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**17th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show**  
 Saturday Sept. 11th 10 am to 2 pm  
[www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)  
 In Orinda Village  
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Photo Sora O'Doherty

David Orsi drives his 1950 Chevrolet Styleline Deluxe Convertible, Ruby, which carries Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Vice Mayor Dennis Fay during the recent Fourth of July parade in Orinda.

## Orinda Classic Car Show returns on Sept. 11

By Sora O'Doherty

The 17th Orinda Classic Car Show will return to a more usual in-person format on Sept. 11, displaying approximately 200 automotive classics from all ages. The show, which will feature a tribute to vintage emergency vehicles and first responders who daily risk their lives to save others, benefits the "Seniors Around Town" transportation service, an Orinda Association program and other fine causes. Unfortunately, the popular Dancing with the Cars evening dinner dance will not return in person this year.

Each vehicle entered in the car show comes with a unique story, and the owners will be on site to discuss their entries with the public. One of the automobiles featured this year will be Ruby, David Orsi's 1950 Chevrolet Styleline Deluxe Convertible. The car, painted in a classic Oxford maroon metallic, was used by Orsi to chauffeur Orinda's mayor and vice mayor in the 2021 Fourth of July parade.

Orsi had a long career working for C&H Sugar in Crockett; in fact, he was the fourth generation of his family to work for the company. When he retired about four years ago, he decided to pursue his hankering for a classic Chevy, like the 1954 model

he owned when he was 18. He located the car in the Hemmings Motor News. The previous owner was deceased and the family did not want to keep dad's cars. Orsi took a chance and participated by telephone in an auction in North Carolina. While he doesn't recommend that strategy, Orsi says, "I got lucky: the car came in one piece with no surprises, presentable but worn out." The car was transported across the country on a car carrier truck. Orsi named his new ride Ruby and set about restoring the vehicle as he can afford it.

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## Former MCF treasurer sentenced to 18 months in prison for embezzlement

By Vera Kochan

After countless delays, and nearly two years of waiting for justice to be served, Francis Robert (Bob) Fritzky has been sentenced to 18 months in prison. Following that, he will be placed on supervised release for three years. A restitution hearing is scheduled for Nov. 5.

In early September 2019 the Moraga Community Foundation revealed that Fritzky was suspected of making unauthorized withdrawals as Foundation treasurer, between June 2016 and August 2019, of more than \$330,000 from MCF's bank accounts to himself, to his majority-owned company MedMatRx, LLC and to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation, which he founded and controlled. Fritzky was also believed to have provided false financial reports to MCF's board of directors.

During an Aug. 21, 2020, court appearance be-

fore United States District Judge Jon S. Tigar out of the U.S. District Court, California Northern District (Oakland), Fritzky pleaded guilty to the two felony counts filed against him. Count One: wire fraud and aiding and abetting; and Count Two: making and subscribing a false tax return.

An initial sentencing hearing was scheduled for January 2021 with Fritzky's attorney Randall Luskey of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, stating that "Mr. Fritzky is working hard right now to earn enough money to be able to commit to a sizable payment plan, and I want to give him as much time as he needs to do that."

The Court extended the sentencing hearing twice more when on May 6 it was revealed that Fritzky had acquired a new attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender Graham Archer, to take over his case. The Court once again granted Fritzky extra time while Archer was caught up to speed on the case and rescheduled another appearance for May

21. The latest delay occurred during a July 30 hearing when Fritzky alleged that he was suffering COVID symptoms and was awaiting test results to either confirm or deny his illness. The Court granted a continuance to an Aug. 27 in-person hearing and ordered Fritzky to present a negative COVID test prior to the proceedings.

In a Victim Impact Statement from MCF to the Court dated April 7, MCF requested that "The 'intended loss' is \$337,786, and for sentencing purposes should be set at no less than \$257,371.70." The larger figure "is the 'gross' amount Mr. Fritzky stole from MCF. The lower \$257,371.70 figure is only arrived at after crediting the defendant for amounts he returned, over the course of the scheme, to cover his tracks."

MCF also requested "that the Court order a sentence of not less than 24 months.

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Football teams return to gridiron after brief respite - Page C2



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Garden gathering ideas for perfect backyard parties - Page D1







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# Lafayette City Council appoints Kwok to fill vacancy



**Wei-Tai Kwok** Lamo archive

**By Lou Fancher**

The city council at the end of a special meeting on Aug. 24 appointed 19-year Lafayette resident Wei-Tai Kwok to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of council member Cameron Burks earlier this summer. Following a 3-1 vote, with Mayor Susan Candell the sole “nay” vote, City Manager Niroop Srivatsa placed a Zoom call to Kwok. City Clerk and Municipal Information Officer Joanne Robbins read the oath of office as Kwok was sworn in at the online meeting.

Kwok was one of three finalists interviewed at the Aug. 24 meeting. Other candidates included Farschad Farzan and Karen Maggio. Kwok will serve on the city council until the next regularly scheduled municipal election in November 2022.

Kwok for 17 years successfully pursued a career as a diversity and cross-cultural community consultant before pivoting his vocational focus

and working for over a decade in the solar and renewable energy field. He has a Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science from Yale University and is the parent with his wife, Violet Kwok, of one daughter and one son. The Kwok children attended Happy Valley Elementary School, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes High School. Kwok has served on a subcommittee of the Lafayette Environmental Task Force and has been an active member of the Lafayette Community DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) Committee. He is past president and a four-year member of Sustainable Lafayette.

At the July 12 council meeting, Srivatsa noted the vacancy was required to be filled within 60 days of Burks' June 28 resignation; Kwok's appointment on Aug. 24 met the 60-day deadline.

The council during the interview process received approximately 21 comments prior to the Aug. 19 meeting and 26 comments submitted before the final meeting on Aug. 24, and the council mentioned frequent conversations and written or survey feedback from people in the community about the process, the candidates, and about their priorities as residents of Lafayette.

Kwok in his answers to council members' questions repeatedly emphasized listening to a diversity of voices and considering written communications and feedback from surveys with open

minds to ensure the community will “drive the roadmap forward.” He emphasized an organic, humanistic approach that avoided codifying survey data and said if the city and its people send an aggregate message demonstrating continued interest in maintaining open spaces, supporting a lively, likable and walkable downtown core, funding and participating in area schools' educational strength and reputation, actively preserving a sustainable environment while meeting State requirements for residential housing, encouraging commercial development with safety, the climate and density in mind, and more – those metrics when reconciled with the General Plan should constitute the city's mission and vision.

Asked specifically a number of questions about state versus local land control, Kwok said he strongly favors local control. Tying his response on housing to his highest priorities – wildfire safety and the drought, two issues he said will not be solved quickly – he suggested Senate Bill 9 (SB9) is legislative overreach. By rezoning parcels throughout the city and spreading increased density into areas with already congested arterial roads, Kwok said the state's “one size fits all approach might be easiest, but it isn't best.” Instead, he advocates for Lafayette to renegotiate housing element increases of just over 2,000 to more reasonable numbers and continue to ad-

vocate for local control when it comes to zoning.

As an advocate for centering most of the density increases in the downtown core, Kwok said a stronger infrastructure must be built to preserve pedestrian and traffic safety, especially near schools, and funding must be adequate to improve and meet demands for greater city services such as water, sewer and electrical systems.

Referencing past sales tax measures and general obligation bonds that voters in Lafayette have failed to pass, Kwok said, “We have priorities, but we're not willing to fund them.” The comment, while critical, came with context as Kwok acknowledged that bond measures not adequately made specific to their application are not likely to pass. He said more likely to pass are revenue bonds that would, for example, be connected to having city-owned, revenue-generating businesses become a part of future development of Lafayette Square. Collaborations with other cities to obtain federal funding for larger infrastructure projects such as rebuilding roads offered additional possibilities, according to Kwok. He is hopeful that good vision and strong communication efforts will produce willingness for registered voters to approve sales tax or bond measures.

In written comments submitted to the council Kwok issued statements supporting making Lafayette a zero-carbon city by 2040. Bol-

stering a diverse downtown core that is walkable and offers a blend of residential and commercial opportunities is a priority; with emphasis on climate crisis solutions, environmental justice, and improving social and racial divisiveness in part through more affordable housing. Overall, Kwok cast himself as a practical person who will bring to the council new ideas for facing the unprecedented challenges as society emerges from the pandemic and addresses systemic racial inequities.

Council Member Gina Dawson said Kwok brought a “needed voice” and is “in tune” with the community. Vice Mayor Teresa Gerringer said he is a “forward vision thinker.” Mayor Candell remained concerned his differences in policy positions from her own would prove to be an obstacle. Council Member Carl Anduri, after delivering strong support for the experience and policy positions of candidate Karen Maggio, joined with Gerringer and Dawson to support Kwok.

After being sworn in, Kwok said he appreciated commentary from the council and members of the community during the process and was grateful and humbled by the enthusiastic volunteerism of council members and people in Lafayette. He said it's important to remain open to learning, changing his mind when called for, and he pledged to give thoughtful consideration to all viewpoints.

# Johnny's Donuts extended hours delight community

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Cambodian immigrant Kim Soeung has made area resi-

dents very happy by extending the hours of the popular donut shop, Johnny's in Lafayette. When she acquired the shop at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, she extended the hours from a 2 p.m. closing to a 5:30 p.m. closing time, and recently added Sunday hours from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Soeung grew up in Cambodia, and entered into an arranged marriage in 1981

when she was 19 years old that brought her to California in 1998. She has a full-time job in the medical device industry, which she keeps even now. She set aside her dreams of obtaining a college degree in engineering when told that her oldest daughter needed help with her schoolwork. Soeung has three daughters. The eldest has just graduated from UC Irvine, the middle girl is in college now,

and her youngest daughter attends Stanley Middle School. The family recently moved to Lafayette, close to the shop.

When Soeung was living in San Jose, she decided that she wanted to become a donut shop owner. She got a job working in a donut shop to learn the trade, before buying her first shop in San Jose, Manley's Donuts.

... continued on Page A10

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# Council opts for speed reduction measures and parking restrictions in Burton Valley area

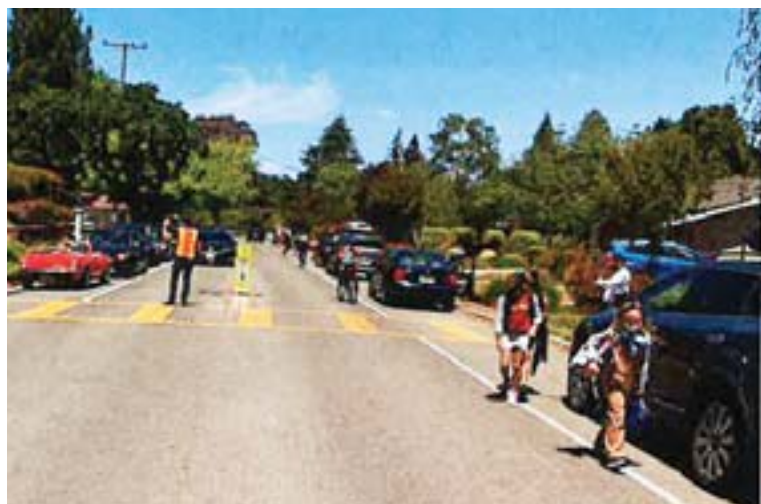


Photo City of Lafayette Staff Report

**Children riding and walking in the travel lane on Merriewood Drive**

**By Jennifer Wake**

Finding safe routes to school has been a decades-long push for some Lafayette residents. Burton Valley Elementary School, tucked between Merriewood Drive and Rohrer Drive, is one of the only schools without dedicated sidewalks or pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, thus requiring students, pedestrians and bicyclists to enter traffic lanes to pass parked vehicles on the roadways.

After Lafayette city staff received a grant to conduct a year-long “Safe Routes to School” pilot study for the area, Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran and Associate Traffic Engineer Slavash Shojaat presented options to the city council Aug. 23 following four public Transportation and Circulation Commission meetings held to discuss safety alternatives. More than two dozen residents participated via Zoom in the Public Comment portion of the council meeting, with hundreds of emails and letters flooding city offices both for and against the proposed changes following TransCirc meetings.

The most divisive issue, Moran noted in a staff report, involved the proposed installation of a berm-protected path, with some residents supporting the berm because it would provide a physical barrier and separation between pedestrians and vehicles, while others expressed concern that the berm would create a tripping hazard and present an obstacle for mail delivery and garbage pickup and create an additional parking hazard.

Merriewood Drive resident Joshua Baker, who is permanently disabled due to Multiple Sclerosis, spoke during the Public Comment portion of the meeting about his fear of the proposed project in front of his home and the dangers a berm would pose to him, due to his difficulty with balance and gait and his current need to use a cane.

Mike Maurer, who is an Americans with Disabilities Act expert and has been involved in this project, explained that installing a berm would be considered an alteration to the roadway and “if

you’re increasing the use or changing the use, that’s going to be an ADA trigger.”

According to the staff report, the proposed berm-protected path would not meet ADA requirements. Alteration to the road would trigger additional ADA compliance measures and the city would be required to flatten the cross slope existing on the shoulder. The cost would easily exceed \$700,000 to effectively reconstruct the entire street. “If you were really willing to spend that much money, you could probably pay for sidewalks,” Moran said. Based on this information, staff did not support the installation of the berm-protected pathway.

Moran and the council also discussed pursuing a sidewalk option; an assessment district would need to be formed and residents would need to pay for construction and future maintenance of the sidewalks themselves through this assessment on their property taxes. While adding sidewalks would involve a lot of work, Moran said this is probably the best neighborhood to add sidewalks along Merriewood to Silverado.

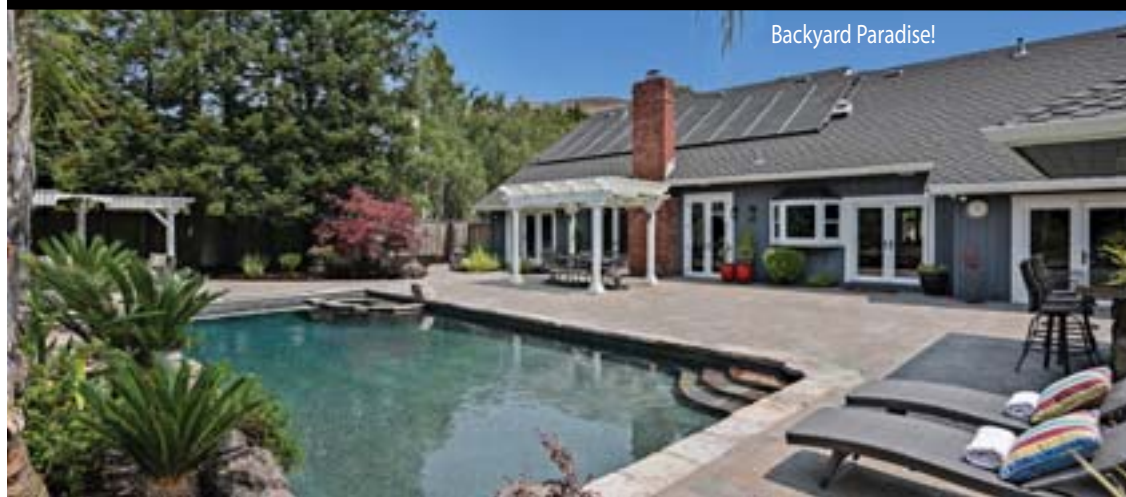
The discussion turned to speed reduction and safety measures such as the addition of 11 speed humps, vegetation pruning and painting curbs red near corners to improve line of sight. Paint striping and speed humps would not trigger ADA compliance issues. The city council also discussed the addition of crosswalks at Merriewood Drive and Silverado Drive and having a speed survey done after the pilot program is complete.

After a lengthy discussion, council members voted to add parking restrictions during school days from 7 to 9 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the west side of Merriewood and Silverado from Merriewood to Community Park and the north side of Rohrer from Silverado to Merriewood. Staff would talk to the school district to verify hours prior to posting signs.

The council also directed Moran to return with a recommendation for a consultant to look for a best solution for a protective pathway and the possibility of installing a sidewalk.

**Clarification:** In the Aug. 18 article, “Proponents for local land use control submit initiative to state attorney general” it should have been noted that SB 10 is considered an “opt-in” bill and is allowed only after a city council votes to allow it in their city. The bill would require an ordinance to be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the members of the legislative body if the ordinance supersedes any zoning restriction established by local initiative. According to Jeremy Levine of Inclusive Lafayette, SB 10 allows city councils to vote to upzone single-family lots in high-opportunity areas to allow 10 units per lot. City Councils must vote before SB 10 has any impact on a community.

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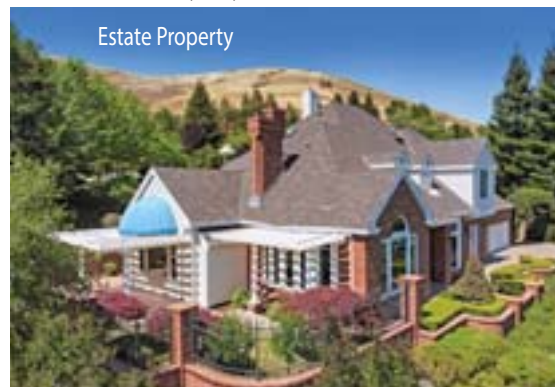
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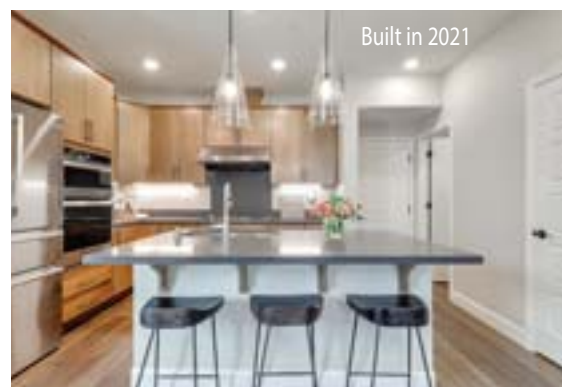
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**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:  
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**Planning Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
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**Design Review**

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
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## Moraga Council Member David Stromberg resigns

By Vera Kochan

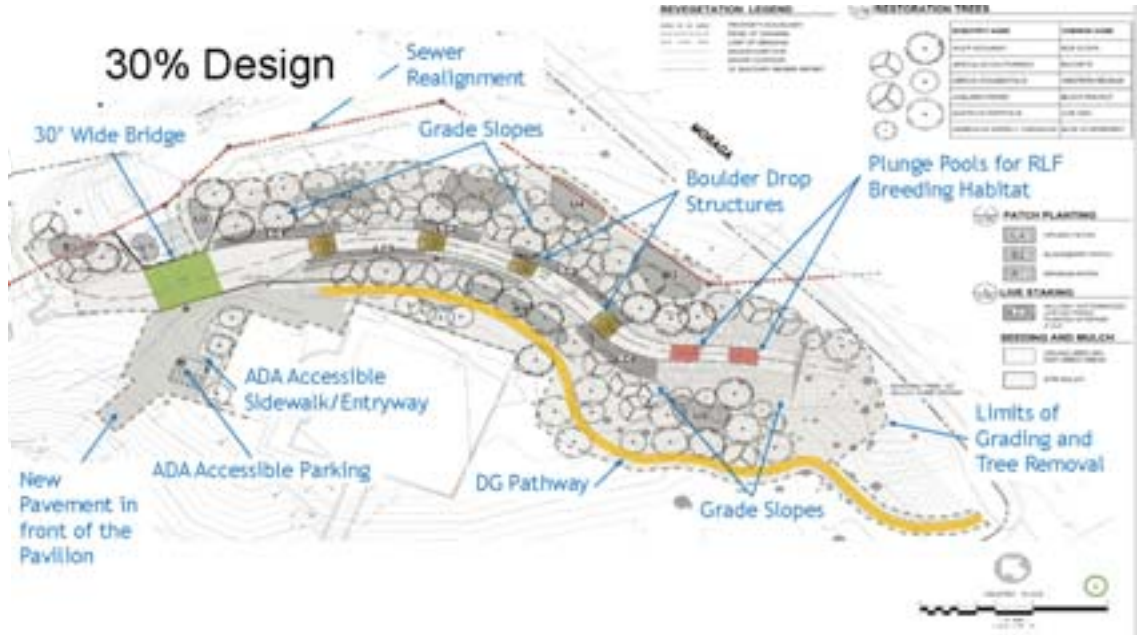
Council Member David Stromberg on Aug. 26 submitted a resignation letter stating, "Due to personal and private circumstances, I will be moving from the Town of Moraga where I currently reside. For this reason, this letter constitutes my resignation

as a town council member for the Town of Moraga."  
Stromberg stated that his last day of service as a council member will be Sept. 9 and that he requests confidentiality in the matter.  
In his letter of resignation, Stromberg mentioned his six years of service to the town which included a seat on the Design Review Board

with one year as its chair; a seat on the Planning Commission with two years as its chair; and his current position as one of the town's council members.  
Stromberg takes pride in having made "informed decisions" in the town's best interests; his strong "commitment to the preservation of open space"; and his pursuit

of "fiscally conservative approaches" to the town's limited resources.  
"I regret not being able to fulfill my commitment to the voters and to complete my term on the town council," said Stromberg, "including serving as the town's mayor in 2024, the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Moraga."

## Town council receives update on 30% design for Laguna Creek Restoration Project



By Vera Kochan

Moving steadily along, the Laguna Creek Restoration Project update was presented to the Moraga Town Council on Aug. 25. Currently at its 30% design stage, Acting Public Works Director/Town Engineer Bret Swain and Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers made a brief presentation outlining the progress.  
The project's location is

on the grounds of the Hacienda de Las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive. An 8-foot diameter culvert has been the cause of periodic flooding over the years, because its size cannot handle large water flows during exceptionally rainy winters.  
At the 15% design stage the ADA accessible parking stall was to be moved to the front of the building to facilitate movement around the

building, allowing for a narrower bridge. A decomposed granite trail installation will make it easier to maneuver for wheelchairs, strollers and anyone wearing heeled shoes. Additionally, new guardrails and barriers will be installed that are similar in appearance to other wooden ones already located on the grounds.  
According to the staff report, "The 30% plans to re-

store the natural stream channel and expand capacity to accommodate a 100-year flood include: a 30-foot-wide bridge over the creek to allow maintenance, ADA and emergency access to the Pavilion; grading and off-haul of approximately 5,500 cubic yards of material to stabilize the slope banks and creek channel (the material will be deposited, graded and reseeded at the Commons Park "Back 40"); placement of boulders to stabilize the bed and banks of the channel; planting of the riparian zone in accordance with regulatory requirements; planting of the top and upper banks with trees, shrubs and decorative plantings following the excavation and removal of approximately 75 trees; decorative plantings adjacent to the Pavilion; realignment of the ADA parking, improved ADA access, replacement of the pavement and realignment of the sidewalk at the front of the Pavilion; and realignment of the sewer main."  
A May 11, web-based survey of residents elicited 34 responses regarding land-

scaping preferences. There was a high preference for plantings that attracted wildlife such as birds, butterflies, bees and other animals. Also requested were plantings that bloomed year-round, changed color, had pleasing scents, provided shade and were native to the area.  
The total cost for the 30% design project which includes contingency, design, construction management, administration and post-construction monitoring is an estimated \$3,059,394. The full project funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, if approved after Phase 1, is currently stated as \$803,331. That amount reflects two-thirds (FEMA's share) of the original full project cost estimate from 2017 of \$1,203,311. Additional requests for grant awards will be submitted to FEMA.  
The town council stressed the need to reduce costs in favor of the "must-haves" over the "like-to-haves," and accepted the update while directing staff to continue with the design up to the 65% level.



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## Mulberry Tree Preschool hands over the keys to Growing Light Montessori School

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council approved a resolution authorizing an assignment of the Ground Lease with Mulberry Tree Preschool and owner, Susan Allison, to Growing



Lamo archive

Light Montessori School during its Aug. 25 meeting.  
The land, located at 1455 St. Mary's Road, is owned by the town (as is Moraga Commons Park). When the lease was set to expire on June 30, Allison appeared before the June 23 town council meeting and renegotiated a Fourth Amendment Ground Lease. It provided for Allison to continue leasing the site for an initial five years, with an option to extend for an additional five years. In addition, a provision for a temporary \$1,000 per month rent reduction for the first four months of the term lease was included along with a provision for lease assignment.  
According to a staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, on July 7, the town received notice from Allison requesting to assign her lease to Growing Light. GLMS would assume the existing Mulberry Tree lease agreement, which would expire on June 30, 2026, with an option to extend for an additional five years through June 30, 2031.  
GLMS owner, Rachel LaField, attended the Aug. 25 meeting to answer any of the council members' questions.

LaField currently owns three campuses – one in Lafayette, one in Kensington and one in Oakland. Included with a letter dated July 20 to the town council, LaField provided family letters of recommendation, landlord letters of recommendation, a business plan with capital improvements, a child care provider license, financial statements, a total assets balance sheet, and more.  
"We look forward to working with you to create necessary and inspired child-care offerings for the town of Moraga," stated the GLMS letter. "We are confident that a harmonious and seamless transition is possible for everyone."  
Already in the works, GLMS has plans for improvements to the fire alarm system and monitoring; painting and repairs; and landscaping which are expected to cost \$27,000.  
The town council also directed Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Assistant Town Attorney Denise Bazano to clarify language from the Fourth Amendment regarding the disposition of improvements on the premises upon lease termination.

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**Town Council**  
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 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  
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



**Movie Under the Stars**  
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LINDA EHRIKH



# SMC begins fall semester with primarily in-person classes and strict COVID guidelines

By Vera Kochan

As far back as February, and well before the Delta variant of the coronavirus came roaring in with a vengeance, Saint Mary's College had already made plans to welcome students back to campus for the fall semester, which began on Aug. 30, with mostly in-person learning.

SMC gained confidence from the successful track record of safety protocols that were set in place and adhered to during the prior school year by offering classes online, in outdoor pavilions, and modified indoor classroom spaces where Plexiglass was installed. Additionally, the college implemented HyFlex technology that allowed faculty to teach in-person to some students while others joined the class remotely.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 school year, SMC states that, "the health and well being of our campus community remains our highest priority. We continuously monitor public health guidance and best practices so that we might pivot effectively should conditions change on campus or in our region."

As such, the school has mandated a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students coming to the campus this fall. All students must be fully vaccinated and provide verification to that effect or have an approved medical or religious exemption prior to arriving on campus. Any student who has submitted a deposit can choose to attend another college if they don't agree with the new policy, however SMC puts forth the theory that most other colleges and universities are following the same type of edict. The college is also requiring students, faculty, staff and visitors to wear facial cover-

ings while on campus unless they are in their private residence or private office.

According to a recent SMC update, "The College will work with students who are unable to access approved vaccines prior to arrival in the fall, for example, those coming from geographical areas where vaccine access is limited. International students who can prove that they have been fully inoculated abroad with a COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized for use by the World Health Organization will not need to be re-vaccinated upon arrival."

While SMC strongly recommends that faculty and staff get vaccinations, they have not yet made that a requirement for employees. Any students with approved exemptions will need to wear masks, maintain physical distancing according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and be required to complete weekly COVID testing. Students without proof of vaccination or a medical or religious exemption are given the option of enrolling in remote classes or they may take a leave of absence. They may not live in on-campus housing, participate in in-person classes, or have access to campus facilities.

SMC stresses, "We recommend that all members of our campus community follow good health practices, such as regular hand washing or sanitizing, maintaining some physical distance in large groups, and staying at home if you feel sick. If you feel more comfortable continuing to wear a mask, we encourage you to do so. Throughout the pandemic SMC has closely aligned its public health rules and guidelines with federal, state, and county guidance and will continue to do so if conditions change."



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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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 Phone (925) 253-4200  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.orindachamber.org  
**The Orinda Association:**  
 www.orindaassociation.org

## Friends get a little academic help



Restoration plans are being solidified at Moraga Adobe.

By Sora O'Doherty

At its August meeting, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe received some advice from Ruben Mendoza, Professor of Archaeology and Social and Behavioral Sciences at California State University, Monterey Bay. Mendoza, a prolific author of scholarly texts, visited the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, which will this month be officially purchased by the Friends, who are preparing to run it as a local history museum. The professor is preparing a formal report for the Friends, but spoke to them at their meeting, with a slideshow of photographs to illustrate his findings. He also responded to questions from The Lamorinda Weekly.

Interestingly, Mendoza told the Friends that the Moraga Adobe is virtually identical to the Bononda adobe in Salinas, with the exception of the location of the dormer. A state historic landmark, the Jose Eusebio Boronda Adobe is the centerpiece of the Monterey County Historical Soci-

ety's Boronda Adobe History Center. According to Mendoza, both structures are excellent examples of the Monterey Colonial style, a popular architectural style from the 1840s.

Of particular concern to the professor is the addition of concrete by developer J&J Ranch in the process of restoring the Moraga Adobe. He explained that concrete is really problematic for adobe, because it can prevent the building from "breathing" and result in the accretion of moisture. Moisture, he says, is the enemy of adobe, causing it to crumble. There are two areas of concrete that caused his concern: an abutment surrounding the front of the adobe and a layer of thinset on the floor of the main room inside. The concrete abutment could be good for the adobe, providing stabilization, but only if constructed such that water drains away from the building. If water pools next to the building, it will enter the walls and cause damage.

Although he didn't like the thinset on the floor in the

main room, he was also concerned about the effects of removing it, especially if it involved the use of jackhammers. He suggested that a traditional building technique for adobes could be imitated by cutting trenches in the thinset and then adding large joists in the trenches to which wooden planks could be attached to form the floor. The Friends want to have a strong floor suitable for dancing, much like when the original adobe was used to host fandangos.

Teresa Long, at the FJMA meeting, said that the original plans submitted to the city of Orinda for the restoration of the Adobe had joists supporting the floors, not concrete. The Friends have written to the developer about their concerns about the restoration methods, and sent a copy to the city. Long added that the city is "a little worked up" because they were not consulted about changes in the plans.

Mendoza advocates keeping some elements of the Adobe that were added in the 1840s or 1860s. For example, the Friends were concerned

that the carved wood lintels were out of place in the Adobe, but Mendoza urged the Friends to retain them because they are emblematic of a style seen throughout the Americas at that period. He also suggested that any timberwork be retained, if not in situ, then elsewhere, to be studied as part of the fabric of historical legacy.

In Mendoza's opinion, the whole building is historic and it shouldn't be returned strictly to its 1841 footprint.

... continued on Page A7



Photos provided

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## Orinda loses senior planner Adam Foster to a new job

By Sora O'Doherty

After four years with the city of Orinda, senior planner Adam Foster has moved on to a new job in private industry. Foster, who came to Orinda as a consultant before being hired permanently, will be with D R Horton, a national home-building company, working out of its Pleasanton offices. Foster, who was known for biking to work from his home in Walnut Creek, will have a little longer commute now.

Foster came on board to help Orinda with the Connect Orinda Streetscape Plan, which is the project he is most proud of from his work for the city. He was very actively involved in Orinda's latest push for downtown development, and Foster says that Orinda is catching up on a lot of downtown planning. "It's going to take a while," he notes, "but Orinda has so many wonderful volunteers who are pushing for progress." He says that it was fun to help with the project during his tenure, and he particularly enjoyed working with the city council. He believes that the experience of

working with city regulatory requirements will help him in his new position as a forward planner, where he will work on such matters as managing housing projects, getting entitlements and design review.

Foster is very interested in opportunities to expand low to moderate income housing opportunities. He gave a shout out to Council Member Amy Worth, whom he praised as being philosophically engaged with the issue of housing needs. Recently, Foster built a tiny house in his own backyard, which gave him experience of being on the other side of the planning process, as well as doing the construction largely by himself.

Foster earned his degree in environmental policy analysis and planning at UC Davis. He explained that working in the planning department he had to become a generalist, learning to wear a lot of hats and learn a lot of disciplines.

The past year was a tough one for Foster, who contracted COVID-19, as did his son. His wife was on quarantine, but Foster kept working remotely through it. He assumed the role of tech assistant, previ-

ously held by Mayank Patel. Foster felt very comfortable with assisting the city to quickly convert to virtual meetings, and helped with meetings he wasn't even involved with. He volunteered to stop watching sporting events and would drop everything to jump online and help manage a virtual meeting for the city.

He felt very proud of how the city managed the transfer to online, and saw the benefits for people who perhaps in the past had been unable to attend meetings in person but could now participate without leaving home.

Worth returned the praise, saying, "In his thoughtful work with homeowners, his enthusiasm for the Connect Orinda initiative, and his help to Miramonte students in developing the ordinance banning Styrofoam use in restaurants, Adam shared his deep commitment to local planning and community development."

Planning Director Drummond Buckley said that Foster will be missed, but wished him the best in the new job. The city is currently recruiting for a replacement.

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## Friends get a little academic help

... continued from Page A6

As to roofing, he suggests redwood as an appropriate roofing material, noting that Mission style tiles would be out of character. Mendoza says that he was very impressed with the heroic effort to save this adobe, calling it an amazing feat to raise the money to purchase and run the adobe.

Concerns about the restoration efforts may have an effect on the closing of the transaction that will give the Friends title to the building. Vice President Tania DeGroot reminded the group that the contract states that J&J Ranch must complete the restoration work within two years of payment.

Prior to the final payment by the Friends to the builder, on Aug. 24, Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry presented a check to FJMA for the final installment of the \$100,000 raised by MHS to help save the Moraga Adobe. In 2013, the MHS pledged to raise 20% of the funds needed to purchase the Adobe. The FJMA has acknowledged the participation of the MJS as a very significant partnership leading to satisfaction of the goal of acquiring the Adobe for the benefit of the community.

The Friends are excited to now focus on the next phases of the Adobe project. As the rehabilitation of the Adobe building is being done, the group is busy making plans and formalizing ideas for museum exhibits, landscaping, site features, and the creation of an Adobe operating team. Two committees have

been formed, the Museum Committee and the Adobe Site Operating Committee and volunteers are always welcome. Those interested in helping to plan Lamorinda's newest museum (in the oldest house in Contra Costa County), should contact TeresaLong@MoragaAdobe.org.



Photo provided

## Orinda Classic Car Show returns on Sept. 11

... continued from Page A1

"I want to keep the car stock as possible," Orsi noted. The only modification to the car's classic configuration is the addition of disk brakes, which is allowed for safety purposes. Although Orsi says that he doesn't feel comfortable driving Ruby on the freeway, he will do so for short, necessary stints. The car will handle 55-60 mph. Orsi tries to stay on the back roads. The new engine is a little over a year old, and he is breaking it in slowly. He has bought a set of five new, steel-belted white wall tires. He keeps the car garaged and pampered. When he drives the car, Orsi says, "Ruby gets a lot of attention." In 2005 Orinda residents

Chip Herman and John Vanek, backed by Orinda Motors, partnered to start the Orinda Classic Car Show to bring together the local classic car community and to raise money for local charities including Seniors Around Town, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (now ONE Orinda) and the Orinda Historical Society. Over the past 16 years, substantial funds have been raised for local charities.

The 17th Orinda Classic Car Show will take place Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Orinda Motors. More information is available at: www.orindacarshow.com

Last year's classic car tour webinar can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/xKxS81J0Wms>



### City Council Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only  
**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

### Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.  
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# MPD and Moraga community mourn the loss of Corporal Kevin Mooney



Photo provided

**Corporal Kevin Mooney**

**By Vera Kochan**

Community members in the town of Moraga were shocked and saddened to learn of Moraga Police Department Corporal Kevin Mooney's passing on Aug. 21, after a courageous battle with COVID-19 and related complications. More so, because he was only 58 years old, a husband, father and grandfather. Mooney embraced and

epitomized the police motto "To Protect and to Serve" his entire life. He was a member of the United States Marine Corps for 29 years, overseas and in Iraq. He rose to the rank of Major before finally retiring in 2010. He continued to protect and serve during his 21 years as a Contra Costa County Sheriff's Deputy before becoming an officer for the city of Orinda for more than six years.

In 2013, Mooney joined the MPD where he served as a detective, and explained in a Lamorinda Weekly interview that year, "I live in Moraga. I've been involved with the schools and the community for quite a while and I have a vested interest in keeping things safe here."

Mooney wore many hats as a rangemaster, a field training officer and as the president of the Moraga Police Officers Association, but the one position that was very close to his heart was being the organizer of the local Toys for Tots drive. "I have been

involved with the Toys for Tots program since my Marine Corps Reserve days in the '90s," he said during a 2018 interview for a Lamorinda Weekly article. "I count it as one of the most important and satisfying endeavors in which I have participated. A great program for a great cause." It was the first of many opportunities this reporter had to interview Det. Mooney.

During the Toy Drive event the following week, he spoke off-topic and told me, with a straight face, that the Moraga police station was haunted. "No one wants to stay there alone late at night, because they keep hearing things," he said. Not wanting to miss the opportunity of a great Halloween article, the following October I emailed him for more details. When he didn't respond, I began to ask others who worked in the town offices, but everyone said they'd never heard that the place was haunted or that anything out of the ordinary

happened at night. I came to the conclusion that Det. Mooney was likely "yanking my chain" and putting me through my paces - testing the new reporter, as it were.

Mooney offered me insight into the latest scams that were being perpetrated against local citizens or the public in general. He was excited to get the word out as to all of the various schemes befalling unsuspecting people, and more so, the elderly. He almost spoke faster than this reporter could take notes, and it was clear that he hoped the article would help prevent more scams from happening to the people under his watch.

One of the last interviews I had with Det. Mooney was for the TJ Maxx robbery article. I was already at the store

when he arrived on the scene and joked, "You got here faster than I did. How did you hear about it?" To which I replied, "I'm one of the witnesses." The expression on his face was priceless - as if he was trying to figure out whether I was kidding or not. The fact that I was in the process of being interviewed by another officer gave him his answer.

Although I only knew Det. Mooney on a professional level, it quickly became clear to me that he was a man who meant business when it came to fighting crime, but he had a lighter side to him that he let escape every now and then. Moraga will truly miss Det. Kevin Mooney - a man who made it his life's mission to protect and serve.

Donations can be made to Cpl. Mooney's family through the Fund a Hero program at Kevin Mooney Memorial Fund.

<https://porac.org/fundraiser/kevin-mooney-memorial-fund>

## Fire District Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

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



For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)

# Former MCF treasurer sentenced to 18 months in prison

... continued from Page A1

The relevant factors include the history and characteristics of the defendant, promoting respect for the law, 'deterrence' and the need to impose a 'just' punishment. Application of these factors to Mr. Fritzky - who abused a position of trust in the Moraga community to steal over \$300,000 from a nonprofit, from his neighbors, from his friends - points to a sentence of at least two years."

Prior to Fritzky's July 30 hearing, Graham submitted a Defendant's Supplemental Sentencing Memorandum to the Court. In it he asked the Court to "impose a sentence of 12 months of home incarceration to be followed by three years of supervised release." He also agreed that "there are a number of people in Moraga who are angry with Mr. Fritzky for what he did. Mr. Fritzky acknowledges and understands their anger. He is deeply apologetic for the breach of the community trust, the damage done to the reputation of the Moraga Community Foundation, and the money that re-

mains unreimbursed."

A July 27 Supplemental Impact Statement to the Court from MCF stated, "Mr. Fritzky borrowed and obtained under false pretenses hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans from other Moraga residents in 2018 and 2019. Those loans remain unpaid to this day. The folks who loaned money to Mr. Fritzky trusted him, and he betrayed their trust. Such behavior toward his fellow citizens is the antithesis of selfless and law-abiding conduct." The Statement also pointed out that Fritzky had missed making his \$5,000 per month restitution payments for May, June, and July. The August payment was also unpaid.

During the Aug. 27 sentencing hearing, Fritzky disclosed that a test for COVID determined that he was diagnosed with Long-haul COVID symptoms that could last for weeks or months. The Court asked him whether he was able to go through with the hearing, to which Fritzky replied to the affirmative.

Assistant United States Attorney Barbara Valliere pointed out to the Court that

Fritzky had created "a profound and pervasive abuse of trust" and that he "has a penchant for dishonesty" when she recommended a sentence of 21 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and restitution.

MCF President Dave Trotter also recommended that Fritzky "serve his time in prison and not home confinement."

Archer reiterated his request for a 12-month home confinement with three years of supervised release, and restitution.

The Court gave Fritzky an opportunity to speak before sentencing was handed down. "I accept responsibility for my actions," he responded. "I have had the opportunity to read about other nonprofit embezzlement cases and understand what was their motivation. I did not do it just to buy more watches, more TVs or homes. The motivation was not to get rich - it was just to try and make it. I ask for your mercy."

Before making a decision, Tigar explained, "This is probably the hardest thing I do in cases - to impose sentencing."

The judge brought up the fact that it was clear to him that Fritzky knew what he was doing over the course of several years, and that his crime wasn't just a one-off. The Court noted that Fritzky accepted loans from Moraga citizens and friends totaling more than \$200,000 with the excuse of wanting to buy-out his Med-MatRx business partner, of which there was none. The Court also pointed out that Fritzky used donations to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation as his personal bank account, adding that "This conduct was long-running and on-going while he was being interviewed by the FBI."

In handing down the sentence of 18 months in prison and three years of supervised release, the Court made several stipulations which included: that Fritzky not hold a fiduciary position; that he must pay restitution (which will be determined at a later hearing); that he cooperates with the IRS to pay tax liabilities; that he not open new lines of credit or incur any debt; that he goes through periodic credit checks; that he is subject to a search

clause regarding his phones, computers, etc.; that he cooperates with any drug tests and DNA collections; that he be housed in a facility as close to the San Francisco Bay Area as possible; and that he surrenders of his own accord to the Marshal's office at 5 p.m. on Nov. 8.

United States Pre-Trial Services Officer Katrina Chu asked the Court to impose an electronic monitoring device on Fritzky as he had not yet surrendered his passport when requested. Fritzky explained that he had informed authorities that it had expired 11 years ago and assumed there was no rush to turn it over. The Court informed Fritzky that he must turn over his passport regardless, and cautioned him that any attempt at flight would not bode well.

In a press release following the sentencing hearing, Trotter stated, "The Moraga Community Foundation thanks the Court and the U.S. Attorney's Office for filing criminal charges against Mr. Fritzky. On balance we believe that justice has been done in this case."

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## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 8 - Aug. 21



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**

Auto Burglary	
3600 Block Brook St.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
30 Block Lafayette Cir.	
3700 Block Mosswood Dr. (2)	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Echo Springs Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.	
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Greenvalley Dr./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	

Moraga Rd./School St.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud False Pretenses	
10 Block Sweet Rd.	
10 Block Reliez Valley Ct.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Quandt Ct. (2)	
Grand Theft	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Grand Theft From Veh	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way	
Blackwood Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
1100 Block Vallecito Ct.	
600 Block Doreen Way	
Petty Theft	
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.	
Petty Theft Bicycle	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Residential Burglary	
300 Block Buckeye Ct.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
4000 Block Valente Dr. (2)	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Condit Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.	
600 Block Los Palos Dr.	
Disturbance-fight	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3300 Block Springhill Rd.	
Drunk In Public	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Music	
Florence Dr./St Marys Rd.	
900 Block Dewing Ave. (2)	
Loud Noise	
Moraga Blvd./1St St.	
Rancho View Dr./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
3400 Block School St.	
Loud Party	
Carol Ln./Moraga Blvd.	
1100 Block Glen Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Dewing Av./Bickerstaff St.	
10 Block Townsend Pl	
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Vandalism	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

3200 Block Sweet Dr.	
500 Block Antonio Ct.	
<b>Other</b>	
Battery	
20 Block Tofflemire Dr.	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Rahara Dr.	
Fireworks	
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.	
H&S Violation	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Harassment	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
600 Block Doreen Wy	
Thefts	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Boyer Cir.	
Trespass	
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
Violation Custody Order	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.	

## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 10 - Aug. 23



Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	54
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	8
Welfare Check	2
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	2
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Excessive Speed	
Rheem Blvd./Stuart Ct.	
Moraga Way At Moraga Valley Ln.	
Moraga Way/School St.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)	
Canyon Rd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr.	
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Campolino Dr./Natalie Dr.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (3)	
Constance Pl.	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (2)	
Ifo Homegoods	

Donald Dr.	
Lucas Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Forgery	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Grand Theft	
1400 Block Camino Peral	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
Not Available	
Petty Theft	
2100 Block Ascot Dr.	
Warrant Arrest	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way, Ori.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
10 Block Roberts Ct.	
Safeway	
Loud Music	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Hacienda (6)	
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd., Mo	
100 Block Devin Dr.	
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd., Mo	
Canyon Club Brewery	
Loud Party	
50 Block Merrill Dr.	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
<b>Other</b>	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
Moraga Commons Park	
Unwanted Guest	
20 Block Hour Fitness	

## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 1 - Aug. 14



Alarms	43
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	13
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	57
Patrol Req./Security Check	86
Supplemental Report	19
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	9
Public/School Assembly Check	7
Ordinance Violation	1

**Vehicle violations**

Accident Injury	
60 Block Acacia Dr.	
Accident Property	
Irwin Way	
10 Block Van Tassel Ln.	
Auto Burglary	
Wildcat Canyon/Bear Cir.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
200 Block Moraga Pablo	
300 Block Camino Pablo	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr.	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
400 Block Moraga Way	
Glorietta Blvd./Meadow Ln.	
700 Block Moraga Way	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud Credit Card	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Panhandling	
10 Block Theatre Sq	
Wildier Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Petty Theft	
20 Block Bryant Way	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Petty Theft From Veh	
100 Block Amber Valley Dr.	
20 Block Bel Air Dr.	
Petty Theft Other	
20 Block Bel Air Dr.	
Residential Burglary	
50 Block Windy Creek Way	
Shoplift	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
10 Block Birch Ct.	
300 Block La Espiral	
Disturbing The Peace	
50 Block Citron Knoll	
Loud Music	
100 Block Hall Dr.	
Loud Party	
Valley Dr./Heather Ln.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
300 Block Tappan Terrace	
Public Nuisance	
Theatre Square	
Vandalism	
Theater Sq	
30 Block Tara Rd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Failure To Obey	
Wb Sr24 Apg Fish Ranch	
Fireworks	
100 Block Manzanita Dr.	
Trespass	
20 Block La Cuesta Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
10 Block Camino Encinas	
100 Block Brookwood Rd.	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Violation Custody Order	
Orinda Theater Sq	



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## Letters to the editor

### Clearing up the MOFD Parcel Tax

Nick Warranoff (and probably most of Orinda and Moraga, including members of the MOFD Board) have a misunderstanding of the purpose of the MOFD Parcel Tax (called a "fireflow" tax).

This is simply a "top up" tax to cover expenses in excess of the basic funding provided by the property tax allocation set in 1978 when Prop 13 fixed the property tax rate at 1% and set the allocation of that tax to the agencies funded by the tax from schools to cities to fire departments.

In 1992 the residents of Moraga feared that the property tax funding their fire department was insufficient to pay for the premium services they desired including paramedic firefighters and a dedicated paramedic ambulance. So, they voted in a parcel tax that would bring in up to \$2.1

million, almost equal to what the basic property tax allocation was providing at that time. In 1992 only 20% of the approved tax was needed. That has never been increased.

Since MOFD was formed in 1997, Moraga's basic property taxes going to MOFD have increased by 200% to \$9.6 million. But MOFD's expenses have increased by 265%. To cover this increase, Moraga's "top up" tax should have increased by \$2-3 million, more than the Moraga voters agreed to back in 1992. Instead, it has not increased at all.

So where is MOFD getting its money? From Orinda property owners whose basic property taxes have increased by 300% since 1997 when MOFD was formed. Today, \$19 million of Orinda property taxes are going to MOFD. It costs MOFD about \$16 million to staff and operate Orinda's three stations, in-

cluding administrative overhead. The remaining \$3 million is covering Moraga's underfunding. This should be going to additional services in Orinda, namely fire prevention efforts.

People like Mr. Warranoff, the MOFD Board, and the leaders in Orinda are playing with our safety by not demanding that Moraga pay its fair share of MOFD operating expenses. In 1992 Moraga voters agreed to pay what was necessary to obtain premium service. What has changed?

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

### Environmental Concerns

Any of us who follow the news (and look at our skies) realize that we have moved from a state of Climate Change to a state of Climate Emergency. The issues can be overwhelming and, as indi-

viduals, it can be difficult not to feel paralyzed and powerless in the face of what is happening. This being acknowledged, there are personal decisions that many of us can make to try to alleviate some of the worst of what we may end up experiencing and to contribute to a healthier, more balanced planet. The four main efforts that have the most impact are to drive much less, to fly much less, to minimize eating meat, and to consider whether we should have children. Other actions we can take include using less energy and water, electrifying and solar-powering our homes, purchasing less, donating to environmental groups, divesting from fossil

fuel investments, voting for candidates who prioritize the environment and getting involved in local climate organizations, which can be very effective in terms of influencing policy and affecting change. We all have an obligation and an opportunity to contribute to the greater good of this one amazing planet that we call home. I hope we all make this effort - individually and collectively we can make a difference in what our future will look like. Not making this effort does not seem like an acceptable alternative, given the gravity of our situation.

Lindy Novak  
Orinda

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

## Local residents gather for ADU arrival



A crane lifts the ADU over the side fence into the backyard.

Photos J. Wake

### By Jennifer Wake

Neighbors on Stanley Boulevard behind Acalanes High School lined up on the sidewalk - some in lawn chairs, others standing - across from Georgette Bhathena's home as they awaited the Aug. 19 arrival of the newest neighborhood addition: a 500-square-foot accessory dwelling unit.

The shrink wrapped one-bedroom unit, which was built at an off-site location in Utah, arrived on a flatbed truck on the quiet street. A large crane stood ready to lift



Georgette Bhathena with dog, Rosie.

the ADU into place on its foundation built in the homeowner's backyard.

Bhathena's 77-year-old mother, who is moving to Lafayette from Seattle, will be living in the unit. "It has an open floor plan, her own living room, a full kitchen, bedroom and bath," said Bhathena said, who noted that they still have a yard for her middle-schooler and third-grader to use, albeit smaller. "My mom is eager to be closer to family."

Bhathena had researched several ADU companies, in addition to looking at Rossmoor as an option, before deciding on Redwood City-based Abodu.

A small army of construction workers and traffic calming staff bustled around the home making final preparations for the delivery. "The unit includes high quality finishes, quartz countertops, really nice stainless steel appliances," said Scott Wilson, who is head of construction and manufacturing at Abodu.

The unit has vaulted ceilings with large Marvin windows to let in natural light. The units, which include a 340-square-foot studio, a 500-square-foot one-bedroom or a 610-square-foot two-bedroom, offer a Mini-split AC and heating system, a washer-dryer

combo unit, a tiled shower with glass door that is ADA compliant, and premium cabinetry with soft-close hinges. Cost for a one-bedroom unit starts at \$225,900. There are six different siding styles, and Bhathena said they plan to paint their house to match the deep blue siding of the unit.

Approximately two weeks prior to delivery, the foundation was poured in the back-



The shrink-wrapped ADU arrives on Stanley Boulevard.

yard and site work was completed, including trenching and utility tie-in. "It was a pretty quick permitting process," said Bhathena, who started researching ADUs about six months ago.

Once the ADU arrived, the crew went to work measuring and re-measuring, while the counterweights were installed for the crane. Once all necessary precautions were taken and the unit was moved into position, the flyover installation began with the crane lifting the 500-square-foot structure over the side fence and onto the foundation.

"We try to time it so after the two-week construction we don't leave a hole in the ground," Wilson said. "There's a lot less chance of finding

problems building this way than if you build on site."

Once the ADU has "landed" in the homeowner's backyard (they don't say "dropped") the Abodu Concierge Service ensures all external components such as electricity, water and plumbing are properly hooked up. Abodu coordinates and manages the final city inspection and goes through a final 100-point checklist before handing the homeowner the keys.

Some neighbors stayed glued to their seats, while others took peeks into the backyard after the lift-off took place. "My mom was sad to miss the drop," Bhathena said. "She'll be moving in September and the unit will be ready for her."

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**September 2021 Weekly Speakers**  
 3: Claudia Hess, Is my art worth anything?  
 10: Dutch Martin, Live from Washington, DC  
 17: Paul Bettleheim, Family Harvest Farm  
 24: Brad Davis, A Special Program

**Johnny's Donuts extended hours delight community**



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**Johnny's Donuts owner Kim Soeung with her biggest fan, Tycho Nicosia, sampling a late afternoon donut hole.**

... continued from Page A2

Like Johnny's Donuts, Manley's was an independently owned shop, not a franchise. Soeung has a large family, and she has gradually brought them all to California from Cambodia to work in her donut shops. Only her sister remains in Cambodia, caught by the pandemic, but

hopes to join the rest of the family. Two years ago she brought her brother and sister-in-law and 11 other family members to California to work with her. Her brother is the baker in Lafayette and bakes the donuts every night. Soeung stresses that the shop only sells freshly made donuts. If any are left over, she donates them to the

homeless.

Opening at the beginning of the pandemic, Soeung was able to keep her shop open as an essential business.

Johnny's is now open for take-out or dine in. Soeung says that she really, really appreciates the local support that she receives. She has customers from Lamorinda and Walnut Creek, as well as from places like Danville and Vallejo. "I have really warm feelings for the community," she says, adding that everyone is really nice to them.

Currently the shop offers a wide variety of donuts and beverages. Soeung has aspirations to add croissant breakfast sandwiches with ham and cheese, and house-baked, New-York-style boiled bagels, as are offered by Manley Donuts in San Jose. She would also like to expand her range of beverages to include healthy fruit smoothies and espresso drinks.

Moraga resident Tycho Nicosia, 11, loves the shop. "The donuts are great, and they have soda!" he says.

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Paving a path to freedom in Lafayette



Photo provided

Sunita Shastri (left) is pictured with her colleague Yuliana Lopez outside of The Child Day School in Moraga. The pair teach pre-kindergarten children.

### By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Sunita Shastri arrived in Lafayette four years ago in search of a better education for her boys, Shreyansh (9) and Hridhansh (6), she only dreamed of finding her own freedom.

Shastri had set aside her own aspirations of becoming a doctor in India to get married and move across the world to start a family. Once she got to California, Shastri's marriage began unraveling. As a stay-at-home mom who was financially dependent on her spouse, Shastri recalls feeling both isolated and trapped.

When her youngest child was old enough to start preschool, Shastri says she became relentless in her search for work.

"I was so desperate to find a job so I could get out of my abusive marriage," Shastri recalls. "I applied everywhere."

She applied for jobs as a dishwasher in restaurants, as a server in McDonald's and as a cashier in grocery stores.

"Everyone told me that because I was a stay-at-home mom and didn't have direct experience, I was not qualified."

Months before the pandemic lockdown began, Shastri found a new opportunity

that her direct life experience had prepared her for. She learned through a parent at Lafayette Elementary School that The Child Day School in Moraga was seeking an assistant teacher.

"I'd been caring for my own children and neighborhood children for years so it made sense for me to apply," Shastri says. "I got the job and began working on my preschool teaching certification right away."

Shastri began her assistant teaching career in September 2019, bringing her youngest child to The Child Day School, where she worked, while relying on the help of fellow parents from Lafayette Elementary School for her older son's after school care.

Six months later, the lockdown began and Shastri was temporarily out of work and back in the struggle.

"When the lockdown began, my boys went without breakfast for two weeks," Shastri recalls. "I was too afraid to go out and was running out of groceries."

Thankfully, Shastri had connected with the Contra Costa County Family Justice Center, a center that provides wrap-around services for families in need, and with Narika, an organization that

supports South Asian women impacted by domestic violence, months earlier as she began conceptualizing her way out of her marriage.

"(Through Narika) I was able to get a delivery of basic groceries to get us through," Shastri said. "And a few months later I was back at work."

Step by step, with a stable job that she loved, the help of community resources, a county attorney and a strong will, Shastri pieced her life in Lafayette together, claiming her independence for the sake of herself and her boys one bit at a time.

"I was in the U.S. for more than 12 years but never learned to drive," Shastri beamed as she pulled her license out of her wallet. "I decided to change that this summer. The joke is that I have no car, but I do have my driver's license. It was an important step for me becoming independent."

Shastri also filed for divorce earlier this year and is nearing the final stages.

"I'm happy with where I am today. I'm not aiming to be a millionaire, but I'm content. I have inner peace. I have my confidence back and I love my life."

Looking back, Shastri says the first step to finding freedom from an unhealthy relationship was about setting aside her own shame and pride and reaching out for help. She says she hopes other women, regardless of their socioeconomic situation or status will do the same.

"I was there once, feeling embarrassed to talk about the abuse. I was scared to leave, thinking I couldn't support my boys without money, but once I took my first step and then made up my mind, I learned it is possible," Shastri says.

Emile Delgado-Olsen, director of The Child Day School in Moraga, is Shastri's supervisor. Delgado-Olsen, who is also a parent of a fourth-grader at Lafayette Elementary School, says he knew when he interviewed Shastri in 2019 that she'd be a good fit for The Child Day School.

"She had the experience of caring for her own children and she was a person who had overcome her own struggles," Delgado-Olsen says. "I knew she could handle the job."

While Shastri says she'll always be grateful to Delgado-Olsen for taking a chance on hiring her for a job that gave her a purpose and a paycheck, Delgado-Olsen says watching Shastri's transformation over

the past two years has been equally rewarding for him.

"It was a great experience to watch her grow and open up. I've watched her self-

esteem build and it is fun to see that," Delgado-Olsen says. "She's a part of the family at The Child Day School. We love her."

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## Residents gather to bid plant farewell after spiky sign of its demise arrives



Lafayette residents Pam King Palitz and Dr. Albert Palitz have had a large agave plant in their front yard for the past 15 to 20 years, but when a small spike emerged from the plant's center core in May, they knew the end was near. Called an "asparagus death spear" because of its similar features to an asparagus stalk and the fact that once the spear appears and blooms, the plant dies shortly thereafter, the center stalk grows quickly. In the three months since the stalk first emerged it had reached beyond the height of the couple's second story roofline. The plant also began to shed spores that have quickly germinated near the plant's base. The Palitzes decided to commemorate the plant's demise with tacos and tequila for friends and family on Sept. 5, "since tequila is made from agave," Pam Palitz pointed out. "My neighbor asked for the stalk in the hopes to make tequila out of it."

- J. Wake



Photo provided

The agave plant on May 26 shows first signs of the center spike-like stalk.

Pam King Palitz stands in her front yard next to the agave plant on Aug. 27 where the center stalk now towers over her second story roofline.

Photo J. Wake

## When I say "good," you say "neighbor."

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## Moist and flavorful quinoa cakes fit the veggie burger bill



Quinoa Cakes

Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

In July, my daughter, Courtney, and I were in Vermont to be the camp “chefs” for an adventure cycling tour. We somehow managed to cook breakfast and dinner for 24 hungry riders ... in campgrounds! Let me just say, that was probably the hardest either of us had ever worked in our lives, but we met great people and we loved Vermont. It was so gloriously green and beautiful.

There's a good reason why they call their mountains the Green Mountains!

Anyway, before the tour began, we treated ourselves to dinner at The Farmhouse Tap & Grill in Burlington, and one of our favorite dishes was their Crispy Quinoa Cakes,

made with corn and zucchini in addition to quinoa and who knows what else. They were absolutely delicious and it reminded me that I've been wanting to create my own veggie burger, because the packaged ones don't always fill the bill. So, this week, I set about creating this recipe and am so happy with the results.

I wanted something that had a crispy edge, but stayed moist in the middle and had plenty of spice. I didn't want to use oats, but rather quinoa, which has some protein, and we added toasted walnuts, flax meal and millet — all delicious and healthy ingredients. You could certainly add grilled corn or sautéed spinach or even zucchini for your own variation. We made these burger size for dinner,

but then the next day I made the rest of the mixture into little cakes for a side dish.

They are tasty enough to serve all by themselves, but a creamy avocado-cilantro-lime

dipping sauce never hurt anyone!

#### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 shallots, finely chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced  
3/4 cup cooked quinoa (any color you like)  
2 tablespoons raw millet  
1 15-oz. can garbanzo or black beans (I used garbanzo)  
1-2 tablespoons water (just for consistency and to help purée the beans.)  
1/2 cup toasted, chopped walnuts (you can sub pecans if you prefer)  
4 tablespoons flax meal, divided  
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce  
1/2 teaspoon powdered cumin  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 teaspoon lemon pepper  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1 tablespoon tahini (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS

Cook quinoa according to the directions. Cool to room temperature.

Heat olive oil in a sauté pan and add shallots and garlic. Cook over medium-low heat, until translucent and beginning to brown. Set aside. Don't clean the pan, because you can use this same pan to cook the quinoa cakes!

Purée garbanzo beans (or black beans) in the bowl of your food processor until mostly smooth. A few chunks is okay, and even good! This is where you may need to add some water to get the beans to process well.

Spoon the puréed beans into a mixing bowl and add the quinoa, millet, caramelized shallots and garlic, walnuts, Worcestershire, 2 tablespoons of the flax meal, and all of the herbs and spices. If you like tahini, add it at this time, too. (Be careful not to add too much to make the mixture too thin.) Mix all ingredients thoroughly and divide into 4 large burger-sized patties, or 8 small appetizer-sized cakes. Sprinkle the remaining flax meal on a plate and coat the tops and bottoms of each patty, gently pressing the flax meal into the patty. This gives the quinoa cakes a nice crunchy texture.

Heat a little bit of olive oil in the frying pan that you used for the shallots over medium heat. Place the quinoa cakes in the pan and cook over medium-high heat to brown both sides of the patties. Reduce heat to low and continue to cook for another 10 minutes or so, until the quinoa cakes are heated all the way through.

Serve with a bun and all of your favorite burger fixings if you are making these as veggie burgers, or if you plan to serve the smaller quinoa cakes as a side dish or appetizer, you might want to serve them with a creamy cilantro avocado sauce. (Avocado, cilantro, garlic, plain nonfat Greek yogurt, lime juice plus your favorite hot sauce.)

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



## Family Focus

### Toxic Relationships

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

*“Toxic relationships not only make us unhappy; they corrupt our attitudes and dispositions in ways that undermine healthier relationships and prevent us from realizing how much better things can be.” ~ Michael Josephson*

Emotionally healthy people don't set out to have a toxic relationship with anyone. Often, they become unwittingly ensnared in one and are unsure how to proceed. For those who hang on, hoping the relationship will improve, it is highly likely that they will experience ongoing distress. But many of us are loyal individuals who value the people in our lives and don't feel comfortable making radical changes.

There are many ways a relationship can be toxic; physical, emotional, and sexual abuse are widely recognized as indicators. Some behaviors don't qualify as full-fledged abuse, but still make for toxic relationships. If you are on the receiving end of bullying, manipulation, lying, gossiping about you to others, deception, general untrustworthiness, disregard for your time, money and/or feelings, or ultra-competitiveness with you, you may be in a toxic relationship.

Kristin, age 48, was working on managing her depression and anxiety in our therapy sessions. In the course of

examining her relationships, she became more aware of how hurt and upset she was that her relationship with one of her closest friends felt so one-sided. Kristin considered all the ways she was there for her friend, Natalie. She felt that she was always interested in Natalie's life, was generous with her time and money, and, overall, was a considerate friend. However, Natalie rarely reached out to Kristin unless she needed something. When they talked, the conversation usually seemed to revolve around Natalie. Most hurtful were the times Kristin heard that Natalie had invited others to her vacation home and hadn't included her. As a matter of fact, Kristin had never even been to Natalie's vacation home.

Our healthy relationships produce positive feelings about ourselves. We feel valued and seen. These relationships enhance our lives. When we're in a relationship that pulls us down to a negative place where we question ourselves and our worth and feel hurt and neglected, we need to stop and take stock.

Kristin was already putting in a huge effort in her friendship with Natalie. The only missing element was telling Natalie how she felt. However, Kristin knew that Natalie's actions spoke loud and clear, and that her preoccupation with herself was firmly established. There seemed to be nothing that Kristin could ask Natalie to

change that would help her feel better. After all, suggesting that she be invited to Natalie's vacation home wasn't an option. Kristin would never invite herself to someone's house or event, and besides, there was nothing that would compensate for Natalie's failure to invite her over the past years. Kristin was able to see that Natalie's treatment of her was overall inconsiderate and neglectful.

Kristin's choices were to continue the relationship as usual, to abandon it altogether, or to scale it down in her mind to a more superficial relationship. Because she lived in the same community as Natalie, Kristin decided to demote the relationship in her mind. She could still be friendly with Natalie, but she wouldn't consider her a good friend. In this way, she took more control and was able to avoid becoming so hurt and vulnerable.

We usually want to be able to speak up and ask what we would like from others in an appropriate way. Being assertive is difficult at times, but can be positive and rewarding. But if you are in a relationship with a toxic person, your feelings and perspectives will rarely be acknowledged or accommodated; the other person's version will take precedence. In extreme cases, the toxic person will gaslight you – feed you lies and distort your perception of events over time – and cause you to doubt yourself and your judgment.

Once you have evaluated and recognized the nature of a toxic relationship in your life, it is important to take steps to protect yourself.

Ben, aged 34, was a kind and loving member of his blended family. Both of his divorced parents had remarried several times, and Ben prided himself on getting along with all of his various siblings, half-siblings, and step-siblings. However, Ben had one half-sister, Helene, who was a particular challenge. Helene was a single mom of a 3-year-old son, Chad, and regularly accused Ben of not being a caring brother and uncle. In reality, Ben knew that he often made an effort to spend time with Helene and Chad, and would treat them to meals and toys for Chad. He also knew that Helene was the one who didn't think of others, but mostly what others could do for her.

Their relationship gradually deteriorated as Ben became increasingly resentful of Helene's demands and lack of appreciation. But when Helene got angry at Ben for not inviting her son to participate in his wedding, even though only nieces and nephews ages 5 and up were participating, Ben decided that he'd had enough. He told Helene that if she couldn't control her anger and treat him better, he didn't want to see her for a while. He needed a break. Helene became furious and lashed out at Ben, cursing him and insulting him. Her behavior

only confirmed his decision to distance himself from her as much as possible. Months later, Ben reported feeling only relief – and no guilt. Removing a toxic person from our lives can feel liberating and restorative.

A person may be toxic for one person, but not for others. Therefore, it is hard to get support for one's feelings if others haven't experienced the same behaviors from an individual. And each of us reacts differently. Whereas one person may perceive that he or she is being treated inexcusably poorly, another person may overlook the same treatment. It is up to each of us to decide for ourselves what bothers us and how much, if we can speak up and effect change, or if we're better off keeping a distance from certain people.

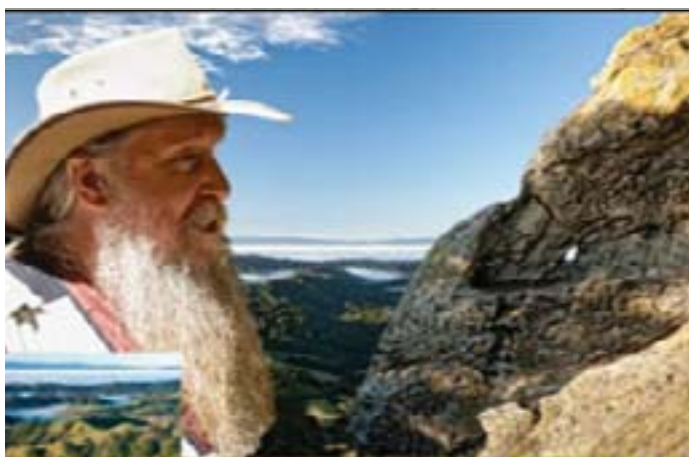


Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com). Her new book, “Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families,” is available from Orinda Books and Amazon.com.

## Lafayette Community Garden celebrates 10 years at open house



Kanyon Sayers-Roods



Jim 'Doc' Hale

Photos provided

Submitted by  
Jennifer Russell

The Lafayette Community

Garden and Outdoor Learning Center will celebrate its 10th year with a Community Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 12. The free event will focus on indigenous culture and feature two inspirational speakers – Jim ‘Doc’

Hale and Kanyon Sayers-Roods.

As a Coastanoan Tribal Member, Sayers-Roods' understanding of Indigenous culture promises to captivate and enrich our lives. ‘Doc’ Hale's background in ethnobiology will fascinate listeners as he shares his knowledge of the Saklan way of life.

In addition to the speakers, the event includes guided tours of the garden, information on raising chickens, master gardening and bee keeping, family crafts, edible treats, lavender lemonade, and an opportunity to walk a labyrinth and see the garden's Miwok Village. Members will be on hand to answer garden-

ing questions and show off a variety of gardening methods and practices including hinged covers that prevent critters from eating crops, vermiculture (worm composting), mulching, a butterfly garden, deer resistant plantings and so much more.

Although Contra Costa County Health officials do not require masks for outdoor gatherings, since there might be a large crowd, we suggest that community members wear masks during the open house. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the garden.

For information, visit <https://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/>



# Hacienda's kitchen walls depict works of art



Teresa Onoda stands proudly beside her pear tree Photos Vera Kochan

## By Vera Kochan

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone living in Moraga who hasn't at one time or another visited the Hacienda de Las Flores. However, how many folks can say that they've actually been inside the kitchen? What stands out the most are the beautifully painted tiles decorating the walls and making anyone's cooking for an army, or pot scrubbing experience, quite a bit more cheerful.

It all began between 2002-03, when the Moraga Park Foundation was gifted a generous monetary donation, with the stipulation that the money be spent on upgrading the Hacienda. Under Board Member Judy Dinkle's supervision, one of the projects tackled was the renovation of the kitchen. Her skills

with construction and remodeling made her the perfect person for the task at hand. Other Park Foundation members, Bob Reynolds and former president Chuck Treat, helped with the organization. However, the actual artwork adorning the tiles can be credited to Teresa Onoda ([www.onodaart.com](http://www.onodaart.com)), current town council member and former Moraga mayor.

Onoda became involved in the project when word got out that the Park Foundation contacted some local artists for their ideas as to how the kitchen's tiles should be decorated. The tiles themselves came in earth tones, and Onoda's vision was to celebrate Moraga's values, open spaces and history. With that in mind, pears and scenes of Saint Mary's College cur-

rently grace the walls of the kitchen.

Unfortunately for Onoda, a contract was already awarded to artist Matt Palsa for the actual application of her artwork ideas onto the tiles. "It drove me crazy," she stated. "I used to teach ceramics and art. It was hard not to be more involved, but he stayed true to what I had planned."

Onoda's color schemes meshed with the earth-toned tiles by using various shades of orange for the pears and capturing the yellow hills of summer with green foliage surrounding SMC's buildings. "I came to the artist with my sketches which were in actual size and the colors that I had envisioned," she explained. "The tiles of Saint Mary's above the stove are from a painting I had done looking from Bella Vista."

Sketches weren't Onoda's only involvement, she worked with the artist in laying out where each of her "paintings" would be positioned around the kitchen. For example, her pears come in clusters of one, two or more, and they are aesthetically placed for maximum affect.

"We volunteers gave our talents to make the Hacienda so special," said Onoda. By the looks of the kitchen, it was a labor of love!



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## Troop 219 honors six new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Troop 219 Eagle Scouts, pictured from left: Rhett M. Skvarna, Benjamin L. Braunstein, Jonathan D. Clark, Conner J. McPhail, Nicholas D. Eppinger and Luke R. Combi.

### Submitted by Dave Srivanka

Troop 219 of Lafayette, California will hold a Court of Honor on Sept. 18 to recognize and celebrate six outstanding young men – Rhett M. Skvarna, Benjamin L. Braunstein, Jonathan D. Clark, Conner J. McPhail, Nicholas D. Eppinger and Luke R. Combi – who have achieved BSA's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

In addition to earning 21 merit badges to achieve the Eagle Scout rank, Scouts also completed the following community service projects: Skvarna completed a bench restoration and beautification project at Acalanes High School; Clark designed and built a cus-

tom bookcase for teachers at Burton Valley Elementary School; Eppinger collected over 1,400 books from Kapnek Trust USA for use in libraries and schools in Zimbabwe; Braunstein built a 9 Square game in the Air court for Happy Valley Elementary School; Combi built Wood Duck nesting boxes for Cal Farms located on Grizzly Island in the Suisun Marsh; and McPhail organized a landscaping and enhancement project at Acalanes High School.

These six Eagle Scouts will receive recognition and proclamations from the City of Lafayette and Mayor Susan Candell, local U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, California State Sen. Steve Glazer, The White House and Contra Costa County.

## MHS presents final installment to Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe



Photo Debby Trotter

From left: Bobbie Landers (former Orinda Mayor and longtime FJMA and Adobe project supporter), Dave Trotter and Susan Sperry (Dave and Susan representing MHS), Kent Long, Tania DeGroot, Jeff Boero and Teresa Long (all with FJMA).

### Submitted by Dave Trotter

Susan Sperry, the president of the Moraga Historical Society (MHS), presented a check for more than \$53,000 to Kent Long, the president of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) at a ceremony held Aug. 24 at the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. This was

the final installment of MHS's commitment to raise more than \$100,000 from the Moraga community toward the \$500,000 purchase price of the Adobe property. The photograph celebrates the check and the partnership between FJMA and MHS which helped to make this accomplishment possible. (See the story about the Moraga Adobe on Page A6.)

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

### 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

## New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts



Alex Ariker, Kyra Ariker, Catie Bronte, Caroline Bronte

Photo provided

### Submitted by Shanti Ariker

Scouts BSA Troop 224B and 224G are honoring four Eagle Scouts – Alex and Kyra Ariker, Caroline and Catie Bronte – for achieving the highest rank that Scouts BSA gives: that of Eagle Scout. Kyra Ariker and Caroline Bronte also achieved this rank in the Inaugural Class of Girl Eagle Scouts. Girls were first allowed in Scouts BSA as of Feb. 1, 2019. To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community-service project.

Alex Ariker, a senior at Acalanes High School, directed a project to build two benches and a pergola for Temple Isaiah's preschool. He selected the plans, cut the wood and prepared materials for construction and led Scouts and volunteers through the construction process.

Kyra Ariker, also a senior at Acalanes High School, directed a pro-

ject to make 300 masks for the city of Berkeley to distribute to homeless shelters and elderly homes. The entire project was done during the stay-in-place lockdown in May through June 2020 and socially distanced. As a result, all directions were done via explanatory videos and charts using a complex supply chain for each step along the way until all tasks were completed.

For Campolindo senior Catie Bronte's project, she organized, funded, and oversaw the upgrade, modernization, and restoration of the stage lighting system at Campolindo High School, buying and replacing some 300 light bulbs.

Caroline Bronte, a junior at Campolindo High School, recorded 10 50-minute interviews with female veterans at the Lafayette Veterans Hall and sent them to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project. They were later adopted by the U.S. Army for training in its Reserve Officers' Training Program (ROTC).

## Eagle Project adds reading nook at Hope Solutions' Garden Park Apartments



Photo provided

Jack Elder (standing), Henry Goodman (laying down), Braden Purcell, Alex Chang, Cole Hickey (sitting), Nolan Henwood

### Submitted by Carrie Veurink

Braden Purcell from BSA Troop 246 completed his Eagle Scout Service Project this summer, and inspired hope and the love of reading. The beneficiary of Purcell's project was Hope Solutions, formerly known as Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, a nonprofit in Contra Costa County whose mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

Purcell brainstormed different project ideas with the staff at Hope Solutions and decided to create a new, permanent reading nook for the children living at Garden Park Apartments, where Hope Solutions provides permanent housing for 27 previously homeless families.

Purcell completed his project on Aug. 6, supported by five of his fellow Scouts: Jack Elder, Henry Goodman, Alex Chang, Cole Hickey, and Nolan Henwood. During their three-hour project at Garden Park Apartments they unloaded new shelves, chairs, rugs, pillows, and hundreds of books into the Community Room classroom. Purcell also led his team of Scouts to build a bookcase, sort books by age

group, label books and organize them on the brand-new shelves. Providing chairs, rugs, and pillows, they created a cozy place for the children at Garden Park Apartments to comfortably enjoy reading without distractions. The Sydney Paige Foundation donated hundreds of books toward Purcell's Eagle Scout Service Project.

As part of an Eagle Scout Service Project, a Scout should demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of their community. It is a life lesson in communication and leadership. Purcell says that he "learned a lot about how to lead a project and communicate with partners and peers. It was great to work with Hope Solutions and the Sydney Paige Foundation. They and my fellow Scouts helped me to keep this project running smoothly, which ultimately led to the project getting finished on time so the students at Garden Park could have their new library just in time for the school year."

Purcell chose to build a reading nook at Garden Park Apartments because reading is an activity that he has always loved to do and wanted to create a space that would encourage other readers. Purcell hopes that with the new books and comfy reading corner more kids will become fans of reading.



Not to be missed

ART

**Valley Art Gallery continues** New Exhibition "On a Summer's Day." A new selection of over 300 artworks, representing the best of the best of East Bay artists. All the artists are juried into membership, and each work the new show was individually juried as well. All 2-D works are available for both sale or rent. Also available are a wide selection of individually-juried, high quality, hand-made crafts and jewelry. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

**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>

**Lamorinda Arts Alliance** Announces "The Natural World" at Lindsay Dirks 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 Dirks 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](http://www.laa4art.org).

LITERATURE

**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](mailto:info@orindabooks.com). Sept. 9 at 7 p.m.: JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS will discuss her new book "Your Turn: How to be an Adult." This is a virtual event in cooperation with the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. To attend, visit their website and register at <https://givebutter.com/Lythcott-Haims>

OTHER

**Water wise: Drought realities** and practicalities. This event is sponsored by the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and will take place on Zoom Thursday evening,

Sept. 9 at 6:45 p.m. Everyone interested is welcome to join. The program will feature a representative from EBMUD who will discuss the current drought situation, dos and don'ts of water conservation, tracking personal water usage, EBMUD's long-term planning, and a time for audience participation in Q&A. Additionally tips from a landscape designer on maintaining trees will be included. To sign up: go to [MVPCToday.org](http://MVPCToday.org).

**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](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

**Caring for Elders: Ask the Experts - Interactive Q&A** with Senior Care Specialists. Join Center for Elders' Independence on Sept. 14, 4:30 to 6 p.m., for a lively discussion with senior care doctors, memory care experts, and a family caregiver. Learn how to deal with challenges and connect to local senior resources. Attend this free event and ask your questions on Zoom or in-person at the PACE Center in Concord. For event details, call (510) 433-1150, ext. 8860. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3m7WZ20>

**Diablo Ballet has announced** its new Dance Laboratory created by long-time company member Felipe Leon. Diablo Ballet is looking for local and diverse talented choreographers based in the San Francisco Bay Area to participate in its first edition of Dance Laboratory, a space created to offer upcoming local choreographers the opportunity to create a new work and explore their craft. This platform will offer new and experienced choreographers the opportunity to explore their creativity, gain experience and reach their full potential as choreographers and artists. Choreographers submit a video reel of their work, 5 minutes maximum, and resume to [diablo@diabloballet.org](mailto:diablo@diabloballet.org). Last day for video submissions: is Sept. 10.

**AARP Tax-Aide is looking** for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages residing in Contra Costa

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County. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include Tax Counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by IRS, and Client Facilitators, who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November 2021, classes for tax counselors start in January 2022. Service is from February through April 15, 2022. If interested, apply online at [www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer](http://www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer) or call (925) 726-3199 for additional information.

**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 Leshler 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 Leshler Center for the Arts Ticket Office: 1601 Civic Drive Walnut Creek

GARDEN

**The Lafayette Community Garden** and Outdoor Learning Center is celebrating its 10th year with a COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will focus on indigenous culture and feature two inspirational speakers – Jim 'Doc' Hale and Kanyon Sayers-Roods. As a Coastanoan Tribal Member, Kanyon's understanding of Indigenous culture promises to captivate and enrich our lives. 'Doc' Hale's background in ethnobiology will fascinate listeners as he shares his knowledge of the Saklan way of life. See story on page B2 <https://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/>

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club** will hold its first monthly meeting on Monday, Sept. 13 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept-June, at 9:30 a.m., followed by social time and an educational program. Garden Manager Jere Peck will lead us on a tour of the GHF Propagation Nursery. There will also be an opportunity to purchase plants. We welcome the public to visit our meetings and to become a part of the Walnut Creek Garden club. Attendees must be vaccinated. For more information, please visit: [www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org](http://www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org)

**Montelindo Garden Club**, based in Orinda, is a group of friendly women and men from the East Bay who enjoy gardening, love nature, and listen to a variety of interesting programs on patio/deck gardening, landscaping in our Mediterranean climate, gardening with natives, climate change and the forest, backyard birds, and more. A book group meets bimonthly via Zoom, and a photography group takes field trips and has Zoom discussions with slide shows and online editing demonstrations. Trips to local garden-related points of interest are planned throughout the year. The September 17 program features John Taylor, Professor of Mycology, UC Berkeley, introducing The Fungal Kingdom, fungi and civilization, relationships between fungi and plants, and drought resistance. Join us and meet new friends! Meetings are on the third Friday of the month, normally at the Lafayette Library at 9:30 a.m. Because of COVID-19 the September meeting will be held via Zoom at 10 a.m. For Zoom link or further information, email [montelindogarden@aol.com](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com). Free and open to the public. Join us!

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Gregory Cummins – From Miramonte athlete to Hollywood actor



**Gregory Cummins**

**By Jon Kingdon**

Are there more long shot career goals than to try and be a professional athlete or an accomplished actor? For Gregory Cummins, who was a top athlete at Miramonte, his first choice was to be a professional athlete and eventually becoming an actor.

In 1967, Cummins' first time on the stage was as a seventh-grader playing Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" which he "found fun." Entering Miramonte, all his extracurricular activities were sports-oriented, for a love of the games and for financial reasons. "When my father passed away from cancer, my mother told me that I would need an athletic scholarship to be able to go to college, so I focused on academics and sports," Cummins said. "Our mom, Mary Calverese Cummins, was a saint and a supermom who opened Better Homes Realty in Orinda and I owe her everything. She kept the roof over our heads keeping us in such a great area and my younger brothers and I learned the value of working hard and how to save money."

Cummins has maintained his contact with Miramonte: "I was so lucky to grow up in Orinda, right on the Moraga border. It was an incredible place. I am on our high school reunion committee and have always enjoyed hearing the stories of my classmates and how so many people have gone on to do so many amazing things."

Coached by Tom Strain at Miramonte, Cummins saw a lot of success on the football field and baseball diamond. In 1973, with Cummins playing safety and punting, the Matadors, with a roster of about 27 players, defeated a much larger Antioch team in the Turkey Bowl. "I was chosen the East Bay's first team punter due to my leg strength and the ability to make the coffin corner kicks," Cummins said. "This led to the University of California at Berkeley offering me an athletic scholarship."

In baseball, Cummins played shortstop, being named first team all-league three times earning scholarship offers from Pacific and San Jose State. The Oakland A's contacted Cummins, asking if they drafted him in the 10th round would he pass on college but that was not high enough in the draft for Cummins, so he went to Cal to punt for the football team and play baseball in the spring.

As a theater arts major, Cummins took classes in drama, acting, playwriting, lighting, set building and stage design: "I was firmly set on ultimately becoming an actor."

After punting for Cal his first two years, Cummins had a falling out with his coach for wanting to play baseball in the spring and transferred to the University of Hawaii where he was coached by Dick Tomey. "I led the nation in net punting, and I was acting a lot," Cummins said. "Coach Tomey was very supportive of my theatre arts major. He let me out of spring ball because I had the lead in 'As You Like It.'"

Despite punting for top numbers, circumstances worked against Cummins' goal to kick in the NFL. "In 1979, Green Bay ranked me as their top punter and offered me a contract but my agent urged me to hold out which I regret to this day," Cummins said. "The next year, I signed with the San Diego Chargers but right before training camp, I tore my thigh muscle from the knee to the hip which ended my dreams of an NFL career."

Needing only a few more credits, Cummins ultimately received his degree from Cal and entered the master's program in acting at UCLA. "That was the best decision of my life for acting," Cummins said. "That really gave me the tools that have led up to, at this point, a 36-year career. From that moment on, I saw myself as a professional and I soaked up every ounce of knowledge at UCLA so I could compete. I did what I did with sports – I put my nose to the grindstone, and I worked harder than anybody else, improving my skills. I don't believe I would have had my career had I not gotten that degree."

Cummins has acted in movies like "Batman Returns," "Cliffhanger" and "The Italian Job" while also appearing on TV shows like "Bosch," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "Hunter," "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Diagnosis Murder," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Baywatch," and "Bones" among many others, appearing in over 90 different titles. "Right now, I have 12 different pictures of myself with different looks – European, Upper Class, Low Class, Russian, Red Neck, Neo Nazi, Cop and FBI photos and a casual picture with the open suit," Cummins said.

In school, all of Cummins training was for the theatre, which laid the foundation for his television and movie career. "They made me stretch myself and break my boundaries and play all these different types of characters which was different from the way I was in real life," Cummins said. "That's what gave me the ability to play a wide range of characters and to be able to use a wide range of accents. It's allowed me to just keep working."

As much as Cummins enjoyed performing on stage, he opted to pursue roles in television and the movies: "I was very happy acting on stage. Unfortunately, three quarters of the shows on Broadway and throughout the nation are musicals. I could sing but I wasn't a great singer. I love the theatre but moving into TV and film was the only way I could make a living."

To build up his resume, Cummins took the roles where he could find them. "I started out appearing in about eight or nine non-union films that were advertised locally," Cummins said. "In my first film, 'Hack-o-Lantern,' I wasn't paid but I began creating a demo reel with that and the other films like 'Dead End City,' 'Deadly Addiction' and 'Action USA' to show what I could do and how versatile I was. My first union film was 'W.B., Blue and the Bean' with David Hasselhoff and Linda Blair. After that, I got myself an agent and then I started working my way up."

Cummins' almost chameleonlike ability to play so many roles evolved from his academic training in Shakespearean, Greek, French Restoration, classical theatre and comedies. "I would create a character through parts of myself, partly through things that have happened in my life and in my personality, taking pieces of myself when I would play a bad guy threatening to kill somebody. Everything changes by what I'm thinking inside, and it just comes out differently once I would find the character and that's just the way it works for me."

At 6'4", Cummins was not what casting directors were looking for in the lead's sidekick. "They don't want the star to look small," Cummins said. "I realized



**Gregory Cummins at Miramonte** Photos provided

that I had to grow out my hair and beard to start playing bad guys. It's okay for the bad guys to be taller because the star of the show can overcome you and it means something."

When called upon to play a Colombian drug lord, Cummins, who is fluent in Spanish, learned to speak with a Colombian accent. When up for a role as a Montreal hockey player, he went right to the source: "I called an operator in Montreal and explained that I was an actor auditioning for a part of someone who speaks with a French-Canadian accent, and I got her to repeat some sentences that I recorded to learn the vocal sounds and accents. You do anything you can do to give yourself an edge."

Cummins had the look of the bad guys down so well it became a daily thing for him to be pulled over by a policeman on his way to work. "With my long hair down to the shoulders, the goatee down to the jawline, looking like a biker, redneck or psycho killer, I would seem familiar to them," Cummins said. "I kept my license right on the dashboard and would then laugh and pull out my portfolio and show my head shots."

Cummins just finished up a seven-year run with the show "Bosch," playing the role of Detective "Crate" Moore on Amazon that was met with universal praise. After playing so many bad guys and extreme characters, Cummins found the role came naturally to him. "The role of Crate is closer to the way I am in real life than in any other role I ever played," Cummins said. "I don't even feel like I'm acting on the show."

Cummins' partner on "Bosch" was another "actor's actor," Troy Evans who plays Detective "Barrell" Johnson and the pairing was a natural. "We're both seasoned actors that have worked for a long time and it just clicked right off the bat and that increased the more we worked with each other," Cummins said. "We did the first scene in front of everyone and the whole crew cracked up and was applauding and Titus Welliver (Bosch) yelled out 'Spinoff.'"

... continued on Page C2

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# Teams seek to recover from short respite as football season restarts

By Jon Kingdon

After waiting 476 days for last season to start, there was only a short respite of 133 days before the start of this year's football season. After an abbreviated season, with mask requirements and seemingly endless tests, there is a greater sense of normalcy on the field though adjustments are still being made.

"Preparation for this season has been hard just coming off the April season," Miramonte head coach Jack Schram said. "We have guys that are still recovering from injuries from last season."

It was the protocols that Acalanes head coach Floyd Burnsed found most distracting: "The main thing that was difficult this spring was that we still had to stay in groups no larger than 15 so we did not get to do a lot of team stuff or get to go indoors to have meetings and watch film. In the weight room, we were also limited to 15 people and one coach which can be difficult when you have 60-plus players."

Campolindo's head coach Kevin Macy is still feeling the hangover from last spring. "Right now, we're dragging a COVID anchor which has never left us, and this year is when the COVID bills come through. Every time we turn around, a new thing is hitting us. With supply lines down, it's hard to get parts for helmets. Hopefully, we'll be able to get some more fun back in football."

## Miramonte

After going through a slew of quarterbacks last season, Coach Schram welcomed back with open arms junior Luke Donlan who spent last year at the IMG Academy in Florida. "Luke's been a great leader. He made a lot of good plays in our scrimmage, throwing for seven TD's and could have had more but for some misreads and drops. John Williams will be his backup and will do well if called upon."

The running backs are led by junior Bennett Destino and is backed up by seniors Ben

Chinn and Aiden Stone. Thomas Wilson has proven to be the top blocker for the group.

The passing game has shown very well this spring. "We had a really good passing camp up at Tahoe and won the 7 on 7 passing tournament," Schram said. "Tyler Dutto (who led the team in receiving last season) has looked awesome so far," Schram said. "Division I schools should be all over him." Cooper Bohlig is one of a number of good receivers that will provide the depth behind Dutto.

With the strength of the offense at the skill positions, the offensive line is still a work in process due to graduations. Senior Sam Ross (6'4" 220) has moved over to left tackle from the wide receiver position to add more stability to the line. "He made a great sacrifice, but he has shown he can be a dominating offensive lineman," Schram said.

The defensive line played well in the team's scrimmage led by senior Sawyer Peterson and juniors Jackson Davenport and James Patrick

Besides playing on offense, Ross will be the dominant force on defense, playing both inside and outside linebacker. "On both sides of the ball, Sam will be our biggest and most physical player," Schram said. "He can do it all and he has over 10 Division I offers so far."

The safeties Dutto and Bohlig and Chase Bliss will be lining up at one of the cornerback spots. "Dutto has look dominating and Bohlig is playing very well while Bliss has looked good at the corner," Schram said. Jimmy Foster, coming off a shoulder injury, should contribute as well.

Miramonte was limited to 23 players at their scrimmage due to injuries and held up well though they did wear out in the third session. That speaks to the key for Miramonte to be successful this season: "We have to stay healthy," said Schram. "We have an opportunity to roll through our non-league games but in a league with Acalanes,

Campolindo and Benicia, it's going to be really tough."

Miramonte's opening game against Piedmont was canceled due to poor air quality.

## Acalanes

If you look at the Acalanes non-league schedule, it would seem teams were trying to earn frequent-driving credits. Playing on the road in Manteca and with teams coming to Lafayette from Reno, Rohnert Park, San Francisco, and Oakland makes for a difficult schedule for the Dons. "It was hard to find games with local teams," Burnsed said. "We were turned down by a lot of closer schools because they said we had too many returning players."

Despite losing their starting quarterback and leading rusher to graduation, Burnsed has been pleased with how senior Luke Souza has stepped in as his starter along with Connor McPhail as his backup. "Luke is going to be a good quarterback even though he did not get to play much last season. He is a good athlete with good arm strength, vision, and leadership skills. He gets the ball to the right people on time. Connor has looked good as well."

Senior Evan Malmquist, an all-purpose player will be starting in the backfield and will also be seeing a substantial amount of time as a wide receiver. Junior Ellis Berger will be the second back when the Dons go with a 2-back set. "All Evan needs is a little hole, and he is gone and Ellis, who came up from the JV, brings good size and has looked very good."

The Dons are returning their three leading receivers from last year: seniors Will Berrian (26-391), Malmquist (25-312) and Dante Montgomery (22-439), and it goes deeper than that. "Our receiving corps can go eight deep with little drop off from one group to the next," Burnsed said.

The offensive line returns three starters, Anthony Ortale, Mike Kuhner and Tyler Murphy. Marcus Julian will be the

fourth starter and Ryan Hogner, coming back from an injury and Victor Nicolackis will be competing for the fifth spot. "We have good size on the line and a lot of good, young linemen that just need to play and will continue to improve," Burnsed said. "We should have a balanced offense being able to pass and run."

Despite losing their top three tacklers from last year's team, several players have stood up to become starters. On the defensive line, Ryan Giorgiani and Sam Hafner, who were backups last year should start along with junior Tyler Washington.

At linebacker, Logan Ketcham (11T, 30A) is a returning starter and Kyle Bielawski (the team's third QB) will be another starter. Miller Smith, George Churchill, and Ryan Giorgianni will all see playing time.

The defensive backfield returns three starters, James Gunn (13T-12A), Brady Brinkman (5T-7A) and Devin Miniello (12T-17A). Marshall Lockwood (5T-6A) also saw playing time last season.

It's just a matter of fine-tuning things for Burnsed: "We have to get everyone on the same page, improving our run and pass blocking and if we do that, we have the skills kids to be really good."

The Dons defeated Sienna Saturday 59-6 behind Souza's three touchdown passes and a 39 yard run for another score, Malmquist's two TD receptions and 49 yard TD run and Berrian's two TD receptions.

## Campolindo

With the graduation of 24 seniors, lower numbers for the senior and junior class and only one starter returning from the offense and defense, it becomes readily apparent that this is going to be a rebuilding year for the Cougars.

"With only 26 kids on the varsity at this point, it is a challenge," Macy said. "We don't have the numbers we usually have but we're working to get our numbers back up with some kids coming back off of injuries."

The battle at quarterback is between Adam Harper, whose brother Grant is playing at UC Davis and Dashiell Weaver, whose brother Maxwell will be playing at Davidson this year. "Right now, we have a quarterback battle," Macy said. "Going into the opening game, we may alternate series with them because they are very similar but with different skill sets."

With 90% of the yards gained on the ground by graduating seniors, the running back position is also wide open. "We're light at the skill positions," Macy said. "There are no numbers behind them, and it seems like the whole team is starting from scratch." Max Rittman and Colin Koznarik, backups from last season, will get the first opportunity to establish themselves as the starters.

The standout among the wide receivers has been junior Robbie Mascheroni. "He's big, tall and fast and can be a difference maker," Macy said.

The one returning starter on offense is offensive lineman Elijah Klock who played left guard last season and may also be called upon to play left tackle if the need arises. He will also be looked upon to take the leadership role on both sides of the ball as he also will be starting on the defensive line. Tyrone Tuavale will also be filling in all along the line.

The defensive backfield does show some stability. Bradley Nestel is the long returning starter on defense. Will Moncars who played linebacker last year will be lining up at safety. The starting corners at this point are Ryan Mandell and Xion Adams.

Macy puts it simply: "We have a challenging schedule, and we have to stay healthy."

Campolindo began the rebuilding process defeating Moreau Catholic 56-21 behind three touchdown passes by Harper and one by Weaver, 127 yards rushing by Rittman and 6 receptions for 202 yards and three touchdowns by Mascheroni.

## Girls golf team tees off with great success



Photo provided

From left: Kendal Geddes, Emmi Cronin, Makena Chelemedos, Haley Chelemedos, Hana Chelemedos, Juliette Becker.

Submitted by Dave Dorian

New coaches Ken Lorge and Cassidy Mulholland got off to an amazing start as the Varsity Girls Golf team defeated College Park on Monday at Contra

Costa Country Club in a practice match to kick off the 2021 golf season. The Lady Dons were led by Makena Chelemedos' even par 36, sister Haley Chelemedos' 41 and strong performances by the entire the golf team.

**Correction:** In the Aug. 18 Lamorinda Weekly story about the OMPA championships, team results for Moraga C.C. should have been 759.5, 1205.83 and 1965.33. Individual results were as follows:

GIRLS					
NAME	POINTS	TEAM			
<b>6 &amp; U</b>			<b>11 to 12</b>		
Alexia Domenech	45	MVP	Lily Holloway	72	Meadow
Emery Lee	45	MVP	Emilia Haast	65	Orinda Park
Ann Windhurst	45	Meadow	Olivia Britton	59	OCC
<b>7 to 8</b>			<b>13 to 14</b>		
Evelyn Gaffney	72	OCC	Tali Stryker	72	Meadow
Reese Cobo	61	Meadow	Ainsley Hogan	63	Meadow
Sayoko Batiuchok	58	Sleepy Hollow	Beatrice Hearey	62	Sleepy Hollow
<b>9 to 10</b>			<b>15 to 18</b>		
Hayden Holloway	72	Meadow	Mackenzie Murphy	72	OCC
Ellie Letulle	64	Meadow	Maya Supran	64	Orinda Park
Eloise Britton	62	OCC	Reagan Kaelle	60	OCC
			<b>19 &amp; O</b>		
			Chloe Morrison	72	Meadow
			Cayley O'Brian	64	Meadow
			Annabelle Vasconi	64	Sleepy Hollow

## 8th grade boys win SF Battle of The Bay 25/26 Lacrosse Tournament

Submitted by Tim Jones

Two Lafayette Boys, Donovan Bantique and Tucker Jones, playing for West Coast Wolverines Club won the 25/26 Boys Class Championship at the Battle of The Bay Lacrosse Tournament held this past weekend at Beach Chalet Fields in San Francisco.



Photo provided

## Gregory Cummins – From Miramonte athlete to Hollywood actor

... continued from Page C1

Though Cummins did miss out on an NFL career, he has the medical profile of a professional athlete, amassing numerous injuries, after often performing his own stunts. "With the head whipping, falling back over tables, taking the impact, and slamming against things, you do it enough times, you get a lot of impact injuries," Cummins said. "Looking at an X-ray taken of my back, the doctor told me that he had never seen so much scar tissue from the top of the neck to the bottom lumbar of the spine on one person."

Cummins is currently looking for his next role but is also preparing for his post-acting career, having written a couple of screenplays. "I plan on making my own film," Cummins said. "I'll pull some of the really talented people

that I worked with over the years to do the filming, cinematography, editing and sound. I've learned over time what you need to have a film that's going to be successful. My goal is to make a quality product that means something to me."

What does it take to be a successful actor? For Cummins, it's three things: 1/3 talent, 1/3 fortitude and 1/3 being a nice person. Lacking any of the three and you likely won't make it. The talent must be developed. Not being a nice person can cost an actor roles no matter how talented they might be. The fortitude is necessary due to the number of unsuccessful auditions you go to.

"You can't beat yourself up when you don't get the role," Cummins said. "You just have to work hard and think positively. That's what a winner does – overcoming obstacles."

Submit sports stories and story ideas to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Moraga and Orinda 8U and 9U Summer All Star Teams

**Submitted by Casey Sproul**  
On June 20 the Moraga and Orinda 8U and 9U Summer All Star Teams met each other in the Championship Games of the 7th annual Caldecott Cup at Hampton Field in Piedmont. The Moraga 8U's won 17-7. The Orinda 9U's won 10-1. It was a great weekend for baseball and lots of fun to see these four neighboring teams play each other.



From left Orinda 8U's: Amara Deems, Paul Maguire, Jazzy Atkinson, Jude Cortesio, Wyatt McKim, Zander Merschat, Jack Calhoun, Caleb Enomoto, Luke Houssamim, Ryoma Durkee, Ollie Colner, Paxton Niederstadt; Moraga 8U's: Wells Colhoun, Caleb Thoms, Owen Jones, Cameron Novak, Milan Patel, Lukas Garcia, Garin Luster, Charlie Erickson, Ryan Lee, Brendan Sproul, Kai Burgess; Not pictured: Jaylen Delos Reyes, William Andrews, Eytan Brosh



Orinda 9U's back row: Ryan Mahlberg, James Dell'Aquila, Duncan Glynn, Aimee Fagundes, Lucas Dell'Aquila, Liam Frase; front row: Riley Copeland, Nicholas Coburn, Bo Pierce, Wyatt Strong, Jack Calhoun (bat boy), Sol Calhoun; Not pictured: Owen Rapp, Blake Redford, Will Yancey

# Moraga 8U All Star Team wins Dale Wilson Tournament

**Submitted by Casey Sproul**  
On July 4 the Moraga 8U All Star Team won the 25th Annual Dale Wilson Tournament in San Bruno for their division. The team went undefeated during the tournament, winning all seven of the games they played over five days. They ended with a championship victory over the San Bruno Green 8U All Star team with a final score of 17-4.



Back row: coaches Nathan Thoms, Jason Novak, Daryl Delos Reyes, Mike Colhoun, Andrew Sproul, Angel Garcia, Jason Luster; middle row: Milan Patel, Garin Luster, Eytan Brosh, Brendan Sproul, Lukas Garcia, Charlie Erickson; front row: Kai Burgess, Jaylen Delos Reyes, Wells Colhoun, Cameron Novak, Caleb Thoms, Owen Jones; Not pictured: William Andrews, Ryan Lee



From left, Moraga 9U's: Dresden Gerber, Benny O'Toole, Jake Beckwith, Will Childers, Mike Beckwith, Jai Merlo, Darren Yee, Oliver Nowac, Henry Hearn, Tripp Browne Not Pictured: Graham Smigelski, Hudson Dehner

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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 1, 2021

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Garden gatherings



Photo Cynthia Brian

**The porch and patio were turned into an outdoor paradise with socially distanced tables.**

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“We need to teach people that the environment has a direct bearing on our own benefit.” ~ Dalai Lama*

It's official. The Pfizer vaccine has received full and final approval by the FDA with the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines soon to follow. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that if we want to spend time with people who don't live with us, outdoor activities are the safest choice. In these dire days of global crises, natural disasters, evacuations, and a highly infectious Delta variant, any positive news is appreciated.

At the beginning of summer, we all had high hopes that we would be able to emerge from our caves to enjoy a quasi-normal season. With the emergence of the Delta variant, it became clear that the pandemic will not be contained until most of the country prioritizes health and gets vaccinated. Humans are social beings and we like getting together. With warm weather predicted for the next two months, gathering in our gardens for a picnic, barbecue, or just a chat will be a safer method of communing.

I recently attended an outdoor birthday party for a dear friend generously orchestrated by her adult children and their spouses. This was the first time since the pandemic began that I had gone to any non-family occasion. Although I was hesitant to be around a few dozen people, every precaution was taken to make guests feel safe and comfortable. Being informed that all guests had been fully vaccinated prompted me to R.S.V.P. “yes.” The affair was colorful, fun, and secure. I came away with constructive ideas that we can all utilize to enjoy togetherness outside in our gardens during these challenging times.

How to have a more formal yet guarded, glorious garden gathering:

1. Prepare your patio.
  - a. Add colorful potted plants.
  - b. String lights, flags, garlands, or pennants.
  - c. Set up tables with fun placemats or tablecloths.
  - d. Space tables and chairs for appropriate social distancing.
  - e. Select throw pillows to add comfort and color.
2. Hang hummingbird feeders and birdhouses to attract the birds.
3. Create your scene with a theme and decorate accordingly.
4. Add a vase filled with flowers, branches, or fruit, preferably picked from your garden.
5. Design a thoughtful menu that allows you to be part of the party.
6. Have guests enter via a garden gate or other outside entrance.
7. Set up a “Covid” station with hand sanitizer and masks.
8. Ask that masks be worn when going indoors for any reason.
9. Make a playlist that fits your crowd.
10. If yellowjackets have been bothering your paradise, put up traps the day before your party and keep them in place throughout the event.
11. Invite the partygoers to tour your landscape.
12. Provide a “wow” moment with a special dessert.
13. Light contained candles or lanterns to flicker at dusk.
14. Send your guests home with a gift from the garden.

... continued on Page D10



## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,110,000	\$2,600,000
MORAGA	7	\$570,000	\$3,000,000
ORINDA	9	\$450,000	\$3,005,000

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

- 1132 Bacon Way, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 1366 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 07-16-21  
 3295 Beechwood Drive, \$1,380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1139 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 07-15-21  
 3669 Boyer Circle, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2693 SqFt, 1926 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$980,000, 08-06-18  
 1044 Carol Lane, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 1172 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$381,000, 06-07-18  
 1849 Del Rey Street, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 07-15-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$950,000, 05-20-20  
 1145 Estates Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2860 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 07-16-21  
 3187 Lucas Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1283 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 07-15-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-29-13  
 1245 Panorama Drive, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 07-13-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,710,000, 05-23-14  
 3236 Rohrer Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1496 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 07-15-21  
 1241 Sunset Loop, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2457 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 07-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$340,000, 11-02-98

### MORAGA

- 1037 Alta Mesa Drive, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 2040 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 07-15-21  
 1965 Ascot Drive #7, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 1236 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 07-15-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$417,000, 03-30-06  
 57 Corte Del Sol, \$2,120,000, 4 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 04-10-12  
 62 Miramonte Drive, \$750,000, 2 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$605,000, 01-13-17  
 3 Netherton Court, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2552 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,120,000, 09-26-12  
 54 San Pablo Court, \$3,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2997 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 07-15-21  
 29 Sullivan Drive, \$1,940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1856 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$935,000, 05-31-18

### ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #49, \$450,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 07-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$425,000, 05-17-17  
 5 Buena Vista, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 07-15-21  
 2 Calvin Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2068 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 07-16-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$859,000, 10-05-12  
 24 Crestview Drive, \$2,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 3479 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 07-13-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$842,000, 09-02-03  
 19 El Gavilan Road, \$2,680,000, 5 Bdrms, 4541 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 07-13-21  
 108 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,870,000, 3 Bdrms, 1771 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 07-15-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 04-18-16  
 29 Irving Lane, \$3,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2687 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 07-15-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$630,000, 04-22-99  
 236 Ivy Drive, \$1,661,000, 3 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 07-14-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 10-20-20  
 76 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 2091 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 07-16-21



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**Pending:**  
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## Real Estate Agent Judy Sin Closes 9 Sales While Navigating The 'New World' Of Real Estate

Judy Sin, an experienced Compass real estate agent in Lamorinda, California, announced today a slew of new sales due to her transition into "new world" real estate brought on by the pandemic.

Within the last two months, Sin has closed nine deals for over \$10 million, with four of them closing for more than \$1 million.

Sin is a real estate agent bred from the "new talent pool," tasked with navigating the post-COVID world through flexibility, entrepreneurship, and the ability to be innovative. During the pandemic, Sin quickly adopted a new virtual workflow — conducting zoom consultations and facetime showings; prioritized social media marketing, reaching more than 70,000 people a month on Instagram; completing electronic transaction management; and allowing clients to sign documents anywhere nationwide.

"In the post-COVID world, real estate agents have been tasked with the goal of adjusting to a new model of being an agent — and I have been lucky to earn the trust of many through the use of technology," Sin said. "This means conducting virtual meetings and walkthroughs, reducing face-to-face contact while also providing world-class customer service and making all my clients feel safe and comfortable."

With all of these changes being thrust on the world of real estate, Sin has continued to adapt and find the best methods to embrace change.

"Today, agents need the ability to lead and market in a virtual world, and I am extremely happy to have helped sellers and buyers navigate a new world of real estate to ensure everyone is receiving the best possible deal," Sin said. "Going forward, I will continue to adapt to the changes thrown our way by the pandemic to continue serving the community."

Judy Sin and her family moved to Moraga before the pandemic and immediately welcomed 10 chickens to their family. Her curation of living, buying, and selling in Lamorinda California on Instagram is liked and followed by thousands around the world.

**For more information, please visit [www.judysin.com](http://www.judysin.com) [www.instagram.com/selling\\_lamorinda](https://www.instagram.com/selling_lamorinda)**

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**125 Canon Dr \$1,795,000**

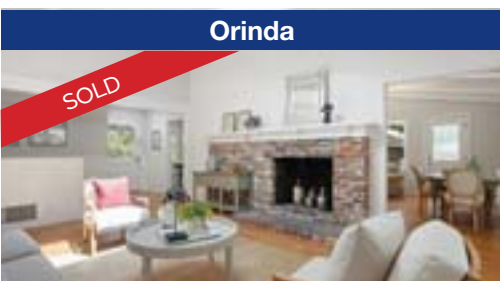
3 BD / 2 BA  
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**6 Loma Linda \$1,299,000**

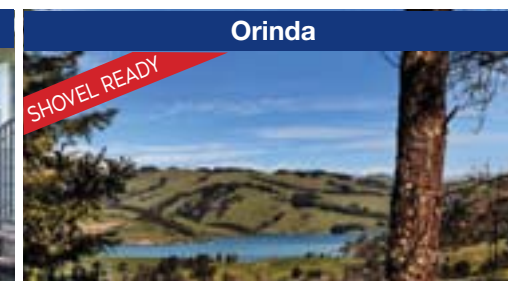
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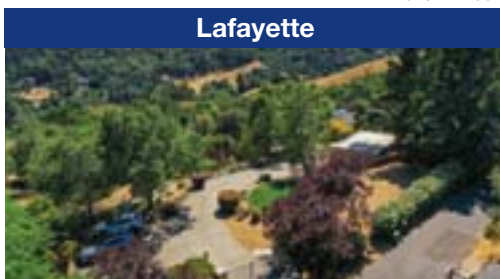
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**10 Lucille Way \$1,100,000**

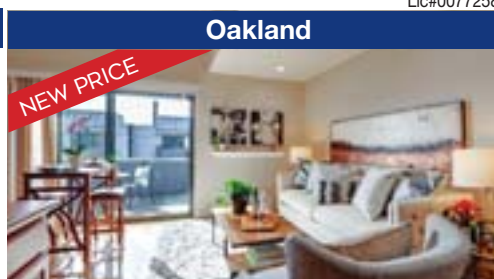
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**170 Stewart Circle \$1,195,000**

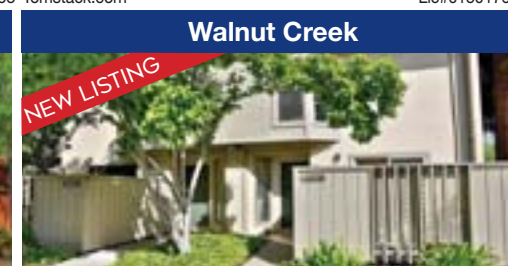
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3+ BD / 2.5 BA, 2,083 sq. ft. Trevari Gale Ranch. Open floor plan, dramatic high ceilings, loft space, and spacious flat backyard! 431fuchsialane.com  
 Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246 Lic# 01480008  
 Tony Conte 925-708-1396 Lic# 00959101


**1948 Highridge Court \$1,089,000**

4 bd / 2.5 ba Summit Ridge Stunner! Sophisticated end unit w/ views. Convenient location. Lafayette school district.  
 Kelly Crawford 925-998-5599  
 Bev Arnold 925-788-8516  
 Lic# 01327015 / 01154860


**1698 Parkside Dr \$710,000**

2/2.5 1,515 sf. Updated TH, end unit, 2 pkg spaces, Commuter's Dream location  
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964  
 Tomstack.com Lic#01501769





SORAYA GOLESORKHI  
REALTOR®



### NEW LISTING

1284 SHELL CIRCLE, CLAYTON  
Offered at \$750,000

#### ULTRA-CHIC TOWNHOME WITH GOLF COURSE VIEWS!

This stylish 3BR/3BA, 1,709 sq. ft. townhome is a gem! The back yard feels huge with the expansive views of the golf course. The kitchen was remodeled in 2019 with top-of-the-line European style cabinets, quartz counters and stainless appliances. This home is equipped to the nines with wine fridge, hybrid water heater for ZERO energy consumption, water softener, key-less entry system, NEST system and owned solar panels—The PG&E bills are lower than you can imagine! It's also approximately two blocks to the BART Shuttle and steps to restaurants and shops in charming downtown Clayton. If you're looking for a spacious home with great schools and an excellent value, this is the one!

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concierge-style experience, call me.



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COMPASS

### 1321 Sunset Loop Lafayette

2 bedroom, 1 bath, with detached 3rd bed or office. .20 acre  
Offering price \$1,195,000


Welcome to 1321 Sunset Loop Dr., located in a close-in neighborhood offering a cozy ranch home that is move-in ready but still offers lots of potential. A spacious Entry from the front door leads into a formal Living room w/ a wood burning fireplace & slider that accesses the garden in the back. An Eat-In galley Kitchen is enhanced by granite countertops and white cabinetry. A Dining area, illuminated with natural light, is ideal for everyday family meals or fun entertaining with friends. A large comfortable Family Room is an extension of the entertainment space & also offers easy access to the backyard garden. Incredibly charming farmhouse ceilings & attractive hardwood floors throughout. Step out to a newer deck & expansive lawn to enjoy the view & beautiful sunsets. A separate cottage offers flexibility for use as a 3rd bedroom, office or entertainment room! Space for an RV/Boat or sport court. Close to HWY 24 & 680, BART and Lafayette & WC shopping.



THE *Beaubelle*  
GROUP

**Nancy Stryker**

925.890.6911  
nancystryker@gmail.com  
DRE 01290021

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# OVER THE MOON FOR THIS ORINDA BEAUTY



172 Lombardy Lane

\$1,395,000

3 BEDS

2 BATHS

1,660 SQFT

Very cool 120 sq ft outdoor studio at this charming home in the heart of Sleepy Hollow!



925.980.3829

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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Garden gatherings



Cupcakes made to resemble succulents and dahlias by Sarah Thongopneua of Baked Blooms In San Anselmo [www.bakedblooms.com](http://www.bakedblooms.com).

... continued from Page D1

Being in a garden setting is always impressive to me. I relish being in nature, listening to the sounds, watching the birds, and appreciating the growing plants. I was especially impressed with the gigantic tomato plants my friend had grown from seed. A rock waterfall planted with abundant succulents echoed the theme. Joyful décor boasted multi-colored, elegant mats, runners, and tablecloths festooned with yarn pom pom ropes and a clear glass vase filled with lemons and fresh cut dahlias on each table. The “wow” factor was provided by the spectacular cupcakes that mimicked the succulents and flowers on the tables. These beautiful cupcakes designed by Sarah Thongopneua of Baked Blooms in San Anselmo ([www.bakedblooms.com](http://www.bakedblooms.com)) were almost too gorgeous to eat. They were



The waterfall, birdhouse, pink geraniums, and multiple succulents echoed the party theme.

devoured with enthusiasm. Each guest was gifted a small succulent reminiscent of those luscious cupcakes and perfect for our drought-parched soil.

When I came home, I found a small empty bird's nest on my porch. Have you ever closely inspected the intricacy of a bird's nest? What an architectural marvel. Wouldn't it be great to create a themed event around this wildlife discovery?

Now that the vaccines are receiving official approval and authorization, I hope that everyone will get vaccinated without delay. Once that is achieved, we will be able to return to the freer glory days of party frivolity.

Fete the final days of summer with a casual gathering or formal gala. A setting in nature sets the tone for a festive, friendly, and safe celebration for the benefit of everyone.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A beautifully laid table for six with a drought-resistant succulent for each guest.

#### 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](http://www.Lamorindaweekly.com)) and MB Jessee painting ([www.MBJessee.com](http://www.MBJessee.com)). Wear your mask and visit us! Details at [www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events)



A growing gray succulent may be the model for a cupcake topping. Photos Cynthia Brian





A round table with dahlias and lemons centerpiece and colorful table décor.



Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian puts on make-up to attend the patio party.

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

Buy copies of her 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](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

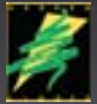
Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## 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

Mid century modern 4 bed/ 3 bath home 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



### 180 Ardith Court

Not to be missed! Classic 3 bed/ 2 bath rancher on gorgeous 1/3 acre lot w/ incredible panoramic views & privacy.

**\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 172 Lombardy Lane

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath Sleepy Hollow rancher on .36 acres w/ office, outdoor studio, patio & level lawn.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



Lot!

### 23 Kittiwake Road

Private residential .43 acre lot in one of Bay Area's most sought after neighborhoods. Close to Highway 24 & downtown.

**\$625,000**

## 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.

**\$14,995,000**

## LAFAYETTE

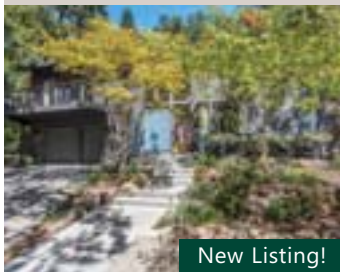


### 9 Mountain View Lane

Custom 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on 9.93 private acres w/ views of the Lafayette Reservoir, pool, & surrounding hills.

**\$6,990,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

### 5 Black Forest Court

Contemporary 4 Bed + office/ 3 bath w/ updated designer features throughout in ideal location close to downtown.

**\$2,195,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing!

### 59 Miramonte Drive

Renovated single level end unit 2 bed/ 2 bath townhome in prime location in sought after Miramonte Gardens.

**\$675,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



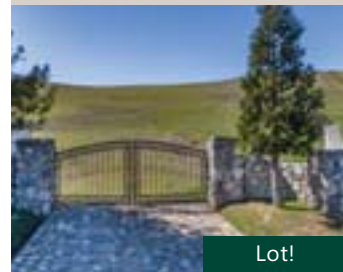
New Listing!

### 2009 Stewart Avenue

Single level 4 bed/ 3 bath charmer on flat lot w/ easy access to downtown, swim clubs, trails & freeway.

**\$1,345,000**

## LIVERMORE



Lot!

### 10 Storybook Lane

Perfect opportunity to build in amazing setting near Mt. Diablo on 8 acre gated parcel w/ room for horses & stable.

**\$895,000**

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