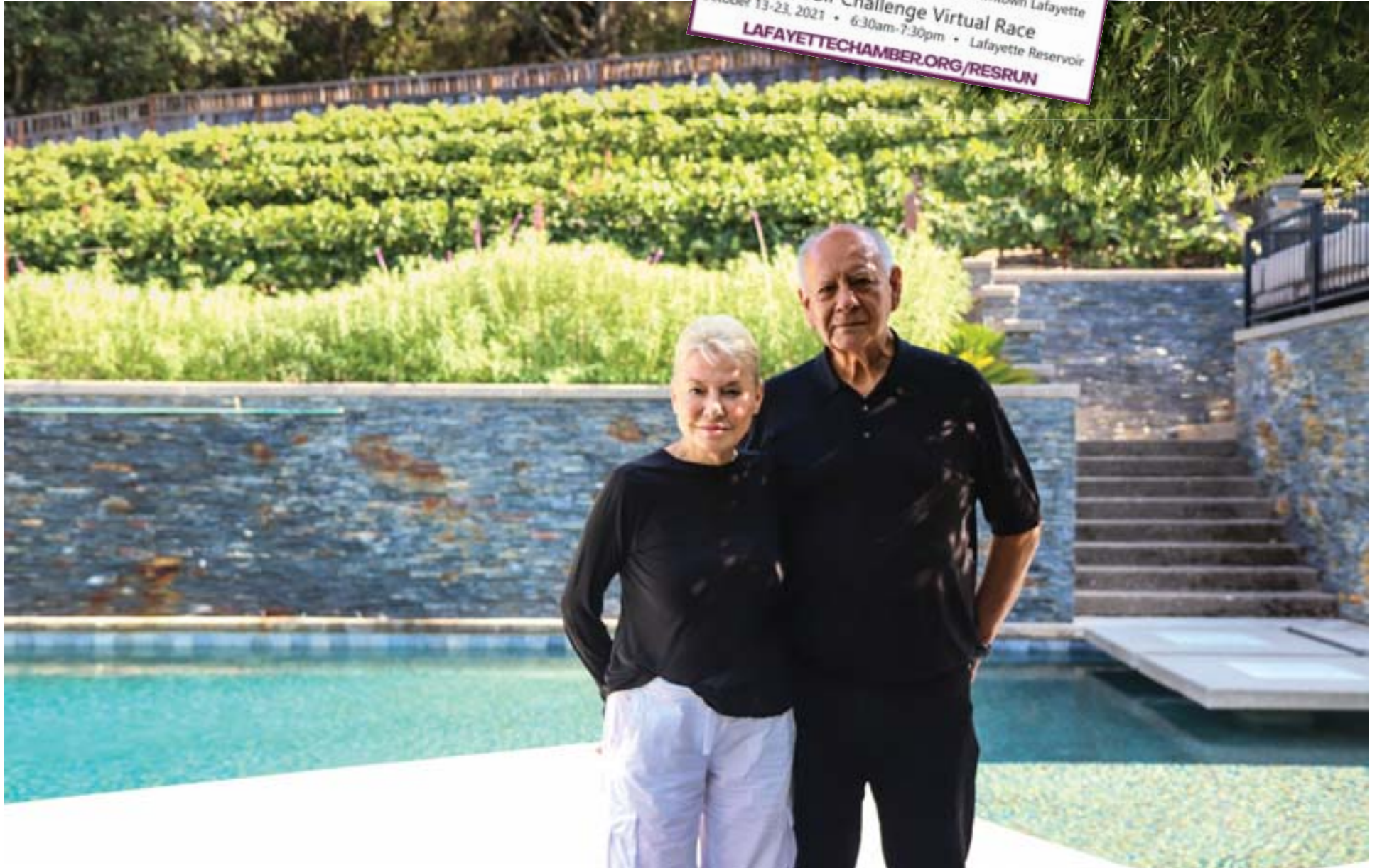




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Michele and David Ledesma in front of their Orinda vineyard.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

# Backyard vineyards a labor of love in Lamorinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Tucked away, high on a sunny hill but minutes from downtown Orinda, Michele Smith-Ledesma and her husband David Ledesma are growing luscious Cabernet and Merlot red wine grapes in a small but prolific vineyard. The vineyard is about 20 years old. The Ledesma's have been nurturing it for about 11 years, having bought the property from Robert Snook. On a sunny afternoon in September the eight rows containing about 150 vines were bursting with fruit. But Michele said that the Brix, the level of sugar in the grapes, was just a tad short of what they want at harvest. At 23 degrees Brix, the grapes were probably about a week shy of harvest, when the desired Brix

would be 24-25 degrees.

California natives, the couple has traveled the world for their jobs. He specialized in mainframe computers, and she worked in fashion, including a long stint at British luxury line Burberry in London. Michele acquired her fashion credentials working at I. Magnin in San Francisco while attending San Francisco State and UC Berkeley. David supported her career, moving with her to New York when she had the opportunity to work for Barney's, and later to London.

When they decided to return to California, David found their home in the Orinda Hills, which Michele says has been perfect for the pandemic. They love the spacious modern house and keep busy with the vine-

yard. Before the pandemic, Michele says, she never really had time in one place to watch the entire cycle as she has now, and she really appreciates the experience. She now works as a consultant for fashion brands and skin care lines, which requires less travel, and none during the pandemic.

In the past the Ledesma's grapes were used in blends, such as the 2014 Ava Isabelle Blend by Captain Vineyards, but when the Captains decided to focus on their winery and other distractions, such as grandchildren in Connecticut and Carmel, they recommended wine-maker Tony Inzerillo. Now Inzerillo is on hand for the Ledesma harvest, and he takes the grapes from there and uses them in blended wines.

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# Lamorinda women take to streets to march for justice



Photo David Rowland, Probono Photo

By Diane Claytor

Approximately 250 people from throughout Lamorinda and nearby cities gathered in front of the Orinda Theatre on Oct. 2. The group was predominantly women, the majority were holding signs, many were wearing pink and all were there for one main reason: to ensure that women continue to have access to safe, affordable and legal abortions.

The Lamorinda Women's March was one of more than 650 marches on that date attracting thousands of people across all 50 states. Every one of these thousands of marchers were doing their part to defend a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

Jennifer Tejada, a longtime Orinda resident, organized the Lamorinda event with the help of her recent college graduate daughter, Aiofa. "I've raised my daughter to have a voice, to speak up and know the value of the democratic society and our role in making sure we preserve that," Tejada explains. Unable to find any local marches protesting the recent abortion restrictions signed into law in Texas, Tejada elected to organize one

herself. "I expected maybe 40 to 50 people to show up," she notes, expressing both surprise and pleasure that so many feel as strongly as she does about this cause.

For Tejada, the march was not strictly about the abortion issue. "I believe we are seeing a slow erosion of our freedoms and our right to choose and right to vote is something we should all be concerned about," she says. "This is not just an abortion justice issue."

The Lamorinda Women's March participants were spirited and enthusiastic. They marched in single file or in pairs or small groups from the Orinda Theatre to City Hall. They wore their masks. They sweated in the 90-plus degree afternoon weather. They held their signs high and chanted "our bodies, our choice," and "keep your bans off our bodies." They cheered loudly every time a passing car honked or a pedestrian waved in support.

Once the group arrived at City Hall, they were greeted by Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, who warmly and emotionally welcomed them, seemingly surprised and touched by the large turnout.

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**Mail sorting issues resolved and address changes for Saranap clarified**

By John T. Miller

After two community meetings, homeowners are overwhelmingly in favor of changing 465 Saranap area parcels from unincorporated Walnut Creek to unincorporated Lafayette in the County Assessor's database. All of the affected parcels are within the Lafayette School District boundary and the Lafayette Sphere of Interest.

The second meeting took place Oct. 5, after the United States Postal Service had denied a request and then denied

the appeal for a Zip Code Boundary Change of the parcels. The USPS has approved a Preferred Last Line for the parcels, so the homeowners change how their mail is addressed as either Walnut Creek or Lafayette.

The Postal Service change was originally proposed by a group of Saranap citizens and was put into effect in January. The change created some mishaps with delivery for several months, however the Postal Service has adjusted their geofencing software to

correct the issues.

The Oct. 5 meeting was hosted by County Supervisor Candace Andersen and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. Cheri Valdivia, manager of customer relations for the USPS Sacramento District, was in attendance to outline the Preferred Last Line process and explained how the problems with mail delivery happened after the initial change, and how they have since been fixed.

An email from Andersen's Chief of Staff Gayle Israel noted

that after the meeting, Andersen decided that the community shows enough continuous support for the County Assessor's parcel number (APN) city name change. She plans to bring the item forward for a full Board of Supervisors discussion, most likely on Nov. 9.

A mailed notice about the discussion will go out to the affected parcels soon. There will be public comment on the item to all residents with an interest in the change to make their feelings known. The supervisors will then vote on whether

to direct the assessor to make the change to the affected parcels.

A change to unincorporated Lafayette will be in name only for the property APN. It will not move the parcels into incorporated Lafayette and the zip code will stay the same. Sorting the mail at the Walnut Creek Post Office, and the affected parcels, will continue to be recognized by the USPS as either Walnut Creek or Lafayette – it will be up to each resident to choose their Preferred Last Line.

**Council agrees to fund joint tree assessment process between PG&E and city**

By Lou Fancher

Seeking to resolve lingering litigation issues between the city of Lafayette and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. over the removal of over 200 trees – and involving a separate, 2017 lawsuit brought against the city by Save Lafayette Trees – the city council on Sept. 27 approved the expenditure of \$50,000 to fund a tree assessment process. The process will have the city and PG&E each bringing one gas pipeline safety expert and one tree expert/arboretist together to form a four-member panel whose purpose will be to develop plans and criteria for the removal or preservation of the approximately 200 trees.

The group of experts, designated the "Tree Advisory Team," will conduct a joint risk assessment, develop findings, submit recommendations to Lafayette and PG&E, bring those recommendations to city council and make the information available to the public. If at the conclusion of the study the city and PG&E resolve the matter, a new agreement will be made and litigation between the two parties will be

dropped.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa in presenting a staff report at the meeting said, "I want to stress that our intent is to minimize the number of trees, if any, to be removed. This process allows us to have a say in the criteria as well as in the tree assessment, something we have not had before." If either party disagrees with conclusions of the advisory team, Srivatsa said that either party can "walk away" and neither the city nor PG&E are obligated to form an agreement.

PG&E in the years-long dispute that began in 2014 with a region-wide program titled the "Pipeline Pathways" project claims the trees prevent first responders and crews from having immediate access to gas pipelines for inspections, routine maintenance, and shutoffs or repairs necessary during emergencies. Residents and supporters of Save Lafayette Trees along with Lafayette Homeowners Council, Sierra Club, the Pipeline Safety Trust, Audubon Society, the Lindsay Wildlife Experience and over 2,900 individuals in 2018 who signed a petition to prevent the

tree cutting are adamantly opposed to the tree removals.

PG&E has additionally asserted that tree roots pose a potential risk to pipeline safety. The company's original proposal had 1,200 trees being removed within city limits. In 2015, an updated list of trees was reduced to 272 trees on private and public property and the project was renamed as the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative (CPSI). The number of trees deemed "unacceptable risk" was further reduced to 207 in 2018.

The staff report included information related to the Lafayette Municipal Code: "The removal of more than 25 protected trees constitutes a Major Tree Removal Project per the Lafayette Municipal Code, requiring as mitigation, payment or planting, or combination thereof, equal to the full appraised value of the trees to be removed. The City's Consulting Landscape Architect, Michael Baefsky, independently evaluated each tree proposed for removal by PG&E in 2016, provided a tree appraisal for each protected tree per the City's regulations and calculated the mitigation fees for removing

those trees. In March 2017, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the Letter Agreement for Tree Removal with PG&E requiring PG&E to submit the information in compliance with the City's Tree Protection Ordinance and receive approval from the City before moving forward with the proposed tree removal or planting of mitigation trees, and to place the mitigation payments collected in a new restricted reserve fund."

Following the lawsuit by Save Lafayette Trees brought in response to the 2017 Letter Agreement between the city of Lafayette and PG&E, the gas and utility company in 2019 filed for bankruptcy. In 2020, PG&E sued the city in bankruptcy court over the 2017 Letter Agreement for Tree Removal. Srivatsa said PG&E still proposes to remove more than 200 trees, but to date has not submitted all the information necessary to process a tree removal permit. In an effort to stave off litigation and come to a new agreement to resolve the issues, Mayor Susan Candell with Srivatsa have met since early 2021 with PG&E representatives.

The staff report includes criteria for the selection of gas pipeline safety experts and for the arborists on the advisory team. Also included is detailed information about items included in the pipeline safety assessment such as the depth, diameter, pressure, age, coating, soil stability and corrosion parameters of the pipelines, among others. The arborists will assess if a tree poses an actual safety concern according to evaluation criteria including the species of the tree and its health and proximity to the pipeline.

In public comments during the meeting, Michael Dawson, co-founder of Save Lafayette Trees said he has walked the five pipelines and inspected every tree in question. Dawson said, "I am convinced there are no trees in Lafayette that pose a safety hazard." He added that he is optimistic PG&E will come to the same conclusion and while noting that pipeline integrity is paramount and of increasing importance, tree removal is not necessary to ensure gas pipeline safety for the community.



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**Res Run amid COVID challenges Chamber to find ways to bolster budget**

**By Lou Fancher**

It's time to tighten your laces and participate in the 2021 Lafayette Res Run for Education. The annual event co-sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the city of Lafayette challenges runners on Oct. 24 to scamper and stride in-person through their choice of a 5k Certified Run (8 a.m.), 10k Certified Run (8:15 a.m.), or 2-mile run/walk (8:45 a.m.). A Reservoir Challenge race that premiered during last year's all-virtual event returns, with racers using an app to engage and compete as they run around the 2.7-mile paved trail of the Lafayette Reservoir at a day and time of their choice between Oct. 13th and 23rd.

"We had all four courses last year, but you had to do it all on your own," says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "You could race against other participants' times by signing up and running the 2 or 5 or 10K or picking your own course. All the times were posted on the app so you could compare and record your times. The challenge was the most popular by far."

In 2019, Lifson said history was made with the highest-ever participation of nearly 2,300 racers. Last year's virtual event during the first summer after the pandemic that restricted large in-person gatherings topped out at 1,650 with 675 of the total number of racers registered for the challenge. One month prior to the 2021 event and with 726 registrants (as of Sept. 20), chamber staff anticipate over 2,000 runners this season.

"The Challenge – we think – will have less people running virtually in 2021 because running together is more fun. Most participants will pick their usual races and overall numbers will increase," Lifson predicts.

Despite last year's lower numbers, the fiscal bottom line improved. The event helps raise money for schools and PTAs, and Lifson said they "learned that the schools were competitive and really got behind it to back it. Also, because families organized and could run together, and roads weren't closed and the event ran on the sidewalks, we saved expenses. People were willing to do it on the sidewalks and stay separated in their own bubbles to be safe."

Importantly, the chamber and city did not have to pay for police services or for the public works department to close the streets. "It saved about \$15,000 dollars and even without as many runners, we ended up with the highest bottom line revenue

we've ever had," Lifson said.

Even so, COVID has taken a toll on the chamber, as it has on other nonprofit organizations in Lafayette and communities worldwide. Canceling the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival due to safety concerns was a big blow. "That one event represents over half of our annual budget. By missing it for two consecutive years, it has put tremendous pressures on us. We had good reserves and are spending on those and haven't missed a beat yet. I know we'll be able to do that for a third year and we'll find ways to continue to make money for the chamber and for our local beneficiaries as well."

Making it easier to produce safe community events in the fall and beyond is work completed six years ago – well before the pandemic was even a thought in the minds of anyone. "We took a hard look then at all of our events and all of their safety and security procedures," Lifson said. "Then, it had to do with domestic terrorist activities in the country. We started using K-rails, those big orange walls filled with water, put into place to stop vehicles from running into festival events. We beefed safety up and security presence totally. The plan we have this year with the police department and the first-aid people at the start and finish lines of the reservoir run will be the same. Nothing will increase in terms of protections, other than required COVID measures."

With the Delta variant continuing and lacking a surefire way to protect everyone attending events, the chamber has had to forgo producing this fall's annual Trick or Treat Street and Thanksgiving Community Breakfast. Lifson says there is still hope that the Dec. 5 "It's A Wonderful Life in Lafayette" celebration will be held. Asked if the chamber is developing alternatives, Lifson answers positively and says, "I'm getting ready to announce a new event this year. On Nov. 5, we're going to be offering a smaller version of the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. It will be a ticketed event for about 130 people. There'll be art, food and beverages. People will have to be vaccinated and wear masks when not eating or drinking."

The chamber is also organizing a focus group of local retailers to provide input to city council about a Yiftee gift card under consideration. Lifson says the group's ideas about maximizing the benefit to Lafayette businesses and nonprofits will be the main feedback provided to council members as they examine the topic in upcoming meetings.

**For information about the Lafayette Res Run for Education, visit <https://lafayettechamber.org/resrun/>**



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
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**Planning Commission Meeting**

Monday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
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**Design Review**

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Zoom  
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## Historic site of railroad's Moraga Station receives commemorative plaque



Photo Vera Kochan

**Troop 212 Eagle Scout, Mason Fara, commemorates historic site of Moraga Train Station location**

**By Vera Kochan**

There are no remnants of a train station, let alone any railroad tracks, to mark the existence of the Moraga Station. However, that fact did not deter Eagle Scout Mason Fara of Troop 212 from pursuing his

project to acknowledge the location and install a commemorative plaque behind Outdoor Supply Hardware (OSH) and across Viader Drive (originally known as Railroad Avenue) from the Moraga Barn.

Fara's interest in local train history began during a fourth grade field trip to the

area that was once the Valle Vista Subdivision. His teacher noted that a train station was previously located in the vicinity. Years later, Fara decided to explore the area when he came upon the ruins of a foundation. Hoping this was the old Valle Vista Station, he contacted Moraga Historical Society Member and local railroad expert Sam Sperry. Although Fara was disappointed to discover that the Valle Vista Station had actually been located on the opposite side of Canyon Road and up on a hillside, he let Sperry convince him that a plaque to commemorate the Moraga Station was just as important and would be more accessible to history buffs.

"From start to finish, it took me from the end of May or the beginning of June until now [late September] to complete the project," stated Fara. With advice from Sperry, who helped him get property owner Joan Bruzzone's permission for the plaque placement, and an excited OSH staff, the ceremony took place on Sept. 24 in front of a small crowd gathered to witness the event.

When asked whether Fara had an overall interest in history, he replied, "I'm interested in local history. Mentally it was hard making the switch away

from what I had thought was the Valle Vista Station to here."

Joan Bruzzone had high praise for teachers who encourage students to learn beyond the classroom. "How vitally important a teacher is, to inspire something like this."

The plaque's informational inscription reads: "Moraga Train Station. On this site was the Moraga Train Station of the Sacramento Northern Railway, a 183-mile railway that connected Oakland and Chico via Sacramento, handling passengers and freight. The station served Moraga Valley from 1913 to 1957."

Moraga Station's last scheduled passenger train departed on June 22, 1941. Freight service continued for nearly 16 years until February 28, 1957 when shortly thereafter both the station and railroad tracks were demolished.

There were 14 stops along the Sacramento Northern's electric train route that was located within Moraga's historic Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados. Beginning with Eastport (a corporation yard), Wilcox (a flag stop), Sequoia (originally a flag stop until passengers built a station), Canyon, Pinehurst, Valle Vista, Moraga No. 2 (the only depot on the rancho), Moraga No. 1 (near Willow Spring School), Country Club (originally called Cashion, later replaced by Saint Mary's College), Burton (a passenger station and loading platform), Glenside (flag stop), West Lafayette, Lafayette; and Ralez (Reliez). The completion of the entire Oakland to Sacramento line occurred at 2:24 a.m. on March 2, 1913, when a golden spike was installed in the track. The occasion was marked with an inaugural parade a month later.

Visitors from Oakland often used the train to stop at the Pinehurst and Canyon stations thanks to the three parks (for picnics), two outdoor dance platforms and a saloon within easy distance.

Moraga's station was the largest. The length of two blocks, it included the Moraga

Mercantile, the track foreman's home, several bunkhouses, two spurs (a secondary track that branches out from the main line), a cattle corral and a warehouse-packing house during pear and walnut season.

Local high school students used the train to get to Mt. Diablo High School in Concord (the only high school in the area). College students disembarked for studies at the Saint Mary's College Station which had two spurs. One went into the heart of the campus, and the second into a grove of shade trees where it waited between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. for the student-conductor to join the crew.

Moragans used the Valle Vista and Moraga Stations to travel for work to and from Oakland and San Francisco (by later catching a ferry).

The Burton Station was named after Moraga landowner Horace W. Carpenter's nephew, and had a shipping spur which served as a fruit shed.

The Lafayette Station also served as a power station with accommodations for an engineer.

The Reliez Station's existence was short-lived after being destroyed when a college student's car was thrown against it by a train. It was never rebuilt.

Operating costs began to exceed revenues due to competition from other train lines; and the 1937 opening of the Broadway Low Level Tunnel, later known as the Caldecott Tunnel, had commuters discovering that driving by car was faster than taking the train to Oakland. Within a matter of four years the railway tracks served only freight trains. Sixteen years later, freight service was discontinued as the stations and their connecting tracks were demolished – only to live on in history books and commemorative plaques.

*Special thanks to the Moraga Historical Society; and "Moraga's Pride" author Sandy Kimball and Chief Researcher Brother Dennis Goodman F.S.C.*

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## Hacienda noise mitigation strategies re-examined

**By Vera Kochan**

Residents in the immediate vicinity of the Hacienda de Las Flores (2100 Donald Dr, Moraga) had experienced over a year of event-free quiet during the COVID-19 mandates for large gatherings. Now that many restrictions have been lifted for large social events, noise from weddings and other sizable parties are disrupting the short-lived tranquility that locals have grown to enjoy.

The Parks and Recreation Department is doing its best to address the recent complaints by implementing noise mitigation strategies before Wedgewood Weddings, an event venue operator, takes over the Hacienda's event operations on Nov. 8.

This past summer, an overabundance of events averaging 100-150 people took

place on the grounds. The usual DJ that operated through Parks and Rec had closed its business leaving the door open for bands or a variety of DJs who didn't observe noise regulations. This behavior forced neighbors to make complaint calls to the Moraga Police Department. In order to release MPD from investigating these complaints, staff hired a private security firm to monitor and enforce the noise regulations.

A staff report, presented during the town council's Sept. 22 meeting by Parks and Rec Director Breyana Brandt stated, "Noise at the Hacienda is unique and complex as the style of music, equipment used, and set-up is different for all events. The nuance of how sound travels is based upon numerous changing factors including: i) the location of the event (Hacienda or Pavilion); ii) whether the event is indoors or outdoors;

iii) the type of music (band, DJ microphone, choir, or other); iv) the style of music; v) the type of sound equipment; and vi) the configuration of the equipment set-up."

In July, the town hired Environmental Consulting Services, a company known for providing noise mitigation solutions for cities and counties. At a cost of \$2,700 they studied the situation and made suggestions regarding the sound system's set-up, volume, frequency and control, along with using temporary barriers around the music system. The town also implemented new sound agreements that DJs had to sign prior to a scheduled event, but the agreements were often violated. A community discussion near the end of the month revealed that few residents expected anything better once Wedgewood took over the events.

... continued on next Page



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**LINDA EHRICH**



## Town agrees to join United Against Hate Week movement



Image provided

Moraga's posters and banners will look similar to this

By Vera Kochan

The United Against Hate movement took root during 2017, after various extremists began protesting in Berkeley, Calif.; and the tragic incident in Charlottesville, Va., where a man willfully drove his car into a group of people peacefully protesting a Unite the Right rally, killing one and injuring 35.

In 2018, Not In Our Town, a national anti-hate organization based in Oakland, Calif., joined the effort to spread the message through communities, local organizations, elected officials and faith groups.

The first United Against Hate Week was held Nov. 17-23, 2019. Each involved community hosted events such as workshops, rallies, guest speakers, film screenings, art projects and more.

Moraga's town council established a Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee in January 2020, with Mayor Mike McCluer and Council Member Renata Sos as the representatives. One of the council's 2021 goals was to "contribute to the community effort to improve diversity and inclusion throughout the town."

McCluer and Sos have

provided updates from their activities with the Moraga Not In Our Town Community Coalition by: "attending community and organizational meetings; providing comments on and input into the drafting of a community Mission/Values Statement; doing outreach to community organizations to encourage their participation in the Mission/Values Statement drafting process; liaising with members of the Not In Our Town steering committee; and attending topical workshops and training sessions."

Three of the most recent Bay Area advocates to join the movement are Marin County, Albany Unified School District and the city of San Pablo. During Moraga's Sept. 22 council meeting, Sos stated that she and the mayor are proposing participating in this year's event but expect to leverage the existing energy and resources of community groups.

The council unanimously agreed to support the United Against Hate Week slated for Nov. 14-21, with the hope that it will be an annual event. Free posters (Moraga Stands Against Hate) will be available to community organizations, businesses and residents. Temporary banners will be displayed at approved locations, in addition to promoting the message on platforms such as the electronic sign across from Moraga Commons Park, About Town, Moraga's website, and on social media.

According to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, there should be no expense incurred by the town as businesses are stepping up to the plate and offering free services.

## Hacienda noise mitigation

... continued from Page A4

In an attempt to mitigate the noise emanating from the Hacienda, staff strategically positioned speakers to direct noise away from neighboring properties; purchased portable acoustic panels (\$1,400) to buffer the sound emitted from behind the speakers; implemented non-compliance noise security deposits; and contracted for the use of former police and military personnel as security to monitor and enforce noise thresholds (\$78/hour).

One of the largest debates centers around appropriate decibel levels. "Based upon the sound readings gathered and input from the community, staff implemented a threshold of 75 to 80 dB at the music source which results in a 65 dB or lower reading at the property line," explained Brandt. "The security guards ensure that the threshold is maintained on the dance floor or six feet from the speakers. Sporadic claps and cheers may spike the decibel level slightly higher, but these spikes are not

related to the music and not sustained throughout the event."

By the end of August, security guards began collecting decibel readings from five locations on the property every 30 minutes. After seven events and 211 decibel readings, an analysis of the information was used to further determine the best possible solutions. As such, all live music (small acoustic bands only) have been relocated to indoor status, the Pavilion is relegated to a ceremony only location; and all DJs will be set up inside the Fireside Room with dancing allowed on the interior fountain patio. Wedgewood has inherited 25 events that will occur between March and June 2022 under the existing policy. They have agreed to comply with the new changes beginning July 2022.

Approximately \$20,000 of the current strategy costs will be paid through the Hacienda Events and Rentals budget for Contract Services. The expense will be addressed during the Mid-Year Budget Update.

**Correction:** In the Sept. 29 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Proclamation for Moraga Garden Center's Kenny Murakami" it stated that Murakami was "forced to retire by an ADA compliance lawsuit from a serial plaintiff," but Murakami says he had in fact decided to retire before the lawsuit was filed. We apologize for the error.



**Town Council**  
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.  
**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
Monday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**  
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m.  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us

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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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**Orinda city council gets update on effects of SB 9 housing bill**

By Sora O'Doherty

The city council has been briefed on what it will mean to Orinda when California Senate Bill 9, signed by the governor last month, becomes law on Jan. 1. Drummond Buckley, director of planning, presented the staff report to the council at its Oct. 5 meeting. Included was a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Goldfarb & Lipman, an Oakland law firm.

SB 9 does not require a local implementation ordinance. The new law is applicable to lots zoned for single-family use, which represents the vast majority of Orinda's privately-held land. It allows for duplexes to be built on single family lots, subject only to objective standards, and makes splitting of existing single-family lots a ministerial approval process, which means that the lot split is automatically approved if it meets the conditions specified in the new law.

When the law specifies that only objective standards apply, it means that the city cannot enforce any discretionary standards, but must rely on the adopted objective standards.

For example, objective standards in Orinda govern the height of buildings in each zone and establish minimum setbacks. No design review permits will be required.

The law requires that an existing lot can be split in half, with up to a 20% difference, so, for example, a lot can be split 40/60. The minimum lot size must be 1,250 square feet. However, most residential lots in Orinda are over 20,000 square feet and only a handful are under 6,000 square feet. The requirement for two parking spaces for a single family home would be change to require only one parking space for each unit, none within a half mile of BART or a qualifying County Connection bus stop, and none within a block of a carshare vehicle location.

The new law contains provisions dealing with building in very high fire severity zones, which affects Orinda, but the law itself is unclear on the effects. Much of the rest of Orinda is within the MOFD-designated Wildland Urban Interface.

The new law automatically allows two living units on each lot, or one on each half of a split lot. However, according to staff, current law provides for a single-family house, an ADU and a junior ADU, with SB9 allowing the addition of another unit. Thus there is a potential for four units total on some lots, but the city may add restrictions that limit the ability to build ADUs on split lots. Property owners must sign an affidavit stating that they intend to remain on the property for the next three years, although they are not actually required to stay on the property for that time. The new units created under SB 9 cannot be used as short-term rentals.

The Goldfarb & Lipman presentation pointed out that local authorities must comply not only with SB 9 but also with SB 330, The Housing Crisis Act, recently extended, which disallows local ordinances that would reduce the intensity of land use on housing sites, including reductions in height, lot coverage, increased setbacks or more open space.

Council Member Darlene Gee wanted to know how SB 9 affects Orinda's regional housing needs allocation (RHNA). City manager David Biggs said that the city may seek guidance from the California Department of Housing after the law goes into effect, and Buckley thought that the new law, which in effect makes each residential lot a prospective building site for another unit, could automatically double the city's available sites for housing to meet the RHNA.

Gee also wanted to know if homes can be purchased by developers and immediately subdivided. Biggs said there is confusion about that in terms of the lot split process, and Gee concluded that there is probably a lot of opportunity for people to buy houses for development. Gee also asked if Orinda could benefit from contact with other cities that have the limited ability to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The council member also wanted to know if objective design standards had to be in place by Jan. 1 when SB 9 takes effect.

Buckley said that Orinda does have some objective standards, but might be able to come up with something that would provide more coverage than currently. He didn't know if the city could do an urgency ordinance, but said objective standards are really detailed and will take a lot of time. Biggs suggested that interim

measures might be required.

Gee also spoke about fire safety and the El Toyonal hill: "Can we just say no because of fire danger?" City attorney Osa Wolff said that SB 9 contains a couple of ways for addressing problems such as El Toyonal, but the language is "squishy." She predicted that the city will get more guidance, and that large portions of Orinda might be excluded from SB 9 owing to the high fire risk.

Gee wondered too about things like views and privacy. Buckley said that both are covered in the design review process, which would be disallowed to SB 9 projects. Gee concluded that "There is going to be an enormous impact. What's coming will be very challenging to explain to the community," and Buckley agreed that "it will be challenging for us at the counter talking to applicants."

Mayor Amy Worth focused on a ray of good news: the creek setback is an objective standard. In public comment, Dan DeBucchere pointed out that while SB 9 takes away local control of land use, it does not take away control of streets. He suggested that restricting on-street parking might limit the number of units that can be approved with insufficient parking.

In council discussion, Vice Mayor Dennis Fay suggested that the city might need a traffic evacuation study to determine which areas might not be able to handle any additional traffic during an evacuation. Fay also mused, "If we are forced to allow more housing in a very high fire danger zone, and a fire does occur and people die, it will be the city that is sued, not the state of California." He wondered if the state was willing to indemnify the cities.

**Orinda community park moves slowly toward enhancement**

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda staff brought the issue of updating the city's main park back before the city council Oct. 5 with the intention of getting ready to apply for additional grant funding. Plans for the park were last addressed in 2018, following approval of the capital improvement plan for the park in 2013. Council Member Inga Miller, formerly a member of the Parks and Rec Commission, noted that each time the issue comes before the city council, it is a different group of elected officials.

Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble presented the item to the council. He summed up the history of the project since it was last before the council in 2018. After the council received the conceptual design, parks and rec was asked to address the concerns of the community, especially the concerns of tennis players and the Orinda Starlight Village Players, who have been using the amphitheater in the park for 38 seasons

of local drama. The plans have incorporated changes, including retaining the tennis practice wall, eliminating the proposed bocce courts, and maintaining the box office and concession storage for the Starlight players. It was the intention at one point to keep the existing restroom and add another one, but that is one of the areas now being reviewed.

Eliminating a second restroom would reduce costs by up to \$400,000, thus reducing the the overall project costs from an estimated \$2.4 million down to \$2.2 million. The city has obtained a grant under Proposition 68 to replace the existing restroom with an expanded one, that would incorporate in the same building the box office and concession storage area for the theater.


Another goal for the park is to replace the current gazebo with a band stand to make it more of a performing area. Staff proposes that the renovations be performed in stages.

Miller observed that two park commissioners were in the audience and asked how

the proposed new building would affect the entrance to the amphitheater. City manager David Biggs explained that there would be a more direct entrance to the amphitheater, but it would still be buffered from view by the box office/restroom building. The new building would house three bathroom stalls, an increase over the current two. Biggs asked Trimble to reach out to the Starlight Players, and Trimble responded that he has done so and that they are pleased with this modification.

Parks & Rec commissioner Arran Schultz, who spoke during public comments, expressed some concern about the accessibility of the restroom under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She said that she would love to see a request for proposals to a larger group of landscape architects. "It's really important to do things in the right order," she said, "so we don't have to rip anything out, and so that we get the right result."

... continued on Page A7

	<b>City Council Regular Meeting:</b> Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	<b>Downtown Planning &amp; Housing Element Council Subcommittee Special Meeting</b> Wednesday, Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only
	<b>Planning Commission</b> Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	

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## Miramonte's Kristen Plant named County Teacher of the Year



**Kristen Plant** Photo provided

School District) were named the 2021-2022 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year.

With the county Teacher of the Year program dating back to 1973, Plant is the first-ever recipient of the award from the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) and Wilson is the fourth winner from San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) in five years.

Plant is a 19-year veteran at Miramonte High School and is currently teaching English and Visual and Performing Arts. A former speech competitor, she leads a nationally recognized public speaking and debate program which operates as both an academic elective and an extracurricular competitive speech and debate team. Plant is a graduate of Georgetown University and earned her teaching credential at Cal State East Bay.

She holds leadership positions in several associations including the National Speech and Debate Association and California High School Speech Association, and was named CHSSA Coach of the Year in 2016. She is also recognized as being a "tireless and compassionate advocate for racial

equity on her campus," AUHSD Associate Superintendent Amy McNamara said. "She is one of the teachers I most admire in the district: she is thoughtful, positive, steps up to leadership opportunities, and is always thinking about how to make Miramonte High School a great place for all students."

"As a public speaking teacher, Ms. Plant goes above and beyond to support her students," said Miramonte senior Isabelle Bennette, who also introduced Plant in the broadcast. "While in Public Speaking, I developed confidence and writing due, in large part, to Ms. Plant's guidance. She has been an incredible ally to marginalized student groups. Ms. Plant creates an atmosphere of empowerment, trust, and hope for all her students to grow and strive in."

Plant and Wilson will go on to represent Contra Costa County at the California State Teacher of the Year competition. The State Teachers of the Year are expected to be announced in mid-October. The county teacher of the year program is coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE).

## Orinda community park

... continued from Page A6

Council Member Darlene Gee said that she was very supportive of going forward to apply for additional grant money, and appreciated Schultz being present and offering comments. Miller suggested a joint workshop with the Parks & Rec Commission to get feedback from park users, and Council Member Nick Kosla pointed out that in the last iteration of the downtown precise plan there is a parklike area directly across from the park.

Mayor Amy Worth, in summing up, agreed that it is imperative to move forward on the park. She said that it is a fantastic park, serving a huge range of ages, from residents of the two nearby senior housing facilities to children. She added that the park is now 50 years old and was built with volunteers and fundraising. She agreed that the park's real estate is very tight, and that there is wisdom in not using it for another bathroom.

Worth attested that the bathrooms currently work, from her 40 years of experience taking little kids to the bathroom. She suggested that the park is a tremendous opportunity for private fundraising, in the same way that the community raised the money for the library.

"People just love their community," she said, "and with COVID we've realized how important public spaces are." She supported the idea of a joint workshop to bring in younger members of the community. She complemented Trimble and his staff for doing such a great job. "We want to do this so we can really raise community support," she concluded. "This is more than conceptual, it really addresses concerns." And personally, she added, "I want to lobby for benches for grandmothers and some landscaping for shade."

The city council approved the item to allow staff to obligate money by the required deadline.

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# Local residents urged to practice earthquake preparedness skills during the Great ShakeOut, Oct. 21



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Recent small earthquakes in the Bay Area at the beginning of October underscored the importance of being prepared for a potentially larger, more damaging event. On Oct. 21, at 10:21 a.m., the Great ShakeOut will take place throughout California and Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is asking everyone to practice their earthquake preparedness skills at this time by ducking, covering and hanging on, and for those who have General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios, to use them to tell CERT you are "safe." GMRS is a licensed radio service for short-distance, two-way voice communications.

According to the Great Shakeout website, "You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls

on you." To respond quickly you must practice often.

"Preparedness skills are essential to learn before an earthquake strikes," says Virginia Merrifield, Lamorinda CERT Public Information Officer. "We encourage you to review with your household members your emergency plans, determine a planned meeting place, and check your emergency supplies of food, water, batteries and other necessities."

For those with GMRS radios, at 10:21 a.m. Lamorinda CERT will announce a mock earthquake and ask for a response to "net control" via the GMRS channels to confirm your location (street and cross street). "The goals of this exercise are to test this communications method and to see where we can reach during a real emergency," Merrifield says. "The radio channels we will use are

Moraga 121, Orinda 122, and Lafayette 123 for licensed users on repeater capable radios. We recommend when transmitting that you preface your message by saying 'this is only a drill,' then report into net control with status of your area including your location."

This exercise will help residents practice the skills they have and maybe some that need to be improved so when the Big One really strikes, they'll be ready. Check out the California Great ShakeOut website for more information (www.shakeout.org/california). Consider taking the next CERT class series beginning in January on Wednesday nights in Orinda. For class information as well as emergency supplies you may need, you can find both on the website at www.LamorindaCERT.com. - J. Wake

## Orinda welcomes new chief of police



New Orinda Chief of Police Ryan Sullivan Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda city manager David Biggs introduced the new police chief for Orinda, Ryan Sullivan, at the Sept. 21 council meeting. Biggs explained that because Orinda contracts with the Contra Costa Sheriff's department for police services, it is often a seamless transition. Upon Chief David Cook's retirement, the sheriff proffered three candidates to Orinda.

These candidates were interviewed by two panels as well as by the city manager. Biggs said, "I appreciate the Sheriff's Office having forwarded very qualified candidates for my consideration and I believe Chief Sullivan is a great fit for Orinda. He will add value to our efforts to enhance our emergency preparedness and community safety in partnerships with our neighboring cities and regional

collaborators."

Chief Sullivan started Monday Sept. 20, overlapping two days with Chief Cook. Sullivan began his career with the Sheriff's Office in 2005 and until his assignment in Orinda, he had been the lieutenant responsible for internal affairs. He had previously served as a sergeant in internal affairs, as the academy coordinator, and as a patrol supervisor. In addition, as a deputy sheriff, he has had many diverse specialty assignments. Biggs told the city council that Sullivan has long established family roots in the Lamorinda area and knows the area well.

In an interview, Sullivan said that he lived in Lafayette until he was in the sixth grade. His family owned the Pioneer Store, a general store that sold everything from hardware to dry goods. The site is now occupied by Sideboard restaurant. Sullivan's family still owns property in Lafayette. You might say that Sullivan began his career as a police officer in Lafayette, where he was a hallway monitor and then a crossing guard in the fourth and fifth grades. He did later serve as a police officer in Lafayette.

After his family moved to Antioch and he completed his high school education, Sullivan joined the Marines. His time as a Marine was fairly quiet, after Dessert Storm. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton. After active duty, he spent two years in the reserves, and decided on a career in law enforcement. When he got out of

the Marines, he married. He has two sons who live with him in Benicia, and has plans to marry again soon.

The new chief said he was "very excited about this new position, and I look forward to working with everyone, making Orinda a wonderful and a very safe place to live." Mayor Amy Worth told Sullivan that she would bring him an Orinda pin. She welcomed him, and said she too was looking forward to working with him. "I know that your philosophy is an open-door policy," she said, adding, "You know many of the Orinda team already."

Sullivan responded that he appreciates the mayor's confidence in him as chief. In a statement released later, Sullivan said, "I look forward to this exciting and challenging opportunity as the Chief of Police in Orinda. I will seek to continue and enhance our effective policing, problem solving, and community involvement, while working with the City Council, City Manager, and the City's Department Heads in providing excellent service and safety to the

community."

The new chief's goals include expanding the drone program with an additional drone and additional drone operators. Policing during the pandemic has presented challenges to law enforcement, Sullivan says. Police have been able to take fewer persons arrested to the jail, but instead have had to release them with citations. Wearing masks has been hard on communication, and of course there has been the possibility of exposure to COVID-19. But then, Sullivan says, COVID has made everything from grocery shopping to policing more difficult.

Although nothing extraordinary is expected for Halloween, Sullivan knows that it will bring up memories of the unfortunate event two years ago. There will be a couple of additional officers out and about to set people's minds at ease. He's more worried about distracted driving and speeding. Remember, he urges, speeding and blowing through stop signs will only save a couple of minutes, and can cost lives.

### 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, Nov. 9, 1 p.m.



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

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Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan  
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Orindatip@cityoforinda.org  
**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**Sept. 19 - Oct. 2**



Alarms 40  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14  
Traffic 98  
Suspicious Circumstances 9  
Suspicious Subject 17  
Suspicious Vehicle 16  
Service to Citizen 46  
Patrol Req./Security Check 64  
Public/School Assembly Check 34  
Supplemental Report 39  
Vacation House Check 16  
Welfare Check 20  
Ordinance Violation 2  
**Vehicle violations**  
Attempted Stolen Vehicle  
3400 Block Springhill Rd.  
Auto Burglary  
3700 Block Rose Ct.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
200 Block Lafayette Cir.  
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
10 Block Hidden Valley Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.  
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.  
School St/Paradise Ct.  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.  
Glenside Dr./Reliez Station Rd.  
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.  
St Marys Rd./Topper Ln.  
**Vehicle Theft**  
10 Block Chapel Dr.  
El Nido Ranch Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
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3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3100 Block Camino Diablo  
Fraud False Pretenses  
800 Block Tanglewood Dr.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Grand Theft**  
Reliez Valley Rd./Mcgraw Ln.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Grand Theft Veh Parts**  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block East St.  
**Identity Theft**  
4000 Block Legion Ct.  
900 Block Raintree Pl.  
Police Department (2)  
**Misc Burglary**  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
Police Department  
**Panhandling**  
2Nd St/Golden Gate Wy  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
**Petty Theft**  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
700 Block Glenside Cir.  
1200 Block Cambridge Dr.  
3500 Block Brook St.  
3500 Block Plaza Wy  
**Petty Theft From Veh**  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Residential Burglary**  
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.  
**Shoplift**  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**

**Disturbance-domestic**  
Police Department  
4000 Block Natasha Dr.  
50 Block Lafayette Cir.  
**Disturbing The Peace**  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
**Loud Music**  
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24  
500 Block McBride Dr.  
Ronino Wy/Summit Rd.  
**Loud Noise**  
4000 Block Coralee Ln  
**Loud Party**  
4000 Block Tilden Ln  
Panorama Dr./Happy Valley Rd.  
**Public Nuisance**  
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24  
**Vandalism**  
Fairholm Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.  
800 Block Oak St.  
**Other**  
**Battery**  
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24  
**Fire/Ems Response Info**  
3500 Block Brook St.  
**Fireworks**  
500 Block Merriewood  
**Harassment**  
600 Block Doreen Way  
900 Block Village Center  
**Indecent Exposure**  
3500 Block Brook St.  
Police Department  
**K9 Outside Assist Request**  
Sb I 680 At Willow Pass Rd., Con  
**Trespass**  
20 Block Chapel Dr.  
3400 Block School St.  
**Unwanted Guest**  
10 Block Fiesta Ln.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Brook St.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Violation Restraining Ord**  
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)  
3600 Block Brook St.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 21 - Oct. 4



Alarms 8  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10  
Traffic 69  
Suspicious Circumstances 0  
Suspicious Subject 3  
Suspicious Vehicle 7  
Service to Citizen 50  
Patrol Req./Security Check 19  
Supplemental Report 10  
Vacation House Check 3  
Welfare Check 6  
Public/School Assembly Check 3  
Ordinance Violation 1  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
**Excessive Speed**  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (4)  
Rheem Blvd./Woodminister Dr.  
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.  
Rheem Blvd./Runway  
St. Marys Ifo The Colledge  
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr. (2)  
Rheem Blvd./Park St.  
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo (2)  
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.  
Rheem Blvd./Stuart  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Eastwood Dr./Moraga Way, Ori  
Moraga Way  
**Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Country Club  
Corliss Dr./Camino Ricardo  
Lafayette Community Park, Laf  
Camino Pablo/Larch Ave.  
**Tamper With Vehicle**  
400 Block Donald Dr.  
**Tc - Property Damage**  
60 Block Woodford Dr.  
Moraga Commons Park  
**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1800 Block Joseph Dr.  
**Petty Theft**  
Joaquin Moraga Int School (3)  
2000 Block Donald Dr.  
10 Block Thune Ave.  
**Petty Theft From Veh**  
10 Block Benedita Pl.  
**Robbery**  
Union 76  
**Shoplift**  
Safeway (2)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
Hacienda

**Loud Music**  
Campolindo High School  
Hacienda (2)  
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd., Mo  
**Loud Noise**  
Camino Ricardo/Hardie Dr.  
10 Block Buckingham Dr.  
1700 Block School St.  
**Loud Party**  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
Ascot Dr./Ascot Ct  
2100 Block Ascot Dr.  
200 Block Paseo Bernal  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
**Vandalism**  
2100 Block Donald Dr.  
**Other**  
Battery Sexual  
Campolindo High School  
Corporal Injury Spouse  
400 Block Woodminister Dr.  
**Dependent Adult Abuse**  
Police Department  
**Fireworks**  
200 Block Scofield Dr.  
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way  
600 Block Augusta Dr.  
**Harassment**  
10 Block Harold Dr.  
Saklan Valley School  
St Marys College  
**Mentally Ill Commit**  
Hacienda  
St Marys College  
100 Block Oxford Dr.  
**Violation Custody Order**  
2100 Block Donald Dr.  
**Violation Restraining Order**  
2100 Block Donald Dr.



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



# Letters to the editor

## Drought concerns regarding commercial development

Poor judgment has become the hallmark of the Orinda City Council. The Lamorinda Weekly (Sept. 29, 2021) reported that a ... "retail development named 'The Station' is scheduled to break ground this fall."

The Station will be located at 25A Orinda Way, across the street from the Orinda Public Library.

Currently, Orinda (and the rest of California) is experiencing a severe drought. This is not the time to permit more commercial development in Orinda, which will add to city's increased use of water.

Orinda is already too crowded as anyone who, during rush hour, drives on Camino Pablo in the neighborhood of BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit).

The Weekly reported that Orinda City Council member, Nick Kosla, " ... expressed gratitude to the developer for bringing Orinda its first commercial project in decades." Mr. Kosla ought to be more concerned about the well-being of the entire Orinda community. Apparently, Mr. Kosla believes that commercial development is more important than having adequate water supplies during a drought.

Let's hope that Orinda's voters, at the next city council election, will remember the council's lack of wisdom in supporting development during a time of drought. Richard Colman Orinda

## Orinda Council considers raising height limit

The Orinda City Council will be considering whether to raise the height limit downtown from 35 to 55 feet. Why?

What do the consultants say? One consultant said the required additional housing could be accommodated with the existing height limit. I have a non-public email from our Planning Director, Mr. Buckley, saying that. (I obtained it via a public records act request.) Another consultant said a higher height limit would make development more likely.

Also, consider bias. The proposal comes from the planning staff. Planners want something to plan, they don't preserve. If they wanted to preserve, they would not become planners. There are two city council members on the council's downtown planning subcommittee. One, Nick Kosla, earns his living as a consultant to developers. <https://www.koslaventures.com/> The other, Inga Miller, is a very nice person. If she has ever pushed back on a staff proposal, I don't recall any such occasion. Link to feasibility study: <https://cityoforinda.app.box>.

com/v/DPPFeasibilityMemo T here was also a discussion at a joint council and planning commission meeting on Nov. 19, 2020. Link to staff report for that meeting. <https://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1792&Inline=True> Link to video of that meeting: <https://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1910&Format=Minutes>

Bear in mind, please, that the proposed redevelopment will mean the destruction and loss of our local businesses. The buildings they occupy will be demolished, and replaced with new, taller buildings. The livelihoods of the owners and employees of those businesses will be destroyed. They will not be able to afford higher rents in the new developments, and even if they were otherwise able to return, they would have no income during the years between the start of demolition and the completion of the new buildings.

If you object to destroying our local businesses and to raising the height limit, send an email to the city clerk, Sheri Smith [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org). In the subject line write "I object to raising the height limit" in the body of the email, write whatever you want. The existing businesses and height limit will only be preserved if enough residents can persuade three council members. Nick Waranoff Orinda

## Have a say in ARPA funding

Lafayette property and business owners and residents, the City of Lafayette will receive \$6.372 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Some of the funds can be used for small businesses and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. You can have a say in how your tax money is used.

I would advocate approving funds for enhancing the East End District, if even cosmetically, for the businesses from First Street to Pleasant Hill Road on Mt. Diablo Boulevard by:

1. Resurrecting the failed irrigation system so businesses can enhance their properties to attract customers;
2. Enhancing the East End District with maintenance of the existing landscaping, pruning trees, fixing uneven sidewalks and lighting failures;
3. Repainting the center turn lane, bicycle lanes and parking lines; and
4. Installing a HAWK light system for the crosswalk at Hampton Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard with new colored pavers like Brown Ave.

If you agree and have other recommendations, contact the Mayor and City Council directly

at [jrobbins@ci.lafayette.ca.us](mailto:jrobbins@ci.lafayette.ca.us) or Tom Myers, Economic Development Manager at [TMyers@ci.lafayette.ca.us](mailto:TMyers@ci.lafayette.ca.us).

Mr. Myers was hired by the City to gather information from the community to help make recommendations to the City Council on how best to spend the funds and will be sending out a postcard survey this month. Be sure to complete it before the deadline. Dawn Eames Moraga, (Lafayette property owner)

## A tribute to Kenny

A beautiful tribute book honoring Kenny Murikami of Moraga Garden Center, featuring 62 Lamorinda gardens Kenny has been instrumental in, will be available Oct. 16. Kenny will receive all the profits. The 100-page softcover book is \$50 and can be purchased at Moraga Ace Hardware/Across the Way, Moraga Garden Center (until Oct. 31), McDonnel Nursery, Orchard Nursery/Lazy K, Orinda Books, and Outdoor Supply Hardware. There will be an opportunity to make an additional retirement honorarium donation to Kenny at point of purchase for those that so desire. This is a limited run of 200 books and over half have already been reserved; if you wish to reserve a book notify Bobbie Preston: [barbarampreston@comcast.net](mailto:barbarampreston@comcast.net) and indicate where you plan to pick up your book. Bobbie Preston Moraga

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



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## Let the City Know How to Use \$6.3M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

### TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY!

The City Council is seeking input from the community on ideas to assist with Lafayette's economic recovery and encourages you to take a brief survey: [www.lovelafayette.org/bizrecovery](http://www.lovelafayette.org/bizrecovery)



A public forum will be held via Zoom for community discussion and Q&A with a subcommittee of the City Council on:

Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 7:00pm-8:00pm

Check [www.lovelafayette.org/bizrecovery](http://www.lovelafayette.org/bizrecovery) for more details and meeting links.

# Lamorinda Women March for Justice

... continued from Page A1

Tejada joined Worth in addressing the marchers, emphatically stating, "It's important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider."

Having recently retired after 26 years in law enforcement (most recently as the Emeryville chief of police), Tejada does not consider herself a political person. However, she says, "For me, democracy is fragile. We've seen many examples of what happens when our freedoms are stripped away. And we need to prevent that from happening.

Complacency will potentially lead to the erosion of many of the freedoms we enjoy."

Moraga's Ellen Beans was one of the 250 marchers. She was determined to be a part of the group, she reports, because she's angry at what she believes to be disrespect for women. "Walking with other women, some men, and a few children that day enabled us to speak powerfully for respect, life, self-determination, and justice. A big thank you to the women who organized this event, enabling us to speak out on these values," Beans declares.

## Clarification of proof of vaccination or negative COVID test order

The Contra Costa County Health Order of Sept. 15 that requires all persons entering dining establishments, entertainment venues where food or beverages are served, and fitness facilities in the county either show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results came into effect on Sept. 22. It should be noted that persons entering such an establishment for a brief period of time to pick up or deliver food or goods or to perform other transactions which do not require the patron to remain in the business for an extended period of time are not required to present proof of vaccination or a negative test. They are, however, required to wear masks. Places of worship and other religious institutions, residential facilities, childcare facilities or K-12 schools are not considered establishment for the purposes of the health order. - Sora O'Doherty

# Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a **Lafayette City Reporter:**

Required Qualifications:  
Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required. Understanding of AP Style is a plus. Compensation is made on a per article basis.  
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## Backyard vineyards a labor of love in Lamorinda

... continued from Page A1

The amount of wine produced varies, depending on the year's conditions. In 2014, for example, the Ledesmas produced about 48-50 bottles of wine.

According to Michele, the vineyard is carefully managed. Selvin Alvarado, who has managed the Ledesma's vineyard for the past three years, was trained by Sal Captain after Captain and his wife, Susan, decided that they could no longer manage the vineyard. The grapes are protected from critters that would love to gorge on them, from moles and gophers to raccoons. Close to harvest the grapes are enclosed in netting to protect them. Sal Captain introduced the Ledesmas to deep watering, which improves water use efficiency, and everything used on the grapes is natural. Captain came from a background as an engineer in medical devices. When he decided to go into winemaking, he applied business techniques to the process.

Captain views the process like a business project, requiring research, planning, development and risk management. Both Captain and his wife have taken classes at UC Davis, which he says is one of the most prestigious agricultural universities in the world. Now she grows the grapes and he makes the wine.

In developing his style of vineyard management, Captain says, "I noticed how many things people could do better, such as focusing on vineyard organization and orientation, planting in harmony with where the sun rises



Photo Sora O'Doherty

and sets, and maintenance of what they plant." He added, "During maintenance of a vineyard, if the plants are healthy, if the lanes are properly aligned, if that is all done right, your job is to make sure the plants get adequate water and nutrients." A key factor is keeping an eye out for diseases, such as powdery mildew.

The growing season begins at the end of January or the beginning of February with bud break and ends with harvest in late September or October. Captain talks about the many books written about the journey toward giving you the fruit at the end of the year. He has strived to apply all these principals, and to simplify many processes.

Alvarado comes twice a week and works on everything from pruning to irrigation to netting up the vines when the grapes require protection.

However, Michele Ledesma is still out in the vineyard every day to see how every vine is doing.

For more about wine making in Lamorinda, see [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1001/Lamorinda-Now-a-Name-of-Viticultural-Significance.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1001/Lamorinda-Now-a-Name-of-Viticultural-Significance.html)

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## George Jedenoff reigns supreme as king at 3/4-century event



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**George Jedenoff**

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Perhaps they need a new event for George Jedenoff, one that celebrates folks active into their second century. At 104, Jedenoff is again king of the three-quarter-century event, held this year via Zoom on Sept. 29. Jedenoff, queen Bobbie Dodson, 93, and longest married couple Don and Nancy Hall who have been married for 64 years, were honored at the event and presented with gift certificates for local restaurants.

Jedenoff, who went skiing twice last winter at Sugar Bowl at Lake Tahoe proclaimed that he is "Just lucky to still be alive and to live in this wonderful place of Orinda." While grateful for the gift certificate, he begged for no more crowns.

Queen Dodson has lived in the same home in Orinda Woods since 1955. Very active in the community, Dodson currently writes for the Orinda News and the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. The Halls are originally from Rhode Island, but moved to the Bay Area to raise their family. Nancy Hall was involved in the schools for many years.

Host John Fazel also introduced his wife Mary Lou; the couple celebrated their 58th anniversary the same day as the event. Bea Heggie, Orinda's first 1st Lady joined the event again this year and is possibly the only guest who has attended all 21 of the Three-Quarter Century Club events. The event was

not held last year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In presenting the 21st Annual Three-Quarter Century Club Shindig on Zoom this year, the club was able to open it to broader participation. Guests came from as far away as Iowa (the home of the original three-quarter century club) and New Hampshire.

Guest speaker George Hardeen, great grand-nephew of Harry Houdini, gave a PowerPoint presentation about his famous great granduncle. Hardeen's grandfather, Theodore Hardeen, was also a magician, and carried on performing Houdini's famous milk can escape into the 1940s, following Houdini's death on Oct. 31, 1926 at age 52.

Hardeen was the principal investigator for a 2018 five-part series on Houdini on the Science Channel called "Houdini's Last Secrets." Hardeen lives in Page, Ariz., on the border of Utah. A writer, actor, Colorado river guide, cowboy, reporter and editor, Hardeen is fascinated with his famous great uncle and seeks to share his knowledge of him with the public now. This Halloween would have been Houdini's 95th birthday. His presentation was full of facts and many photographs of Houdini and the family.

Fazel thanked the event's many sponsors, including local Rotary clubs, Lamorinda Senior Village, the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Lafayette Chamber, and the Orinda Association, which, according to Fazel, started in 1946 and was a quasi city council before Orinda incorporated in 1985.

Jamie Textor, president of Sunrise Rotary, spoke about the Rotary sponsors, including Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Moraga, Lafayette and Rossmoor Rotary clubs.

The Orinda club focuses on education and community support, tutoring and reading in Oakland and Richmond, and supports a library in Zambia. The

Lafayette group supports youth performing arts at Stanley Middle School, (three concerts a year) homeless in Oakland and Concord, international programs to abate sex trafficking and contributes to school libraries in Afghanistan.

Moraga's club provided full funding for the all-access playground at Moraga Commons Park, scholarships for Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's College, medical kits and security cameras for all schools in their area and the Rossmoor Rotary supports Meals on Wheels.

Lamorinda Sunrise, with 65 members, provides the Home Team to help seniors in the community every other month, and the Family Harvest Farm, which mentors and trains youth aging out of foster care system. All the Rotary clubs also support international projects. Another sponsor of the event was the Lamorinda Arts Council, which hosts the very popular Lamorinda Idol singing contest.

To view the 3/4 Century Club event on Zoom, visit [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org)



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## Children create crafty masks during annual Pear & Wine Festival



Photo provided

**Submitted by Cynthia Brian**

Children gathered at the Be the Star You Are booth to create decorative masks Sept. 25 during the Moraga Pear & Wine Festival at Moraga Commons Park. Be the Star You Are is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) arts and culture corporation whose mission is to empower women, families, and youth through improved literacy, tools for living, and positive

message media. The local nonprofit, which celebrated 23 years this year, collects, distributes, and promotes books as well as produces positive message radio programs with a mission of increasing literacy, decreasing violence, raising life skills, self-worth, and self-esteem. The BTSYA teen radio show, Express Yourself! started with six local teens and has now completed 10 years of international broadcasting and has done 600 shows.





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## This spiced pumpkin butter is perfect for fall



Pumpkin butter

Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

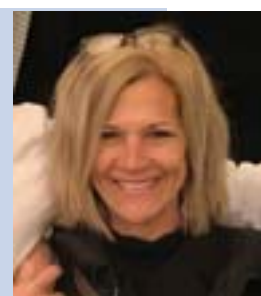
Fall is in the air and that means it's time for pumpkin recipes! So how about some pumpkin butter? It's really just like apple butter, only made with pumpkin purée, brown sugar, pure maple syrup, spices, vanilla and a little splash of apple juice. It's tasty with peanut butter or all by itself on toast in the morning, and you can mix it into

scone dough for autumn breakfast treats. If you happen to have any pie dough leftover, roll it out, spread the pumpkin butter over the entire circle of dough, roll it up like a jelly roll, slice it and bake it for some delicious pumpkin pie dough roll ups. I usually we do that with butter, cinnamon and sugar, but this is a fun fall option for sure. Don't forget to sprinkle the tops of the pie dough roll

ups with a little cinnamon sugar before you bake them!

If you're ambitious, you can cook your own pumpkin purée, but I take the easy route and make this with canned pumpkin. There are several brands of canned pumpkin on the market and I've used Trader Joe's and Farmer's Market for this recipe. I slightly preferred the flavor of Trader Joe's, and have yet to try Libby's or homemade, but I think any of them would work just fine.

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



### Pumpkin butter

(Yields 1 ½ cups of Pumpkin Butter)

#### INGREDIENTS

1 15-oz. can pumpkin purée  
(I like to use Trader Joe's pumpkin purée for this recipe)  
½ cup light brown sugar  
½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
¼ tsp. nutmeg  
½ tsp. cinnamon  
1 cinnamon stick  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 tsp. pure maple syrup  
1/3 cup apple juice

#### DIRECTIONS

Stir all ingredients together in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring often. Once it reaches a boil, immediately reduce heat to low and simmer until thickened to the consistency of apple butter, about 30-40 minutes. Stir occasionally during the cooking process. Remove from heat and cool. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

## Sundance Film Festival winner 'Luzzu' at Orinda Theatre for one week



Image provided

### By Sophie Braccini

A crack appears in the hull of a small fishing-boat. Is it a simple case of maintenance or a call from destiny signaling that something more existential has to change?

In the movie "Luzzu," opening Oct. 15 in Orinda,

everything in Jesmark's life is starting to take on water; his generations-old boat is showing signs of dangerous decay; his infant son is diagnosed with developmental delay; to navigate his circumstance he grows more likely each day to compromise his morals to make ends meet. Life is get-

ting tougher in Malta, the European Union island mid-way between Tunisia and Italy, and for the small fishermen who wants to play by the rules. In this idyllic Mediterranean Sea, the luzzu is the traditional wood vessel that has been used by fishermen for generations. It is Jesmark's only possession, his way of life, and his identity.

The luzzu Ta' Palma has been in Jesmark Scicluna's family for generations. The 12-foot-long wooden boat is a traditional Maltese coastal fishing boat that is emblematic of the island and has been around since the 18th century. Boats are painted with vibrant colors, each different from the next, and they harbor the traditional Phoenician eyes on the boats' bows called oculus that protect the luzzijiet (plural of luzzu) against the dangers of the sea. Jesmark loves his job and the small town's fishermen community, but the economic reality is harsh, fish are rare or forbidden at certain times per EU regulations, and the fish auc-

tioners ignore the small fishermen. In order to prove to his wife that he can support her and their young child, Jesmark will make hard choices and will discover darker sides about himself and about his world.

"Luzzu" was written and directed by Alex Camilleri and it is his first full feature film. The movie describes beautifully and in detail the life of the fishermen, including aspects of fishing, slicing, or boat repair. This documentary aspect of the movie is reinforced by the inclusion of non-professional actors in the making of the film. In the words of Camilleri in an interview for Sundance, "The reality pokes through the edges of the frame." This is on the surface a simple story about the waning of a traditional way of life, but along the way it evokes complex realities such as the changes of the ecosystem; EU regulations and opportunities; the diverse trafficking and mafias; the different social strata in Malta; and also, environmen-

tal issues. With climate change, and depletion of fish stock, what will become of the lonely fisherman?

This movie remains the touching intimate drama of a man and a father fighting to prove himself, save his marriage and support his child. As Camilleri describes it, it is a movie about family and sacrifice. It is easy to empathize with the young couple at the center of the story and the director has managed to include elements of surprise as well as moments of calm and peace in his narrative.

"Luzzu" got a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and it premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival where it won the festival's World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award. It is brought to Orinda by the International Film Showcase starting on Oct. 15 for at least one full week with three screenings each day. There is limited seating and proof of vaccination is required at the door. Tickets: [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com)

## College trends to consider for the classes of 2022 and 2023

### By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Understanding the reality of today's college application process is an important element in managing expectations. For instance, the notion that great grades and test scores will automatically guarantee entry into highly selective colleges no longer holds true. Strong stats certainly open doors, but colleges ranked in the top 25 or even 50 expect much more: a uniqueness, one that distinguishes the student at the national and even international level of accomplishment in some area of the sciences, arts or athletics, as well as a concrete connection to schools' mission, educational program and institutional goals.

Here are some trends worth mentioning, as they will impact your experience applying to colleges this cycle and likely next cycle for the Class of 2023.

More colleges continue to allow self-reported grades and test scores, only requiring an "official" report if you choose to attend. You'll need to be super accurate, otherwise you risk having an acceptance rescinded.

Offering a student admission in the spring instead of the fall is gaining momentum as an enrollment management tool. Some students may even be selected to start on a dif-

ferent campus – perhaps even internationally. Don't let this possibility throw you off course. Your ability to be flexible will create more possibilities. Instead, explore the advantages of taking a break between high school and college. You can plan a hiking excursion, get a job or land an internship that will begin to build your resume before you even start college!

More students will take gap years. Colleges appreciate the maturity and perspective that gap year students bring to campus. Just be sure you have applied and are accepted at a college first and that the college has agreed to defer your admission.

Test Optional is here to stay. With over 1,500 colleges already on board, it is possible to apply to college without ever taking an ACT or SAT.

(Visit [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) to see which colleges offer this.) However, submitting a really good score allows admissions one more puzzle piece to consider. Submitting a strong score that compliments your grades and rigor of coursework is an advantage. Deciding what a "really good score" is depends on the college you apply to and a question to bring to your college advisor. Remember, test optional does not mean test blind.

Test blind, where a college does not consider standardized tests in admissions even

if submitted, is gaining momentum. Last year 69 institutions were test blind, including the entire UC and CSU systems. UCs and CSUs will again be test blind for the Class of 2022.

AP exam scores will rise in importance. Colleges will now buy names of sophomores and juniors who are taking APs for marketing purposes and some may begin to examine AP scores with greater scrutiny.

Colleges that offer merit aid tend to award money to students who take advantage of the early action and priority dates. Regular decision applicants are often the last in line for merit aid consideration. While most schools will award money without standardized tests, there are still some schools and programs that require them. Be sure to check out each college's policy, since going test optional may help you gain admission but hurt your chances for financial aid.

Applying early action is losing some of its luster. Whereas in the past students were given a significant advantage if they applied early, quite a few schools in 2021 elected to defer students into the regular pool. This may have been due to the surge in applications and thus a temporary phenomenon, or it may be here to stay. In 2022, a significant number of colleges

dropped their early action option altogether. In 2021, early decision, though, seemed to give an advantage. Data from top colleges this year showed that in general a larger percent of the applicants were admitted through the binding early decision program.

Applications to top colleges exploded last year, and it is likely this trend will continue. Be sure to not apply to super reach schools that are out of reach for your profile, and balance your list with more target and anchor schools. Here are some current application growth numbers in percentages: Colgate-104%, MIT-66%, Columbia-51%, BC-36%, Tufts-35%, UC Berkeley and UCLA both saw a 28% increase in applications and U of Wisconsin Madison-17%. What do these increases mean? It means the tippy top colleges will remain nearly impossible for most, while the high-end target schools will be reaches for many.

The UCs now routinely deny or waitlist smart, qualified California students. Be sure your college list includes other options. Resist the urge to apply to every UC – you must be a good fit for the UC major you apply to and your activities and essays must reflect as much.

More online interviews will be offered. Some might include a prompt to which a student will give a video re-

sponse. Work with your advisor on interview skills.

Now that you know some of these trends, seniors will be more well prepared to apply more thoughtfully to colleges this fall and juniors can begin to assemble their college lists with these tips in mind.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com); Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com); or Call: 925.385.0562.

# AAUW-OML forges partnership with Saint Mary's College



Photo Lynda Leonard

**In the spirit of community participation, Shelby's Restaurant at Theatre Square will partner with AAUW-OML Oct. 19 to raise money for OML's scholarship fund, which benefits local graduating high school girls and Saint Mary's College women. Pictured: co-owner and Chef de Cuisine Arno Kober with AAUW-OML member Laura Wittenberg, who forged a partnership with Saint Mary's College that benefits SMC women.**

## Submitted by Lynda Leonard

When Laura Wittenberg retired a few years ago, she found purpose and friendship by joining AAUW-OML. She has served in many roles, including as president, but it was when she volunteered at OML's STEM Conference for middle school girls at Saint Mary's College that she recognized a need and set out to fill it.

This need involved a more comprehensive relationship with the college, which required Wittenberg's networking skills, because no one person at the college had all the answers. The result of many consultations was a community and college partnership that is enriching everyone involved.

The first step was providing two scholarships for SMC women students in the High Potential/TRIO Student Support Services to attend AAUW's National Conference of College Student Leaders (NCCWSL), three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking in Maryland. The two women returned enthusiastic about their experiences, what they learned, and the potential they discovered within themselves.

The success of their experiences led to more women attending NCCWSL and to faculty awareness of the program as well as the work of AAUW. SMC became an AAUW College/University member.

Jenee Palmer, who is currently the director of the High Potential/TRIO Student Support Services program at Saint Mary's, will be the speaker at

AAUW-OML's Oct. 19 meeting. In her role she provides leadership, management, and strategic vision for comprehensive academic, professional, and financial support to first generation and/or low-income students.

SMC's High Potential students are part of a one-of-a-kind experience. The college offers a challenging curriculum in a supportive learning environment. It includes services such as financial assistance, a peer mentor program, coaching, academic resources, leadership development, and personal and professional exploration.

In addition, SMC's students who attended NCCWSL will attend the October meeting and discuss their experiences and how they were able to achieve their goals. Wittenberg noted how rewarding her involvement with these women is, "You've just touched someone and made a difference in her life."

The October program is co-sponsored by OML's Scholarship and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committees. Scholarship chair Mary Ann McLeod notes that AAUW-OML also awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors at each of the three public high schools in addition to SMC undergraduates attending NCCWSL. DEI embodies the goals and spirit of inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants. DEI chair Denise Burian notes the importance of community partnering and urges others to reach out to these young women and offer a helping hand.

In the spirit of community

participation, Shelby's Restaurant at Theatre Square will partner with AAUW-OML to raise money for the scholarship fund. On Oct. 19 Shelby's will donate 10% of its sales that day to the fund. Food may be purchased for lunch, dinner, takeout – or all three! Curbside delivery is available upon request. For menus, ordering, reservations, and takeout information, visit [www.shelbyseatbetter.com](http://www.shelbyseatbetter.com). Ample free parking is available with validation in the garage. Reservations are preferred. Order online or call (925) 254-9687.

The OML program is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 19. Check the OML website to determine if the meeting is at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall at 10 Irwin Way or via Zoom. If needed, you can get a Zoom link on the site. The program is free and open to the public. Learn more about AAUW-OML at [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net).

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# Three fun events at Orinda Books on tap in October

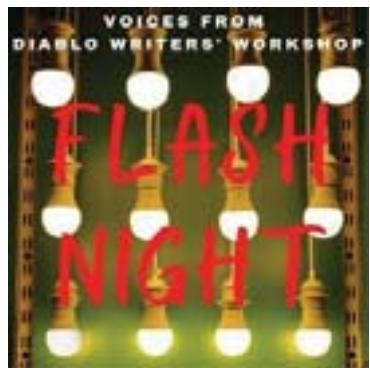


Image provided

Eight writers who are part of the Diablo Writers' Workshop will be reading from short works of fiction, nonfiction and more during "Flash Night" at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23. This free event will be held in-person at Orinda Books with a limited-size audience and will also be fully accessible on Zoom.

Co-founded by Janine de-Boisblanc and Andrea Firth in 2017, Diablo Writers' Workshop ([diablowriters.org](http://diablowriters.org)) brings adult writers of all ages and experience together in small classes to inspire and guide them to discover and tell their stories. "The cool thing about Flash Night is that you can attend from anywhere," said

Firth. "We're excited to host this reading of eight writers from The Diablo Writers' Workshop community."

Another exciting event offered by Orinda Books will feature Anna I. Corwin, Ph.D., author of "Embracing Age: How Catholic Nuns Became Models of Aging Well," in conversation with Brother Charles Hilken, F.S.C., at 6 p.m. Oct. 25 via Zoom. Corwin's book delves into the everyday lives of American Catholic nuns who experience longevity and remarkable health and well-being at the end of life.

And on Oct. 25 at 5 p.m., New York Times-best-selling author of "Matrix" as well as "Fates & Furies, Florida," Laura Groff, will be joined in conversation with Gail Vinett, Lead Content Manager at Ingram Content Group. Groff will discuss her latest novel – "a mesmerizing portrait of consuming passion, aberrant faith, and a woman that history moves both through and around."

For more information and to register, visit [orindabooks.com](http://orindabooks.com) and click on "Events." – J. Wake

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## Art of Mixology returns to Theatre Square, live, on Oct. 16



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Portia Battistini from The Coop, who is competing this year, serves her winning cocktail at An Arts Affair in 2018.

By Sora O'Doherty

The major fundraiser for the Lamorinda Arts Council, the Art of Mixology will be live in Theatre Square from 4:30 to 7

p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, with over 16 bartenders creating signature drinks and sampling them to the crowd of ticket-holders. Five food sponsors, Batch and Brine, The 4th Bore,

The Cooperage, Republic of Cake and Town Bakery will be offering bites to go with the sips.

Tickets are \$75 in advance or \$85 at the door and include craft cocktail tasting, bites from five local restaurants, 17 tasting tickets, a shot glass, a wrist band, and program, music and fun. Tickets will be available at either of the two entrances to the event, one by the fountain on Moraga Way and one as you come up the stairs from the garage. In order to maintain safety, a decreased number of tickets have been made available, designed to result in a less crowded event. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed. Masks will be required between sips and bites. Proof of vaccination is required to enter.

The competition occurs on two levels, professional bartenders and amateur mixologists. Professionals compete for the title of Mixologist of the Year, a cash award of \$500 and a trophy. The title of Mixologist of the Year is highly sought after by area professionals. A panel of judges will also select second and third place winners, who will win certificates of \$350 and \$300 respectively.

There will also be an audience vote for favorite among the amateurs and professionals.

The mixologist receiving the highest audience votes will

win the Audience Award, with a trophy and \$200, and the best amateur will win the Home Craft Cocktail Award, with a trophy and \$100. In addition, there is an Art of Table Staging trophy.

Among those competing are bartenders from The 4th Bore in Orinda; Canyon Club, Moraga; Forge and Parlor in Oakland; Balarco, Tiki Tom, Ben Venuti, and Bounty Hunter in Walnut Creek. Portia Battistini, The Cooperage, Lafayette, 2016 Mixologist of the Year, will also be competing.

This year's competition is sponsored by Tahoe Blue Vodka, but competitors may use any spirit they choose.

Last year's competition was not in person, but via Zoom. The audience could purchase cocktail kits containing everything needed for each cocktail except for the alcohol. The kits, presented by Saloonbox Curated Cocktails, proved to be a huge hit, and some who purchased them asked if the kits could be available later in the year, as they would make excellent holiday gifts. In response, this year the cocktail kits will be available in November. Kits can be ordered at the event or online during October. Each kit makes up to six drinks and contain recipes and ingredients for two different cocktails. Kits do not contain the alcohol. Any alcohol must be purchased separately. There

will be five kits. All five may be purchased for \$200 or each kit for \$50. Pre-ordered kits may be picked up on Nov. 6, 13 or 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at Theatre Square. Delivery for a fee will be provided in the Lamorinda area, or kits can be shipped.

Denise Nomura and Stacy Giglio co-chaired the Art of Mixology Committee and everybody from the Lamorinda Arts Council helped. This major fundraiser for the year, helps support all of the Lamorinda Arts Council's programs, including Lamorinda idol, the high school visual arts competition, Art Embraces Words, the super-short film festival, Art in place, and the two art galleries curated by the Council, one at the Orinda Library and the other at Wilder.

The Art of Mixology received support from Morrison Jewelers, Republic Services, Tahoe Blue Vodka, Saloonbox; and Morgan Stanley Theatre Square. In addition, three companies sponsored bartender tables for this eighth annual competition.

Following Art of Mixology, there will be a post party at the 4th Bore in aid of Notes 4 Hope, a breast cancer awareness and research fundraiser. On offer will be a live band, and a signature beer made by Canyon Club: the FU Cancer Brew. Part of the proceeds goes to its research fund.

## Orindan wins prestigious lifetime professional achievement award



Chris Laszcz-Davis

Photo provided

Submitted by Thomas Black

Chris Laszcz-Davis, a longtime resident of Orinda, has won the highest professional honor in management and operations regarding environment, health and safety (EHS). The citation is known formally as the ABIH Lynn O'Donnell Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Board for EHS Credentialing. (O'Donnell is a pioneering executive director of the profession's credentialing board.)

Laszcz-Davis is president of her own consulting firm, The Environmental Quality Organization, LLC, founded in 2004.

Her career spans more than three decades. Fresh out of graduate school with a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Minnesota, she went to work for

the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to the U.S. Department of Energy), first in Washington, DC., then on the west coast as a regional manager, and later at UC Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. She subsequently worked at Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical as corporate vice president of environmental affairs, health, safety, product stewardship and operational integrity.

Additionally, both in industry and in government she has experience in risk management, strategic planning, and corporate acquisitions and divestitures.

Laszcz-Davis has garnered numerous other professional accolades. In 2011-12 she was recognized by a leading industry publication, Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, as one of the "101 most influential EH&S leaders in the U.S." In 2017 the California state

legislature passed a resolution (#967) hailing her professional achievements and civic leadership.

Her contributions locally are no less impressive. She currently is on the board of the Orinda Association and is chair of the tri-community Lamorinda Presents. In 2018-19 she served as president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, one of some 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide.

Her involvement with the American Association of University Women (AAUW)-OML Branch has generated successful Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) STEM Conferences, held at Saint Mary's College, for middle-school girls. She also helped to coordinate a series of virtual STEM-related webinars for high-school girls.

## Local nonprofit helps Afghan refugees in resettlement



Photo provided

Ebne Mujadidi of E's Auto Service and Repair in Moraga hands car keys to an Afghan refugee.

Thanks to a donation of a car to Keeping Our Promise, East Bay – a local nonprofit that serves former U.S. military translators and their families from Afghanistan who resettle in Alameda and Contra Costa counties – one lucky Afghan refugee was recently handed keys to a car so he could get to work. Ebne Mujadidi of E's Auto Service and Repair on Canyon Road in Moraga, who is also from Afghanistan, donated his repair services to get the car "street worthy."

"We have structured our car program to offer cars to working refugees with the needed repairs paid for by the recipient in a 0% interest loan," said Carol Sebilia, the Education/ Employment Director of Keeping Our Promise, East Bay. "At a future time, when they feel they are sufficiently financially stable enough to repay, they pay back the loan and we have money for the next loan."

Keeping Our Promise tries to assist families by offering advice for em-

ployment, résumé writing, English language classes and tutoring, household donations and recycled adult bicycles, education and scholarship information, and more. "We simply see what their needs are, and see if we can meet the need," Sebilia said.

Two talented high school students, Selma and Nilab Ahmadi, also recently started a Keeping Our Promise club at Miramonte. "These energetic young sisters have recruited classmates to tutor Afghan children aged 12 to 17," Sebilia said. "They tutor via Zoom in order to increase their grades in English, math and science, and offer homework help. This is been a wonderful support for Afghan parents who may not understand enough English to help their children with homework."

If anyone is interested in donating, email: CarolSebilia@KeepingOurPromise-Eastbay.org

- J. Wake

## In Memory

### Elizabeth "Betty" (Frazier) Karplus

March 22, 1925 – Sept. 22, 2021



Elizabeth "Betty" (Frazier) Karplus passed away at home on Sept. 22, aged 96. Born on March 22, 1925 in Burlington, Vermont, Betty and her family moved to Connecticut where she grew up. She worked as a welder for Yale & Towne during WWII to fund her bachelor's degree in physics from Oberlin College, continuing into graduate studies in physics at Wellesley College. While there she met Robert "Bob" Karplus, a Harvard graduate student. They married in 1948, moved to Princeton University, then Harvard, and came to California in 1954 when Bob accepted a physics faculty position at UC Berkeley.

The mother of seven children, Betty was always ready for adventure, and a passion for education and service infused her life. She did research on reasoning and math education and was a pioneer in protecting rights for students with disabilities. She earned a master's in special education at Saint Mary's College, spending the last 18 years of her teaching career as a resource specialist at Campolindo. She also served on the Orinda School Board and was honored as Orinda's 1982 Citizen of the Year. Betty retired from Campolindo in 1986, launching a 30-year "volunteer career:" leading a program at Mills College to train scientists and engineers as teachers, serving in the Peace Corps in Jamaica, teaching English in China, becoming an Americorps leader, bringing weekly hands-on science lessons to El Sobrante Elementary, and helping in many ways at the Orinda Community Church. For her exceptional contributions to science education, Betty was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2019.

Betty is survived by her seven children – Beverly Hartline (Fred), Peggy Hellweg (Horst Rademacher), Richard Karplus (Michelle Delore), Barbara Karplus (Rod Womer), Andy Karplus (Karen), David Karplus (Catie), and Peter Karplus – 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, brother-in-law Martin Karplus (Marci), 10 nieces and nephews, and many, many dear friends. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Bob, her parents, and her four brothers. Her legacy of caring, curiosity, and commitment to action will live on in all those she touched.

A memorial service is pending. Donations in her memory can be sent to the 'Robert and Elizabeth Karplus Outdoor Nature Lab' under construction at the Lawrence Hall of Science (<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/karplus-outdoor-nature-lab>), or to the Orinda Community Church.

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

ART

**Art show at Orinda Books.** October features the paintings of Cleo Vilett, an East Bay native who brings her passion for the natural world into her paintings. She works outside as much as possible and is particularly interested in representing how people use outdoor spaces and the intersection of urban and wild landscapes. With degrees in marine biology and science illustration, she has also worked on many large-scale murals, illustrations, and sculptures for natural science institutions. [www.orindabooks.com/artist/october-features-paintings-cleo-vilett](http://www.orindabooks.com/artist/october-features-paintings-cleo-vilett)

**Valley Art Gallery Announces** New Exhibition: "Thinking Art" – through Nov. 6. From a flock of intriguing abstracts to a covey of Mount Diablos — our new show, "Thinking Art," offers a lot to think about. More than 30 thoughtful works representing the best by the best of East Bay artists covering a wide array of styles, media, motifs, and price points. Open Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org); (925) 935-4311

**Eric Carlstrom is once again** exhibiting his art at Main Street Arts in Martinez from Oct. 22 to Nov. 21. Carlstrom is a longtime member of the Pinole Artisans

and runs their Pinole Artisans Gallery. Carlstrom and his art truly embody the love of tattoo art. Reception on Oct. 30 from 3-6 p.m. <https://pinoleartisans.weebly.com/eric-carlstrom.html>, Main Street Arts, 613 Main Street, Martinez, 925-269-8049, [www.mainstreetarts.net](http://www.mainstreetarts.net)

THEATRE

**Diablo Ballet's 28th Season** opens with a new full-length production of Julia Adam's smash holiday hit, "The Nutcracker Suite," which performs Nov. 12 – 13 at the Leshler Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. For in theatre or virtual tickets, call 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

LITERATURE

**Art Embraces Words next LIVE** program is outdoors beginning at 12 noon on Saturday Oct. 30 at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center Amphitheater, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. All COVID-19 precautions observed for your safety. A reception with light refreshments follows the program. While costumes are optional for our LIVE October 30 Halloween Theme, we invite you to appear as your favorite Literary or Artistic character. Prizes will be awarded. Be there to see which playful characters show up! The following artistic and literary celebrities will be

present in costume: Gustave Courbet (1819-1877), Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) and Yayoi Kusama, 90+ years and going strong. Find out who else inspires lovers of literature and art by attending.

**Saint Mary's College Creative Writing Reading Series** with Aria Aber. Monday, Oct. 18, 7 to 8 p.m. Online <https://stmarys-ca.zoom.us/j/95647742538?pwd=Ulg1Nk9hRVBXSIRYTURGOG9INmV0Zz09>. Aria Aber's debut collection "Hard Damage" (University of Nebraska Press, 2019) won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry and a Whiting Award. Her poems are forthcoming or have appeared in The New Yorker, New Republic, Kenyon Review, The Yale Review, and elsewhere. A graduate from the NYU MFA in Creative Writing, where she was the Writers in Public Schools Fellow, she holds awards and fellowships from Kundiman and the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing. She was the 2020 Li Shen Visiting Writer at Mills College and is currently a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University.

OTHER

**Hospice East Bay is proud** to be celebrating its 35th annual Tree of Lights! For 35 years these ceremonies have provided a way for families and friends to honor their loved ones and find solace

in the symbolism of light as the names of their loved ones are read. The Tree of Lights ceremonies will begin on Nov. 4 and run through Dec. 12. Lafayette Tuesday, Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m.; Orinda Saturday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m.; Moraga Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m. [www.hospiceeastbay.org/tol](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org/tol)

**Bay Area Kids' Book Fair** – East Bay Edition, Dublin. Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bay Area Kids' Book Fair – East Bay Edition – Free event with authors, illustrators, publishers, booksellers and educational programs. Meet and greet Pete the Cat and Elephant & Piggie. Storytelling by authors and doctors from sponsor Stanford Children's Health. Free admission and free parking. Face covering required for admission. Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. [www.BayAreaKidsBookFair.com](http://www.BayAreaKidsBookFair.com)

**Are you an empty nester,** coming out of the pandemic with an empty social calendar? Or perhaps a retired couple looking for something new? Just a few minutes from Lamorinda, at the Elks club on Creekside Drive in Walnut Creek, you can kick up your heels to a live band the first and third Fridays of the month with the Merry Mixers of Contra Costa. Merry Mixers, a social club that welcomes all adults, has met regularly since 1958 to dance, dine, and nurture friendships old

and new. They'd love to meet you! Vaccination proof and masks are currently required, but that puts no damper on the socializing. For more information, check out the MerryMixers.life website. In addition: Lafayette Senior Services reported on Oct. 5 that the Wednesday Community Center Tea Dance has been suspended indefinitely due to COVID-19. However, some former Tea Dance attendees encourage others to join them for dancing and socializing with Merry Mixers of Contra Costa.

**KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents** Chris Hedges: "OUR CLASS, Trauma & Transformation in an American Prison" on Thursday, Nov. 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Chris Hedges will discuss his new book, "OUR CLASS, Trauma and Transformation in an American Prison," and answer questions. Host Mickey Huff. Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For more info see [www.eventbrite.com/e/chris-hedges-our-class-tickets-170066552637](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/chris-hedges-our-class-tickets-170066552637).

**Grow food in indoor towers** to avoid the increasingly inhospitable climate outside. The local Green Sofa Cinema Series explores this innovative approach to climate change Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 to 8 p.m., with a Zoom discussion of the film "Vertical Farms" and a talk by local Chef/Teacher/Activist Cindy Gershen, a vertical farming expert. Watch "Vertical Farms" free on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/3EEn9Rj>) before Oct. 27; and register now for the Zoom event at <https://bit.ly/3hTSDcb>

**Friends Corner Book Shop** Lafayette Half Price Sale. Saturday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop sells gently used books to support the collection, programs, and services of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. New volunteers are also welcome. Average time commitment is two hours per week. Express your interest to [friendscornerbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:friendscornerbookshop@gmail.com). [www.lllcf.org/friends-book-shop](http://www.lllcf.org/friends-book-shop).

**St. Paul's Concert Series** is excited to present Organist John Renke in a live performance. This performance will be broadcast online from St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. There will be limited seating for in-person attendance. Ticket registration [www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series](http://www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series). St. Paul's Episcopal Church - In Person vaccine proof and masks required, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek.

**The giant fall book sale** sponsored by the Friends of Moraga Library will be held on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moraga Library (1500 St. Mary's Road). Books, CDs and DVDs in every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Beginning at 1 p.m., a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it can hold. Proceeds from the sale are used to fund library materials and programs. Please note that face masks and social distancing will be required.

GARDEN

**Lafayette Garden Club** Oct. 14 meeting will start at 10 a.m. In the Veterans Memorial Bldg. 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. The Guest Speaker John R. Fike will give us a biological insight into gardening issues in his presentation "Friend or Foe." Our gardens teem with organisms, Fike provides a snapshot image of just some of the fascinating populations that exist in the soil around us, along with the roles they play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. After retiring from his career at UCSF Fike became involved in the Master Gardener program and is active in the Ask a Master Gardener program. There is no charge to attend. For details please contact: [LGCMembershipCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:LGCMembershipCommittee@gmail.com)

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## SMC women's soccer open with strong start, crushing loss at WCC

By John T. Miller

After a successful preseason in which the Saint Mary's women's college team posted a 6-1-2 record, the Gaels opened the West Coast Conference with a 2-0 victory over USF Oct. 2 and a crushing 7-0 loss to No. 22-ranked BYU on Oct. 6.

In the league season opener, the Gaels scored two goals in the second half to get the win. Annamaria DiGeronimo scored the first goal with an assist by Emily Jensen. Jensen added the second goal, assisted by Suzuna Shibukawa.

The Gaels returned home to face Pacific on Oct. 9, ending in a tie (1-1) with double overtime.

New head coach Theresa Romagnolo is in her first full-time season with the program, after posting a 4-3-2 record in the abbreviated WCC last year. It was the first winning year for SMC in over a decade.

Romagnolo is no stranger to success. After graduating

from the University of Washington, she played professionally for two years with the San Jose CyberRays, winning a championship her first year as their center midfielder before beginning her coaching career.

She served stints as assistant coach at University of San Diego and Stanford – where she helped turn the Cardinal program around – and then took over the head coaching job at Dartmouth, which she called “another fun turnaround.” Romagnolo took the team from a 4-12 season to 13-4. From there she went to Notre Dame where she became the first female head coach to win the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Her assistant coaches include Samantha Witteman and Sarah Stanczk. Witteman was a standout player for UC Berkeley who also played professional soccer. She is currently still on the USA national beach soccer team. Stanczk played for the University of Michigan before taking the job at SMC.



AnnaMaria DiGeronimo

Photos Tod Fierner

“These coaches bring a high level of soccer experience to the program,” said Romagnolo. “It’s great to have these people who have played at elite levels. Their high level of expectations translates to their being great mentors for the young women.”

Key players for the Gaels this year include Maya Alcantra, a senior who was named to the all-WCC team as a defender, and Taylor Poland, who as a freshman last year earned second team all-WCC honors as a goalkeeper, while also being named to the all-freshmen team.

Leading the Gaels in the preseason in scoring is junior Shibukawa, a transfer from Western Michigan originally from Japan. She had six goals.

Romagnolo mentioned DiGeronimo as a team leader. “She’s a very competitive defender and playmaker in the midfield,” she says. DiGeronimo joins Malia Allison and Vanessa Gaitan as the Gaels three senior captains.

The team returned everyone off last year’s roster except for one graduating senior while adding 10 freshmen and 3 transfers. This has led to what Romagnolo calls their biggest challenge. “With



Kimaya Cole

so much depth on the team, not everyone gets to play. We have players who don’t get a lot of minutes but who bring a lot to the program. I am proud of what these players contribute to the team with their different roles. They’ve been ready to step up and

help us be successful.” The team will graduate 12-14 seniors at the end of the season from their roster of 35 players.

The Gaels next match will be against Portland at home on Saturday, Oct. 15, starting at 1 p.m.



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# CCU Water Polo alumni represent the USA at the Fina Junior Water Polo World Championships in Prague



**Dash McFarland (left) and Brock Zamanian**

Photo provided

Junior National Team water polo players Brock Zamanian (attacker) and Dash McFarland (center), CCU Water Polo

alumni and teammates at UCSB, competed in the Fina Junior Water Polo World Championships in Prague Aug.

28-Sept. 5. The FINA Junior Water Polo World Championships is an international water polo tournament for players age 20 and under that is held every two years in a different country (2019 was in Kuwait) and is nine days long, consisting of one game per day with 8-minute quarters, in a 30-meter pool (versus the 25-meter course that is played in the U.S.). Each country is allowed a roster total of 13 players, 11 field players, and two goalies. Team USA had players from UCSB (Brock and Dash), UCSD, USC, Cal, Long Beach State, and Pepperdine.

The battles in the pool resulted in wins against Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Germany, and losses to Spain, Montenegro, and Serbia. Team USA's final game on Day 9 was a nail-biter against Greece, winning by one goal at 12-11 to take 7th overall.

Being a former Orinda Aquatics swimmer, Zamanian loved the bigger pool and was impressed with the swim-

ming speed of the competition, making it even more challenging to gain the advantage on counter-attacks. "It was the hardest water polo that I have ever played, but I learned a lot and had fun," said Zamanian, who earned the Player of the Match award against the Czech Republic and was Team USA's second-highest goal scorer in the tournament with 11 goals.

As a center, McFarland drew 16 kick-outs (2nd overall for Team USA) while his defenders attempted to steal the ball from him. Over the course of the tournament, it was McFarland's strength and physicality that he could rely on as he faced steep competition. McFarland said, "The defenders were so tough, but it really prepared me for the college season upcoming."

Upon returning home, the focus is now on college water polo and NCAA qualifications.

-Submitted by Orinda resident

# Lady Mats tennis racks up wins



Photo provided

Top row, from left: Sophia Kan, Nicole Hui, Laura Boifort, Emma Molyaner, Ellie Foster, Elena Sullivan, Lily Lincoln, Lauren Anthony, Zoe Zimmerman, Olivia Reiss, Riki Sorenson, Denisa Dvorakova; front row: Grace Liu, Nicole Guo, Alison Rhee, Reily George, Olivia Rhee, Audrey Kosla

**By John T. Miller**

After finishing up the pre-season with a 6-1 record – their only loss coming to San Ramon – and opening the Diablo Foothill League (5-1), the Miramonte tennis team is poised to make a run at the DAL championship this year.

Riki Sorenson took over the head coaching job in last

year's COVID-shortened season after six years as an assistant coach. She has previously served on the Orinda School district board and been a full-time Mom, before taking a math and science position at Miramonte.

With 21 girls on the roster, Sorenson relies on local volunteers Julie Silverie, Aaron George, and Paul Liu to

help with the program. "They've been extraordinary and desperately needed," says Coach Sorenson. "It takes a huge commitment to be able to help the girls."

Miramonte graduated a very talented group last year, but the program is still strong. Their No. 2 singles player, sophomore Soliel Skjorshammer, usually does not practice

with the team, but instead is tutored off-campus at a private club. Recently, another top sophomore, Juliette Krumholz, left the team to focus on her individual tennis.

Sorenson gives credit to her three senior captains, Riley George, Laura Boifort, and Olivia Rhee for their leadership, saying, "They've been anchors on the team all year

for us and are there every day."

She also gives credit to two other main competitors, Elena Sullivan, a junior, and Ellie Foster, senior, who are in the lineup every match.

In addition, according to Sorenson, the team added a ray of sunshine when Czech exchange student, Denisa Dvorakova, asked if she could work out with the team. They got permission from the governing board to put her on the roster and she is now their No. 3 singles player. "She's a very special person and the girls loved her from the start," says Sorenson.

The team faced many challenges, including a lack of a court to practice on – they had to carpool to various locales, including renting the SMC court – and a COVID scare when Sorenson's parents both came down with the virus. The biggest challenge, however, comes off the court, says Sorenson. "All these girls are capable in many areas of their lives. They are in leadership, in high-end academic classes, and other extracurricular activities. Tennis is a great release from the stress."

Next up for the Matadors was the Battle of the Bay in Atherton, where they faced two of the top teams in the state, Menlo School and St. Francis.

Lamorinda Weekly will feature Alcalanes (5-8 overall and 4-2 in league) and Campolindo (12-2 overall and 6-1 in league) in its Oct. 27 issue.)



Elena Sullivan, Olivia Rhee (at net)



Audrey Kosla

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

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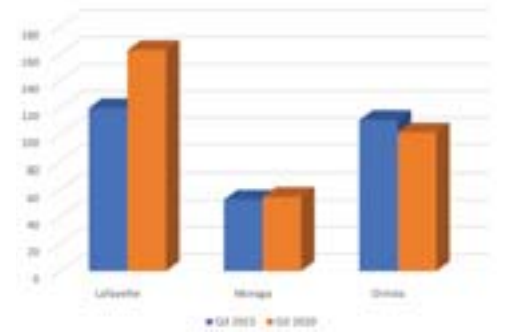
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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 13, 2021



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

read on Page D4

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Grass roots



Photo Cynthia Brian

Plant red or white clover for a greener, nitrogen-rich lawn.

By Cynthia Brian

*“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald*

The earth trembled. The fires raged. The stock market crashed. October has notoriously become a month when disasters great and small occur. No matter what transpires, life goes on and nature always prevails.

After a summer of extreme heat, cooler weather is a welcome gift. The benefit for gardeners is that the soil is warm making it perfect for rooting, especially when we receive a bit of precipitation.

The next weeks are the optimum time to grow grass. Many lawns died during our heatwave and water shortages. Green areas were replaced with succulents, rocks, and, most sadly, pavement. If you want to seed, re-seed, or install turf, fall is the time to do it. Since I prefer a ver-

dant lawn all year, this season I plan on adding more clover to my grass.

Throughout the hot weather, I sparingly watered, providing just enough H<sub>2</sub>O to keep the lawn alive. What I observed during this drought was that the clover interspersed in my grass was always green, even when I didn't water. Clover is a nitrogen fixer. Like all legumes, it takes nitrogen from the air and through a chemical reaction, deposits it in the ground as an absorbable fertilizer. It is constantly providing fertilizer to itself and the surrounding grass, making the entire lawn healthier. Because my clover is spread throughout my lawn, the entire lawn appears to be greener.

Besides providing nutrients to the soil, clover is also resistant to pet urine. If you are a pet owner, you probably have brown spots on your lawn from the urine of your dog. If you add clover, you'll have a more uniform green.

A positive and a negative of planting clover is that the flowers attract honeybees. As a gardener, I welcome honeybees to my landscape, but honeybees on a lawn can result in unwanted stings if you happen to cartwheel on a bee! Be aware that bees are hovering to avoid a confrontation.

If you've been to the Oakland or Mumbai airports, you may have witnessed the beautiful walls of plants. Vertical gardening is a mixture of plants that grow up and out as a living wall. As our lawns and lot sizes decrease, many people are discovering that embracing vertical gardens is a way to enjoy nature in a smaller space. Try it out this season.

In preparation for Halloween, there are many traditional endeavors to experience.

- It is time to harvest the pumpkins, gourds, and winter squash. If you don't grow your own, you'll find funky as well as colorful pumpkins at the local Farmers' Market and grocery stores.

- Apples and Asian pears are still hanging from the trees awaiting their reaper. Did you enjoy candied or caramel apples as a child during October? There are easy and fun recipes online to enjoy an old-fashioned treat.

- Cut your corn stalks to use in decorations and buy a hay bale to add to the décor. You can later use the hay to cover your newly planted vegetable patch. The hay mulch will keep most weeds from emerging as the ghosts, ghouls, and goblins begin their rampage.

- Build a scarecrow to hang in your front yard for the season, then use it in your vegetable garden when the winter vegetable seeds sprout.

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**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	36	\$580,000	\$4,200,000
MORAGA	21	\$524,000	\$2,600,000
ORINDA	36	\$1,055,000	\$5,700,000

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

**LAFAYETTE**

- 640 Augustine Lane, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,599,000, 08-24-16
- 19 Benthill Court, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2906 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 08-30-21
- 860 Broadmoor Court, \$3,205,000, 5 Bdrms, 3435 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,409,000, 06-04-18
- 3215 Brookwood Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2151 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$901,000, 06-07-04
- 3 Butler Drive, \$2,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 3121 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,544,000, 11-02-12
- 3071 Camino Diablo, \$580,000, 2 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 08-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$416,500, 05-04-04
- 4120 Canyon Road, \$2,499,000, 5 Bdrms, 3584 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-20-21
- 4159 Canyon Road, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2662 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-20-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 06-18-20
- 3227 Elvia Street, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2272 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-09-21,  
Previous Sale: \$363,636, 03-23-99
- 3383 Freeman Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-26-21,  
Previous Sale: \$729,500, 06-18-09
- 3740 Happy Valley Road, \$3,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2677 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-16-21
- 1 Harper Court, \$1,138,000, 2 Bdrms, 1091 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-31-21,  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 12-08-08
- 155 Haslemere Court, \$980,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-26-21
- 1003 Hawthorne Drive, \$840,000, 4 Bdrms, 1680 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-11-21,  
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 12-28-09
- 3719 Highland Court, \$1,949,000, 4 Bdrms, 2835 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-10-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,580,000, 04-16-15
- 1104 Hillcrest Drive, \$2,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2891 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-27-21,  
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 04-21-21
- 1229 Juanita Drive, \$1,160,000, 2 Bdrms, 928 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-23-21,  
Previous Sale: \$77,500, 05-01-79
- 3252 La Canada, \$4,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 4427 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 08-23-21,  
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-17-02
- 307 Lowell Lane, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$639,500, 11-08-00
- 3184 Lucas Drive, \$3,477,000, 4 Bdrms, 3368 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 08-19-21,  
Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 06-05-19
- 573 Merriewood Drive, \$1,730,000, 4 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-12-21
- 593 Michael Lane, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-12-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 06-09-15
- 3455 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1172 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-26-21,  
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 06-22-04
- 847 Mountain View Drive, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3736 SqFt,  
1949 YrBlt, 08-27-21, Previous Sale: \$380,000, 08-01-89
- 3235 Mt Diablo Court #202, \$1,800,000, 2 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt,  
2019 YrBlt, 08-12-21
- 3235 Mt Diablo Court #206, \$628,000, 2 Bdrms, 1084 SqFt,  
2019 YrBlt, 08-27-21
- 1594 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2087 SqFt,  
1917 YrBlt, 08-17-21, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 07-06-15
- 3591 Powell Drive, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2769 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-27-21,  
Previous Sale: \$1,470,000, 04-28-11

... continued on Page D6

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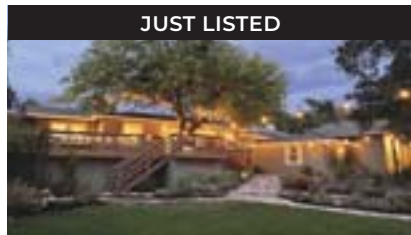


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DRE# 01290985

KELLY WOOD

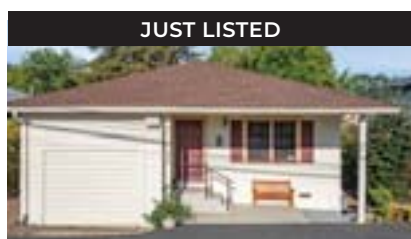


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DRE# 01931711



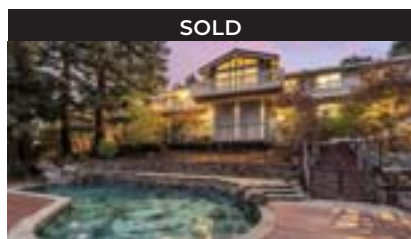
JUST LISTED

2049 STRAND ROAD, WALNUT CREEK  
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000  
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



JUST LISTED

1030 BROWN AVENUE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,049,000  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



SOLD

25 BILLINGTON COURT, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$2,550,000  
TINA FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851



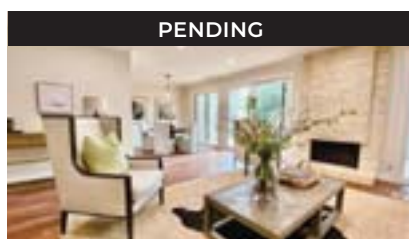
SOLD OFF MARKET

48 LA SALLE DRIVE, MORAGA  
SOLD FOR \$1,100,000  
K. BRICKMAN/S. RUHMAN | 925.351.5049



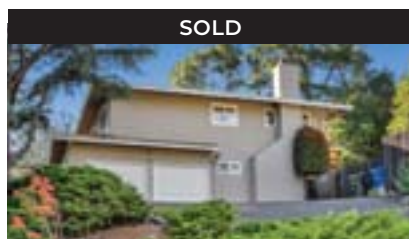
LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS

3260 GLORIA TERRACE, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,550,000  
CAROLYN WAY | 925.890.4115



PENDING

1937 ASPENRIDGE CT., WALNUT CREEK  
OFFERED AT \$1,150,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.708.5630



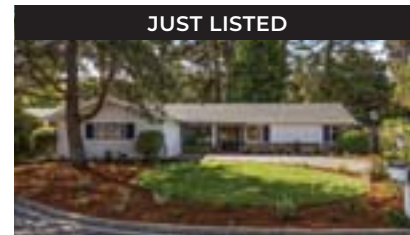
SOLD

3456 SHANGRI LA ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$1,900,000  
CHRISTINA LINEZO | 415.425.3085



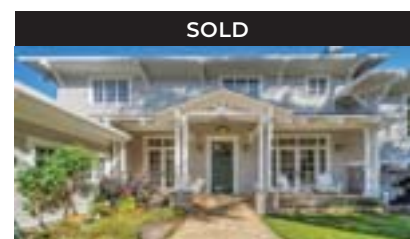
SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

326 GOLDEN GRASS DRIVE, ALAMO  
SOLD FOR \$3,650,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



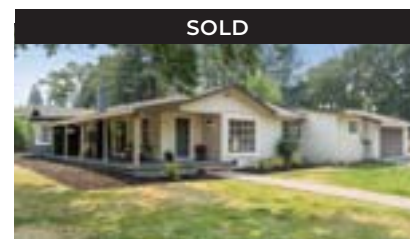
JUST LISTED

14 ASPINWALL COURT, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$1,400,000  
RUTH EDDY | 925.788.5449



SOLD

1 MIDDLE ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$3,217,500  
TINA FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851



SOLD

141 SHADY LANE, WALNUT CREEK  
SOLD FOR \$1,470,000  
L. LEGLER / C. HATA 510.912.5882



SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

62 MIRAMONTE DRIVE, MORAGA  
SOLD FOR \$750,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047

BRYAN HURLBUT



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DRE# 01347508

CHERYL HATA



510.912.5882  
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The third quarter of 2021 continued to show significant activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. This activity continues to be based upon low interest rates and limited supply coupled with an exodus of people moving from San Francisco and the Peninsula to the East Bay.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 120 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was a decrease from the 136 that closed in the third quarter of 2020. Sales prices ranged from \$840,000 to \$11.5 million. The average number of days on market was 12 versus 19 for the same period in 2020. The average sales price was \$2,067,747. In this same quarter in 2020 it was \$1,972,380. In 2019 it was \$1,716,517. In 2018 it was \$1,696,918; in 2017 it was \$1,713,249.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 53, similar to the 55 in 3Q2020. Prices ranged from \$1.135 million to \$4.3 million. The average sales price was \$1,993,792, far exceeding the \$1,588,132 in the year ago three-month period. In 2019 it was \$1,443,253. In 2018 it was \$1,509,248. In 2017 it was \$1,386,634. The average marketing time was 9 days, down from 17 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 111, an increase from the 102 during the same period a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$925,000 to \$6.125 million with an average price of \$2,147,497, continuing to rise from the \$1,900,069 in the same quarter one year ago. It was \$1,651,117 in 3Q2019. In 2018 it was \$1,777,666 in the third quarter. In 2017 it was \$1,601,869 and in 2016 it was \$1,558,244. It took an average of 12 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter. One year ago, it took 24 days.

There was one closing in Canyon, listed at \$1,095,000 and closing at \$1,325,000.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$846.43, versus \$719.40 per square foot a year ago. In the 2019 summer quarter it was \$607.09. Moraga homes sold for \$768.54, up from the summer period a year ago when it was \$637.23. In Orinda it was \$823.39 – an increase from the \$684.33 a year ago.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was right at 107.2% of the final asking price. In Moraga, it was 107.1% of asking and in Orinda it was just over 109.6%. In many cases, there were multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

On the Oakland/Berkeley side of the hills, agents have been asking far below the market value of homes for several years in order to generate multiple offers and sales prices well above asking. This phenomenon (sometimes known as “Teaser Pricing”) has now spilled

over and that is why we see those nearly 10% above asking prices as the ultimate sales prices.

In Lafayette, 103 of the 120 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 44 of the 53 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 94 of 111. In the third quarter, one house in Orinda actually sold for \$1.1 million above the asking price!

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had six resale closings. They were priced from \$628,000 to \$1.8 million. Moraga had 38, up from 25 a year ago and from 17 in the same period two years ago. Sales prices ranged from \$390,000 to \$1.375 million. Moraga Country Club had seven attached home sales: \$1 million to \$1.48 million. Orinda had five condos sell on Brookwood at prices of \$420,000 to \$540,000.

As of Oct. 6 there were 91 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 96 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single family detached homes range from \$899,000 to \$4.395 million. It should be pointed out that there are no “Potential Short Sales” or foreclosures that are currently pending.

It is interesting to note that of the 91 pending sales in the area, 16 received acceptable offers in the first five days of October. That is an average of about three per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level, now that children are back on campuses.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low when looking at the available homes in Lafayette where there are 28 on the market as of Oct. 6 and there were 60 at this time one year ago.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 19 properties down from 27 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has decreased to 20 currently available from 43 one year ago.

Current asking prices range from \$395,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$12.8 million for a Lafayette property.

At the high end, 30 homes closed above \$3 million in the three communities combined during the quarter; there are 11 currently available above this amount.

Interest rates are at historical lows and during the pandemic a lot of people have relocated further from their jobs as they have not had to and may not have to commute as often.

There has been a large increase in Oakland, San Francisco and Peninsula agents representing buyers in their purchase of Lamorinda homes. Going forward through the end of the year, activity will likely remain strong and a low supply and high demand should continue to push the market higher.

**VIEWS FOR DAYS.  
SPECIAL IN  
SO MANY WAYS.**



**26 Tappan Lane**

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**4,150**SQFT

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## JUST SOLD



Listed for \$1,665,000. Sold for \$1,850,000. Represented sellers.

2 Corte Azul, Moraga | 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story Campolindo home with a pool. Close to the Cabana Club and high school.



Sold for \$2,135,000. Represented buyers.

165 Canon Drive, Orinda | Mid-Century Modern with walls of glass. 4 bedroom, 3 bath with tons of natural light.

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michelle@holcenberg.com  
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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### LAFAYETTE ... continued

- 3114 Ramada Court, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-17-21, Previous Sale: \$579,000, 07-10-00
- 1261 Rose Lane, \$3,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4945 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 08-26-21, Previous Sale: \$3,600,000, 08-19-20
- 1274 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 08-10-21, Previous Sale: \$1,442,000, 12-23-15
- 1451 Sunset Loop, \$1,764,000, 4 Bdrms, 2105 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-11-21, Previous Sale: \$880,000, 06-03-13
- 1075 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-16-21, Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 08-06-15
- 1055 Via Roble, \$1,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 1938 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-19-21, Previous Sale: \$525,000, 10-31-00
- 1074 Viela Court, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 3162 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-30-21, Previous Sale: \$615,000, 05-02-02
- 3654 Walnut Street, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-20-21, Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 06-17-16

### MORAGA

- 2079 Ascot Drive #240, \$577,000, 2 Bdrms, 1193 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-10-21, Previous Sale: \$225,000, 03-18-11
- 724 Augusta Drive, \$1,065,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-19-21
- 4 Baltusrol Street, \$1,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 08-20-21, Previous Sale: \$894,000, 04-12-18
- 285 Birchwood Drive, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2293 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-24-21
- 1411 Camino Peral, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-23-21, Previous Sale: \$723,000, 06-23-17
- 308 Corte Gabriel, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-09-21, Previous Sale: \$840,000, 05-05-16
- 137 Derby Lane, \$1,470,000, 3 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-24-21, Previous Sale: \$1,018,000, 09-04-13
- 2121 Donald Drive #4, \$524,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-11-21
- 121 Eileen Court, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 2531 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 08-31-21, Previous Sale: \$761,000, 10-22-01
- 6 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2676 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-24-21, Previous Sale: \$299,000, 04-01-86
- 8 Harold Drive, \$1,470,000, 4 Bdrms, 1653 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-30-21, Previous Sale: \$790,000, 11-23-04
- 12 Josefa Place, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 08-18-21, Previous Sale: \$890,000, 10-18-19
- 13 Josefa Place, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 08-27-21, Previous Sale: \$595,455, 03-13-12
- 34 Mayfield Place, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 1905 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-30-21, Previous Sale: \$390,000, 08-01-90
- 114 Merion Terrace, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-30-21, Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 02-12-15
- 263 Paseo Bernal, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-26-21, Previous Sale: \$865,000, 04-19-17
- 597 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,135,000, 3 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-09-21
- 10 Via Barcelona, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2109 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 08-09-21, Previous Sale: \$315,000, 07-01-92
- 65 Vista Encinos, \$2,370,000, 5 Bdrms, 3564 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 08-09-21
- 67 Vista Encinos, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3379 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 08-13-21
- 3 Whiting Court, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2754 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 08-31-21, Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 07-18-12

... continued on Page D12



# Charming & Classic IN ORINDA COUNTRY CLUB



## 22 Camino Sobrante, Orinda

This traditional, charming & classic home is one of the first built in Orinda in 1938 shortly after the completion of the Orinda Country Club (OCC). Enter into this old-world home with an oversized formal Living room with fireplace & Dining Room both with hardwood floors adjacent to the updated eat-in kitchen with new countertops and appliances. Many options with this flexible space & floorplan! Combine this country club charmer, with its incredible location, k-12 top rated schools and you get fabulous 22 Camino Sobrante to call home!

<b>4</b> <i>Bed</i>	<b>4.5</b> <i>Bath</i>	<b>.33</b> <i>Acre</i>
<b>±3,351</b> <i>Sq. ft</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Office</i>	<b>100%</b> <i>Location!</i>

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## 2021 Lamorinda Sales



**60 Dolores Way, Orinda**  
Pending - offered at \$1,399,000



**8 Kings Crown Ct., Moraga**  
Sold off-market for \$2,250,000



**3337 Walnut Ln., Lafayette**  
Sold off-market for \$1,785,000



**56 Camino del Diablo, Orinda**  
Sold for \$1,850,000



**1003 Woodbury, Lafayette**  
Sold for \$942,500



**28 Merrill Cir., Moraga**  
Sold for \$2,489,000



**1204 Larch Ave., Moraga**  
Sold for \$1,600,000



**58 Tomcat Way, Orinda**  
Sold off-market for \$3,125,000



**48 Via Floreado, Orinda**  
Sold for \$1,800,000



**5 Josefa Place, Moraga**  
Sold off-market for \$1,225,000



**407 Ponderosa Ct., Lafayette**  
Sold for \$2,900,000



**29 Sullivan Dr., Moraga**  
Sold for \$1,940,000



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REAL ESTATE

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*"When my wife was preparing to sell her parents' home, we enlisted the services of Terri Walker. Terri, being a former real estate lawyer, possessed **a level of expertise above and beyond most other realtors.** She guided us through the pitfalls of selling an older, poorly maintained house; she kept us updated on every step in a timely fashion and **sold the house surprisingly quickly and well above the asking price.** But besides her professionalism, what struck us most was that **Terri understands that she is not just selling a house, she is selling a home.** Selling a home is not merely transactional; there is a whole personal history that is every bit a part of that home as the structure itself. Terri's understanding and reassurances alleviated my mother in law's fears and reservations, smoothing what could have been a much more difficult transition. Thank you Terri."*

**Kenny Murakami**  
Owner Moraga Garden Center



**Terri Bates Walker**  
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## Orinda



**5 Valencia Rd \$1,915,000**

Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath in sought-after Del Rey. Close to K-12 schools. Gorgeous yard, Updated kitchen  
 Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405  
 www.holcenberg.com Lic #01373412

## Orinda



**125 Canon Dr \$1,650,000**

3 BD / 2 BA  
 Two housing structures. Huge, beautiful lot. Great location.  
 Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008  
 Lic#00469962

## Orinda



**44 Camino Encinas \$1,299,000**

3 Bd/ 2 BA, Charming sun-filled Orinda rancher. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings. Great walk score & commute location  
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382

## Orinda



**130 La Espiral \$1,099,000**

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

Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008  
 Lic#00469962

## 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.

Laura Abrams 510-697-3225  
 3Wellesley.com Lic#01272382

## Lafayette



**4077 Coralee Lane \$1,495,000**

Sea Ranch in Lafayette! 3 Bed, 2 .5 bath of stunning architecture in Happy Valley Elementary

Kelly Crawford 925-998-5599  
 Lic #01327015

## Lafayette



**3231 Camino Colorados \$1,430,000**

Sweet 3BR/2BA home in Burton Valley. Represented buyer

Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390  
 www.Soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736

## Alamo



**291 Barrington Ln \$3,595,000**

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

Kelly Crawford 925-998-5599  
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## Clayton



**1284 Shell Cir \$825,000**

Sold for 10% over asking. Represented seller

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 www.Soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736

## Pleasant Hill



**16 Saint Louis Lane \$1,255,000**

3/2.5, Golf Course Views, Cul-de-sac, Updates Galore. Represented buyer

Tom Stack 925-878-9964  
 TomStack.com Lic#01501769

## Walnut Creek



**2001 Skycrest Dr #2 \$930,000**

Updated w/amazing Mt. Diablo views. Represented buyer

Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390  
 www.Soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736

## Walnut Creek



**1698 Parkside Dr \$720,000**

2/2.5, End Unit, Updated, Commuter's Dream location, WC amenities

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**1698 Parkside Dr, Walnut Creek**  
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**SOLD**

Represented Buyers



**16 Saint Louis Lane, Pleasant Hill**  
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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D6

### ORINDA

- 37 Ardilla Road, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 3074 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 08-30-21  
 73 Barbara Road, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 08-12-21  
 71 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-13-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 05-08-18  
 44 Camino Encinas, \$1,299,000, 3 Bdrms, 1650 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-17-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$805,000, 09-28-05  
 362 Camino Sobrante, \$5,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 4778 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 08-30-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$215,000, 05-01-87  
 89 Coral Drive, \$1,730,000, 3 Bdrms, 2224 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-16-21  
 54 Davis Road, \$1,055,000, 2 Bdrms, 1175 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-20-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$440,000, 10-15-01  
 87 El Toyonal, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2771 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 08-25-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 07-13-15  
 9 Estabueno Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-20-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$990,000, 10-14-04  
 104 Estates Drive, \$1,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 1807 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-27-21  
 1 Fleetwood Court, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 1880 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-19-21  
 5 Fleetwood Court, \$2,209,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-10-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 07-11-17  
 21 Francisco Court, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-27-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,645,000, 03-08-16  
 262 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3428 SqFt,  
 1952 YrBlt, 08-19-21, Previous Sale: \$370,000, 08-01-89  
 23 Greenwood Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2244 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-11-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$390,000, 04-06-98  
 621 Greystone Terrace, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 08-19-21  
 58 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$1,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 2666 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 08-09-21  
 36 Heather Lane, \$2,238,000, 4 Bdrms, 2923 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 08-27-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 12-15-19  
 185 Holly Lane, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 2046 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 08-16-21  
 47 Linda Vista, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-19-21  
 6 Loma Linda Court, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1331 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-17-21  
 9 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,267,000, 4 Bdrms, 2327 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 08-25-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 12-21-20  
 4 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-31-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$929,000, 06-17-13  
 25 Los Cerros, \$2,400,000, 2 Bdrms, 3011 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 08-13-21  
 113 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2634 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-23-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,583,000, 01-31-18  
 15 Ridge Lane, \$1,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 2713 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-25-21  
 5 South Point Road, \$1,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 2338 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-16-21  
 7 Southwaite Court, \$1,385,000, 2 Bdrms, 1664 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-27-21  
 140 Spring Road, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 1979 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-24-21  
 4 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 4551 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-26-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$350,000, 11-11-13  
 527 Tahos Road, \$2,208,000, 3 Bdrms, 2864 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-31-21  
 600 Tahos Road, \$3,980,000, 4 Bdrms, 3299 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-13-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 03-29-10  
 42 Tarry Lane, \$2,340,000, 5 Bdrms, 3326 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-17-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$860,000, 02-01-12  
 24 Tarabrook Drive, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 1680 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-25-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$605,000, 02-21-02  
 5 Wanfleete Court, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-25-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$881,000, 07-11-05  
 9 Washington Lane, \$1,906,000, 3 Bdrms, 1896 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-10-21,  
 Previous Sale: \$303,000, 05-01-86



### Kyle Davis

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## Cynthia Brian's October Gardening Guide

The next two months are busy ones in the garden as we prepare our beds for a winter's sleep. Chrysanthemums, belladonna lilies, and pelargoniums are in full bloom, a certain beacon of the blazing fall colors to follow.

**FERTILIZE** lawns during the rain for faster absorption. Don't forget to re-seed during these wet days as well.

**PULL** any weeds you find in your garden before they develop seed heads.

**CUT** cattails for an autumn arrangement. Every part of the cattail is edible, too.

**COLLECT** abandoned bird nests to add to holiday décor.

**REPAIR** birdhouses so that overwintering birds such as bluebirds, chickadees, and nuthatches will have a warm, safe, cozy place to rest during the upcoming cold nights.

**INCREASE** bird feeders in your yard as birds consume more food in fall and winter.

**TUNE** up your garden by pruning back overgrown shrubs.

**DIG** and divide iris rhizomes now. Make sure to keep a few inches of the leaves on the stems and bury the roots 2 inches deep, 18 to 20 inches apart.

**FORCE** your final produce to ripen by halting watering.

**PRUNE** berry bushes, including summer raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries by removing dead canes. Thin any new forming canes.

**AMEND** your hard clay soil with large amounts of compost.

**MULCH** with wood chips to prevent erosion and maintain temperate soil temperatures.

**FREEZE** or can your vine tomatoes before the rains rot them.

**PROPAGATE** perennials through root cuttings.

**SAVE** seeds from your favorite annuals, herbs, and vegetables by gathering, drying, labeling, and storing.

**HARVEST** the remainder of ripe produce before the end of the month-apples, Asian pears, peppers, Swiss chard.

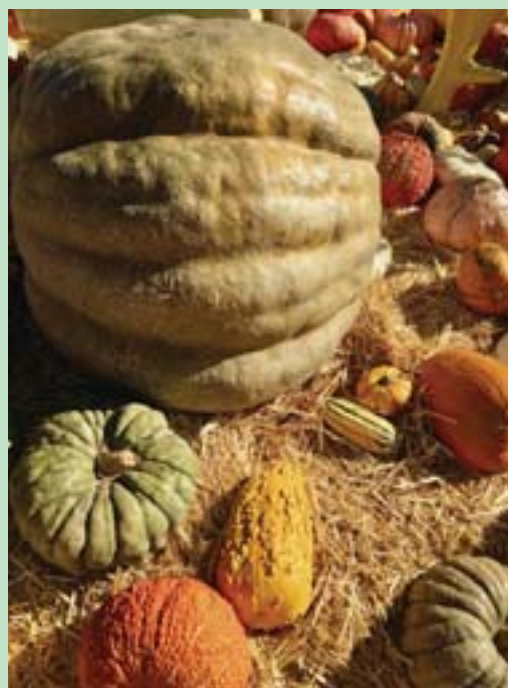
**ROAST** seeds from squash and pumpkins by first cleaning, drying, soaking in salted water, then, baking at 375 degrees until golden brown. What a healthy snack!

Fingers crossed that this October will be disaster-free. Whatever transpires, in the freshness of fall, we'll start anew.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Belladonna lilies bring a lightness to the landscape.



A variety of fall pumpkins and gourds.



Magenta pelargonium blooms.





**Cynthia Brian with her autumn scarecrow.**

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

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

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**14 Bobolink Road**  
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## ORINDA



**22 Camino Sobrante**  
Charming 4 bed/ 4.5 bath Orinda Country Club home moments from OCC, top rated schools, & downtown!

**\$2,195,000**

## ORINDA



**2 Haciendas Road**  
Rare 3 bed/ 2.5 bath on 1.19 acres in Oak Arbor neighborhood w/ breathtaking views of the Orinda Hills!

**\$1,899,000**

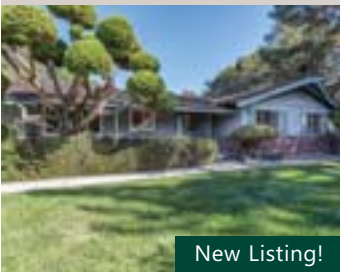
## ORINDA



**75 Ardilla**  
Expanded retreat 2 bed/ 2 bath + den/ office/ 3rd bed on a private 1.04 acre lot. Good commute & top rated schools.

**\$1,575,000**

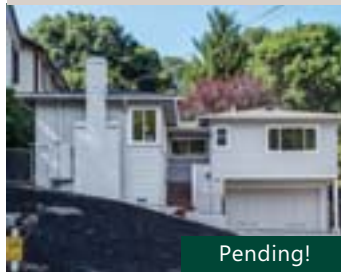
## ORINDA



**2 Keith Drive**  
Lovely single level Ranch style 4 bed/ 3 bath home on a picturesque & usable 1.09 acre lot near Orinda Oaks Park.

**\$1,495,000**

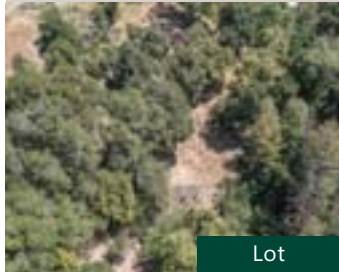
## ORINDA



**24 Crescent Drive**  
Adorable updated 3 bed/ 2.5 bath home just minutes from school, BART, commute routes, shopping, hiking & more.

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## ORINDA



**23 Kittiwake Road**  
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**9 Mountain View Lane**  
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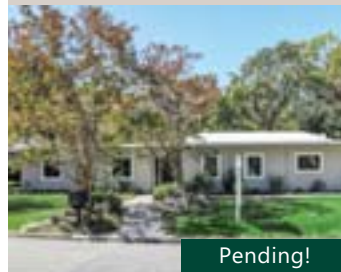
## LAFAYETTE



**4107 Coralee Lane**  
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## LAFAYETTE



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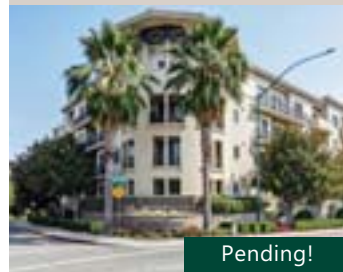
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