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Chris Wright, with his son, Bruce (on bike), and daughter Madeline in front of their shuttle bus converted to a camper with 300 watts of solar power. Photo provided

How local residents are preparing for power shutoffs

By Diane Claytor

It's likely not a question of if PG&E will shut off our power for safety reasons within the next few months, but a question of when. Between parched vegetation, low humidity and dry, hot winds, the threat of wildfires in our area is, unfortunately, a huge concern we all share.

Most Lamorinda residents are prepared for a PG&E public safety power shutoff (PSPS). Dry brush and debris have been cleared, generators and back-up batteries have been purchased and go-bags are packed. But has your go-bag been updated? As one

Lafayette resident realized, the diapers she packed last year for her infant will no longer fit her now-toddler.

PG&E is providing numerous resources advising how to best prepare for eventual shut offs (pge.com). Perhaps one of the most significant recommendations is making sure PG&E has current contact information so they can send you PSPS alerts. As their website states, "If we expect your address to be impacted by a PSPS outage, we will send you automated call, text and email alerts..."

Lamorinda residents have already implemented many useful ways to prepare for power shutoffs. Lafayette's Amy Glynn calls herself a "minimal-

ist" when it comes to preparing for any potential shutoff. The single mother of two says, "I'm generally the voice telling people the food in their fridge is fine, they won't get food poisoning," if power is off for a day or two. But even a "minimalist" knows to plan. Glynn has several battery-operated camping lanterns and lots of candles and, if she knows a PSPS is coming, she makes sure her car is in the driveway rather than the garage. One of her biggest concerns during an outage is inconsistent wifi access so Glynn knows places she could go to virtually keep in touch with her family and workplace.

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MOFD awarded huge fuel break grant of nearly \$6.5M

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District was notified Sept. 8 and that it would receive a \$6,380,563 grant from the Cal Fire Early Action General Fund Fiscal Year 2020-21 Fire Prevention Grant Awards. The project is named the Tunnel East Bay Hills Fuel Break.

MOFD has every reason to be thrilled since the grant is reportedly one of the largest given in the state. While the grant is less than the full amount requested, it is sizable none-the-less. The success of the 2019 North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break Project paved the way for the current grant award.

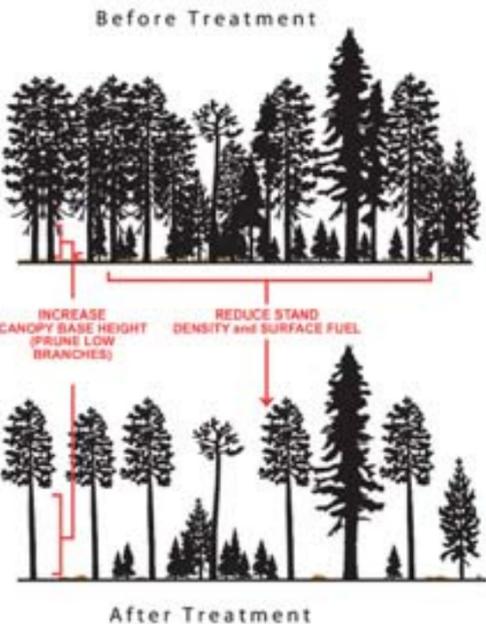
In May 2021, MOFD submitted two grant applications to Cal Fire's California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program. One that was intended to help fund additional community chipping was not selected. The accepted project "will significantly reduce the threat of uncontrolled wildfire and associated green house gas emissions by reducing high fuel concentrations and disrupting the horizontal and vertical continuity of fuel beds," according to Cal Fire's project description. "The tree canopy formed by healthy mature trees will remain largely intact to reduce the future growth of brush and understory vegetation and to preserve sequestered carbon in existing trees. The desired result is to restore fuel loading to more natural levels that can be maintained by the periodic introduction of prescribed fire."

MOFD expects to receive the contract within 30 days after Sept. 8, at which point they will determine when the program will begin, and the finalized specifics of the boundaries the project will affect, due to the slightly less than hoped for grant award.

During the Sept. 15 MOFD Board of Directors meeting, Chief Dave Winnacker explained that currently the project's perimeters run from the Orinda BART station to Cal Shakes, down the eastern side of Wilder, around Lost Valley, along the Indian Valley corridor, around Sanders and out to Bollinger and Saint Mary's.

"This was an all-hands effort," stated Winnacker. "I have a great deal of gratitude to all of the members of the staff who contributed in the development of this application, and the experiences, and the prior relationships that were leveraged to ensure that the grant was written in a manner that resulted in it being favorably received; and we are tremendously grateful to our partners at Cal Fire SCU. Their advocacy on our behalf and their support for our ongoing fuel mitigation efforts, specifically Fire Chief Jake Hess and Unit Forester Ed Orre - without their support this project, as with our previous project, 1) would not have been approved, and 2) we would be challenged, to say the least, to execute it without their support and without access to their deep reservoirs of experience in this particular area."

Winnacker also gave kudos to MOFD Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs who knew what and what not to include in the application due to his past experiences with the grant process.



Illustrated by Fiona Steele and Cathy Ko
Image: British Columbia Institute of Technology

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Orinda gears up for first commercial development since Theatre Square - Page A6

Public Safety

Community Wildlife Watch begins in Moraga - Page A4

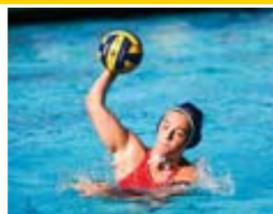
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Criminal defense attorney, now mystery author, writes what he knows - Page B1



Sports C1-C2

Lamorinda girls water polo in top tier of national rankings - Page C2



Our Homes D1-D20

Two Campo students teach local residents about bee keeping - Page D4





See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Lafayette community gathers at celebration of life



Photo J. Wake

Jazz music filled the air in the back field of Stanley Middle School in Lafayette Sept. 22 as hundreds gathered to cele-

brate the life of crossing guard Ashley Dias, who was struck and killed Sept. 8 in front of the school. In honor

of the former Stanley student who had played the saxophone in Bob Athayde's music class in 1990, two of Dias' for-

mer classmates returned to campus to play "I Will Remember You" on the guitar and flute.

Stanley principal Betsy Balmat opened the ceremony by telling those gathered that "tonight is not meant for sadness but celebration. We come together tonight as a community to heal ... and to celebrate the life of Ashley Dias."

Several of Dias' family members spoke of this "fun-loving friend with a self-deprecating sense of humor." A neighbor of the Dias family, Gretchen Placzek, said, "Ashley became a crossing guard while running clinical trials for cancer patients. He called

it his 'side hustle.' ... Ashley was a gift to everyone who encountered him."

His mother, Gloria Dias, said, "We celebrate his gift of life on Earth and the lives of the children he saved." She spoke about how she and her husband, Fabio, had lunch with Dias that fateful afternoon and "in a blink of an instant he was gone."

Gloria Dias expressed her gratitude for all the community support – the homemade cards, the hugs, the calls and the home cooked meals – and for "a glimpse of Ashley through your eyes," adding, "Hold your children close and always tell them you love them." – J. Wake

Council makes minor adjustment to Burton Valley Safe Routes to School pilot program parking restriction hours

By Jennifer Wake

Lafayette residents who live near Burton Valley Elementary School once again expressed concerns to city staff and council during the Public Comment portion of the Sept. 13 council meeting, asking for changes to proposed safety measures planned near the school as part of a Safe Routes to School pilot program.

The council had voted on Aug. 23 to restrict parking on the west side of Merriewood Drive, the north side of Rohrer Drive between Silverado Drive and Merriewood Drive, and the west side of Silverado Drive between Merriewood Drive and the park trail entrance approximately 100 feet south of Burton Drive for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, Monday through

Friday, during the school year, in addition to adding a stop sign and 11 speed humps as part of its traffic calming measures, as well as new crosswalks at the intersection of Burton Drive, Silverado Drive, Lucas Drive and Somerset Drive. Following council's direction to staff, a resolution was presented to council on Sept. 13 for approval, which is needed when involving parking restrictions.

According to Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran, 150 pages of public comment were added to the Aug. 23 staff report presented to the council, with a large contingent of those residents thinking that the two-hour periods are too long, while others expressed the desire for 24/7 parking restrictions or 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. restrictions at the proposed locations.

Council Member Carl Anduri said, "It's clear we're not going to make everybody happy with our decisions," adding that he didn't think "a longer period (of parking restriction) will allow us to learn more. We should look at less restrictive times to learn the same amount, as opposed to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m."

Council Member Gina Dawson agreed with Anduri, saying, "Obviously, we have a safety issue across town and need to address that. I believe in a narrow time frame within school days."

During this portion of the six-hour-long meeting, council and staff also discussed how parking restrictions would be enforced, how data would be collected and what steps would be taken to pursue longer-term solutions, such as the addition of sidewalks to the area.

In response to Vice Mayor Teresa Gerringer, who said she'd been asked when speed humps were going in, Moran noted that they have chalked hump locations and have a contractor for paving and striping. "Signage goes hand in hand with speed humps so it could be done within a month or two after we receive a formal green light from this body," he said, noting that adding the stop sign at Indian Way and Merriewood would happen at the same time.

In an effort to make parking restrictions as small as possible during this one-year pilot study, council voted to amend the morning parking restriction to no parking from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., leaving the afternoon times of 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. the same. Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok said, "Let's try some

change and learn from it, and be open-minded to change."

Mayor Susan Candell noted that council had allocated money to use as a buffer "if we need to make adjustments. ... We're trying to look for those things that we can quantify," she said.

Moran said they will plan to count bikes in the enclosure and have people around Burton Valley count pedestrians to see if there is an uptick in those walking or biking to school. They will use data provided from the schools from 2017-18 pre-COVID as a baseline.

Kwok asked that the city also conduct a qualitative analysis by asking for feedback about the pilot program from the community. Council moved to approve the resolution as amended with a 4-0 vote, with Kwok abstaining.



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Lafayette parents push to raise funds to pave safe path to Acalanes High School



Image courtesy www.saferouteto.org

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Lauren Herpich loves walking and biking to Lafayette Elementary School with her 5-year-old kindergarten son Connor. It's that accessibility that in part inspired Herpich and her husband to choose the downtown Lafayette trails area when looking for a place to put down roots in the Bay Area. If Herpich has her way, her son Connor will still be walking and biking to school in another eight years when he attends Acalanes High School.

Herpich is among a coalition of parents and community members doing their part to make a safer route to Acalanes High School a reality for pedestrians and bikers.

"Right now high school kids have to cross a highway entrance and exit in order to use the sidewalks," Herpich said. "There are so many kids in the downtown area and I want them all to have a safe and accessible way to get to school."

The safe path involves a secure, well-marked pathway down the center of Pleasant Hill Road. CalTrans is reportedly in support of the project because it utilizes medians already on Pleasant Hill Road. Herpich says the projected total cost is over \$3 million and the city has been awarded a grant for \$238,000.

While the funds have been allocated for this fiscal year, there's uncertainty about when they'll appear. Members of the Safe Route to Acalanes committee are in conversation with the city about a short-term loan, while also looking into possibilities such as using public art funds to install art on the pathway or seeking out additional grants. In the meantime the team is starting a yard sign sale. The signs, which are being offered for donations of at least \$25, have silhouettes of bikers and walkers and say "We support (a) Safe Route to Acalanes."

"This pathway will ultimately be the most cost effective and the most efficient option," Herpich said. "With community support, I believe we can absolutely get it done."

Why the rush given that Herpich's son is nearly a decade away from attending Acalanes?

"I realize how much time these kinds of projects take,"

Herpich said. "I want to be forward thinking." And as housing mandates go into effect, Herpich suspects the traffic in the already congested area around Acalanes High School will only get worse without a safe alternative to cars.

"This project is a win-win for everyone. I'm thinking about the kids in downtown Lafayette who need a safe way to school. People living around Acalanes would see a decrease in cars coming into their neighborhood," Herpich said. "This will take cars off the streets and reduce carbon emissions."

Nancy Hu is the mother of a kindergartener and a second-grader who attend Lafayette Elementary School. Hu's husband and she bypass the busy Brooke Street area. Hu says that while she has every intention of supporting the efforts to build a safe route to Acalanes, she hopes the city will simultaneously consider how to create safe paths to the other schools in the district as well.

"My husband has seen a few close calls already," Hu said. "It's a good day when the kids get to school and make it back home safely. I get scared when I think about what the alternative is. Every day should be a good day."

Hu says the death of crossing guard Ashley Dias in front of Stanley Middle School is both disturbing and calls attention to the need for safety measures to be put in place so that children of all ages can safely travel to and from school.

"Let's have a safe way to Acalanes and let's also have a safe way to Stanley (and LES)," Hu said.

Although Hu doesn't have a yard to display a sign, she says she'll pledge her support to the Safe Route to Acalanes efforts any way she can.

"I think it's a really good idea," Hu said. "I'm just in awe of the parents who are spearheading the campaign as many of them have children as young as mine."

To learn more about the Safe Route to Acalanes fundraising efforts, visit www.saferouteto.org

More information about the Safe Route to Acalanes project can be found in the May 26 Lamorinda Weekly article: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1507/Council-supports-proposed-Safe-Route-to-Acalanes-High-School-project.html



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Design Review

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Zoom
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Community Wildlife Watch comes to Moraga

By Vera Kochan

Following a spate of coyote attacks within Moraga and Lafayette that took place for eight months, between July 2020 and March 2021, citizens had become increasingly vigilant in their attempts to help authorities capture the lone animal responsible for terrorizing the area. Although tests revealed that the captured coyote was not rabid, the entire experience was unnerving to residents.

In a March 17 Lamorinda Weekly article confirming the coyote's capture, Moraga Police Department Lt. Brian South stated, "We plan to continue working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to bring a wildlife awareness program to the community moving forward."

That time is now. Wildlife

Watch began in Southern California, and according to South, Moraga is the first community slated to undertake the program in Northern California. Launched in 2015, its purpose is to reduce potential conflict regarding human-wildlife interactions that are increasingly on the rise in suburban areas.

Much like the Neighborhood Watch program, which it strives to emulate, Wildlife Watch was created to help communities cope with their issues involving wild animals encroaching into neighborhoods and wreaking havoc or harm, by providing training and support.

Most of the problem lies with human behavior. By providing a source of food in the form of outright feeding a wild animal with hand-outs, or inadvertently providing sustenance with unsecured garbage cans, pet food or by leaving pets outdoors as easy

prey, coyotes and other wild animals remember where the last source of food was and return to the same general area for their next meal.

The Wildlife Watch website explains how the training works: "Empower people to respect wildlife through the understanding of ecology and conservation principles; increase awareness of local wildlife, and reduce complacency while promoting education at all levels; teach conservation and ecological principles based on facts not feelings, seeking first to understand and then be understood; encourage empathy and compassion for those affected by human-wildlife conflict (e.g., pet or livestock loss); value and respect each other's diverse views about how to manage human-wildlife conflicts; reduce public safety incidents, property damage, pet or livestock loss, and general nuisance

reports involving wildlife; and develop effective partnerships through collaboration, coordination, and communication between the agencies entrusted to manage and protect our wildlife resources – and the communities they serve."

This type of "conservation coaching" will be provided to local agencies and community groups (whose volunteers are expected to choose "block captains" for their respective neighborhoods). Initially members of CDFW will conduct the training/coaching efforts with the expectation that eventually members of Lamorinda CERT will take over the role.

For more information visit: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Wildlife-Watch> or contact MPD Lt. Brian South at: south@moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7052.

Flag pole dedication, tree planting at Pear & Wine Festival

After nearly 40 years, a new flagpole was dedicated at Moraga Commons Park Sept. 25, in addition to the planting of a new maple tree, thanks to a donation from the Moraga Community Foundation, with major funding coming from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and the Eagle Foundation. The ceremony kicked off the return of the annual Pear and Wine Festival, which had taken a yearlong hiatus due to the pandemic. Moraga resident Bob Moore, who was a member of Boy Scout Troop 212 when the original flagpole was dedicated in 1982 commented on how much has changed since then. "The picture from the paper back then had no trees (in the park); now look at it. This is such a beautiful, gorgeous park and it's neat to see the Boy Scouts carry on the tradition, as well as have the Girl Scouts involved," he said, adding that none of this would have been possible without the extreme hard work of Tom "Mac" McIntosh, who recently passed away. "He was 'Mr. 212.'" Moraga Mayor Mike McCluer gave special thanks to members of Boy Scout Troop 212, Girl Scout Troop 33780, Cub Scout Troop 351, and Mina Lim, the multiple Lamorinda Idol winner and Campolindo High School sophomore who sang "The Star Spangled Banner." – J. Wake

Photos J. Wake



Scouts surround newly planted maple tree.

Proclamation for Moraga Garden Center's Kenny Murakami

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Garden Center and owner Kenny Murakami have been fixtures in the Moraga Shopping Center for nearly

50 years. Located in an almost hidden corner at 1400 Moraga Rd., Murakami sold plants and freely gave away gardening advice to his loyal customers.

Forced to retire by an ADA

compliance lawsuit from a serial plaintiff, Murakami decided that the cost of making his garden center (which was constructed prior to the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act) up to code was too cost prohibitive. Also citing his wife's health, he felt that the writing was on the "garden wall." However, on the brighter side of things, Murakami is looking forward to spending all of his extra time with his wife as they "stop and smell the roses."

Mayor Mike McCluer, at the Sept. 22 council meeting, gave a proclamation noting all of the selfless gestures that Murakami had done for the town and its citizens such as providing daffodil bulbs for the annual plantings on Moraga's hillsides and roads; giving valuable advice on many projects along with providing locally-sourced plants for the



Photo Andy Schreck

Kenny Murakami prunes a Japanese Maple in a Moraga yard

Hacienda de las Flores gardens; offering instruction in pruning techniques and the prevention of fire-blight (a pear tree killer) for the 100-plus-year-old pear trees on the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School property; free consul-

tation to the Moraga Gardens Farm that provides produce to local schools and nonprofits; and his partnering with the Moraga Garden Club in helping to design the Moraga for Monarchs habitat at the Rancho Laguna Park.

A photography professor at Santa Clara University, Takeshi Moro, was so taken by the community's reliance on Murakami's advice and quality vegetation that he decided to create a photo book based on plants purchased at the Moraga Garden Center and how they are thriving in people's yards. He plans on printing a limited number, and once the costs are cleared, all proceeds from sales will go to Murakami. The book will be available at Lafayette's Orchard Nursery, Lazy K, Orinda Books, McDonnell Nursery, Ace Hardware Moraga, and Across the Way.

The Moraga Garden Center will close its doors for good on Oct. 31. The website's mission statement can also serve as its epitaph: "Our goal is to introduce our customers to the wonderful diversity of the plant world, from the edible to the ornamental, to the curiosity. Our goal is also to help our customers become more successful and knowledgeable gardeners with sound science-based advice. A more knowledgeable gardener is a better gardener."

Mission accomplished, Kenny!

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Moraga Education Foundation celebrates 40th anniversary



Photos courtesy Shirley DeFrancisci, DeF-Stop Photography

By Jenn Freedman

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) has been supporting Moraga's public schools for 40 years. MEF was founded in 1981 by a group of concerned parents in response to drastic cuts to education from the passage of Proposition 13. Their first fundraising campaign back in the Spring of 1982 was a phone-a-thon to raise a lofty \$50,000. MEF's mission has always been to raise funds to bridge the gap between state education funding and the real cost of educating Moraga's students through a broad-based community effort.

MEF's Week of Giving is Oct. 4-10, a perfect time to make a donation to the Annual Giving Campaign. The money raised will go toward grants to Moraga's public schools for next year.

This year, MEF granted \$1.5 million to the Moraga School District (MSD) and \$800,000 to Campolindo from funds raised last school year. MSD Superintendent Dr. Julie Parks shares, "Our Moraga schools thrive because of our remarkable community, a community that deeply values a strong educational experience as an imperative for their children. MEF helps make this

value a reality by providing our schools with technology, support staff and programming, and instructional materials that ensure that our teachers can provide a rich and innovative experience and our children can continue to learn at high levels."

In honor of the 40th anniversary, MEF has redesigned its website. Check out the new site at moragaeducation.org and read more about the impact of your donations.

In addition, MEF will be holding its Auction Gala on April 30, 2022, after two years off due to COVID-19.

"MEF's Week of Giving is a time when we remember how important the excellence of our local public schools is to the strength of our community. I hope everyone, both parents and our community at large, chooses to support our schools this year with a donation to MEF – especially during this, our 40th anniversary year," MEF President Ana Moon encourages.

The 2021-22 Giving Campaign is going on now and runs through the end of June 2022. Donations can be made online at moragaeducation.org.



Town Council
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Tuesday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m.
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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:
www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

Orinda gears up for first commercial development since Theatre Square

By Sora O'Doherty

After standing vacant for decades, 25A Orinda Way will finally become a construction site. The retail development named “The Station” is scheduled to break ground this fall. In one of his last official acts, departing Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works Larry Theis presented the city council with a staff report on Sept. 7 outlining the steps that will be necessary to complete the mixed-use project. ZCON Builders will be the primary construction contractor to erect the new building and make new utility connections.

Developer Paul Ugenti and Charles Zaksorn, owner of ZCON Builders attended the meeting. They assured the city that if there was a requirement to name the city as an “also insured,” there would be no problem doing that. Zaksorn is an Orinda resident and ZCON Builders has built over a billion dollars of projects, including high-density housing, mixed-use developments, residential, commercial, industrial, and community projects in the Bay Area and Northern California.

The construction work will require closure of the sidewalk and street parking for the duration of the project, estimated to require 18 months. The construction site will be fenced off, including the sidewalk and parking



Orinda Library

Image courtesy city of Orinda, modified by Lamorinda Weekly

Construction site on Orinda Way across from the Orinda Library

spaces as well as extending into the adjoining property, 25 Orinda Way.

Although both lanes of traffic on Orinda Way will be largely unaffected, there will be a need to close the southbound lane of traffic on about 70 individual days for a partial or whole shift. This will allow for material deliveries, concrete pumping, and crane-related activities. The contractor will use flaggers to direct traffic for alternating use of the northbound lane during the closures.

Theis presented the council with a detailed, compre-

hensive list of traffic controls and a logistics narrative, which were prepared by the developer and construction contractor and which can be viewed in the agenda packet on the Orinda website. Lane closures will be limited to weekdays, but ending early on Thursdays to accommodate the food truck event held at the Community Center, across the street from the construction site.

Since Orinda Way was recently repaved, the construction will occur under a moratorium that requires the builder to restore the road af-

ter any construction disruption. Council Member Nick Kosla expressed gratitude to the developer for bringing Orinda its first commercial project in decades. Mayor Amy Worth noted that Orinda Intermediate School students are already doing a project on the new development, and have been inquiring what kind of food will be served there. “They are ready to come in,” Worth proclaimed. The development will be situated directly across the street from the Orinda Library and Community Center.

SSTOC issues initial report and recommendations to Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

When Orinda voters passed Measure R in November 2020, it put big, but perhaps, subtle changes in play. Orinda residents agreed to tax themselves for two big goals: working on the city’s roads, and, even more urgently, trying to make the city fire safe. The Citizens’ Infrastructure Oversight Committee was replaced by the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC), required by the

measure to monitor how Orinda spent the new revenue.

In early 2021, the city council appointed 10 residents – Jud Hammon, Chairman; Chris Decareau; Melanie Light; Paula Reinman; Brad Barber; Yasaman Lee; Latika Malkani; Alex Weinstein, Rachele Latimer and original member Kyle Arteaga, who moved out of the area and has not yet been replaced – to the SSTOC. At the Sept. 21 city council meeting on Zoom, Mayor Amy Worth remarked that it was the first time that she could recall when all the members of a commission were in attendance.

Since March 2021, the Commission has been meeting monthly in open public meetings. In addition, they held a half-day open public planning workshop to develop a focused work plan on reduction of wildfire risk and emergency preparedness, which featured presentations from several community partners, including MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker and Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs, Lamorinda CERT, the Firewise Council, and the then-current Orinda police chief, David Cook. There was also a presentation about the wildfire risk mitigation plan developed by the City of Los Gatos.

The SSTOC presented the city council with two sets of recommendations, nine items for immediate or near-term action, and six items for long-term or multi-year consideration, with the following suggestions to be tackled first: The city should hire and train an additional dedicated staff member to provide “boots on the ground” support for wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and home hardening efforts; effect roadside fuel reduction and vegetation management, particularly along evacuation routes; create a vegetation and structure inventory of city and residential properties in order to utilize novel com-

puter modeling of fire in the Wildland Urban Interface; continue to clear city property to comply with MOFD Fire Code, and budget and plan for annual clearance; and explore alternate funding to incentivize residents to achieve fuel reduction, home hardening, and emergency preparedness.

The six long-term goals the commission recommended are developing a matrix for success which includes periodic goals for residential compliance, a vegetation maintenance schedule and improved emergency preparedness, enhancing relations with agencies with overlapping interests, such as EBMUD, PG&E, East Bay Regional Parks, and Caltrans; educating landscapers, nurseries, and garden centers regarding Orinda regulations, standards and best practices, continuing to update city ordinances to reflect MOFD’s continuing efforts to strengthen the Fire Code and Building Code; developing and implement a plan to help Orinda homeowners maintain affordable fire and hazard insurance; and adopting an environmental plan to address climate change locally.

Hammon said while the city is just getting started on fire safety, it must prepare for the high risk of a wildfire starting outside the city that could result in a deadly conflagration within the town. He expressed concern that many Orinda residents are not as well informed or prepared as they need to be and noted that there are three key goals: wildfire risk reduction, saving property and saving lives. “Orinda faces a situation not a lot different than Oakland 30 years ago.”

In 1991 a large suburban wildland-urban interface conflagration on the hillsides of Orinda’s neighbors, Oakland and Berkeley, killed 25 people and injured 150 others. The fire burned 1,520 acres, destroying over 3,000

homes and caused billions of dollars in economic loss. Council Member Inga Miller noted that one of the precursors of that fire was a severe frost that caused the die off of eucalyptus trees. She pointed to the current drought and die off of trees, noting that EBMUD is now working on removing dead and dying trees. She suggested outreach to the East Bay Regional Parks District and other nearby communities. Hammon said that while they have met with a number of organizations, it was not clear whether that was the role of the commission or the city.

Council Member Nick Kosla asked how the work on roads and drainage will intertwine with the work on fire safety, and Hammon responded that he expects the first two years of the commission’s work to be devoted to fire safety. Vice Mayor Dennis Fay said that he attended virtually all the SSTOC meetings. He raised a concern that the city may not be able to enforce the MOFD code.

Hammon, addressing the compliance issue, said that voluntary compliance is the best, cheapest, and quickest way to implement the fire code. “We need a public-private partnership,” he said, pointing out that Orinda is right over the hill from Berkeley, which is often an incubator for plans from the university staff or students. For example, UC Berkeley has a program to develop a computer program to model wildfire through the wildland-urban interface. It needs a lot of detail, he said, requiring private property owners to provide detailed information about what is on their land.

City manager David Biggs said that the state of California will be rolling out funding for low- and moderate-income housing to help with home hardening this coming January.

The entire report, including many links to resources, is available as part of the city council agenda at <http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1936&Inline=True>

New Orinda police chief named

Lt. Ryan Sullivan took the reins as Orinda’s police chief on Sept. 20, replacing outgoing Chief David Cook. A story featuring Sullivan will run in our Oct. 13 issue.

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Making up for time lost in a pandemic: Orinda Citizens of the Year to be honored

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) has announced the honorees at this year's Orinda Citizens of the Year event will be Melanie Light, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2021; Tom Trowbridge, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2020; and Pete Hasselman, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2019. Honorees are nominated by members of the community and selected by the OCF.

Light is the founder and leader of the Orinda Firewise Council and a member of the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission, founded to advise the Orinda city council on use of the funds raised by Measure R. Light also writes for the Orinda Association's monthly newspaper, the Orinda News.

The previous Citizens of the Year who were not able to be honored in person because of the pandemic are

both leaders of OrindaVision, a group dedicated to improving downtown Orinda. Hasselman, co-founder of OrindaVision and a current member of the Orinda Planning Commission, has had a very long career as an architect and urban planner. Trowbridge, former chair of OrindaVision, has had a long career as a commercial mortgage banker.

In addition, a new category of honoree, called Orinda Everyday Heroe, has been created this year. To celebrate the many COVID-19 frontline workers, the OCF has selected Dr. Christopher Severson, Emergency Medicine Physician, Kaiser Hospital and Diane Acevedo, Registered Nurse, John Muir Hospital as honorees.

Severson is Chief of Emergency Medicine at Kaiser Walnut Creek. He is also an elected trustee to the Acalanes Union High School District and lives in Orinda with his wife and five chil-

dren. Acevedo has been a nurse for 27 years and has worked at John Muir Hospital for the past 15 years. She is an Orinda resident, and lives with her husband and two children. Both health professionals have spoken about the stress and fear that they experienced working through the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Community members are invited to join in the celebration of these outstanding, dedicated citizens at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Orinda Community Center in the Founder's Auditorium. Tickets to the event will be available for \$75 per person. There will be no-host cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner and the awards ceremony starting at 6:30 p.m.

Register for the event at the OCF website OrindaFoundation.org under the Citizen of the Year tab. Registration will open in early October.

Central San work causes road closure in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

You may have wondered what that block-like building behind Theatre Square is. It is a very old pumping station, constructed in the 1950s. The Contra Costa County Central Sanitation station, which serves more than 90% of Orinda residents, is being updated, and the work has necessitated a couple of road closures, requiring a detour to access Highway 24. A road closure scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25, was changed to Sunday, Oct. 3, when the road will be closed from 6 a.m. to noon and will affect northbound Camino Pablo at Brookwood Road. In addition, the sidewalk on the east side of Camino Pablo has been closed, but should reopen by the end of this September or early October. For more information, call (925) 229-7200.

At the Mayor's Liaison

Meeting on Sept. 14, Chris Carpenter of Central San updated the community on Central San news. The update to the pumping station includes the installation of a generator. Completion of the project is expected by end of year. In addition to the big pumping station, they have also updated two smaller pumping stations that serve Lamorinda, another in Orinda and one in Moraga. Central San has also been working in Lost Valley all summer, starting in North Orinda. Carpenter mentioned that recycled water available from Central San has been a hit this year with the drought.

Central San is also very excited to be celebrating its 75th anniversary. Central San turned 75 on July 15, and it is celebrating all year long with online virtual tours featuring 360-degree photos. Student education programs are also available.

Join the celebration at <https://75th.centernalsan.org/v/531BopwkzBL>

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Will Lamorinda be broken up? Redistricting process underway

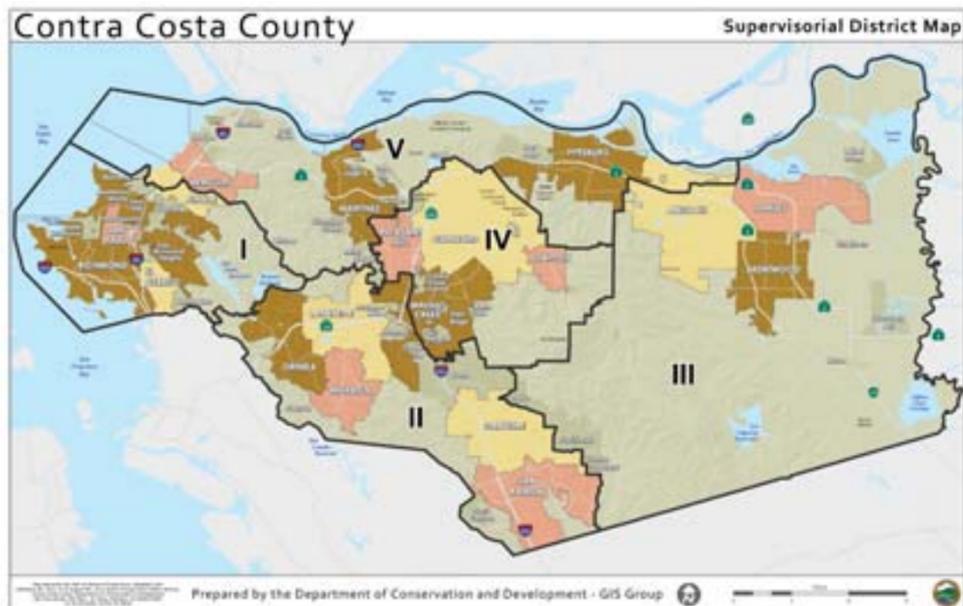


Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Once a decade, county districts for elective offices are redrawn in accordance with U.S. census data. In order to hear local concerns, the

county is seeking input about what are known as "communities of interest." State law defines a "Community of Interest" as "a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be

included within a single supervisory district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The county has promised to keep communities of interest, which do not include "relationships with

political parties, incumbents, or candidates," together in a district.

On Sept. 20, the state of California released California redistricting data. This data differs from the U.S. census data in that it accounts for the population in state prison facilities according to their home addresses.

Contra Costa County is composed of five districts. Lamorinda currently falls into District 2, which currently contains the largest population in the district, at 243,779. The lowest population in the county is in District 1, with a population of 225,298. District 1 borders District 2 to the north-west boundary of Orinda, and includes unincorporated areas as well as El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo and Pinole. According to the county, based on the California Redistricting Data, equal population distribution is 233,613 per district. The current Supervisory districts have a deviation of 7.9%.

A series of Online Map-

ping Workshops will be held to assist residents in drawing and submitting Communities of Interest to be considered in the county's Supervisory Redistricting Process. The workshops will be hosted by DistrictR, the online mapping tool the county is making available to provide an easy way to draw and submit maps and comments.

An online mapping workshop will be held on Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. There is also a mapping workshop in Spanish on Oct. 13. The County's second redistricting public hearing will be held at the Board of Supervisor's meeting at 9 a.m. Oct. 5, and will be available via Zoom, online, and on Contra Costa Television channels. A District 2 forum is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23, at 9 a.m. at San Ramon City Hall.

There are a lot of ways to submit comments to the board of supervisors concerning redistricting and communities of interest, all of which can be found at www.CoCoRedistricting.org.

How local residents are preparing for power shutoffs



Photo provided

Chris Wright and daughters Holland and Madeline using solar power from their converted camper to keep their computers and iPads charged so they could work and continue distance learning last year.

... continued from Page A1

A Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist with a national consulting company, Rebecca Verity spends her days helping clients prepare for natural disasters. She does the same for her friends and family.

She has installed home batteries to supplement the existing solar panels on her Orinda home. She invites neighbors to share her outdoor charging stations or chest freezer if needed. "It's the right thing to do as a neighbor, and hopefully reduces the number of gas-

powered home generators during wildfire season," Verity states.

Taking it a step further, Verity, who lives "on one of those weird little cul de sacs" with only one possible exit, worked with the neighbor who backs onto her property from a second cul de sac. "We broke through a portion of our fence so both families now have a second emergency exit," she reports.

Additionally, Verity notes, "even with backup power at our house, we know we all may lose wifi and cell service in a PSPS." So her family

keeps cars, phones, laptops and tablets charged, has a communication-independent wildfire evacuation contingency plan and communicates regularly with neighbors regarding emergency plans.

"Our family installed whole-house batteries ... and will have ample power to share. So ... for those with important frozen items like breast milk or charging needs ... we will have freezer space and a charging station 24x7 during the shutdowns." This was a social media post written by Lafayette's Rod Strum.

Commenting on this generous offer, Strum says, "We have three young kids so we know how stressful it can be to lose power and possibly something as important as breast milk..."

Like Verity, Strum added both solar panels and home batteries to keep his house running in the event of a PSPS. He reports that his two Tesla Powerwall batteries will operate just about everything in his home, "meaning all lights, appliances and air conditioning. If I thought it was going to be an extended power outage," he says, "we'd be more judicious with the AC. Everything else draws the battery down relatively slowly."

Moraga's Hilleary and Chris Wright may have one of the more creative ways to prepare for a possible PSPS: they purchased a shuttle bus decked out like a camper. The vehicle already had an old solar panel on its roof and the Wrights added another panel,

giving them 300 watts of solar power.

The shuttle bus was actually purchased right before COVID. "We're a very outdoorsy family," Hilleary Wright reports, and had been looking for a camper-type vehicle big enough to accommodate their family of five. Between stay at home orders and searching for clean air, the Wrights have put about 8,000 miles on the vehicle since they bought it last year. They have plugged their older garage refrigerator into the van's lithium battery and with solar, the Wrights say, it can keep food cold for up to two days. During the shutoffs last year, the Wrights moved into their van to work and continue distance learning.

The van will serve as their go-bag if needed. "We have canned food and basic clothing stored in the van, we can sleep in it and can take off if evacuation is necessary," she says.

A Lamorinda resident referred to Trent Watkins as the "generator guru," noting that he freely offers advice on purchasing and installing generators. "He's exceptionally generous with both his

time and advice," she wrote.

"I spent a lot of time researching both solar and generators," the Moraga stay-at-home dad notes, "and I am happy to share the knowledge I've gained."

Initially learning about solar, Watkins, working with a small solar panel supplier, had a custom solar kit designed for his roof. Studying what he and his family needed to keep powered up in the event of a PSPS, they determined a 3,500-watt inverter generator would keep their full-sized refrigerators, small wine refrigerators, fans, air purifiers, house lights and TV running for up to 10 hours on 2.9 gallons of gas.

"My generator is very quiet and the size of an ice chest on wheels, so it's easy to put away." In fact, Watkins reports, 10 of his neighbors purchased the same generator.

Having evacuated his elderly grandmother from Santa Rosa four times in four years, Watkins speaks from experience when he advises that we need to seriously think about all the things we need to do to prepare for possible emergencies.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.



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

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Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt

925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line

94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues

94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:

329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055

Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:

22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820

Chief of Police, David M. Cook

925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police

Department

Incident

Summary

Report

Sept. 5 - Sept. 18

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Alarms | 48 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 8 |
| Traffic | 101 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 7 |
| Suspicious Subject | 23 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 25 |
| Service to Citizen | 42 |
| Patrol Req./Security Check | 58 |
| Pubic/School Assembly Check | 14 |
| Supplemental Report | 30 |
| Vacation House Check | 6 |
| Welfare Check | 11 |
| Ordinance Violation | 2 |



Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary

1000 Block Miller Dr.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1100 Block Orchard Rd.

Hit And Run Felony

El Nido Ranch Rd./Upper Happy

Valley Rd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor

Brook St./Moraga Rd.

Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way

Reckless Driving

Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Deer Hill Rd/Oak Hill Rd.

Pleasant Hill Cir./Acalanes Ave.

St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr. (2)

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Hampton Rd.

Tc - Property Damage

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.

1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Vehicle Theft

3000 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud Credit Card

1000 Block Orchard Rd.

Fraud False Pretenses

900 Block Buchan Dr.

Grand Theft

800 Block Mountain View Dr.

Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3300 Block Beechwood Dr.

Police Department

Grand Theft Veh Parts

1000 Block Miller Dr.

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

Identity Theft

600 Block Doreen Way (3)

Petty Theft

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (20)

900 Block Acalanes Rd.

Petty Theft From Veh

1100 Block Palomares Ct.

Shoplift

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic

3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Noise

800 Block Solana Dr.

Loud Party

3100 Block Somerset Dr.

600 Block St Marys Rd.

3200 Block Camino Colorados

Valley Rd.

Public Nuisance

1000 Block Viela Ct.

Vandalism

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

10 Block Ethan Ct.

Moraga Blvd./3Rd St.

Other

Animal Cruelty

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Defraud Innkeeper

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fire/Ems Response Info

3500 Block Wildwood Ln.

3500 Block Old Mountain View Dr.

3400 Block Golden Gate Way

H&S Violation

900 Block Moraga Rd.

In Custody Theft

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

K9 Outside Assist Request

900 Block Mitchell Way, Eso

Loitering

30 Block Lafayette Cir.

Neighbor Dispute

10 Block Dollis Park Rd.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute

3400 Block School St.

Victoria Ave./Moraga Blvd.

Threats

600 Block Doreen Way

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Restraining Ord

900 Block Hough Ave.

Moraga Police

Department

Incident

Summary

Report

Sept. 7 - Sept. 19



Alarms 1

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14

Traffic 35

Suspicious Circumstances 6

Suspicious Subject 5

Suspicious Vehicle 1

Service to Citizen 46

Patrol Req./Security Check 14

Supplemental Report 2

Vacation House Check 0

Welfare Check 3

Public/School Assembly Check 2

Ordinance Violation 0

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury

Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.

3700 Block Campolindo Dr.

Accident Property

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Auto Burglary

1900 Block Ascot Dr.

Excessive Speed

Thune/Larch Ave.

Larch Ave./Wandel Dr.

Campolindo High School

Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Reckless Driving

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

90 Block Shuey Dr.

Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

Rheem Blvd./Center St.

St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Tc Property Damage

Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft

Not Available

Petty Theft

Not Available

Joaquin Moraga Int. School

Petty Theft From Veh

Not Available

Shoplift

Safeway

Warrant Arrest

Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music

Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.

Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

700 Block Moraga Rd.

Canyon Club Brewery

Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.

200 Block Rheem Blvd.

Loud Noise

2100 Block Donald Dr.

Loud Party

1400 Block Camino Peral

2100 Block Donald Dr.

2000 Block Donald Dr.

Hacienda (2)

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Public Nuisance

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Letters to the editor

An issue of freedom

We live on a cul-de-sac near the high school. Our lot is pie-shaped and abuts onto Stanley Boulevard. We fly an American flag next to a rainbow flag because, in our opinion, you can't have freedom for some and not for others. We also support our nation's police forces. What we do not condone is the actions of a few rogue officers who feel that some people's lives are not as worthy as others. Like many Lamorinda residents, we have watched in

horror as black men and women are abused, shot in the back, shot in their beds, suffocated to death, and generally not accorded any dignity that is inherently theirs just by virtue of being a human being. I don't worry about my 6-foot, 3-inch son walking out the door wearing a hoodie, but he's white.

Because of the shape of our lot, we have a fence facing Stanley Boulevard. Over the last two years, we have put up protest posters regarding various political issues that reflect our values,

especially regarding black lives matter. We feel that the current legal system is unfair, and we feel that we have the right to air these opinions. These posters are being torn down. We don't know who is tearing them down. These posters on OUR property. We keep putting them up and others keep pulling them down. At least the last poster that was torn down was thrown over our fence. We promptly put it back up. We are close to contacting the police because we consider this vandalism.

You don't have to agree with our political stance. Fine. You can fly whatever flags you want at your house. A confederate flag? Go to town. Nail it to your fence. We can assure you that we will not tear it down. Because we respect the right you have to air your opinions, as vile as they may be. We value your rights as a homeowner, and

we will not trespass on your property. We ask that you give us the same consideration.

Claire M. Johnson and Mark Sarconi
Lafayette

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Lafayette parents are hungry for answers about free lunch program



bigstock images

By Sharon K. Sobotta

While many students across the country are benefitting from the extension of universal free lunches through the United States Department of Agriculture, which President Joe Biden approved for all children through the 2021-22 school year as a measure to help with the safe reopening of schools, some families of elementary school students in Lafayette are feeling left out. With housing costs soaring and parents also navigating the pandemic landscape, some say the universal free lunch program is the reprieve that's missing for elementary school families in the district.

Anna Connolly is a single mom of four children: three attend Happy Valley Elementary School and one attends Stanley Middle School. Connolly works two jobs while she struggles to pay her rent, keep the lights on, put food on the table and pack food for her children's lunches.

"I struggle every single day," Connolly said. "It's a lot of work to manage afterschool activities, homework, laundry, grocery shopping and then making four lunches in the morning. And it's expensive."

Connolly rents a modest three-bedroom home in downtown Lafayette for \$3,850 per month. She waits tables at two downtown restaurants and often works double shifts. "I have to borrow money to cover my rent," Connolly said. "Even in working doubles everyday, there is still never enough to cover all of the bills and the expenses."

Connolly says her life changed drastically after her divorce finalized in 2019. "I lived an extremely comfortable life when I was married. I went grocery shopping whenever I wanted to," Connolly said. "(After my divorce) my ex was able to buy me out of the house, which gave me enough money to pay rent for a while, but after three years, the money ran out."

Connolly says she hopes

people can get beyond the narrative that all people in Lafayette are affluent and that the universal free lunch program promised by the Biden Administration is an unnecessary perk in this community. "People's situations are a lot more complex than I ever realized," Connolly said. "Just because you're doing fine, doesn't mean your neighbors are."

What keeps Connolly going is simple. "My kids. I work hard every single day for my kids so that I can provide them the best life I can," Connolly said. "I'm trying to stay here as long as I possibly can so that my kids can stay in their schools."

Faten Refaat is preparing to transition back to in-person work at Levi headquarters in San Francisco after working remotely for the last 19 months. Two of Refaat's children attend Lafayette Elementary School, where there is no free lunch, and one attends Campolindo High School, where there is a universal free breakfast and lunch. Refaat says she was counting on Biden's promise of a free lunch program for this academic year and is feeling let down by the absence of one at Lafayette Elementary School.

"It was really disappointing for me," Refaat said. "My oldest daughter gets free meals (at Campolindo). I spend lots of time prepping meals for the other two and the cost really adds up."

When Refaat, her husband and their three children moved to Lafayette from Egypt five years ago, Refaat recalls thinking that everyone in Lafayette was well off until she got a wake up call. "I started offering fresh vegetables to neighbors (on the local Buy nothing Facebook group) during the pandemic and I was shocked to learn that there really are so many people in need," Refaat said. The local Lafayette buy-nothing group currently has 1,000 members with an additional 300 on the waiting list. While

community members rely on each other for produce and household items, Refaat says parents are hungry for answers about school lunch.

In a letter sent to parents earlier this year, Superintendent Richard Whitmore referenced Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to have free breakfast and lunch available in California schools by the 2022-23 school year and advised that, in compliance with Education code 49550, the schools will provide lunch to qualifying children under federal guidelines.

In order to qualify under the federal guidelines, a family of three needs to earn less than \$40,626 and a family of four must earn less than \$49,025. The average rent, according to rentcafe.com, in the city of Lafayette is \$2,829. Craigslist (in a search on Sept. 23) has one (450 square foot) unit below \$2,000, while most modest apartment units range between \$2,500 and \$4,000.

Out of the approximately 3,455 children in the district, Whitmore said 103 qualify for the previously existing free or reduced lunch program. It's unclear how many of the additional 3,352 children who don't meet the strict threshold of eligibility may actually be struggling in this community. Whitmore acknowledges that at this time, there may be a need beyond that of the strict federal guidelines.

Whitmore has explained to inquiring parents that the cost of the current vendors is higher than the reimbursement level, making it a logistical challenge. A Sodexo hot lunch at Burton Valley is about \$4.40 and a complete hot choice lunch at Lafayette Elementary School is about \$7.50. Whitmore says the state and federal programs have cost limitations and that both Sodexo and Choicelunch costs are higher than the reimbursement level.

"We don't know how the vendors will respond to the new state mandate. We're still in the planning phases," Whitmore said. In terms of how the district is supporting children who may be experiencing food insecurity while at school right now, Whitmore says that principals have some discretion.

"Principals are always sensitive to students who may not arrive each day with a healthy lunch. Every principal has access to food to support an individual student's need," Whitmore said. "Whitmore added that because the Acalanes Union High School District has its own kitchens, it was in a position to make a transition to a full free lunch program on short notice."

... continued on Page A10

Service Clubs Announcements



Every Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
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October 2021 Weekly Speakers

- 1: Don Jenkins, The Quarterly Big Picture**
- 8: Randy Bennett, SMC Basketball Head Coach**
- 15: Martha Laham, DVC Professor and Author of "Made Up"**
- 22: Sofia Marino, Exploration in a Nevada Gold Mine**
- 29: Member Magazine**

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County now requires proof of vaccination to enter restaurants, other businesses

By Sora O'Doherty

Contra Costa County joined nearby jurisdictions such as Berkeley and San Francisco in requiring that proof of vaccination must be shown before patrons may enter restaurants, gyms, and other indoor businesses where there's an increased risk of spreading COVID-19. The risk of transmission is highest in these spaces because people remove face coverings to eat or drink or breathe heavily because of physical exertion.

The requirement affects everyone over 12 years of age. If proof of vaccination is not available, or if a person is not

fully vaccinated, a negative COVID-19 test result received in the past three days will also work. An at-home test will not be accepted for this purpose.

Proof of vaccination may be either the physical card received when vaccinated or a digital record obtained from the state. The county has provided information on how to obtain digital COVID-19 vaccination records from the State of California Vaccine portal. Go to <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov> to obtain vaccine records.

By entering a few details, you can get a link to a QR code and a digital copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record. If

you want to share your proof of vaccination, you can use either the electronic version you'll get from the portal or the card you were given at time of vaccination.

If you are a parent or guardian and have multiple vaccine records associated with a single mobile phone number or email address, enter each digital vaccine record request separately.

If you received your vaccinations from a federal agency (e.g., Department of Defense, Indian Health Services, or Veterans Affairs), you will need to reach out to those agencies for assistance with your vaccination record.

Lafayette parents are hungry for answers about free lunch program

... continued from Page A9

"We unfortunately were not and have to focus our energy on being ready for the 2022-23 school year," Whitmore said. "Even if we had the facilities to offer a lunch program this year, we would not have the manpower or the right talent to staff it on short notice."

Refaat disagrees. "Where there's a will,

there's a way. Parents can't wait another year to go to work. This is why Biden implemented the program for this year," Refaat said. "I think a lot of people in the district and in the community would gladly step up and help both with resources and with serving," Refaat added. "Kids can't wait another year to eat."

Refaat says she's watched the community rally and support one another for many

causes, and she sees no reason why the same thing can't be done for this matter. While Refaat can appreciate parent and community effort to take on projects like the Safe Route to Acalanes, she says she'd like to see people just as invested in giving children in the community access to healthy food. "Before we can think about walking, we need to think about feeding our children."

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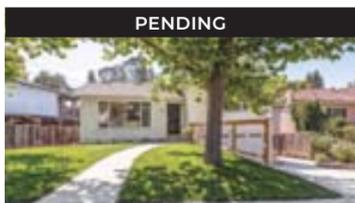
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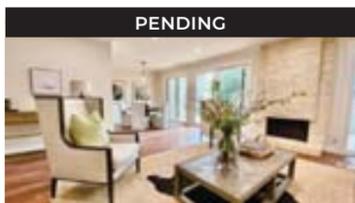
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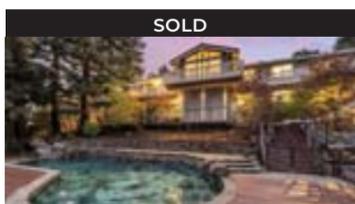
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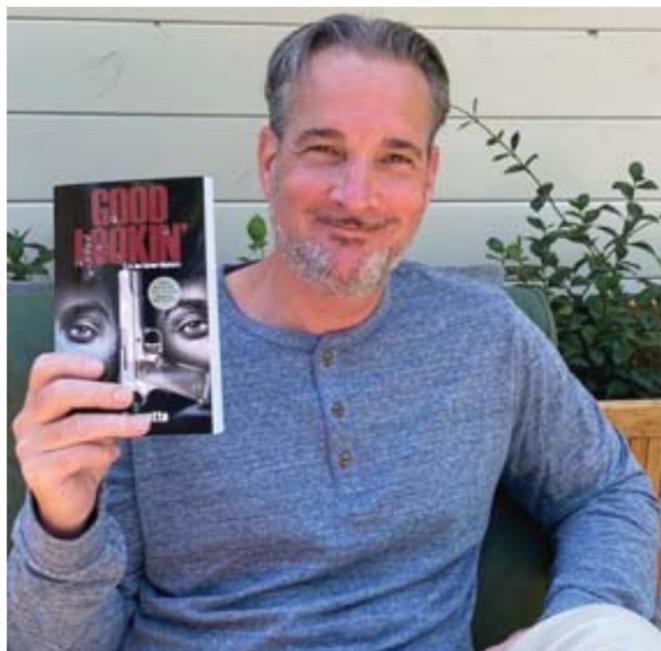
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Lafayette defense attorney turns mystery author



Mystery author Todd (T.L.) Bequette

Photo provided

By Diane Claytor

In the back of Todd (T.L.) Bequette's mind, he always thought he could write a book. He was right. His first novel, "Good Lookin, A Joe Turner Mystery," has recently been published and been very well received. In fact, the San Francisco Book Review wrote that "T.L. Bequette creates a brilliant masterpiece that is easy to love and hard to forget."

The Lafayette resident and married father of four boys has always enjoyed writing, crediting his mother's love of books and his father's "ability to spin a yarn" for his passion. He would love to spend all his time writing but admits that, until he sells many more books, he needs to keep his day job: a criminal defense attorney in Oakland.

Bequette notes that his work "offers a huge treasure trove of ideas, many of which are stranger than fiction." Authors are generally advised to write what they know and Bequette has certainly taken that advice to heart, as is apparent from the book's synopsis: "From the ... streets of inner-city Oakland ... attorney Joe Turner defends the most hardened criminals. ... At its heart is a decade-old murder

and a tangled web of family, loyalty and devotion that has the trial hanging in the balance."

Many of the characters in the book are compilations of people Bequette knows. (In fact, there is a storyline about a set of twins, a scenario Bequette knows very well although, he says, his twin boys have told him he actually knows nothing about twins.) "I find when I create a character," Bequette reports, "I think of people I know and combine traits from several different ones. The same goes when developing a plot."

"I have definitely gotten messages from colleagues trying to guess who I'm actually writing about or which judge or district attorney I'm referring to in the story," Bequette says.

When he's at work or in court, Bequette admits writing his stories is often in the back of his mind. "If something strange happens in court, or I run into a character that is wildly entertaining, I think about ways to incorporate that into a book. There's rarely a day that goes by now where a co-worker doesn't relay a story and suggest I include that in a future book."

"Good Lookin" is actually not the first book Bequette

wrote, although it is the first one published. As he discovered, writing a book isn't quite as easy as he originally thought. His first novel, written over the course of 10 years without much of an organized plan, Bequette now realizes, had a "wonky" plot, and was rejected by numerous independent publishers. As luck would have it, that first novel has been significantly reworked and will be released next spring as the second Joe Turner mystery, "Blood Perfect."

In some ways, Joe Turner is similar to Bequette, "although I made him a little more 'everything,'" Bequette acknowledges. "He drinks too much and stresses too much. But he's super witty and funny like I would be if I could stop time and think of the perfect legal argument, the perfect comeback, the perfect joke. Some of the most fun I have when writing is flushing out the Joe Turner character," he continues.

Having gone through the long and often arduous and frustrating process of writing, editing and publishing a book, Bequette believes he has become a better writer. He is now working on the third Joe Turner Mystery, noting that he'll keep writing about Joe Turner "until I get tired of the character."

Editorial reviews of "Good Lookin" have been quite positive. Kirkus Reviews calls the debut crime drama a "thoroughly engrossing mystery from a writer with immense potential ... a serpentine thriller ... a zesty, addictive tale ... that will satisfy fans of suspense novels and literary crime dramas." Reviews like this are, of course, wonderful, Bequette says, and he feels very lucky. However, he notes that some reviews haven't been quite so complimentary and "it's amazing how personally I take it when there are negative comments." But those appear to be few; goodreads.com readers also seem to love the book, with the majority giving it five stars.

"Good Lookin" may be purchased from most major online book sellers.

THT announces first in its 'New Voices' series – 'The Children's Farm'



Director Ciera Eis Photos provided



Playwright Sean Dunnington

Submitted by Lisa Anne Morrison

Playwright Sean Dunnington's piece, "The Children's Farm," will be brought to the stage by Director Ciera Eis. This lightly produced, two-weekend performance model will be the first in Town Hall's "New Voices" series. New Voices will produce two brand new, never produced-on-stage plays by playwrights living in the seven Bay Area counties. New Voices will heavily feature plays written by traditionally under-represented and under-produced artists.

In "The Children's Farm" Sam runs away to California to live with her cousins Joey and Lauren (and their sock puppets) after being outed, tormented, and exiled. While there, Sam wraps herself in a

fantastic world of wonder and love where she can truly be herself. She calls this place "The Funny Farm," a riff off of Joey and Lauren's nickname for therapy. Traversing a decade and a half of role-playing and therapy, this drama weighs forced family, roots, and finding freedom on the farm.

"In retrospect, a lot of my earlier plays were fueled by shame," says Dunnington. "The queer character just wanted the homophobe to understand who they really were. They wanted acceptance, but even more so, they wanted to assimilate. I'm not interested in that kind of narrative anymore. "The Children's Farm" is an ode to a queer childhood with my sisters. It's an internal look at what it means to find belonging in myself, in my own

queerness, rather than from a straight gaze."

... continued on Page B2



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ENDING SOON!

Finely ground nuts a perfect swap in gluten-free salmon cakes



Dill Salmon Cakes

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

These salmon cakes are so tasty – and gluten-free, too. No one in our family has gluten issues, but being a food columnist, and cooking for a large group this past summer with a variety of dietary restrictions, I realized that I needed to step up my GF game! I haven't been terribly happy with the all-purpose or other gluten-free flours I've used lately. They are often too fine for what I am baking, which creates a texture mismatch, or the flavor isn't exactly what I'm after.

What I discovered in developing this recipe is that finely ground nuts make a great alternative for some

things, and especially for these salmon cakes. I toasted almonds and pepitas (shell-less pumpkins seeds) before finely puréeing them into a nut meal. This made a perfectly delicious replacement for the flour in these cakes and created a nice, rich, crispy coating on both the top and bottom. We really loved the flavor of these salmon cakes, and the aroma from the toasted almonds and pumpkin seeds is alluring and so satisfying. It's almost like you can inhale the goodness. Of course, if you have no gluten allergies, you can use flour in place of the nut meal, but we don't recommend it. Don't miss the goodness of toasted nut meal!

Dill Salmon Cakes

(Makes 4 large salmon cakes)

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. salmon fillets
 1 large shallot, finely diced
 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 2 teaspoons fresh dill, finely snipped
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
 1 teaspoon lemon pepper
 1 egg white, beaten
 1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds, ground to a meal (divided)
 1/2 cup toasted pepitas, ground to a meal (divided)
 1/4 cup olive oil (for cooking the cakes)

DIRECTIONS

Prepare the Nut Flour/Coating

Toast the almonds and pepitas in the oven or toaster oven, just until beginning to brown. Be careful ... it's so easy to burn nuts when you're toasting them!

Place toasted, cooled almonds and pepitas in your food processor. Process until fine, almost like a cornmeal texture. Remove from processor bowl and set aside. You will use half of this mixture in the salmon cakes and half to coat the tops and bottoms of the salmon cakes.

Prepare Salmon Cake Mixture

Remove skin from the fillet and cut the fish into small chunks. Remove any obvious bones.

Purée fish in the food processor until fairly smooth. Remove from processor bowl and place in a mixing bowl.

Add shallot, Dijon, dill, lemon pepper, lemon juice, beaten egg white and 1/2 cup of the nut purée. Chill the salmon cake mixture for about 30 minutes, to allow it to firm up." Shape into 4-6 patties.

Spread the remaining nut puree onto a plate. Pat both sides of each salmon cake into the nuts, to coat both sides.

Heat olive oil in a skillet. When hot, place salmon cakes in the pan and cook over medium-high heat until golden brown, about 1 minute. Flip over and brown the other side. Cover and reduce heat to low. Continue to cook just until cooked through. You don't want to over cook them.

Remove from the skillet and serve with remoulade sauce, a wedge of lemon and a sprig of fresh dill.

Remoulade Sauce (Makes about 3/4 Cup)

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup plain nonfat yogurt
 2 tablespoons spicy brown mustard
 1 1/2 teaspoons sweet paprika
 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
 1/2 teaspoon prepared horseradish
 1 teaspoon freshly grated horseradish root
 1/2 teaspoon pepperoncini juice (can also use dill pickle juice)
 1 teaspoon hot sauce (Louisiana hot sauce or Tabasco)
 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
 1 tablespoon finely minced parsley
 Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Stir well. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

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



Looking Good in Lamorinda Art meets fashion



Artist Bar Davi sports one of her original jackets. Photo courtesy of Bar Davi.



Julie Rubio stands next to L'Éclat by Tamara de Lempicka, 1932. Painting owned by Rowland Weinstein. Photo courtesy Julie Rubio.



Artwork by Tamara de Lempicka. Copyright 2021 Tamara de Lempicka Estate LLC. All rights reserved.

By Moya Stone

Orinda resident and film producer Julie Rubio is hard at work on her latest project, "Tamara," the first full-length definitive documentary on the highly collectable painter and fashion icon of the Art Deco period, Tamara de Lempicka. Rubio says that this film, a true "labor of love," reveals the struggles and the huge success Lempicka had during her lifetime.

Born in Poland in 1898 to an aristocratic family, Lempicka later lived and married in St. Petersburg. Escaping the Russian Revolution in 1917, she, her husband and young daughter fled to Paris where she studied painting and began to create her unique approach to portraiture. Described as "Cubism with soft modeling" her style is now recognized worldwide and her works are collected by the likes of Barbra Streisand, Jack Nicholson, and Madonna. One of her pieces most recently sold for over \$21 million.

Lempicka painted fashionable people of the Art Deco era, making her paintings a fascinating study for anyone interested in fashion history. A stylish woman herself, she modeled for a French fashion magazine, designed her own hats, and donned fashions by Coco Chanel.

"Tamara de Lempicka," says Rubio, "was the first woman artist to be a glamour star and fashion icon in her own lifetime." Both her fashion sense and her art continue to influence brands such as Louis Vuitton, Dolce & Gabbana, and Shiseido.

Rubio has many a completed film under her belt, including the successful "East Side Sushi" and "Too Perfect," which she wrote, directed, and produced. Shot in Orinda, the movie premiered at the Orinda Theatre in 2011. But "Tamara" is something special to Rubio. "We have never seen before a document of her heritage," she says. "And have uncovered secrets that she took to her

grave." For the past 15 years Rubio has been working closely with Lempicka's family, who have granted her access to stories, photos, and artworks. The film is set to be completed next year and in the meantime there's a fundraiser coming up this fall in Los Angeles. For more information about "Tamara," check out the website: <https://www.tamaradoc.com>.

Art and fashion often cross paths, as is the case with the works of Walnut Creek artist Bar Davi. During lockdown last year, Davi came to the realization that she wanted her artwork to be more widely seen. "I decided that when I could go out again," she explains, "I wanted my art to be able to go out too." So, jackets became her new canvas. An accomplished painter with 25 years experience, Davi paints images on the back of denim jackets that she finds in local thrift stores. The images she paints to are varied and include historical figures. "I am inspired by women of impact, those who we know from history, myth, headlines and our hearts," she says. Davi also takes commissions and has created jackets with images of beloved pets and original design ideas. "I see the jackets as a way for the wearer to express herself, to make a statement about what matters to her." <https://www.bardavi.com>.

Fashion is certainly a way to express oneself and since fall is approaching, how about some new-to-you gear for an updated look? Way Side Inn Thrift Shop in Lafayette is offering their usual special sales events. Two big ones for fall are: Better Handbags, Sept. 28 to Oct. 2, and Cashmere, Oct. 19-23. Throughout the year, choice items that come into the shop are put aside for these special sales. Way Side Inn Thrift Shop raises money for Assistance League Diablo Valley, a nonprofit volunteer organization working to improve lives in the community.

It's a new season – go forth in style. Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.

THT announces first in its 'New Voices' series – 'The Children's Farm'

... continued from Page B1

For their first outing in the New Voices series, Town Hall Theatre welcomes Ciera Eis and her tremendous knowledge and experience as she directs "The Children's Farm." Eis is passionate about directing and developing socio-political new work, emerging playwrights and artists, and experimenting with space and form in theatre. She is especially drawn to directing heightened comedy, queer-femme narratives and plays dealing with mental health and catharsis in trauma.

"As a queer woman who

grew up in a rural and very religious town in California," says Eis, "'The Children's Farm' is an honest interpretation of a child's journey of self-discovery and family belonging. Dunnington has done a great job of making this play an incredibly imaginative and deeply fun dive into the world of a child through the beauty of queer-ness, acceptance, therapy, and resilience."

The New Voices series is a first for Town Hall Theatre. The series was created to give a wider-array of playwrights a chance to expose new and in-process work to an audience that may not

otherwise be exposed to their stories. Productions in the series will include a facilitated talkback at each performance allowing the playwrights the chance to receive feedback from audiences in a constructive manner, while also giving audiences an insight into the theatre maker's process.

The second entry in the first New Voices series will be "amé monos // let us love each other" by D. Linda Maria Girón which will be produced in Spring 2022.

"The Children's Farm" will perform on Oct. 8, 9 and 15, 16. Tickets are \$25 and the Oct. 16 performance will

be Pay What You'd Like. "The Children's Farm" contains adult language and viewer discretion is advised. Tickets

and information can be found at TownHallTheatre.com.

THT COVID precautions

Town Hall Theatre is prioritizing the health and safety of our artists, staff, and audiences above all else. We are keeping close watch on the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations and if we feel we cannot safely produce any of our works, we will move to a hybrid in-person and digital model or postpone to a later date.

Town Hall Theatre has joined Theatre Bay Area's coalition on COVID protocols (<https://www.theatrebayarea.org/page/bayareasafe>). Town Hall Theatre reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave the premises immediately. Masks are required at all times and proof of vaccination or recent negative COVID test is required. Town Hall's full COVID policy can be found at <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/covid19>.

~ Healthy Lifestyle ~

Why women's feet hurt more in autumn and what you can do about it



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) visook / iStock via Getty Images Plus

As the weather cools and women switch from open to closed shoe styles, the transition can be painful. According to Dr. Thanh Dinh, DPM, FACFAS, a foot and ankle surgeon and president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) two of the most common types of pain women feel in their feet in autumn come from bunions and hammertoes. The ACFAS offers the following insights into treating these conditions and easing associated pain:

Understanding Bunions

A common myth is that tight-fitting or narrow shoes cause bunions. The truth is, bunions are genetic. However, symptoms occur most often when wearing high heels or other styles that crowd the toes.

"A bunion is a change in the bony framework of the front part of the foot and is most often caused by an inherited faulty mechanical structure of the foot," Dr. Dinh explains. "When the big toe leans towards the second toe, rather than pointing straight ahead, it throws the bones out of alignment and produces the all-too-familiar, bunion bump."

Pain from bunions most often occurs along the side of the foot near the big toe. Women sometimes describe it as a throbbing that continues even after taking off their shoes and putting up their feet. The site of the bunion can also be inflamed or red and can feel numb or have a burning sensation.

Demystifying Hammertoes

"A hammertoe is a 'bending' or contracture deformity of one or both joints of a toe," Dr. Dinh says. "The abnormal bending puts pressure on the toe when wearing shoes and causes problems to develop -- which can start mildly and worsen over time."

Women with hammertoes can experience pain or irritation of the affected toe when wearing shoes. Corns and calluses (a buildup of skin) on the toe, between the toes or on the ball of the foot can occur from the constant friction against the shoes with hammertoes. Inflammation, redness or a burning sensation are also possible and in severe cases, open sores may form.

Next Steps

Proper shoe selection and conservative treatments can go a long way in managing pain from bunions and hammertoes. Foot and ankle surgeons recommend avoiding high-heeled shoes and styles that crowd the toes together, as well as using padding and taking anti-inflammatory medication.

While these techniques address pain, they don't generally stop bunions or hammertoes from getting worse. Surgery is commonly performed by foot and ankle surgeons to both correct the deformities and alleviate pain. Those who suffer from both ailments can have surgery to correct the foot deformities at the same time.

"Recovery time varies based on the procedures performed, the advancement of the deformities, the number of toes involved, age and other factors, but the success rates for the surgeries are encouraging," says Dr. Dinh. "Plus, the advanced procedures foot and ankle surgeons perform today to fix bunion deformities reduce the likelihood of a recurrence," she adds.

Experiencing increased foot pain? Make an appointment with a foot and ankle surgeon to see how they can help alleviate pain. Visit FootHealthFacts.org to access the Find an ACFAS Physician Tool.

While everyone loves fall fashions, certain shoe styles for women can exacerbate painful foot conditions. Taking steps to manage these conditions can make for a pain-free autumn and beyond.

-- StatePoint

Why Now is the Time to Schedule That Check-Up or Screening

If you haven't visited your physician since the start of the pandemic, medical experts say that the time is now to book check-ups and screenings for the entire family.

"The pandemic has had wide-scale negative health consequences beyond COVID-19. Many Americans have delayed important routine health services critical to keeping them healthy, including vital pediatric immunizations and preventive cancer screenings. Prevention is the best cure, so it's important to get your health back on track today," says Gerald E. Harmon, M.D., American Medical Association (AMA) president.

With school beginning and the cool weather months ahead, the AMA urges Americans to call their physician's office to learn if they are due for preventive care or screenings.

-- StatePoint



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Local Rotary Clubs celebrated and honored for COVID relief donations to Nagpur, India



Photo provided

Lighting the lamp ceremony, from left, outgoing District Governor Shabbir Shaikh (District 3030 in India), Ex. Union Minister Vilas Muttemwar, Rotary Club President Pritesh Chanda, and, lighting the lamp, incoming District Governor Ramesh Meher.

Submitted by
Alka Mulakaluri

A dedication and recognition ceremony was held recently in Nagpur, in central India, for installing newly acquired equipment for treating “black fungus,” a rare COVID-related eye disease. This hour-long ceremony of thanks and recognition was based on Indian customs by lamp lighting, a symbol of purity and auspiciousness for blessing and recognizing accomplishment, and was recorded on online video. Rotary Clubs in the district, which includes Lamorinda, raised \$35,000 to fund the devices and the effort was spearheaded by leaders in Moraga, Lamorinda Sunrise, and Rotary District leaders.

Moraga Rotarian Alka Mulakaluri made an emergency flight to Nagpur, her home town, to visit a sister who had been in an automobile accident. She quickly found that COVID was surging there, the hospitals were not equipped to treat so many people, and local service clubs were making huge efforts to help. After contacting Nagpur Rotary, her first home club, she called Moraga Rotary President Brian South to see if her Club could raise donations for

COVID relief. South quickly enlisted outgoing and incoming District Governors Mark Roberts and Kathy Suvia, and District International Chair Sheila Hurst, to solicit donations from the 70 Rotary Clubs in the district, and to coordinate the funds transfer according to India government regulations. This effort was done at lightning speed – just three weeks from Alka’s initial call to funds arrival in Nagpur.

The ceremony included participation by Ex. Minister Vilas Muttemwar, Rotary District Governors Shabbir Shaikh and Ramesh Meher, and Rotarian Promod Acharya and the devoted team of doctors from Indira Gandhi Government Medical College where the medical devices will be used.

Moraga Rotary is a 54-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the four Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on Tuesdays at La Finestra restaurant. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate to their worthy causes, please visit the website at moragarotary.org, or call Brian South, president, at (925) 888-7052.

Troop 219 names four new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Scott Finegold

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 219 honored four young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, at 6 p.m. on July 26 in Lafayette.

Troop 219 is led by Co-Scoutmasters Chris Hunter and Kevin Bates. “We are incredibly grateful to have these dedicated volunteer leaders supporting Troop 219 which has developed a solid curriculum of activities to teach boys outdoor skills and leadership. Our leadership allows the Scouts to actively lead all the events, and this supplements what they learn through academics and sports,” said Scott Finegold, a Troop 219 Boy Scout community volunteer.

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn the scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, show Scout Spirit, and plan, develop and offer leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution,

school, nonprofit organization or the community.

As part of earning their Eagle rank, the following service projects were completed by each Scout: Kade Finegold designed and constructed a garden at Burton Valley Elementary School. This new garden will give children the opportunity to learn about growing organic fruit and vegetables and healthy eating within the school’s new garden. Derek Kotarba constructed and installed four planter boxes around the buildings of Shelter Inc. in Fairfield, and planted plants to give the residents a place to de-stress and garden. Luke Watson made two large LEGO walls made of two pieces of plywood, eight planks of wood and 32 LEGO brand base plates that were hung at Burton Valley Elementary School. Children will be able to build and create on the LEGO walls during recess if they choose. Garrett Siegel built and installed owl nesting boxes at Lafayette’s Buckeye Fields. The owl boxes will eliminate the rodent problem, keep the fields in pristine condition and prevent the use of rodenticides, which are harmful to our owl population.

AAUW honors 2020-21 Distinguished Woman



Dr. Jan Cushman

Photo provided

Submitted by Alison Mackenzie

Every May, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML) honors one of its members as the Distinguished Woman of the Year, for services to the community and the branch.

In April 2020, Dr. Jan Cushman of Orinda was named AAUW-OML Distinguished Woman for 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, the May 2020 luncheon in her honor was postponed to September 2020, then postponed to May 2021. Dr. Cushman was finally honored at an in-person, outdoor, masked and vaxed brunch in September 2021. She thus became the first honoree to hold the title for two years, 2020 and 2021.

Cushman got a BS in biology from Cornell, an MS in zoology and physiological ecology from Colorado State and a PhD from Utah State in toxicology. She was employed by Chevron for over 30 years working in Toxicology. She has been married to husband, Bruce, since 1978 and they have two children.

After she retired in 2011, she joined AAUW. Her primary focus as an AAUW member has been the Tech Trek program.

The AAUW Tech Trek program sends middle school girls to a week-long science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) camp. The OML branch traditionally has sent six or seven girls from the three local middle schools (Orinda, Stanley and Joaquin Moraga) to a camp that has been held at Stanford. The purpose of the Tech Trek program is to show young girls how exciting STEM can be and connect them with other girls interested in science, before they get to high school and think STEM is only for boys. Tech Trek was canceled in 2020 and held virtually in the summer of 2021.

Cushman has headed the OML Tech Trek committee and has been responsible for accepting applications, interviewing applicants, providing a social orientation both before and after camp, as well as acting as a dorm mom at Stanford for four years.

Cushman is also the president of the OML branch for 2021-22. In addition to her work with AAUW, Cushman is also the local Girl Scout Gold Award Coordinator, responsible for helping over 100 girls attain the Girl Scouts highest honor.

MVPC organizes backpack drive for Afghan children coming to Bay Area

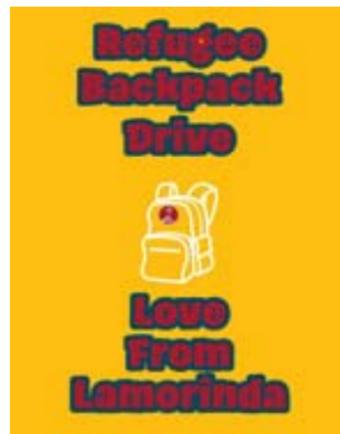


Image provided

Submitted by
Rosalind Bassett

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church is holding a backpack drive to help the Afghan children who are being resettled in the Bay Area.

MVPC is assisting the IRC (International Rescue Committee), which is one of the two authorized agencies tasked in resettling the refugees in the Bay Area, to put together 50 backpacks with school supplies for the Afghan children who will be starting school. The backpack drive will be held

through Oct. 22.

Only newly purchased backpacks and supplies will be accepted, with two types of backpacks needed: for elementary school age; and for middle/high school aged children.

Elementary school age backpacks should have packed inside them: pack of markers, pack of colored pencils, pack of pencils, erasers, small pencil sharpener, lined notebook paper, notebook, ruler, yellow highlighter, pens, child scissors, construction paper, index cards, (optional: lunch bag, water bottle, stickers or small toy). Donors should also include a note of welcome and support to the recipient.

Middle/high school aged backpacks should have packed into them: pack of pencils, erasers, pens, yellow highlighter, sharpie, ruler, index cards, 1-3 paper notebooks, paper folders to store papers, scissors, tape (optional: lunch bag, water bottle, small toy) as well as a note of welcome and support to the recipient.

Backpacks will be collected in the MVPC office through Oct. 22 (10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga). The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is also accepting the backpacks at 251 Lafayette Circle, Suite 150 Lafayette.

For more information, email: rbassett@mvpctoday.org

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

In Memory

Fred Herkenhoff



Fred Herkenhoff, internationally renowned geophysicist and beloved father and spouse, passed away on Sept. 8, 2021 while surrounded by his family. Fred is survived by his wife Linda, five sons, four grandchildren and one sister.

Fred and his family called Orinda home for 30+ years. He took full advantage of the trails in Lamorinda for hiking and running. Fred was always proud of winning his age group medal in the Lafayette Reservoir 5K each year. Through the years he coached Orinda T-ball, soccer and

basketball youth teams. Neighbors loved to consult with him about soil movement and geologic concerns on their property. No matter where in the world Fred traveled he would always say how lucky we were to come home to a lovely place like Orinda.

Over his 40+ year career, Fred held the role of Chief Geophysicist for Chevron USA, Chevron Australia, Chevron Overseas Petroleum and CALTEX. Fred’s technical leadership led to major oil and gas discoveries that affected the course of nations including the United States, Canada, Australia, West Africa, Indonesia, the Middle East, and China. In recognition of his outstanding contributions Fred was appointed as a Chevron Fellow in geophysics and his impact is still evidenced by numerous influential mentees, publications, patents, and awards throughout his extensive career.

Fred was born in Stamford, Conn., and grew up in Hibbing, Minn., and Mountain View, Calif. He graduated from Stanford with a master’s in geophysics and was the Valedictorian for his class.

Fred was an extremely active, fit guy who had a passion for sports of all kinds. He was an avid golfer, daredevil skier, very competitive runner, and (of course) a big Warriors fan.

Fred loved adventure travel which he was able to share with his family on many occasions. He lived and/or worked in 51+ countries, and visited all the continents. His adventures took him from base camp at Mt. Everest to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. He dipped into the Antarctic Ocean and ran races through the jungles of Thailand. He survived a cyclone in Tonga, riots in Columbia, flooding in Myanmar, a stampede of wildebeests in Zimbabwe and being held at knife point while on a field crew by a local chieftain in Sumatra.

Upon retirement in 2014 he accepted several roles: Docent at Mt. Diablo State Park, Visiting Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley Labs, Lecturer at UC Berkeley in Engineering / Geophysics, and Vice President of the Bay Area Geophysical Society.

Fred was a legend whose legacy will live on. Heaven became richer and we became poorer with the loss of a true servant leader, one whose excellence and enthusiasm encouraged many others to join him in his pursuits. We were better with him and his mark on our lives will remain with us always.

We will miss you...

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

ART

Join Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery and six artists working on their craft doing live art demos, right outside the art gallery, located at 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Featured artists: Patty Taylor, Betsy Streeter, Bushra Gill, Katie Korotzer, Jake Edwards and Dee Tivenan, Saturday, Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a FREE event, you can RSVP on our Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/2EVKMBpqM>

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art opened two new exhibitions: "Keith + Kari" features ceramic artist Kari Marboe responding in site-specific work to environments depicted by the California painter William Keith. Celebrating Inuit artists and printmakers, "Collective Memories: Stonecuts from Cape Dorset" features contemporary stonecut prints that speak to printmaking at a remote Canadian post in the 1960s. The exhibitions are on view through Dec. 12, Wednesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admissions to exhibitions and programs are free. More information can be found at www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to invite members to submit their entry for the "Inspired by the Greats" show at

the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Behind every great artist, there is almost always an artistic great who was a formative source of inspiration. For Georgia O'Keeffe, it was Arthur Wesley Dow. For Claude Monet, it was Eugene-Louis Boudin. Which artist inspires you? Artists to submit original works of art based on a great artist(s) that has influenced and inspired your work. Great artists can be from any period and include artists from all disciplines – including but not limited to musicians, architects, designers, photographers, sculptor etc. The Exhibit Dates: Dec. 2 - 31. The Entry Period: Oct. 1 - Oct. 15. Reception: Saturday, Dec. 4 from 3 - 5 p.m. Registration Fee is \$20 for LAA members <https://laa4art.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d8a06e7eda43677fef952a737&id=c8a6e53ecf&e=69fb28e6f1>

MUSIC

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents Bach for Harpsichord and Viola da Gamba on Oct. 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m., at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley. Andrew Canepa (harpsichord) and Peter Hallifax (viola) play Bach. Live music at last! Subject to COVID Protocol (check Barefoot website) Cost: \$5 to \$50 (pay what you will). For more info see <http://barefootchamber>

concerts.com or call 510-220-1195 or email info@barefootchamberconcerts.com.

Berkeley Chamber Performances presents "Mavericks 2" on Oct. 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Please join us for this 29th Season Opener with the renowned Alexander String Quartet playing works by Haydn, Brahms, and UC Berkeley's Cindy Cox. Cost: \$30, free to students through high school, and \$15 for Higher Ed students. For more info see <http://www.berkeleychamberperform.org> or call 510-525-5211 or email info@bcp1.org.

Crowden Music Center presents "Sundays @ Four: Alexander String Quartet" on Oct. 10, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden's Sundays @ Four Series presents an afternoon of chamber masterworks performed by the internationally acclaimed Alexander String Quartet. Cost: \$25 general admission, \$20 seniors/students, Free for children under 18. For more info see www.crowden.org/alexander-string-quartet/ or call 510-559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

THEATER

At Town Hall Theatre "The Children's Farm" by Sean Dunnington's will perform on Oct. 8, 9 & 15, 16. Tickets are \$25 and the Oct. 16 performance will be Pay What You'd Like. Tickets and information can be found at TownHallTheatre.com

Shotgun Players presents "The Claim" on Oct. 14-16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m.; Oct. 17 and 24 at 5 p.m.; Oct. 21, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.; at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. A bold, imaginative response to those seeking refuge, this asks what happens when your life is at stake and all you have to save it are your words. Cost: \$8-40. For more info see <https://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/the-claim> or call 510-841-6500 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

Saint Mary's Theatre Program opens its 2021-22 season with Branden Jacob-Jenkins' "Everybody." A finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize, "Everybody" is a wise and joyful riff on the 15th-century morality play "Everyman." The action follows "Everybody" (chosen by lottery from among the cast at each performance) on a journey towards life's greatest mystery—mortality itself. Guest director Daniel Larlham (Dance Nation, Lysistrata) plans to stage the play outdoors on the Saint Mary's campus as a processional

event timed to unfold from sunset through twilight into darkness. Branden Jacob-Jenkins' "Everybody" (directed by Daniel Larlham) performs one week, Wednesday-Sunday: Nov. 3 at 5 p.m., Nov. 4 at 5 p.m., Nov. 5 at 5 p.m., Nov. 6 at 5 p.m., and Nov. 7 at 4 p.m. (Note the early curtain on Sunday, because of Daylight Savings.) The show will be available on-demand Nov. 14. Limited tickets. Reserve soon. Ticket sales will begin Oct. 4 at stmarys-ca.edu/Everybody

OTHER

"It's More Than A Blue Bin!" It's Building A Better World. The key is recycling. Oct. 7 join Ercece Eric Benson on Zoom at 6:45 p.m. for another interesting "For Lamorinda" Speaker presentation. Learn the mechanics, history, future, and the why and wherefore of recycling. Jeff Taylor of Republic Services will bring us new understandings. Guaranteed to be fresh - not recycled material! Hear what your household and our community can do to make a difference for the world - just by using our blue cans! Q&A to follow. To sign up, go to MVPctoday.org, click on "Events" and follow the prompts.

Lafayette residents, please join the Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) for its Annual Meeting "Maintaining our Community" held on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. The City Manager and Mayor will speak followed by Questions and Answers from you - Lafayette residents. Because of continuing COVID-19 concerns, LHC is conducting the meeting via Zoom. To participate go to the LHC website: LafayetteHomeownersCouncil.org.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda boys' water polo back in the swim of things



Photo provided

Two of the three Campolindo co-captains, West Temkin and Luca Rago. (Not pictured, Brody Crouch)

By Jon Kingdon

Despite the short turnaround from last spring's abbreviated season, the Lamorinda boys' water polo coaches and players see it as a small price to pay to get to a sense of normalcy. "The off-season was very short and very different," Miramonte head coach James Lathrop said. "In some ways there is some good in getting back into the season so quickly but there are challenges as well. It's been different trying to figure things out. Still, it's been exciting to get going again."

Yurii Hanley, Campolindo's head coach, is taking a broader perspective on the season: "We're not worried about the shorter preseason. It's nice to have a full season again and we're looking at everything long-term. We're going through it all step-by-step so we can fix things on a daily basis, knowing we have until November to figure it all out."

Acalanes

Lincoln Haley, in his second year as the head coach at Acalanes, is very optimistic about the team's prospects, having won three of their first five games. "We excited about our team," Haley said. "We have a solid group of juniors and seniors leading the underclassmen."

The Don's offense is led by seniors Kyle Rosenblatt and Warren Cooper and juniors Andrew Sappal, Austin Bishop and Christian Gotterup. This is a very balanced offense with Gotterup, who has shown the most improvement from last season leading the way. "Christian is turning out to be a real dynamic player for us and is someone that we can really go to and lean on," Haley said. "He's really fast and explosive in the water and has a great shot. He understands the game and is doing well in every facet. He's really turned into a leader of the team, and you can see it in the way that everyone is playing and re-

volving around him."

Senior Eli Berkowitz is the team's biggest defender and Bishop will move over to defense when the situation calls for it. "Austin can do a little bit of everything," Haley said. He will go from being an attacker to defense where he has come up with some big stops and will guard whomever we call upon him to guard."

Junior Harrison Labrosse is a first-time starter though he did get some time in the goal last year. "Harrison has been really big in the net and has bailed us out of some situations where we've had defensive lapses," Haley said. "He has really improved from last year in his ability to read what the offense is about to do and in getting there a step ahead of them and coming up with some big blocks."

Haley sees the light at the end of the tunnel for the team: "We're still developing and finding our personality. At the end of the day, I believe we're going to be a very resilient team with ups and downs. However our mindset develops will project us up to the top or sink us a bit. The biggest thing for us right now is to stay positive and find that chemistry within the team and making sure that everyone is on the same page."

Though Acalanes had no preseason tournaments, they will be playing in the Jesuit Classic in Sacramento in October.

Campolindo

Hanley, in his second year as the team's coach, welcomes the return of Miles Price as the Cougars' co-head coach and Anton Sapozhnikov as an assistant coach. "It makes things easier for me with Miles and Anton back," Hanley said. "They know how to win and they're valuable resources for me to draw from so it's good to have them back."

Campolindo recently returned from a trip down to Southern California, an annual foray which allows the coaches to evaluate where the team is early in the season. "The competition is always really good down there," Hanley said. "It's good to play the teams from Los Angeles be-

cause they play together all year round so it's a good benchmark to see where we need to get to, and they always give us good competition."

The Cougars were 3-3 on the trip and used it as an opportunity to come together as a team, Hanley said: "We learned that we're a counter team, focusing on hard press, communication and teamwork. We have 95% of the game down and now we're working on the final 5% which will take us to the next level."

Campolindo has a veteran offense led by senior co-captains Luca Rago and Brody Crouch. Tommy Richards, a lefty and Owen Younger, both seniors, are also starters. Younger utilizes his speed and his ability to push the counter attacks. Starting center Ben Larson is out for the season and has been replaced by Reid Larsen who has stepped up and filled in very capably. Sophomore Will Barash is a player that has gotten some playing time. "Will has a nice shot and is someone to look out for," Hanley said. "He is an attacker and we're looking forward to see how he grows as a player."

It's more a team effort than individual standouts on the Cougars' offense. "We're more team units than individual players," Hanley said. "We don't rely on a single person for our entire offense."

Defense is also a group effort for the Cougars. "We pride ourselves on team defense," Hanley said. "Everyone takes pride in what they're doing and that is our identity." Junior Grant Roesch is the utility man on the team that does everything, playing center defender and attacker. Younger has been a standout on defense as the team's top defender but again, according to Hanley, "We really try and emphasize that defense is really a team game, so we try and stop players as a team and not with one player."

However, there is only one man in the goal, senior co-captain West Temkin, who will be attending Harvard next year. "West has been great to coach," Hanley said. "He the anchor of our defense and is a great team leader

who teammates look up to."

Still, Hanley is looking for the team to take the next step: "We're really focusing on communicating and trusting each other. If we can finish better and increase our overall intensity, we'll be in a good spot the rest of the season."

Miramonte

It's been a great beginning for Miramonte winning their first four games and ranking eighth in MaxPreps National Boy's Water Polo rankings. Despite losing 11 seniors to graduation, the team still has 17 seniors and juniors and three sophomores and two freshmen on the roster.

"We have a young team in that we relied on a lot of seniors last year," Lathrop said. "This year we're still figuring each other out and I'm working on how to bring the best out of them. They're a talented group and we're learning how to support each other and figuring out which roles they will fill during the season. We're only a few games in but they're competing like heck in practice."

Donovan Davidson and Charlie Engls are two returning starters that have been solid both offensively and defensively, but the team is still a work in progress. "With only four games, it's early but we never try to rely on one player more than another," Lathrop said. "So far it's been a collective effort and that's how we like it. It's about everyone making the right plays and decisions, supporting each other, making good passes, and finding the right shots. We're trying to fill a lot of spots. We have a lot of young talent and we're trying to put them in the right spots to succeed."

Senior Owen Van Stralen has returned as the starting goalie and has been very strong in terms of leadership and running the defense. Senior Captain Will Stryker has been relied on to play the leading role on defense.

As dominant as the Mata-dors have been, Lathrop is looking for the team to continue to improve: "We're a young group and we just want to keep getting better. Hopefully we'll be in a good spot at the end of the year."

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Lamorinda girls water polo teams rank in top 20, Miramonte at No. 1



Acalanes Campolindo game late April

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

The Lamorinda girls water polo teams have not missed a beat, once again establishing themselves among the elite teams. Despite a short off-season and the loss of several talented seniors, all rank in the top 20 on Max Preps National Girls Water Polo Rankings: Miramonte (1, 5-0), Campolindo (4, 6-2, with a loss to Miramonte) and Acalanes (16, 9-2, with a loss to Campolindo).

Miramonte

First year head coach John Roemer took over the team only one month before the season began and found the program and culture surrounding the team to be a revelation. "It goes beyond the players. It goes into the community and the families which are a huge support group," Roemer said. "For example, at every morning practice, we have parents show up with a full table of food so the players can eat and then go right to school."

Roemer, who has coached the 680 Drivers Water Polo 18U team the last four years, had not previously coached any of the Miramonte players but did coach against most of them and was aware of the talent on the team. After winning the Acalanes Invitational and remaining undefeated, Miramonte has outscored their opponents by a combined 75-24. "We have great depth, and the girls are extremely talented," Roemer said. "They've been well coached by their former coaches and all of the girls are top students. I'm testing them physically and mentally with new stuff that they haven't seen before, and they've picked it up very quickly."

Roemer has brought his own coaching philosophy to the team: "It's leg based. We work on leg balance and position in the water. My goal is to have the girls move as fast as they're thinking. It's all speed work, and it has always worked well for my teams. We run a 3-3 offense like most teams and a triangle offense - 4-2 with one side always going. The more motion we run, the more successful we'll be earning five meters and kick-outs with most goals coming from counterattacks, and in man-up situations."

The offense is led by Dania Innis and Allie Lurie, who are the key players in the post, supported by Anna Painter, Meghan McAninch, Callie Stryer and sophomore Rosalee Haskett. "They're all very aggressive and athletic," Roemer said. "Their talent is off the hook."

Senior Lindsey Lucas, who will be playing for Princeton, has been dominant in the net. "Lindsey has good size and moves very well in the water. She is very quick and is a very good swimmer which helps in sprinting out and getting to the ball."

Roemer will be relying on Innis and Lurie in the defense but also has a great deal of depth there as well. Shannon Murphy, Grace Clark, and Lucy Berkman have all shown

well and Ally Smith in particular, has shown the ability to control the center.

As a new coach, Roemer has received a lot of help from the team's three co-captains, Murphy, Lucas, and Hoskins. "They've done a good job in setting the tone for the team," Roemer said. "I see the team getting a lot better in terms of all the little things that we do, like being in position to score before they catch the ball and not after they receive it. We know how we're supposed to move and counter. It's just a matter of getting them to always do it and maintain it - that's how we're going to get better."

Campolindo

Despite losing some key players to graduation and several new players, the Cougars have shown a lot of confidence, said the Cougars' head coach Kim Everest: "They are gritty and really want to do well. It's a fun group to coach because they really want to get better. I have an older and younger group and our focus has been on bringing these groups together."

Winning 2 of 3 games (losing to Miramonte) at the Acalanes Invitational, Everest was particularly pleased with the victory over Acalanes, breaking a nine-game losing streak that went back to 2017. "It was nice to squash the Dons," Everest said.

Junior Shayne Clancy who moved from being a field player to goalie last year comes into this season with a lot more confidence. "This year, Shayne has expectations being in the goal. She has a better understanding as to what is happening around her. With the added experience, there is more pressure on her, and she knows how important it is. She's doing great and has been very consistent and positive. She has been a big part of our success so far. Shayne is still learning how to communicate, and I have given her free reign to get on our teammates to be where they're supposed to be."

The offense is led by Maggie Hawkins, Kaia Levenfeld and Ana Pieper. "Maggie (who will be going to Stanford next season) may be the best player in the section," Everest said. "Kaia Levenfeld and Ana Pieper were on my Under 16 team that finished third at the Junior Olympics this summer. Kaia is a great center-defender and Ana is a great attacker."

There is very good depth on offense with Paige Chivers, Ava Jacuzzi, Lauren LaCour, and Sophia Charlton. "Paige is a great counterattack player, Ava is just coming off an illness and it will be good to see what she will bring, Lauren was on our Junior Olympic team as well and Sophia Charlton has been a key factor as a senior attacker," Everest said. "I've got a pretty dynamic group in terms of speed. We have some key players, experience-wise, so it's going to be just a matter of the team coming together and the younger players getting more experience. The younger kids swim really well and they're eager to learn."

Besides standing out on

offense, Hawkins and Levenfeld are the center defenders and will go up against the opponent's top center players. Sophomores Grace Gafni and London Menard, who both played J.V. last year, have shown the ability to be solid center players.

There are three freshman that have already contributed to the Cougars - Nikki and Sammy Frazier and Ainsley Hogan. Nikki and Sammy are attackers and Ainsley is a center defender," Everest said. "They came up from our 14U water polo team. Even though they have been competing against the older and bigger girls, by week two, they have completely adjusted their games and all three of them have found significant playing time. As they have adjusted to competing against the older and bigger girls, by week two, they have completely adjusted their games and all three of them have found a lot of playing time."

Hawkins, the team's captain, has been the leader among leaders on the team. "Maggie has big expectations, and all of her teammates look up to her. She leads by example and has a core group of teammates that do a good job of circling around her, helping to lead the team. I'm happy with how the team is gelling and talking with each other but we still have more work to do."

For Everest, the key is for the team to keep looking forward: "If we keep improving our team chemistry and the pace in which we play the game, we're going to find ourselves having more success offensively and controlling our opponents defensively. I'm really excited to see the team's growth from start to finish and I think it's going to be a great year."

Acalanes

After losing 6 of 7 starters through graduation, with only two seniors on the roster, head coach Misha Buchel is starting fresh: "It's essentially a completely new squad with a little experience. We have a lot of players that are new to the varsity game and some players that were on the bench that are now in the rotation. At the Acalanes Invitational, it showed that we were not prepared for the level of intensity and physicality and aggression that a game like that requires. The biggest thing right now is trying to sort out the roles and responsibilities for the players."

The unquestioned leader on the team is Heidi Heffelfinger, who will be attending Harvard next year. "I would argue that we have the best player in the section in Heidi," Buchel said. "She could be our primary center but that would guarantee that there would be two or three people sitting on her so she will start on the perimeter and have her attack from there. She's mature enough to know that the attention she draws to herself is creating opportunities for her teammates."

Mazie O'Hare and Sara Archer have been consistent scorers. With Archer and Heffelfinger both lefthanders, attacking from the right side, it changes the way that teams will be defending Acalanes. Olivia Williams has stepped into the facilitator role on offense. "Olivia is not that big, but she has amazingly strong legs (also running for the

cross-country team)," Buchel said. "We like to use Olivia as the initiator of our offense in a passing role, quarterbacking our power plays. She can handle the pressure out on the perimeter and is a good shooter."

Junior Audrey Cox has replaced perennial all-league goalie Ava Donleavy without missing a beat. "Audrey is tall and is able to cover a lot of ground. She has a good leg base and coupled with her long arms, she can stay up and sustain. Passing wise, she can cover the entire pool so when it comes to fast breaks, we're not inhibited. She is a lot more vocal this year and by the end of the year she will be quarterbacking the defense."

Lining up in front of Cox is sophomore Wendy Heffelfinger and senior Frannie Daughters. "Wendy is being used as a primary defender," Buchel said. "Frannie is also doing a great job as a defender, all the more impressive in that she has done it without the club experience."

Buchel was aware that it was going to take time for the team to develop, leaving the schedule open at the beginning of the season: "I knew that we would be breaking in this team, and I wanted to give us a lot of practice time. Though we've been making a lot more mistakes than we have in the past few years, we're getting better. As the season goes on, we will get better on both offense and defense. We're going to see a lot of growth from where we started to where we finish."



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Comfortable in a crate



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tainment is necessary for safety and survival, such as in a natural disaster.

A friend of mine recently posted a photo on Facebook of a store filled with medium and large crates, as well as small cat carriers, with well-behaved and calm pets inside their respective enclosures. In some crates, there were up to 5 dogs resting together quietly. This photo was taken during the August wildfires in Northern California and the post started with a benign but effective comment: "You never know when crate training comes in handy."

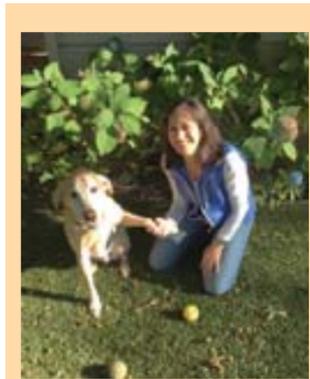
It went on (with some inflammatory language) to point out that emergency responders are sometimes put in the position of having to decide which pets to try to save, and the animals who are chosen are the ones who can be put in a crate. Dogs who are demonstratively aggressive in small spaces will not find themselves chosen. Conversely, dogs who are so frightened about being confined, but submissively willing, will find themselves housed for days, perhaps weeks, in a crate during a disaster – and while those lives

have been saved, think of the anxiety and stress those dogs undergo.

As with most training, successful habituation to a crate occurs when the crate is paired with positive reinforcement. The crate should represent a safe, quiet and even fun place – where new toys are introduced and food/treats are provided. Sometimes habituation may take just a few tries – for instance, with a food-motivated breed such as a Labrador Retriever, a Kong with peanut butter put in the crate when you leave the house will readily encourage him to go into the crate first! However, other times, it may take gradual gentle steps – removing the top of the crate and feeding the dog nearby, working up to the top covering half the crate, and so on. The key is persistence, consistency and reward.

All of my comments above apply to cats as well. Often cats are put in carriers exactly once a year, for an annual wellness visit at the vet, or when they are not feeling well. Cats get very stressed being in crates if this is the only exposure. But most cats

like to sit in boxes, so why don't we put the open crate out in the family room and let the cat explore and become comfortable? The top-loading crates are especially fun – it's no different than jumping in and out of a cardboard box.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

By Mona Miller, DVM

The recent California wildfires and Hurricane Ida have reminded me of an important aspect of pet disaster preparedness – crate comfort. Additionally, the ability to be comfortable and calm in a crate is useful for puppy housebreaking training, as well as pet confinement in instances when restricted activity is part of a treatment plan, such as a fractured leg.

We commonly think of crate training as an important and necessary part of housebreaking behavior for puppies, since being in a small contained area will trigger inhibition of soiling in the "safe

den." We also use crate training for puppies when we/they just need a break from the constant monitoring, to make sure the pup isn't chewing or destroying something in the household. In this way, we often assign a negative value to a dog being in a crate, as if it's a punishment or a time-out. However, for crate training to serve all the purposes that it can, it is important to understand that being in a small, confined space should have positive value – to be in an area to self-soothe (perhaps with a loaded food Kong), to rest from the stimulus of the household, to heal from a fractured bone or sore muscle, and to be safe and secure in the event that small con-

Additional reading can be done here:
<https://www.siriuspup.com/files/blueprints/07HomeAlone.pdf>
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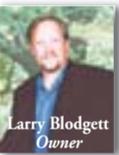
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 16 Wednesday, September 29, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant parenthood



Yam growing in a jar is ready for transplanting. Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"I recommend that all bachelors have a garden. It will give them the experience of being a parent." ~ Richard Goodman

One time when I was the celebrity garden guest on an HGTV program, the discussion turned to relationships and family. My advice was like Richard Goodman. I announced that relationships and parenting are like gardening. They require being present, constant nurturing, detailed attention, consistent efforts, and sometimes sacrifice. If you can grow a plant, you can grow a relationship.

We parent for a lifetime. A garden is forever evolving.

Autumn is the best time to plant. The temperature is usually a bit cooler, yet the soil is warm. Hopefully, a bit of rain will also provide precipitation. During this season, I encourage more people to become plant parents. The secret is to get going now before the first frost.

There are so many easy and inexpensive ways to get started. You can grow in containers, on windowsills, even in cardboard boxes. You can buy seeds, bulbs, seedlings, or full-grown plants. Or you can get plants for free by propagating them yourself, with a little help from your friends.

If you are a beginner, start small so that you don't get discouraged. Since growing our own food is empowering and nutritious, perhaps start with containers of your favorite herbs or vegetables. Soil is the most important aspect of growing a successful garden. Great garden soil is full of organic matter and crumbles like cake in your hands. According to the Home Garden Seed Association, rich soil is the home of an array of organisms, bacteria, fungi and insects. It drains efficiently, yet it still retains essential water for the plants. They offer these tips to determine if your soil is ready to accommodate plants:

- 1) Take a handful of your garden soil and squeeze it. It should hold its shape. Then drop it. It should crumble. This is optimum.
- 2) If it stays in a ball or falls apart the second you open your hand, you need to add compost to correct the poor drainage. The point is to assist your soil in retaining water and nutrients. Work about three inches of compost into your existing soil, then try the experiment again.

... continued on
Page D16



Cut ginger root with nubs into pieces to soak before planting.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

| City | Last reported | Lowest amount | Highest amount |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 26 | \$850,000 | \$3,850,000 |
| MORAGA | 19 | \$515,000 | \$3,005,000 |
| ORINDA | 22 | \$420,000 | \$4,200,000 |

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 909 Carl Road, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 969 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-04-21,
 Previous Sale: \$86,000, 04-01-78
 418 Castello Road, \$1,815,000, 3 Bdrms, 1801 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 07-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$833,000, 09-07-07
 3421 Echo Springs Road, \$3,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 3518 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 08-03-21,
 Previous Sale: \$795,000, 05-03-00
 1324 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,405,000, 4 Bdrms, 1947 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-02-21
 708 Glenside Circle, \$2,235,000, 4 Bdrms, 2560 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$402,500, 06-01-91
 3274 Gloria Terrace, \$1,083,500, 3 Bdrms, 1853 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-06-21,
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 05-04-21
 971 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 1933 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 07-30-21
 4157 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2334 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 12-01-15
 80 Iverson Drive, \$2,095,000, 4 Bdrms, 2332 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 03-23-08
 924 Juanita Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-04-21,
 Previous Sale: \$550,000, 08-10-09
 3914 Leroy Way, \$2,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2633 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 08-22-05
 1215 Monticello Road, \$3,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2710 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 07-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$945,500, 05-30-07
 3473 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,515,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,180,000, 07-31-19
 824 Mountain View Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1588 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-05-21
 3279 Mt Diablo Court #31, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$134,540, 04-01-87
 9 Nephi Court, \$1,387,000, 4 Bdrms, 2192 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-02-21,
 Previous Sale: \$155,000, 02-01-79
 18 Northridge Lane, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4384 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 07-30-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 05-15-08
 407 Ponderosa Court, \$2,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,310,000, 07-09-20
 2 Richelle Court, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3618 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$690,000, 04-17-00
 861 Solana Drive, \$3,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3827 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-30-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,565,000, 06-12-19
 1688 Springbrook Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$290,000, 04-22-99
 977 Stow Lane, \$2,105,000, 4 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 07-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 02-24-15
 3294 Sweet Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 09-25-17
 3364 Sweet Drive, \$1,665,000, 2 Bdrms, 1642 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-04-21,
 Previous Sale: \$477,000, 08-13-02-----
 1207 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 3586 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-29-21

MORAGA

- 613 Augusta Drive, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$779,000, 06-22-16
 113 Brookline Street, \$1,610,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 08-06-21,
 Previous Sale: \$975,000, 10-20-14
 1365 Camino Peral #B, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-30-21,
 Previous Sale: \$260,000, 04-08-11
 1363 Camino Peral #C, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$250,000, 09-25-00

... continued on Page D17



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Campo students teach local residents how to become backyard beekeepers



Photos provided

Rhys and Sloan Pullen with beekeeping equipment.



Honey is sampled straight from the hive.



Properly dressed students access bee hives.

Submitted by Rosalind Bassett

Campolindo High School students Rhys and Sloan Pullen were recipients of the Sustainable Lafayette's LEAF grant last spring. As part of their grant application, they proposed putting bee hives in the community and holding outreach meetings to teach the Lamorinda community about bee keeping and how to become a backyard beekeeper.

Rhys and Sloan started keeping bees in their backyard after joining the Bee Project with Lamorinda 4H. They then joined the Mount Diablo Bee Keepers Association to continue their education and continue to be leaders in the Bee Project with 4H.

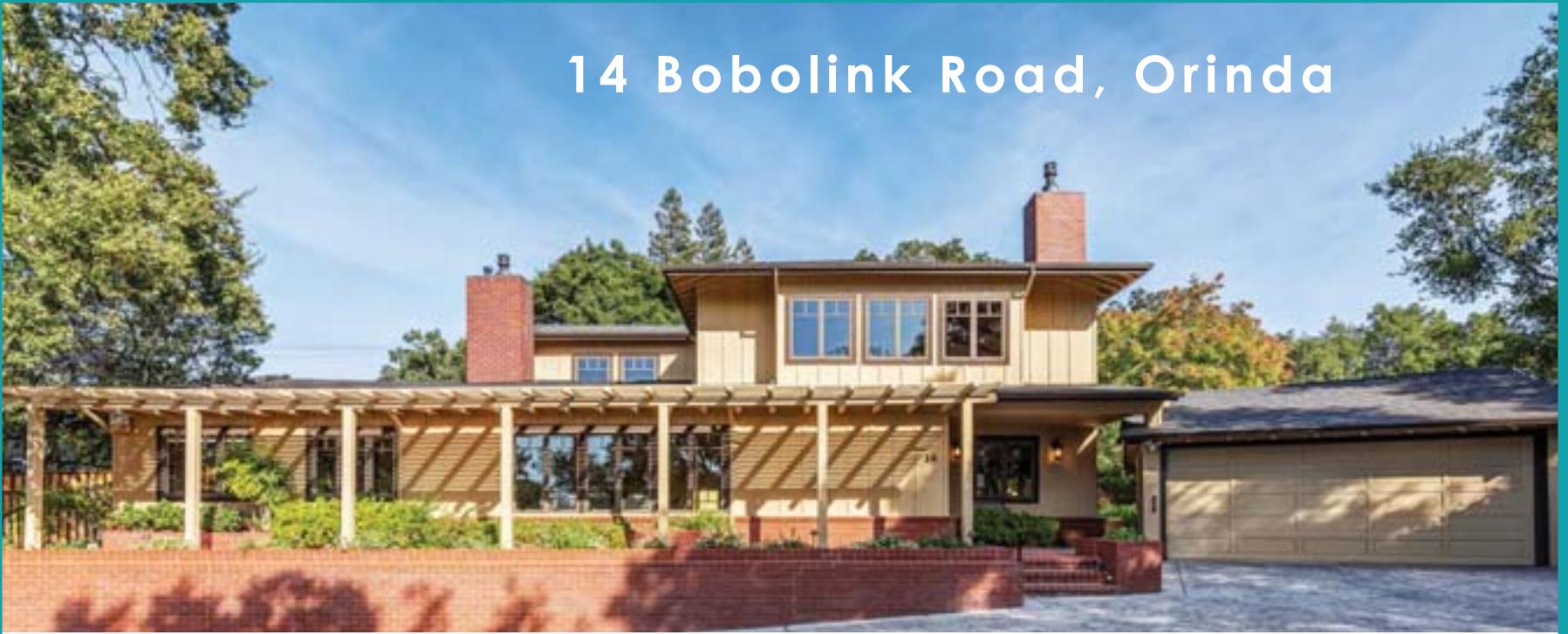
They used the \$1,000 grant to buy two bee hives from a new bee keeper who developed an allergy and they started Lamorinda Bees. The hives are located in the Moraga Bluffs on a 6-acre property where they hold their meetings. In the meetings they cover the history of bee keeping, why bees are in trouble, what we can do to help them, and how to start a bee hive. They conclude the meetings by opening the two hives (veils provided) and showing participants the bees, honey, comb, and parts of the hive. They also open one of the jars of honey so everyone can taste honey from the hives.

In the spring they plan to hold a honey harvest meeting to cover how to process honey.

Their next outreach meeting is scheduled from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 3. To sign up or to get information about future meetings, visit the Lamorinda Bees Facebook page or Lamorinda Bees Instagram for the Sign Up Genius. Sustainable Lafayette also posts information about their meetings on their website at <https://www.sustainablelafayette.org/>.

Rhys and Sloan are happy to help answer your bee questions if you are contemplating getting a hive and are grateful to Sustainable Lafayette for helping make this project happen and to help teens make a difference in the community.

14 Bobolink Road, Orinda



5 bd | 4.5 ba | 3597 sqft | .53 ac | \$2,850,000

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COTTAGE:

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INTRODUCES

30 OWL HILL ROAD, GLORIETTA



3 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL BATHROOMS | 2,217 SF | .93 ACRE | \$1,799,000

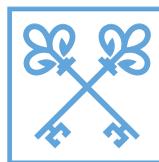
Fully updated single level home on a beautiful private view lot in Glorietta. Radiant heated hardwood floors. Vaulted ceilings throughout. Designer open concept gourmet kitchen with island counter and SS appliances. Landscaped yard with a large wrap around lawn and patio for entertaining. Close to down town Orinda and BART.

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125 Canon Dr \$1,650,000

3 BD / 2 BA
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Orinda

104 Estates Dr \$1,605,000

4 bd / 2 ba / 1820 sq ft.
Single level, private, over 1/2 acre lot. Glorietta Gem!

Suzanne Geoffrion

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Orinda

130 La Espiral \$1,099,000

4 bd / 3 ba, Tahoe Chalet in Orinda with forest views

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Orinda

Vacant Lot 221 El Toyonal \$600,000

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Lafayette

3 Wellesley Ct \$3,875,000

7 BD / 6.5 BA Contemporary Estate, panoramic views, 5300 Sq. Ft., detached full in-law-unit. Off Happy Valley Road.

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4077 Coralee Lane \$1,495,000

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Moraga

3962 Paseo Grande \$1,575,000

Beautifully updated Campolindo 1 story with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and a flat yard.

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Alamo

291 Barrington Ln \$3,495,000

Majestic Stonegate estate. 5977 sq. ft. on almost an acre on Stonegate's most desirable street, 4 en-suite bedrooms plus 2 half baths, Cherry library and Media room. Gorgeous Pool

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3 Embarcadero #335 \$375,000

Updated 1 BD / 1 BA in Jack London Square, open floor plan, sliding door to balcony, SUBZERO fridge, plantation shutters.

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1698 Parkside Dr \$710,000

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Orinda Country Club Jewel

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18 La Noria, Orinda
3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,338 ± Sq Ft | .30 Acre



Nestled amongst the oak trees on this sought after Orinda Country Club street sits this truly delightful home filled with an abundance of character amid a majestic setting. Enjoy the views from a stunning wall of glass with sunlight streaming in, while feeling like you have your own private treehouse. The beautiful vaulted wood slat upstairs ceilings, spacious kitchen, and indoor/outdoor feel with easy access to the decks and serene back patio create a special setting. Don't miss this enchanting jewel!

18LaNoria.com | Offered at \$1,475,000



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Offered at \$1,399,000 | 60dolores.com



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Kenny Murakami
Owner Moraga Garden Center



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PRISTINE CAMPOLINDO JEWEL

4 bed | 2.5 bath | 1,946 sq ft
Offered at \$1,575,000

Remodeled single-story home in sought-after Campolindo. Island kitchen open to dining and family rooms. Separate living room, hardwood floors, dual-paned windows, vaulted ceilings. Gorgeous primary suite with spa-like bathroom and large walk-in closet. Flat yard with lawn and sports area. Close to the Cabana Club and top-rated Campolindo High School.

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+/- 2456 SF

Beautiful Wood Floors

Vaulted Ceilings

Gorgeous Views

Indoor/Outdoor Living

Private +/- Half Acre

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SOLD FOR \$3,775,000

PENDING



31 DARYL DRIVE, ORINDA
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"Kelly did an amazing job for our family! We truly appreciate everything she did for us. Thank you Kelly!"

~ Matt T.

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ABOUT
SELLING
YOUR NEXT
HOME



Sold: 172 Lombardy Lane



Sold: 114 Merion Terrace

Coming Soon in Orinda

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5 BEDS

4.5 BATHS

4,310 SQFT

2 master suites, swimming pool (with slate surround), 1600 sf redwood deck, outside kitchen/grill, and bath (with outdoor shower).
Gated and private with views!



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant parenthood



Yellow potatoes are cut into pieces, dried for a day, then planted.

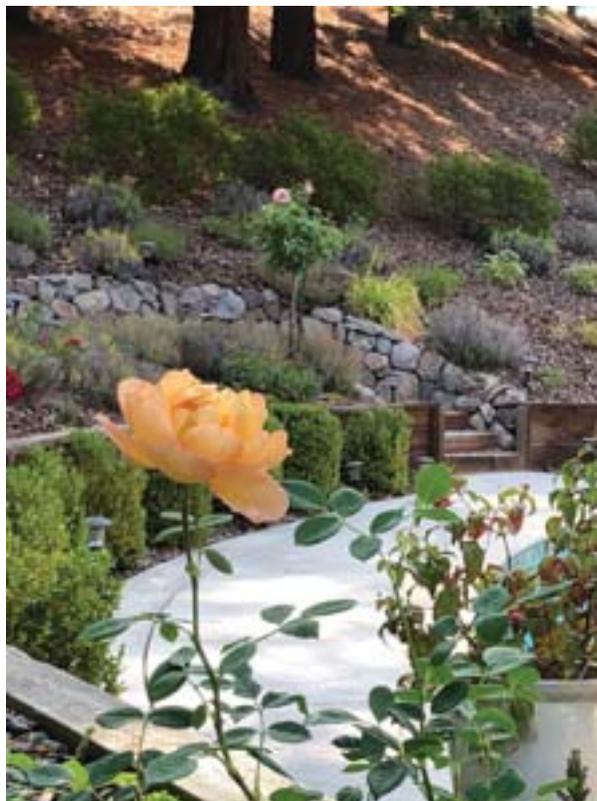
... continued from Page D1

You can buy bags of garden soil, potting soil, and compost. If you are planting in a pot, make sure to purchase new potting soil which has the necessary nutrients to help your plants flourish.

If you are buying plants to boost your autumn curb appeal, simple-to-grow suggestions include pansies, ornamental kale, snapdragons, chrysanthemums, primulas, violas, and Iceland Poppies.

My favorite way of birthing new vegetation is through propagation. Many of the specimens in my garden have been slips, cuttings, seeds, divisions, roots, bulbs, or pinches from my mom's, sibling's, or friend's gardens. A garden is to share and there is nothing more satisfying than growing florals derived from a beloved garden.

Here are ways to become a plant parent or grow your current plant family for little or



This rose sprang from a cutting from this past February.

no cost. In the botanical world, we call it sexual propagation or asexual propagation.

Sexual Propagation

Be a seed saver. Save seeds from your favorite flowers. Because of random pollination by a variety of insects, the baby may differ from the mother. My favorite seeds to save from my flowers are nigella, sunflower, hollyhock, cosmos, nasturtium, calendula, marigold and lavender. I'm scattering the nasturtium this autumn and the rest will be sowed in the spring. In my potager, I collected the seeds of arugula, sugar snap peas, pole beans, and Swiss Chard. If you saved these vegetable seeds from your summer crops, sow them now. I have grown numerous trees from seeds (and pits) including magnolia, Asian Pear, apple, plum, peach, flowering cherry, Japanese maple, pistache, and loquat. When you gather the seeds, dry them on a screen and place them into a brown paper bag. Label with the date and

store in a dark space until you are ready to sow.

Asexual Propagation

This is also called vegetative propagation because the vegetative parts of the plants are used: stems, leaves, roots, and organs.

Cuttings, pinches, and slips: Soon I'll be pinching my geraniums and pelargoniums. After letting the cuttings harden off for a few days, they will be planted directly in the ground throughout my hillside in sunny areas. Every year in February, I hard prune my many rose bushes. I gave over a hundred cane cuttings to my neighbor and within three months, she had a glorious blooming rose garden. Pinch a small piece of a succulent and it will grow in a pot or the ground. My prolific grapevines are the result of cuttings from our Napa vineyards.

Dividing: Using a garden fork, divide daylilies, Bearded irises, Bergenia, peonies, astilbe, bleeding hearts, Oriental lilies, Naked ladies, and other perennials that are getting too crowded. Rhizomes that are divided such as Bergenia and Bearded iris, can be cut into smaller pieces and planted. Many bulbs multiply including Naked Ladies and daffodils. By digging up a few, you can greatly increase the blooms in your landscape. I started with one Naked Lady (*Amaryllis Belladonna*) bulb and now boast a blanketed slope of hundreds.

... continued on Page D18



Photos Cynthia Brian

This Asian Pear tree was grown from seed and produces profusely.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

- 1447 Camino Peral, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-02-21, Previous Sale: \$690,000, 09-14-15
- 10 Carnoustie, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-28-21, Previous Sale: \$995,000, 05-27-04
- 44 Cumberland Lane, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-27-21, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 11-11-20
- 125 Danefield Place, \$1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 2861 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-26-21, Previous Sale: \$189,500, 07-01-78
- 2133 Donald Drive #10, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-06-21, Previous Sale: \$540,000, 05-30-18
- 143 Fairfield Place, \$1,758,000, 5 Bdrms, 2682 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-06-21
- 9 Idlewood Court, \$1,808,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-29-21, Previous Sale: \$292,000, 09-01-88
- 19 Idlewood Court, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1792 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-04-21
- 1850 Joseph Drive, \$3,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2469 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-29-21, Previous Sale: \$1,739,000, 09-04-18
- 651 Moraga Road #18, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-29-21, Previous Sale: \$325,000, 10-27-14
- 239 Paseo Bernal, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 07-29-21, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 06-21-05
- 116 Paseo Del Rio, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-26-21
- 266 Scofield Drive, \$1,880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 07-30-21, Previous Sale: \$1,270,000, 05-03-16
- 74 Shuey Drive, \$2,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 2439 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-27-21, Previous Sale: \$1,297,500, 04-30-06
- 2172 Sky View Court, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 3428 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 08-06-21

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- 25 Acacia Drive, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 3593 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-26-21
- 22 East Altarinda Drive, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3095 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-02-21
- 2 Bien Venida, \$2,385,000, 2 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-30-21
- 73 Brookwood Road #47, \$420,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-26-21
- 67 Brookwood Road #3, \$506,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-30-21, Previous Sale: \$490,000, 02-01-17
- 179 Crestview Drive, \$2,400,000, 4769 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 07-30-21, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 10-07-13
- 4 Crown Court, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1437 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-02-21
- 30 Descanso Drive, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2657 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-02-21, Previous Sale: \$625,000, 04-06-00
- 42 El Gavilan Road, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2934 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-02-21
- 19 Estates Drive, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2312 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-03-21, Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 06-11-08
- 6 Francisco Court, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 2004 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-06-21, Previous Sale: \$189,000, 04-01-86
- 1 Hacienda Circle, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 08-03-21
- 118 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 07-30-21
- 181 Lombardy Lane, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2987 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-27-21, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-16-03
- 145 Meadow Lane, \$3,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1335 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-03-21, Previous Sale: \$1,031,000, 11-18-19
- 102 Meadow View Road, \$3,108,000, 4 Bdrms, 2847 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 08-02-21, Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 05-04-15
- 102 Oak Road, \$3,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3302 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 08-06-21, Previous Sale: \$1,740,000, 05-28-13
- 27 Oakwood Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3078 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-29-21
- 2 Oriole Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2255 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-26-21
- 99 Tappan Lane, \$1,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4962 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 08-05-21, Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 09-11-17
- 6 Westwood Court, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 08-02-21, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 08-27-19
- 72 Windy Creek Way, \$4,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4358 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-30-21, Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 01-29-19

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All information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. *Per Public Record.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant parenthood



From one Naked Lady bulb (*Amaryllis Belladonna*) a hillside of blooms multiplied.

... continued from Page D16

Rooting: Kids love rooting in water in a jar and putting the jars on a windowsill. Sweet potatoes, green onions, ginger, avocados, and lettuces can be sprouted in this manner. The ones you buy in the vegetable aisle can be used, although they may not produce as abundantly as ones from a garden center. My preferred method of growing potatoes and sweet potatoes is to cut chunks with an eye

or two, let them harden for a couple of days, then plant in a cardboard box placed in my potager with compost-rich soil. By planting them in the box, I always know where to harvest. The cardboard box decomposes adding to the mulch. Layering cardboard in your raised bed before adding the soil is also an environmentally friendly system to suffocate weeds. Ginger can be grown similarly, however, let the sliced pieces of ginger soak in water for twenty-four hours after cutting



Red potatoes were harvested.

and before planting.

Grafting, budding, and layering are other ways to propagate plants but if you want exact clones, investigate tissue culture techniques. Whatever way you decide to be a plant parent, you will be rewarded. If something doesn't work, don't worry. Failure is fertilizer. Put the mistakes on your compost pile and grow a new garden.

Happy parenting. Happy gardening. Happy growing!!



Chardonnay and Ribier grapes were started from cuttings.



Grow lettuce in a bowl of water.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian in the evening garden.

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

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