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Photo Vera Kochan

From left, second-time event campers the Colhoun family; first-time event camper Andrew Sargent brought five boys; and first-time event camper Nathan Thoms

Family Camp Out event brings a little bit of the wilderness to Moraga

By Vera Kochan

Rancho Laguna Park played host to another one of the summertime town events organized by the Parks and Recreation Department. Family Camp Out was held Aug. 14-15 for the sixth time. The annual event, like so many others, was skipped last year due to COVID-19 mandates.

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, families pitched a colorful array of tents, both large and small, set up folding chairs, and broke out the ice chests, while the kids played games on the large lawn nearby. This was Brady Cooper's first camp

out, and the excitement was clearly registered on the 10-year-old's face, having just played Hula Hoops and Cornhole with friends.

A per person fee of \$27 included dinner, breakfast the next morning, and entertainment in between. At last count, 59 families had registered at a total of 170 persons.

Parks and Rec Director Breyana Brandt was on hand to greet the attendees at the check-in table and see to all of the details for the event. Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully also served as jack-of-all-trades, in addition to spending the night in a tent in case of emergencies. "I just bought this

tent at Costco," he explained.

There were craft tables for the kids with opportunities to make headbands out of leaves or decorate a rocket and watch it launched by a staff member.

The majority of folks were experiencing Family Camp Out for the first time. One dad, Athan Bezaitis, brought his two daughters, Koralia, age 4, and Nikoletta, age 2, but he will switch places with his wife and she will camp overnight with the girls. "Someone has to stay home and watch my other two kids," was his tongue-in-cheek excuse.

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Orinda moves to make restrictions on short-term rentals permanent

By Sora O'Doherty

Following a public hearing on Aug. 3, the Orinda City Council took the first step toward making permanent the urgency ordinance regulating short-term rentals that was adopted by the city in response to an incident in Orinda on Halloween in 2019 where multiple victims were shot and killed at a party in a short-term rental. In the wake of the shootings, the city council moved swiftly to enact an urgency ordinance that required, among other things, that short-term rentals could only occur when the host lived on the property and was present during the rental, that rentals must be for a minimum of two days, and that short-term rentals must be registered with the city. The urgency ordinance also restricted the number of guests allowed in short-term rentals. The city council approved the

first reading of a permanent ordinance, that will return to the council on Sept. 7 for the second reading.




The new ordinance not only adopts the restrictions imposed by the urgency ordinance on short-term rental (STR) units, but now had added restrictions that affect STR platforms, such as Airbnb. The staff report noted that since 2019, the major STR platforms have agreed to comply with local ordinances that require registration numbers with their listings, and prohibit transacting STR bookings if the address is found to be out of compliance with local regulations. The new Orinda ordinance has been modeled on recently-adopted ordinances in other California communities as well as incorporating the previous urgency ordinance.

If adopted in September, the ordinance will become effective on Oct. 7, with the exception of the provision for imposing additional rules on the hosting platforms which will take effect in January 2022.

The new ordinance would require hosting platforms to prompt hosts to include the city-issued registration number in their listings. If notified by the city that a listing is non-compliant, the hosting platform must cease any booking transactions for the listing within five days and may not resume until notified by the city that the property is in compliance with local registration requirements. Platforms would also be required to retain records documenting compliance for three years.

When the matter came before the planning commission, two commissioners voted against it, commissioners Brandyn Iverson and Lina Lee. When asked about this by Council Member Nick Kosla, Planning Director Drummond Buckley explained that commissioner Lee did not elaborate but commissioner Iverson raised an issue of being supportive of property rights and wanting to limit the amount of regulation.

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Downtown housing development heats up in Lafayette



Photo J. Wake

Work continues on a new three-story mixed-use development that will include 12 residential units at 210 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette.

By Lou Fancher

With new proposed state guidelines signaling a big jump in Bay Area housing allocation requirements, Lafayette alongside other cities, towns and counties in the region are protesting. In the next eight-year allocation cycle that begins in 2023, a draft proposal coming from the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process adds to the demand to meet higher residential development targets. Residential development and a high number of new projects in progress or under review in down-

town Lafayette are likely to be hot topics this fall.

Three of the 10 approved major development projects in Lafayette are located on or near Lafayette Circle.

Four years after the existing complex that included businesses and residential property was destroyed in a devastating fire in 2017, a new two-story mixed use commercial building at 100 Lafayette Circle has been approved which will include ground floor retail and restaurant spaces with offices above. Lafayette Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff says, "The property owner wanted to rebuild with commercial and office,

with the hopes of bringing back some of the former tenants. The project is approved, but not yet under construction. The project was designed by a local Lafayette Architect, Clay Fry of Studio FCF. It is the first new commercial building since the Chase Bank was approved in 2015."

The development project earns support from Save Lafayette President Michael Griffiths based on unique differences from other developments: "First, it was a property that burned down, and secondly, it's not on a main street," he says. "Parking is already difficult in that area, so that's to be considered. But looking at consistency with the General Plan and then the safety considerations, people can decide for themselves if it's acceptable."

The project at 210 Lafayette Circle, which is currently under construction, includes 12 apartments, including two below-market-rate (affordable) units. The 25,450 square foot mixed-use building will include 700 square feet of ground floor commercial live/work space and 26 parking spaces. Another approved four-story multifamily building of 20 units is a stone's throw from Lafayette Circle at 950 Hough Ave. The development will include 20 condominium units, three of which are below market rate, and 22 parking spaces.

Griffiths supports some of the city's approximately 10 major downtown housing developments, but takes exception to others. He worries about the impact of commercial tear downs and more housing. One project Griffiths highlights as most urgent for people's attention is the Corporate Terraces development, known as Lafayette Lane, located on First Av-

enue across from Whole Foods Market, which he says will essential drive out the small businesses currently located on the site.

"Those small businesses are not accommodated in the new map because the major margin is residential. Even though the corporate park already there is useful, it's better for the developer if it's only some commercial and mainly residential. Is that what Lafayette should be?"

The Woodbury Highlands development currently under construction at 3700 Mt. Diablo Blvd. is a 99-unit condominium project that includes a 5,500 square foot clubhouse and over 20,000 square feet of outdoor usable areas. The project, according to the city of Lafayette's Major Development Projects website, demolished seven existing commercial buildings totaling over 90,000 square feet.

"We often get reactivity and people coming to us when a project is already approved and being challenged," Griffiths says in a phone interview. Overall, Save Lafayette finds it concerning that developers granted by the city favorable exceptions and waivers for issues such as height, setbacks, parking, landscaping, and meeting CEQA requirements, are able to tear down viable commercial or mixed-use properties and replace them with housing at a profit.

Wolff says the city generally sees a high degree of community awareness about proposed downtown projects. "There are active community organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Homeowners Council that all monitor such things and are on our distribution list.

... continued on Page A10

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival canceled

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce board of directors announced on Aug. 13 that the 2021 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival is canceled.

In an email to the greater community, Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson explained how the recent surge in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta

variant made keeping the promise of high safety standards at the event impossible.

"Because vaccinated people can not only get the virus but can shed it as well, it is difficult to see how we could keep people safe," he wrote.

Because the event is held in the

middle of downtown Lafayette, and cannot be fenced in, there was no way to enforce stricter protocols. "We considered making this a masked event for everyone. Hard to enjoy eating, drinking, socializing and dancing with a mask on," he said, noting that they additionally could not figure out a way to

enforce the masking rule. "Our staff, volunteers, police, CERT, security can not monitor every person who chooses to simply not comply with the rules. It is confrontational, dangerous and does nothing to create the wonderful vibe we have been able to enjoy."

- J. Wake



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It's Village. Of Course.

Proponents for local land use control submit initiative to state attorney general

By Jennifer Wake

Lafayette Mayor Susan Candell is working with a group of non-partisan, ethnically and geographically diverse local electeds and community activists, led by Mayor Bill Brand of Redondo Beach, to override numerous state laws that eliminate or severely erode local control over local development. The group submitted a proposed initiative to the State Attorney General for summary and title on Aug. 16 to amend the Constitution of California to make all land use and zoning a municipal affair only.

“Local communities are best suited to determine how to develop their cities while balancing budgets against the multitude of other challenges each community uniquely faces,” Candell said. What concerns the mayor most is that the housing legislation being put forward by state legislators has done nothing to solve the real affordability and homelessness crises in California. “These laws are increasing inequity and only benefit developers and real estate speculators,” she said.

For example, if Senate Bill 9 passes, Candell says any single-family lot in Lafayette can be split and converted to up to six units without any public hearing or CEQA review.

“There are no exemptions for lots in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones like in our

neighborhoods north of Highway 24 with single ingress/egress,” Candell said. “Since the rules of this legislation do not favor or encourage existing homeowners to make these changes, developers and speculators will take the profit, not the former homeowners, at the expense of the neighborhoods.”

And Candell believes Senate Bill 10 is even worse. “Instead of a single lot to six units in SB 9, SB 10 allows conversion of any lot into 14 units, by right, with no local review. And, most egregiously, none of these units are required to be affordable.”

According to Candell, La Fiesta Square is currently for sale in Lafayette and it is expected that it will be bought and converted to a large mixed-use project, with retail/commercial on the bottom floor, and residential above. While she supports these types of projects, she’s concerned that the community will have little, if any, input on the project, which is one of the biggest and most iconic corners in Lafayette.

“The state is also forcing us to develop our BART parking lots into denser and taller housing than anywhere else in our city, again without any community input,” Candell said. “We will lose the parking for riders who need to drive to BART, and the new units have very little parking required.”

... continued on Page A10

New mural celebrating diversity unveiled in Lafayette



Photo provided

The new mural located at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road in Lafayette.

When Lamorinda resident Lara Dutto contacted Three Thirty Three Arts, she hoped to bring a public mural to Lafayette that felt welcoming to all cultures and celebrated diversity. After over a year of hard work, from the initial design phase, to securing funding, to gaining approval from the city of Lafayette and organizing the installation, the Walnut Creek-based organization’s artists and 13 volunteers helped bring the mural – located at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road – to fruition.

“The mission of our organization is to bring people together to create public artworks for the benefit of a community,” said Three Thirty Three Arts COO Tari Loring. “The artwork is a byproduct of the collaboration between many different people of various races and ages coming together in a unique way to create the art.”

The mural installation spanned 3.5 days to complete. On the first day, an artist from Three Thirty Three Arts painted the black outlines of the artwork. Over the following two days, two

of its artists led the group of volunteers consisting of teens and young adults who helped fill in the colors and details. Dutto worked alongside the Three Thirty Three Arts team throughout the process and joined in to help paint as well, said Loring.

The result is a vibrant piece of art titled “Unity in Diversity” that includes a dragon, panther, Monarch butterflies, and tropical flowers. In addition to the artwork, Loring said the entire building wall was repainted and some of the bushes were replaced with new drought tolerant plants.

Special thanks to Three Thirty Three Arts lead artists Pancho Pescador, Denis Dukhvalov, Callan Romero, as well as the 13 volunteers, Diamond Construction, Village Associates Real Estate, First Republic Bank, Lamorinda Arts, the 33 individual donors from the GoFundMe campaign, the city of Lafayette, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and Dreyer’s (in-kind donation of ice cream for the mural celebration event).

... continued on Page A10



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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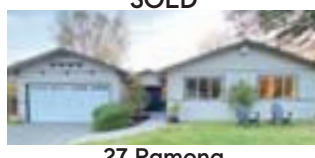
SOLD

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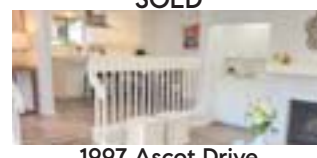
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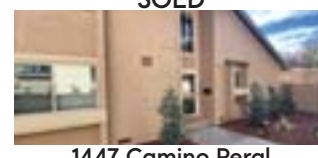
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Annual Pear Harvest hauls in a surprising bumper crop for Food Bank



Volunteers spend their morning picking pears for the Food Bank on Aug. 7. Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

There was no need to use a magnifying glass to spot this season's pears on the trees. Hanging abundantly from all branches, the pears were large and in clusters, making the limbs bow down to the pickers for easy access. Given the continuation of another dry winter, this year's haul brought in approximately 10,500 pounds of pears for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano (more than twice the size of last year's 3,000 to 4,000-pound crop).

The one-day harvesting event took place on a balmy Aug. 7 morning with a bevy of nearly 170 volunteers arriving throughout the six-hour window to complete the labor of love. Armed with cardboard boxes and fruit picking poles, the workers were instructed not to pick any pears off the ground, even if they looked flawless.

"If they hit the ground we don't use them, because if they are bruised they will ripen too

fast," explained Karen Reed, the event's coordinator who has been at the helm for over 18 years. "The pears look really good this year; no spots on them." Fallen pears could be taken home by volunteers or were left on the ground for Moraga's woodland creatures to feast upon.

The annual event was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley and Moraga Park Foundation, with various teen organizations and residents doing the pear picking. The pickers worked on three locations at properties owned by the Moraga School District, St. Monica Catholic Church, and the Bruzzone family.

"This is my fourth time," said volunteer and Moraga resident, Mine Heber. "I do this to help the community. Last time I brought my kids. This year I'm here with my husband, Jorg."

A family that picks together, sticks together!

Family Camp Out event brings a little bit of the wilderness to Moraga

... continued from Page A1

Massimo Scapini also admits to being a first-timer with 5-year-old daughter Portia: "My wife talked me into coming to this - she's over at the playground."

Dinner was served at 6:30 p.m., with a menu consisting of barbecue chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, salad,

rolls, juice, soda and water. After dinner, everyone made their way to the amphitheater for "Dante: Magician & Family Entertainer." No camp out can be complete without S'mores for dessert, and that's how the evening wound down before a strictly enforced lights out at 10 p.m.

Breakfast service began on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. for

the early risers and consisted of breakfast sandwiches, bagels, fruit, juice and coffee until 9 a.m. By 10 a.m., all tents were expected to be broken down and the camp site cleaned up. Most parents would agree that the entire experience was like getting back to nature without having to drive for hours to get there.



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Photos Vera Kochan

Kids load their personally decorated rockets for lift-off while Donald Scully (right) supervises.



Camp being set up by Massimo Scapini (left) and Athan Bezaits.

Town Council
Wednesday, Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Moraga School District Board Meetings :
Special Board Meeting
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See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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A sign of the times



Lafayette Plaza Center's newly refurbished sign complete with functioning clock

By Vera Kochan

The Lafayette Plaza Center sign has recently undergone a face-lift, while the Moraga Shopping Center sign is following close behind. Both shopping centers were built in the early 1960s by developer Russell Bruzzone using a Spanish/ranch-style of architecture. The phrase “What’s old is new again” couldn’t be truer when applied to the retro design of the signs themselves.

Construction of Lafayette’s Plaza Center at 3500 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (between First Street and Safeway) began in 1963. The 7-acre site contained space for 20 stores. Fifteen olive trees were planted along with flowers, while a decorative water fountain completed the aesthetic appeal to shoppers. Off-street parking was a big plus for customers who had 377 spaces to choose from.

In the early days of construction, Bruzzone already had several stores under lease contracts or verbally committed agreements. Lucky’s supermarket boasted over 20,000 square feet of space (currently Whole Foods), while Top Notch (later to become McCaulou’s) took up nearly 13,000 square feet. Additional stores were: MacTavish’s Ice Cream, Nick the Barber, Guy’s Drugstore, Robert Omo’s Men’s Clothing, Imports by Hazel, Macil’s

Women’s Shop, Village Casuals, Robert Goddard Cameras, Mobile Service Station, and The Shoe Stable.

Bruzzone had hopes to fill the remaining spaces with a soda fountain/bakery, a bar and restaurant, a liquor store, a children’s store, a combination laundromat/dry cleaners and possibly a beauty salon. According to a 1963 interview with the Lafayette Sun newspaper, Bruzzone stated, “I believe that this shopping center will be one that will instill a great sense of pride in our community’s residents.”

Completed in 1964, Lafayette Plaza Center’s sister, the Moraga Shopping Center at 1450 Moraga Road, was built on land that Bruzzone purchased from the Utah Construction and Mining Company. The property that was once farmland linked by dirt roads became a go-to shopping destination for locals.

While the Safeway supermarket was one of the first stores in the Center, it was originally located in the space currently occupied by McCaulou’s. The first McCaulou’s store was located elsewhere within the center. Other stores or services original to the early days of the Moraga Shopping Center were: Moraga Shell Station, Moraga Texaco, Bill Knox Standard Station, Spanish Manor Beauty Shop, Moraga Liquors, Verde’s Evergreen

Nursery, Jack’s Barber Shop, Dr. Raymond Kan (Optometrist), Dr. William Beckner (Pediatrics), Moraga Cleaners & Laundry, Wells Fargo Bank, K’s Carousel (an ice cream parlor), Moraga Camera Shop, Wagon Wheel Delicatessen, Guy’s Moraga Drugs, Texdahl & Johnson Sporting Goods, Tipton Gifts, Grande’s Shoes and The Clothes Horse (a women’s clothing store).

Old-timers living in Lafayette or Moraga during the 1960s will mostly likely remember many of those stores that no longer occupy the current shopping centers, but with the newly spruced-up signs, it’ll seem just like yesterday.

Special thanks to Lafayette Historical Society President Mary McCosker and Lafayette Historical Society Member Michael Troutman.



Photos Vera Kochan

Moraga Shopping Center's sign is on its way to beautification with the help of a crane

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Mistake in bid causes difficulty for Orinda's roads contract

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda avoided threatened legal action by the unusual step of allowing a request for proposals to lapse without accepting any of the submitted bids. The city had intended to award the contract for the year's paving rehabilitation project to McGuire and Hester, but the

process was disrupted by the firm's request for bid relief. Of the four bids submitted, McGuire and Hester, a corporation located in Alameda, was the lowest by a substantial amount. However, the firm legally requested bid relief on July 9. According to their attorney, Kimberly Carone, this was well within the five-day time limit allowed under the Public Contract Code.

In an email to the city council on Aug. 3, Carone voiced the company's disagreement with Orinda staff's recommendation that the council reject the request for bid relief and proceed to award the contract to McGuire and Hester. Carone said that it was undisputed that the company had made a clerical mistake in filling out their bid because the numerical entries did not get updated and fixed in the final bid. Their corrected bid would have been \$3,772,424 rather than their submitted bid of \$3,387,016, a difference of nearly \$400,000.

The city council held a very long closed session on Aug. 3 without resolving the issue. The matter was continued to a special meeting on Aug. 9. After another closed session to work on the problem, the council met in open session. After hearing comments from the public, including the firm in question, the city decided that, rather than grant bid relief, it would instead let all bids lapse and reissue the request for proposals.

The estimated cost is \$100,000. One project that rose to a higher level of priority with the council is the replacement of the missing decorative tiles on the Orinda Library, which is highly visible to the public. It had not been included in the suggestions from staff because it is already a funded capital improvement project, but the council suggested that it could be effected with the federal funds, leaving more funding from other sources dedicated to the library for other uses, including funding longer library opening hours or potentially postponing going back to the public for another bond issue.

Having received the sense of the council, staff will update its proposal and present it to the Finance Advisory Committee at a public meeting before returning to the city council for final adoption of a spending plan.

Conversation continues on how to spend American Rescue Plan millions

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda is getting approximately \$4.8 million from the American Rescue Plan over two years. There are complicated federal requirements and restrictions on the use of the funding, and the Orinda City Council is trying to assess how to make the best use of the money. Among the requirements, the funds must be obligated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026.

Unlike many jurisdictions, Orinda is fortunate to be surviving the COVID-19 pandemic without running into deficit spending. This is not the first time the council has discussed the use of the incoming funds. They started the discussion when considering the budget and capital improvements projects in June. The conversation is also not at an end, as new federal guidelines are expected to be available in August, so the matter will return to the council next month. However, staff were seeking to get a feeling for the council's preferred direction for the funding.

The council maintains its aim to use the money for one-time capital improvements that will not require ongoing funding. Additionally, they are looking for a few projects that will be manageable, as opposed to a broad array of projects that would require

more staff attention and might run the risk of not being completed by the program deadline.

On Aug. 3, administrative services director Paul Rankin presented a report to the council that made suggestions in five categories for the use of the money. Rankin suggested spending \$150,000 on local roads safety plan implementation, \$560,955 on facility maintenance major components, \$500,000 on assessment of technology and enhancements, \$556,767 on underfunded or unfunded capital projects, and \$3 million on storm water infrastructure.

For local roads safety, staff suggested a guardrail on Overhill Road. Council Member Nick Kosla suggested that a guardrail would also be appropriate for a section of El Toyonal. For facility maintenance, staff suggested a major modernization of the library

public elevator. In the category of technology, staff suggested three projects: information technology assessment and strategic plan, \$100,000; funding to implement key information technology plan recommendations, \$200,000; and records management system, \$100,000. The largest use of the funds is proposed to be the 2023-24 Storm Water Project, with construction estimated at \$3 million.

In the underfunded/unfunded capital projects category, staff said that the director of parks and recreation suggests the Oaks Park Restroom Replacement as a potential candidate. At first the council did not think this was the best candidate. However, the project rose in priority when the council realized that the building, which currently consists of is a wood frame with shake roof built in 1992, may constitute a fire

hazard. The estimated cost is \$100,000. One project that rose to a higher level of priority with the council is the replacement of the missing decorative tiles on the Orinda Library, which is highly visible to the public. It had not been included in the suggestions from staff because it is already a funded capital improvement project, but the council suggested that it could be effected with the federal funds, leaving more funding from other sources dedicated to the library for other uses, including funding longer library opening hours or potentially postponing going back to the public for another bond issue.

Having received the sense of the council, staff will update its proposal and present it to the Finance Advisory Committee at a public meeting before returning to the city council for final adoption of a spending plan.

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OSVP performs at Orinda Community Park through August



Orinda Starlight Village Players performed "Tartuffe" by Moliere at the opening performance of the troupe's 38th season performing in the theater at the Orinda Community Park. For this season, all shows are readers theater, a minimalist style of performance where no sets are used

and scripts are openly used by the cast. Upcoming performances include a mini 10-minute play festival on Aug. 20, 21, and 22, and a triple tryst of terror on Aug. 27, 28 and 29. Further details can be found on the website, <https://orsvp.org/index-2.html> - S. O'Doherty

Orinda Starlight Village Players perform "Tartuffe"
Photo Sora O'Doherty

Restrictions on short-term rentals permanent

... continued from Page A1

Council Member Darlene Gee said she was glad to see

the permanent ordinance, glad to hear about the improvements it contains and to hear that the platforms are willing to assist the city. "I feel very positive about taking this step," she said, recalling an "incredible moment in Orinda's history and a heart-

breaking one."

Council Member Inga Miller agreed with Gee, and added that ensuring that large parties with devastating effects don't occur outweighs property rights. Mayor Amy Worth concurred. She noted that California Sen. Steve

Glazer shares the city's concern, having introduced a bill that would allow for much greater fines for city code violations by short-term rentals. She also welcomed the additional element of platform reform.

Orinda police chief David Cook retiring

By Sora O'Doherty



Lamo archive

City manager David Biggs informed the Orinda City Council on Aug. 3 that Orinda police chief David Cook is retiring at the end of September. Biggs noted that Cook, who took up the post on Sept. 23, 2019, had had a very rough two years, with the COVID-19 pandemic and social justice issues. Shortly after Cook started as chief,

Orinda was the scene of a multiple-murder event at a Halloween party in an Airbnb rental.

Mayor Amy Worth thanked Cook for his tremendous leadership. She recognized the expertise that Cook brought to the job and his willingness to help out in any way. Worth promised that the council will have an opportunity in the future to thank him formally.

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City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Live Lamorinda Idol returns to Orinda Community Park



Cassidy Semskey



Neija Ackdoe-Pagey and Lleyton Allen



Sadie Poole and Svea Peterson

Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the Lamorinda Idol finals were scheduled to return to the Orinda Theatre, unfortunate circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic forced the organizers to make a last minute change. Organizers rapidly changed the venue to the Orinda Community Park, setting up a performance space, complete with excellent sound equipment, right on the grass, with portable canopies providing shade for both performers and audience members during the

warm sunny day on Saturday, Aug. 14.

Following a long day of competition, the final awards were announced beginning at 7 p.m. Cassidy Semskey won for her performance of "Shy" in the kindergarten to second grade solo category. Miranda Klein took the top award in the grades three to five solo for her rendition of "Popular," and Sadie Poole won the top honor for middle school solos with "Alyssa Greene" while the high school award went to Alec Home, who performed "Evermore."

Miranda Klein and Anna

Tanner took the K-5 group award for "What Is This Feeling/For Good."

Svea Peterson and Sadie Poole won the top honors for a middle school group with "Wondering," and the high school group award went to Neija Ackdoe-Pagey and Lleyton Allen for their rendition of "California Dreaming."

Closing out the competition, Alexis Lee took the audience award for "Beautiful." It was Lee's third Idol competition and her first win. She vowed to return.

Established in 2006, Lamorinda Idol is a singing pro-

gram open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who either attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Singers may enter as soloists or in groups. Students from outside Contra Costa County are permitted to participate in the group categories, provided that at least one member of the group meets the residential requirement. The 2021 competition ran from April through August. The competition is a labor of love and involves a huge number of volunteers. The Lamorinda Weekly is one of the sponsors of the competition.



Miranda Klein and Anna Tanner

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Helpful mitigation tips to keep wildfires at bay



Photo courtesy MOFD

This vegetation fire in Sanders Ranch on Oct. 11, 2020 was ignited by a resident mowing tall grass.

By Jennifer Wake

While lightening strikes were to blame for several recent California wildfires, the majority of fires are sparked from a human source, according to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. On Aug. 9 ConFire announced two arson arrests and 14 fireworks-related citations by

its Fire Investigation Unit investigators in the month of July. Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda police officers also issued five fireworks citations between July 11 and July 24.

But fireworks aside, even the simple act of mowing grass, if not done properly, can lead to disaster.

A one-alarm grass fire on Oct. 11, 2020 in Moraga's

Sanders Ranch area that required four fire agencies to extinguish was caused by a resident who was mowing tall grass behind a house. The fire burned 30 acres and took two hours to contain. At the time of the blaze, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker said that during his time with the district three of the four significant vegetation

fires had been caused by residents carrying out late season fuel mitigation work.

Due to the extreme drought conditions, vegetation is at a critical level of dryness and local fire districts urge residents to be cognizant of potential hazards involved in fuel mitigation. The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group advises not to use lawn mowers on weeds or dry grass, reminding folks that metal blades striking rocks can start a fire, and to mow before 10 a.m. (but not when it's windy or excessively dry). The CWFCG also says to keep a shovel, fire extinguisher, and

cell phone handy in case problems arise and to avoid driving cars on dry grass, since hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can be a source of ignition.

ConFire's FIU urges residents to help them fight the crime of arson across the county by calling the Arson Tip line at 1-866-50-ARSON. Tips can be anonymous, but all tips are treated confidentially. Fire investigators sometimes need additional information, so inclusion of name and phone number is encouraged. For other fire safety tips, visit www.cccfpd.org or www.mofd.org

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Aug. 18, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m.

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



Back to school with joy ... and COVID-19 guidelines



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Principal Brian Sullivan has resumed his practice of greeting students and parents daily during drop off and pickup at Donald Rheem Elementary School in Moraga.

By Sora O'Doherty

Two of Lamorinda's three municipalities started the new school year with new superintendents, but everyone was well prepared for the

challenges of keeping students safe while the COVID-19 pandemic lingers. All staff, teachers, and volunteers at area schools will be required to be vaccinated, a task that doesn't present much of a

challenge with local vaccination rates hovering around 90%. With few exceptions, everyone on campus will be required to be masked when indoors. For those who, for health reasons, cannot be masked, alternatives include face shields with a drape affixed to the bottom edge.

Julie Parks, former principal of Orinda's Miramonte high school, now superintendent of the Moraga School District, posted a 20-minute video to YouTube, explaining the complex and sometimes confusing requirements for home health checks, hygiene and sanitation, daily classroom cleaning, masking, testing, and quarantining, along with updated information on ventilation and air quality. She explained how requirements are filtered down from the national level, where the Center for Disease Control makes recommendations, that are adapted for California by the California Department of Health, from which the Contra Costa County health services come up with local policies for implementation.

There will be quarantine requirements for persons exposed to active COVID-19 infected individuals, and those requirements vary with vaccination and mask status. On the bad news side of the balance, there will be no field trips from Moraga schools for the foreseeable future, but on

the positive side, the school hot lunch program will continue. More good news is that when students are masked, social distancing is not required.

Families will be expected to perform home health checks daily, and to keep students home from school if ill, but they will no longer be required to submit verifications. Teachers will continue to provide schoolwork for students who must stay home because of illness or exposure, but will also offer support upon the child's return to school. COVID-19 testing will be offered throughout the local school districts, so that everyday testing will be available, if not at a child's school, at a school not too far away.

All of the schools in the districts have updated HVAC systems that provide filtered air. If air quality is poor, the classrooms can be closed to rely on the improved air quality indoors, but if the air quality is good, opening classrooms to fresh air will be encouraged. Classrooms will be cleaned daily. Additional cleaning supplies will be available in classrooms, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands often, with sanitation stations remaining on campus in addition to well-supplied bathrooms. In the event of a case of COVID at school, the affected classroom will be

cleaned and disinfected. In addition, in the event of a case at school, contact tracing will be effected.

By late Friday afternoon, Aug. 13, messages started appearing on social media with parents complaining about "very vague" notices from the Orinda Union School District regarding positive cases within the OUSD school community. Another parent said they received notification from the Acalanes Union School District.

Contacted by The Lamorinda Weekly, new OUSD superintendent Aida Glimme responded to the parents' concerns on Saturday, Aug. 14. She explained that the district is following the same communication protocols given to them by the county, required by the California Department of Public Health.

Glimme said that OUSD would start a COVID-19 dashboard this week. She discussed how the district is trying to navigate a very difficult situation, striving to protect students from being ostracized while at the same time providing as much information as possible to those who may have immunocompromised family members. She herself is a parent in exactly that situation.

... continued on Page A10

Public Safety

Emergency response:
 Emergency: 24 Hours 911
 Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
 Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
 Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
 Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
 Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 25 - Aug. 7

Alarms	44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	64
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	14
Suspicious Vehicle	14
Service to Citizen	25
Patrol Req./Security Check	68
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	41
Welfare Check	17
Ordinance Violation	3

Vehicle violations
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
 Reckless Driving Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3400 Block Hamlin Rd.
 Tc - Property Damage

Herman Dr./Moraga Rd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 1000 Block Brown Ave. Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
 Vehicle Theft 1000 Block 2Nd St.
Other criminal activity
 Computer Fraud 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Fraud Credit Card 4000 Block Canyon Rd.
 Fraud False Pretenses Police Department
 Grand Theft 3400 Block Monroe Ave. Grand Theft Veh Parts 3200 Block Rohrer Dr.
 Identity Theft Police Department 3600 Block Cerrito Ct. (2) 600 Block Doreen Way (2)
 Panhandling 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Petty Theft 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 10 Block Brookdale Ct. 900 Block Carol Ln. 3500 Block Terrace Way 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Shoplift 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbance-domestic 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Drunk In Public 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Loud Music 500 Block McBride Dr. 3300 Block N Lucille Ln.
 Loud Noise 400 Block Florence Dr. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Los Palos Mnr/Glenside Dr.
 Loud Party 3500 Block Boyer Cir. 3300 Block Walnut Ln. 700 Block Solana Dr.
 Public Nuisance 1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2) 1000 Block Windsor Dr. Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.

500 Block St. Mary's Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Vandalism Police Department 50 Block Lafayette Cir.
Other
 Animal Cruelty 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
 Fire/Ems Response Info Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Reliez Valley Rd./La Caminita Springhill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd. 1000 Block Stuart St. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Hester Ln./Happy Valley Rd.
 H&S Violation 1St St./Golden Gate Way
 Harassment 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Threats 900 Block Hough Ave.
 Unwanted Guest 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Violation Custody Order 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. 1200 Block Warner Ct. (2) 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 27 - Aug. 9

Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	26
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	1
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	14
Patrol Req./Security Check	10
Supplemental Report	8
Vacation House Check	9
Welfare Check	3
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
 Dui Misd Olyptic Blvd. Excessive Speed Miramonte Dr.

Moraga Way/El Camino Moraga Moraga Way/Coral Dr. (2) Moraga Way/School St Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
 Reckless Driving Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. Moraga Way/School St.
Other criminal activity
 Corporal Injury/Spouse 20 Block Sullivan Dr.
 Forgery 1100 Block Moraga Way
 Fraud False Pretenses 100 Block Draeger Dr.
 Grand Theft 400 Block Woodminster Dr.
 Petty Theft 1300 Block Rimer Dr. 100 Block Calle La Montana 3900 Block Paseo Grande Safeway Homegoods Not Available
 Shoplift Cvs
Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbance-domestic 1800 Block Joseph Dr. (2)
 Disturbing The Peace Rimer Dr/Oxford Dr. 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
 Loud Music 10 Block El Camino Flores 300 Block Rheem Blvd. Hacienda (2) Canyon Club Brewery 100 Block Ascot Ct.
 Loud Noise Hacienda Not Available
 Loud Party 500 Block Augusta Dr. El Camino Flores/Baitx Dr.
 Public Nuisance Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
 Vandalism Rancho Laguna Park 2000 Block Ascot Dr. Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Other
 Fireworks 60 Block Wandel Dr. Mentally Ill Commit Not Available



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 25 - July 31

Alarms	22
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	8
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	29
Supplemental Report	4
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations
 Accident Injury Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
 Reckless Driving El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
 Tc - Property Damage Orinda Way/Camino Pablo

Other criminal activity
 Embezzlement Camino Sobrante
 Panhandling Camino Sobrante (2)
 Petty Theft 70 Block El Gavilan Rd. 10 Block Ramona Dr.
 Petty Theft From Veh 300 Block El Toyonal
 Warrant Arrest Wilder Blvd./Gateway Blvd..

Nuisance to the Community
 Loud Party 10 Block Heather Ln. (2)
Other
 Barking Dog 100 Block Leslee Ln.
 Fire/Ems Response Info Eb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
 Terrorist Threats 10 Block Sycamore Rd.

Letters to the editor

More on fireflow tax

Prolific letter-writer Steve Cohn continues to tilt at the windmill of the fireflow tax rate. (Lamorinda Weekly Aug. 4, 2021.) He continues to argue that Moraga residents are not paying their fair share, even though their rate is the same as Orinda's. What he lacks in analysis, he obscures with a dizzying and dazzling presentation of numbers. But the basic flaw in his analysis continues to be this incorrect assumption: "it is not unreasonable to assume that the cost to provide service to Moraga is 47% of the ... property tax revenue...." The 47% figure is based on the percentage of firefighters stationed in Moraga and the percentage of the total population served in Moraga and Canyon.

But if firefighters stationed in one city only served that city, there would be no reason for a multiple-city district. If a fire station located in Moraga is closer to a fire in Orinda than a fire station located in Orinda, the Moraga station will respond. The

whole point of a unified District was to ignore the line separating Orinda from Moraga. Moreover, one could posit many reasons why Orinda should pay more: higher assessed and market valuation; higher risk due to being closer to likely source of wildfire (the northeast); Orinda having a 12% greater population; among other reasons.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Photo book for Kenny

Like many of you, I am heart-broken that Moraga Garden Center is closing. In celebrating Kenny's 40+ years of work, I am working to create a photo book for Kenny, with your help. I would like to photograph plants that were purchased from the Moraga Garden Center and which are

now thriving in your garden. If there is a story to go along with the plant(s), I will also try to feature it in the book. The first copy will be for Kenny. If it makes financial sense, I will make a limited run book and proceeds from the sale will be given to Kenny and his wife.

If you would like to share your story and would like me to photograph your plant for the book, please contact me via email at moragagarden-centerphoto@gmail.com. My background is in fine arts and I am a photography professor at Santa Clara University.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Takeshi Moro
(Submitted by Sandy Burgess, Moraga)

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

45th Anniversary of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail celebrated



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Founders celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail with EBRPD directors.

By Sora O'Doherty

The East Bay Regional Park District on Aug. 5 celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, one of the first rails-to-trails projects in California, and to unveil a permanent information panel at the site of the original Trail's dedication that occurred on July 4, 1976. The celebration also honored the founders of the trail, who spoke at the event.

Many speakers honored the trail, including representatives of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Supervisor Candace Andersen, EBRPD President Dee Rosario, Don Goode from the original trails committee, and Jerry Kent, retired EBRPD Director. Following the unveiling, EBRPD sponsored an ice cream social for all in attendance, as well as trail users who happened to pass by.

The 7.7-mile linear park, now an integral part of daily life in Lamorinda, was conceived by two young women many years ago. Founder Lynn Hiden told the audience that Barbara Grigg had thought of the trail idea about a decade before she became involved. Grigg was looking for a safe route to school for her child at the time. As the idea percolated, the town of Moraga and the East Bay Regional Park District became involved, and there was a grant to build bridges over the creeks crossed by the trail route.

The other trail founder, Avon Wilson, attributed the success of the project to "two PTA ladies who were able to persist." Wilson had moved to Reliez Valley Road with two small children, and was horrified by the traffic along the route to the school bus stop. "With Lynn," she said, they found a way. "Lynn would

have called God," she added, "if it were important to do so." Hiden did all the work on the layout of the trail, Wilson said, while she did all the cost figures. They went to the Lafayette City Council "in our short skirts and bouffant hair." One of the council members asked, "Did you write this yourself girls?" The project was the result of a lot of citizen caring and support, she said. "Moving to Lafayette 50 years ago was the best thing that ever happened to me," she concluded, "and you are part of it."

George Fisher, the chair of the advisory committee, worked for five years on the planning and environmental documents that needed to be prepared. Ed Chu worked on the landscaping, and Moraga Mayor Mike McCluer talked about how the trail came to be extended to Moraga. The whole idea, he noted, is a regional spine connecting to the 27.7 mile Iron Horse Trail, formerly used by trains, that runs from Pleasanton to Concord.

McCluer said that his family has used the trail for over 30 years, and that it has been one of the mainstays of the community during the

pandemic, providing a sense of normalcy and access to the health benefits of interacting with nature. Lafayette Mayor Susan Candell called the trail a lifeline through Lafayette dedicated to extending access to the city.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan said that the trail showed that "when women step up and lead, great things happen." She added that the value of the trail is that it shows how to get people out of their cars, to reduce our carbon footprint, and provide safe routes to schools as well. She praised EBRPD as great stewards of the land.

The Lafayette-Moraga trail parallels St. Mary's Road through Lafayette and Moraga. It is intended for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use. According to the EBRPD website, the trail was once used by mule trains to carry redwood from Oakland to Sacramento. Later, when the mule trains had passed into history, the lumber was carried by steam trains, including the Oakland-Antioch and Eastern Railroad, the San Francisco-Sacramento, and the Sacramento Northern, for which the easement was historically named.

The website also describes the trail: "The north end of the trail begins at a staging area at Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette, south of Highway 24, and ends at East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) Valle Vista staging area at the outskirts of Moraga, bordering San Leandro Reservoir and Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. (A permit is required to hike in EBMUD lands; call (510) 287-0469.) The trail makes connections to a variety of schools (including Saint Mary's College), regional trails (Briones-to-Las Trampas), local parks (Moraga Commons), and commercial areas in downtown Moraga."



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Downtown housing in Lafayette

... continued from Page A2

We also highlight items of community interest like newly proposed projects in the downtown in the Weekly Roundup and social media."

Griffiths as a spokesperson for Save Lafayette says his comments are not aiming to zap city council members or the city planning department with a blitz of objections. Instead, the main point he makes is that residents interested in the design and direction of Lafayette need to make an investment of time and energy.

He suggests residents visit the Save

Lafayette website, examine the projects detailed on the city's Major Development Projects webpage, participate in the virtual Housing Element Walking Tour, and speak up at virtual city council meetings where city officials are prepared (and likely eager) to hear their comments.

For more information, visit:
<https://lafayette.icitywork.com/savelafayette.org>
www.planlafayette.org
Self-Guided and Virtual Walking Tour —
City of Lafayette General Plan Update

Proponents for local land use control

... continued from Page A3

The loss of local land use control erodes the ability of local communities to plan for future environmental and economic challenges and support the critical infrastructure necessary for public health and safety services including schools, police and fire services."

Without the city council's or planning commission's ability to control land use in Lafayette, Candell says they are left with profit-driven developers and speculators "planning" the city. "Our community has lost the ability to prepare and plan for the impacts to our critical infrastructure for which we are responsible," she said. "In the case of La Fiesta Square, our community will be forced to accept anything they propose if

they follow state laws."

Once the Attorney General files the initiative, he will then send it to the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's offices before it's returned to the AG for final wording. Once proponents receive the Title and Summary, they will have 180 days to collect 1.3 million signatures across the state to get it on the November 2022 ballot.

"We know this will be a very big and expensive effort, only to be followed by an expected push back by big money developers, real estate speculators and big tech leading up to the election," Candell said. "Our residents have time and time again supported local leaders over the state's 'one-size-fits-all' bad policies, so we are confident that we will be successful in our efforts."

Sign up for the Lamorinda Local Initiative Information Night scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m., at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M_8bay4IRR-o5R0NW5wIEQ

New mural in Lafayette



An army of artistic volunteers work on new Lafayette mural.
Photo provided

... continued from Page A3

In the coming weeks Three Thirty Three Arts will be installing a plaque on the mural wall. "We're also currently editing video footage of the mural installation process that

will be shared at www.333arts.org and social media accounts," Loring said.

"I think we successfully accomplished the mission with this mural in Lafayette," said Loring, "and we look forward to more collaborations in the community!" — J. Wake

Back to school

... continued from Page A8

The new superintendent said that she planned to send more information on the process to parents on Aug. 16.

Glimme clarified that the district is practicing a strict contact tracing protocol. Persons who have been within six feet of a person identified as testing positive for COVID for at least 15 minutes are considered close contacts. Parents of students deemed close contacts will be notified by a telephone call immediately. Quarantine requirements depend on a number of circumstances, including whether or not the person was masked and/or vaccinated.

In response to the desire of some parents for more information and more transparency, the district is also notifying parents of students who were not in close contact with a case but are in the same

classroom. This was not done last year.

Glimme said that as a parent and an administrator, she is very sensitive to the situation in which parents now find themselves. But she also wants to squash the rumor mill. "We want to be really transparent without violating student privacy in this very delicate situation," she said. Some parents feel that there is too much communication, and other parents want to know everything. The district is trying to thread the needle of being transparent while also

protecting sensitive medical information.

Lastly, Glimme emphasized that there have been no cases of COVID-19 being transmitted at school because school has just returned to session. Cases being reported now happened over the summer break.

"It's a really hard time that we are dealing with, a new reality that we are trying to navigate," Glimme acknowledged. "What can we as a community do outside of school to prevent the spread of COVID at school?"

To view local school district information, visit:
<https://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us>
<https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us>
<https://www.orindaschools.org>
<https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us>

Dr. Parks' video can be accessed at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rAxIjNUo2w>

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Backstage at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre



Town Hall's Managing Director Dennis Markam in front of stage

Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

In 1914 the Town Hall Theatre – the “oldest continuously active theatre company in Contra Costa County,” according to its website – offered its first event: a Grand Ball.

Additional such events became so popular that the Oakland-Antioch & Eastern Railway provided special trains with a stop at West Lafayette, where passengers could disembark near the Town Hall to attend dinner/dance parties. The proceedings would usually begin around 9 p.m. with a late dinner around midnight, followed by dancing until the wee hours of dawn. It is said that one train left the Lafayette station around 5:30 a.m.

The building also did its patriotic duty during World War II, when it was used as troop barracks between 1941 and 1945.

As far as theatre productions go, The Lafayette Playshop had its first performance at the Town Hall in December of 1941, only to be interrupted by the war. The Straw Hat Revue rented the theatre in 1947, followed by the Dramateurs in 1955. Laf-Frantics also held productions at the theatre between 1956-1986, with the Dramateurs morphing into today's Town Hall Theatre Company in 1992. Past productions included: “A Few Good Men,” “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,” “Little Shop of Horrors,” “Macbeth,” “Sense and Sensibility,” and “Miracle on 34th Street.”

According to Town Hall Theatre Managing Director Dennis Markam, who has been with the theatre since 2008, and in his current position since 2014, “In the 1950s, a stage was finally built in the center of the room and it was theatre-in-the-round. In the early '60s, the audience sat in regular chairs and the current stage was built. By the late '60s, the theatre-style chairs were put in along with the sprinkler system.”

The 185-capacity theatre,

like most businesses, experienced coronavirus lockdown blues. The building's owners, Lafayette Improvement Association, was an understanding landlord and suspended the rent during the pandemic. “We will do whatever the county wants,” stated Markam. “We will do what is safe. We're changing things as we come back from COVID.”

Indeed they are. As Town Hall Theatre prepares to open its doors to live audiences once again, a tour of the building revealed a reorganization within its walls similar to what every home in America was going through during the first months of shelter-in-place. In evidence was the cleaning out of closets and storage spaces, repurposing of rooms, and a lot of out-with-the-old and in-with-the-new philosophy.

“We don't have a lot of storage space, so a lot of the furniture we use for shows are rented or bought,” explained Markam. “Props are rented, but those that we own are stored on site. With costumes, we rent a storage space. The ones that are used during a show stay on site.”

Wooden cubbies line the theatre's wall behind the background sets on stage and contain props necessary for a current production. All essential lighting equipment is located above the stage. The dressing rooms contain the same type of round light bulbs surrounding the makeup mirrors as one would find on Broadway. The staff makes due with what little space they have to work in by being as organized as possible.

The house staff of approximately eight employees stays the same during each production, however the playhouse crew changes all the time. “We use stage crews from Saint Mary's College, Campolindo, Acalanes, Miramonte and other places,” said Markam. “It's good experience for them, and it looks good on a resume.”

Given the cramped quarters that the staff, crew and

actors have to deal with, Markam was asked if they would ever move to a larger location. “It's so much of our identity to stay here and be the Town Hall Theatre.”

One important addition the theatre is attempting to make is an upgrade to its air conditioning system. Summers are so stifling; it's the reason there are no productions during the hot months. With no money coming in due to COVID mandates for over a year, Markam is hoping for a few benefactors with a love for live theatre to donate funds for the new system. (Markham can be reached at (925) 283-6673.)

You can't have a show without actors, and the casting process is pretty basic. The theatre usually holds one big audition before each season where notes are made as to which actor would be right for an upcoming production. Later, another audition is held prior to each show to fill in any additional parts. Town Hall uses professional actors as well as amateurs.

Each season typically contains four shows, and there's always a holiday themed show in December. This season, Town Hall is switching things up a bit by offering shows that have never been produced before. Called “New Voices,” the purpose is to provide feedback to the artists and writers. The first one is set for October. They also plan on hiring a curator, who will solicit information from actors in the area as to which productions they'd like to see on stage.

Every old theatre has its ghosts, and Town Hall Theatre is one of them. Besides the typical theatre pranks, staff is convinced that an April Fools' Day incident in 2009, was caused by an unseen helping hand. The building was in desperate need of new carpeting, but the cost was unaffordable. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, the sprinkler system over the back row seats turned on, only soaking the one row. With minimal damage, the seats were replaced through the insurance policy, and there was enough left over to buy new carpeting. Coincidence?

The folks at Town Hall Theatre are looking forward to welcoming audiences back from the long COVID hiatus. “I'm excited about the changes we've been making this past year,” Markam said. “I think the community will appreciate what we're doing!”



Town Hall's Managing Director Dennis Markam has the best seat in the house

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Chicken & Herb Sausage for seniors – or discriminating diners of any age



Homemade Chicken & Herb Sausage Patties

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Local reporter Sora O'Doherty and I share a love of cooking and we email back and forth about food and recipes quite often in between issues of the Lamorinda Weekly. Sora is an avid cook and always has fun recipes, cooking tips, and interesting websites for me to check out. Recently she told

me about a website called Cooking For Seniors, which, the older I get, the more appealing this sounds. She was talking about a chicken breakfast sausage recipe in particular, and since I love chicken sausage, this recipe sounded fantastic to me. I've never made homemade sausage before so it was a fun project. Plus, my whole family was staying with us at our

cabin, and they were the perfect guinea pigs. We served the sausage with eggs and biscuits and everyone loved the breakfast. They turned out to be kind of like little breakfast sliders!

As usual, I made several changes from the recipe to suit our tastes, but there are links below to two different chicken sausages, in case you would like to try them, too. Instead of using dark meat, I used white ground chicken, but I do think either would be great. We also have some people in our family who are averse to sweet and savory together in the same dish, so I left out the maple syrup, brown sugar, and allspice and added poultry seasoning, which was really yummy in this sausage.

You can add or delete any of the herbs and spices as you see fit for your family, too. Also, you can make the meat mixture the day before and refrigerate in a covered container until you're ready to cook them the next morning.

Homemade Chicken & Herb Breakfast Sausage Patties

(Makes 18-20 sausage patties)

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. ground chicken
2 1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
2 teaspoons dried marjoram
2 teaspoons dried thyme
1 teaspoon garlic powder
2 teaspoons Himalayan pink salt (or sea salt)
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 teaspoon barbecue rub spice (I used Trader Joe's BBQ 101 Seasoning Blend)

DIRECTIONS

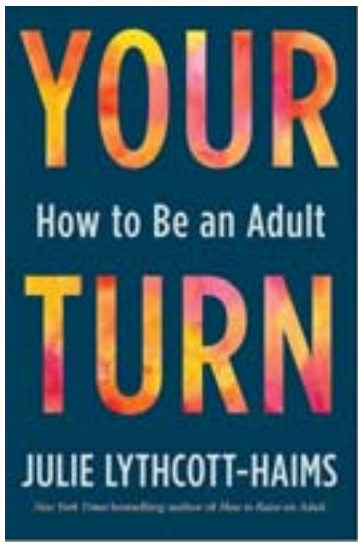
Mix the ground chicken with all of the herbs and spices. Form into 18-20 balls. When ready to cook, heat a large skillet over medium-high heat and spray with cooking spray or drizzle a little olive oil in the pan. Using a flat, sturdy spatula, flatten the balls into patty shapes and cook over medium-high until browned. Flip to the other side and continue to cook until the second side is nicely browned. Cover the pan and reduce the heat to low. Cook until chicken is cooked through. You may need to add a splash of water to the pan before covering it, to keep the chicken nice and moist while it finishes cooking through. Serve hot with biscuits, toast, eggs, pancakes or French toast!

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>



Cooking for Seniors - <http://cookingforseniors.org/>
Easy Country Style Breakfast Chicken Sausage - <https://cookingforseniors.org/recipe/easy-country-style-breakfast-chicken-sausage>
Chicken Breakfast Sausage - <http://leitesculinaria.com/240046/recipes-chicken-breakfast-sausage.html>

LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series features author Julie Lythcott-Haims



Julie Lythcott-Haims and her book

Image provided

By Lou Fancher

The years 2020 and 2021 and lessons they have taught if nothing else, shout out: "It's time to grow up and act like an adult!" If that sounds like a quote from a parent to an adolescent or words directed to older Gen Zs (people born between 1997 and 2012) who are slow to embark on independent "grown-up" pathways, it's not. In this classroom, the COVID-19/social justice protest/partisan-politics-like-never-before syllabus stretches into adulting lesson plans that include seniors, Greatest Generation retirees, baby boomers, millen-

nials, Gen Z and Gen Xers. It even forecasts guidelines for Generation Alpha kids with birth years 2012 to 2025.

That means a new book by New York Times bestselling author Julie Lythcott-Haims, "Your Turn: How to Be an Adult," arrives with impeccable timing. The 486-page guide book follows her 2016 "How to Raise an Adult" and powerful "Real American: A Memoir," written in 2017 and in which she fearlessly shares her battles as a Black woman with low self-esteem and stories of micro-aggressions she has suffered or witnessed due to racism in America.

In her third and, arguably, most transparent book, the

former corporate lawyer, former Stanford University dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising, writer, public speaker and mother of two, identifies herself as one member of a 32-year-and-counting marriage to "an amazing white Jewish bisexual cis-male husband" and writes she is "a Black biracial woman with light skin who is bisexual, butch, and queer."

It's a hefty load to take in, but the signal is clear: Lythcott-Haims leads a complex life that includes blows and buoyancy as she continues to evolve. She is, in a phrase, a practicing adult. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation in partnership with Lafayette Partners in Education presents Lythcott-Haims Sept. 9 in a Distinguished Speaker Series online event.

Launching into an explanation of the meaning of adulting, Lythcott-Haims writes that the process is "part wanting to, part having to and part learning how." Adulting is more than paying taxes and joining the workforce, although those things are included. The basic ideas of finishing an education, leaving the childhood home, finding employment and possibly a long-term relationship and parenting or not having children are summed up in a re-

alization that being an adult is far broader and is best captured by one stunner of a phrase, "It's up to you," followed by a second phrase to wisely adopt as a mantra: "You'll be okay."

After that, the terror and joy of the journey outlined in the book's chapters and in real life essays and stories at the end of each chapter plays out in applications: accepting non-perfection, putting the brakes on false people-pleasing, getting out of neutral to act and live in the now, talking to strangers, halting the performative forces of a life lived on social media, dealing responsibly and proactively with money and health, coping during difficult times by selecting from a 12-step can-do-it-if-I-know-myself list of recommended actions, and a directive to "find your why" by opening your eyes to the world outside of yourself and finding purpose.

In the last chapter, mindfulness, kindness and gratitude lay out a compelling carpet that she writes "is not about drugs, or God, or mysticism." Striking an egalitarian note, the three powers (mindfulness, kindness and gratitude) she posits are "neither enhanced nor decreased by your degree of schooling, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity,

religion, age, gender, abilities, neurological situation, relationship status, job, ancestry, or how you were parented."

A study guide and an appendix with links to resources and references to science-based studies offers readers extended ways to bolster the learning. In addition to the many raw autobiographical stories and openly self-critical truths Lythcott-Haims shares throughout the book – unremarkable for anyone familiar with her evolution as a writer and public speaker – she adds a personal, two-page "commitment to inclusion" statement to close the book. "As an author, I want to do my part to bring an anti-racist, decolonized, and inclusive approach to publishing," the statement begins. Through life stories and by including people from across the widest spectrum of humanity—liberals, conservatives, educated, non-educated, neuro-typical or atypical, Christians, Jews, white people and people of color, herself and her family, friends, colleagues and more, "Your Turn" as a guide to being a grown-up reaches full maturity and recognizes that adulting is a never-ending journey.

To register for the Sept. 9 special event, visit lllcf.org/special-events.

'Antigone' – a resounding Greek tragedy transposed to modern day Canada

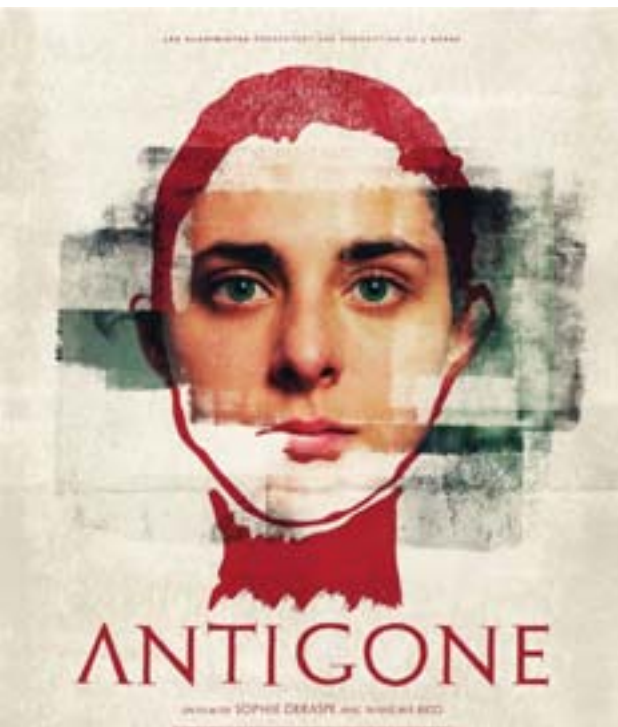


Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

In 441 B.C. Sophocles wrote and produced with great success the play "Antigone," based on the myth of Oedipus' daughter who defied authorities to honor her outlawed dead brother, risking her life in doing so. This version, blending in with today's social reality, set in modern day French speaking Montreal, asks the same question the myth did: when a judicial sys-

tem makes a decision that seems unfair, should one comply in order to fit in, or on the contrary, rise up and continue to defend one's deeper inner truth, no matter the consequences?

The movie "Antigone," which was Canada's Oscar submission this year, tells the story of a teenage Kabyle immigrant, who after the killing of her parents immigrates and is raised in Québec by her grandmother with her sister and two brothers. During a violent confrontation with the police, the older brother is killed and the younger one finds himself accused of violence against the police and condemned to be extradited to Algeria. Antigone, the youngest of the four siblings, is determined not to let her already devastated family be ripped apart once again.

The movie by creative Canadian director Sophie Deraspe is incredibly intense and romantic. It gives the portrait of a true contemporary heroine whose purity and strength clashes against a judicial system she is not prepared to confront. Antigone is a brilliant student, she is ambitious and unafraid. She lost her parents at age 3 during the Algerian civil war, and now her whole sense of belonging and of self is wrapped around an unwavering commitment to her family, whether some members deserve it or not.

In the amazing deep and bright gaze of young actress Nahéma Ricci burns the fire of passionate youth that can start revolutions, invent new forms of art or change history's trajectory. This is a story as old as humanity, when somebody too righteous to play by unjust rules has to be broken by society that demands some level of conformity. The spectator is in turn drawn to the beauty of Antigone's soul or her confounding courage, and somewhat taken aback by the sharpness of her intransigence.

Deraspe explained clearly her motivation in an interview with The Montreal Gazette: "I read

'Antigone' when I was in my early 20s," she said. "I immediately had a connection with the character. I felt it was so uplifting, even if it was a tragedy, to read such a strong character, a young woman with such dignity. And to think that a man wrote it more than 2,000 years ago – it felt good to know it was possible for such a character to exist and to endure throughout history."

The movie will enthrall viewers because of the dramatic powerful themes it develops, but also because of the director's innovative technical mastery. The form of the movie itself sets the confrontation between the adolescent's fire and the adult's academism by inserting short scenes that break the normal movie rhythm and imaging: SMS and graphic superimpositions take over the screen, the film editing becomes jerky, and for a little while, the movie looks like a TikTok production. Deraspe explained in another interview that, for her, social media plays the role that the chorus used to play in the classic Greek tragedy, explaining and commenting the feelings aroused in the spectators by the protagonists. "Social media is nowadays society's murmur," she said.

The powerful and emotional performance by Ricci as Antigone will also fascinate viewers. She is in turn a shy 17-year-old making a presentation in class, a young woman in love, and a true dramatic classic heroine and role model for the youth around her. Antigone's sister Ismene is an interesting contrasting character as her aspiration is not heroism but just a normal and banal life.

"Antigone" is not to be missed when it is presented by the local nonprofit International Film Showcase at the Orinda Theater, opening on Aug. 20 for at least one full week; three screenings each day. Limited seating. Tickets: www.OrindaMovies.com

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary HOME Team back in action



Photo provided

As a member of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team, Conrad Breece of Lafayette hangs a mirror for a homeowner. Breece is immediate past president of the club.

Submitted by Thomas Black

After 18 months of forced hibernation Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team is back in action, according to Hays Englehart, the Team's founder

and a longtime Rotarian. HOME Team sends volunteers into the community to assist elderly homeowners in making minor repairs. The Team is well-regarded throughout Lamorinda. That all services rendered are free of charge enhances its public appeal. Shut down by pandemic restrictions in March of 2020, the Team's first date for making house calls is Sept. 25. Englehart said that because of the extended hiatus, there are "quite a few in queue." House calls are scheduled bimonthly. Although there is no income ceiling, the services rendered must involve a home (no rentals).

HOME Team is Lamorinda Sunrise's signature community-service program. It proved so popular that it was adopted by more than 30 other Rotary clubs, one as far away as suburban Chicago. All service calls are by appointment. Homeowners may request a visit in multiple ways – through church or synagogue, senior center, by visiting www.rotaryhometeam.com, by emailing info@rotaryhometeam.com, or by phoning toll free 1-888-204-5573.

Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte seniors awarded Kiwanis Leadership Scholarships



Photos provided

Chaya Tong with parents Moona Nardi and Bryan Tong

Submitted by Steve Woehleke

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently awarded leadership scholarships to Chaya Tong (Miramonte), Tallulah Clancy (Campolindo) and Peter Kraszulyak (Acalanes), who each demonstrated community service, leadership and academic promise during their high school careers. Specifics included extracurricular clubs, tutoring, community projects, athletics and socializing the elderly during the pandemic, in addition to excelling in academics. The scholarship awards will help support their

continuing education at Emory University, Brown University and the University of Michigan. Please join in congratulating each for their successes and future promise.



Tallulah Clancy with mother Michelle Clancy and KCMV members Gloria Eive and Jim O'Brient

Orinda Troop 303 Honors two new Eagle Scouts



Photo Andy Pines



Photo Wendy Meckes

Owen Pines of Troop 303 in Orinda attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout, on Sept. 22, 2020. Due to COVID delays, his formal recognition ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, took place on July 18, 2021 at Orinda Community Church.

Submitted by Andrew Pines

Troop 303 of Orinda held an Eagle Court of Honor July 18 at Orinda Community Church to honor Frederick Alexander Meckes, 18, and Owen William Min Soo Pines, 18, both of Orinda, each of whom attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout. The rank of Eagle Scout requires the completion of 21 merit badges as well as a community project on behalf of a public or nonprofit entity.

Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts BSA's Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the ceremony. Orinda Mayor Amy Worth presented each of the boys with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council declaring officially July 19, 2021, as "Owen Pines Day" and July 20, 2021, as "Alex Meckes Day" in Orinda.

Alex Meckes of Troop 303 in Orinda attained Scouts BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout, on July 23, 2020. Due to COVID delays, his formal recognition ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, took place on July 18, 2021 at Orinda Community Church.

Representatives of U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan also attended and read letters of congratulations to Meckes and Pines. California State Sen. Steve Glazer also sent a letter of congratulations.

Meckes was recognized for his Eagle Project, the completion of an ADA Compliant pathway in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Pines was recognized for his Eagle Project, the replacement of the flower planters in front of the administrative and counseling offices at Miramonte High School with new ones. The beneficiaries, Toris Jaeger of Wagner Ranch Nature Area and Sara Harris, former assistant principal at Miramonte High School, offered their thanks to the boys as well. Both Scouts graduated from Miramonte High School in June.

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.

In Memory

Daniel James McDonnell

February, 26 1944 – August 1, 2021



Daniel (Dan) James McDonnell passed away peacefully at his home in Diablo, California on Aug. 1 after a brief illness. Born in Oakland to Jack and Mary McDonnell, he was the middle of seven children.

Dan graduated from St. Mary's College High School and Armstrong College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Dan began his career path in the retail nursery business as a young boy by working for his father at McDonnell Nursery. While the original nursery business began in Oakland with his grandfather, Patrick, the nursery as we know it today was started by his father, Jack. The first retail store opened in Oakland in 1933. Dan worked at the family's Walnut Creek store before taking over the Orinda location from his father in

1979. Orinda is the last retail site still in operation. He was proud to work full-time until very recently.

Dan will be remembered for his generosity, strong work ethic, commitment to the community and most especially his sense of humor. He loved playing golf and gin with friends at Diablo Country Club. He was also a longtime season ticket holder and dedicated fan of the Oakland A's.

Dan is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Lou, his daughters Kelley McDonnell and Sarah McDonnell Slight (Mark), his grandchildren Noah and Heidi Slight, his six siblings John McDonnell, Jr., Kathleen Woolsey, Margaret Twomey, Mary McGuinness, Nonie McDonnell and Martha McDonnell and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

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Not to be missed

ART

Art Gallery at Wilder: Artist Rusk Draws Inspiration from Social Issues. The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a virtual exhibit of the photography of Grant Rusk through Aug. 31 by visiting www.lamorindaarts.org/ online-galleries. His series of chromogenic prints is entitled "The Ambient Fence." Never at a loss for new ideas, he is inspired by social, natural and environmental issues which arise on a regular basis. Rusk serves on the Moraga Art in Public Spaces Committee.

The Moraga Art Gallery invites art fans of all ages to its current show, "Midsummer Synergies," which ends on Sept. 19, and features Donna Arganbright's ceramics and Danguole Rita Kuolas' etchings as well as paintings, photos, ceramics, glassware, jewelry, woodworking, sculpture and other media by more than 25 members and guest-artists. The gallery is located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. Come to meet the artists and enjoy light snacks and wine. Open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. (925) 376-5407, or <http://moragaartgallery.com>

Valley Art Gallery Announces a special exhibition and event: "Paint the Downtown!" Aug. 27 -

29. Special plein air painting event in downtown Walnut Creek on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 27 and 28. Several artists will be painting landmarks and street scenes on Broadway Plaza and in the Main and Locust Street areas at various times during those days. On Sunday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., gallery artists will show and sell their work on Rudney Plaza at the Leshner Center on Civic Drive and Locust. The public is invited to come and enjoy the show and vote for their favorite plein air painting. Raffle for a year's free downtown parking pass! Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, in Walnut www.walnutcreekdowntown.com/ArtsaroundAugust.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Announces "The Natural World" at Lindsay Dirckx Brown Gallery in San Ramon, offers viewers a magnificent sense of the natural world around us. In our fast paced, digital times, it is easy to forget how the natural world is a huge part of our lives - from the earth we stand on, to the mountains, oceans, rivers, plants and animals around us - and to the sun, moon and stars above us. Viewing the exhibit is a great opportunity to become more conscious of our connection to nature and to the world around us. Sept. 2 - 29. Reception on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. The Lindsay Dirckx Brown Gallery is located at, 12501

Alcosta Blvd in San Ramon. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays and on weekends during special events. www.laa4art.org.

MUSIC

Classical Pianist Misha Galant Performs at St. Paul's in Walnut Creek. Aug. 28, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. It is our first in-person performance, and we will also broadcast online from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Wildly talented concert pianist Misha Galant recently graduated from the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange in New York. He is the recipient of the Gilmore Young Artist Award, and a prize-winner at the Van Cliburn Junior international piano competition. He is a rising star, and we are excited to host a performance with him on the West Coast. www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series for ticket registration and information or, just come to the performance.

THEATRE

Orinda Starlight Village Players are performing a mini 10-minute play festival on Aug. 20, 21, and 22, and a triple tryst of terror on Aug. 27, 28 and 29. Further details can be found on the website, <https://orsvp.org/index-2.html>

OTHER

17th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Honors First Responders on Sept. 11. This year's car show will feature a tribute to vintage emergency vehicles as it honors first responders who risk their lives to save others not only on 9/11 but daily. The event runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, and surrounding streets. Approximately 200 American and European cars ranging from the 1920s to the classics of the '50s and '60s as well as modern exotics will be on display. Admission is free. "There will be live music during the show with food available via the Fourth Bore Restaurant's classic firetruck," said Classic Car Show Co-Chair Diane Lautz. "They've turned this former emergency response vehicle into a pizza oven!" Car Show proceeds benefit The Orinda Association and its Seniors Around Town ride program and other local nonprofit organizations. For more information, go to www.orindacarshow.com.

Coming events at Orinda Books Sept. 1 at 11 a.m. Pat's Book club will read and discuss "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. All are welcome. Just call Orinda Books, (925) 254-7606, to indicate attendance or email info@orindabooks.com. 276 Village Square, Orinda.

The Green Sofa Cinema Series continues Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. with a discussion of the film "Ice On Fire," a Leo DiCaprio production about novel ways to solve the climate crisis. Also hear from a leading Bay Area climate advocate. Sponsored by local environmental groups, Green Sofa Cinema works this way: Watch the film before Aug. 18 - "Ice on Fire" is free on YouTube. And register now for the Aug. 18 Zoom discussion: <https://bit.ly/3A5SgSz>

Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda is offering a Prayer Garden for a quiet place to be refreshed, meditate, pray, relax in a shaded outdoor setting. Open to all during daylight hours. 925-254-4212 www.christianscienceorinda.org.

Solo Opera presents "Scalia/Ginsburg an Opera" by Derrick Wang. Friday, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 12 at 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

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

OMPA Championship returns after 700-day hiatus



Photo provided

Orinda Country Club team members, from left: Kyra Ruegg, Ryleigh Weight, head coach Steve Haufler, and Kameron Isaacs

By Jon Kingdon

Two weeks ago, there was a widely anticipated event in Tokyo that was the focus of fans all over the world. However, in Orinda and Moraga, TV ratings must have been below the rest of the country as the local community seemed far more intent on the 64th Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) championship, which was last held in August 2019.

Rischelle Serrano, the 2021 OMPA president, was tasked with the responsibility of pulling things together after the two-year hiatus. "What was different was that there was not a model for putting on the meet this year after all that had occurred with the virus," Serrano said. "We had to meet Orinda's guidelines and requirements reducing the capacity to 650, down

from 1,100," Serrano said. "We required masks when inside and eating on the deck was eliminated and kept the food trucks in the outside areas so there was more space and breathing room."

With 1,640 swimmers from the age of 4 to 19 participating, the original plan was to have far more limited seating, requiring everyone to wear masks and spreading out the age groups to have a minimal number of people on the deck of the pool, but as things loosened up, adjustments were made to allow more swimmers, coaches, and spectators around the pool.

The motto for the meet was "Together in These Lanes" which the committee felt was particularly appropriate. "We came up with this line last year in thinking about the Olympics and being together and it still worked for this year," Serrano said. "It repre-

sents all of our teams, not as competitors but as an organization. The design for the meet used the icon for Saint Mary's College and the Orinda Theatre to represent the two towns of Moraga and Orinda."

The club teams were cautiously optimistic that the meet would be held but it did not become official until last May. When Moraga Ranch's head coach Marc Cavallero let his team know that the meet was a go, the reaction was unanimous: "Since we didn't have anything last year, our swimmers were excited right off the bat. When all the teams came through on Thursday for a warm-up and everyone saw the tents, it began to feel pretty close to normal."

Matt Armanini, the Meadow head coach, spoke of the effort put forth by the staff and volunteers in getting things done and how much the return of the OMPA meant to him. "The people that put on the meet did an exceptional job in setting everything up," Armanini said. "To have the meet taken away last year was eye opening but to be able to come back and be in this environment with the community as the foundation, there's just nothing better. I didn't even care about the points total. I am as competitive as it comes but I was just glad to be able to bring my team to the best meet there is."

Hector Chao, a senior coach for Orinda Park told his swimmers that the OMPA was going to be held prior to the official announcement. "It was wishful thinking at the time," Chao said. "The kids were thrilled because it's such a big deal for the teams and the community. I started swimming at an early age group and continued swimming through college. Coaching these kids has come full circle for me, trying to do for them what my coaches did for me."

Cathy Durden, the Moraga Country Club's head coach, could be excused if her focus was split between the meet and the Olympics since her husband, David, is the head coach for the U.S. men's swimming team. "With the time change, I only get to talk

to him a few minutes a day because he's been working 18 hours a day, but there has been a lot of texting back and forth." Durden said.

A three-time All-American swimmer at Auburn University, Durden appreciated how important the meet was for the teams and the populace: "It's like a symbol of the community, coming together where we all share the same goal to swim well and represent our teams and do the best we can. The swim team is the ultimate sport where you have 4-year-olds swimming on the same team with 18-year-olds and that doesn't happen with any other sport."

With all the protocols making the training and competitions that much more difficult, the coaches were forced to lean upon the leaders on their team to help them keep things together. Eddie Lee, the head coach of the Miramonte Swim Club, saw this throughout his team. "We've got a great training group of older swimmers which goes down to the 11- and 12-year-olds and they showed a good presence in the pool and it's been fun for them to push each other," Lee said.

The veterans at Sleepy Hollow helped head coach Matt Ehrenberger in much the same way: "Our seniors did what they always did. They're great kids that have always worked hard and been committed to the team and they wanted to make things as close to normal as possible for themselves and the team because this was to be their last year. Last year's seniors lost their last year and these kids wanted one last summer to be as close to reality and they did a good job with that."

As things evolved with protocols constantly changing, Ehrenberger and his staff changed with it. "The big word has been pivot and we're still pivoting and trying to work things out. It's still a little different but many people worked to put on this great race opportunity for the kids and that's why we're here, while doing it in the safest way possible."

At the end of the day, for Trevor Rose, the head coach of Moraga Valley, it was a success for the kids and for the

community at large: "It's been two years and it was definitely worth it. When you watch the kids and see their faces, it was worth it. The kids missed so much in the last two years and to have it back was tremendous. We have a superb swimming community in the OMPA. This was my 33rd year with the OMPA and it was a great capstone to the summer, and I was really pleased with everything."

Tattiana Gessling of the Campolindo Cabana Club was able to both empathize and celebrate with the swimmers with the return of the OMPA: "A lot of the coaches on the other teams actually coached me when I swam for Orinda Country Club and in the OMPA. The meet definitely lived up to expectations after what was, in fact, a two-year layoff. There's nothing like this championship with the energy and the support of everyone's teammates that's just so special for the community."

Along with the return of normalcy, for the 20th straight year, the overall winner of the meet was the Orinda Country Club. Head coach Steve Haufler spoke of the importance of OMPA, for everyone from the swimmers, coaches, parents and fans. "This is a swim program that is strong and well coached," Haufler said. "These coaches really develop good swimmers and it's a foundation for our high school swimming and water polo programs. It's a feeder program all the way through college and it all starts right here at the OMPA."

Bruce Jamgotchian, the OMPA meet director, watched it all come together with a front row seat. "As we got closer to the championship meet, you could see the buildup of excitement with the kids, the coaches and the parents and it all came together this weekend. Even though we didn't have a championship last year, they still pushed themselves and stayed strong and their coaches motivated them and kept them pointed in a positive direction. The energy was unique to this meet, and it was great to see the joy on the kids' faces. It was just an incredible event."

TEAM RESULTS

- Orinda Country Club - 4462 (244 swimmers)
- Meadow Swim - 3018.5 (225 swimmers)
- Moraga Valley - 3000 (284 swimmers)
- Sleepy Hollow - 2962 (226 swimmers)
- Moraga Ranch - 2151 (165 swimmers)
- Orinda Park - 2090.5 (219 swimmers)
- Moraga Country Club 2046 (143 swimmers)
- Miramonte Swim Team - 1129 (74 swimmers)
- Campolindo Cabana Club - 758 (111 swimmers)

INDIVIDUAL MEET RECORDS BROKEN

GIRLS

- Evelyn Gaffney (Miramonte) - 6 & Under breast stroke (20.38)
- Lily Holloway (Meadow) - 9-10 50 yard back stroke (31.01)
- Grace Clark (Meadow) - 13-14 50 yard back stroke (26.71)

BOYS

- Grant Kurtz (Moraga Valley) - 11-12 50 yard fly (26.54)

HIGH POINT WINNERS

- 6 & Under Girls 6 & Under Boys
- Evelyn Gaffney - Miramonte Henry Shamia - Orinda C.C.
- 7-8 Girls 7-8 Boys
- Hayden Holloway - Meadow Jack Deal - Orinda Park

9-10 Girls 9-10 Boys

- Lily Holloway - Meadow Ellis Culleton - Miramonte C.C.

11-12 Girls 11-12 Boys

- Elisabeth Butler - Orinda C.C. Grant Kurtz - Moraga Valley

13-14 Girls 13-14 Boys

- Grace Clark - Meadow Matteo Petty - Moraga Valley

15-18 Girls (Tie) 15-18 Boys

- Mackenzie Murphy - Orinda C.C. Narayan Sharma - Sleepy Hollow
- Katie Lyons - Orinda C.C.

FINAL TEAM RESULTS

TEAM	GIRLS	BOYS	SUM TOTAL
ORINDA C.C.	1935	2,303.50	4,238.50
MEADOW	1959	3,345	3,291
MORAGA VALLEY	1504	1,543.50	3,047.50
SLEEPY HOLLOW	1389.5	1,106.50	2,496
ORINDA PARK	1197	1,132	2,329
MORAGA RANCH	976	1,031.67	2,007.67
MIRAMONTE SWIM	584	518	1,102
CAMPOLINDO CANBANJA	562.5	536.54	1,099
MORAGA C.C.	759.5	1,205.83	1065.33

Campo inducts three players at 13th annual Hall of Fame Dinner



Photo provided

From left: Brett Stephens, Griffin Piatt, Kevin Macy and C.J. Toohey

By Jon Kingdon

After a year's hiatus due to the coronavirus, head coach Kevin Macy and the Campolindo football program celebrated its Hall of Fame Dinner Aug. 7, inducting three players: WR/FS Griffin Piatt, class of 2012, QB Brett Stephens and OL/DL C.J. Toohey, both from the class of 2013.

Besides celebrating their excellence, the evening focused on the 10th anniversary of the Cougars victory over Marin Catholic in the NCS championship, the 2019

team's victory in the Honor Bowl ("played in honor of those who sacrifice to protect our freedoms") and the 2021 victory over Acalanes, which Macy felt was so important because "after nearly two years, when we were told that we couldn't celebrate or have fun, we needed this win and the inspiration that moved us forward."

Toohey, a commercial real estate broker in Denver, Colorado was All-East Bay and the Team MVP in 2012. Stephens works for Morgan Stanley in San Francisco and was the League MVP and All-East Bay in 2012 and was

named All-State Quarterback for small schools in 2011. Piatt, an analyst for The Blackstone Group in NYC, was the League MVP, All-State and the U.S. Air Force/MaxPreps All-American in 2011.

Campolindo had two consecutive 5-6 seasons before the 2011 team's 14-1 turnaround. Many attributed it to the chemistry that came to the fore on that team. "We were just a bunch of guys that enjoyed being around each other playing football," Piatt said. "That year we bought into something, and it came out of nowhere and though it kind of shocked us, at the same time, it wasn't a surprise to us because we all just loved playing."

Stephens also attributed the team's success to the team's chemistry: "We had a good group that really worked hard and enjoyed each other, and it clicked. We had good players and good coaches and we all loved each other."

Toohey gave much of the success that year to the unexpected performance by the offensive line. "Our offensive lines the prior two years were not up to par," Toohey said. "Coach Macy then took charge of the line and we ended up with a stellar offensive line. Even though we were young and undersized, we were technically highly coached, and incredibly tough."

In the NCS championship game played at the Oakland Coliseum, Campolindo was considered the underdog to Marin Catholic which was led by quarterback, Jared Goff, who five years later would be the first player taken in the NFL draft.

"You look back and can say it was exciting to play against a future NFL player like Goff," Toohey said. "I recovered two of his fumbles and it was a great time. How did that even happen and how did we get there and almost cap off a perfect season with a close loss (21-16) to Washington Union?"

The win came down to a 21-yard field goal attempt by a sophomore, Christian Antezana, on the last play of the game. Did Piatt close his eyes or turn his back prior to the field goal attempt in order to relieve the tension? "I was the holder, so I didn't want to close my eyes," Piatt said. "Prior to the kick on the sidelines, I said to Christian, 'Cookie, you got this.' That's all I said. After that, all I had to do was to put the snap down and he did the rest. It was incredible."

Toohey shared how so much of what he learned under Macy has carried over to his life and career. "The one concept that's been the most helpful to me has been the idea of buying into a program.

It means putting your best foot forward and taking full responsibility for the outcome of a rep, a practice, a play, and a game. I found the best way to succeed is giving a full faith effort and discussing the process. It's putting those in the trenches with you before yourself and playing with integrity. All this I learned under Coach Macy and his staff and I'm forever grateful for it."

Piatt gave some perspective to the current Campolindo players: "I remember coming to one of these dinners as a freshman and looking at the players that were being inducted and thinking, 'Those guys are old.' Now I'm up here and I'm just so thankful to be here."

Stephens also took the opportunity to provide his own advice to high schoolers. "Cherish this time in your life," Stephens said. "This all meant a lot to me, and I know that it means a lot to you but trust me, it goes quick. Cherish every moment and every practice. It truly is an amazing time of your life. Do it with a smile on your face and for the guy next to you. You're not going to have as much fun than you're having now. I'm sorry to be so cynical (laughter). I hope you recognize how special all this is and how you are in such an amazing program. Have a blast."

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 18, 2021

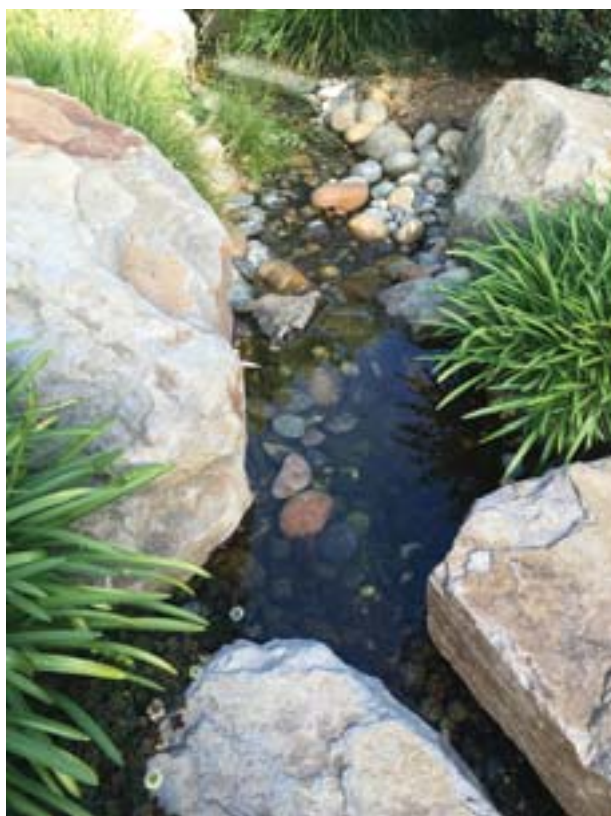


Organize your dorm room

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sacred spaces



Photos Cynthia Brian

A man-made garden stream offers the sound of trickling water over river rocks.

By Cynthia Brian

“Nature is the original church. Worship there daily.” ~ Alan Cohen

If we have learned anything from the pandemic of the past 18 months, it is that our greatest blessing is to be able to go outdoors to breathe fresh air. Many people choose to hike the hills, walk the reservoir, or take a

jaunt to the ocean to calm nerves and preserve sanity. For those of us fortunate enough to have a garden, balcony, porch or patio, we can open a door to escape the confines of lockdown.

The majesty of Mother Nature rivals the most exquisite man-made cathedral. Throughout my landscape, I have designed special areas that stimulate my senses, inducing a sense of tranquility and connectivity with the natural world. I have dubbed these my “sacred spaces,” places where I can meditate, watch the wildlife, listen to birdsong, commune with the breeze, rest my weary legs, take a nap, or just sit and contemplate life. My “sacred spaces” provide a structure amidst the chaos, a respite against the turmoil of the times.

We can expand our living environment by crafting outdoor elements that nurture our spirits, emotions, and bodies. Here are a few of my favorite strategies to help gardeners recast their yards into a serene, yet lush oasis.

Water

The sound of water is immensely soothing. Listening to the gurgling of a fountain or the rippling of a stream heightens my creativity. Birds splashing in a birdbath bring a smile to my face. A pond with a recirculating pump provides a happy home for frogs, and if deep enough, fish.

Hammock

Hanging a hammock from two trees is the ultimate in shaded relaxation. I have double hammocks strung between a giant magnolia and Japanese maples. There is nothing quite like swaying in the hammock looking up at the light as it dances between the branches. The colors of the leaves are forever changing. For an afternoon nap on a hot day,



Recline on a hammock for the best view of the branches and rustling leaves.

a hammock provides a piece of paradise.

Swing

I've installed a metal garden swing behind my pond flanked by orange Birds of Paradise and midnight blue agapanthus. By adding comfy cushions, I can silently swing while listening to the aerating pond and watching the aerial antics of squirrels spiraling through the loquat tree.

Tables, Chairs, and Benches

Throughout my landscape, I have placed multiple tables, chairs, and benches in specific areas to encourage me to take a break from the hard labor. A wooden picnic table under an apple tree begs me to take a lunch period. A bench facing the hills beckons me to behold a doting doe with her twin fawns as they forage. A small rocking chair in a cozy nook allows me to remove my mud boots and watch the sunset.

... continued on Page D14

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6 Offers \$460,000 over the asking

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Multiple offers over asking

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Represented Buyer

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\$2,250,000

Represented Buyer

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Over asking

Sale Pending**7 Southwaite Ct, Orinda****24 Tarabrook Dr, Orinda**

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	22	\$1,175,000	\$4,700,000
MORAGA	13	\$515,000	\$2,450,000
ORINDA	20	\$1,125,000	\$4,190,000

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

2755 Acacia Road, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 3032 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 07-02-21

851 Avalon Court, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1602 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 06-28-21,

Previous Sale: \$815,000, 06-07-11

1039 Buchan Drive, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 06-25-21

1144 Camino Vallecito, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3271 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 06-28-21,

Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 08-19-05

30 Carolyn Court, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1563 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 06-21-21,

Previous Sale: \$752,000, 08-27-12

1020 Circle Creek Lane, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 1599 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 06-25-21,

Previous Sale: \$520,000, 03-11-11

4 West Creek Court, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1427 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 06-23-21,

Previous Sale: \$527,500, 04-09-12

1811 Del Rio Drive, \$2,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 4347 SqFt, 2009 YrBl, 06-24-21,

Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 03-06-15

3303 Freeman Road, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2733 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 07-02-21,

Previous Sale: \$400,000, 06-29-98

1045 Juanita Drive, \$1,565,000, 3 Bdrms, 2042 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 06-22-21,

Previous Sale: \$142,000, 09-01-85

570 Merriewood Drive, \$1,769,500, 3 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 06-25-21

3364 Mildred Lane, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1365 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 06-21-21,

Previous Sale: \$718,500, 12-19-07

964 Mountain View Drive, \$1,570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2020 SqFt, 2019 YrBl,

06-22-21, Previous Sale: \$1,583,000, 01-23-20

3826 Palo Alto Drive, \$4,700,000, 6 Bdrms, 5352 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 06-23-21,

Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 09-24-01

3203 Palomares Avenue, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2253 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 06-30-21,

Previous Sale: \$645,500, 08-08-01

1045 Pleasant Hill Road, \$2,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2056 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 06-29-21

1500 Pleasant Hill Road, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3862 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 06-30-21

18 Reliez Valley Court, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 06-24-21,

Previous Sale: \$210,000, 09-01-78

980 Stow Lane, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3320 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 06-23-21

3145 Somerset Place, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 07-01-21

1055 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$3,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 06-25-21,

Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 12-16-11

3174 Teigland Road, \$1,371,500, 4 Bdrms, 2922 SqFt, 2019 YrBl, 06-25-21,

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 12-12-18

MORAGA

2075 Ascot Drive #220, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1213 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 06-21-21,

Previous Sale: \$455,000, 10-06-05

923 Augusta Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 06-23-21,

Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 10-23-15

1065 Bollinger Canyon, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2746 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 07-02-21

... continued on Page D10



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We've watched in awe as educators and students alike have risen to the pandemic's challenges to find new ways to learn and grow.

We applaud your efforts and wish you a wonderful school year ahead!



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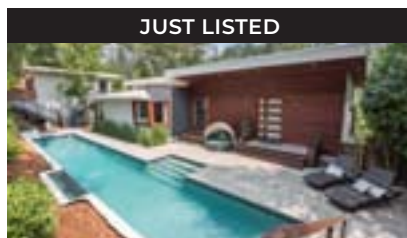
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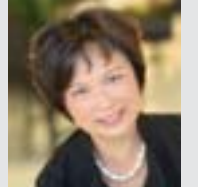
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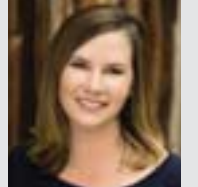
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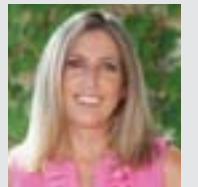
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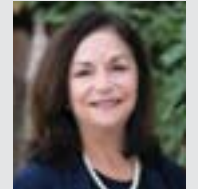
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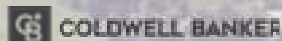
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Top organizing tips for dorm rooms



Shutterstock image

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®

Planning ahead will simplify the transition to college dorm life.

As summer comes to an end, many of my clients are getting ready to send their child off to college. I wanted to share some of my favorite dorm room tips – ones that you might not find in a book. These tips not only come from my years of experience as a professional organizer, but also from my personal experience as a mom of three – two college graduates (girls) and one currently attending college (boy).

If you are like me, as my college-bound child was heading off to school, I read through every list of “must haves” and “must knows” for a college dorm room. The list seemed overwhelming, endless, and costly! One list had over 50 “best ideas.” Really?! I learned to stick to the basics – dorm rooms are small and you have to move everything again in the summer – and anything else they needed could be added later.

Here are the key items to know that I found were the most useful and efficient:

1) Pack less clothing than you think you will need. If your child has four huge suitcases of clothing and is still packing ... they have over-packed! They will be quickly acquiring college logo T-shirts, sweatshirts and swag (guess what your holiday gift will be this year?), so make sure you have planned space for the new items. Most likely, you will be visiting your child on “Parents Day” (usually October) and you can easily bring (or send) more items to them. By then, they have a better sense of what they will be needing.

Dorm rooms are small. Don't try to take all of your clothes.

2) Raise the bed to create more space. Depending on the bed design and dorm rules, you can raise the bed high enough to put a desk underneath, or to make room for a refrigerator or rolling storage bins. Find out what your options are before move-in day.

... continued on Page D12



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 319 Calle La Mesa, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 2667 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-28-21, Previous Sale: \$925,000, 03-31-03
- 5 Camelford Court, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1462 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 06-24-21
- 1375 Camino Peral #A, \$550,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-24-21, Previous Sale: \$382,000, 07-20-07
- 264 Fernwood Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2032 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-30-21
- 5 Josefa Place, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 06-28-21, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 05-08-19
- 27 Lynwood Place, \$2,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2777 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 06-23-21
- 21 Miramonte Drive, \$811,000, 2 Bdrms, 1344 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-30-21, Previous Sale: \$560,000, 08-24-15
- 240 Tharp Drive, \$1,970,000, 4 Bdrms, 2087 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-30-21, Previous Sale: \$810,000, 06-10-11
- 125 Tharp Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2220 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 06-28-21
- 124 Via Joaquin, \$830,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 06-29-21, Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-06-18

ORINDA

- 22 Bates Boulevard, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1825 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-02-21, Previous Sale: \$355,000, 07-01-90
- 43 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2643 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 06-28-21
- 440 Camino Sobrante, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1088 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-01-21, Previous Sale: \$905,000, 07-27-16
- 21 Candlestick Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2763 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 06-30-21, Previous Sale: \$247,500, 08-01-80
- 1 Crane Court, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 06-22-21, Previous Sale: \$720,000, 09-18-00
- 120 Crane Terrace, \$2,875,000, 6 Bdrms, 5406 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 06-22-21, Previous Sale: \$1,320,000, 09-30-98
- 16 Fallen Leaf Terrace, \$2,815,000, 6 Bdrms, 4046 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 06-25-21, Previous Sale: \$715,000, 08-01-85
- 9 Gardiner Court, \$4,190,000, 7 Bdrms, 6963 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 06-25-21, Previous Sale: \$3,150,000, 04-01-19
- 10 La Madronal, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2937 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 07-02-21, Previous Sale: \$141,500, 02-09-00
- 95 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-01-21
- 653 Miner Road, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-02-21, Previous Sale: \$1,825,000, 04-29-15
- 112 Moraga Way, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2868 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 06-29-21, Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 01-03-13
- 392 Moraga Way, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1695 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 06-22-21, Previous Sale: \$712,000, 10-01-13
- 41 Muth Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1484 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 06-25-21
- 63 Orchard Road, \$2,360,000, 5 Bdrms, 2929 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 06-22-21
- 3 Roselle Lane, \$1,780,000, 3 Bdrms, 2153 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 06-24-21, Previous Sale: \$549,000, 10-17-00
- 673 Tahos Road, \$2,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 3262 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-30-21, Previous Sale: \$432,000, 09-01-91
- 83 Tiger Tail Court, \$3,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 4340 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 06-22-21, Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 08-31-11
- 51 Via Farallon, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 06-28-21, Previous Sale: \$745,000, 06-17-03
- 28 Vista Del Orinda, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3782 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 06-23-21, Previous Sale: \$340,000, 10-24-13

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Orinda
35 Owl Hill Rd \$2,495,000
 4 BD / 2.5 BA. Stunning Mid-Century, private lot, breathtaking views, pool! Lovely gardens and fruit trees.
 Kelly Crawford 925-998-5599
 Lic#01327015



Orinda
125 Canon Drive \$1,795,000
 3 BD / 2 BA
 Two housing structures. Huge, beautiful lot. Great location.
 Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008
 Lic#00469962



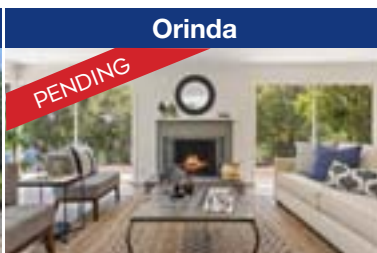
Orinda
57 Orchard Road \$1,595,000
 3 BD / 3 BA / 2249 sq. ft. Glorietta neighborhood, meticulously maintained on almost 1/2 acre lot. Huge windows bring in tons of light.
 Shellie Kirby 925-872-4357
 Lic#01251227



Orinda
44 Camino Encinas \$1,299,000
 3 Bd / 2 BA. Charming sun-filled Orinda rancher. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings. Great walk score & commute location.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 44CaminoEncinas.com Lic#01272382



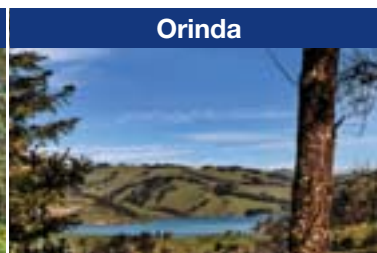
Orinda
6 Loma Linda Ct \$1,299,000
 3 Bd / 2 BA / 1331 sq. ft.
 Charming single level on 1/2 acre lot. Renovated and drenched in light!
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
 Lic #01005765



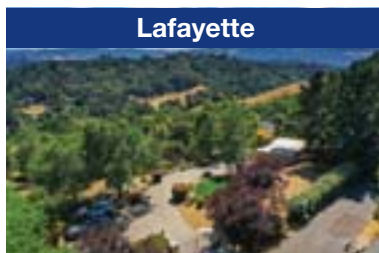
Orinda
104 Estates Dr \$1,299,000
 4 BD / 2 BA b/ 1807 sq. ft.
 Single level, private, over 1/2 acre lot. Glorietta Gem!
 Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832
 104EstatesDr.com Lic#01878803



Orinda
2 Los Amigos \$975,000
 3 BD / 3 BA / 1,667 sq. ft.
 Great Location! Adjacent Cottage, RV space.
 Shellie Kirby 925-872-4357
<https://bit.ly/3IW18GI> Lic#01251227



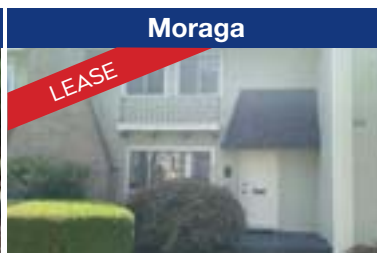
Orinda
Vacant Lot 221 El Toyonal \$685,000
 Shovel ready to build! Fully approved permits for a 4 BD / 3 BA, 2,644 sq. ft. home. Buy today, Build tomorrow.
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Lafayette
3 Wellesley Ct \$3,875,000
 7 BD / 6.5 BA. Contemporary Estate, panoramic views, two living rooms, detached full in-law-unit. Off Happy Valley Rd.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 3wellesley.com Lic#01272382



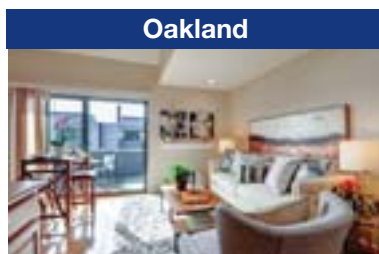
Moraga
2 Corte Azul \$1,665,000
 4 BD / 2.5 BA
 Campolindo one story on cul-de-sac with pool near Cabana Club and High school.
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405
<https://bit.ly/2U7EDCY> Lic#01373412



Moraga
45 Miramonte Drive \$3,150
 3 BD / 1.5 BA / 1248 sq. ft. Miramonte Gardens, new carpet, fresh paint, & appliances. Community pool, clubhouse & BBQ area.
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
 Lic #01005765



Concord
3736 Bon Homme Way \$895,000
 3 BD / 2 BA, 0.48 Acre.
 Huge lot, on cul-de-sac in desirable St. Francis Park neighborhood.
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
<https://bit.ly/2TF6E27> Lic #01005765



Oakland
3 Embarcadero \$399,000
 Updated 1 BD / 1 BA
 Open floor plan, sliding door to balcony, SUBZERO fridge, plantation shutters.
 Cathy Schultheis 510-915-2277
 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



San Ramon
431 Fuchsia Lane \$1,349,000
 3+ BD / 2.5 BA, 2,083 sq. ft. Trevari Gale Ranch. Open floor plan, dramatic high ceilings, loft space, and spacious flat backyard!
 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396
 431fuchsialane.com Lic# 01480008/00959101



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

Top organizing tips for dorm rooms



Source: The Container Store

.... continued from Page D6

Tip: Bring your own tools and risers – you will look like you know what you are doing and everyone else will be borrowing your tools! Create additional storage space under the bed with bed risers.

3) You can preorder items for pickup. Many stores (including The Container Store and Bed Bath and Beyond) will have a dorm items check-list with the option for you to purchase items in-store locally or online and then pick them up at a location near campus. The items will be ready at the store when you arrive and you can return any items you don't need. This saves tons of time and money as you do not have to pack it. Bedding alone can take up two suitcases.

4) Only bring decor and mementos that can be hung on a wall. Dorm rooms are tiny and may only have a bed, desk and a closet. You do not want to clutter the desk. Clutter can be very distracting to a student who is trying to focus on school work (once they figure out which parties to go to). Also, they will need room on their desks for all of their books and supplies. Tip: Be sure to check with dorm rules for decorating walls – removable hooks and mounting strips may come in handy.

5) Purchase a small trash can that HAS A LID. Your student will save themselves from a fruit fly infestation from the food they will throw in there. Most likely your student will not realize until at least for four months of living there that no one will be coming to empty the trash for them. Wait ... WHAT?!

6) Bring cleaning supplies. Trust me on this, you will want to clean the entire room before moving in. I recommend a small hand broom and dustpan along with a roll of paper towels and a bottle of all-purpose cleaner (you may need to show your student how to use this product if you have been cleaning their room since birth). Again, your student may be confused when they realize that no one will be cleaning their room for them.

7) Maximize closet space. New college students and parents are often shocked by the limited space in dorm rooms. I've listed a few of my space saving products. Tip: These work for your home spaces too. Most of these products can be found at The Container Store, Bed Bath and Beyond or good old Amazon.

Maximize closet space with a double hanging rod expander.

- Double hang rods: If your child knows how to hang up their clothes (this is a possibility), use a rod expander to double the hanging space. It installs in minutes and hangs from the upper rod.

- Hanging clothes and shoe organizers: These items help create shelf space in any closet. Always think of the vertical space as you will be very limited on the floor space.

- Stacking Drawers: Add a drawer unit or stacking storage drawers on the floor of the closet for more vertical storage (these can be used in place of a dresser).

- Hanging Accessory Organizers: You can purchase accessory organizers in many shapes and sizes that hang on the back of a door or inside the closet on a hanger. These are handy for smaller items such as sunglasses, keys, hats, etc.

- Tier Swing-Arm Pant Hanger: This hanger can hold up to 4 or more pairs of pants if you double up. Each of the swiveling arms allows easy access to your clothes.

- 6-Tier Shirt Tree: Get even more mileage from limited closet space with this hanger! It holds six garments in the space normally occupied by one.

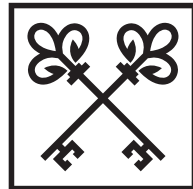
8) Plan ahead. Find as much as you can about the new dorm living space before the move – size, furniture in the room, storage/closet space, size of the bed, dorm room rules, etc. – and have a plan. Remember, organizing is hard with a plan, it's almost impossible without one.



Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com

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- ★ 69 Singingwood Ln. | Orinda | COMING SOON
- ★ 30 Owl Hill Rd. | Orinda | COMING SOON

Call me for further details!

Ideal location in the heart of Lafayette | 3368Victoria.com

3368 Victoria Avenue



3 BD 2 BA Main House | Detached Cottage with full bath
1850+/- sq ft* | .27 acre level parcel

Price Upon Request

Coming Soon! Located on one of Lafayette's most coveted streets, 3368 Victoria Avenue offers a charming single level 3BD/2BA ranch style home and a detached cottage (with a full bathroom) and a wonderful flat lot with spectacular back yard spaces including a canopy of mature trees. Amazing central location on a one block street close to everything and that backs up to the Las Trampas Creek. Charm and curb appeal abound with a generous sized front lawn, updated kitchen and bathrooms, and a large 1 car garage with bonus storage areas. Rare opportunity to live in as-is and enjoy as well as offering many expansion possibilities. Detached cottage is a great flexible use space – office, guests, au-pair, outdoor living room, the possibilities are endless! Close to vibrant Lafayette downtown shops and restaurants, Lafayette Reservoir, Hwy 24 and 680, BART, and 13 years of top-rated schools.

*As measured by Floor Plan Visuals; 1535sq ft main house and 315sq ft Cottage



Dan Walner
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COMPASS



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sacred spaces



Utilize spaces that are often forgotten, such as the repurposed area below a deck.

... continued from Page D1

Paths and Walls

Whether you use gravel, bricks, decomposed granite, pavers, or flagstone, creating paths throughout the garden allows for interesting patterns and yard exploration. Because I believe in recycling, upcycling and repurposing, I always utilize whatever materials are available when I'm building stairs, paths or walls. A former built-in redwood bench is turned on its side to be reused as a retaining planter box. Used bricks add a separation element to the revamped below-deck walkway bordering the tangled wisteria forest.

Pergolas, Gazebos, Decks

A deck is always a great gathering spot. A gazebo or pavilion is a stately structure to sit, embrace the view, and offer gratitude for outdoor rooms. On my deck, under my grape, wisteria and bower vine-covered pergola, I unwind after a long day by soaking in the hot

tub. This is my prayer place as I gaze at the twinkling stars above.

Plantings

The selection of specific plants is critical to the overall color and scale of any garden. My goal is always to witness botanical interest 365 days a year through express attention to the trees, flowers, shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs and bushes. Every season brings a change to the landscape. Roses bloom for nine or 10 months when regularly dead-headed. Perennial sweet peas flourish with their pretty purple pea heads from spring until autumn. Pink naked ladies pop up to smarten the summer soils when most other plants find it too hot to shine. Deciduous trees such a Japanese maple, pistache, crape myrtle, and liquid amber offer spectacular autumn colors.

When you think about creating your sacred spaces, make sure you are bringing the indoors out and the outdoors in. Expand your home environment by mimicking and mingling colors, patterns, themes, and shapes through both areas. Great design amplifies your emotional well-being. Rediscover forgotten or overlooked spots. Feel the vibes as you develop your scheme keeping comfort and safety at the forefront. Use your imagination to unearth the endless possibilities.

Mother Nature is the original church. When we honor Her, we will attain a more balanced life with peace as a bonus gift, no matter what is happening around us. As this latest Delta variant spreads its dangerous virus tendrils, I urge everyone to talk with their physicians, listen to the science, and get vaccinated. Discover your sacred space, breathe, and spend as much time outdoors as possible.

A Be the Star You Are!® volunteer from Minnesota emailed me, "I go for walks on our nearby trail as often as I can because it's a way to escape to nature, and I know how you feel about that! So off I go."

Off you go!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, Sept. 25, Be the Star You Are!® will participate in the first live event at the Pear and Wine Festival with a booth sponsored by the Lamorinda Weekly (www.Lamorindaweekly.com) and MB Jessee

painting (www.MBJessee.com). Wear your mask and visit us! Details at www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Perennial sweet peas spread throughout the hillside.



A close-up of the elegant Arizona rose.



A bee drinks from the pink throat of the Naked Lady.



Comfy cushions bring colors from the indoors to your outdoor sacred spaces.



Cynthia Brian, the Goddess Gardener

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

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

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

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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



48 Oak Road

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

\$2,295,000

ORINDA



26 La Cuesta Road

4 bed/ 3 bath mid century modern overlooking Lake Cascade in one of Orinda's most coveted neighborhoods.

\$1,750,000

ORINDA

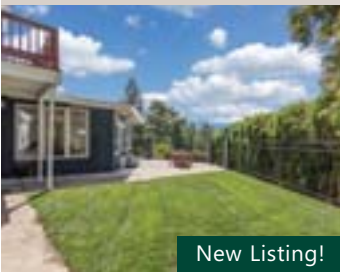


46 Ivy Drive

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!

11 Las Palomas

Updated & modern light-filled 4 bed/ 4 bath home set on a knoll in Orinda Country Club neighborhood w/ valley views.

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



8 La Campana Road

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath home nestled in the scenic hillside above Orinda Country Club & close to downtown.

\$1,399,000

LAFAYETTE



4090 Happy Valley Road

Luxurious 4 bed/ 5.5 bath home on 2.64 acre estate w/ adjoining lovely guest house, a huge lawn & bocce ball court.

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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.

\$6,990,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3485 S. Silver Springs Rd

Charming 4 bed/ 2 bath home w/ large flat yard. Includes picturesque gardens w/ sport court & playhouse/ garden shed.

\$1,995,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

589 Augusta Drive

Rare opportunity in Moraga Country Club. Single level on 1st fairway. Golf, swim, tennis, pickleball, & clubhouse. It's all here!

\$1,850,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

114 Merion Terrace

4 bed/ 2.5 bath home in Moraga Country Club. Super bright & sunny location w/ panoramic views of Moraga hills.

\$1,395,000

OAKLAND



New Listing!

4473 Montgomery St. # 2

Spacious, bright & updated 2 bed/ 2.5 bath townhome w/ solar. Near Piedmont Ave. Easy access to shopping & transport.

\$998,000

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