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Goalie Drew Holland

Photo provided

Local water polo player takes the Olympic world stage

By Jon Kingdon

When Drew Holland made this year's United States Olympic Water Polo team as their goalie, he continued a much venerated tradition for Miramonte High School. Following in the footsteps of Drew McDonald, Rick McNair, Kirk Everest (Cal's Water Polo coach), John Stenson, Heather Petri and Peter Schnugg, Holland became the seventh Miramonte graduate to be a member of the United States water polo team at the Olympics.

"I got a nice congratulatory text from Kirk Everest that was along those lines of carrying on the tradition and I'm happy to be able to do so," Holland said. "When I was young, I remember former play-

ers coming back to Miramonte and helping Coach James Lathrop with the team and I'm looking forward to helping with the next wave of Miramonte players, so it all comes full circle."

When the Olympics were suspended, Holland was flying back to the United States after playing professionally for Chios in Greece. "By the time we landed, they had canceled our training and things were locking down," Holland said. "We had to be separated from each other and were reduced to doing Zoom calls."

When the quarantines lifted in late June, the U.S. team made it to the finals of the FINA World League championships, though coming up short against Montenegro. Still, Holland was named the

top goalkeeper at the tournament. "That was a special award and I'm feeling confident about the Olympics coming off that tournament," Holland said.

Prior to departing for Japan on July 18, the water polo team was staying in Honolulu in a rented house, up in the hills, to avoid any chance of catching a COVID-19 infection. "It's been an interesting team bonding experience with a little work thrown in to keep the house clean with 13 guys," Holland said.

The team has been training twice a day on their own and then having practice scrimmage games in the evening with the Australian team.

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The food trucks are back for Hacienda Nights



Revelers enjoy Hacienda Nights food truck event July 15.

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

It was a breezy evening with a slight chill in the air, but that didn't stop

folks from coming out to the first of two Hacienda Nights on July 15.

The popular food truck event is held between 5 and 9 p.m. at Hacienda de las Flores located at 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. It was canceled last summer due to the pandemic's social distancing restrictions, but it was clear that Lamorinda was more than ready for an outdoor party by the amount of attendees that showed up.

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt expected a good crowd. "It's the first post-COVID event we've had, and in the past we've gotten 400-600 people for this," she said.

Savvy Hacienda Nights-goers came prepared with ground blankets, just in case the picnic tables filled up - which they did, in record time. Games were set up on the lawn adding to the festive atmosphere, while the cooks fired up their grills in preparation for the main reason why everyone was there. Diners of all ages socialized be-

fore, during and after partaking in a variety of food truck offerings.

Five food trucks were on site along with Canyon Club Brewery beer and T-shirts. "We curated the event ourselves and contracted with each individual truck," explained Brandt. There was a mouth-watering selection of choices to appeal to anyone's taste buds. Ofie's Kitchen served various types of burgers with a side of fries or onion rings; Golden Gate Gyro (Middle Eastern comfort food) served lamb, chicken or rice gyros, along with chicken or lamb salads; Cousins Maine Lobster served lobster rolls or lobster tacos, tails & tots and clam chowder; Senor Sisig (Filipino fusion food) served tacos, burritos, nachos and rice. Last but not least, Daisy's Desserts served their signature donuts, brownies, ice cream and more.

The next Hacienda Nights food truck event is scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12.

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Styrofoam ban to begin in Orinda at the end of August - Page A7

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Emergency preparedness plans tap high tech - Page A8

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Local artist and author keeps creativity at the forefront of her outside endeavors - Page B1



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Perennials the perfect garden addition during a drought - Page D1





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Council approves Housing Element EIR budget augmentation



Photo J. Wake

The Lafayette BART parking lot on the north side of the station will be included as part of the Environmental Impact Report.

By Jennifer Wake

July 12 meeting approved a budget increase of \$161,248 to ESA's initial contract price of

The Lafayette City Council at its

\$312,400 to conduct an Environmental Impact Report for the 6th Cycle Housing Element, bringing the total budgeted cost to \$473,648. The majority of the budget increase stems from mandatory requirements under CEQA including transportation analysis using Vehicle Miles Travels (VMT), evacuation analysis and incorporating the second scenario throughout all aspects of the EIR, according to a staff report presented by Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff, Senior Planner Sarah Allen, and Housing Consultant Diana Elrod.

"If the Downtown-Only scenario were evaluated like a traditional project alternative under CEQA, it would be analyzed at a more qualitative level compared to the Distributed Scenario and would not require the full scope of transportation and air quality modeling set forth in the revised scope," according to the report. Staff also met with ESA and Fehr & Peers regarding new requirements under state law related to evacuation analysis. "Staff and residents are understandably concerned about the risk of wildfire in the community and the ability to evacuate, if necessary. It is important to understand the existing conditions, the potential impacts from new development, and measures that could be implemented to mitigate those impacts. It should be noted that

public safety and wildfire mitigation/preparation are two of the City Council's top priorities this year."

ESA described Program EIRs as not only assessing the potential impacts of proposed general plan amendments, specific plans, etc., but also giving city decision-makers and the public an opportunity to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures as envisioned in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(b).

During the meeting Council Member Carl Anduri asked if the EIR will identify evacuation problems if an additional 822 units are added at the BART station parking lot locations. Fehr & Peers Senior Associate Ellen Poling said while it's unclear what level of granularity will be included, there will be an analysis of developments in high fire risk areas, including three evacuation scenarios to model how these high fire risk areas would be evacuated. The evaluation would look at capacity of the routes operationally such as number of lanes, choke points, and alternate routes for evacuation and come up with strategies to fine tune evacuation plans the city already has in place. "We could proceed with the high-level macro simulation approach, and if we see questions that arise out of that," Poling said, "we can talk about boosting the effort for

that scenario."

Council Member Gina Dawson asked how closely ESA works with utilities regarding micro-grids they're putting in and whether new development will overload the existing infrastructure. ESA Project Manager Luke Evans said, "The question is would the project waste energy. We have to make sure we're not speculating on some future scenario, some future development on the energy grid, etc. As part of the utilities analysis, we reach out to the service providers and ask them if we're going to build more units in Lafayette as proposed, what would be involved in increasing capacity."

Mayor Susan Candell wanted to double check that the city will have information provided to council for policy consideration prior to July 2022, since that is the deadline to rezone the BART parking lots. Evans said the big thing that drives timing is the traffic analysis. Candell asked that Fehr & Peers prioritize the Distributed Scenario first since it involves the BART parking lot development and the Deer Hill corridor. Dawson and Vice Mayor Teresa Geringer agreed that prioritizing the Distributed Scenario is a good idea. The council voted unanimously to approve the revised scope and budget augment transferring \$161,248 from the General Fund to the GPAC fund.

Lafayette City Council Seeks Applicants Vacancy on the City Council

The Lafayette City Council seeks qualified applicants to fill Councilmember Cameron Burk's seat. The temporary appointment will commence immediately and end November 2022. For application and additional information visit the city's website:

lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-council
 Or call City Offices at 925-284-1968.

Application deadline 5pm August 12, 2021. The City Council will interview applicants on August 19th and August 24th.

City discusses replacement procedures for council opening

By Lou Fancher

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa at the July 12 city council meeting outlined the process

for filling the open position made available after council member Cam Burks announced his resignation on June 28. Burks served on the council from 2016 to 2021. His

departure became effective the following day, June 29; his replacement would serve only until the November 2022 election cycle.

... continued on Page A3

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It's Village. Of Course.

City discusses replacement procedures for council opening

... continued from Page A2

Srivatsa explained that the process and staff recommendations to appoint a person to fill the position are governed by Government Code section 36512(b), Lafayette Municipal Code section 2-1701, and the Lafayette Resolution that was adopted in 2019. Collectively, the two codes and resolution determine the vacancy must be filled within 60 days and a person appointed by council holds office until the next regularly scheduled municipal election. The city council's next such an election occurs Nov. 8, 2022, and includes three seats, one available for a two-year term, two others are positions held for four-year terms.

Policies adopted by the council in prior years determine that the council announces the vacancy and directs the city clerk to advertise the position for a period of time not to exceed two weeks. Staff recommended the council begin advertising July 13 and close the window for adverts July 30. Interviews for invited candidates would be held on Aug. 19 and 24. A resolution appointing one candidate must be completed by Aug. 30 to meet the 60-day deadline.

Additionally, Burks sat on

two sub-committees: the legislation committee and the public safety committee. Swift action to fill those positions due to upcoming considerations and reviews regarding spending/city budgets and recommendations received by the council relating to public safety had staff recommending the council vote immediately to appoint new members to the vacancies.

In later action, Vice Mayor Theresa Gerringer was unanimously appointed to the legislation committee and Council Member Gina Dawson was nominated and appointed by unanimous vote to the public safety committee.

After directing several questions to Srivatsa, Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson, and legal advisor Scott Smith, the process was summarized and steps outlined: announce the vacancy; advertise for a two week period; accept applications now through Aug. 12; council to draft interview questions in preparation for a July 26 city council open session discussion of the proposed questions; schedule and conduct interviews with invited candidates on Aug. 19 and 24; and on Aug. 30, adopt the resolution to fill the vacancy with the selected candidate.

Citywide Sidewalk Sale planned for end of July



Image provided

By Lou Fancher

The Lafayette Citywide Sidewalk Sale July 31 welcomes shoppers back to downtown retail, service and food establishments and serves as a one-day warm-up for the city's biggest fall event, the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival.

To incentivize people who might otherwise be slow self-starters on a sleepy Saturday morning on the last day of July, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Back Lafayette committee will host a launch party in the Plaza Park Plaza from 10 to 11 a.m. With coffee donated by Peet's Coffee, breakfast goodies that come from Local Kitchens and include bagels and lox from Wise Sons and breakfast burritos from Bacon Bacon, there's good reason to sip and munch while plotting a day supporting local businesses.

While emerging from coronavirus shutdowns and limits on capacity in mid-June, Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson says, "Lafayette businesses prepared (well) and were mostly ready when June 15th came around. I give credit to our businesses and

our community for playing by the rules and keeping each other out of harm's way."

At the outdoor breakfast gathering on the morning of the sidewalk sale, masks and hand sanitizer will be available. In participating shops and restaurants, Lifson says current guidelines and protocols developed by the CDC along with the California Department of Public Health – and followed within Contra Costa County – will be honored. "Every business has the right to require that people wear masks and no one will be asked to remove a mask. We will have signage that reflects that if you have not been fully vaccinated or can not be vaccinated you must wear a mask indoors at all times and keep social distancing and also, wear a mask outdoors when you are closer than six feet from others, or when not eating or drinking," says Lifson. "Every year our single highest purpose is to make sure we produce a safe and clean environment for our attendees, our vendors and our volunteers at our community events."

... continued on Page A10

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, July 28, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



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Town sends opposition letter to MOFD board regarding possible fire flow tax rate hike

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council at its July 14 meeting discussed an upcoming Moraga-Orinda Fire District board meeting agenda item, which involves the possibility of raising Moraga's Fire Flow Tax. Moraga's zone not only contains the town itself, but portions of Orinda and unincorporated Contra Costa County.

As defined in the 2019 Lamorinda Weekly article, "MOFD Fire Flow Tax Unchanged for 2019-20," a fire flow tax "quantifies the risk of fire to a parcel. MOFD uses a complex formula to determine the number of fire flow units allotted to a parcel, but key variables in determining the figure are parcel size, the installation of a sprinkler system and construction type. In short, the more of a fire hazard a property is, the more

the 'fire flow' – water – is needed to save it."

Currently the FFT in both Moraga and Orinda zones are assessed at \$0.06 per fire flow unit. That rate was originally capped in Moraga's FFT zone. However, according to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg's July 14 staff report to the town council, "In 1992, the voters in the former Moraga Fire Protection District, fearing a reduction of property tax revenue funding, voted to increase the cap of the FFT to thirty cents (\$0.30) per square foot. The property tax revenue reduction never occurred, and the FFT has not exceeded six cents in the Moraga FFT zone."

When MOFD formed in 1997, Orinda's FFT rate of six cents was established to match Moraga's, at which point both zones have been assessed identical amounts.

That rate differed by one cent during 2006-07, when Orinda's FFT zone needed funding to improve its water system.

The staff report points out the benefits Moraga and Orinda share in having consolidated high quality fire services, better response times and taxpayer savings, while stating that MOFD's finances are in great shape and show no evidence of requiring additional funding for capital.

The town council discussed key points of the opposition letter coming from the mayor's office, one of which was to note that MOFD's funding has been addressed several times, most notably in a June 15, 2016 MOFD staff report entitled "Analysis of Funding Equity Between Taxpayers of Orinda and Moraga". This report

maintains that MOFD was formed in order to provide no separation of service between Moraga and Orinda zones with an equalized FFT. Furthermore, in 1999, MOFD's move to combine financial operating and capital accounts served to acknowledge its commitment to integrated fire services.

The mayor's letter also states that changing to a separate accounting system for each municipality could impact the quality of services and reveal that Moraga's property owners could pay more for their share of service due to the higher cost of providing service to Orinda. Some of the factors include, "large portions of the Orinda FFT zone is in a Cal Fire designated very high fire hazard severity zone; emergency responses to many properties in the Orinda FFT zone are im-

peded due to the rural, narrow and hilly nature of many roads; the necessity of ongoing extensive fire prevention work in North Orinda; inadequate water supply issues in parts of North Orinda; and that three of the five MOFD fire stations are in Orinda." The letter also notes that Orinda's fire insurance rates are higher than Moraga's and is an indication of why their FFT rates should actually be higher.

In conclusion, the council urged the MOFD Board of Directors to approve a continued six cent FFT rate for both Moraga and Orinda and requested that the board "not spend taxpayer dollars on an expensive analysis to explore changes to the integrated system to deliver fire services that benefits ratepayers in all areas of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District."

The Valle Vista subdivision – Moraga's own Lost City of Atlantis

By Vera Kochan

More than 100 years ago there existed an area of land known as Subdivision No. 3 called Valle Vista. Originally owned by the Moraga Company, which is famously recognized as the agricultural firm responsible for the town's early pear and walnut orchards, Valle Vista began in 1914 and included as many as 98 lots averaging one and two

acres each. It is estimated that at least 58 families had houses there with some having purchased multiple lots that were sold for approximately \$500 each. Most of the community of Valle Vista, much like the Lost City of Atlantis, is now under water, and anyone would be hard pressed to find remnants of its existence. But, the truth is out there.

If driving to Oakland via Canyon Road, one will notice

the Valle Vista Staging Area located less than a mile from Canyon Bridge on the left hand side, where a large dirt parking lot stands welcoming the cars of hikers wanting to trek the trails currently owned by East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The land was originally owned by Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Juan Bernal in 1835, as part of the 13,316 acre land grant from the Mexican government. It was



Photo Vera Kochan

A drought stricken portion of Upper San Leandro Reservoir after passing Valle Vista with the town of Moraga in the background.

sold twice before it was eventually bought by the Moraga Land Company in 1913. Soon the area was mapped out in preparation for the subdivision.

Several of the new homeowners commuted to work, and in order to accommodate the increasing need to connect the Lamorinda area with Oakland and beyond, the Oakland-Antioch and Eastern Railroad (later called Sacramento Northern Railroad), built stations at Pinehurst, Valle Vista, Moraga (across from Moraga Barn), and Burton. The Valle Vista station was located across the street from the current hikers' staging area, above Canyon Road on the hill.

Valle Vista had seven main streets, five of which connected to Canyon Road. There were also two main creeks running through the tract: Moraga Creek and San Leandro Creek. EBMUD's predecessor in the 1920s was East Bay Water Company. In

1923, it decided to create a reservoir (Upper San Leandro Reservoir) alongside Valle Vista and began buying up the low-lying properties of the vicinity in order to protect the purity of the drinking water. By 1926, while creating the reservoir, the two creeks were flooded, as expected, resulting in many of the abandoned homes currently lying under water. EBMUD continued to purchase more properties in Valle Vista through subsequent decades.

Who were the people of Valle Vista? In an upcoming Lamorinda Weekly article, details of Subdivision No. 3's former residents will be revealed.

Special thanks to Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry, Historical Society Member Sam Sperry, EBMUD Ranger Naturalist II Leatha Harris and Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212's Eagle Scout Mason Fara.

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Town Council
 Wednesday, July 28 cancelled
Planning Commission:
 Tuesday, Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Special Board Meeting
 Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Rheem Theatre welcomes excited movie-goers back inside



The Rheem Theatre greets patrons once again

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Ah, the smell of freshly buttered popcorn popping that wasn't made in your home's microwave. Yes, the COVID mandates have loosened further, and movie theatres have opened their doors wide, just in time for the summer blockbuster season.

With safety precautions in place, the Rheem Theatre

located at 350 Park Street, Moraga, in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, has joined the ranks by offering the highly touted new release "Black Widow," along with "The Boss Baby: Family Business" and "Fast and Furious 9 – The Fast Saga." Please note, movie line-ups may have changed. Check the theatre's website for current information.

Built in 1957, the inde-

pendent theatre suffered some lean years before Cinema West purchased it in April 2019, and gave the old gem a much needed face lift. The Rheem's grand reopening took place on Dec. 19, 2019, only to have COVID shut things down nationally a mere three months later in March.

The theatre's new general manager, Peter Bellomo, commuted from his home in

Petaluma to open the place up on July 8 for "Black Widow" previews, with the official opening on July 9 commanding a sizable ticket pre-sale crowd of 100 people for the 6:30 p.m. showing. That's not even mentioning the walk-ins.

Assistant Manager Tiffanie Souza-Cone said, "I had a couple come in last night that wanted to come check out the remodeled theatre. My last customers were from Berkeley. They used to live in town and wanted to see the Rheem again."


"It's very different," stated patron Sara MacKay. "I haven't been here since they remodeled."

The Rheem appears to be attracting out-of-towners who appreciate the ambiance of

one of Moraga's historic treasures. "I've never been here before," enthused Sam Bautista of Oakland. "I heard it was the best kept secret of movie theatres." She was joined by a friend from Dublin and another from as far away as Sacramento.

Fifteen minutes before show time, the lobby was packed with patrons lining up at the concessions stand, eager to enjoy their first visit to a movie theatre in over a year, while the parking lot outside was filling up with cars and people all heading in one direction. If you didn't know where the Rheem Theatre was located, all you had to do was follow the scent of buttered popcorn in the air.

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Orinda Public Meetings
City Council
Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

New Orinda Historical Society president looks toward the future; wins Fourth of July award



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Alison Burns, Orinda Historical Society president

By Sora O'Doherty

The title of the report presented to the Orinda City Council, “a report from OHS president, Alison Burns, regarding the 2020-21 activities of the Orinda Historical Society (OHS), which operates in a room (‘the museum’) leased to OHS as part of the Orinda Library,” sounds vaguely like it is from a children’s book by C.S. Lewis, which may be as it should be. The new president of the OHS, who was born in England and arrived in Orinda via a long, long route that took her to many foreign places in the world, is especially interested in children, and hopes that the museum will be filled with things of interest to them.

Orinda Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble told the council that Burns had submitted “an excellent report” and announced the passing of the presidency from Terry Murphy to Burns, as well as the renewal of OHS leases. Murphy agreed to stay on as vice-president for a year, which will end this August. Other board members are Secretary Reg Barrett and Treasurer Bob Thompson, who recently moved to Tennessee but will serve until a replacement can be found. Burns identified the members at large as “the hugely knowledgeable Kay Norman (I think of her as “Mrs. Orinda”), Kathy Barrett, Teresa Long, Laurie Smith and Betty Karplus.”

In her report, Burns said that her first priority as president was to replace the old

website, set up many years ago by OHS board member Teresa Long. To that end the OHS employed Birgit Rickert of Results Marketing, who charged her “special price for volunteer or community organizations.” While Rickert handled the technical side, Burns wrote all the content and supplied photos from the OHS files. “We still have a way to go,” Burns concluded. “Plans are afoot to add video of our docents on their guided downtown walks – but we have created an inviting ‘shop window.’” The OHS’s physical window has also garnered admiration, and the “Best Decorated Window Display” award from the Orinda Association in connection with the Orinda Fourth of July Parade. The window can be seen at the museum, which is located on the plaza level under the library, across from Café Teatro.

In an interview with The Lamorinda Weekly Burns said she had heard the other day that the Pleasant Hill Historical Society has folded, and the OHS had been headed the same way. A broken pipe in the library a couple of years ago caused substantial damage. The society lost documents and photos, and the carpet needs to be replaced. Burns said she would like to start some kind of a school program for the fall or next spring, but she wants to have the museum “squeaky clean for the kids.” The society needs more

volunteers, Burns said. She would also like to obtain historic photos of Orinda, especially from the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s. She’d appreciate photos of the town’s schools, restaurants, and shops. Mayor Amy Worth told Burns at the Mayor’s Liaison Meeting that she had just received a photo of the construction of the Meadow Pool.

Burns has also been asked to write a book about the history of Orinda. Earlier in her career she wrote one about another location, “Legendary Locals of Encinitas,” published in 2012. Burns served as the president of the Encinitas Historical Society.

Burns and her husband Patrick moved to Orinda almost six years ago. Both originally from England, they moved to Detroit in their early 20s. Later, Patrick’s job in international human resources took them to The Hague, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and New York, with periods spent back in England. Eventually they settled in Southern California before moving to Orinda, where, Burns noted with a laugh, she is living in her 23rd house. She has four children, two boys, two girls, including a set of twins, all now living in the United States. She now has a grandson and her daughter also lives in Orinda.

The new Orinda Historical Society website is located at: <http://orindahistory.org> and includes back issues of the society’s newsletters.

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Orinda Library reopens, but not on Sundays

By Sora O'Doherty

The city council heard the annual review of the library oversight committee on July 6. The library has reopened but, unfortunately, it cannot restore Sunday opening hours because the county library system has staffing

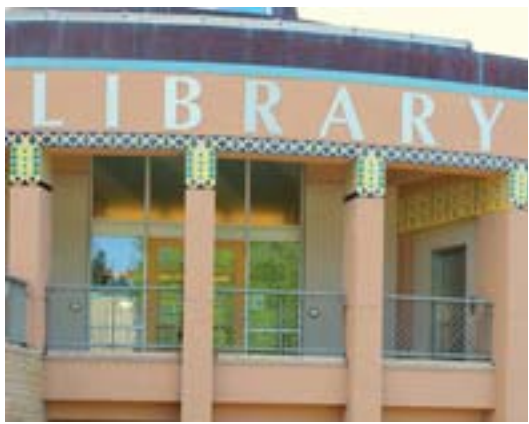
problems. For many years after the county reduced the number of hours it funded, the city of Orinda used its library parcel tax passed by the voters to permit the Orinda library to open on Sundays. Now it seems to be not so much of a funding issue as a staffing issue.

Linda Landau of the Library Oversight Committee presented the report to the city council. She said that Orinda is very fortunate to have a parcel tax for the library. “Not many cities in Contra Costa County do,” she observed, adding, “Lafayette has to raise \$1 million every year.” This year the county will be paying for 40 hours a week for libraries, up from the previous 35 hours. However, the county has decided to close all the county libraries on Sundays because of the difficulty of staffing. Landau agreed that people like having the library open on Sunday, and was anxious to get the message out clearly that this is a county issue, not a local one, and that it has nothing to do with the services provided to the library, including janitorial services.

She did say, however, that there are comments from public from time to time

about janitorial service, wishing it were a little more thorough. Paul Rankin, finance director, noted that the janitorial contract will be going out for proposals some time this year. Rankin also said that he has reached out to county librarian Alison McKee. “They don’t have a solution to the Sunday issue,” he reported, “but they are looking at it and hopefully there may be some change in the future.” Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble reported that the library receives services every day it is open and he has not continued to receive complaints.

Landau concluded that Orinda will still need to go out for another library parcel tax in the next few years. The issue of the tax was scheduled for 2024; but cost savings during the pandemic might mean that the issue can be postponed a bit, unless, she added, “we have a really have a big maintenance bill.”



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New OUSD superintendent selected



Aida Glimme

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Following an intensive search, the Orinda Union School District board of trustees has selected Aida Glimme to serve as the new superintendent of the district. Glimme, who comes to Orinda from the Acalanes Union High School District, replaces popular outgoing superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton.

The board conducted a wide-ranging search, with the help of consultants Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates. The process included seeking community input, and the board thanked everyone who participated in the search by contributing their ideas, thoughts and opinions, which were

critical in guiding the board to making the appointment.

According to the announcement of Glimme's appointment, community feedback had indicated that the next superintendent must be a strong communicator and collaborator who will inspire confidence in parents, staff, and the broader community, while remaining truly student-centered from both an academic and social-emotional perspective. The community input also established the importance of selecting a superintendent who recruits and retains talented staff, understands and utilizes technology effectively, and has budget-related financial acumen. The community also prioritized further work by the next superintendent on the implementation of policies and practices focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.

In a press release, the board stated that Glimme is extremely qualified to successfully lead the OUSD. "She has extensive experience and knowledge related to teacher mentorship, curriculum development, equity, change management, and positive school cultures. Furthermore, she is an honest, collaborative, and transparent leader who will make herself present and available in our community." The board concluded, "Her deep dedication to students, teachers,

and parents was extremely evident throughout the interview process, and the board is confident that her transformative energy, clear vision, and unparalleled commitment will benefit our district in both the short and long term."

"The board's process in selecting Orinda Union School District's next Superintendent was thorough and inclusive, and we were able to leverage technology to connect with a broad range of stakeholders in our community to gather feedback," said Board President Liz Daoust. "Aida Glimme's strong, thoughtful, and visionary leadership, in addition to her commitment to equity were impressive, and she will bring a breadth of knowledge and experience to our District."

Glimme immigrated to the United States in 1992 from Bosnia as a civil war refugee. She went through high school as an English Language Learner, which continues to shape her views on equity and educational programs. During her 22 years working in public education, she has served as a principal, assistant principal, science teacher, and coach. She has been recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as the Administrator of the Year for Curriculum and Instruction.

... continued on Page A8

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN for the ORINDA CITIZEN of the YEAR 2020

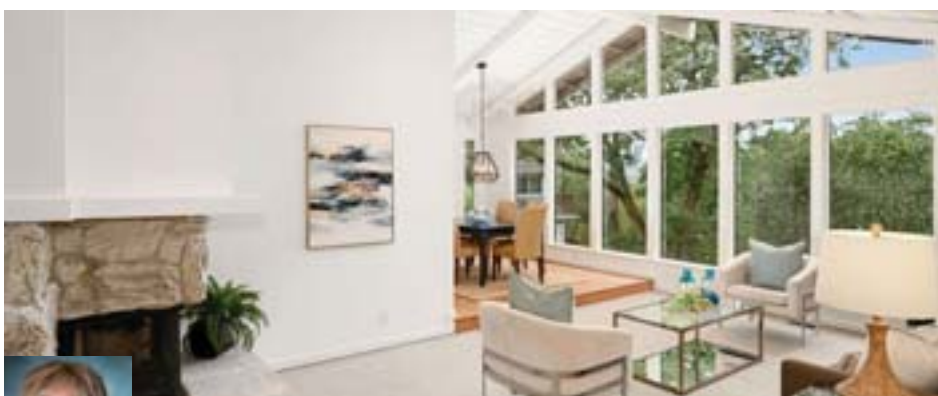
Do you have a person in mind to nominate for outstanding community service in 2020 and/or over many years of lifetime service?

- **Must** be a current Orinda resident
- **Must** be someone who has given of their time, talents and energy as a community volunteer helping make Orinda better, where people want to live, work and shop
- **Must** be someone who models excellence and good citizenship in everything they do
- **Must** be someone who brings our community together making us proud and promoting community spirit

A celebration dinner will be held on Sunday evening, October 24, 2021 at the Orinda Wilder Art and Garden Center to honor the award recipient. The deadline for submitting nominations is by Friday, September 3.

Nominations can be sent to orinda-foundation@gmail.com or mailed to Orinda Community Foundation, PO Box 21, Orinda CA 94563. Include your name and contact, along with the name and contact for the nominee.

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Emergency Preparedness plans involve tapping tech

By Jennifer Wake

Several of the steps being taken by Lamorinda fire districts, police departments, local utilities and residents for what could be another historic fire season were discussed at Lafayette's virtual July 14 Emergency Preparedness Commission.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt outlined several technological initiatives that will help law and fire personnel during wildfire incidents.

Cornell helped install 34 cameras that are now linked to the ALERTWildfire system and that aid in the monitoring of ridgelines and open spaces for potential fires.

centers across California, including Contra Costa County Fire and the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center, are doing this viewing, Cornell said in an interview after the meeting.

During the meeting Alldritt said the Moraga-Orinda Fire District tested Lafayette radio station 1670AM, which will assist in broadcasting evacuation alerts and orders, and that radios purchased through a recent grant have gone out to school sites and will be located on school buses, allowing direct communication with first responders during an emergency.

Pacific Gas and Electric

Company reached out to the city of Lafayette regarding the installation of a generator at the Lafayette Community Center. "PG&E wanted to provide a community resource center, and came in with an outside contractor and installed a generator transfer switch and agreed to provide a trailer generator to the community center for the duration of fire season," Cornell said.

Cornell also had a traffic signal company put in small transfer switches allowing portable generators to be plugged into traffic lights to have a functioning traffic system during a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

"We're trying to think about anything that can happen," Cornell added. "We're lucky that we have a city that backs the police department."

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Inspector Taylor King gave an update on the Firewise program,

noting that four neighborhoods in Lafayette had signed up and were working to mitigate fuels on their properties. Firewise neighborhoods comprise a minimum of eight homes, with a maximum of 25, and work in a similar fashion to neighborhood watch programs, where neighbors work together toward a common cause.

Alldritt said representatives from ConFire, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the three Lamorinda police departments met in early June. "We're very concerned about wildfire season," Alldritt said. "We're trying to lean forward on this. We're doing the best we can as a

small city and small police department."

Rein, who called into the meeting from an incident command post in the Sierras and was recently at the Shasta fire, said fuels are at critical levels. "If there's a little wind and a little slope, fires move quickly." He reiterated the need for everyone to help with fuel mitigation.

Alldritt said that a virtual evacuation drill is being planned for Saturday, July 31 involving ConFire, MOFD and the three Lamorinda police departments. More information will be made available on the city of Lafayette website at lovelafayette.org.

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

ConFire

Board of Directors Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 10 1 p.m.

For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



New OUSD superintendent selected

... continued from Page A7

Glimme received a B.S. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an M.Ed. in educational leadership from Chapman University. She resides locally with her husband, who is an elementary

school teacher, and her second-grade daughter.

In accepting the post, Glimme stated, "I am honored and thrilled to serve as the new Orinda Union School District Superintendent. I am eager to continue working with the community that I know, a community that is highly committed to excel-

lence in education, high academic achievement, and supporting students. I look forward to working with you, the Orinda students, staff, and parents in my new role, as I learn from you about the District and share my experiences so that we can grow together." The OUSD board invited the community to join

them in warmly welcoming Aida Glimme to the Orinda Union School District community.

In other personnel changes at Orinda schools, Ben Campopiano, from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District will replace Julie Parks as principal of Miramonte High School as Parks

becomes the superintendent of the Moraga School District. Maple Lai, who was the associate principal of OIS will be the new principal of Del Rey Elementary School, and Kevin Cutler will replace Bobby Bardenhagen as OUSD director of technology and instructional innovation.

Public Safety

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Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department: 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055

Orinda Police Department: 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes Alarms (59), 911 Calls (11), Traffic (74), Suspicious Circumstances (13), etc.

Vehicle violations

Table with 2 columns: Violation Type and Count. Includes Auto Burglary (30), 30 Block Lafayette Cir. (1), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd., Moraga Rd./Silver Springs Rd., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 10 Block Diablo Cir., 900 Block 1st St., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 700 Block Moraga Rd., 3600 Block Crescent Dr., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct., Springhill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd., Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 10 Block Olde Creek Pl., 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 700 Block Hidden Valley Rd., 3700 Block Mosswood Dr., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 200 Block Sonora Rd., 1500 Block Del Monte Ct., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes Moraga Rd./Devin Dr., Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 70 Block Miramonte Dr., 300 Block Claudia Ct., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes 100 Block Miramonte Dr., 1000 Block Larch Ave., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Address and Incident Type. Includes Moraga Commons Park, Ashford Pucorliss Dr., etc.

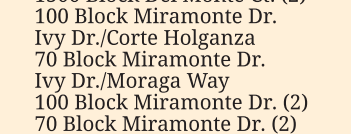
Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes 911 Calls (6), Traffic (23), Suspicious Circumstances (2), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes Accident Injury, Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24 100, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes 40 Block El Camino Moraga, Hit And Run Misdemeanor, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes 500 Block Moraga Way, Loud Music, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes 100 Block El Toyonal, Accident Property, etc.



Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 29 - July 12



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 27 - July 10

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Lamorinda school buses to roll again, and, for the first time ever, will service Wilder as well



bigstock images

By Sora O'Doherty

After the difficult school year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, area schools are reopening with full schedules of academics, sports and other activities, and the Lamorinda School Bus Program will also return to full service. The full schedule of bus service for Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, including service from Wilder, is available on the Lamorinda Bus Program

website, and parents can register for bus passes. It should be noted that Route Number 17 to Orinda Intermediate School is already almost full, but the program will record a waitlist if the route does fill up.

Annual bus passes cost \$955 for round trips and \$635 for one way passes. A single trip costs \$6, and a bundle of single trip passes is \$30. For those who prefer to pay monthly, the round trip annual pass can be split up into

10 monthly payments of \$97 each, and the one-way annual pass can be paid at \$65 month for 10 months.

The Lamorinda school bus program serves the elementary and middle schools, while high school students can avail of service on the County Connection public buses provided by Contra Costa County.

To encourage students to learn more about public transportation, County Connection has free "class pass programs." Kids and teens who learn to use transit now are more likely to use it as a commute alternative when they become adults.

Teachers may take their students on free trips twice per year or once per summer session using the fixed-route bus system, Monday through Friday, during off-peak hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

County Connection provides a personalized trip plan with appropriate system maps and schedules, and a specially designed group "Class Pass" to use when boarding. Dispatch will be alerted when a class pass is being used in order to assure a smooth and enjoyable trip.

Sustained effort by Miramonte students results in polystyrene ban in Orinda



bigstock images

By Sora O'Doherty

An idea first brought to the Orinda City Council in January of 2020 has resulted in the adoption of an ordinance regulating the use of polystyrene food containers in the city, effective Aug. 20 of this year. The students, including Devon Bradley, Sheng Shu, Leo Cardoza, Joseph Manio, and Alexis DeBusschere, are members of the Miramonte Environmental Club that has been running a community-funded project launched in July of 2019 to promote environmental sustainability and help restaurants.

Mayor Amy Worth thanked senior planner Adam Foster for working closely with the students to bring the

ordinance to fruition, and proclaimed that the students are now ready to go to Congress and advocate for important environmental issues.

City manager David Biggs and Foster presented the ordinance to the council and explained how it has been crafted to address Orinda-specific issues and to incorporate feedback from the council at earlier stages in the process. The law is based on similar laws adopted by Contra Costa County and some 13 out of 20 county jurisdictions. However, Orinda does not, for example, have a prison or hospitals within its limits.

Foster explained that the new law will substantially reduce the use of polystyrene food packaging in Orinda, but does contain exemptions nec-

essary for pre-packaged food, ice chests, and raw meat trays. Although the law does apply to city facilities, it does not apply to clubs, including swim clubs, or congregations. The city's parks and recreation department will amend facility lease agreements to incorporate the new law. Although restaurants will have until Feb. 1, 2022 to comply with the new law, it will become effective on Aug. 20, 2021, at which time city facilities will require compliance. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Trimble assured the council that the city will be ready to comply by the August date.

The ordinance contains regulations governing polystyrene food service use. Polystyrene is often sold as the brand name Styrofoam. The regulations apply to restaurants, food trucks, and farmers' markets, but exempts clubs, schools, and residential care facilities. The regulation also requires that polystyrene utensils only be provided upon the request of a person receiving food and would therefore not be the default procedure.

The first reading of the ordinance was on July 6, with discussion by the council. The second reading and final adoption of the ordinance was on the council's July 20 consent calendar.

Citywide Sidewalk Sale planned

... continued from Page A3

The Welcome Back committee is aimed at supporting local commerce and includes six Chamber board members, City Manager Niroop Srivatsa, Lifson, and Chamber staff members Sara Regan and Holly Sonne. Lifson says the variety of well-established and new businesses in the city's relatively small footprint is unique and the sidewalk sale offers wonderful reasons to attend.

Perusal of a list of participating businesses posted on the Chamber website backs up Lifson's claim. The Assistance League Thrift Shop at Way Side Inn offers a 50% off sale and a free give-away; Bel & Bunna's Books celebrates Harry Potter's Birthday with giveaways, \$10 hardbacks and discounted items; and Cambiati Wellness Programs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. highlights free B vitamin shots and a 15% discount on

products.

Fitness buffs and cycle hobbyists can find 10% off maintenance services and bike products at First Mile Cycle Works and at Formula 3 Fitness, join a free class or become a member for \$25 for the first month. Discounts and specials will be offered at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, Sanctuaire Spa, Lamorinda Music, Reasonable Books, Your CBD Store, Friends Corner Bookshop, Emerson Grace Design and more.

Lifson says that the main core of Mt. Diablo Boulevard is heavily traveled and highly visible and therefore encourages shoppers not to forget the downtown's East End. "The hidden new gems are Romp Collection on Blackwood, Lemonade Piercing, CG Designs and Fringe & Fern in the Forge," he says.

Asked to provide shout outs for two of the area's newest businesses, Lifson

says shoppers will enjoy Hollie's Homegrown on Moraga Road. The gourmet specialty food store provides culinary and medicinal home, garden, bath, and body products, along with fine wine tasting. Another debut, 2 Girls One Plant, celebrates their new home behind the unmissable pink door in the shop located at 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Houseplants in every size, shape, color and variety fill the intimate store and inclusive, healing events already on the calendar underscore the owners' mission to someday create a therapeutic greenhouse that serves as a rescue and therapy center for at-risk youth.

Finally, Amphora Lafayette, Roundup Saloon, the new Headlands Brewing Company and other restaurants or food and beverage purveyors ensure no one will be forced to shop while suffering a dry throat or empty stomach.



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Letters to the editor

A sincere apology

After the June 23 Town Council meeting, I had the opportunity to review the recording and in particular to observe what was undeniably my inappropriate demeanor and the improper tenor of my questioning of Susan Allison of the Mulberry Preschool.

I immediately wrote and sincerely apologized to Ms. Allison for my conduct the night before. I acknowledged to her that I was unjustifiably aggressive, what might be regarded as being in "lawyer mode", and that it was wholly inappropriate and uncalled for. When I am in Town Council meetings, I sit as a Councilmember, not as an attorney or as a mediator, and I clearly overstepped my bounds.

I wish to convey my apology, not only to the members of the public who came out that night in support of Ms. Allison and the Mulberry Preschool, but also to the residents of Moraga as a whole. Even in the process of devoting my best efforts to my duties as a Councilmember, I occasionally make mistakes, and occasionally those mistakes hurt someone else's feelings, as my error in judgment at the Council meeting hurt Ms. Allison's feelings. The test of my character should be measured by my response following my awareness and acknowledgment of my error. Sincere apologies should never be cheapened by excuses or justifications or explanations, as those are intended to give the person apologizing a pass, to let him off the hook for the mistake and to persuade himself that he is not a bad person. When I apologized the night of the Council meeting, I broke this cardinal rule and acknowledged that to Ms. Allison the following morning.

My experience serving this first year on the Town Council has been met with a steeper learning curve than I anticipated. In the process of having to make the difficult choices and then advocating for my viewpoint, I have admittedly fallen prey to overzealousness. My commitment to all of you is to learn from my mistakes and not to repeat them in the performance of my duties and responsibilities. I ask you to accept my profound apology for your understanding.

David Stromberg
Town Councilmember
Town of Moraga

Moraga Garden Center

Kenny Murakami is an irreplaceable treasure! I was shocked to open your paper and see that his nursery will close in the fall.

His farewell notice brought tears to my eyes. Of course, it makes sense that he retire now, but his legion of gardening fans are bereft, I'm sure.

We may have thought he would be there forever, but we can't say we didn't know how lucky we were to have him. I think all of us know just how special Kenny is. We have some good nurseries in our area, but there is nothing that compares to what Kenny provided us. So we wish him the best going forward and hope he knows how much he has enriched our lives.

Jenny and John Kolkhorst
Orinda

Garden Center closure and lawsuit abuse

Last week in the Lamorinda Weekly, I was sad to read that the Moraga Garden Center is closing its doors after over 40 years in business. As a Moraga resident I always try to

frequent our local businesses if possible, rather than going to our neighboring cities for goods and services. The Moraga Garden Center is the only nursery in town and it's a shame that an ADA-related lawsuit from a serial plaintiff pushed them to close their doors. Kenny and his wife have been serving local residents for decades with some of the best advice and highest quality plants in the area.

Unfortunately, Kenny is not alone. Lawsuit abuse is a problem that has plagued California for far too long. In Kenny's case, his nursery was built before the ADA was even conceived and the cost of retrofitting a small business is far too costly in a state with already high taxes. And think of how many other local mom and pop establishments are in the same boat. Apparently, there are a lot, because thousands of businesses in the Golden State are targeted with predatory ADA lawsuits each year.

As of late, lawsuit abuse has grown in popularity and small businesses are targeted because it's easier to write a check rather than face the high costs of going to court—or in this case unfortunately, close it's doors. California small businesses already have enough hoops to jump through and lawsuit abuse should not be one of them. Thank you Kenny for your 40+ years of dedication and making us Moragans better stewards of the Earth. You will be missed and best wishes to you and your wife.

Ashley Hemkin
Moraga

Consider the bees

Thank god we have Amazon to ship products directly to our doors. Of the 177 people I have met this summer while canvassing to save the bees, many have had Amazon packages waiting for them. As customers of the largest online retailer, we should know that Amazon has made no move to stop the sale of bee-killing neonic pesticides, a problem I'm spending my summer working on.

Many know that bee populations are struggling with climate change and habitat loss. 1/4 native bee species are at risk of extinction. This is putting at risk the 90% of native plants and 75% of all food crops that depend on them. Why should Amazon make this any worse by continuing to profit from the sale of bee-killing neonic pesticides?

Environment California is part of a national campaign working to mobilize consumers to demonstrate that we do not want Amazon to sell bee-killing pesticides. After consumers called for action, Home Depot, Lowes, and Walmart have committed to not selling neonic pesticides. So if you care about pollinators, tell Amazon to pledge to not sell neonic pesticides as well!

Ben Fromer
Lafayette

Reflecting on the return to in-person classes

There is no doubt in my mind that virtual school was a new challenge for me. But not only for me but also for my parents, teachers, and siblings. The feeling of isolation that we all felt during this time was omnipresent. The lengths we went to keep ourselves and others safe. And we succeeded, to an extent. It was enough to get those little corner shops we love up and running. But for me, it was enough to get my school up and running. After a year of glaring at our computer

screens, you would think I would jump at a chance for a regular school day. But for me, it was not as clear-cut as this. As much as I like to complain about virtual school, it did come with its pros. Being able to wake up a minute before class, eating when I wish. But, my favorite luxury was ... not having to use school bathrooms. See what I mean? Not half bad, right? The one problem about getting used to this new normal was I got too used to it. When that email came, informing me that we could go back to school, I somehow convinced myself to return to school. Yet, after walking back and forth across campus, lugging my backpack along, I started to regret my decision.

After all, why should I have left the comfort of my bed? Even so, I trudged through the rest of the day. The next day felt like a switch had been turned on. I joked and played with my friends. I competed for some candy. The difference between these two days was immense. Despite my first day being abysmal, I realized getting back to normal or transitioning to a new normal will always be challenging at first. After all, Roosevelt himself said that "nothing that comes easy is worth having." This has been my personal experience, and I hope it inspires you to restart old interests or challenge yourself to new experiences.

Arnav Misra
JM student

Where does MOFD's money go?

Gary Fryer wrote that he was happy MOFD Directors were saving his tax dollars by not providing fire prevention services. It appears that Mr. Fryer may not understand how public agency funding works.

MOFD gets a fixed portion of our property taxes (\$29 million this year). If it is not spent on things like fire prevention, where does it go? Not to lower taxes. This year's budget has almost the entire amount (\$27 million) going to employee salaries and benefits.

So what do Directors Baitx, Danziger and Donner want to do with the money?

They were elected with \$30,000 from the firefighters' union and the efforts of firefighters, most of whom do not live here, walking from house to house campaigning for them. They each won by small margins (52% of the vote) and now they control the board which is negotiating with the firefighters' union on a new contract. You

can imagine what they want to do with the money.

Director Baitx is doubly conflicted as he is a firefighter in East Contra Costa and whatever raises he grants to MOFD firefighters will be used as a benchmark for his own salary negotiations.

The firefighters are valuable public employees but they tricked us into electing public officials for their gain, not ours. Remember that when these three, or their replacements, come up for election next year.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Using funds wisely

In the July 7th issue of this paper, a Letter to the Editor writer suggested that MOFD funds should not be spent on a chipper and its operation. The writer's argument was that removal of hazardous brush is a personal responsibility and should not be funded by taxpayer money. This writer was against purchasing a "community chipper" to help citizens dispose of dangerous overgrowth. However, the majority of Orindans consider fire prevention our city's top priority and voted in favor of Measure R to do so. As a result, Measure R funds have been allocated for the purchase of a chipper for Orinda.

The fact that the MOFD board voted not to continue its chipper service last summer no doubt prompted the city's decision. Many residents were upset by the board's decision, since \$28 million of annual taxpayer funds support the MOFD and since 90% of our property taxes are spent on MOFD employee compensation. The three board directors who voted not to continue the chipper program had campaigns heavily funded by Union money.

Some of our residents have circumstances that make it difficult to dispose of the hazardous brush and trees that

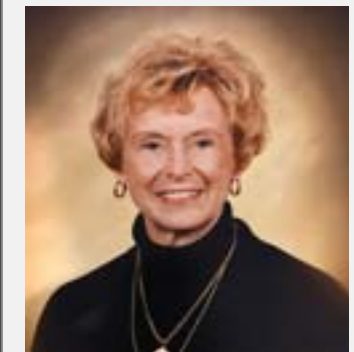
they have laboriously removed from their property. A chipper permits the safe disposal of this danger, which is a danger to all of Orinda. We are one community, and flammable material proposes a peril to all of us. No one doubts that recent droughts have placed us all in serious jeopardy, and the next few months are particularly fraught with the risk of wild-fires.

It didn't make sense to me that the MOFD would cancel such a service last summer.

Tax money should be used to keep us all safe, and that is what Orindans voted for when they voted in favor of Measure R.

Kathleen Finch
Orinda

In Memory



Friends of Jackie Reising will gather Saturday July 31st at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church for a post-Covid celebration of her life. Jackie died in November 2020 and we were unable to safely mark her passing then. The church service starts at 11am. A reception will follow at Postino Restaurant in Lafayette from 1 to 4pm.

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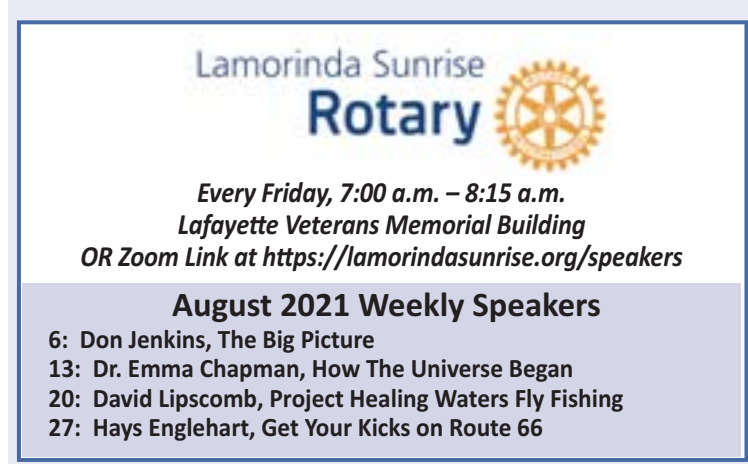
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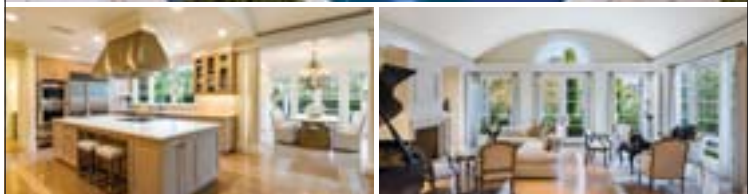


Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Every Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
OR Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

August 2021 Weekly Speakers

6: Don Jenkins, The Big Picture
13: Dr. Emma Chapman, How The Universe Began
20: David Lipscomb, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing
27: Hays Englehart, Get Your Kicks on Route 66



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Local water polo player takes the Olympic world stage



The Hollands – Jeff, Kent, Alison, Drew and John

Photo provided

... continued from Page A1

Hanging over everyone's head like the sword of Damocles, has been the constant threat of a positive test. "After coming so far, we have continuous COVID testing," Holland said. "On arrival in Tokyo, we'll be sectioned off from the other teams and will have to pass two COVID tests at the airport before we are allowed to go to the Olympic village. The entire process could take up to five hours. Not passing any of the tests would be a nightmare and we're all crossing our fingers. It's four total tests and you need to be negative on all of them to be let in. It's a high stress situation."

For Holland, even with all of his professional and international experience, it all pales before the stature of the Olympics. "There is a lot more pressure involved," Holland said. "You can feel it but I'm trying to treat it as normal practices and normal games. That's almost impossible to do, but I'm doing the best I can. Everyone is really fired up, but at the same time it's a different vibe and it gets real."

When Japan banned all spectators from the Olympic venues, it struck home for Holland.

"My family was planning on going but now they'll have to meet up in Orinda and watch the games from there. Honestly, it is as much a success for my parents and brothers as it is for me because of all they have done for me in so many ways. Also, as a goalie, I get pumped up by the fans cheering, but

that's the cards we've been dealt."

Still, Holland is looking on the bright side with the United States' first game being against Japan: "Playing without spectators may help us without the home Japanese fans. Winning that Japan game is huge, and then we have a few days to prepare for those other games. First and foremost, however, we're all just happy that the Olympics is happening."

You might call the Hollands the ultimate water polo family. Drew was attracted to water polo with his two older brothers having led the way. "I started water polo because of my brothers: Kent, who was a goalie, and John, who was an attacker. When I was 7, I would sit right behind the goal watching Kent and without realizing it, I learned a lot from watching him play. At my first ever water polo practice, I jumped in at the goal because of observing Kent's play in goal."

Kent went on to play at Brown University and he still holds the school's career saves record (946) and Drew is also the career saves leader at Stanford (925). John played on the state championship team at Miramonte as a junior and went on to play at Claremont-McKenna where they won the Division III championship.

It was at the age of 11 when Drew came to believe that playing for the U.S. National team was an attainable goal. "Watching them compete in the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo, I remember that being the first time I considered the possibility of

playing for Team USA," Drew said. "I was in awe watching players from our hometown in the pool and I believed then that it was a doable and attainable goal. That was a fire starter for me in wanting to work towards making that team."

There is no question that Holland brings a "goalie mentality" to the game, but it's far more than that. "I absolutely love water polo. I may even be addicted to the sport. As for the mentality, to me there's something special about stopping someone from scoring that is as good if not better than scoring a goal. I don't know why it is so attractive to me, but it is. You also need to be a little bit crazy to enjoy having balls thrown at you all day."

After the Olympics, Holland will be returning to Greece and looks to continue his playing career for many years to come, but is considering coaching as his post-athletic career, having already helped out at Stanford and Miramonte. "During the pandemic, Drew came back and was coaching with us," Lathrop said. "We created a little camp with the goalies which he coached which was a very cool thing for the local kids to be able to work out with Drew Holland."

"With the COVID protocols, there was no sharing equipment, so it was trying to find a way to have productive practices," said Holland. "After I finish playing, coaching would be kind of a dream, whether in college or for Lamorinda."



~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Janice Peacock: Author, artist, teacher



Janice Peacock
By Jeff Gomez

Photos provided

Lamorinda resident Janice Peacock is always challenging herself. Whether it's mastering techniques in glass art, writing a mystery series, or picking up computer skills thanks to COVID-19, she's always learning something new.

Peacock—who has a degree in linguistics and has worked on speech recognition software—grew up in Southern California and moved north when her husband got a job in the area. The couple moved to Lafayette from Concord in 1993 and have been fans ever since. “I love the fact that we have a real downtown and a real feeling of community and cohesiveness,” says Peacock. “It's been a really a wonderful place to live and I've tried to do what I could to make it an even more awesome place.”

Peacock's two main interests are glass art and writing. Her love for glass art began in childhood thanks to a collection of small glass animals. Her passion since then has resulted in opportunities to teach and learn all over the world, including throughout America and Europe. A few years ago, however, she realized she needed something more. “The glass work is

great, but it only exercises one part of my brain.”

Her background in linguistics and technical writing led Peacock to try her hand at fiction. But rather than start with short stories, she decided to plunge into the deep end and write a novel. She figured a good way to do this was by participating in National Novel Writing Month, an annual event where people are encouraged to write a 50,000-word book in only four weeks. She got off to a great start but, after checking in with a fellow writer, discovered she'd jumped the gun: the event takes place in November, but Peacock had started in October. Undaunted, she finished that first novel and spent the following month writing a second. Since then, she's published a book a year.

Peacock's specialty is cozy mysteries, a type of crime fiction featuring amateur sleuths where the focus is on solving a mystery rather than grisly details of murder and death. After penning four books as part of her Glass Bead mystery series, last year she introduced a new heroine—Ruby Shaw—in her latest book, “Aloe and Goodbye.”

The idea sprang from a premise Peacock had been carrying around for a long time. “I kept thinking about what it would be like if you

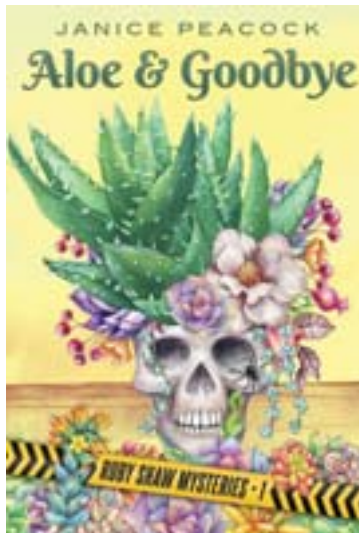
were an artist, but you could no longer make art.” The story takes place in the fictional hillside town of Paradise, Arizona – a location loosely based on Jerome, Arizona, a place she discovered when she was doing a residency at a glassblowing studio in nearby Sedona.

“It would be easier for me just to do writing or just to do glass,” says Peacock, “but I love doing both and I'm passionate about both.”

This past year, writing took a backseat to teaching micromosaics, a form of glass art that goes back hundreds of years. After the Coronavirus scuttled plans to teach at studios throughout the country, Janice pivoted to conducting Zoom classes online. Her three-hour classes require no experience and have proven popular with students all over the world.

Now that restrictions around COVID-19 are beginning to ease, Janice says the thing she's looking forward to most is traveling. “I would love to go somewhere tropical. I really love the ocean and would like to see a sea turtle. I've seen many a sea turtle, but I'd like to see another.” Whether that future trip will inspire either pieces of glass art or a new mystery series, only time will tell.

Learn more about Janice Peacock at janicepeacock.com



Janice Peacock's latest book, “Aloe and Goodbye”

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Gold Coast Chamber Players return to the stage in September



Photo provided

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

Named Best Concert Series of the East Bay in 2021 by Diablo Magazine, the Gold Coast Chamber Players return to the stage on Sept. 18 with a series of five concerts. Each performance is held at the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. with a

pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets include an option to watch the performances virtually.

“Spheres of Influence” on Sept. 18 kicks off the season with a colorful program of music by Debussy, Ravel, Shinji Eshima, and Ching-chu Hu for strings. San Francisco Symphony members Principal Second Violin Dan Carlson, Assistant Principal cellist Amos Yang and bassist Charles Chond are joined by violinist ... continued on Page B3

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Hint of salt makes these bittersweet chocolate cookies sing



Double Dark Chocolate Toasted Pecan Cookies

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I have been eyeing this recipe in my old metal recipe box for a couple of years now, wondering who in the heck gave it to me. I don't recognize the handwriting and there's no one's name on it. Also, the 5x7 card is in immaculate condition, indicating that we'd never used it before. But, whoever gave it to me, must have been a really wonderful baker!

We've updated the recipe a bit by using bittersweet chocolate chips and toasted pecans. Then, for the final touch, we ground a splash of pink Himalayan salt over the top before bak-

ing the cookies. Oh my. That's all ... pure cookie joy!

The little twist of the salt grinder really brings out the flavor in these cookies. The richness of the bittersweet chocolate combined with brown sugar and the aromatic flavor of toasted pecans is just perfect for chocolate lovers. We love a cakey cookie, so the extra flour helps keep them tall and firm, but crisp at the same time. They are delicious and gooey right out of the oven, but if you have time to bake them ahead of time, they freeze really well. Just thaw them out about 10 minutes before serving.

Double Dark Chocolate Toasted Pecan Cookies

(Makes 24 Cookies)

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 3/4 cup light brown sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 egg, beaten
 1/4 cup cocoa powder (we love Valrhona Dutch-processed cocoa powder, but use your own favorite)
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
 1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips
 3/4 cup pecans, chopped and toasted (buy pre-toasted or toast in 400 F oven for 6-8 minutes, keeping your eye on them so they don't burn!)
 Pink Himalayan or Sea Salt for topping

DIRECTIONS

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a mixing bowl, cream together butter with brown and granulated sugar with an electric beater until fluffy. Stir in vanilla. Add beaten egg and stir into mixture until very well incorporated.

In a separate bowl, whisk together all dries: flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Add dries to the butter-egg mixture and beat until well mixed. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans.

With an ice cream scoop, make rounds of dough and place on a prepared baking sheet, 12 at a time.

Grind a dash of salt over each cookie and bake for 11-12 minutes, until set in the center.

Remove from oven and cool. Eat right away, while nice and gooey, or store in an airtight container for several days. You can also freeze the cookies and thaw just before eating.

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



Headlands Brewing Co., a new family-friendly hangout



Photo Kristin Godfrey

By Jenn Freedman

Headlands Brewing Co. opened its doors May 28 on the east side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, adjacent to Bonehead's Texas BBQ. The taproom features a 20-tap floating draught tower, two outdoor patios with fire pits, family and dog-friendly landscaping, and live music featuring local bands. Headlands offers small batch ales

exclusively available at the brewery, as well as guest beers, local wines and cider, and a light food menu. In addition, merchandise, gift cards, and beer to go (cans or growlers) are also available.

The drink menu is rather impressive already, with nine of Headlands' own beers on tap. These include both light ales like a pilsner, light lager, hefeweizen, and barrel-aged sour pilsner, as well as plenty of hoppy options, including

three hazy IPAs, a hazy pale ale, and a double IPA. Notably, local Moraga favorite Canyon Club is on tap at Headlands too (and vice versa!). Finally, not to be missed is the frose' (frozen rose wine) as well as non-alcoholic options like frozen pink lemonade.

The food menu is simple, yet inclusive. The mains include a kid-friendly beef hot dog, chicken sweet Italian sausage, and a vegan brat, available in seven styles (like Chicago or Seattle style). Snacks include jerky, trail mix, and vanilla soft serve.

Headlands Brewing Co was originally founded in 2013 when two exceptional home brewers with a love of outdoor adventures and craft beer decided to get together to combine their shared passions. For the past few years they have been brewing their beer in San Francisco and distributed to grocery stores and restaurants/bars. The two founders are no longer a part of Headlands, but the brand lives on with the same values and foundation they instilled back in the day.



Photo Jenn Freedman



Photo Jenn Freedman

Headlands is still in soft open mode as they wait for construction to complete in areas like bike rack installation, a gate around the perimeter, the front firepit, etc. Current soft opening hours are Tuesday through Thursday 3 to 9 p.m., Friday 3 to 10 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Once the brewery is ready for the official opening, it will be open 7 days a week from noon on weekdays and 11 a.m. on weekends.

For the latest, head to www.headlandsbrewing.com.



Photo Kristin Godfrey

Kiku Sushi & Vegetarian offers fresh options for all



Kobe Soup

Photos Jenn Freedman



Soba Salad



Assorted sushi rolls

By Jenn Freedman

Kiku Sushi & Vegetarian opened its doors on May 18 on the west side of Lafayette Circle. Kiku's original location, Kiku Sushi, in Berkeley on Gilman Avenue has been open for 10 years.

Kiku impressively offers both a traditional Japanese

and Sushi menu, and an entire vegetarian/vegan menu, too. "Many of our customers expressed not being able to accommodate all of their friends, families or partners at our establishment because they could not eat seafood or meat. By offering both menus we found that our customers love being able to bring everyone together to enjoy a

good meal that has delicious options for all. And that has made us different and highly popular," owner Sophia Batsaikhan shares.

Kiku sources fresh fish daily. For example, uni (sea urchin) comes either from Japan or locally from Monterey. Since their selection is so fresh, popular dishes include nigiri/sashimi items like

hamachi, sake (salmon) and uni as well as makis (rolls) like spicy tuna, rainbow, and scallop. The ingredients in the vegetarian and vegan dishes are made from local growers. Some of the more popular dishes are the soba salad, shi-take mushroom and kinoko soup, green dragon roll, and gogo roll. Kiku updates the menus frequently.

Kiku is open for lunch Tuesday through Saturday and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Hours vary by day. You can view hours and menu on their website at <http://www.kikusushiandvegetarian.com>. DoorDash is also available for delivery.

Having a Good Relationship with Your Adult Children, Part 2

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

One glaring behavior that interferes with having good relationships with children 18 and older is when parents give unsolicited advice. I think we all know this, but sometimes it's just hard to stifle ourselves. And sometimes, our innocuous comments may be misinterpreted by our children, especially if we have made this mistake in the past.

Refraining from giving unsolicited advice is especially important if it pertains to your adult child's personal life and choices. This means employment decisions, friend preferences and issues, food choices, personal appearance, plans for future, etc. This covers just about everything, doesn't it?

If your adult child has children, your grandchildren in other words, this caveat still applies. Some parents have mastered not offering gratuitous advice to their adult children only to go off track where grandchildren are involved.

Not only is it best to avoid offering our advice, but we need to think carefully about offering our opinions about our kids' personal lives as well. Opinions often come across as judgments. And, as I've mentioned in this column before, children usually shut down verbally and emotion-

ally if they view their parents as being critical or judgmental.

Example: *Adult child:* "Mom and Dad, I'm thinking of buying a condo now that I'm 30. I don't want to keep renting."

Non-recommended responses: "It's too bad you didn't buy something last year when real estate prices were better." "Are you sure you can keep up with the payments and utilities? You'll need to be a better money manager."

Positive response: "That sounds like a good idea!"

Example: *Adult child:* "I made an appointment to get a tattoo tomorrow."

Non-recommended responses: "Why do you want to do something like that?"

"I hope you're getting it somewhere where it won't show."

Positive responses: "What design are you thinking of getting?"

"You sound excited about this."

Example: *Adult child:* "We signed up Evan for preschool next year."

Non-recommended responses: "We didn't send you until you were 4."

"Won't he get sick more often?"

Positive response: "Great, tell me about the school."

Another suggestion for

keeping relationships positive with adult children is to continue considering their needs along with your own.

Most parents who have raised their children to adulthood understandably want to finally be able to spend more time pursuing their own interests and activities. This is healthy and important. A problem arises if your adult children, who still may be very dependent on you emotionally but are uncomfortable expressing this, feel somewhat shut out. Your children may feel hurt that they no longer seem to be a priority. At the same time, your children may feel guilty about making demands on your time or bad about themselves to have this need now that they're grown up.

Audrey, age 27, started seeing me to deal with her grief over her mother's death a year earlier. She had been very close to her mom and now felt emotionally adrift. Although she was financially independent and lived with a roommate in a nearby city, Audrey wanted to have a closer relationship with her dad.

Audrey's dad, however, was keeping busy with work, golf, and friends. He didn't initiate contact with Audrey often and seemed content to go for long periods without getting together. He had always been an attentive father

while she was growing up, but he had relied on Audrey's mother to maintain family bonds when Audrey and her two brothers moved out on their own.

We worked on ways for Audrey to increase her outreach efforts with her father and not take it personally that he was busy and didn't consider her as often as she would have liked. After all, when her mother was alive, Audrey didn't extend herself much with her father either. It took time, but gradually Audrey's father responded well to her desire for more contact.

Lastly, what about parents of adult children who miss being a bigger part of their children's lives? We know that using guilt-inducing measures is never a good idea. Neither is complaining to adult children about how we want more from them – attention, thoughtfulness, affection, etc.

This is a time when we need to take our lead from our children and adapt as much as possible to the way they want to lead their lives. We need to try to be good sports and good company when we have opportunities to be together. It helps if we have a positive outlook in general and good listening skills.

It also helps if we can avoid what my mom referred to as "an organ recital." We don't need to dwell on our aches and pains with our

adult children unless there's something serious that needs to be discussed. One client says that his phone conversations with his parents who are in their 60s and live in the Midwest, seem to focus mainly on their health concerns. As a result, he doesn't enjoy talking to them and finds excuses not to talk very long or often.

It's a good idea to try to initiate plans with adult children, especially if you know the activity would interest them. At the very least, food is usually a winner. At the same time be ready to accept no for an answer and react graciously without taking offense. Overall, it helps if we can be sure to look beyond our children to fulfill our needs so that we have other meaningful relationships and activities as well.



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

Watermelon contest winner!

Submitted by Masaki Hirayama



Ren Parker, age 9, was declared the winner of the July 4 Moraga Farmers' Market watermelon eating contest. Approximately a dozen children participated in the contest, with the goal for contestants to eat as much watermelon as possible in 90 seconds without using their hands. "Huge thank you to the farmer's market for organizing this fun event that had attendees and participants laughing and smiling," Masaki Hirayama said.



Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Orinda teens log over 3,000 volunteer hours amid pandemic

Submitted by Michelle Bea

Despite the stay-at-home orders and restrictions on activities, the Boys Team Charity Orinda TeamMates logged over 3,000 volunteer hours (3,169.5 to be exact) in and around our community during the 2020-21 membership year.

Orinda TeamMates volunteered at a wide range of organizations including White Pony Express, 10,000 Lunches, Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, Wagner Ranch Nature Center, Monument Crisis Center, and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County. At the annual year-end meeting, many of the boys were recognized for their outstanding commitment to volunteering.

Fourteen TeamMates were recognized for earning 25+ philanthropy hours during the League year (Kellen Baker, Nicholas Bea, Brock Bliss, Gio Bottene, Jack Brun, Nico Grinold, Caleb Kreutzer, Ryan Loughran, Kieran McBride, Mitch Reichenbach, Jason Ritchey, Ryan Sinnreich, Bulky Smith, and Nate Zapala) and six earned 50+ philanthropy hours during the League year (Joseph Boccabella, Charlie Burke, Ian Hughes, Luke Lamison, Logan Letulle, and Duncan Oliver).

Kyle Odmark (Class of 2023) was commended for the most philanthropy hours among all the BTC Orinda TeamMates. Kyle earned a total of 103.5 hours including 34 shifts at the

Food Bank of Contra Costa County as well as other volunteer efforts in support of Aegis of Moraga, Special Olympics, and the Monument Crisis Center. Throughout his efforts, he is known among the employees of the food bank as a hard worker who enjoys working quickly, no matter if he is building boxes, sorting fruit, or bagging vegetables.

Rigby Blair (Class of 2021) achieved the highest cumulative philanthropic service hours earned across his six years with BTC Orinda. Rigby earned over 200 cumulative hours, working extensively with Rock Steady Gym. Inspired by his grandfather who had battled Parkinson's disease, he worked as an assistant to the head boxing coach training adults afflicted with Parkinson's. Rigby describes his experience, "In addition to witnessing how the physical and mental engagement helped symptoms, I developed good relationships with some of the regular participants. I am very grateful to have found an organization that I could make a contribution to that was also a place I felt connected to."

In addition to his work with Rock Steady Gym, he also volunteered at various BTC team events such as Grateful Gatherings. "BTC is really great because you get to do your volunteer work with your friends. Kids from multiple high schools became friends from doing those projects together and the other activities."

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Gold Coast Chamber Players return to the stage in September

... continued from Page B1

Dian Zhang, and violists Joy Fellow, and Pamela Freund-Stripen.

"Seriously Mozart" on Jan. 22, 2022 celebrates some of Mozart's late chamber music. Violin Sonata K.454, Piano Trio K.542, and Piano Quartet, K. 478 offer a program that is playful, elegant, and dramatic. Pianist Julio Elizalde makes his Gold Coast debut when he joins violinist Axel Strauss, vi-

olist Pamela Freund-Stripen, and cellist Jennifer Culp.

As part of the Bay Area Music Consortium, Gold Coast Chamber Players present "Culture, Crisis, and Creativity" on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022 with the Horszowski Trio. Described as "the most compelling American group to come on the scene" by the New Yorker, the ensemble performs Piano Trios by Smetana, Clarke, and Babajanian.

"Caliente!" on March 19, 2022 is a sizzling exploration of Spanish favorites featuring San Francisco Opera's principal clarinetist Jose Gonzalez Granero. An eclectic mix of music by Turina, Granados, De Falla, with original compositions for clarinet by Gonzalez Granero offer a dynamic range of Spanish music. Violinists Jennifer Cho and Dian Zhang, and cellist Peter Myers from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra are joined by violist

Pamela Freund-Stripen and pianist Julie Nishimura.

Completing the season is "Dvořák's America {Reimagined}" on May 14, 2022. GCCP's virtual "Dvořák's America" was so popular that it has been reimagined for the concert stage. "Dvořák's America {Reimagined}" explores the impact of spirituals and Native American music on Dvořák during his time in America. The Alexander String Quartet, soprano

Michele Kennedy, Native American flutist Mary Youngblood, and violist Pamela Freund-Stripen are featured in this program about the interconnectedness of cultures.

Purchase single tickets and subscriptions online at www.GCCPmusic.com or by calling (925) 283-3728. Visit gccpmusic.com to find regular updates about concert offerings, to make donations, and to purchase tickets.

Not to be missed

ART

Christian Ehrhorn Fine Arts gallery kicks off an exciting exhibit with an Open House Artist Reception on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 5-9 p.m. This will be the first in-person exhibit at the fully opened gallery since March 2020! Come join us for wine, cheese, and community as we celebrate the artwork of Peeta Tinay, Aaron Webb, and Christian Ehrhorn. Peeta Tinay is a basket weaver who pushes the boundaries of her material, showing us that form and function are happily wed in her dynamic pieces. Aaron Webb's paintings explore love, loss, and finding the grace in between through his use of acrylic paint, dyes, salt, and rum! Christian Ehrhorn is showing abstract expressionist landscape oil paintings with light and muted color palettes. He is also showing bold mixed media pieces that revolve around nostalgia, order, and natural form. The gallery is located at 39 Moraga Way in downtown Orinda's theatre district. Regular gallery hours are held Wed. - Sat. from noon - 4 p.m. christianehrhornfineart.com or call 510-703-7020.

Art show at Orinda Books. July features "Trailblazers" - An Exhibit by the Bay Area Studio Artists. Featured in the show will be a collaborative work honoring the brilliant Robin Williams. BASA artists painted 24 individual 10' x 10" canvases which combine to create the painting. The result: an image of Robin Williams that captures his luminous, brilliant personality but hints at the struggles within the man himself. The 41 x 61" piece is titled, A Spark In the Dark. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda. 925-254-7606

MUSIC

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble announces auditions for the Fall. Auditions will be held July 25-31. You can set up an audition appointment @ calendly.com/vociaudition/audition OR visit vocisings.org/about/audition/ (which also has more information about auditions and covid guidelines). VOci is known for their beautiful choral sound, Voci Women's Ensemble is a select chorus of 26-30 experienced choral musicians. Voci sings beautiful and interesting music from all style periods. Voci rehearses in Orinda on Wednesday nights & performs in Berkeley, Oakland, and Lafayette.

Berkeley Symphony presents Reopening Concert on Wednesday, Aug 4, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Berkeley Symphony returns to the stage for its first live performance in over a year with a program of beloved opera classics and contemporary works. Cost: \$50. For more info see <http://www.berkeleysymphony.org> or call 510-841-2800 or email info@berkeleysymphony.org.

Solo Opera presents Scalia/Ginsburg an Opera by Derrick Wang. Friday, Sept. 10 - 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 12, 2 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. The opera will include an incredible cast: Nikki Einfeld as "Ginsburg", Christopher Bengochea as "Scalia", and Kirk Eichelberger as the "Commentator". The chamber opera will be accompanied by a seven-piece orchestra under the baton of Maestro Alexander Katsman. An incredible production team will be led by Solo Opera Artistic Director, Sylvia

Amorino, as stage director/producer. Seating is reserved and ticket prices are Adults: \$50, Seniors: \$40, Youth 17 and under: \$25. Tickets at (925) 943-7469 or visit the Leshner Center for the Arts Ticket Office: 1601 Civic Drive Walnut Creek.

THEATER

Woodminster Welcomes the Bay Area Back to Theatre with Always...Patsy Cline. July 9-11, 16-18, 23-25. All performances at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Patsy Cline had been performing for nearly a decade when she recorded her first album, which included the song, "Walkin' After Midnight." With this song, she auditioned for Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts and was accepted to sing on the popular TV show. Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. For more information about the 2021 season, COVID protocols, seat assignments, or the history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

Studio Retreat a FREE 10-day Masterclass in acting and playwrighting in Danville, CA. Dates for our 10-day Acting and Playwriting Workshop are July 21 - Aug. 1 (with a break on Mon., July 26 and Tues., July 27.) We invite high-school students from throughout the Bay Area to Tao House, the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, one-time home of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play-wright. Students will be coached in their respective disciplines by highly experienced Bay Area professionals. We look forward to welcoming students back in person to Tao House

this summer - we still have spots left! Application and more info at www.eugeneoneill.org/studio-retreat/

LITERATURE

Eugene O'Neill Foundation Festival 2021 Tiny Horizon. We're inviting you to share your story of what you long for just beyond the horizon in 100 words or less, similar to Tiny Love Stories made popular by the NY Times Modern Love column. Imagine what possibilities and dreams await you just beyond the horizon. Tiny Horizon Stories can be about any theme that inspires you. Write a tiny story about that future you envision in 100 words or less and send in your Tiny Horizon Story using the form on the eugeneoneill.org website. Visit eugeneoneill.org for more information on Tiny Horizon Stories and watch for a full production of O'Neill's Beyond the Horizon filmed at Tao House in the fall.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Lisa Wells + Joanna Manqueros: Believers: Making a Life at End World on Tuesday, Aug 17, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Lisa Wells discusses her new book, Believers: Making a Life at the End of the World, and answers questions. Hosted by Joanna Manqueros. Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see www.eventbrite.com/e/lisa-wells-joanna-manqueros-believers-making-a-life-at-the-end-of-world-tickets-159198058679

OTHER

The monthly Green Sofa Cinema Series continues Thursday, July 22 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. In advance, watch the

film "The Water Crisis-National Geographic: The Last Drop" at your leisure from the comfort of your own sofa. On July 22, join a one-hour Zoom chat to talk about the film and hear from an EBMUD expert. Free. To register and watch the film in advance, go to: <https://sustainablecoco.org/calendar/>

Sustainability LIVE: Let's Get Rolling: Bicycling in Contra Costa. July 28, 7-8:30 p.m. We know we should be biking more; it's a fun, zero-carbon emissions way to get around. But why don't we? Bike needs fixing? Not sure how to navigate on city streets? Wondering if it will take too long or you're not in good enough shape? Our guests will give you the resources, tips and most of all, confidence, to get out there and ride! And if you're curious about electric bikes, we'll share the latest information about them too. With lots of time for your questions, of course. Register for this free event at [sustlive15.eventbrite.com](https://sustainablecoco.org/calendar/).

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Jeremy Lent & Joanna Manqueros: The Web of Meaning on Tuesday, Aug 10, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Jeremy Lent discusses The Web of Meaning: Integrating Science and Traditional Wisdom to Find Our Place in the Universe. Hosted by Joanna Manqueros. Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see www.eventbrite.com/e/jeremy-lent-joanna-manqueros-the-web-of-meaning-tickets-159477650947.

American Association of University Women- Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) will hold a general meeting zoom webinar on fire safety and readiness on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 10:00am. Entitled "Are You Ready?", the webinar will feature Noelle Crosse, the public education coordinator of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and Taylor King, an inspector with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and a Lieutenant with the River Deltas Fire Department. The webinar will deal with issues of personal safety and preparedness as well as the issues making your home landscaping fire ready. The public is welcome to attend the webinar by registering in advance at the OML website: oml-ca.aauw.net.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Davis Diaz on the way to Vanderbilt or the Major Leagues



Davis Diaz in 2018

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

A few years ago, there was a baseball movie starring Kevin Costner called "For the Love of the Game." It's a title that could also be applied to recent Acalanes graduate Davis Diaz and his relationship to baseball.

Even though Diaz is only 18, it could not be called a short-term relationship. "I started playing T-ball at the age of 3, though my parents had to lie about my age," Diaz said. "I went on to play with a Pleasant Hill team called the Hawks and then with the Lamorinda Travel team and I

grew up with them along with playing at Acalanes."

Though Diaz grew up in Pittsburgh, he started going to school in Walnut Creek and eventually made his way to Acalanes. Growing up for Diaz, it was mostly baseball but "I pretty much played everything with a ball."

It was Diaz's father, Adrian, that imbued in Davis the love of the game. "My dad would always work out with my brother (Max) and me and he taught me how to play the game of baseball and he probably had the greatest influence on me and was always a huge part of it," Diaz said.

"My Dad would always push me to do the things he was doing even though he was a lot older than me so it forced me to compete and play the best I possibly could."

Acalanes head coach Connors Hornsby graduated from Acalanes in 2012, played for Saint Mary's College, and is the great nephew of Hall of Famer Rogers Hornsby (second highest career batting average of all time) has been watching Diaz play since he was 8 years old. "I played with Davis' brother Max," Hornsby said. "When I came back to Acalanes to coach Davis' sophomore year, I was able to see how Davis had grown as a player and also as a human being. It's been a privilege and honor to have a once in a lifetime player like Davis come through the program."

It was more than just the ability to play the game that allowed Diaz to stand above the other players. "Baseball is a game of adjustments so you're never going to feel the same each day," Diaz said. "I'm still trying to learn as much as I can, working on the small things and different mentalities. I'm constantly thinking with each pitch. All the great players are able to adjust. On defense, the biggest thing is preparation so

once I get on the field, I don't have to think of anything but just focus on winning and helping my team."

It's the intangibles that set the great ones from the merely good ones and Hornsby saw all of that in Diaz: "He's the complete package on and off the field," Hornsby said. "He's a humble kid that goes about his business in the right way. At practice or a game, he busts his butt and does the little things that don't show up on the stat sheet like staying late to help the coaches clean up. It's the little things that he does right that are easy to overlook. He's a quiet kid that leads by example, showing his leadership by showing up every day, getting his work in and being prepared for every pitch in the infield."

Diaz has tried to learn from every player in the major leagues because "everyone has unique abilities." However, there is one player that Diaz aims to emulate – all-star shortstop Francisco Lindor. "I love the excitement and joy he has on his face when he's playing," Diaz said. "He always competes at a high level and you can tell he always wants to win."

The work that Diaz has put in on the field and in the classroom was not overlooked

by the colleges. "I took a lot of visits but Vanderbilt really stuck out to me," Diaz said. "They have a great coaching staff, and I was able to build a great relationship with them. It just felt like home, and I was very comfortable with them, so I committed to go there at the beginning of my junior year."

Davis now has another decision to make. On July 12, Diaz was selected in the 12th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Like all high school prospects, Diaz will have to decide whether to go pro or head to Vanderbilt. If he begins college, Diaz will not be eligible to be drafted again until after his junior year.

It was more than just baseball for Diaz at Acalanes. "I loved every minute of high school," Diaz said. "Unfortunately, with the virus, we only had two and a half years in person but I'm very grateful for the relationships and memories and the other times with the students and teachers. I'm just very thankful for everything I went through at Acalanes and all the sacrifices the teachers made for us to help us achieve."

Steven Dyer and Emmanuel Callas named Coach and Player of the Year



Steven Dyer in 2020 Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

After taking over a Campolindo basketball team that was 14-14 in 2015-16, coach Steven Dyer has led the Cougars to four consecutive winning seasons with at least 20 wins. It took the coronavirus to break that streak which limited the Cougars to 15 games and an undefeated record this season. In the last three seasons, Dyer's teams have had a combined record of 68 and 13, 30-1 in league play, a 13-1 playoff record along with a state championship, and a co-state championship.

The Bay Area News Group did not overlook the success of this year's team, naming Dyer as its Coach of the Year and senior Emmanuel Callas as its Player of the Year.

"Looking back, it was a challenging year," Dyer said. "We really were just thankful to have a season, so we took things in stride and tried to make the best of it, particularly for the se-

niors." Besides the virus, injuries were a factor with Logan Robeson missing the entire season and Aidan Mahaney being limited to six games.

As usual for a Dyer coached team, defense was an important factor in the team's success, only giving up an average of 45 points per game. "This was the best defensive team that I've had since I've been here," Dyer said. "We did not take anything for granted and came out ready to go in every game. This was a credit to the mentality of our players, particularly Emmanuel and Chase Bennett who were our co-captains this year. We never had a bad practice, and the team was always ready to play, and I give a lot of the credit to those guys."

Dyer did all he could to challenge his team with a schedule that did have any team with a final record below .500 and finished the season with a

composite winning percentage of 66.5%. According to Dyer, "We knew we had a really good team so when it came out that there would not be any playoffs, I talked with our seniors, and they wanted me to get some of the best non-league opponents that we could and in the end, we proved ourselves against a tough schedule."

Callas' scoring average increased each season from 2.2 to 5.5 to 13.9 to 15.9 as a senior. "Emmanuel has gone through a lot of highs and lows these four years, but he really stuck with it, always wanting to get better," Dyer said. "He worked really hard on his jump shot and definitely deserved all of the accolades he has received. We tell all of our guys to improve every year in the program and he definitely did that."

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Karate Olympic hopeful ... super karate girl

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff

Karate & Fitness USA Team Member Amaliya Nalatkina, age 13, of Lafayette and soon to be a freshman at Campolindo High School returns home with the Bronze Medal in Kumite (sparring) at the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) National Karate Championships which was held in Greenville, South Carolina June 29 - July 3. Amaliya, only a Brown Belt in Karate entered the Black Belt Division with no national level competition experience and no advanced competition experience, fought hard and represented well to earn her a spot in the top three kumite karate competitors in the country. She has also qualified to represent the AAU / USA Karate Team which will go to the 9th WUKF (World Union Karate-Do Federation) World Karate Championships to be held in CLUJ-NAPOCA, Romania this coming September.

This is even more exciting with the Summer Olympics coming to Japan and the Sport of Karate will be featured in this year's Summer Olympics.

Photos provided



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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 21, 2021



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

read on Page D10

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Perennial favorites!



Photo Cynthia Brian

Blue agapanthus is a staple of summer gardens.

By Cynthia Brian

“When the sun rises, I go to work. When the sun goes down, I take my rest. I dig the well from which I drink, I farm the soil which yields my food, I share creation. Kings can do no more.” ~ Chinese proverb

In the sizzling heat of summer, many annuals go to seed and flowers fade. Thankfully there are plants besides cacti and

succulents that enjoy the higher temperatures. Most of my favorite summer bloomers are perennials that once established require minimal irrigation.

My top 10 summer flowering favorites include acanthus, agapanthus, bougainvillea, bower vine, crape myrtle, crocosmia, daylily, hollyhock, hydrangea and rose. I also am a huge fan of the Naked Lady, but it sprouts its neck later in August, lasting through the fall months.

Acanthus:

Also known as Bear’s breeches, Acanthus can be deciduous or evergreen growing from rhizomes. It is drought tolerant with shiny oval leaves lobed with spines and spires of flowers that are purple, white, pink, cream or green. It doesn’t like full sun when it is hot, so it may be best to grow Acanthus in partial shade. The flower spikes can grow to five feet. I like it as a back border plant or to line a path. The good news: butterflies flock to it. The bad news: deer devour it. Cut it to the ground in the fall and it will re-emerge in the spring. Greek Corinthian column capitals were and are modeled after the Acanthus plant.

Agapanthus:

Another rhizome spreader that is hardy in drought times, yet pretty in bloom is the Lily of the Nile or African Lily that we know as Agapanthus. The rhizomes retain water and divide easily to plant in other locations. They prefer a sunny location, although I’ve seen many beautiful specimens growing in the shade. The sky blue, midnight blue, or white trumpet-shaped flowers bloom June through the end of August with stalks that reach 4 feet high. The elegant strap-like leaves are evergreen. When planting, work compost and organic matter into the soil and continue

to fertilize during the growing season. Deadhead when the flowers fade and toss them on the compost pile. Wear gloves when working with this plant as it is poisonous and could cause an allergic reaction in those who are prone to plant allergies.

Bougainvillea:

A gorgeous tropical vining shrub, bougainvillea flowers are modified leaves called bracts blooming in colors of yellow, orange, white, and my personal favorite, fluorescent pink. Native to arid climates, bougainvillea thrives in hot weather and needs full sun while requiring a minimum of H2O. On our ranch, bougainvillea covered one full side of our two-story farmhouse delighting our family year after year with a spectacular showcase of hues. Plant bougainvillea on a strong structure or well-made fence. It can be pruned when it starts to rain or after flowering. Since it is susceptible to frost, cover with burlap in the winter to protect it if your plant is small enough.

Bower Vine:

This is the most perfect flowering evergreen vine for pergolas, arbors, and trellises. Grow bower vine over awnings, around windows and doors, or as a gate climber. It is easy to care for, doesn’t invade a roof or siding, and is a swift grower. Blooming throughout spring, summer and fall, flowers are pink and white with deep-throated trumpets attractive to hummingbirds. I grow bower vines in full sun and partial shade. Once established they don’t require much water while providing year-round beauty with their shiny green leaves. Prune whenever the vine needs a bit of TLC as this vine is not fussy. Cut stems to add to indoor arrangements. ... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	39	\$720,000	\$4,785,500
MORAGA	26	\$410,000	\$3,250,000
ORINDA	38	\$1,150,000	\$3,750,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 1196 Bacon Way, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 1797 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 05-26-21
 3642 Bickerstaff Road, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 05-28-21
 15 Candlelight Lane, \$2,757,500, 4 Bdrms, 3417 SqFt, 2004 YrBl, 06-03-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 04-10-12
 4159 Canyon Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2662 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 06-07-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 08-18-09
 3350 Carlyle Terrace, \$1,820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1568 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 05-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$615,000, 09-21-00
 30 Crest Road, \$2,168,000, 3 Bdrms, 2396 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 06-11-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,540,000, 09-21-16
 6 Dale Court, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1439 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 05-25-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,019,000, 05-12-15
 1000 Dewing Avenue #106, \$720,000, 1 Bdrms, 931 SqFt, 2017 YrBl, 06-11-21,
 Previous Sale: \$661,500, 06-28-18
 10 Diablo Oaks Way, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3320 SqFt, 1997 YrBl, 06-11-21
 687 Francis Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 06-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$790,000, 11-09-16
 701 Francis Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1878 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 06-11-21
 3415 Freeman Road, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 05-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$272,000, 08-27-98
 755 Glenside Drive, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 06-11-21
 101 Greenbank Drive, \$3,450,000, 6 Bdrms, 7066 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 05-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,918,500, 01-28-21
 4038 Happy Valley Road, \$3,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 05-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,095,000, 02-25-15
 10 La Casita Lane, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1568 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 06-10-21,
 Previous Sale: \$349,000, 06-01-92
 689 Los Palos Drive, \$3,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2443 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 06-01-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 06-16-09
 1090 Marguerite Court, \$4,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 4340 SqFt, 2008 YrBl, 05-25-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 01-21-09
 3484 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1549 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 05-25-21,
 Previous Sale: \$590,000, 09-04-12
 781 Moraga Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 05-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$650,000, 12-27-00
 3776 Mosswood Drive, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1961 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 06-10-21,
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-02-03
 3235 Mt Diablo Court #201, \$1,835,000, 2 Bdrms, 2049 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 06-04-21
 1134 Orchard Road, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 2176 SqFt, 1939 YrBl, 06-03-21,
 Previous Sale: \$939,000, 06-21-06
 3810 Palo Alto Drive, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 05-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,349,000, 09-28-07
 2548 Pebble Beach Loop, \$1,075,000, 2 Bdrms, 1871 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 06-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$760,000, 09-08-15
 1574 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 05-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$726,500, 12-02-05
 918 Raintree Place, \$3,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3672 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 06-04-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,015,000, 01-08-19
 869 Revere Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 05-24-21,
 Previous Sale: \$735,000, 07-19-02

... continued on Page D13

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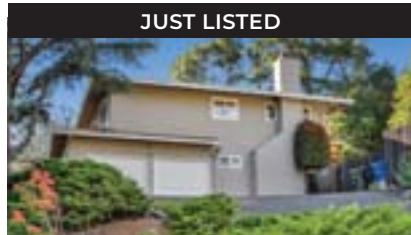


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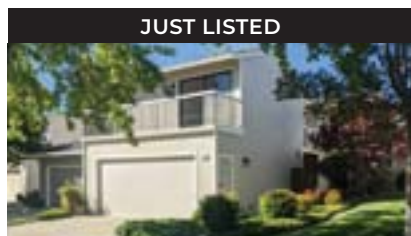


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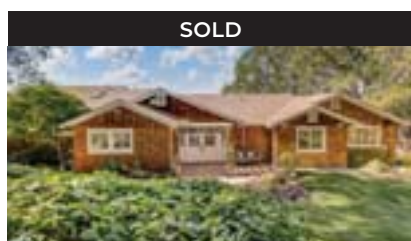
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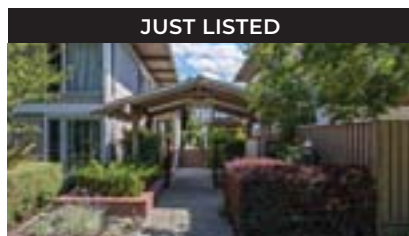
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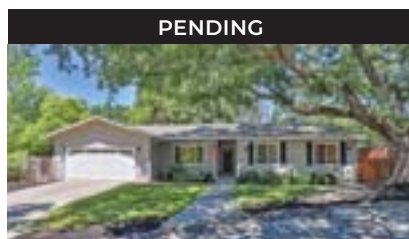
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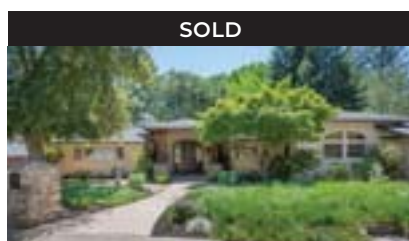
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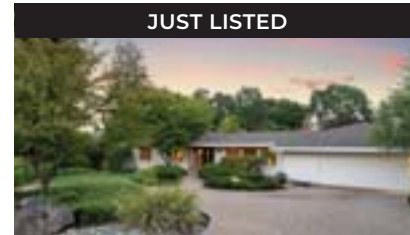
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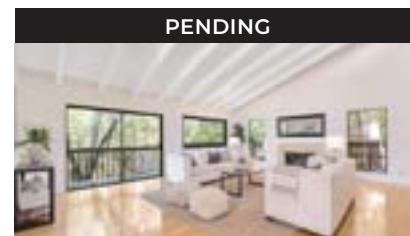
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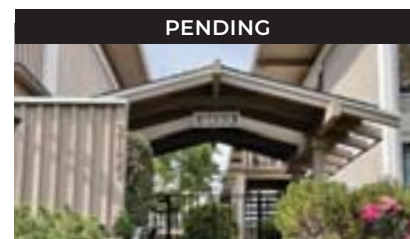
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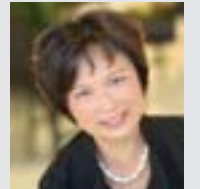
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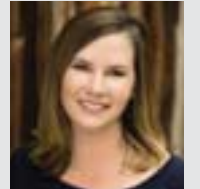
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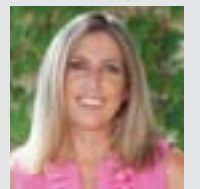
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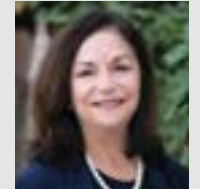
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Some assembly required



Sorted Parts

By Jim Hurley

Periodically, I get this call. “We bought a (blank), and need help assembling it.” IKEA made it famous by doing it in Swedish, but knock-down furniture, playhouse kits, and closet “space savers” all come with that phrase printed neatly on the side – “Some Assembly Required” – and Sven is not coming over to help you. These products seem deceptively easy on the outside with a beautiful picture on the box. But inside is a dizzying puzzle full of odd pieces, similar but somehow different pre-cut boards, screws, bolts, hinges, slides, and tacks.

So just dump out the box and dive right in? Whoa, Red Rider, my experience has been that it is best to have a methodical approach to these puzzles. Here are a few Do’s and Don’ts.

Don’t start unless you have time to finish. Some boxes or instruction books give you an estimated time to complete. If this is your first time, double that estimate.

Do read the instructions. Open the box and find the instruction booklet. It might be in the bag of hardware; it might be under the boards. It is usually helpful to quickly scan the whole book to get an idea how clear the instructions are, how many steps it will take, and in what sequence the parts are built. Dressers will have drawers to assemble. The first one will take twice as long as the rest. Some projects start from the back to the front, some are top to bottom.

Pre-reading the instructions will also give you a better sense of how they are “written.” Many international manufacturers only use pictures with arrows and numbered parts indicated. Some provide a big picture with closeups of complicated tasks in a circle to the side with an arrow showing where that belongs. Learn the numbering system itself: attach part A to part B or, AA to BB, or as the level of complexity increases Bolt G10 to E10 and E11 to G11. I worked on a playhouse with boards stamped RSL, SS, CB, and FBP (Turns out they were for Roof Ship Lap, Side Slat, Corner Bead, and Floor Board Plank.)

Do sort out the pieces before you begin assembling. Open the box (or boxes) and lay each piece on the floor in some semblance of order. Stack the A’s together, B’s next to A’s and so on. Do the hardware the same way, if the nuts, bolts, and screws are all in the same bag, open that up and sort them by type and size. Some kinder vendors will bag the hardware in groups with symbols (circle, triangle, square). If that is the case, best to leave them in the bags. The instructions will tell you when each bag is needed. This may seem like a waste of time, but when the book calls for part K2, you’ll know where the K’s are and likely know which one is K2, saving time in the long run.

Do familiarize yourself with the hardware pictures. If there are both wood screws and machine screws, identify how the instructions depict them. Could save confusion and reworking later.

OK, you’ve sorted out the pieces, stacked them neatly and are ready to begin.

Don’t tighten the screws prematurely. When fitting several parts into place, it is easier to line up screws, bolts, and slots if there is a little play in the other ends. For example, if you are making a box for the drawer, put three sides together leaving the fasteners loose. You can drop in the bottom piece and add the fourth side more easily. Do remember to tighten all the fittings when it is done though.



Assembled Parts

Do keep a careful eye on the instructions. Watch for a repeated process. They will indicate that you assemble four components the same way with a “x4” in the picture frame. If pre-drilled holes are indicated on the side boards, there might be two at the top and only one at the bottom, or there may be a slot running down one side. Catching these indicators helps prevent putting something on backwards or upside down and prevents starting over when holes don’t line up later.

Don’t overtighten screws. Unless you have a magnificent control over your power driver, use a handheld screwdriver or wrench to tighten screws and bolts. A lot of furniture is made of particle board that will break or flake if you force the screw or overtighten. (This is indicated at the beginning of the instructions by a picture of a Drill with a circle/bar over it.)

Final Tip: If you get started and find yourself overwhelmed, there might be a How-to video on YouTube or the vendor’s website to watch.

Relax and enjoy your puzzle and if it is from IKEA, Sven says, “lycka till.”

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.



*The current LaMorinda market?
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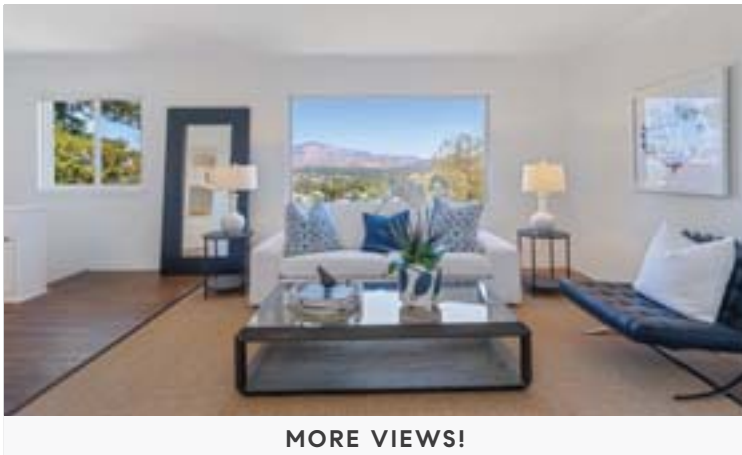
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IVY DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD | 46 IVY DRIVE, ORINDA | 4 BD | 3 BA | 1871 SQFT | .31 ACRE | ADU UNIT | \$1,599,000



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 ROBERTA CALDERON
 TONY CONTE
 KELLY CRAWFORD
 COLIN ELBASANI
 JOANNE FISHMAN
 LANA FITZPATRICK
 SUZANNE GEOFFRION
 JEFFREY GILLET
 SORAYA GOLESORKHI
 HANK HAGMAN
 ANDREA HARRIS
 MARGARET HARTWELL
 PETER HATTERSLEY
 YAN HEIM
 MICHELLE HOLCENBERG
 WENDY HOLCENBERG
 DICK HOLT
 COOKIE JAVINSKY
 SHELLIE KIRBY
 SHERYL KORTRIGHT
 MEREDITH LINAMEN
 MARY BETH MACLENNAN
 CHRISTINA MCCORMICK
 MARSHA MCCRAE
 MICHELE MCKAY
 CHAD MORRISON
 PEYMAN MOSHREF
 AUDREY NEALE
 BRUCE NEWMAN
 DIANE PETEK
 MARGARET PRICE
 SUSAN SCHLICHER
 CATHY SCHULTHEIS
 AUBREY SHAW
 JOEL SHEIMAN
 MELANIE SNOW
 TOM STACK
 TED STREETER
 BO SULLIVAN
 NORLA TORRES-TURNEY
 LINDA VAN DRENT
 GREG WATKINS
 JERRY WENDT
 FRANK WOODWARD
 JUNE YOUNG
 ANA ZIMMANK

Orinda

2 Bien Venida, \$1,895,000

3+ BR/2BA Timeless Country Club Contemporary
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 2BienVenida.com Lic#01480008 / 00959101

Orinda

185 Holly Lane \$1,395,000

2 BD / 2BA - 2,046 sq. ft. Lovely wood accents & beamed vaulted ceilings. Meticulous artistic garden.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 185Hollylane.com Lic#01272382

Orinda

Vacant Lot 221 El Toyonal \$685,000

Shovel ready to build! Fully approved permits for a 4 BD / 3 BA, 2,644 sq. ft. home. Buy today, Build tomorrow.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 221eltoyonal.com Lic#01272382

Orinda

6 Loma Linda Ct \$1,299,000

3 BD / 2 BA
 Over 1/2 acre lot, fully remodeled, views and privacy!
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
<https://bit.ly/3hQ4Tel> Lic #01005765

Lafayette

3 Wellesley Ct \$3,875,000

7 BD / 6.5 BA. Exquisite Happy Valley Estate on 4+ acres. Views, flat play areas, solar!
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 3wellesley.com Lic#01272382

Lafayette

3719 Highland Court \$1,849,000

4 BD / 3 BA. Backs to Rim trail, great views. Privacy & amphitheater backyard!
 Bev Arnold 925-788-8516
<https://bit.ly/3JE3mZZ> Lic#01154860

Lafayette

4157 Hidden Valley Rd \$1,639,000

4 BD / 3 BA, Beautiful contemporary with soaring high ceilings built in 1998.
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769

Moraga

4 Baltusrol St \$1,155,000

3 BD + loft area/ 2.5 BA. Updated Townhome in Moraga Country Club with all club amenities, private courtyard.
 June Young 925-775-8819
 Lic #01923454

Concord

3736 Bon Homme Way \$895,000

3 BD / 2 BA, 0.48 Acre. Hugh lot, on cul-de-sac in desirable St. Francis Park neighborhood.
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
<https://bit.ly/2Tf6EZ7> Lic #01005765

Pleasant Hill

170 Stewart Circle \$1,195,000

5 BD / 3 BA, 1,983 sq. ft.
 Poet's Corner, Cul-de-sac
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769

Walnut Creek

1767 Tice Valley Blvd. \$775,000

2 BD / 2.5 BA, 1,597 Sq. ft. Move-in ready! Designer finishes throughout. Backs to open space!
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Lic# 00959101 / 01480008

Walnut Creek

1621 Ptarmigan Drive, #6B \$359,000

1 BD / 1 BA. Sparkling clean & bright Villa Belmonte Condo. Great views, private balcony.
 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Lic#01480008

The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The second quarter of 2021 was extremely strong with a much higher year over year volume of closed sales on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The closings that occurred were those that mostly went under contract from mid-February to late May before restrictions on the showing of houses had been eased.

Agents were still not able to hold physical broker or public open houses until early June and most homes were shown either virtually or through appointments through listing agents.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 141 single family homes closed in Lafayette. This was a sharp increase from the 65 single family homes closed in the same period one year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$1.075 million to \$5.35 million and the average number of days on market was 12. In the year ago second quarter it was 15 days. The average sales price was \$2,180,240, far exceeding the 1,794,912 in 2Q2020. In 2019 it was \$1,779,112.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 57 which was up from 41 a year ago. Prices ranged from \$1,225,000 to \$3.25 million. The average sales price was \$1,936,316 ... a huge increase from 2Q2020 when it was \$1,548,585. In 2019 it was \$1,542,888 and in 2018 it was \$1,508,591. The average marketing time was again 13 days like a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 136, more than double over a year ago when there were 60. Sales prices ranged from \$1.1 million to \$8 million with an average price of \$2,317,982 ... again a huge increase from 2Q2020 when it was \$1,808,271, and from \$1,623,995 in this quarter in 2019. It took an average of 12 days to

have a house go pending – half as long as the 25 days in the same period a year ago.

This is the first quarter ever when there were no sales reported at less than \$1 million in the three communities combined.

In the quarter ending June 30, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$825.38. A year ago it was \$683.27. In Moraga homes sold for \$814.16, far above the \$651.11 in 2Q2020. Orinda was \$804.11 ... up again from \$657.88 in this quarter a year ago.

Again, this is the first quarter ever where all homes sold for an average of over \$800 per square foot in each community.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 109.1% of the final asking price. In Moraga it was 109.9% and in Orinda it was 107.8%. The reasons for this can be attributed to agents listing properties well below true value so that they can hopefully receive multiple offers where buyers would compete.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had 18 closings versus the year ago quarter when there were only three. They sold between \$720,000 and \$1.835 million. Moraga had 37 when a year ago there were only 10. Sale prices ranged from \$392,000 to \$1.455 million. Orinda had four that ranged from \$581,000 to \$1.5 million.

As of July 7, there were 118 homes under contract in the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$419,900 to \$3.89 million. A year ago, there were 100 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities.

Inventory remains low. There are 83 properties on the market and a year ago there were 127 available properties in the three communities combined.

There are “only” 40 properties on the market in Lafayette—about the same as the

45 at this same time a year ago. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$628,828 to \$25 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 23 homes or condominiums listed between \$410,000 and \$4.495 million. A year ago there were 37.

In Orinda there are 20 – again a huge decrease from 45 on the market at the same time a year ago. The list prices range from \$1.495 million to \$6.25 million.

There are no bank-owned or short sales currently in the MLS available in the three communities.

Interest rates continue to be attractive, making for more affordability, and we are seeing many buyers come to the area because they feel they will likely not be commuting as much (especially on the tech side) and feel that to live further distances from San Francisco or Silicon Valley is now more manageable.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year most homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

We are still seeing many buyers having to make offers without the traditional contingencies of obtaining financing or having a home appraised or even having the home inspected. Many sellers continue to obtain pre-sale inspections in order to understand the condition of their homes and to also prevent a buyer from trying to renegotiate a lower price or repairs.

Of the 141 single-family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2021, only 14 sold below the final list price.

In Moraga, 7 of the 51 sales were below the asking price and in Orinda, only 16 of the 136 sold below the final listing price.

Lamorinda home sales recorded ... continued from Page D2

LAFAYETTE

21 Samantha Drive, \$4,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4641 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 04-19-11
 28 Sanford Lane, \$4,785,500, 5 Bdrms, 5304 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 06-11-21, Previous Sale: \$2,950,000, 03-18-10
 761 Silver Crest Court, \$2,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 4488 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 05-27-21, Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 04-23-19
 559 Silverado Drive, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2101 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-26-21, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 08-30-13
 1733 Springbrook Road, \$2,152,500, 3 Bdrms, 2464 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-04-21
 760 Tanglewood Lane, \$1,726,500, 3 Bdrms, 2893 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$1,540,000, 12-12-18
 3169 Teigland Road, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2183 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 06-11-21
 1421 Tichenor Court, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2888 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 06-08-21
 20 Tolan Way, \$2,525,500, 3 Bdrms, 3316 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-25-21
 3121 Withers Avenue, \$1,315,000, 3 Bdrms, 2233 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 06-10-21
 962 Yorkshire Court, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2695 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-25-21, Previous Sale: \$1,284,000, 10-02-13

MORAGA

125 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-26-21, Previous Sale: \$535,000, 06-07-02
 1183 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,430,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 06-10-21, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 02-25-16
 109 Ascot Court #A, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1106 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-26-21
 122 Ascot Court #D, \$463,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$390,000, 10-17-19
 1982 Ascot Drive #A, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$488,000, 05-18-05
 2051 Ascot Drive #202, \$599,000, 3 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 06-09-21, Previous Sale: \$560,500, 08-09-19
 2059 Ascot Drive #112, \$420,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$175,000, 07-24-00
 76 Ashbrook Place, \$2,410,000, 7 Bdrms, 3605 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-27-21, Previous Sale: \$1,349,000, 04-15-14
 755 Augusta Drive, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$730,000, 08-07-12
 768 Augusta Drive, \$1,455,000, 2 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$796,727, 06-01-06
 10 Berkshire Street, \$1,185,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$849,000, 07-11-07
 708 Camino Ricardo, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2831 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 02-06-01

... continued on Page D13

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COLDWELL BANKER
BRE #01501769

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Perennial favorites!

... continued from Page D1

Bower Vine:

This is the most perfect flowering evergreen vine for pergolas, arbors, and trellises. Grow bower vine over awnings, around windows and doors, or as a gate climber. It is easy to care for, doesn't invade a roof or siding, and is a swift grower. Blooming throughout spring, summer and fall, flowers are pink and white with deep-throated trumpets attractive to hummingbirds. I grow bower vines in full sun and partial shade. Once established they don't require much water while providing year-round beauty with their shiny green leaves. Prune whenever the vine needs a bit of TLC as this vine is not fussy. Cut stems to add to indoor arrangements.

Crape Myrtle:

The crape myrtle is hands-down one of my very favorite specimens because of its beauty and interest in every season. In summer the bush or tree is covered in showy flowers, in fall the leaves change to gorgeous red, umber and gold, in winter the leaves fall off showcasing beautiful bark, and in spring the shiny green leaves sprout. All crape myrtles bloom on new wood and come in colors that include watermelon, red, white, pink, lavender and purple. I prune my purple shrubs in early winter to 12 inches from the ground and by summer they have grown to 3 feet high. Prune trees periodically to keep them shaped. Although crape myrtles prefer acidic soil, they will grow in sand, clay or loam. The Chinese Lagerstroemia indica crape myrtle is prone to powdery mildew so look for a cross with the Japanese L. fauriei to enjoy glorious blooms, attractive bark, and leaves without any issues. They are drought resistant, too!

Crocosmia:

This firecracker plant boasts a tropical origin with bright blazing orange, yellow and red flowers that light up the summer garden. In our region, they start blooming right in time for the fireworks of Independence Day and continue until autumn. Their sword-like foliage offers spiky interest to the landscape. Hummingbirds and butterflies are especially attracted to the trumpet-shaped blooms while deer and rabbits stay away. The corms naturalize and the stalks make excellent floral displays. After the flowers are spent, the seedpods provide additional appeal.

Daylily:

Sometimes called "ditch weed," daylilies will grow anywhere! Their botanical name is Hemerocallis from the Greek word hemera meaning day and kallos meaning beauty. They tolerate every kind of soil, are extremely low-maintenance, and require minimal irrigation once established. They are not a true lily as they have fleshy roots as opposed to bulbs. The leaves grow from a crown and the flowers form on a leafless stem called a "scape." Most do not self-sow. Divide the roots every three to five years to create more plants. Each flower blooms for only a day, but each scape will have a dozen or more buds that will continue to open. A variety of colors and shades are available with butter yellow being the most ubiquitous. Every part of the daylily is edible. Sauté the buds in butter, garlic, and a little white wine for a delicious veggie treat that tastes like asparagus mixed with peas.

... continued on Page D14



The pink bower vine is the perfect vine for everywhere!



A purple shrub crape myrtle begins to bloom.

Lamorinda home sales recorded ... continued from Page D11

Moraga

241 Corliss Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2022 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-27-21
 771 Country Club Drive, \$1,274,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 06-09-21
 773 Country Club Drive, \$1,415,500, 4 Bdrms, 2254 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 05-26-21
 136 Donald Drive, \$2,351,000, 4 Bdrms, 1629 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-01-20
 363 Fernwood Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2849 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-24-21, Previous Sale: \$1,648,500, 04-11-18
 54 Fieldbrook Place, \$3,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 3631 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 03-04-08
 51 Laird Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3847 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$1,595,000, 04-23-04
 533 Moraga Road #120, \$410,000, 987 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$575,000, 12-16-08
 5 Netherton Court, \$2,705,000, 5 Bdrms, 3123 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 06-10-21, Previous Sale: \$820,000, 03-26-12
 142 Shuey Drive, \$1,718,000, 3 Bdrms, 2221 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$252,000, 05-01-87
 1723 Spyglass Lane, \$1,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 05-24-21
 164 Walford Drive, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2041 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 05-27-21
 7 Woodford Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-27-21
 466 Woodminster Drive, \$782,500, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 06-02-21, Previous Sale: \$156,000, 09-01-88

ORINDA

21 Bates Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1778 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-28-21
 115 Bates Court, \$3,158,000, 5 Bdrms, 3288 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 08-23-07
 17 Camino Don Miguel, \$2,450,000, 1 Bdrms, 2002 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 06-09-21
 212 Camino Sobrante, \$3,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 3779 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 06-10-21, Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 06-23-09
 114 Coral Drive, \$1,662,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 06-11-21
 33 Dolores Way, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-26-21
 27 Donna Maria Way, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2892 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-28-21
 4290 El Nido Ranch Road, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 06-30-14
 90 Estates Drive, \$1,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 3138 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-27-21, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-20-11
 200 Hall Drive, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4013 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 05-25-21, Previous Sale: \$295,000, 02-23-04
 238 Hall Drive, \$2,778,000, 4 Bdrms, 2649 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 05-24-21, Previous Sale: \$945,000, 05-18-17
 56 Heather Lane, \$1,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-03-21
 66 Heather Lane, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3072 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 06-08-21, Previous Sale: \$525,000, 06-01-90
 19 Honey Hill Road, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 3887 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-04-21
 261 Ivy Place, \$3,031,500, 4 Bdrms, 2457 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-24-21, Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 07-26-16
 21 La Fond Lane, \$1,495,500, 3 Bdrms, 1424 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-24-21, Previous Sale: \$348,500, 09-01-92
 30 Las Cascadas Road, \$3,450,000, 7 Bdrms, 5630 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-24-21
 70 La Cresta Road, \$1,805,000, 4 Bdrms, 2265 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-10-21
 38 La Cuesta Road, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1873 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 06-08-21, Previous Sale: \$675,000, 12-01-11
 3 Las Mesas Pathx, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 05-26-21, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 11-08-10
 9 Las Piedras, \$2,339,000, 5 Bdrms, 3745 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$1,752,000, 07-27-17
 105 Las Vegas Road, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3011 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 06-08-21, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-11-14
 4 Mariposa Lane, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 1562 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 06-11-21
 112 Meadow View Road, \$1,835,000, 4 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 05-27-21, Previous Sale: \$390,000, 06-01-89
 645 Miner Road, \$3,185,000, 5 Bdrms, 4741 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$3,185,000, 09-25-20
 6 Monte Vista Road, \$1,999,000, 3 Bdrms, 2742 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 06-10-21, Previous Sale: \$245,000, 04-01-92
 52 Oak Drive, \$2,047,500, 5 Bdrms, 3241 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 06-03-21, Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 07-02-02
 24 Orchard Road, \$3,636,000, 4 Bdrms, 4119 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 05-25-21
 120 Ravenhill Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 06-08-21, Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 12-15-16
 16 Stanton Court, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2153 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-28-21, Previous Sale: \$585,000, 10-23-00
 279 Sundown Terrace, \$3,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 4621 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 06-02-21, Previous Sale: \$1,305,000, 03-23-99
 67 Tara Road, \$3,595,000, 5 Bdrms, 4125 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 06-01-21, Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 10-03-16
 3 Totterdell Court, \$2,105,000, 4 Bdrms, 2285 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 06-08-21
 104 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,785,000, 5 Bdrms, 3219 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-26-21, Previous Sale: \$485,000, 05-01-89
 16 Valley View Road, \$2,595,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-04-21, Previous Sale: \$2,092,500, 08-02-18
 48 Via Floreado, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2649 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 06-09-21
 5 Wanda Lane, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 05-25-21, Previous Sale: \$1,139,000, 01-16-20
 23 Woodland Road, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2860 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 06-07-21, Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 03-26-15

... continued from Page D12

Hollyhock:

Happy memories surround the legacy of my hollyhocks. I can't remember a time when hollyhocks were not growing in my mother's or grandmother's gardens. My seeds are heirlooms from several generations of family gardeners with a history that goes back over a hundred years. Hollyhocks are the classic cottage garden staple that every gardener should include for spiky tall stalks of pink, white, magenta, and red blooms that will continue until winter. A member of the hibiscus family, this self-seeding China native grows best in full sun in rich, well-drained soil. Because they grow to 15 feet or more, plant toward the back of the garden or near a fence. By deadheading when the flowers fade, you will encourage continuous bloom production. Prune to the ground by winter and save the seedpods to share.

Hydrangea:

Another favorite plant for generations of gardeners, hydrangeas produce abundant blooms in partial sun. They are thirsty plants and need mulch around them to improve the soil texture and maintain moisture. Pruning hydrangeas is tricky because it is necessary to know what type you have as different hydrangeas require different pruning times and methods. The most common hydrangeas are Bigleaf, Oakleaf, Mountain, and Climbing which are pruned after summer blooming. They rebloom on "old wood" which are the stems from the previous season. Panicle and Smooth hydrangeas bloom on new wood (the stems from this season) and must be pruned before the buds form. I'm looking forward to trialing new Panicles from Proven Winners which will include Limelight Prime and a space-saving Fire Light Tidbit that will have cream-colored flowers covering the plant in summer, then turning to pink and lasting through frost.

Rose:

No introduction is necessary for the fabulousness of the rose. Roses are the most versatile, beautiful, and coveted plant in every garden. When gardeners proclaim roses to be the bedrock of their landscape, they are not exaggerating. Roses come in every color, shade, petal, and size to suit every desire. Roses are a diverse group of plants that include shrub roses, carpet roses, floribundas, hybrid teas, climbing, old roses, rambling roses and tree roses. Their shapes and structures differ. Some look like peonies, others have a single floral pattern. There are rosettes, cups, doubles, pompons, button-eyed, incurved, recurved and quartered. My favorites are David Austin roses with intoxicating fragrance, fine foliage, disease resistance, and stunning flowers. Over a hundred roses grace my landscape and I am constantly adding more. As Emma Goldman stated,



This pink single hollyhock is from 100-year-old heirloom seeds.



Hydrangeas prefer partial sun to thrive.



A close-up of a light-yellow daylily.

"I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck."

When the sun rises, I go to work, spending as much time in nature as feasible. Consider planting some of my perennial favorites to enjoy elegance and exquisite allure throughout the summer months.

Stay cool, hydrated, and share creation.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A fluorescent pink bougainvillea graces the fence line.



Cynthia Brian in summer.

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

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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. **\$3,495,000**

ORINDA



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



36 Heather Lane

Remodeled & updated 5 bed/ 4.5 bath w/ versatile bonus room, home office/ workout room & panoramic views! **\$2,288,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

15 Woodland Road

Ranch style 4 bed/ 3 bath retreat in the Del Rey neighborhood, situated on a .60 acre parcel w/ updates throughout. **\$1,950,000**

ORINDA

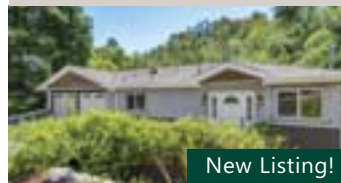


New Listing!

46 Ivy Drive

Ranch style 4 bed/ 3 bath home in Sleepy Hollow w/ 2 additional buildings for office/studio/exercise & in-law unit. **\$1,599,000**

ORINDA

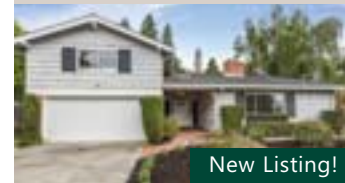


New Listing!

29 Crescent Drive

Recently renovated 6 bed/ 3.5 bath w/ lower-level apt/ in-law unit complete w/ full kitchen, & separate entrance. **\$1,550,000**

ORINDA

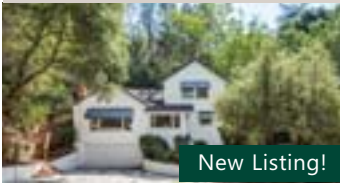


New Listing!

89 Coral Drive

Delightful 4 bed/ 2 bath home on private level lot in popular Ivy Drive neighborhood close to Moraga Country Club. **\$1,538,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

47 Linda Vista

Charming 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home on picturesque .59 acre lot tucked back in secluded side street in Country Club area of Orinda. **\$1,075,000**

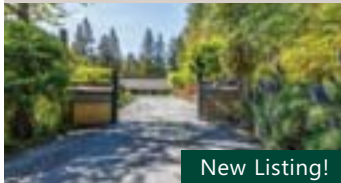
LAFAYETTE



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



New Listing!

7 Cricket Hill Road

Quintessential Japanese Modern 1+Acre gated estate on private & picturesque lane in premium location. **\$3,295,000**

LAFAYETTE

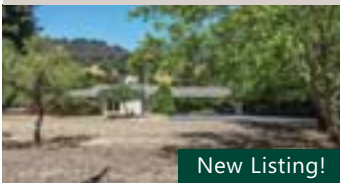


New Listing!

860 Broadmoor Court

5 bed/ 3.5 bath home in the most popular cul-de-sac street in the Trail neighborhood on a .33 acre flat lot. **\$2,795,000**

LAFAYETTE

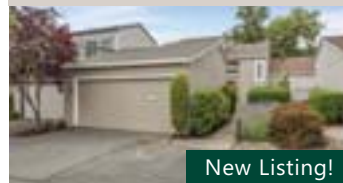


New Listing!

3470 Happy Valley Road

Extraordinary 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home on level .93 acres, one of the finest, most coveted properties in Happy Valley. **\$2,795,000**

MORAGA



New Listing!

770 Country Club Drive

Delightful 3 bed/ 2.5 bath 1749 sqft townhome w/ updated kitchen, private & inviting front & back decks & patios. **\$1,030,000**

OAKLAND



New Listing!

3943 High Street

Stunning 2 bed/ 1 bath home located in Laurel neighborhood minutes to parks, Express bus to SF, & Hwy 13. **\$825,000**

MARTINEZ



755 Missouri Street

Amazing opportunity in great location! Flat lot, 2 bed/ 1 bath home, detached garage/workshop & storage shed. **\$499,000**

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby

Patricia Battersby

Shannon Conner

Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Claudia Gohler

Dexter Honens II

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

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Margaret Zucker

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Sunday Open Homes

Village

ASSOCIATES

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