns moved the District forward in several important areas including a renewed focus on curriculum, professional development for all educational staff, strengthening cultural competency, and overseeing \$33 million in school renovation, safety and modernization projects at four school sites.

Burns shared, "Reopening Los Perales School in 1997, serving as the JM principal, modernizing our schools, ensuring a sound financial position for the district following the Great Recession, working with outstanding educators and governing board members, and adopting and implementing new Common Core instructional texts in reading, writing, math, science and history-social studies are outcomes I am especially proud to have been a part of."

Burns has maintained his strong leadership and tremendous resilience throughout times of challenge, including

economic uncertainty, wildfire risk, power outages, large bond construction projects, and the COVID-19 pandemic. "His integrity, calm demeanor, high visibility throughout the community, and focus on what is best for students have been hallmarks of his career here in Moraga. Superintendent Bruce Burns has always been steady at the helm, making sure that everything kept moving forward, all while keeping our eyes on the ultimate goal of continuing to provide the highest quality education to each and every student in the Moraga School District. As a Governing Board, we would like to thank Superintendent Burns for his dedication, diligence, care, and educational expertise during his tenure," School Board President Janelle Chng said.

"While I will depart with a heart full of gratitude, I am looking forward to the next chapter, to learn and grow in new and different opportunities, ones I will explore after June," acknowledged Burns.

## Letters to the editor

### DEI - another acronym?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Heard of this one? News to me. Cropping up everywhere, including Lafayette's Equity and Inclusion Task Force. My granddaughter's corporate position is Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She should be able to bring Papa up to speed on DEI. Diversity: People have different backgrounds: (gender, race, religion), and a variety of experience; Equity: People are treated fairly and justly; and Inclusion: Everyone has 'a seat at the table'.

Further discussion brought to light that a common thread weaves between the three factors i.e. Connection, describing an individual's need to be recognized, heard, and affirmed, as a contributing member of a community (business, civic, social or residential).

I listened, while thinking to myself, "Okay fine, this is business world stuff; has nothing to do with me." But an uncomfortable question hung around, "If DEI is about connection, I connect with people every day." Is there a message here? Upon re-

lection, I realized I only talk with people I'm comfortable with, and, I don't talk to strangers, because they're different, which engenders anxiety and fear.

What if I redefined stranger as: A friend I have yet to meet. And so, I started greeting strangers with simply "hello" or "How ya doing?"

Sometimes a conversation ensued, sometimes not; in either case, strangely enough, I felt good inside. And, it was apparent the other person was pleased to be acknowledged. Can just a bit of conversation make a stranger feel good?

Sometime later, sitting next to a stranger while waiting for a restaurant table, I asked the Black woman, "Been here before?" "Yes." "Live locally?" "No, Oakland." She asked, "Have you tried their Mimosa?" "No."

Later, sitting at my table, waiting for my guest, I was totally surprised to have a Mimosa set before me, with the food server acknowledging, "It's from the lady over there." Looking up, it was the woman from the

bench, waving her hand, while smiling. Not only was there connection, but it was definitive that I had, indeed, made a stranger feel comfortable.

These days, I look forward to greeting the next stranger, the friend I have yet to meet.

Connection builds community, and each of us has unlimited opportunity to participate.

Papa John Kiefer Lafayette

**Baitx, Donner and Danziger do not serve and protect us**

Here we are in fire season, with a heat wave, during the fourth driest year on record. Last summer we had a dark red sky at noon, with soot falling everywhere. We begged the MOFD board to continue the chipper program during the summer, but three board members Danziger, Donner and Baitx, were, and remain, unwilling to spend ANY funds out of their \$33 million budget to do so. The reason Orinda has so much fire prone fuel is that MOFD consistently underfunds fire

prevention.

We Orinda citizens were asked last November for our priorities, by a city council poll. We clearly said No. 1 is wildfire risk reduction. The city council then said an additional 1/2 cent sales tax is needed as an "essential services" tax, that would address fire, roads, storm drains and emergency preparedness. This tax measure passed in January. Since then the city has not yet obtained a chipper and truck. MOFD, which was to provide personnel to man the chipper and had to stop its own chipper service for a period in May and June. We have lost months of vegetation removal.

MOFD is now negotiating raises for our firemen with their union. Three of the MOFD board members are either current or previously union firemen. Their election to the board was sup-

ported and funded by the union. Upon the union president's suggestion, director Baitx even placed on the agenda the consolidation of MOFD with Con-Fire. This resulted in strong opposition by hundreds of citizens and both city councils. The board back-pedaled.

It has become apparent that the three MOFD board members do not represent the citizens' interests. A formal complaint indicating the potential conflict of interest has been submitted to the California Fair Political Practices Commission to determine if director Baitx and possibly Donner and Danziger must recuse themselves from the salary negotiations.

Baitx, Donner and Danziger must never again be elected to the MOFD board.

Charles Porges Orinda

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

## Council approves Planning Department FY 2021-22 Work Plan

... continued from Page A2

Wolff said there will be some level of analysis of the jobs housing balance through the General Plan Advisory Committee, but the item was added as a priority non-mandated item to the Work Plan. The motion was approved unanimously, with Council Member Cam Burks absent.

Discussion at the council meeting later turned to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Housing Needs Allocation and how Lafayette numbers remain the same at 2,114 additional units as part of Plan Bay Area 2050, which was created to distribute the regional housing need of 441,176 units established by the State Department of Hous-

ing and Community Development. The city has until July 9 to submit an appeal.

According to Srivatsa, grounds for appealing are very precise and difficult. Mayor Susan Candell and Council Member Gina Dawson drafted a letter June 8 to ABAG, asking to review the inputs and outputs for the model that gener-

ated the RHNA allocations. The letter stated, in part, "We are concerned the methodology results in a disproportionate increase in the number of units assigned to Lafayette, perhaps as the result of some mathematical error. The allocation to Lafayette jumped by 28% between the proposed methodology of December 2020 and the

draft methodology of early 2021, from 1,660 units to 2,114 units. We have analyzed our 2020 and 2021 allocations as a proportion of our existing population, which shows that the City's increase to 2,114 is disproportionate to the increases seen in other jurisdictions of the County."

Anduri suggested the ap-

peal include the fact that Lafayette has more areas in high severity fire zones, and how avoiding building in those areas would cause inconsistent development in other areas. Staff will meet with the city attorney to craft an argument to bring to council on June 28.

## Historic landmark status for Orinda home

... continued from Page A7

The question arose whether the designation would entitle the applicants to a reduction of property tax under the Mills Act. It was pointed out that, although the act does apply in Orinda, it requires approval by the city council and the Orinda City Council has never approved such an application in the past. The matter will next be considered by the Orinda Planning Commission.

## Planning Together!

The General Plan is the guiding document behind Lafayette's built environment, open space, and infrastructure. After 20 years, the General Plan is getting an update - **let's make it a plan for the people by the people!**

Join the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) - a group of community volunteers advising the Planning Commission and City Council on the important decisions that will shape the community over the next twenty years at the first in-person event for the General Plan.

The GPAC wants your input to draft a plan that represents the community's vision. Visit [PlanLafayette.org](http://PlanLafayette.org) to get up to speed on everything that has happened to date and see what's coming next. Now is the perfect time to learn and speak up.

### In-Person Housing Workshop

**Wednesday, June 30 4-8PM**  
**Don Tatzin Community Hall**  
**Lafayette Library and Learning Center**

Drop in to the first in-person General Plan update event where you and your neighbors will learn about the Housing Element and get to say your piece.

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## Fly flags to show patriotism on Fourth

... continued from Page A1

The ordinance also authorizes the Sheriff's Office to issue citations for violations. Violators are subject to an initial fine of \$100. A second violation within one year is \$200, followed by a \$500 fine for each additional violation of the ordinance within that year.

Reports of fireworks-related fires in Contra Costa County have begun as early as May, when ConFire announced that investigators identified two juveniles who were believed responsible for throwing a tennis ball-sized exploding mortar from a vehicle that burned a quarter acre of vegetation near 321 Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill in

the vicinity of parked cars, homes and Diablo Valley College. If not for observant witnesses, who notified authorities, the fire could easily have spread.

Another incident last month involved three teens who caused a two-alarm fire in Martinez by hitting a flaming tennis ball into a neighbor's yard resulting in a grass fire which burned a house, several vehicles and created a massive fireball causing high-transmission electrical lines to fail, disrupting service to nearly 8,700 customers. What residents mistook for fireworks was actually loud explosions that were caused by detonated propane tanks. However, that assumption

makes it clear that communities are on edge as the Fourth of July approaches.

Honoring the founding of the United States of America need not involve fireworks. Holidays such as Valentine's Day, Easter, Hanukkah and Christmas, to name a few, all manage to be celebrated without blowing something up. There is no shortage of red, white and blue bunting during this time of year; and expressions of patriotism should not put properties in danger.

To report any fireworks sales or criminal activity call the Arson Tip Line at 1-866-50-ARSON. Tips can be anonymous and are all treated confidentially.

## Orinda's PG&E transmission towers

... continued from Page A1

Kosla guessed that undergrounding the lines could cost Orinda a quarter of a billion dollars, which the city could never afford.

The cost to relocate the towers and lines would be lower, but the PG&E representatives said they could not estimate what those costs might be without further study. The cost of the study alone could be between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

The possibility of moving the towers from their present location to run alongside Camino Pablo, crossing over the Safeway parking lot, and

then continuing along Camino Sobrante was discussed. That plan would make about three acres of land available for development in the village. "Three acres isn't worth the numbers we are hearing," Kosla suggested. Council member Miller also questioned whether moving the lines over the Safeway parking lot might impede some future development there.

Very close to the end of the meeting, van Gorder tossed out an idea that Orinda would adore. PG&E, he said, has been working on rebuilding a number of very old towers. Some of their towers are 50, 60 or 70

years old. He promised to investigate the age and condition of the towers in Orinda. If PG&E was going to rebuild the towers anyway, he said, it might be an opportunity to relocate them at potentially very little or no cost to the city. In 2016, PG&E removed a number of 85-foot steel transmission towers and power lines located in Orinda near the following streets: Brookwood Road, Longridge Road, Oak Road, Stein Way, Lloyd Lane, Moraga Way, Sunrise Hill Road. Those towers were removed because they were no longer necessary.

## Principal movements in AUHSD

... continued from Page A2

"I'm excited about working with the younger population," said Parks, "and feel I can bring in the perspective of how the high school works to better prepare the students for the transition."

"I've loved every moment of my time at Miramonte working with all these amazing people," Parks added. At the same time however, she regrets leaving now and missing the opportunity to help rebuild the school after the changes brought about by the COVID pandemic. "It's particularly hard to separate after we've been through so much together."

Like Bell, she is proud of the intervention programs put in place designed to help all

students, including opening up the wellness center.

Nickerson praised Parks, saying, "I'm sure she will work with the staff to ensure all students achieve at high levels, have a sense of belonging, and have a positive experience."

After four years at Las Lomas, Benson was named director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Travis Unified School District. In a statement from her new employer she was recognized as "an experienced educator and administrator who has been working in Bay Area schools for the past 15 years. As a teacher, her focus on global education brought her to many different countries for both research and career, including China, Russia and Germany, and she brings that passion for broad perspectives to all of her

work."

Eric Shawn, most recently a house principal at James Logan High in Union City, has been named as the new principal at Acalanes. Nickerson called him "an accomplished school leader with qualities that are a great fit for the high school."

Replacing Benson at Las Lomas will be Sara Harris, who most recently worked as an associate principal at Miramonte since 2018. Harris is a Las Lomas grad and a former history teacher at Alhambra High.

Nickerson announced that the district will start the process to search for a new principal for Miramonte in the next few weeks, recruiting across the state and beyond, with input from teachers, staff, and parents.

## Orinda city council talks budget

... continued from Page A6

Before the proposed budget comes back to the city council for adoption, it is scheduled for further review by the SSTOC, the planning commission and the independent library parcel tax oversight and finance advisory committee.

The CIP is financed from a variety of funds. General fund contributions authorized by the city council are allocated to two funds, the capital fund and the road/drainage stabilization fund. City specific revenues are generated by local sales, parcel, or general taxes. Outside revenues include the return to source program of the countywide sales tax and gas taxes. Development impact fees are fees collected to mitigate for specific impacts. Additional funds are provided by grants.

The CIP included in the June 15 agenda contains details of all the proposed capital improvement projects, with photos. One project that was not included in the CIP but which the council was unanimous in wanting included was work on Brookwood, where work to lower fire danger resulted in unintended consequences, including reduced protection from vehicles coming off Highway 24. Staff will look at adding at least a placeholder before coming back to

the council.

A number of improvements are proposed for the community center, including replacing the roof, windows and vinyl flooring, replacing the sewer line, improving the HVAC, exterior painting, and improving accessibility for people with disabilities. Solar back-up power for the community center will cost \$365,701.

One major project is the city hall slide stabilization, which is estimated to cost \$885,000. Other city hall projects include installing a battery to keep the elevator running during power outages. City hall exterior painting is also on the list.

Plans to install a mini-split HVAC for the lower retail spaces of the Orinda Library, replace the old library boiler, and the library roof. One project that has generated some concern is the replacement of the library's exterior decorative tile fascia and accents. Several large sections of the tile have failed and detached from the building over the last decade, indicating improper installation. Other expenditures include addressing noise problems at the Art & Garden Center, a new roof at Wilder Ranch House, and replacing turf and extending the fence at Wilder Fields 1, 2 and 4.

In the category of long-term planning, \$532,360

is set aside for the Downtown Precise Plan and \$425,000 for the housing element update. Paving rehabilitation of the Camino Pablo pathway from Orinda Way to Monte Vista has been submitted through Congressman Mark DeSaulnier for federal funding at 80%. Total cost is estimated at \$660,000. The project is on the "top 10" for bikeways, trails and walkways.

The CIP also include replacement of a large number of high priority corroded storm drains. The priority drain projects are planned for 2024 and 2025 and are estimated to require nearly \$7 million. Staff are currently working on permitting and design issues for the drains using other funding sources.

Rankin explained the budget does not include any revenues from the Federal COVID-19 Response American Rescue Plan. The city will, however, receive \$4,766,723 in two payments this year and next year, and must obligate the funds by December 2024 and spend them by December 2026. There are restrictive uses and qualifications for allowed expenditures. The city manager and staff will develop information and propose funding adjustments in the next two months.

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Tim Murphy's marathon effort through Lamorinda



Photo Jon Kingdon

From left: family friend Steve Crossland, daughter-in-law Hillary Murphy, grandson Mack Murphy, Tim Murphy, and Tim's wife, Karen

By Jon Kingdon

Who were you rooting for in the race between the tortoise and the hare? In the case of Tim Murphy, you can be sure he was backing the tortoise. As Murphy approached his 74th birthday, he made it clear that he was not going to go gently in that that good night.

The term Marathon goes back to 490 BC and is credited to the legend of Philipides who was a messenger for the Greeks and was, he thought, witness to a victory by the Greeks at the battle of Marathon over the Persians and ran the 26.2 miles back to the Greek capital announcing, "We have won!" before collapsing and dying. The marathon has been an official event at the Olympics since 1896; 26.22 miles did not become the official distance until 1921.

It was Murphy's goal on June 13 to complete his fourth marathon. Murphy had run the prior three marathons, years earlier, finishing them all in under three and a half hours. In a concession to his three shoulder and four knee replacements due to a lifetime of competitive sports, particularly rugby, Murphy opted to walk the 26.22 miles through Lamorinda. After receiving clearance from his various doctors, Murphy took on the challenge head on. "I guess when you're going to be 74 years old and you've been house bound by COVID and you're a stubborn, obstinate Irishman, I set the goal for myself and found a program online titled 'Preparing to Train to Walk a Marathon.'"

Murphy's daughter-in-law, Hillary, spoke for the family in their reaction to Murphy's efforts: "We've been apprehensively supportive. He's had a lot of surgeries, but Tim is an extremely determined person when he sets a goal. We're excited to see him finish because he has been training for months to do this."

In anticipation of taking the approximate 52,176 steps in walking a marathon, Murphy was not starting from scratch, already walking three to five miles daily. Walking various distances in his training, Murphy gradually moved up from eight

miles to 10 to 12, eventually maxing out at 21 miles in his training.

No fool he, Murphy carefully designed his own marathon route and described it as such: "It's very closely engineered. It combines three things: 1) Very few hills; 2) Access to water; and 3) Out of respect to my 74 years - bathroom stops."

A graduate of Stanford and the University of Colorado Law School, Murphy and his wife Karen moved back to San Francisco and then to Oakland. "Karen is in real estate and in 1983, we became true Lamorindans," Murphy said. "We have lived in Orinda, Moraga and finally settled in Lafayette. It's a great community and we've met a lot of genuinely nice people."

In his legal career, Murphy worked on a wide range of cases, even going against Al Davis and the Oakland Raiders in their attempt to move to Los Angeles. "I tried all sorts of cases: medical malpractice cases and product liability cases," Murphy said. "In the last 20 years of my career I was with a firm that specialized in representing employers, management and a lot of discrimination and sexual harassment lawsuits. All of these were on jury trials and that was a lot of fun."

While you will see many of the runners with headphones and earbuds plugged in, listening to music or podcasts, such is not the case with Murphy. "For some reason, I can't do that," Murphy said. "I just walk along and have these nice four-hour walks and I think about all the things I've done and all the mistakes I've made and review the cases I've tried and it's actually pretty relaxing."

The academic side of Murphy aided in his preparation for the big day. "I learned that my body will burn 3,000 calories while walking a marathon, but the body can only store 2,500 to 2,800 calories," Murphy said. "At that point, your body with either burn stored fat or muscle. I will be eating cliff bars and protein bars and drinking a lot of water as I go along. I found that if you build up your body's ability to use carbohydrates in fat and not muscle, which you

can do by increasing the mileage you walk, you can actually train your body to use the right calories and you don't hit the wall which hopefully I won't hit."

But to paraphrase the poet Robert Burns, "The best laid plans of mice and man can still go wrong."

With the weather not cooperating, it proving to be a very warm day, Murphy hit the proverbial wall at 24 miles, but took it all in stride.

Surrounded by family and friends after returning home, it was not a time for regrets. "I came up short by about 10%. If Charles Lindbergh had done that he would have ended up in the Atlantic Ocean. I'm glad that I'm here and I'm glad I wasn't flying an airplane. On the part of the trail from Moraga Commons down to Glenside, there was no shade, and I got a little woozy even though I was drinking a lot of fluids. Having to finish on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and knowing that I would have to stop and start walking at all of the traffic lights, I said, 'It's a wrap.' However, I will get back to walking my five miles a day once I can walk up the three steps in my backyard."

As he looks back on this five-month effort, Murphy should find a great deal of comfort in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory."

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## Bison burgers may be best bet for backyard Fourth of July BBQ



Boursin Bison Burger

Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

Burgers seem to be just the right fare for a Fourth of July barbecue. And, bison is my burger of choice, so whenever we make burgers at home, I always try to have bison on hand. It's a bit leaner than beef and the flavor is delicious. We have begun mixing Boursin Garlic & Fine Herbs cheese right in with the meat and it makes the burger super moist and flavorful. We also mix in a little bit of grated Gruyere cheese sometimes,

and that is especially yummy. You can also simply add a slice of your favorite cheese on top, or leave the extra cheese off all together, since you already have the Boursin mixed into the burger. Boursin is just a wonderful, creamy cheese and it's offered in several flavors, including Shallot & Chive, Cracked Black Pepper, Basil and Chive and a limited edition of Parsley & Lemon, any of which would be great in this burger. Most grocers carry at least one or two of

these flavors, so it should be easy to find.

Now, when it comes to grilling burgers, I don't know if you have this same problem, but sometimes the burger meat sticks to the grill, making it look kind of shredded and rough. Plus, you lose some of the meat to the grill. This usually only happens on the first side that you place down on the grill. The reason it doesn't happen on the second side, is because, due to the heat of the barbecue, the top half of the meat has a

chance to set up and therefore it's a little bit cooked before you flip it onto the grill. Well, my husband and sons came up with a clever and easy solution. They place the burger on a piece of foil (sprayed with cooking spray) before putting it on the grill. This allows the meat to set up from the heat before any of it is placed directly onto the grill. It's magic. We cook the first side for 5-6 minutes, and then flip the burger directly onto the grill for the second side to cook. Depending upon

how well done or rare you like your meat, the second side takes anywhere from 2-5 minutes, even with a slice of cheese on top.

If you haven't tried this method of cooking burgers, give it a shot. For us, the burgers come out perfectly every time. Happy Fourth of July to all of you!

For more information on Boursin Cheese: <https://www.boursin.com/>.

### Boursin Bison Burgers

(Makes 3-4, depending how big you like your burger)

#### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. ground bison (can also use ground beef, turkey or lamb)  
3-4 tablespoons Boursin cheese (we like Garlic & Fine Herbs or Shallot & Chive for this recipe)  
3-4 tablespoons grated Gruyere cheese (or your favorite cheese)  
1 teaspoon Johnny's Seasoning Salt (or your favorite seasoning salt)  
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper  
3-4 thick slices of red onion (cooked separately on the grill)  
1 tablespoon olive oil (for brushing both sides of the onion slices)  
3-4 hamburger buns  
All the fixings: pickles, mustard, ketchup, sliced avocado, sliced tomato, lettuce leaves

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix bison with Boursin, grated cheese, seasoning salt, and pepper until thoroughly integrated. Form into however many patties you usually make from one pound of meat. You can make these several hours ahead of time and store them in an airtight container in the refrigerator until you're ready to grill.

Heat the grill to medium.

Place each burger on an individual piece of foil that has been sprayed with cooking spray.

Place foil side on the grill and cover the barbecue. Cook for 5-6 minutes on the first side. Using hot mitts or a spatula, flip the burger from the foil directly onto the grill, now with second side of the burger facing down. If you're using sliced cheese on top, place the cheese on top of the burger and continue to cook over medium heat for another 2-5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the burger is cooked to your satisfaction.

During the grilling process, place the thick onion slices on the top rack of the grill if you have one, or off to the sides if you don't. Cook them until done (we like them a bit al dente) and black stripes begin to form on the onions. Remove from the grill and keep warm.

Assemble the burger, grilled onions and all the fixing on the buns and dive in!

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



## Travel log

### Bann at Oak Knoll brings Thailand to the Napa Valley



Sit poolside surrounded by mountain views.

Photos provided

### By Fran Endicott Miller

It's an unusual combination, but somehow, it works – a Thai-themed boutique hotel, set smack in the middle of Napa Valley vineyards, surrounded by grapes and with Vaca Mountain views. Owned and operated by famed Thai chef Lalita Souksamlane of popular San Francisco restaurant OSHA Thai, Bann at Oak Knoll is an oasis of color and is an ideal spot for either a romantic getaway or a family escape.

The intimate, five room inn is a serene reflection of its country of inspiration, where

life is lived outdoors. Here as well, emphasis is placed on fresh air and sunshine, despite the ornate and inviting nature of each of the immense quarters, each of which the décor is based upon a different region of Thailand. Featuring rich textiles, low platform beds, and orchids – so many orchids – the rooms, and especially the bathrooms, are alluring. The deep, free-standing soaking tubs, beside which are placed bath salts and a fizzy ball, are especially irresistible, as are the plush and incredibly soft robes. A bottle of Chanel perfume adds an indulgent touch as does the plumeria-scented body lotion.

If it sounds romantic, it is.

But Bann also welcomes children, as evidenced by the two large floaties drifting in the pool – a unicorn and a duck. One of the rooms is especially geared toward families with two king size beds and two day beds.

Despite the ornate room décor, Bann is most about what's outside those beautiful rooms. Guests are greeted in an open-air pergola, lushly furnished with colorful Thai textiles. Outside of each room is a private dining table, poised toward the vineyard views, and at which afternoon tea and a leisurely three course breakfast are graciously served. Afternoon tea includes a choice of hot or cold teas, and both sweet and savory items, including fresh fruit from local K&J Orchards. Breakfast, served between 9 to 10:30 a.m., includes choice of coffee or tea, a basket of baked goods, more fresh fruit, and a main course choice of both American and Thai offerings. Each service is unrushed and unhurried. And anyone requiring an anytime snack can help themselves to chips and other kid-friendly goodies from the honor bar, where a Nespresso coffee maker stands ready to provide a caffeine kick.

Furthering the 'outdoor living' theme is the pool, deck, and hot tub, featuring unobstructed vineyard and mountain views. Bistro tables, chairs, and swings are surrounded by expansive, vineyard-adjacent, organic gardens from which Souksamlane sources ingredients for both Bann and OSHA Thai. The property brims with art and artifacts from Souksamlane's personal collection, such as pottery vessels, flowing fountains, and elephant carvings that will delight little ones. (Elephants are the national symbol of Thailand, ad-



Bann at Oak Knoll open-air pergola



Spacious bedrooms offer a serene space to relax.

mired for their strength, endurance, and intelligence.)

For those who continue to have travel trepidation, Bann is a perfect getaway – seating areas are naturally distanced, and with just a handful of guests present at any given time, no one will be angling

for pool seating. Bann may not be a substitute for a trip to Thailand, but it certainly feels like another world, one that well suits the Napa Valley.

# New novel combines satire, humor and a touch of sci-fi



Photo provided

Local author Sally Tubach

By John T. Miller

Longtime Orinda resident Sally Tubach has published a novel, “The Grande Dame and Hitler’s Twin: A Comedy of Errors,” to many positive reviews.

While it’s difficult to imagine Hitler and Comedy in the same title, Tubach makes it work in this fantastical mixed-genre novel, with elements of magical realism, satire, humor, and

a touch of science fiction.

One of the elements that make the story work is the wealth of eccentric characters that drive the plot. They are drawn with a Dickensian flair, their faults and foibles colorfully sketched along with their believability.

What starts out with an absurd premise—Hitler had a twin brother who was cryogenically frozen—turns into a comic tale which asks the question: What might have happened had Hitler not been rejected by the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts and went on to become a successful artist? Tubach plays with this idea in contemporary San Francisco.

Two of the main characters are based on real-life personages Tubach knew. The elderly old lady, Myrtle Halstead, formidable, erudite, and overbearing, was modeled on a teacher her husband had at San Francisco City College, and Bruno de Carlo is based on an actual Italian aristocrat who was a notable celebrity in the San Francisco social scene and gossip columns. The town in France where the fictional twin was raised is modeled on an actual village where the Tupachs owned a vacation home.

The book began as an attempt by Tubach to write a short story about the literary snob (Halstead) who attempts

to educate the classless aristocrat (de Carlo). She began work on it in the ‘90s while living in Bordeaux, France, but when they returned to California, other projects took over.

Her husband, Fritz Tubach, a child in Germany during WWII, and his friend Bernie Rosner, a Holocaust survivor, decided to write a double biography about their experiences: “An Uncommon Friendship” (see Aug. 8, 2018 issue in the Lamorinda Weekly archives for story). Sally Tubach got involved with that project, and after its publication went on speaking tours and promotional events, putting her novel on hold.

In 2012, Tubach said that the continued focus on the Holocaust was becoming depressing. “I wanted to write something lighthearted and fun,” she says, “and I added the idea of Hitler’s twin. The novel then took off again.”

Tubach, who has a PhD in German Literature from UC Berkeley, wondered how a cultural hotbed like Germany, which produced forward-thinking writers such as Goethe and Frederic Schiller, and musicians such as Bach, Mozart, and Brahms, could give rise to such a despot as Hitler.

“I started imagining things; it was fun to play with all my characters’ relationships,” she says, adding, more

seriously, “One of the messages I’m trying to deliver in the novel is the function and importance of literature.”

Tubach had a widely varied career before her studies at Berkeley. When she married Fritz, she inherited two stepchildren whose mother had died, so she chose a career in freelance writing in order to be home and help raise the kids.

She has previously published “Memoirs of a Terrorist,” coauthored “Michael Mann: Fragmente eines Lebens;” “An Uncommon Friendship: From Opposite sides of the Holocaust;” and “German Voices: Memories of Life During Hitler’s Third Reich.”

Most of her work to this point was published by university presses, but when it came time to peddle this novel Tubach had difficulty finding anyone interested and became discouraged. Finally, in April of 2020, a small press out of Eugene, Oregon – Wipf and Stock Publishers – decided to pick it up. When it was published, Tubach had many personal matters to attend to and is disappointed she hasn’t been able to publicize the book much. She is now getting into readings and other ways of promoting the book, including a possible tour from Budapest to Amsterdam next December.

# Local bookstore and libraries start summer reading challenges



Photo Sara Valbuena

Summer Reading Bingo offered at Reasonable Books in Lafayette.

By Grace Gonsalves

The start of summer for many of the literary individuals in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda means the start of some good reading. This summer, Reasonable Books in Lafayette is less quiet as owners Betty and Rudy Winnacker are getting the word out regarding their summer reading challenge.

The challenge involves bingo cards, with participants marking off boxes as go, and is open to all customers of Reasonable Books. Each square on the card is a book genre, such as a coming-of-age story, a book adapted to a movie, or a Pulitzer Prize winner. Some squares can prove difficult, like a book set in a city that hosted the Olympics.

When a reader gets a bingo, they can come into the store and receive a prize. “Once they fill it out they bring it in and get their name entered for a prize. We’re hoping to have weekly drawings,” said Betty Winnacker, who added later that they might “let readers pick from what is available and see how it goes, because everyone will be different.”

According to Winnacker,

there is a large variety of prizes, adding to the fun of the challenge: “The prizes will include a free puzzle, a gift certificate, a book, one of the puppets, we have some local area attractions like free passes to the Oakland Museum, [and] train tickets to the Tilden Railroad.”

Granted, the reading challenge at Reasonable Books is among one of the most difficult in our area: “Nobody has finished a row of their card yet, not even my daughter or myself,” Winnacker said.

For some, the annual Contra Costa County Library summer reading challenge might be a bit easier. Each year, Contra Costa County libraries have reading passports open to children of ages 5 to 18. The reading passports track how many books have been read in a given summer, along with how many hours have been spent reading them.

This year, the Contra Costa County Library summer reading challenge is called “Reading Colors Your World” and it is open to all ages. It began June first and can be completed both online on the site Beanstack and with the physical reading passports

that can be picked up at the library. “Everyone who completes Summer Reading will win prizes, including a free book, and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win amazing prizes.”

The prizes for both reading challenges are tailored specifically to what readers may enjoy receiving: “We’re trying to keep them reading related,” said Winnacker.

Of course reading can be done everywhere, but special news is that what with the new COVID regulations, Reasonable Books will now have seating and reading areas for customers to come inside and read their books: “We are excited that the restrictions have loosened up so that we can have more people in the store and we’re looking forward to having people come in, browse, [and] read.”

Readers are also welcome back to the libraries: “The libraries will be open with limited occupancy. The whole family can have a fun and colorful summer together.”

For information about Reasonable Books, visit <https://reasonable.online/>

For information about Contra Costa County Libraries, visit [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org)

# Resistance in accepting care: Why does this happen?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

“My husband is refusing to have his memory loss evaluated.”

“My mom and dad are 90 years old and need help with everything; I worry about their safety.”

“My wife and I know we should update our Advance Health Care Directives and we keep finding excuses for not getting that done.”

I have heard comments like these and hundreds more that might be interpreted as resistance. This is especially frustrating when you are the caring or concerned family member; losing sleep with worry about a loved one’s health or safety.

In this article we are going to look at some of the patterns of resistance, what the brain function is that comes into play during these times and the how and when to proceed with an intervention and/or the steps needed for success.

I am going to start with the No. 1 reason many older adults refuse help especially when suggested by adult children or a spouse: control or the fear of loss of independence. The second reason could be denial and if the person you are concerned about has a dementia it might be denial and impaired judgment, both hallmarks of the

illness.

Other words for resistance are: blocking, defiance, fight, refusal, struggle, friction, obstruction, rebuffing, withstanding and protecting.

Here are some of the behaviors associated with resistance:

- Wasting time
- Making excuses
- Avoidance
- Distraction
- Delaying
- Perfectionism
- Inertia and feeling stuck
- Overthinking or paralysis by analysis
- Taking a break from change
- Giving up and falling off the wagon

You might actually see some of these behaviors in yourself. Resistance is normal and when you look at nature, this response can be protective in a positive way. As a counselor these behaviors might also buy you time to make a better decision; it is only when the behaviors get in the way of the quality of your life, or your health or safety that they become problematic.

The brain’s process in “resistance” is seen in something that scientists call the “triune brain.” It starts with the prehistoric portion of your brain, located near the brainstem called the amygdala. It is sometimes referred to as the lizard brain, something we share with reptiles – a brain

that focuses on the basics of food and shelter. It is responsible for fear, anger, revenge, sex and survival. When the amygdala is aroused, when it feels threatened, when there is a sense that people might laugh at you, it takes over. It rises up in rage and fear and shuts you down. This is often referred to as the hidden brain.

The second and third layers of resistance in our brains are the limbic system (mammal brain) that has the protective role keeping us from changing in favor of the familiar; then there is the prefrontal cortex (human brain) which is the reasoning part of the brain. Think of it as the central processing unit of a computer. Using this part of our brain is hard work; the brain uses 20% of our energy.

If the family member you are concerned about has a dementia, keep in mind that their frontal cortex is impaired, thus they can’t make decisions based on rationalizing, reasoning or their earlier patterns of coming to conclusions and making decisions. The change or care you want to add will most often be resisted because that “reptile” brain and the limbic system is protecting the status quo. You will need to be creative or wait for an organic opportunity (such as an illness, accident or hospitalization) to present the intervention. Do not ask their permission. I

know this is a challenge, but use the excuse of “doctor’s orders” or “when you get well, we can go back to X” (knowing that will not happen). You become the neocortex for your family member and make all the decisions around safety and health at the same time as respecting their dignity.

If your family member does not have a dementia, but is resisting more out of fear of change or the limbic part of the brain, you can assist them by using “I” messages and giving them options (but just a few to reduce anxiety). An “I” message is something like, “I am concerned about your weight loss and recent falls, so I am going to do some research on how we can help you stay more independent.” Avoid using “should” and “you need to X.” What you want is to give options so that the decision is theirs and they understand the “why.”

If you hear something like “I just can’t keep up this house,” you might respond with a question to get the conversation moving before you give suggestions. That question would be something like “What can you tell me about the options you might have to keep the house like you want it?” Then you could talk about hiring a housekeeper or caregiver who might also do the cooking that Mom is not really doing either. Often older adults are stuck because they don’t know where to start or

how to secure trusted help and that is where you can help but still let them make the final decision.

Sometimes, the best way to deal with resistance is to plant seeds by telling stories about others you know who have made changes resulting in greater happiness in their lives.

If you are caring for someone with a dementia please go onto my website and sign up for the free classes – [www.LindaFodriniJohnson.com](http://www.LindaFodriniJohnson.com).



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989. Eldercare Services is now a division of Home Care Assistance and continues to provide Bay Area families with care management, advocacy, counseling, support groups and education.

## BSA Troop 224 honors six Eagle Scouts



Photo Mika Watanabe

From left: Ethan Del Rosario, Anthony Mirabito, Jason Sabbadini, Calvin Van Oss, Drew Lashinsky and Cole Griscavage

### Submitted by Joyce Mirabito

Lafayette Scouts BSA Troop 224 of Lafayette on May 30 held an Eagle Court of Honor at the Pleasant Hill Community Center for six Scouts who achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout: Ethan Del Rosario, An-

thony Mirabito, Jason Sabbadini, Calvin Van Oss, Drew Lashinsky, (all recent graduates of Acalanes High School), and Cole Griscavage, (graduate of The College Preparatory School in Oakland). To become an Eagle Scout, they earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrated leader-

ship and Scout spirit, and successfully completed a community service project with the help of troop members.

For his Eagle project, Del Rosario had a desire to help people with special needs. With the help of his mentor, Scoutmaster Erik Suppiger, he designed and created 300 adaptive board books for the Able Closet Nonprofit Organization to help enable physically challenged people to be able to easily manipulate and turn the pages of a book.

Mirabito chose the preschool which he attended, Happy Days Learning Center in Lafayette, as his service project recipient. The most popular play structure on the playground is the tire swing. Mirabito replaced the old wooden tire swing frame with a structurally sound steel pipe frame. He designed and fabricated the structure with the help of his mentor, former Scoutmaster Kyle Blocker.

Sabbadini, with the help of his mentor, Adult Leader Dan

Keenan, replaced and built a new fence surrounding the Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua Catholic School at which he attended elementary and middle school. The garden is a place for students to learn about growing produce, and each slat of the fence surrounding the garden is made to look like a crayon.

Van Oss, with the help of his mentor, Assistant Scoutmaster Steve Mirabito, completed a renovation of the "Motor Room" at the Burbank Preschool Center in Oakland. The Motor Room exclusively serves preschoolers with special needs. The room was thoroughly cleaned and received fresh paint, new floor mats, a mirror and a chalkboard. In addition, 300 adaptive books were added to the room.

Drew Lashinsky also chose to give back to the elementary school he attended, specifically giving to the Husky House at Happy Valley Elementary which houses the school's after-school program. With the help and

guidance of his mentors, Joey Lashock and Jim Shepherd, Drew constructed a wooden planter and two wooden benches with a storage area underneath. The wooden planter is used as a learning tool to teach students how to plant a garden, and the storage area is a place for backpacks.

Griscavage conducted a series of First Aid classes at his high school's after-school program called the Partners Program which supports underserved middle school students at The College Preparatory School in Oakland. He was assisted in the planning of his project by former Scoutmaster Bill Van Oss. Cole gave instruction on the fundamentals of first aid and also instructed with hands-on learning by having his students act out various emergency situations. He ended the series by holding a Jeopardy game which reviewed everything he had taught in the series.

## Moraga Lions recognizes stellar students

### Submitted by Ray Casabonne

The Moraga Lions Club recently gave out its annual Achievement Awards at three local schools: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Stanley Middle School, and St. Perpetua School.



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, from left: Charlene Stillman (teacher), Gianna Souza (Award Winner), Joan Danilson (principal), Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Michael Tondi (teacher), Ammon Lee (Award Winner).



Photos provided

St. Perpetua School, from left: Matt Hastings, Ashley Hastings, Caden Hastings (Award Winner), Lion Bob Murtagh, Maddie Ingram (Award Winner), Christy Ingram, Dough Ingram, and teacher Heidi Schwarck.



Stanley Middle School, from left, back row: Ms. Shegoian, Mr. Mangold (A.P.), Mr. Carman (A.P.); middle row: Ms. Thompson, Mr. Anke, Ms. Balmat (principal), Mr. Huntoon, Ms. Wright; front row: Ms. Nolan (school counselor), Ryan Lorge (Award Winner), Dan Hagan (Lions Club).



Stanley Middle School, from left, back row: Ms. Shegoian, Mr. Mangold (A.P.), Mr. Carman (A.P.); middle row: Ms. Thompson, Mr. Anke, Ms. Balmat (Principal), Mr. Huntoon; front row: Ms. Sullivan (school counselor), Elijah Williams (Award Winner), Dan Hagan (Lions Club).

## AAUW-OML awards scholarships to local students

### Submitted by Mary Ann McLeod

AAUW-OML recently held a Celebration of Excellence event, highlighting STEM programs and college scholarships, and awarding a total of 36 scholarships to middle school girls, graduating high school seniors, and Saint Mary's College students.

Cara Wolfe was the featured speaker. A graduating senior at UC Berkeley, she is studying computer science and Asian American studies. Wolfe participated in all OML branch STEM programs, and when she graduated from Acalanes High School in 2017, she received a college scholarship from the branch for her community service. While sharing her experiences participating in the branch's Tech Trek and STEM Conferences, Wolfe highlighted the importance of young women working equitably and comfortably in the STEM field.

A total of 18 Lamorinda eighth-grade girls will attend virtual Tech Trek camp this summer. In normal times, Tech Trek is a weeklong STEM immersion program held at Stanford Camp Curry, but last year's camp was canceled because of COVID-19. This year, although the girls will not be on campus, they will have a unique opportunity to participate in the hands-on activities in the morning and afternoon STEM workshops, hear from inspirational women working in STEM, and interact with each other in breakout rooms. They will learn the video software Flipgrid and will share their creations on Friday. And there will be optional evening sessions as well. The op-

portunity to participate in this year's program was offered to last year's awardees, and they accepted.

The following middle school girls to attend virtual Tech Trek camp are: Stanley Middle School: 2020, Camille Bradley, Beatrice Dean, Helena Linnen; 2021, Arianna Bustamante, Isabelle Culinco, Abigail Hui. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate: 2020, Sophia Gomes, Georgia Stankus, Vivian Tolajian; 2021 Maryam Kermani, Audrey Spears, Rebecca Tanner. Orinda Intermediate: 2020, Deya Murthy, Emma Wong; 2021, Sophia Bitton, Claire Casado, Christophe Davis, Kodie Zundel.

The selection criteria for the high school and college scholarships are academic excellence, community service and leadership. All recipients are excellent students and have demonstrated a desire to help others for the good of their communities.

Local graduating high school seniors and Saint Mary's College students received scholarships, including Acalanes High School's Emilia Gutman and Sophie Krayna; Campolindo High School's Jacqueline Artiga and Helen Kaidantzis; and Miramonte High School's Chaya Tong. The Saint Mary's College students from the High Potential Program received scholarships, including Daniela Catubig, Maleena Guido, and Maya Patel.

Additionally, nine Saint Mary's students received scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This virtual conference offers two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking; empowering students to gain the skills and confidence to pursue their goals.

## Lafayette Juniors raises \$65K for local nonprofits

### Submitted by Karen Evans

The Lafayette Suburban Junior Women's Club ("Lafayette Juniors") raised \$65,000 over the past 12 months for two local nonprofit organizations. In an outdoor celebration, the Lafayette Juniors awarded \$32,500 to each major beneficiary, YouthALIVE and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County, on May 20.

Lafayette Juniors traditionally organizes two fundraising events each year – a Rummage Sale in the fall and a Kitchen Tour in the spring. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, Lafayette Juniors moved the rummage sale online, as individual members did virtual garage sales and solicited corporate matches to raise funds. In another pandemic twist, the Kitchen Tour was re-born into The Outdoor Living Tour to keep the community safe but still raise funds for their beneficiaries. The Outdoor Living tour had strong support from sponsors and sold out weeks before the event date.

Since 1991, as mentors, youth leaders, counselors, case managers, intervention specialists and violence interrupters, YouthALIVE has worked to help violently wounded people heal themselves and their community. Their primary goals are to educate and train young leaders to create a more peaceful community, to inter-

rupt the cycle of violence on the streets, to convince angry victims and their loved ones not to retaliate, to provide ongoing support to help the wounded and grieving get needed services and heal from their trauma.

Since 1983, Loaves and Fishes has served over 5 million meals to many thousands of hungry people throughout Contra Costa County. They have recruited thousands of volunteers and built an organization that has grown to serving over 149,000 meals, and distributing over 302 tons of groceries each fiscal year. Loaves and Fishes also partners with other social service agencies and community-based organizations to support those in need and also provide cost effective access to their two commercial kitchens to local food entrepreneurs to support their start-up businesses.

Lafayette Juniors is looking forward to continuing the tradition of giving to well-deserving local organizations, and is accepting applications until July 31 from all nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area that are dedicated to social welfare, education and/or civic work. Lafayette Juniors will select organizations from the applicant pool in August to become their major and minor beneficiaries for the 2021-22 membership year. To obtain an application or learn more about Lafayette Juniors, visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).

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

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

**ART**

**New exhibition opened**  
June 15 at Valley Art Gallery  
Featuring Dee Tivenan.  
There will be a "Meet the Artist" Reception Sunday, June 27, 4 - 6 p.m. The over 300 works on display in the gallery represent the best of the best of East Bay artists; all artists are juried into membership, and all shows are individually juried. All 2-D works are available for both sale or rent. Also available are a wide selection of juried, high quality, hand-made crafts and jewelry. Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

**Marketing Your Art Offline** with Fiona Hughes. The previous two Webinars introduced us to preparing for online exhibits and the use of social media. But Fiona declares, "... it's important not to have all your eggs in the online basket. In this session we uncover 5 strategies for

getting your artwork out there and increasing real-world sales." Fiona Hughes presents the third and final Webinar in her three-part series, "I've created my artwork ... now what?" at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 22. The third Webinar is titled, Marketing Your Art Offline. Info at <http://LAA4Art.org>

**THEATER**

**Town Hall Theatre is excited** to announce its first outdoor in-person event July 10 at Moraga Commons in Moraga. THT will host local artists as they present songs and spoken word pieces that mean something personal to them on the themes of Hope, Renewal, Equity, Resilience, Home, Inclusion, and Celebration. The event is directed by Madison Gerringer and features musical accompaniment by the Steve Carter Trio. On July 20 portions of the live event will be presented for free as part of a fundraising telethon for Town Hall Theatre. Live Event July 10 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; online stream July 20 from

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tickets at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com)

**OTHER**

The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center would like to invite you to attend its annual membership meeting, set to take place on Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. In-person and outdoors, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Free. Register at 925-933-7850 [www.ourpeacecenter.org](http://www.ourpeacecenter.org)

**Be Fire-wise in Lamorinda!** Sunday Evening, June 27, 7 p.m. The program will include a presentation by Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs and emergency preparedness information from a CERT representative. There will also be a discussion of fire resistant plantings and a summary of how to talk to your child about fire safety. Invite your, family, neighbors and friends. To sign up go to the [MVPctoday.org](http://MVPctoday.org) website and scroll down to find the appropriate article with registration information.

**Friends Corner Book Shop** at the Lafayette Library is open for business on its full schedule of hours beginning June 21. Book Shop volunteers have been hard at work building an electronic inventory, which will make it simpler to know if a particular book is in stock and its location. M, T, Th: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; W: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; F: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Su: closed. New volunteers are also welcome! You can express your interest to [friendscornerbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:friendscornerbookshop@gmail.com).

**Dorothy Day House** is actively seeking volunteers to support the grand opening of its new program location at 742 Grayson St., Berkeley throughout the month of June to prepare for the projects opening date of July 1. Volunteers will also be needed throughout the duration of the program. Details at DDH's website at [dorothydayhouseberkeley.org/volunteer](http://dorothydayhouseberkeley.org/volunteer)

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Service Clubs Announcements**

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary 

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

**July 2021 Weekly Speakers**

2: No Meeting – Independence Day  
9: Jamie Textor, New Club President  
16: McAvoy Layne, The "Ghost" of Mark Twain  
23: David Isenberg, Member Magazine  
30: Kathy Suvia, Governor-Elect, District 5160

[www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com)

*Lamorinda's Religious Services*

**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church**  
An Open, Affirming & Loving Community  
**Virtual service at Sun. 9:00 AM**  
If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws)  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

**WILLOWSRING**  
community church

**Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are.**  
[www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)  
1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550  
**10:45 AM Sunday Service**

  
**ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA**  
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.  
451 Moraga Way, Orinda  
[www.stmarksorinda.org](http://www.stmarksorinda.org) | (925) 254-5965  
All Are Welcome

**ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
All are welcome to our on-line services  
Sunday Service 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
See website and join us through Zoom  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

  
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church  
**mvp**  
JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:30  
INDOORS & ON THE PATIO  
OR ONLINE AT [MVPCTODAY.ORG](http://MVPCTODAY.ORG)

**Lafayette**  
United Methodist Church  
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Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Sports Editor:** [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Staff Writers:** Vera Kochan; [vera@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:vera@lamorindaweekly.com), Sora O'Doherty; [Sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Sora@lamorindaweekly.com), Jon Kingdon; [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)  
**Contributing Writers:** Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Clayton, Michele Duffy, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Lou Fancher  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Matt Biondi – a swimmer, a teacher, a leader



Photos provided

**Biondi speaks to the members of the International Swimmers Alliance in Budapest.**

**By Jon Kingdon**

When discussing the life and swimming career of Matt Biondi, one could write almost endlessly about his accomplishments in the pool – but that would be selling short Matt Biondi, the man, and all that went into his successes in and out of the water. In the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympics, Biondi won a total of 11 medals (eight gold, two silver and one bronze, setting three individual world records in the 50-meter freestyle and four in the 100-freestyle).

Biondi is in the International Swimming Hall of Fame, the US Olympic Hall of Fame, UC Berkeley Hall of Fame, and the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in Chicago where you can see Biondi's Olympic medals which have been on display for the last 25 years.

Like many kids in Lamorinda, Biondi started swimming early in his life. "My sister swam at Moraga Valley Pool," Biondi said. "I tagged along and tried out for the team and ended up setting the Meadow Mini-Meet record. I would swim every summer until I went to high school."

Such success does not come easily, but for Biondi it was the foundation of character that he and his siblings learned early from their mother and father: "They gave us their full support in any type of activity we chose to pursue, though we needed to be involved in something that was meaningful and whatever it was, we were out in front and if we made mistakes our par-

ents would be there to support us.

"When I was 12 years old, I was in the Moraga Valley tennis finals," Biondi remembers. "At one point, I slammed my racket on the net and swore. My mom came out of the stands and pulled me off the court by my ear. She never said a word on the ride home, which was even worse, but I learned the right way to carry yourself."

The ability to make his own choices served Biondi well: "When things got intense at the Olympic level, it was all about me and that's an important message for a lot of parents to understand. I want kids to be the best for 10 years and not at their best when they're 10 years old. They need to let their kids do things on their own early on because they're incredibly capable."

Biondi's success in the water enabled him to overcome the usual teenage angst most feel in high school. "Swimming became a place of comfort emotionally for me along with the physical successes."

Unlike most of the swimmers who chose to concentrate on swimming or switched over to water polo, Biondi chose to compete in both sports, something not commonly done. "What I did was extremely rare," Biondi said. "There were other athletes in college that competed in both sports, but I was the only one who was a four-year all-American in both swimming and water polo."

Despite setting a national high school record in the 50-yard freestyle, Biondi was not recruited that heavily. UCLA wanted him for swimming but

Bob Horn, the water polo coach did not think he was good enough for his team and Skip Kenney, the Stanford coach, told Biondi to his face that he didn't have what it took to swim at that level. "Nort Thornton, my coach at Cal was the only coach that was willing to give me a full scholarship and it turned out to be a great partnership."

Biondi learned that revenge is a dish best served cold. "Our water polo won three national championships the four years I was at Berkeley, and I even played for the United States after Seoul in a 1989," Biondi said. "When we played UCLA in water polo, every time I scored a goal, I would make it a point to look over at Horn. After I set three American records in swimming and won two national championships my sophomore year, Kenney walked across the pool deck and shook my hand and said that he was obviously wrong about me."

Competing in the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympics was each a unique experience for Biondi. "At the 1984 trials, I went there to have fun and was very relaxed because I didn't expect to win. I saw other swimmers that were acting like they had been pointing towards this race for their entire life. I was leading in the finals, but did not feel like I deserved to win at that point, and finishing in fourth but qualified for the team. It turned out to be a good guide and teaching moment for me. I learned that if I'm going to be a champion, I have to start seeing myself on the award stand and when I learned to do that, I was ready."

At the 1988 Olympics, all the press talked about was whether Biondi would break Mark Spitz's record in gold medals, something that Biondi had not concerned himself with. "When I got the bronze medal in my first race, I was thrilled because it was my first individual Olympic medal. Bob Costas then summed up my race by saying that Biondi had failed to eclipse Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals and had to settle for the bronze and then they went to a commercial. It was really just kind of shocking from that perspective and then things got better as I finished with five golds, a

silver and a bronze so that was really nice."

Starting in 1989, Biondi and Tom Jager brought professional swimming to the United States for the first time with swimsuit contracts, matches races and appearance events which did not set well with USA Swimming. According to Biondi, "They did not support me as a pro athlete, and I have evidence that they actively suppressed my ability to perform at the Olympics." Still, at the 1992 Olympics Biondi won two more gold medals in the relays and a silver in the 50-meter freestyle. Most importantly, he took on a strong supporting role with the younger



**Matt Biondi with his 11 Olympic medals.**

swimmers like Summer Sanders who had been expected to win a slew of gold medals that year.

... continued on Page C3

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# First place for Miramonte water polo teams

Submitted by April Murphy

Miramonte High School water polo teams all took

home first place in the final high school water polo tournaments in Northern California. Making it a sweep of wins for all four teams: Varsity girls and boys and both JV teams. This "Strength in Numbers"

bodes well for the future.

Just before school got out before the summer break the Northern California high schools were able to compete against each other playing both girls and boys water polo.

Due to the pandemic it has been touch and go as to whether they would have a season at all, but it did go ahead, adhering to CDC guidelines.

As games proceeded and competition heated up it became clear that one school was in a class of its own. Both the MHS Varsity and Jr. Varsity girls and boys showed grit and determination time and time again, proving they were the team to beat.

The Lady Mats end of season final game secured an undefeated 14-0 season. They played teams in DAL, East Bay, Davis and Marin. The two MHS Boys teams, who uphold a tradition of excellence, won their last tournaments in an exciting fashion. These results gave MHS teams a clean sweep – an achievement that is rarely accomplished. All four teams were appreciative of teamwork, parents, and coaches.



Varsity Girls



Junior Varsity Girls

Photos provided



Varsity Boys



Junior Varsity Boys

## Lafayette Oaks 13U baseball team crowned champions



Photo provided

Zach Tabibian, Jimmy Cusumano, Cody Michlitsch, Nico Riog, Reid Habas, Blake Robison, Branson Smith, Gavin Beers, Tommy Terhar, Eli Dudum, Leo McDonough; Coach: Jon Zuber (All Lafayette residents and all attend Stanley Middle School)

Submitted by Jane E. Smith

The Lafayette Oaks took the title of Diablo 680 League Champions

against Martinez over the Memorial Day weekend, battling in five games over two days. The championship game was sealed when Eli Dudum hit a grand slam for the Oaks in the seventh inning.

## California Dawgs become first 13U Cooperstown All-Star Village wood bat champs



Photo provided

Name of players by number: 7 Everett Zellmer, 9 Riley Gates, 14 Cody Michlitsch, 21 Colby Ebner, 22 Justin Arraiz, 23 Tommy Terhar, 24 Brock Artist, 27 Graham Schlicht, 28 Eli Dudum, 33 Owen Patterson, 42 Blake Robison and 44 Luke McLeod

Submitted by Tony Dudum

The California Dawgs baseball team was offered to play in a special inaugural 13 & under wood bat tournament. The team traveled across the country on June 5 hoping to win a few games over the week. The Dawgs kept edging their opponents by small margins of victory as they achieved eight wins over top New York teams as well as all-star teams from Texas, Utah, Colorado and Georgia. The Dawgs faced the Scorpions from

Houston, Texas in the championship. They battled to a 2-2 tie through five innings and in the top of the sixth inning the Dawgs catcher Owen Patterson hit a game-winning home run.

The Dawgs held the lead to win the game 3-2 and are now the first ever 13U Cooperstown All-Star Village wood bat champs.

The Dawgs head coach is Tony Dudum (Campo grad), assistants are Doug Robison and Glen Gates (Campo grad) and all live in Lafayette.



## Summer Fun with LMYA Swim Team



photos by Mika Watanabe



www.lmyaswim.com

# Matt Biondi – a swimmer, a teacher, a leader

... continued on Page C3

“Summer had her five events, and she was getting beat by the Chinese, who had numerous swimmers testing positive for doping within two years, but the press was hammering her because she kept losing. After she got the silver medal in the 200 IM, she was sitting there, crying with her head down, in her Olympic sweats with an Olympic silver medal around her neck. I walked over and I just said ‘I’m proud of you. There are millions of young girls in America that have been inspired by you and you’ve got one more race, and just go out and do your best,’ though she never looked up and didn’t stop crying. Summer ended up winning that race, leading from start to finish.”

“Our Olympic team was gathering for the last time and Summer was like in a daze and when she saw me, she hurried

over and gave me a big hug and she whispered in my ear, ‘I never could have done it without you.’ I had been kind of on the outside so that was a real turning point for me and encapsulated my career. I had started by watching and learning from people and then ending by being able to help somebody do a little bit better.”

So upset at his mistreatment, Biondi left swimming and began to utilize his degree in Political Economy of Industrialized Societies to teach both history and math.

Though he stopped swimming competitively, Biondi still found a way to stay connected with the water. “I had more than a dozen experiences with dolphins, right whales, orcas and even fin whales in the Sea of Cortez. I was on a research boat for about five years out of Hawaii swimming with humpback whales underwater which I like to show when I speak to

young groups.”

Being in the zone is described as the pinnacle of achievement for an athlete and characterizes a state in which an athlete performs to the best of his or her ability. It’s a rare situation when it absolutely comes together for a competitor.

Despite being so successful, when Biondi looks back, he can only find one time when everything came together in every aspect of his performance. “It’s called optimal experience and it’s about a time I had where I felt in complete mastery,” Biondi said. “It only happened once. It was so strong and powerful; it just consumed my whole body and I had nothing but endless energy. It was at the Olympic trials in 1988 in Austin, Texas and it was the fastest 100-meters I ever swam. When I look back on my accomplishments, it’s things like that which I find to be more special than my medal count.”

Biondi recently announced the formation of the International Swimmers Alliance (ISA) whose goal is to improve personal and economic opportunities for all swimmers and increase their negotiating power. So far, the alliance is made up of 120 world-class swimmers from 31 countries.

The main issue as Biondi sees it is “power, control and the flow of money.”

“The Olympics in Tokyo were scheduled to make over \$7 billion in revenue, which is up from \$5 billion from the Olympics in Rio, and it’s not unreasonable for the athletes to share in part of that,” Biondi said. “We want to know how the money is being generated and where it’s going and then ultimately, how can we share this revenue with the athletes who are performing and who are the show and who are the ones that people are paying to see.”

Like his parents, Biondi has allowed his kids to make their own choices as well: “My oldest son, Nate, didn’t start swimming until his sophomore year in the high school he just graduated from in Berkeley. He was a walk-on and made the sprint relay team that won the NCAAs this year. Lucas is 18 and plays volleyball for the Spike and Serve Club in Honolulu. My daughter Makena is with me and will be a freshman at Calabasas High this year.”

With all that is going on, Biondi still finds a release in the pool: “I don’t like to compete anymore, but I still try and keep in shape and will swim three days a week with Conejo Valley Multi Sport Masters.”

So, as he has done since he put his first foot in the water, Biondi continues to take the long-term perspective in all his pursuits.

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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 9 Wednesday, June 23, 2021



Home repair advice

read on Page D4

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## The birds know best



A basket of Bing and Queen Anne cherries.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

*"I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs." ~ Joseph Addison, essayist and poet (1672-1719)*

After months of intently watching my two cherry trees blossom and form fruit, I was aghast as flocks of birds began to daily swarm the branches and fly away with unripe cherries in their beaks. Joseph Addison's quote eased my anxiety a bit as the happy trills of full bird bellies filled the air with soulful melodies. From my bench perch, I witnessed Stellar jays, blackbirds, sparrows, finches, warblers, orioles, robins, doves, and other unknown feathered friends dining on my crop. Although I kept instructing my flying diners to eat at the buffet at the top of the trees, since I don't speak avian, they ate wherever they landed. My reward was the entertainment of

witnessing so many species mingling and caroling.

In general, cherries don't ripen once they are picked. It took patience for me to wait until the Bings turned purple and the Queen Anne's had a blush rose on their yellow skins before I grabbed a basket to harvest what was still available. Netting a tree is the way to protect your investment when you have a small tree, but when your trees are 20 feet or larger, netting is more rigorous, although not impossible. My daughter-in-law was able to gather enough cherries from her family plot to make my favorite cherry pies. Her family uses extra-long bamboo poles wrapped with netting to cover their tall trees to protect them from the marauders. It takes several family members to accomplish the task.

The mulberries and loquats are also ripe with birds, squirrels, deer, and me all fighting for the feast. The plums will be next on the agenda within a week. The marvelous part of the sparring and squabbling is nothing goes to waste. Even the fruit that falls is gulped up by rabbits, quail or other critters. (While weeding around the tree, I disturbed a momma quail sitting on her eggs. When foraging, quail eggs are also a delicacy. I didn't touch them!)

These exhibitions made me think about how much humans waste. One-third of all the food produced in the world never gets eaten; 63 million tons of food was sent to landfills by Americans in 2018, producing methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

... continued on Page D12



Cynthia's daughter-in-law's homemade cherry pie with home-grown cherries.

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LAFAYETTE	26	\$650,000	\$3,950,000
MORAGA	15	\$392,000	\$2,605,000
ORINDA	25	\$1,250,000	\$3,950,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

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- 553 Arrowhead Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1869 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-04-21  
3212 Camino Colorados, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
Previous Sale: \$65,500, 03-01-80  
3337 Carlyle Terrace, \$1,808,000, 4 Bdrms, 1753 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-07-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 04-07-15  
13 Dianne Court, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2365 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-14-21  
1148 Glen Road, \$3,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4169 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-09-07  
3274 Gloria Terrace, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1853 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-07-21  
3921 Happy Valley Road, \$3,028,000, 3 Bdrms, 4583 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,405,000, 10-07-15  
3688 Happy Valley Road, \$3,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2771 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 08-30-18  
1104 Hillcrest Drive, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2891 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,299,000, 08-16-06  
2858 Kinney Drive, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1227 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 01-25-18  
4027 Mario Way, \$1,995,000, 5 Bdrms, 4572 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,380,000, 12-04-12  
3742 Meadow Lane, \$3,650,000, 6 Bdrms, 3606 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-13-21,  
Previous Sale: \$887,500, 05-30-08  
1180 Monticello Road, \$2,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2675 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-12-21  
954 Mountain View Drive, \$1,500,500, 3 Bdrms, 1859 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,619,500, 01-23-20  
1185 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$2,430,000, 5 Bdrms, 3226 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,365,000, 03-30-05  
1528 Pleasant Hill Road, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 733 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 04-26-19  
1031 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2609 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-11-21,  
Previous Sale: \$580,000, 01-27-10  
1997 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2315 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-14-21  
1624 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 2751 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$468,000, 06-22-00  
10 Shreve Lane, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2035 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 05-07-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-04-16  
588 Silverado Drive, \$2,012,500, 4 Bdrms, 2113 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-11-21  
826 Skywood Road, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3233 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-05-21  
3315 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3357 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 06-11-15  
1178 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 05-06-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 07-29-14  
1219 Woodborough Road, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 4981 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 05-13-21  
1003 Woodbury Road #105, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 05-12-21

... continued on Page D12

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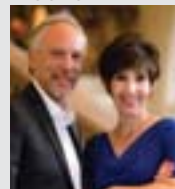
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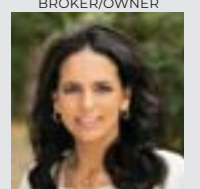
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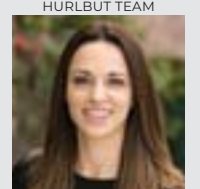
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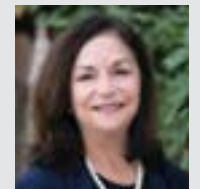
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# Shifty situations can create un-plumb door problems

By Jim Hurley

The door to my daughter's bedroom at our house in El Cerrito had come out of plumb (no longer square). After a small earthquake, the door would bind on the top of the jamb and was stuck at about three inches away from completely closing. Since she was a toddler, it was not a high priority for her to close it and I left it alone. Another minor earthquake four years later, readjusted the house and the door went back into alignment and closed beautifully. Patience is a virtue after all.

The soil in the Bay Area is pretty shifty. Besides the movement from seismic events, the difference in rainfall between El Niño and drought years causes the hillsides to almost imperceptibly shift up and down as the soil swells and contracts with moisture, causing door frames to become less than square and start to stick and bind.

A frequent item on the handyman to-do list is a sticky door or window. Typically, my clients will ask me to "trim the door down where it sticks." Trimming the door might make it visibly out of square when the foundation shifts back the other way, leaving an uneven gap at the top or side of the frame. Given that, I like to try a few other tricks first.

For a slightly sticky door, sometimes lubricant can make it smooth without damage to the door or frame. I rub paraffin wax on the places that bind with surprising success. Sometimes the problem is not from a shift in the foundation, but rather a shift in the frame. I always check to see if the hinge screws have come loose. In some cases, simply tightening the screws will re-align the door. A few times, I have found that the owner uses door-hanging hooks to hold bathrobes or towels on bathroom doors. The additional weight can pull the whole door frame slightly out of alignment. I replace one or two hinge screws with longer screws to pull the frame back into alignment without trimming the door. I also try the "bigger-hammer-approach." Using a block of wood and a large hammer, I tap firmly on the door frame where it binds and move the frame back into alignment. All these solutions can work in a few minutes without messy sanding or trimming that permanently alters the shape of the door.

A similar and related complaint is that the door has stopped latching. My technique is to grab a flashlight, close the door, and look closely at where the latch is in relation to the strike plate. (The strike plate is that little bit of metal on the frame side of the door that keeps the lock from damaging the trim.) Sometimes adjusting the door by tightening the hinge screws can make the latch catch. I also try using a metal file on the inside edge of the strike plate to see if the latch is just a little high or low. Last resort, when the latch is way out of alignment, I use a wood chisel and move the strike-plate up or down a quarter of an inch. This requires patching the woodwork where the latch was. Some doors in the Bay Area will shift up and down with the seasons and you will find screw holes of the higher and lower settings that previous owners have made.

Sticky doors and windows are a small price to pay for living here in these beautiful hills and valleys and these tips might remedy some of the associated nuisance. Best wishes for plumb doors and windows to you.



Photo J. Wake

**Each year, this bedroom door sticks as the outdoor temperature rises.**

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





Melanie  
Snow



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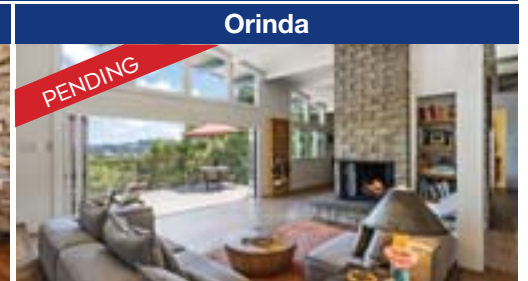
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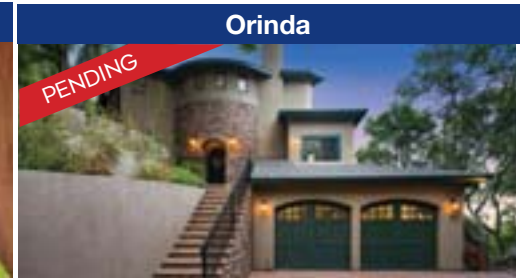
3 BD / 3 BA. Newly renovated, adobe elements, spectacular views, 1.53 lot and olive groves!  
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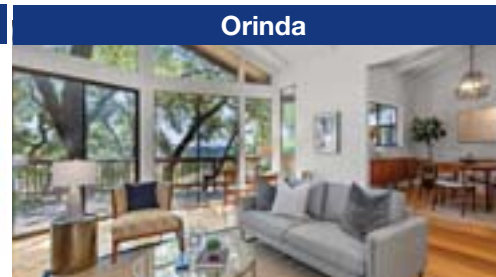
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 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246  
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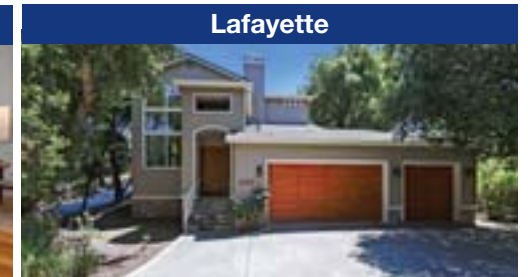
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—COMING SOON—

5 Valencia Road, Orinda



## DESIRABLE DEL REY

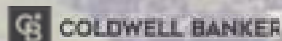
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**971 Hawthorne Drive, Lafayette**  
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# 15

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14 Donna Maria Way, Orinda  
4290 El Nido Ranch Rd., Orinda  
117 Via Joaquin, Moraga  
466 Woodminster Dr, Moraga  
14 Candlelight Ln, Lafayette  
1045 Los Arabis Ln, Lafayette  
5325 Stonehurst Dr, Martinez  
10 Bud Ct, Pleasant Hill  
1767 Ruth Dr, Pleasant Hill  
55 Spar Ct, Pleasant Hill  
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## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### The birds know best



**Cut a few leaves of cabbage for salads or cooking.**

... continued from Page D1

It amounted to more than \$408 billion of uneaten goods. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the cost of food waste to the average person is at least \$1,600 annually. By 2050 it is estimated that there will be over 9 billion people on our planet and that food insecurity will be a major threat to living healthy lives.

What can individuals do to help change this habit of unused consumption?

1. Grow your own groceries: Plant fruits, herbs, and vegetables that you want to eat. Plant only enough for your family and friends. If you have extras, try canning, freezing, or donating them to a food pantry. Easy and nutritious summer crops include tomatoes, beans, carrots, squash, eggplant, peppers and cucumbers. Lettuce and greens can be grown all year



**Zucchini blossoms can be picked, stuffed, and cooked, or wait for the zucchini to ripen.**

utilizing succession planting. Harvest your artichokes, cabbages, Brussels Sprouts, Swiss Chard, and kale now. Save the dried seeds from arugula to plant in the fall. Embrace the ugly, deformed, blemished, and bruised fruit and veggies as they still will pack a punch.

2. Use all parts of an edible plant. Stems of parsley, cilantro, broccoli, and more are often discarded. Chop them up and use them in stir-fries, salads, soups, and sauces. They are full of flavor and vitamins. Get creative with your recipes.

3. Compost, compost, compost. You don't need to have a green thumb to create healthier soil by recycling nutrient-rich eggshells, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grinds, tea leaves, brown paper bags, bread, grains, citrus rinds, and noodles. Keep a small, covered bin under your sink.

... continued on Page D14

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### MORAGA

- 321 Bedford Place, \$2,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2556 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-07-21  
 35 Buckingham Drive, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-03-21  
 192 Calle La Mesa, \$1,861,000, 5 Bdrms, 2363 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-14-21  
 840 Crossbrook Court, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2133 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-14-21  
 360 Deerfield Drive, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 2379 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 03-02-21  
 2121 Donald Drive #9, \$392,000, 1 Bdrms, 756 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$305,000, 08-26-15  
 6 Haven Court, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2720 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$341,000, 04-01-86  
 1954 Joseph Drive, \$2,605,000, 5 Bdrms, 2729 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,685,000, 08-10-17  
 105 La Quinta Street, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$820,000, 08-06-14  
 1055 Larch Avenue, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1504 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-07-21  
 12 Lynwood Place, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2108 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-05-21  
 185 Miramonte Drive, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-05-21  
 1932 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,320,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$885,000, 09-11-15  
 20 Tia Place, \$1,751,000, 3 Bdrms, 1910 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 03-07-18  
 209 Willowbrook Lane, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2763 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,912,500, 10-26-17

### ORINDA

- 10 Beaconsfield Court, \$2,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2492 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-11-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,542,500, 05-01-18  
 28 Camino Encinas, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 05-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$469,000, 06-02-99  
 60 Camino Encinas, \$1,400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1212 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,190,500, 07-28-16  
 22 Charles Hill Road, \$2,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 2381 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-13-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 12-04-12  
 22 Coffee Berry Lane, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3461 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 05-11-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$2,095,000, 03-13-18  
 15 Donna Maria Way, \$2,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2956 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$995,000, 04-15-02  
 11 Dos Posos, \$1,620,000, 2 Bdrms, 1612 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-07-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$790,000, 07-12-13  
 21 El Patio, \$3,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4324 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-11-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 08-09-01  
 10 El Sueno, \$3,707,000, 5 Bdrms, 4083 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 11-07-07  
 8 Estates Drive, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3702 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 06-21-05  
 808 Ironbark Place, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3259 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 05-07-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$596,500, 05-01-90  
 200 Longview Terrace, \$1,445,500, 4 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$840,000, 11-06-08  
 62 Meadow View Road, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-07-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 03-04-15

... continued on Page D13

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D12

### Orinda ... continued

- 730 Miner Road, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3163 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 05-22-02
- 250 Monte Vista Ridge Road, \$2,480,000, 3 Bdrms, 4376 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 12-11-00
- 85 Orchard Road, \$1,705,000, 3 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-05-21
- 27 Ramona Drive, \$1,661,000, 5 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 09-16-15
- 99 Rheem Boulevard, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2232 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-04-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 06-01-07
- 404 Ridge Gate Road, \$1,707,000, 2 Bdrms, 2212 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 11-10-09
- 14 Scenic Court, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 06-13-17
- 120 Scenic Drive, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-07-21
- 9 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,651,000, 4 Bdrms, 3073 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,485,000, 06-27-06
- 109 Van Ripper Lane, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2952 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-03-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,304,000, 03-16-17
- 56 Via Floreado, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 4248 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 05-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,893,000, 08-07-14
- 415 Wovenwood, \$1,413,500, 3 Bdrms, 2150 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 05-05-21,  
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 07-22-12



**A LAFAYETTE FAMILY OASIS | \$11,500,000** [HappyValleyOasis.com](http://HappyValleyOasis.com)  
7BD/8.5BA | 8,960 +/- sqft | 1.51 +/- acre lot



**NEOCLASSICAL ORINDA ESTATE | \$6,999,000** [362CaminoSobrante.com](http://362CaminoSobrante.com)  
5BD/4.5BA | 5,590 +/- sqft | 1.01 +/- acre lot



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Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

925.254.1212

For more information:

[TheBeaubelleGroup.com](http://TheBeaubelleGroup.com)

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[Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com](mailto:Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com)

CABRE# 00678426, 01165322



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

### **The birds know best**



**The black mulberries are ripe, the red ones are still immature.**



**Brussel sprouts are almost ready for harvesting.**

... continued from Page D12

When it is full, transfer the contents to a compost pile or bin outdoors to age. Upgrade your garden with leftovers and watch your vegetables grow strong.

4. Shop smartly. Before going to the grocery store or Farmers' Market, make a list of what you will consume until your next shopping foray. Don't buy items you won't need because they are on sale, or you are just hungry.

5. Expiration dates are not death dates. Food packages exhibit dates when the product is at its best. The "sell by" or "use by" date is not a "throw this away" date. The over-cautiousness leads to excess waste. The USDA recommends looking for changes in color, flavor,

consistency, and smell before tossing. If spoiled, compost it.

We all have the ability and the responsibility to eliminate food waste which will also help towards reducing climate change. It's time we start acting like the birds and animals, eating what's fresh and only what we need. Perhaps when we start doing that, there will be enough for everyone, everywhere.

I'm enjoying my basket of sweet cherries while listening to the chorus of chirping fowls. A slice of my daughter-in-law's cherry pie will be my Independence Day treat. The birds may know best. Time to sing.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Have a safe and fun Independence Day!



**A full bush of oregano, a favorite for Italian cuisine.**



**Save the seed pods of dried arugula to plant in the fall.**

Photos Cynthia Brian





Cut off the blemished or bad parts of ugly fruit and vegetables. Use the good parts.



**Cynthia Brian celebrates the red, white, and blue. Happy 4th!**

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

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

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

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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



### 1 Hartford Road

Orinda beauty! Custom 5031 sqft 6 bed/ 4.5 bath home w/ 3 car garage situated on a secluded, level 1.06 acre lot. **\$3,695,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 72 El Gavilan Road

Completely updated 5 bed/ 3.5 bath contemporary tucked into Country Club area of Orinda just minutes to Highway 24. **\$2,595,000**

## ORINDA



### 48 Oak Road

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

## ORINDA



### 19 El Gavilan Road

Spacious 6 bed/ 5 bath 4541 sqft home including lower-level apt/ in-law unit, complete w/ a full kitchen & bath. **\$2,300,000**

## ORINDA

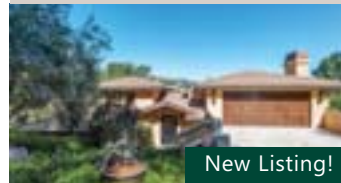


New Listing!

### 25 Acacia Drive

Lovingly maintained 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home in popular Orinda Estates neighborhood in convenient North Orinda location. **\$2,095,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 4 Oakview Terrace

Elegant & spacious 4 bed/ 3.5 bath 3626 sqft home on .84 acres, seconds away from picturesque downtown. **\$1,950,000**

## ORINDA

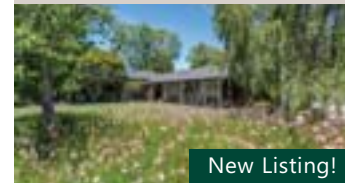


New Listing!

### 673 Tahos Road

Ranch style 4 bed/ 4 bath home w/ sweeping views of Mt. Diablo, & fun, functional spots for entertaining. **\$1,899,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 76 Van Ripper Lane

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath home on flat grassy yard. Short distance to swim & tennis club & Sleepy Hollow Elementary. **\$1,599,000**

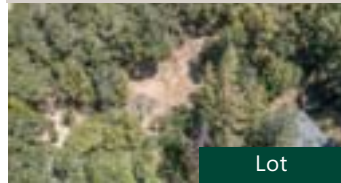
## ORINDA



### 15 Piedmont Avenue

Mid Century 3 bed/ 2.5 bath w/ plenty of bonus space including outdoor grill & large, flat grassy lawn. **\$1,520,000**

## ORINDA



Lot

### 23 Kittiwake Road

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

## ORINDA



### 67 Brookwood Road # 3

Rarely available 2 bed/ 1 bath first floor condo in charming Orinda Oaks, close to BART, shops, theater & restaurants. **\$515,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 9 Mountain View Lane

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

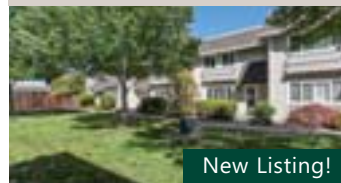
## LAFAYETTE



### 1207 Upper Happy Valley Road

Contemporary 5 bed/ 3.5 bath home on park-like setting w/ views from every room. Minutes to downtown, Hwy 24, & schools. **\$2,695,000**

## MORAGA

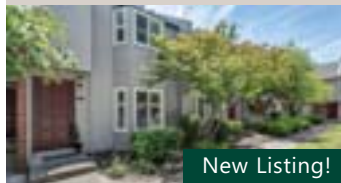


New Listing!

### 62 Miramonte Drive

Wonderful 3 bed/ 1.5 bath townhome in beautiful & highly regarded community of Miramonte Gardens. **\$715,000**

## WALNUT CREEK

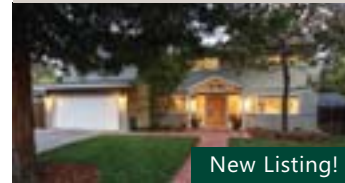


New Listing!

### 34 Sierra Lane

Stunning townhome in exclusive Walnut East! Garage + carport, inside laundry, private patio! Walk to town. **\$649,000**

## MARTINEZ



New Listing!

### 135 Waverly Court

Beautiful 5 bed/ 2.5 bath 2650 sqft home on cul-de-sac in desirable Virginia Hills neighborhood. Close to parks & trails. **\$1,280,000**

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