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Sunrise Stroll participants on Nov. 19 stretch before walking around Lafayette Reservoir.

Photos Sharon K. Sobotta

Sunrise Stroll at Res focuses on diversity, equity & inclusion

By Sharon K. Sobotta

By the time the sun rose on the morning of Nov. 19, an intergenerational crowd of about four dozen people were stretching in preparation for a stroll around Lafayette Reservoir. The sunrise stroll replaced the annual community breakfast and incorporated the United Against Hate theme acknowledged in the Lamorinda area for the week leading up to it.

As the community embarked on the reimagined and broadened event, they celebrated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging progress in the com-

munity while also acknowledging the work that still needs to be done.

Jay Lifson, the executive director of the Lafayette Chamber said the vision of the event was two-fold: "We (traditionally) have an annual community breakfast ahead of the holiday chaos to get the community talking and connecting. We haven't been able to do it for the past two years (due to COVID) so I had the crazy idea of walking the reservoir," he said.

For Lifson, it was a natural fit to combine the gathering with United Against Hate efforts. "Unless you've been living under a rock for the last 400

years, you understand why we have to keep this (the united against hate) message going."

Pastor Dan Senter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church kicked off the walk with a reflection as he gently invited the crowd to continue leaning toward inclusive change.

"(As I was growing up) I loved coming together with my family which was very diverse. On the table was always a pilgrim and a Native American living in solidarity together. That's changed. We know our history much better now," Senter said.

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Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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LIVE NATIVITY

All are invited to see the Christmas Story come to life at the Live Nativity at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC)
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga
December 4th
5:30-8pm

What's in your water?

By Vera Kochan

What's in your water? Hopefully nothing, but just to put the public's mind at ease, East Bay Municipal Utility District representatives held an Oct. 20 Zoom presentation to enlighten customers within their jurisdiction.

EBMUD Public Affairs Representative Sharla Sullivan, Manager of Public Quality Susan Teefy, Water Distribution Supervisor Javier Ramos, and California Water Board Division of Drinking Water North Coast Sectional Chief Stefan Cajina were all on hand during the informative session to explain and answer any questions.

There are six water treatment plants under EBMUD's umbrella with the largest located in Orinda. The facility was completed in 1936, and is considered the heart of the system. Far-sighted engineers created the plant in a way that uses gravity to keep the water flowing, thereby cutting down on the need for electricity. The original filter beds, which help to screen out finer particles in the water have been upgraded, but for the most part continue to be operational in the first step to water safety. The water goes through several main processes on its way to your faucet: coagulation, filtration and disinfection.

Before the water even shows up in Orinda it takes a long journey from the Sierra Mountains and the Mokelumne River via aqueducts. "From the control center, EBMUD mixes coagulants into the raw water to force very small particles to clump together," stated Teefy. "We also add a type of chlorine to kill pathogens." During the filtration process the water moves through two concrete channels into filter beds made of anthracite and sand to trap and remove the coagulated particles. Next ammonia and fluoride (a state requirement) is added to further disinfect and promote dental health along with sodium hydroxide to prevent corrosion in the distribution pipes that carry the water.

According to Teefy, EBMUD conducts 20,000 tests annually in every step of the treatment process to ensure that the drinking water is of the highest quality before it arrives to 800,000 customers. These tests check for a variety of contaminants that fall under three categories: physical, chemical, and biological. Physical contaminants may include sticks, dirt, sand and dissolved solids. Chemical contaminants may contain run-off from manufacturing, agriculture and other human-made contaminants. Some are already present in nature such as arsenic. Biological contaminants include bacteria, viruses and other microbes.



Photo provided

An EBMUD technician performs a quality check

There are regulators on both the state and federal level that monitor the public's drinking water. The California State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency put EBMUD through a series of checks and balances, stated Cajina. Permitting, inspections/enforcement, review of water system operations, review of contaminants monitoring, certification of environmental laboratories that analyze drinking water samples, and responding to drinking water emergencies such as wildfires, earthquakes and droughts are all part of water safety measures.

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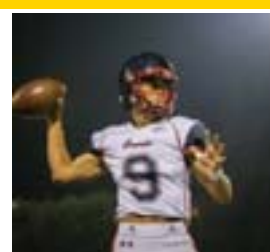
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Fall leaves provide gardens and gardeners sustenance - Page D1





See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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 Phone: (925) 284-1968
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 www.lafayettechamber.org



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EVENT DETAILS

When: Sunday, December 5th from 4 - 6p.m.
 Where: Lafayette Plaza Park (rain or shine)
 *Rumor has it, Santa plans to arrive by 4:30 p.m.

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COMPASS

Discussion of ARPA funds distribution continues at council

By Lou Fancher

The city council on Nov. 8 received a staff report and updates on Lafayette’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and related community survey results. HdL Companies’ Managing Director Barry Foster began his reports with a brief overview of the processes undertaken by HdL, the council subcommittee, council members Carl Anduri and Gina Dawson, city managers and others.

A Business Survey taken earlier and presented to the council on Sept. 13 showed input from local businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19 and feedback about the city services they suggested might best mitigate their losses. The community survey was then developed and refined by the subcommittee with input from the council, resulting in six easy-to-answer questions. Foster said the response was “significant,” with just over 1,000 groups and individuals participating in the survey.

Drawing out responses he called “compelling,” Foster highlighted the 63% who said they would support and par-

ticipate in a community e-gift card program that promotes Lafayette businesses and encourages shopping, dining and purchasing services in the local downtown area. The survey showed that 79% of residents have eaten at temporary outdoor dining spaces during the pandemic. Of that percentage, a full 82% support the continuation of outdoor dining located in public spaces and parking lots; with 62% suggesting aesthetic and permanent enhancements would be worthwhile improvements to sustain the continuation of outdoor dining.

Overall, Foster said that even though some of respondents’ 11 suggested uses of ARPA funds did not fit the program’s tight criteria for eligibility, they demonstrated the important priorities of people living in Lafayette: traffic and pedestrian safety, police and fire services, affordable housing, parks and ADA-compliant playgrounds, vibrant and stable performing venues, and more.

Foster said recapturing lost revenues with ARPA funds is complicated, with a specific methodology for calculating the loss. The 2020

revenue loss actually gathered by Tracy Robinson of \$880,555, he said, can be submitted to ARPA and after an audit all cities must receive, can be moved into the General Fund. The money can be applied to water, sewer and broadband improvements, but not to roads, safety mitigation improvements near schools and other spaces, and other general city services.

Robinson said overall General Fund losses that include the hardest hit categories of sales tax, transient occupancy taxes and parking revenue show a total of \$2.9 million. Yet to be determined are totals for 2021 and as the second tranche of ARPA roles out, for the years 2022 and 2023.

Foster emphasized repeatedly that ARPA funds can be used for fiscal recovery beyond General Fund revenue loss (such as the water, sewer and broadband infrastructure), but must fit specific criteria relating to the pandemic. Households, small businesses, nonprofits negatively impacted by the public health emergency and premium pay for essential workers responding and providing services during the pandemic

are examples of other needs that can be supported by the ARPA funds.

Mayor Susan Candell asked Foster to provide examples for each of the four priorities identified in the report. He said making sure the city has the resources to continue high quality services will be addressed by the \$880,555 request. Asked to define what constitutes “small businesses” and differentiates it from large businesses in Lafayette – entities that, along with households, the second priority seeks to support – he said all businesses in Lafayette are small and will be included in considerations.

Applications of the third priority, to solve immediate, specific problems, he said, include upgrading the HVAC systems in city buildings and community centers, and improving broadband to better handle the city’s Zoom meetings. Other examples included school lunches and laptops for children who need them. To hasten the economic recovery of the city and local businesses, Foster said assisting the Chamber of Commerce with funding and marketing support would stimulate business recovery and

boost community involvement.

Public comment from Grace Dixon urged the council to proceed slowly as the guidelines for use of ARPA funds are fluid, especially for the second tranche, but also due to bills pending in state and federal government. Requesting investment in public parks and playgrounds that promote community gathering and public health, she said, would best meet Lafayette residents’ interests.

Council Member Dawson emphasized the subcommittee is not rushing and is still “finessing” the details of their report. The subcommittee, Foster and city staff will continue to partner with businesses, nonprofits, and individuals as they work on refinements to the ARPA plan. Council Member Anduri said having received far more requests for funds than what is available, the next month will have them deciding what application of funds to recommend based on what will have the greatest long-term benefit. The discussion was scheduled to continue on Nov. 22, after press time.

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DA’s office files misdemeanor Vehicular Manslaughter charges involving a cyclist

The Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office has charged Lori Everett with a misdemeanor Vehicular Manslaughter in violation of Penal Code section 192(c)(2), for striking cyclist Joseph Shami with her vehicle shortly before 7 a.m. on April 13 in Lafayette.

According to a press release issued by the District At-

torney’s Office, Mr. Shami was “an incredibly experienced cyclist who lawfully entered the roundabout at the interchange of Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. Despite Mr. Shami’s bright helmet and colorful clothing, the motorist failed to yield, and struck the victim cyclist who was in an established lane of travel.”

Noting that tragic roadway deaths like this are avoidable and to ensure the safety of those in the community, the Office of the District Attorney implores motorists to be active, attentive drivers and to be mindful of pedestrians and cyclists when sharing the roadways.

– J. Wake

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Superior Court upholds city of Lafayette's approval of Terraces project



Terraces of Lafayette project site Image courtesy City of Lafayette

By Jennifer Wake

The Contra Costa Superior Court on Nov. 12 upheld the city of Lafayette's approval of the Terraces of Lafayette – a 315-apartment project on a 22-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road.

Save Lafayette, a preservationist grassroots group, filed its lawsuit against the city of Lafayette on Sept. 23, 2020 challenging the city's Aug. 25, 2020 approval of the Terraces, under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The lawsuit claimed that the project's approval based on an addendum to a 2013 environmental impact report was unlawful under CEQA, and that the project violates the city's general plan and zoning requirements.

In its ruling, after over a year of litigation, the Court rejected claims by Save Lafayette, and found that the city's environmental review complied with CEQA and that the Terraces project was consistent

with the city's General Plan.

The 315-apartment project, in 14 two- and three-story residential buildings on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, adjacent to the Highway 24 was first proposed in 2011. The application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes with a community park.

The city approved the alternative project in 2015. Save Lafayette initiated the referendum process to overturn that approval in 2018.

With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer, O'Brien Land Company, resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project under the process agreement. The project includes 20% (63 units) offered as low-income housing.

The Court's ruling will become final unless Save Lafayette appeals within 60 days following the notice of entry of judgment.

For more information on the project, visit www.lovelafayette.org/Terraces

Tree of Lights offers comfort for those who have lost loved ones



Photo J. Wake

Friends and family members hold candles in the Roundup Saloon parking lot Nov. 16 prior to the lighting of the Hospice East Bay Tree of Lights.

For the past 35 years, Hospice East Bay has offered loved ones a way to honor family members who have passed away and "find solace in the symbolism of light" during its annual Tree of Lights ceremonies. Held in cities throughout the East Bay, on Nov. 16 community members gathered for the Lafayette Tree of Lights ceremony, which included soothing music provided by harpist and Hospice volunteer Betsy Littell, as well as comments from Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, a poem reading and the reading of memorial names prior to the tree lighting.

Lifson expressed his gratitude for Hospice, explaining how his mother benefited from its services before her passing. "They became part of the family," Lifson said, "but more importantly, she was never alone." Lifson expressed his gratitude for Hospice's ability to provide

comfort, reduce suffering and help his mother make her final transition with dignity. "What did families do without the gift of hospice in their communities?" he asked. Hospice East Bay, which is a not-for-profit organization, serves 1,500 families a year with end-of-life care, according to Hospice East Bay VP of Fund Development Mats Wallin.

Two additional Tree of Lights ceremonies are planned in Lamorinda: the Orinda Tree of Lights at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 in Orinda Village by Bank of America and the Moraga Tree of Lights at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Moraga Country Club. The funds raised by these ceremonies make it possible for Hospice East Bay to provide care to patients who are not covered by insurance. For information, visit hospiceeastbay.org.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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We are filled with gratitude for our clients, and for a truly historic year in real estate.

For Thanksgiving, we're serving a feast of information with a side of market stats. Dig in!

2021 | It's Still a Great Time to Sell!

- 🔴 \$802 - Lamorinda Avg Price / SQFT (Sold) in Oct*
- 🔴 95% of agents report seller's market conditions nationwide. It's still a great time to sell a home!^
- 🔴 92% of agents agree low interest rates continue to boost buyer demand^
- 🔴 31% of all home buyers were first-time buyers*

*Source: 2021 NAR Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends | ^Source: Top Agent Insights for End of Year 2021 | *Source: Trendgraphix



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Moraga to receive \$2.25 million Palos Colorados payment

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg couldn't contain her excitement before her report to the town council during their Nov. 10 meeting. Just two hours earlier, she was informed by the Palos Colorados developer, Richfield Real Estate Corporation, that they were in the process of wiring the \$2.25 million remaining principal owed to the town for the Palos

Colorados Golf Course Operation Municipal Fund. The project itself had been in development for over 30 years involving a 1986 original plan submittal for 146 homes and a golf course in Moraga and bordering Lafayette. In August 1999, after several years of litigation, Moraga, Lafayette and Richfield agreed to a settlement surrounding the original Palos Colorados project reducing the number

of homes to 123 with a golf course. Richfield was unable to obtain state and federal approval with regards to the development and filed an application for a General Development Plan which eliminated the golf course from the plan. Another lawsuit in 2007, clarified the developer's obligations to pay a fee to both Moraga and Lafayette for the fees they would have collected had the

golf course remained part of the new plans. According to Battenberg's update, "The Town has been accruing 5% simple interest on the principal of the remaining funds due since April 2008, and the accrued interest payments now total \$1.5 million. Payment of the principal will stop future interest accrual. The \$1.5 million in outstanding interest owed is due upon issuance of all local, state and

federal agency approvals, including grading permits. Also due upon issuance of permits is the remaining second installment payment of General Plan Fees of \$1,250,000." Battenberg noted that there are no restrictions on the use of the funds which in the past have been used on one-time expenditures such as parks and open space, emergency repairs or to pay off debts.

Small cell wireless facilities ordinance improvements

By Vera Kochan

The topic of small cell wireless facilities within town has been a sore spot for many residents with regards to radio frequency emissions safety. The town council continues to recognize that its hands are tied by Federal Communications Commission regulations with respect to the new 5G facilities within Moraga's borders, however by updating an existing ordinance (Chapter 8.144), it hopes to take back some control of the situation.

The update allows for improvements to location preferences, aesthetic and landscaping requirements, design standards and noise. The small cell facilities are typically smaller antennas attached to existing infrastructure with additional equipment cabinets. The bulk of the Nov. 10 council meeting discussion centered on radio frequency emissions and the testing of 5G equipment for possible malfunctions. According to the staff report provided by Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Assistant Town

Attorney Denise Bazzano, the 1996 Telecommunications Act states: "No state or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the [Federal Communications Commission's] regulations concerning such emissions." The staff report continues, "The FCC has promulgated specific guidelines for human exposure to RF radiation. Furthermore, courts have held that the FCC has exclusive jurisdiction over RF interference issues and thus local zoning ordinances and permit conditions cannot regulate RF interference." Town staff consulted with Hammett & Edison, Inc., an expert in RF site evaluations since 1985. According to H&E, having conducted over 20,000

of these tests, it has never found any wireless telecommunication base station or small cell node with RFs exceeding their projected levels. An additional expert, Specialist/Senior Analyst Michael Afflerbach with CTC Media Group stated that as long as the facility was properly installed and sited, RF exposure would still fall well below the FCC emission standards for public exposure, and it is not likely for a completed facility to later exceed the FCC emission standards after the wireless facility had been constructed, without some external modification. During the town council's Sept. 8 meeting they requested that staff look into the possibility of having the wireless carriers install a fail-safe device in the event that one of the facilities exceeded RF emission standards. Both H&E and Afflerbach explained that there was no need for such a device as the wireless facilities are de-

signed to be within FCC limits even while operating at maximum levels. Still not completely comfortable with the "expert" advice and their test results given the fact that 5G has only been around for approximately three years and the small cell equipment is relatively new, the town council worried about what could happen 10 years from now if the devices could potentially begin to fail and exceed RF emissions. The FCC does not require the installers to perform periodic testing. Looking to avoid potential health issues for its residents, the council requested that staff look into the possibility of the town performing independent spot testing at an estimated cost of \$1,500 per site. As there are no applications at this time from any telecommunications company to install 5G facilities in Moraga, the issue of town sponsored testing will be revisited.



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Campolindo library turns 50 years old

By Vera Kochan

The aesthetically pleasing Campolindo High School Library, located at 300 Moraga Rd. in Moraga, recently had a milestone 50th anniversary. Completed in 1971, by architects Rockwell & Banwell, who were responsible for many school structures throughout the state, it was rechristened The Irene Earl Li-



Photo provided

Campolindo library's interior has seen many changes.

brary in honor of the first librarian in charge of the new facility. Campo opened its doors in 1963, with the original library making its home in a classroom under the guidance of Librarian Suzanne Burrows. Today, it is run by Teacher-Librarian Sarah Morgan, Ed.S. The present library has remained the same on the outside, but the interior has seen some changes. Gone are the study cubicles on the upper left side, having been replaced by an office area. Where once the check-out desk was located in the middle of the main floor level (supposedly for staff to

keep an eagle-eye in both directions for shushing purposes), it has been relocated in front of the office area. The addition of ADA-compliant ramps and dozens of PC computers have brought the still beautiful library up to date with current regulations and modern-day necessities. The wood-paneled walls still give off the same warm and cozy vibe that students have appreciated for decades. It is a haven for gossiping, studying or simply hanging out first thing in the morning before classes begin. If those walls could talk ... I might even hear my own voice.

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Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 cancelled
 Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:

Monday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings :

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us.





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Surprising developments in embezzlement restitution hearing for former MCF treasurer

By Vera Kochan

Just when it seemed that the Robert (Bob) Fritzky embezzlement trial was finally coming to a close in the form of a restitution hearing, his Nov. 5 in-person court appearance added one last bit of unexpected drama to its conclusion.

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

During a July 30 sentencing hearing Fritzky alleged that he was suffering COVID-19 symptoms and was awaiting test results to either confirm or deny his illness. The court granted a continuance to a later date and ordered Fritzky to present a negative COVID test prior to the proceedings.

After countless delays, Fritzky was sentenced to 18 months in prison on Aug. 27. Prior to the sentencing he disclosed to the court that he was diagnosed with Long-haul COVID symptoms that could last for weeks or months. Regardless, United States District Judge Jon S. Tigar ordered Fritzky to surrender of his own

accord to the Marshal's office on Nov. 8, three days after his restitution hearing.

During Fritzky's Nov. 5 in-person hearing, Assistant United States Attorney Barbara Valliere noted that Fritzky "had agreed in his plea agreement to pay restitution in an amount of no less than \$204,913.84, that that, too, should govern the court's decision, and that he should be ordered to pay nothing less than that."

A matter of an interest payment was settled when the court replied, "I also accept the request for prejudgment interest. For clarity, the amount of prejudgment interest is \$16,636 on top of an original restitution obligation of \$193,726.19 for a total restitution obligation of \$210,362.19."

Court documents dated Nov. 3 revealed that Fritzky's attorneys, Geoffrey Hansen and Graham Archer, from the Federal Public Defender's office asked the court for a continuance of his surrender date until after Dec. 8 to "permit his doctors to complete and evaluate testing that was ordered in September as the result of abnormal lab test results. Mr. Fritzky's request is based upon a serious medical concern raised by his treating physician that requires further evaluation over the next two months."

According to unsealed court documents, it was also revealed that Fritzky falsified his COVID-19 test results to

read "positive," when in fact his test results were "negative."

"The defendant has submitted the motion on the papers essentially acknowledging that he submitted a forged document to me," stated Tigar. "Just saying it out loud leaves a certain weight in the room. I don't know how much more there is to be said. I'm left sort of speechless."

"I think probably I would have imposed a higher sentence if I had known that this misconduct had occurred before I imposed it," added Tigar, "but that's water under the bridge. So the court's tentative ruling is to do nothing, except to express the thoughts that I just expressed."

A motion by Valliere to extend Fritzky's date of surrender beyond Nov. 8 was denied by the court, "I don't want any argument on that point. It relies - after a motion to revoke the defendant's bond based on falsified medical records submitted through counsel." Tigar continued, "I have a response that consists of a motion to extend a surrender date based on medical records submitted through counsel. Mr. Fritzky has exhausted the court's patience and his own credibility. The motion is denied. As is the motion to revoke bond. That concludes this hearing."

As of Nov. 8, Fritzky has reported to the United States Penitentiary in Lompoc, Calif., to serve out his 18-month sentence.

Holiday Tree Lighting
Moraga Commons Park
Thursday, December 2
6:30pm

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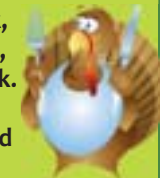
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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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 www.cityoforinda.org
 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The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

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council
Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Orinda commemorates 'new' library, remembers old



Current Orinda Library

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the Orinda City Council presented a proclamation commemorating the 20th anniversary of the "new" Orinda library. The proclamation praises the Friends of the Orinda Library for raising \$5 million, which was matched by the city, for the construction of the building on Orinda Way. The project included the library, an art gallery, meeting rooms, an auditorium and an outdoor plaza and sculpture garden that the proclamation says is used and enjoyed by residents of all ages and serves both a functional and a symbolic role in the community. The city expressed its deep appreciation to all the volunteers and staff who have worked so hard to make it an outstanding library that is treasured by the Orinda community.

The proclamation was read into the record by Mayor Amy Worth, who promised to deliver it to library manager Michael Beller. Worth was on

the board of the Friends of the Orinda Library for a number of years until she was elected to the city council. During that time she represented Orinda on the Contra Costa County Library Commission.

The Orinda Library is in the heart of the civic space in the Village section of Orinda that also houses the community center and the community park, close to Orinda city hall. The library provides a gathering place for citizens of all ages and interests, serving, the proclamation explains, as the community's link to the expanding knowledge base of the world and imparting the values and visions of the community.

The first circulating book collection was established in 1915 by Contra Costa County in an Orinda deposit station with an annual circulation of 344 books. By 1925 the library occupied a small bookcase in the Orinda store, but, due to limited supervision of the collection, the county considered removing the station. To ensure continued library services, the



Orinda Library, circa 1935 Photo courtesy Orinda Historical Society

Orinda Parent Teachers Association moved the library to a donated space in a nearby vacant store, and the library was staffed by PTA volunteers every afternoon until a librarian was hired.

In 1935, the Orinda Improvement Association and the Orinda Fire Department agreed to build an addition to the firehouse, then located at 107 Orinda Way, now the location of Orinda Village Antiques, in order to house the library. The building was designed by local Orinda architects who donated their time and was funded by the State Employment Relief Administration.

The library stayed in the firehouse until it was moved to the Orinda Community Church in 1949. In 1954, the newly established Orinda Library Board began fundraising for a new library, which was dedicated in 1958. The building was enlarged in the 1960s to provide for a children's wing.

Following Orinda's incorporation in 1985, the city worked in partnership with the Friends of the Orinda Library to maintain the library building and preserve library

services and hours, which were significantly reduced with county budget cuts in the early 1990s. In 1997, the city and the Friends recognized the need to build a new library, which was opened in November 2001.

The city's proclamation recognized the library's role as a resource to students and adults, offering book checkout, enhanced online library resources, and programs for youth and seniors, including free delivery of books and library materials to seniors in their homes in conjunction with the Orinda Association.

The Friends of the Orinda Library will be celebrating the library anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 4, with a holiday book sale and candy cane giveaway on Library Plaza from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Friends are also looking for volunteers for the candy cane giveaway and for work in the library bookshop, which is trying out adding morning hours on Saturdays to coincide with the Orinda Farmers Market. If enough customers and volunteers come forward, the early hours will be added to the schedule.

For info, visit www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org

Orinda city council kicks off celebration of Orinda Theatre's 80th anniversary



Orinda Theatre, lighted Photo Derek Zemrak

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council on Nov. 16 recognized the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Orinda Theatre on Dec. 27, 1941, with a proclamation. Current theatre owner Derek Zemrak has announced that the theatre will host its own celebration of the anniversary on Dec. 27 with a showing of "Cinema Paradiso," free to all contributors to the theatre's GoFundMe effort, without which, Zemrak says, the theatre could not have survived the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Orinda Theatre was built by Donald

Rheem and opened with the film "Texas," starring William Holden. The theatre boasted its iconic neon sign, which Rheem called a "blazing informal Neon gateway" to Orinda. The theatre is decorated with murals by the famed artist Anthony Heinsberger.

Slated for demolition in 1984, the theatre was saved by the efforts of the Friends of the Orinda Theatre. This followed nine years of community advocacy and a legal battle that went all the way to the California Supreme Court. As part of that battle, the Friends applied to the State Historical Resources Commission, and, as a result, the building was listed in the State Historical Registry and later in the National Historic Registry, based on, according to the proclamation, "the streamline modern style of architecture, the mural interior and the bank building's exterior stainless columns and Arizona sandstone rock siding," as well as Rheem's "Crossroads Core of the City concept."

The theatre is now an anchor of the Theatre Square shopping center, featuring retail stores, businesses, and restaurants. The downtown area on the south side of the BART station is alternately known as the Theatre District or Orinda Crossroads.

The council's proclamation expresses "deep appreciation to the individuals and organizations whose dedicated efforts preserved and supported this magnificent community treasure for decades."

Zemrak says that further plans for the celebration on the 27th are underway. During the pandemic, Zemrak took the opportunity to restore many of the theatre's iconic features. See story: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1505/Extensive-renovated-Orinda-Theatre-reopens-April-30.html

Contributions to the Orinda Theatre can be made on their GoFundMe page, www.gofundme.com/f/orinda-theatre-needs-your-help

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El Toyonal red-flag day parking restrictions made permanent; warnings eliminated

By Sora O'Doherty

The on-street parking ban on El Toyonal on red-flag days with high fire danger will become permanent in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Orinda City Council on Oct. 19. Further, the council agreed with staff that the warnings given on the first three red-flag days of the fire season during the pilot program should be eliminated. The council considered the staff report presented by Senior Engineer Jason Chen, acting director of public works.

Since the pilot program was adopted in August of 2020, it has been in place through two fire seasons. The purpose of the program is to allow for any necessary evacuation on the notoriously narrow, winding, hilly street that ascends from Camino Pablo to Wildcat Canyon Road. The program restricts stopping or parking on red flag days to keep the roadway clear for evacuation.

A number of flip signs have been installed along the route and can be opened by public works to display red flag warning signs that notify residents when parking restrictions are in effect. There are five signs along the route, including one at the top and one at the bottom of the El Toyonal hill.

During the pilot period, Chen reported, there have been some complaints that residents don't know when the restrictions go into force or when the restrictions end. In addition, some residents have complained of difficulty in finding alternative parking.

The council also discussed the existing exemptions, which provide for active loading or unloading of vehicles and active construction where there can be encroachment permits. The parking restriction extends to five feet from the edge of the existing pavement.

During the pilot period, there has been one part-time enforcement officer. Over the course of 14 red flag events, there were 37 written warnings with additional verbal warnings, and 10 actual citations were issued. Chen reported that performance has improved, with fewer violations being observed. Chen also noted that weather changes quickly, making the ban challenging to implement, and encouraged residents to check more often with the National Weather Service and the MOFD; out of 14 events, only eight were enforced. PG&E will be helping out with enforcement going forward and Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan is willing to embrace enforcement, according to Chen.

Chen said that in the two fire seasons that the restrictions have been in place, fire awareness has been ever increasing. Staff said that the program does seem to be working and recommended that all warnings be eliminated and that enforcement begin immediately upon the next red-flag day.

In public comments, an El Toyonal resident said that he thinks the program is very good, but suggested the need for cameras to be more instantaneous. There are a lot of alerts, he said, and they are done very well, but any im-

provement is worthwhile. He suggested that the city should have a way to tow people on a red flag day.

Chen responded that towing has not been researched, but that parking enforcement is not allowed to tow. The exemption for construction workers is based on the idea that they are on site, close to the vehicles and can move them quickly in the event of an emergency.

Vice Mayor Dennis Fay suggested that more thought is needed on the compliance side. He pointed out that ticketing a vehicle while the owner is inside their home doesn't result in the vehicle being quickly moved. Council Member Inga Miller concurred.

Mayor Amy Worth warned that doing a red flag road clearance is a very time-consuming process. "There is a growing problem with house construction on some of our very narrow roads," she said, "but that is an issue for another day." The mayor agreed with the elimination of warnings, but suggested that residents receive a post card at the start of fire season warning residents that citations will be issued immediately for violations. She also suggested that there be

some alternatives for parking on red flag days, such as a lower parking lot, or suspending enforcement of parking time limits in some areas in downtown.

City Manager David Biggs said that he likes the idea of the postcard warning, and suggested an email blast too. He added that he is working on developing a more robust communication system and has hired a firm.

As to how red-flag days are established in the first place, according to MOFD's Dennis Rein, forecasts come out of the National Weather Service in Monterey.

Warren Blier, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service explained that "it's basically a mixture of different criteria that taken together suggest a risk of rapid wildfire spread is especially high." The type of weather patterns that can cause a watch or warning include low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of dry lightning strikes, or any combination of the above. Monterey uses sophisticated technology to constantly monitor all the factors that contribute to weather warnings.

Once Monterey issues a

red-flag warning for the Lamorinda area, Rein has teams of volunteers who go out and adjust the fire danger level signs, raising the red flag on each. A second group of volunteers the Lamorinda incident notification group, then notifies city

managers, Contra Costa County fire, school superintendents, and others who need to know. At that point, Orinda staff go out and flip open the red-flag day parking prohibition signs on El Toyonal.

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85 Orchard Road, Orinda

5 Newberry Place, Moraga
921 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette
185 Holly Lane, Orinda
192 Crestview Drive, Orinda
44 Camino Encinas, Orinda
3 Wellesley Court, Lafayette
4 W Creek Court, Lafayette

221 El Toyonal, Orinda
22 E. Altarinda Drive, Orinda
38 Chapel Drive, Lafayette
2725 Prince Street, Berkeley
37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda ~ Pending
222 Hall Drive, Orinda ~ Pending
9 Stanton Court, Orinda ~ Pending

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Moraga approves employment agreement for interim position as MPD Chief King retires



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Moraga Police Chief Jon King

By Vera Kochan

To the surprise and chagrin of many within the town, Moraga Police Chief Jon King will officially retire effective Dec. 17.

The good news is that King will continue in the position of Interim Police Chief until the town is able to fill his “hard act to follow” shoes. In doing so, it is hoped that a seamless transition for his replacement will ensure an uninterrupted level of service for the community. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg’s staff report stated, “Chief King has worked for the Town since 2014, and has valuable institutional knowledge as well as strong relationships with outside agencies and Town staff. Chief King’s continued employment will ensure continuity of leadership in the Police Department, which is especially important in light of the recent death of Detective (Kevin) Mooney. Chief King will continue to lead Moraga’s Po-

lice Department with the support of Lieutenant (Brian) South and his transition to Interim Police Chief should be invisible to the public.” California Public Employees’ Retirement Systems (CalPERS) has requirements regarding retired personnel working in vacant managerial positions, which allows for King’s hiring as a retired annuitant. In doing so, he fills a void while recruitment begins to permanently fill the vacancy and in the event of an emergency to prevent an obstruction to public business. The town council unanimously authorized an employment agreement with King during its Nov. 10 meeting effective until June 30, 2022, or until a permanent replacement

is hired, whichever comes first. He will be paid at the top step of the hourly rate for his service, which is currently \$105.23. Assuming that King serves the full designated period, the town’s projected savings will be \$60,000. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget includes \$286,927 for the fully burdened Police Chief position. According to Government Code Section 21221 (h): “A retired person appointed to a vacant position pursuant to this subdivision shall not receive any benefits, incentives, compensation in lieu of benefits, or any other forms of compensation in addition to the hourly rate.” However, King is entitled to Workers’ Compensation through the town. During the council meet-

ing, King expressed his feelings regarding his impending retirement. “I truly have mixed emotions about this, but it’s for my family’s stability; that’s why I’ve chosen to retire at this point. I love this community. I have an incredible team who works with me. It’s been an honor to serve our community, and I’m in many, many ways not ready to go. This actually provides me with some extra time.” King also acknowledged how important it is for him to “turn the reigns over to the right person” in order to “maintain the excellence we have in our department and maintain the level of service that we provide to our community.”

Firewise Communities can stay steps ahead of a disaster



Photo Vera Kochan

Wide open spaces surround Bollinger, the Bluffs and Valley Hill

By Vera Kochan

At least 25-30 communities within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District are already banding together to make their neighborhoods fire wise. Approximately two-thirds of the communities are located in Orinda, but Moraga is making a move to catch up.

Firewise USA is a national organization that “provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level.” The program is administered by the National Fire Protection Association (est. 1896), and is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, but it’s up to

neighborhood volunteers to keep each community’s program successful.

Moraga resident Maura Richards began her involvement with MOFD in the spring of 2020, when her son, Tommy, inexplicably dislocated his knee during swimming practice. Knowing that the drive to a hospital emergency room would take too long, she drove him to MOFD Station 42. Firefighter/paramedic Katy Himsl popped the knee back into place along with advising Richards to call 911 in the future. “I was so grateful, that I wondered what I could do for the people who keep us safe.”

Richards decided that “my zip code is my mission statement” and began to visit the MOFD fire stations to get acclimated with all of their procedures and personnel. She also began to host a few open house



Photo provided

Maura Richards hosts first annual MOFD/Camino Pablo community open house in 2020

get-togethers by inviting firefighters (and their rigs) as well as her neighbors. The events also produced discussions on fire safety and “how we look at wellness rather than illness.”

Moraga’s Bollinger area resident Ann Walgenbach became involved in Firewise after the October 2019 Sanders Ranch Fire. “The people who live in Bollinger, the Bluffs and Valley Hill have only one way in and out.” She credits neighbor Anne Obsitnik with getting the ball rolling.

MOFD Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs stated, “In Nov 2019, there was a passion to do more, so the MOFD decided to make that location an organized Firewise community and do an assessment of the area. While there’s not an active role during a fire, it’s basically for fire prevention. [Chief] Dave Winnacker was pushing for the

Firewise program. Because of the wildfire threat to Lamorinda it’s important to get more neighborhoods established and working together to make them safe.” Isaacs noted that California provides funding to programs involved in fire prevention, and MOFD has been granted \$90,000 to distribute for that purpose.

Walgenbach and her neighbors received a not too surprising assessment from Winnacker. “The wildfire behavior will be dominated by topography and weather due to the open spaces surrounding this area. Due to the proximity of undeveloped areas immediately surrounding the community, the primary fire concern is three dimensional spread via ember cast from a distant fire.” There was also concern regarding older trees and vegetation in close proximity to struc-

tures and the difficulty in evacuating 155 residences in the event of an emergency. Last year as a first-time Firewise community, residents increased their awareness of fire danger through safety education, meetings and a neighborhood newsletter. They also stepped up maintenance of vegetation adjacent to structures by removing flammable species; conducted maintenance of duff and litter under mature trees; trimmed trees to create a minimum 5-foot air gap; removed dead tree litter and other combustible material from roofs and gutters; and held a community chipping day.

This year, residents conducted evacuation exercises and appointed block captains in addition to continually mitigating their properties. They have also joined a free group texting app called GroupMe that allows the neighbors to be in contact with each other in the event of emergencies.

MOFD is developing an ambassador program for residents to operate in their own neighborhoods for home assessment and fire safety. For more information regarding Firewise USA visit: nffa.org/wildfirecontact. For questions regarding MOFD visit: MOFD.org or contact: Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs at: jisaacs@mofd.org. For neighborhood involvement with MOFD firefighters contact: Maurarichards3@gmail.com. For information about creating a Firewise community contact: Annwalgenbach@gmail.com.

What’s in your water?

... continued from Page A1

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Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org



ConFire
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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Moraga Police Department:
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Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Oct. 31 - Nov. 13
Alarms 32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14
Traffic 95
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 11
Suspicious Vehicle 13
Service to Citizen 32
Patrol Req./Security Check 44
Public/School Assembly Check 15
Supplemental Report 24
Vacation House Check 11
Welfare Check 14

Ordinance Violation 3
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
3900 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
300 Block Buckeye Ct.
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
800 Block Moraga Rd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
Reckless Driving
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Moraga Blvd./2nd St.
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
Glenside Dr./Michael Ln.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Under The Acalanes Overpass
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
Nb 1 680 At N Main St., Wcr
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
Tc - Minor Injuries
Pleasant Hill Rd./Condit Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
Tc - Property Damage
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Dewing Ave./Brook St.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
600 Block Burton Dr.
Quandt Rd./Hillview Ln.
400 Block Florence Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way.
Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud
20 Block Crest Rd.
Identity Theft
200 Block Happy Hollow Ct.
Panhandling
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
700 Block Los Palos Mnr
900 Block Oak St.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Service
Not Available
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Deer Hill Rd./Orchard Rd.
3200 Block Judith Ln.
Disturbing The Peace
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music
Old Tunnel Rd./Buchan Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.
Risa Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Noise
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Loud Party
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Carl Rd.
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.
Paulson Ct./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Silver Springs Rd./Moraga Rd.
Vandalism
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Eagle Point Rd.
Other
Harassment
900 Block Hough Ave.
Indecent Exposure
600 Block St Marys Rd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
1300 Block Camino Peral, Mor
Loitering
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Trespass
3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
10 Block Via Magnalena
Trespass W/ Vehicle
3200 Block Andreasen Dr.
900 Block 1St St.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Brook St.
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Nov. 2 - Nov. 14
Alarms 8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7
Traffic 17
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Vehicle 1
Service to Citizen 44
Patrol Req./Security Check 4
Supplemental Report 16
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 11
Public/School Assembly Check 1
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Accident Property
St Marys College (2)
Dui Misd
100 Block Moraga Way, Ori
Excessive Speed
Bollinger Canyon Rd./Joseph Dr.
St Marys College
St Marys/Ifo College
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Library
St Marys College
Reckless Driving
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Campolindo High School
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Ifo Safeway

Traffic Hazard
Post Office
Campolindo High School
Devin Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
30 Block Kinston Ct.
Not Available
Identity Theft
10 Block Idlewood Ct.
Panhandling
Moraga Farmers Market
Petty Theft
Safeway (2)
Petty Theft Veh Parts
10 Block Willow Spring Ln.
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse
90 Block Miramonte Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Not Available
Loud Music
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Campolindo High School
Loud Party
70 Block Miramonte Dr.
Public Nuisance
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
1000 Block Country Club Dr.
Other
Extortion
St Marys College
Shots Fired
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Threats
St Marys College
ORINDA POLICE
Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon

Letters to the editor

Lafayette's character

I appreciate the letter by Mr. Hudson in the Nov. 10 issue. Lafayette Council is allowing a substantial change in the character of Lafayette by overbuilding housing and removing commercial to achieve this end. Driving around Lamorinda, one doesn't see this frantic increase in housing in Orinda or Moraga, only Lafayette.

Many of us like the small town character of Lafayette, with local shopping and amenities. I understand the need to provide more housing, especially affordable housing in this state. I only ask why is Lafayette taking the brunt of this, while our neighboring communities are doing very little. There are sites all over Orinda and Moraga that could benefit from additional housing; for example: Orinda BART lot, which could provide parking and housing for thousands, town center in Moraga which has large plots of vacant land.

The planning process in Lafayette is divided in a such a way, as the full impact of a development: traffic, character in relationship to the surroundings, how it affects the overall atmosphere of the town, etc., is only considered piecemeal by various

commissions.

The council and the planners and the town staff really have to stop trying to make Lafayette, Walnut Creek Jr. It will never achieve this, you will only ruin the charming town we have here now.
Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

Orinda Garbage Fees; Another Unfair Tax

The Orinda City Council, once again, threw 1,600 Orinda families under the wheels of the bus for the Council Members' own personal benefit.

I'm talking about the agreed upon garbage rate increase which allows the City to collect \$1.2 million for road maintenance; limited to the publicly maintained roads four of the five Council Members live on; while denying service to 20 percent of Orinda's residents.

The Council euphemistically calls the neglected roads "private" roads. The only thing private about them is the money used to maintain

them; maintenance the Measure R sales tax defines as an essential public service. All aspects of these roads, providing access by the residents (members of the public) and by public service providers including fire, emergency medical, police, utilities, mail and package delivery, is identical to the services provided to members of the Council on their publicly maintained roads.

We are talking serious money. Approximately \$4 million a year is spent on the 64 miles of publicly maintained residential streets the Council Members and 4,200 other families live on; for road bonds and current maintenance. The 1,600 families living on the roads the Council refuses to deem "public", and thus maintain with public funds, pays \$1.5 million of that cost; a \$350 a year benefit into each Council Member's pocket.

The Council Members should be ashamed to allow this behavior to continue.
Steve Cohn
Orinda

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

Lamorinda community works to defend DEIB work

By Sharon K. Sobotta

As pushback against affirmative diversity, equity and inclusion practices show up in Lamorinda along with fears about critical race theory being a part of the academy, allies, educators, students and parents call on the community to move forward not backward.

Parents in the Diversity Equity & Inclusion committee at Campolindo High School aren't surprised about the Oct. 27 Lamorinda Weekly letter to the editor raising a red flag about local DEI efforts, as they'd already read similar messages in neighborhood social media platforms and heard similar resistance in school board meetings. Yet, they say they are not willing to go backwards.

"There's so much momentum in the school(s) right now around diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. It's the students, it's most of the teachers, the admin and the board. And then people on the other side (seem to be worried) that they're losing their grasp on what they believe school should be," Robert Schwartz, the DEI Campolindo co-chair says.

Nick Harris, a Saint Mary's College student, says the critical race theory class he takes on campus helps him make more sense of the community he lives in. As a 6'4" tall athletic African American guy, Harris says he notices the discomfort of others when he's out running or grocery shopping in Moraga. "When I'm at Safeway, I tend to have my backpack that says Saint Mary's on it. It's like my right of passage as an African American to be in this community."

Harris says he also takes extra steps if he's ever pulled over by a police officer anywhere in the country by keeping his hands on the steering wheel, his keys out of the ignition and his license and registration in sight at all times. In terms of the pushback about critical race theory courses, Harris says it leaves him with more questions than answers. "Why would we not teach the truth? I don't understand why we would doctor (or tamper with) history?"

The DEI committee members say experiences like the ones Harris describes underscore the importance of DEI work in the Lamorinda community. "Perception is reality.

We can't deny people the experiences that they're having," Schwartz says. "There is increasing engagement now. It's going to take time but it is changing."

Anne Naffziger, the other parent DEI co-chair at Campolindo, says that diversity, equity and inclusion work is good for everyone, even white children whose roots are in Lamorinda. "These kids will need the tools to either be good citizens of this town or to go off in the world and be good citizens somewhere else," Naffziger says. "It baffles me that the work of making Campolindo and other schools in the area more inclusive for all students could be negative in the eyes of any parent (or community member)."

In terms of the critical race theory pushback that's happening across the country, Naffziger and Schwartz aren't surprised that the resistance has seeped into Lamorinda. "When you look at the term critical race theory, very few people are going to argue that school should teach kids to think critically, and very few people are going to argue that school should teach kids different theories, and how to examine a theory and look for evidence of that," Schwartz says. "So what is it all about? It's about the word race."

Gender and Race Sociologist Cynthia Ganote, a former professor at Saint Mary's College, says that resistance to critical race theory is the result of fears not facts. "CRT is a specific theory that explains systemic racism," Ganote says. "Most people had never heard of it before Christopher Rufo appeared on the Tucker Carlson show claiming (incorrectly) that it posed an existential threat to the United States."

That, Ganote says, ignited a national fear campaign based on misinformation and mischaracterization of facts used to divide an already divided nation even further. Since then, 28 states have introduced legislation to regulate critical race theory. Ganote says regulating the teaching of history and context as it relates to race in the classroom is an injustice to education as a whole. The part that's most concerning to scholars like Ganote is the widespread efforts by political leaders to make the term critical race theory inflammatory without ever telling people what it actually is.

"(People like Christopher

Rufo spread the claim that) CRT causes white people to be bullied or shamed. It doesn't. (They say) that it's being used to bash our American history. It's not. (They say this while) never presenting what CRT actually is."

Ganote says that in order to truly understand and dismantle issues like racism, it's necessary to get beyond the "one bad apple" approach and look at institutions at a systems level. "We need to get beyond individualistic thinking, beyond blaming and shaming. We can make our institutions more inclusive, we can make them fair and equitable for everyone," Ganote says. "We have to be able to use these analytical lenses and see where racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism exist and make our policies better as we grow into, as was named in our constitution, a more perfect union all of the time."

Lynn MacMichael is a proud member of the Lafayette city committee on diversity, equity and inclusion. She's been on a mission to make the town feel like and be a home for all since she moved here in 1969. MacMichael has advocated for inclusive representations and murals of art, affordable housing so that people of all backgrounds and income levels can live in this community and so that those who work here can afford to live here. And, she is cheering the schools on as they work to make their curriculum and policies more inclusive.

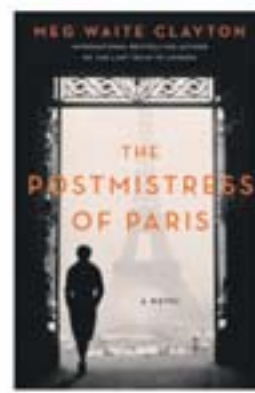
MacMichael has lived through segregation and interracial violence, which is why she's encouraging the Acalanes Union High School District to keep moving in the direction they're going and resist pressure of naysayers.

"I was 8 years old, living in St. Louis. My dad brought me to Clayton pool on a hot day," MacMichael, who is white, recalls. "At the time black people had no place to swim." MacMichael recalls the violence that erupted when some black people attempted to swim on that particular very hot day. "(They were hit by) bats and hammers. Everybody was bloody," MacMichael says. "I never forgot that. I never read that and it deserved to be in a history book. Watching local schools take this on and tell the truth about our history, so we can do better and not repeat those same mistakes is a wonderful thing."

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Sunrise Stroll at Res focuses on diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging

... continued from Page A1

“Now when I sit with my kids and grandkids, it’s all about putting on our critical thinking hats and considering that maybe this pilgrimage out to the Western world wasn’t as beautiful as it was made out to be. It has created a lot of benefit for many and left and destroyed a ton of people along the way. We all live with the ache of that.”

Senter no longer has the same center piece on his table during Thanksgiving dinner, but he’s replaced it with something even more important. “We’re more aware of what it means to be responsible for the impact we have on each other and how we think about our collective life experiences. I think that’s what it means to be thankful these days. Now it’s valuable to talk about those things at Thanksgiving and consider what it means to lean (in).”

Jennifer Wakeman, the chair of the Lafayette, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging citywide committee, ran a rock painting station, where folks could con-

tribute to the BIPOC rock garden at the Lafayette Community Center. Wakeman painted a rock alongside her son and two other children as she detailed the importance of the project.

“We had a young man who painted rocks with messages like Black Lives Matter and put them along the Lafayette-Moraga trail and some people decided to deface it, so the public art commission for the city of Lafayette gave it a formal space at the community center. We talked to the artist who started the project and he said he’d welcome contributions,” Wakeman said. For Wakeman, it’s a no-brainer that the sunrise stroll would be connected to the city’s DEI efforts.

“Our committee’s intention is to make awareness and education (around DEIB) mainstream so that people feel accepted and welcome to come as they are (and be themselves). (On a city level) the committee asks the city council to consistently use the lens of DEI as they make decisions and policies throughout the city about

things such as housing.”

Lafayette City Manager Niroop Srivastava was among the early morning strollers. Srivastava was happy to see the reimagined version of the community breakfast. “This is such a wonderful substitute because it brings people together in the reservoir. I’m so proud of our community for having a DEI focus on this event and for stepping up and having difficult conversations (to come as far as we’ve come),” she said.

Srivastava has been the city manager for three years, but has worked for the city in some capacity for nearly three decades. Over the years, she has observed many changes. “We’ve been able to maintain the beauty of the hills and grow our downtown and add to our affordable housing stock. Lafayette is a community for everyone. Our land use constitution says Lafayette is a place for people of all ages, incomes, ethnicities. And being able to do that has been one of the most satisfying things. We still have a lot of work ahead, (but we’ve started).”

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Service Clubs Announcements



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

December 2021 Weekly Speakers

3: Andrea Garreffa, “A Guatemalan farmer saved my life.”
10: Saving the Florida panther one sperm at a time!
17: Kathy Bowles, Park Theater Trust
24: No Meeting
31: No Meeting



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local author supports ADHD kids in new book



Photo provided

Author Karen Ann Leonard looks over her book, "Another atypical Distinctly different Hilariously happy Delightful day" with one of her grandsons, Ryder Smith.

By Diane Claytor

When Karen Ann Leonard learned that one of her grandsons was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at a very young age, she wasn't angry. She wasn't worried nor upset. She was sad, because, of course, she wants the very best of everything for her grandchildren and she knew this diagnosis could potentially create challenges. But rather than fret, Leonard went into serious action mode. She spent several years researching and learning everything she could about ADHD. And then she wrote a book about it.

"Another atypical Distinctly different Hilariously happy Delightful day" is written from the point of view of a young boy with ADHD and is directed to 8- to 12-year-old readers who have received this diagnosis, as well as to their family, friends and educators. It focuses primarily on the positives associated with ADHD, with the child describing many of his ADHD characteristics as superpowers. As he states in the book, "My brain may work differently from yours but it works really well."

According to Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), approximately 11% of school-age children are affected by ADHD. Considered a neurodevelopmental disorder, it is generally characterized by developmentally inappropriate levels of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. The cause of ADHD is unknown, but current research indicates that genetics plays an impor-

tant role.

Leonard, a Lafayette resident and grandmother to three boys, wasn't all that surprised when her grandson was diagnosed with ADHD before entering first grade. She had noticed he couldn't stay still; he always needed to be moving. "He had trouble focusing," she remembers. "If you asked him a question, it was like he was somewhere else and would bring up a different topic. Storytime at the library was virtually impossible, since he simply could not sit still."

At first, people responded to this hyperactive, unfocused behavior with a "boys will be boys" attitude. Kindergarten was difficult for Leonard's grandson, again because of his inability to sit still and stay focused. The behaviors were reported to his parents in a negative context; they were told he was disruptive and it was likely getting in the way of his ability to learn. At his pediatrician's suggestion, he was evaluated, diagnosed and given appropriate treatment which, Leonard reports, changed his behavior almost immediately. "He suddenly became a different child," she notes happily.

Leonard is a strong and vocal advocate for early diagnosis, which, she says, can prevent a significant amount of struggling and criticism. "ADHD kids experience the world differently. An early diagnosis opens a window not only for the child to figure out what's going on, but for the family to understand what's happening," she reports. "It gives them all time to accept, understand, encourage and find ways to thrive and suc-

ceed. The longer you wait, the more the child struggles."

That was Leonard's motivation for writing "Another atypical Distinctly different Hilariously happy Delightful day." Now retired, Leonard was an HR professional, not a writer, researcher, doctor or psychologist. "I wrote this book strictly from the heart," she says. All she wanted was to learn everything she could to help her grandson and other children and families dealing with ADHD.

Leonard strongly disagrees with the "disorder" portion of ADHD. "In my opinion," she notes, "ADHD kids do not have a disorder. They have a neurological processing difference," basically meaning it is how their brain is wired. In fact, the young boy in her book echoes this belief, stating, "ADHD is ... definitely not a disorder. Quite the opposite. The way my brain works can be a huge asset."

"Another atypical Distinctly different Hilariously happy Delightful day" is not Leonard's first job at writing a children's book; nor is it the first time that one of her grandsons was the impetus for her to take action.

When one of the boys was a toddler, she noticed that he often preferred to spend time alone, entertaining himself and "recharging his batteries." She remembered that she, too, was quiet as a child and wanted to spend time by herself. "Somehow it made me feel different," she reflects. "So when I saw my grandson acting in the same way, I wanted him to know that his behavior was not out of the ordinary and certainly nothing to be ashamed of."

With this thought in mind, Leonard wrote "All By Myself," a sweet book geared to children aged 3 to 6 years old. As she noted in the book's introduction, "Introverted children are valuable, creative, reflective thinkers ..." and, she says in the story, being "all by myself ... is calm, relaxing and comfortable."

"All By Myself," is out of print. "Another atypical Distinctly different Hilariously happy Delightful day," which was illustrated by Acalanes senior Matthew Koo, may be

purchased at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Leonard also has an Instagram site, team_adhd_kids, where she ends almost every post with,

"Supporting and encouraging our ADHD kids is going to take an entire community. Let's build that community."

Concert Pianist Bobby Mitchell to perform at Santa Maria Church Orinda

December 4th Saturday, 7 pm

Bobby Mitchell, Prize Winning International Concert Pianist, returns to the Bay Area Free Concert. Saturday, December 4th 7 pm, Santa Maria Church, Orinda.

Recognized and performing on nearly all continents, he is an American pianist, living in Germany, whose interests dazzled audiences in 2019 with his music in the here and now as well as the more standard classical repertory. Sponsored by Vicki Nakamura JHRussell Real Estate Group DRE #00685265. Donations can be sent to: <https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/bobby-mitchell-pianist>. Call 925-254-5287 '925-708-1915 for information



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CAPA's 'Nutcracker' returns to the live stage



Photo Kate Efimova

After this intense year of the pandemic, California Academy of Performing Arts returns to the stage Dec. 2-5 with its beloved "Nutcracker" performance at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center.

"The students (ages 6-18) have been working hard to prepare and are so excited to once again perform The Nutcracker in front of a live audience," said Stacey Yuen, teacher and assistant manager at California Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA). "We filmed last year's 2020 Nutcracker in studio in small groups and then edited the

whole thing together; everyone masked and separated. This year we are so excited to bring back our Nutcracker, all dancers and audience members masked."

Dance Captain, Sydney Reed, a senior at Campolindo High School, said, "Embracing the thrill of performing again is experiencing the liberation and adrenaline I felt as a young kid running on stage for the first time. This past year has provided me with the opportunity to further my appreciation for the stage, storytelling and touching the hearts of those around us." - J. Wake

Tickets are \$25 and can be found at www.eventbrite.com/o/california-academy-of-performing-arts-inc-6196668151

Please join Moraga Native Jon Wood in supporting the Campolindo Girls Basketball Program Soles 4 Souls shoe drive!



Drop Off Shoes: Tuesday, December 7, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Address: Campolindo High School Gym, 300 Moraga Rd
Contact: Chris Flitter (Team Coordinator), cflitter@me.com



All shoes accepted: New, slightly used, one shoe, dress, athletic shoes, boots etc. For more info go to: Campogirlsbasketball.com

All shoes will be donated to the non-profit organization Soles4Souls

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Simple way to bring delicious vitamin-packed winter squash to the table



Twice Baked Carnival Squash

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Maybe we should first start by explaining what the heck is a carnival squash? It's a relative newcomer in the squash world, developed in 1991. Although not as commonly seen in the markets as its cousins, acorn, delicata, butternut, or other more familiar squashes, it sure is fun and festive and tastes delicious! In fact, carnival squash is a cross between the acorn and sweet dumpling squash varieties. All of these types of squash are considered winter squash. What I love about winter squash, besides its amazing flavor, is the fact

that it is low in calories and high in nutritional value, so you get plenty of vitamins A and C and a host of other "good for you" benefits.

This recipe can be made just as easily with acorn squash as carnival squash and I really love both. I do think that the carnival meat is a little bit more dense and seems to take a bit longer to cook, but both are really good. And, since I gave you such a tough assignment last week with the strawberry layer cake, you'll appreciate this one because it is super easy.

To make it even easier, I like to roast my shallots in the

same dish as the squash, so they take on that beautiful roasted flavor. The shallots will cook much faster than the squash, so take them out and set them aside after about 25 minutes. The squash will take about 40-50 minutes to get to knife-tender. Then, just toss the roasted shallots into the cavity of the cooked squash, sprinkle with grated Parmesan and roast for another 15-20 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and golden brown.



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

Twice Baked Carnival Squash

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

2 large carnival (or acorn) squash
1/2 teaspoon each: salt, pepper and lemon pepper
2 large or 4 small shallots, peeled and cut into eighths, lengthwise
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray.

Cut squash in half from top to bottom, so each half is more or less a heart shape. Remove seeds and any stringy pulp and season the cavities with salt, pepper and lemon pepper.

Place squash, cut side down, into the prepared baking dish. Toss the shallots in the olive oil and spread out in the dish next to the squash.

Roast squash for anywhere from 35-50 minutes, depending upon the thickness. Mine took the full 50 minutes. The shallots will be ready sooner, so check on them at about the 25-minute mark. They should be nice and browned. Remove shallots and set aside while the squash finishes baking.

Once the squash is tender when a knife is inserted in the center, it is done. Remove the squash from the oven and invert so that the cavity side is now up. You can prepare the squash to this point several hours ahead of time, or even a day or two. If you prefer, you can also cut each squash half in half again, so each squash yields four smaller pieces. Only do this after it is roasted.

When ready to serve, arrange the shallots in the bottom of the cavity and sprinkle Parmesan cheese evenly into the center of the squash and also on the top of the sides. Bake at 375 F for another 15-20 minutes, or until the squash is hot and the cheese is turning golden brown. Serve hot.



Good grief

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

When you fight hard, you seek out every possible resource and engage a great team. But then your family member dies and you feel you didn't do all you could. We end up feeling guilty, even knowing that this is part of the process and it can hit us hard.

I lost two of my younger brothers in the past five months; I have every resource at my disposal and years and years of helping families find answers to challenging situations, but still all my advice to my sisters-in-law did not change the trajectory of their illnesses. I feel sad, I miss them, I feel empathy toward my wonderful sisters-in-law, but there is this pang of guilt that I should have done something else.

Now my rational brain, the trained therapist, comes in with: "Well this is just part of grief." Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

wrote a book on the grief process many years ago. In the book she goes into detail about the process of grief being: denial, bargaining, guilt, depression and acceptance. Again my rational brain says that is all fine, but I still feel like I should have done more or had an answer that none of the many physicians and stellar medical facilities could come up with.

It's easy to see how guilt can lead to depression, but we just can't stop the process of life that includes death. In my circle of friends and family I realize that I am not alone. A friend recently lost a dad to Alzheimer's disease. She is an expert in that field and could not make a difference on his final days. I have another friend who is a retired medical professional struggling to find answers for a family member with severe mental illness.

For those of you not trained in mental or medical health, it is just as hard. Getting out of these stuck places in the

grief journey really takes a mini-village of sorts. A support group or someone to talk this through is one of the best treatments for grief. Just being validated for your feelings, whatever they are, can be comforting.

All of us know that with time, grief becomes less painful. Your memories of the family member take over and give you pause for a smile or a laugh. This does not mean that there is a little part of your heart that is missing. It just means you have gotten to "acceptance," not "forgetfulness." Love endures.

This column is about good grief and that means going through the process, even if you thought you were ready and you are comforted that your family member is no longer in pain and in a better place that many of us call heaven. You can still get stuck in the grief process. I am going to call the stuck place "bad grief."

When you get stuck in any of those places that Elizabeth

Kubler-Roth wrote about, reach out to a pastor, friend, therapist or support group. You want to honor your lost family member or friend, so do an act of kindness in their name. Let them live on through your acts of kindness and love.

It is the month of Thanksgiving, begin each day with what you are grateful for in life and end each day with something you found to be grateful for in that day. This small act also helps with the grief process.

One of the issues during the grief process can be sleeplessness and trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. Next month on Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. I will be doing my Zoom class on "The Elusive Thing Called Sleep."

For information, visit www.LindaFodriniJohnson.com.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company, which she sold in 2019. She continues to consult and provide therapy. Her book, "The Empowered Caregiver: Practical Advice and Emotional Support for Adult Children of Aging Parents" is available on Amazon. www.LindaFodriniJohnson.com.

Looking Good in Lamorinda

Staying warm for the holidays



Handmade hats at Busy Stix in Lafayette.

By Moya Stone

"People on the slopes want handmade hats," says Marcia Brunning, proprietor of Busy Stix in Lafayette. It's warm gear season and the trend is for handmade; and not just knit, but also crochet. Fashion designers showed crochet on the runways this year and the trend continues. Crochet instructor Liz Kaplan says that recently the look has become more popular with young women, but "crochet never went anywhere." Like knitting, the craft is always present taking different twists from year to year. We haven't seen what we call the "Granny Square" in a few decades but it's what younger women are clamoring for and they want to make it themselves, perhaps inspired by knitwear designer (and Vice

President Kamala Harris' stepdaughter) Ella Emhoff, who features her knit and crochet creations on Instagram.

Kaplan often helps Busy Stix customers with their crochet projects as well as teach the occasional class and she creates her own patterns. The shop stocks an array of crochet kits for beginners and of course there is a beautiful assortment of yarn and supplies. Are you hitting the slopes this winter? Get on this fashion trend and make yourself or someone else a warm hat. Check out the website <https://busystix.com>.

ReChic, a women's consignment shop in Orinda, offers quality clothing, accessories, and new gift items. The store is currently stocked with sweaters, boots, handbags, and a selection of new dainty jewelry just right for the current layering trend. For a unique

holiday greeting card, ReChic has cards that feature a drawing of the Orinda Theatre sign. I bought one and made it a birthday card for a friend. (Thank you to ReChic for donating 50% of the proceeds from the card sales to support the theater.) Shop owner Maureen Brown is planning some festive events including Holiday Outdoor Marketplace on Saturday, Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m.; more than 15 local businesses will feature various gift items. Then on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2 to 6 p.m., special guest Jenny Hill from Beautycounter, the company that has led the clean beauty revolution, will be on hand to offer tips for looking our best.

Christine Del Monica, a local hat designer from Lafayette, is selling her wares at The Spotted Cow, a pop-up vintage market in downtown Martinez. Del Monica's whimsical and festive creations are just the thing for a holiday gathering or a New Year's Eve celebration. Staying local or hitting the road, donning a hat is always appropriate. The Spotted Cow will be open Saturday, Nov. 27 and again the first weekend in December. Check them out on Facebook or Instagram.

The de Young Museum in San Francisco has reopened with the fashion exhibit, "Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love." Lafayette resident and personal stylist Francie Low

saw the exhibit and is excited to recommend it. "Patrick Kelly's southern roots inspired playful designs, elegant enough to grace a Paris runway," says Low. "It was fun to learn his mismatched button theme on sleek black dresses was inspired by his grandmother's button box. Small memories can spark remarkable creativity."

Black fashion designer Patrick Kelly (1954-1990) was known for combining whimsy with classic. Originally from Mississippi, he moved to NYC to study fashion design and in 1979 he moved to Paris. There he had friends bob around the streets in his handmade jersey outfits adorned with buttons. These colorful ensembles caught the attention of French Elle magazine and voila, he was on his way to fashion stardom. As well as 80 fully accessorized ensembles, the exhibit includes several videos of runway shows, sketches and art by the designer, and other ephemera.

Make it a holiday treat! "Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love" in on now through April 24, 2022. Masks are required and tickets are timed so it's a good idea to book ahead online at: <https://deyoung.famsf.org>.

Stay warm and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.



Granny Square shawl hand crocheted by Liz Kaplan.



Orinda Theatre cards available at ReChic in Orinda.

Campolindo girls basketball team takes Season of Giving to a whole new level



Campolindo girls basketball team

Photo provided

Submitted by Jon Wood

This holiday season, Moraga is proud to support Campolindo girls basketball and its Soles4Souls shoe drive, which demonstrates the character of these young women and the integrity of the program beyond the court.

Soles4Souls aims to turn unwanted shoes into opportunities, by keeping shoes from going to waste and putting them to good use – providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

“Research shows that with good shoes, kids are more

healthy, attend school more often, and are more confident,” says Campolindo girls basketball head coach Bill Flitter. “Having a good pair of shoes that fit right and look good not only boosts a child’s confidence, it also removes one of the most visible signs of poverty.”

Soles4Souls creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world.

Coach Flitter adds, “Most of us can’t imagine what it’s like not to have something as basic as a pair of shoes, but millions of people around the world face this every day. Our goal is 500 pairs of shoes.”

Shoe drop-off is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Campolindo High School Gym, 300 Moraga Road.

Soles4Souls partners with women’s shelters, veterans’ organizations, children’s programs, and schools to get shoes and clothing to those who need it most. Please join this incredible group of women and bring the shoes you no longer wear. The greatest ‘feet’ you can do today is give new life to those lonely shoes in your closet!

For more information visit: Campogirlsbasketball.com

AAUW Virtual Tech Trek Camps a huge Success



Photo Sandy Fox-Sohner

Submitted by Jan Cushman

The 17 enthusiastic eighth- and ninth-grade Lamorinda girls who received scholarships and attended one of three American Association of University Women (AAUW) Virtual Tech Trek camps were honored at a reception in Orinda on Sept. 18. The girls were enthusiastic about their camp experience, which included many hands-on workshops and exposure to women in STEM fields.

If you had two sheets of poster board and a set of equipment including an Arduino UNO microcontroller

and a breadboard, could you design and program a hat to turn on LED lights, use positional and continuous servos to move things and include your values, strengths and interests as well as your team’s sustainable goal in your decorations?? This is what each of the Tech Trek girls learned to do during the mornings of camp.

After lunch, there were inspirational talks by women in astrophysics, neuroscience, engineering, food/agriculture and climate activism, followed by two hands-on workshops each day, such as “Exploring Water at Its Surface,” and “Lights, Waves, and Plasma, Oh My!”

Evenings were spent with presentations including how to prepare yourself in high school to be ready for a STEM major in college and a tour of a Tokamak device being developed to produce thermonuclear fusion power.

Overall, more than 600 girls from 60 AAUW branches in California participated in three separate camps. Over 6,000 different kits were prepared and assembled into nearly 1,000 bags with the workshop supplies. The camps were made possible by volunteers from branches across the state with the support of Qualcomm and donations from branch and community members.

From left, top row: Sophia Bitton, Camille Bradley, Deya Murthy, Helena Linnen; middle row: Isabelle Culinco, Arianna Bustamante, Christophe Davis, Kodie Zundel, Abigail Hui, Emma Wong; bottom row: Beatrice Dean, Audrey Spears, Maryam Kermani, Georgia Stankus, Rebecca Tanner, Claire Casado (Not shown: Sofia Gomes)

Kiwanis See’s Candy fundraiser offers sweet way to support the community



Photo provided

Submitted by Marty Brinckerhoff

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley’s See’s Candy Holiday Fundraiser is back. After a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Moraga Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke, County Supervisor District 2 Candace Andersen, Club president Leslie Engler and Moraga Police Chief Jon King celebrated the store opening Nov. 18 at the store in the Rheem Shopping Center near CVS.

Together the local community has made great strides

in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and the Kiwanis See’s store is open once again from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 24. They offer the same delicious and premium assortment of See’s candies for your family, friends and work associates at See’s retail prices, with 100% of net proceeds going to worthy local charities and organizations that benefit our community. There are easy parking, wrapping and delivery options, and credit cards are accepted.

Many have suffered hardships and your purchases go a long way to help those in

need get back on their feet. Thanks to the generous support of community and club members, over the last two years during the pandemic the Kiwanis Club of MV has donated over \$150,000 to worthy local charities and organizations that benefit the community. Please join Kiwanis once again, to both give to our community and share the magic of See’s candies during the holidays. What could be sweeter?

For more information about the fundraiser and who Kiwanis serves, visit moragavalleykiwanis.org.

Moraga Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke, County Supervisor District 2 Candace Andersen, Club President Leslie Engler and Moraga Police Chief Jon King help open the Kiwanis See’s Candy shop for the 2021 season.

Santa, wreaths and poinsettia sales at the historic Scout cabin

Submitted by Katie Bidstrup

Together with Lafayette Juniors, Scout Troop 204 will be hosting a wreath and poinsettia sale at the historic Scout cabin (3502 School Street) located on the corner of

Lafayette Elementary, at School and First Streets Dec. 4 and 5. This feel-good, family event will be outside, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Scouts will be on hand to provide masked tours of the cabin interior and to help Santa hand out treats.

As a boy-led Troop, 204

member activities are entirely self-funded through their efforts in the annual wreath sale. Profits from Poinsettia sales will go to support this year’s 2021-22 Juniors beneficiaries: White Pony Express, Futures Explored and Lamorinda Village. While the Troop 204 wreath sale has been on-

going for 25 years, this will be the first time holding the event at the cabin, and in combination with Lafayette Juniors.

Wreaths are 22 inches in diameter and boast a hand-tied bow in traditional red, holiday green/red plaid or festive blue/red tartan. Poin-

settia options are red or white and arrive in 6-inch, foil-wrapped pots. Wreaths are \$30 each. Poinsettias are \$25 each. Pre-sale is available at Troop204.com and LafayetteJuniors.com.

For more information, call (415) 596-7065 or email KatieBidstrup@gmail.com.

Celebrate the season at these special holiday events

Opportunities abound to gather with friends and community members over the upcoming holidays. Here are a few offerings in the Lamorinda area on Thanksgiving Day and beyond:

Looking for a way to work up an appetite on Thanksgiving Day? Join the Fourth Annual Turkey Trot at Moraga Country Club on Thanksgiving Day. The 5K run/walk starts at 8:15 a.m. with the 1.5-mile run/walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds from the event fees will benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. For information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Moraga/MoragaTurkeyTrot>

Searching for a more musical experience? “I Sing Because ...” will feature the prize-winning Saint Mary’s College choirs, joined by the Baroque Chamber Ensemble “Magnificat,” during this free performance of two choral-orchestral selections by J.S. Bach as well as many holiday favorites and a carol sing-along at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and 4 at the SMC Chapel. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID PCR test and wearing of masks is required. For information, visit <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/choir-concert-FA21>

Rather sing your own songs? Join local community members for hot cocoa, cookies and caroling at the annual Tree

Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at Moraga Commons Park. Santa is scheduled to make an appearance at 7 p.m.

And the holidays wouldn’t be the same without George Bailey – and Town Hall Theatre’s Main Stage! THT will be featuring “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” where five actors will bring Bedford Falls to life as they tell the story of George Bailey and his fateful Christmas. The play runs from Dec. 2 to Dec. 19. For information, visit <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36010/production/1086217>

Want more Wonderful? The free annual “It’s a Wonderful Life in Lafayette” holiday event returns this year from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 will include a tree lighting, food, drinks, music and entertainment, children’s activities and Santa in downtown Lafayette at Plaza Park. Presented by the Lafayette Chamber, and sponsored by local Lafayette Realtor The Dana Green Team and Branagh Development, the festivities will begin at 4 p.m. with Santa parading along Golden Gate Way starting at the Lafayette Historical Society and arriving at Lafayette Plaza Park (corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road) at 4:30 p.m. A must-not-miss for the little ones! – J. Wake

Lamorinda Weekly

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Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces a new exhibit at Bank of America, Lafayette, on Mt. Diablo Boulevard across from Safeway. The exhibit will be open through January 2022, during banking hours, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featured artists are Adrienne Rogers (watercolors), Ellen Reintjes (acrylic paintings) and Carolyn WarmSun (acrylic paintings). <http://LAA4Art.org>

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery featuring Akiko Suzuki and Carl Heyward through Dec. 11. 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. <https://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com/2021/11/harvest-2/>

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library – Lamorinda Arts Alliance "Inspired by the Greats." Lamorinda Arts Council welcomes 36 members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance to an in-person and virtual exhibit including 80 artworks from different genres in December. Celebrate the holidays with them at their artist reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Enjoy light refreshments and jazz from the Nika Rejto Duo with Robin Lewis. Visit their online gallery where art is available for purchase at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries. 26 Orinda Way. All COVID-19 precautions observed. Questions? Call (925) 359.9940 or email gallery@lamorindaarts.org.

Lamorinda Arts Council features Christian Ehrhorn's solo exhibit of oil paintings

entitled "Orinda in the Abstract." Join him at an artist reception in his honor with light refreshments from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. View his work online the remainder of the month at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries or request a viewing at the Wilder Art Gallery, 20 Orinda Fields Lane, Orinda by contacting Curator Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org. All COVID-19 precautions observed.

Front and center at the Moraga Art Gallery's gift-rich holiday show, "Alluring Visions," is a display of Wenda Pyman's landscape photographs that capture nature's miraculous details in both striking color and black-and-white, influenced by such masters as Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Edward Weston and others of the f64 Club. Holiday Hours: Wed. – Sun. from noon to 5 p.m., from Dec. 1 - 24 the gallery's hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. On Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., the art lovers of all ages are invited to a free holiday reception to view the art, meet the artists and enjoy snacks and live music provided by the popular harp virtuoso, Wendy Tamis. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Annual Holiday Collection at Valley Art Gallery. Several special holiday gift Trunk Shows are planned. Dec. 7 – 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Also on display

will be a juried fall show of over 300 original works by Bay Area artists. New art on your walls is the perfect way to enhance your home for the holidays and throughout the year. Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, www.valleyartgallery.org, (925) 935-4311.

MUSIC

Cantare Con Vivo returns to the stage with their annual holiday concert, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Adult and youth choirs will be accompanied by organ, brass and percussion, presenting works on the seasonal themes of hope, unity, joy and possibility. Songs include "Angels We Have Heard on High", Gabrieli's "Jubilate Deo" and Roland Carter's classic stirring arrangement of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The audience is invited to join in the singing! Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek. Tickets general admission \$35; Seniors, \$30; Students, \$10. cantareconvivo.org, by phone at (510) 836-0789, or at the door. Audience members must show proof of vaccination and wear masks indoors.

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents Josquin des Prez (and friends): Songs and Instrumental Music from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley.

Works by the Renaissance master for voice, strings and organ (Andrew Canepa, Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, Phoebe Jevtovic Rosquist, Shira Kammen). Cost: \$20. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call 510-220-1195 or email info@barefootchamberconcerts.com

Voices of Music presents Holiday Concerts: Bach, Corelli and more from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way (entrance on Dana), Berkeley. Our signature holiday program of virtuoso concertos returns, featuring Rachell Ellen Wong playing Bach's violin concerto in A Minor BWV 1041. Cost: \$50-55 per concert (subscriptions for our 3 concerts only). For more info see <https://www.voicesofmusic.org> or call 415-260-4687 or email listen@voicesofmusic.org.

THEATER

Join The Peter Pan Foundation for an in-theater production of the family classic, "Little Women," held the weekend of Dec. 3-5 at King's Valley Christian School, 4255 Clayton Rd. Concord. Performance times: Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$15 for seniors, students and veterans. <https://peterpanfoundation.org/box-office>.

Not to be missed

Town Hall Theatre Lafayette is presenting "It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" by Joe Landry directed by Daniel J. Eslick. Dec. 4-19. Previews: Dec. 2 & 3 at 8 p.m., Dec. 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 at 8 p.m., Matinees: Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$35. Group Tickets (10 or more) - \$25. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St. Lafayette www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Shotgun Players presents "The Cassandra Sessions: Recording This World" on Dec. 2-4, 10-11, 17-18, 22-23: 8-9:30 p.m. all days; Dec. 12, 19, 26: 5-6:30 p.m. all days; Livestreams Fridays, Dec. 10 & 17, 8 p.m., at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. Featuring songs by Berkeley native Malvina Reynolds, "The Cassandra Sessions: Recording This World" is a new live music-theater piece. Cost: \$8 - \$40. For more info see <https://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/cassandra> or call 510-841-6500 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

OTHER

Community Concern for Cats, which serves Lamorinda residents, is hosting its annual "Holiday Giving Tree" Fundraiser through Dec. 31 at its upscale thrift store, Rescued Treasures, 1270 Newell Ave. in Walnut Creek at the San Miguel Shopping Center. All the proceeds will go toward life-saving procedures for homeless cats and kittens in local neighborhoods. Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays noon to 4 p.m. For information call: (925) 937-3201.

Art of Mixology Cocktail Kits are \$50 each and contain everything you need to make two different kinds of cocktails – except for the alcohol which must be purchased separately. There are two recipes per kit, and each recipe serves six. View more information here: www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology/. All proceeds from Art of Mixology Kit sales support the volunteer-led efforts and programs of the nonprofit Lamorinda Arts Council and our mission to ignite and sustain artistic expression and appreciation for all ages throughout Lamorinda.

The 50th annual Walnut Creek Elks local "Free Throw Contest" will take place from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, hosted once again at De La Salle High School in Concord. Boys and girls age 8 through 13 are invited to participate. Free event register at the gym between 8:30-10:45 a.m. and shoot 25 free throws! For further information: Coach MIKE RITTENHOUSE, Director 925-360-2900 coach_ritt@yahoo.com.

Free Holiday Event Dec. 4 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Join Be the Star You Are!@ charity and 5 A Rent-a-Space for festive family fun. "Write Letters to Santa," enjoy hot chocolate and treats, and maybe catch a glimpse of elves. Thanks to Mark Hoogs Team and State Farm for sponsoring Be the Star You Are! Location: 5 A-Rent-Space 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga, www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events.

Scout Troop 204 and Lafayette Juniors are co-hosting a wreath and poinsettia sale Dec. 4 and 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic Scout cabin 3502 School Street. This feel-good, family event is outside, with Scouts on-hand to provide (masked) cabin tours and help Santa hand out treats. Wreaths (\$30) are 22" with a hand-tied bow. Poinsettias (\$25) are red or white, packed in 6", foil-wrapped pots. Pre-sale is available at Troop204.com and LafayetteJuniors.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

mvpcc

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OUR SAVIOR'S
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Sunday Livestream at 9:00 AM, or
view it anytime on our YouTube Channel.

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St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

An Open, Affirming & Loving Community
Virtual service at Sun. 9:00 AM

If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email cathy.w@stanselms.ws 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, www.stanselms.ws

Lafayette

United Methodist Church

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda football in the playoffs; Campo leading the way



#9 Dashiell Weaver

Photo Ty Sedman

By Jon Kingdon

After the sixth week of the regular season, **Campolindo** had a plebian 3-3 record. From that point on, the Cougars won six straight games, the last two being playoff games in the Division II NCS over Dublin (38-28) and the No. 1 seed, San Ramon Valley (SRV) (17-14) last Friday night.

Coach Kevin Macy set the tone for the evening by throwing deep on the game's first play. The Cougars scored on that drive on a 10-yard pass to Connor Fritch from Dashiell

Weaver. "We wanted to keep throwing to (Bradley) Nestal deep and he made some big plays including a great touchdown catch," Macy said. Max Rittman and Robbie Mascheroni also made key receptions in the game.

Weaver threw for 190 yards and ran for another 90 yards, constantly converting third down plays. "Dash gave us that added dimension in the running game, something we had been encouraging him to do all season."

Late in the first half, Macy stayed aggressive on a fourth-

and-goal play at the SRV 2, attempting to run for a touch-down, passing up the sure field goal. Even though they did not score on the play, it sent a message to the players. "We preached all week that we would be aggressive," Macy said. "I wanted to show the players that we were not going to change that attitude." Ironically, it was a 23-yard field goal by Ryan Sintchak late in the third quarter, that in the end provided the winning margin for the Cougars.

SRV came into the game averaging 28 points a game and only scored their second touchdown after a fumbled snap when Campolindo was trying to run out the clock late in the fourth quarter. The defensive line was led by the only three defensive tackles on the team, Tyrone Tuavale, Arian Mosaddad and Elijah Klock. "They did a great job in taking on the large San Ramon line," Macy said.

Senior cornerback Zion Adams took the plan to heart: "We got into their receivers' faces which they weren't used to. We just came out and took it to them."

After SRV scored to make the score 17-14, it was Charlie Murrin that ensured the victory, recovering the onside kick as it lay free after bouncing off a

Cougar player. Campolindo never gave up possession of the ball after that. Charlie Murrin ensured the victory by recovering the onside kick as it lay free after bouncing off a Cougar player.

Speaking to the players, their parents and fans, Macy was ecstatic: "You've just seen one of the greatest games we've ever played. People kept kicking dirt on our graves this year, but we just kept coming back and tonight was nothing more than an aggressive, dig in and fight all night battle and we never buckled. You were lucky to be to a witness to this game."

Campolindo will be playing at 7 p.m. Nov. 27 at Foothill High School (Pleasanton) for the NCS championship.

Miramonte

After starting the season off with five straight wins, Miramonte finished the regular season with a 5-4 record. "We were in a tough league," Coach Jack Scharff said. "Four of the five teams made the playoffs and they all made it into the second round."

Miramonte won their first-round game in the Division 5 North Coast Section over Encinal by a score of 42-23, in a game that was not that close. For their efforts, they had to play Del Norte High School in

Crescent City, a six-hour ride from Orinda and coming up on the short end of a 42-13 game.

For the season, offense was not a problem for Miramonte. The Matadors averaged 28.5 points per game, led by junior quarterback Luke Duncan who threw for 2,765 yards with 28 touchdowns while also running for 177 yards. Complimenting Duncan in the backfield was all-everything Sam Ross who started the year off as an offensive tackle before moving to running back and gaining 288 yards on 36 carries.

"My philosophy is to put your best athletes in a place when they can most influence a game which for Ross was as a running back," Scharff said. "Sam had the same effect as our middle linebacker (8.4 tackles per game). The problem was that he did get a lot of wear and tear on his body."

Tyler Dutto led the team with 63 receptions, averaging 19.2 yards/catch and scored 14 touchdowns. Jimmy Foster (27/358/3 TDs), Cooper Bohlig (24/361/2 TDs) and Adam Brudzinski (20/192/3 TDs) were Duncan's primary targets. Bohlig also had a 99-yard touchdown interception in the Encinal game that was key to the Matador's victory.

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Two finals and a semifinal for the Lamorinda boys' water polo teams



Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

At the beginning of the season, Miramonte Coach James Lathrop made it a point to downplay expectations, saying, "This is the youngest team I've had in 19 years. Hopefully, we'll be in a good spot at the end of the year."

The Matadors (16-11 and ranked 17th nationally) made it to the final of the NorCal Championship against the No. 1 seed and fourth ranked Sacred Heart Prep. Miramonte kept the game close for most of the first half but ended up losing by a score of 17-4. "I know the score was lopsided tonight, but we played very tough against a very talented team," Coach James Lathrop said. "It didn't help that we only had one day to prepare for and we got into foul trouble. They made the shots, and we didn't, but we competed like hell and I'm really proud of the guys."

After the game, Lathrop spoke to the team about how far they had come from the beginning of the season: "I reminded them about the journey that we have been on. We set a goal at the beginning of the year, acknowledging that we were a young team and yet this was the first Miramonte boys team that made it to an NCS championship game."

Lathrop shared the credit for ultimate success of the team with the seven seniors on the team and the roles they filled, in and out of the pool. "We had great leadership from all of our seniors, not just the captains," Lathrop said. "They would not wait for me to ask them to be leaders but took it upon themselves to hold the team accountable and having a good time doing it. They're all quality young men."

The high points of the season for Miramonte came in the semifinal games of the NCS and NorCal tournaments, when they were playing at an optimal level, Lathrop said: "We played our best games of the year in the post season, defeating Campolindo in the NCS semifinals after having lost to them twice previously and then defeating De La Salle in the NorCal semifinals after being down by two goals in the last three minutes. Coming back to win that game was a testament on how far we had come as a team."

For Lathrop, the performance of the team was not at all dampened by the loss to Sacred Heart: "By making it to the finals in the NCS and NorCal championships, this year was a success by far because we maximized how good we could be as a team. We hold these kids to high standards and support them to reach those levels. There is a tradition and legacy that comes with Miramonte. We're continuously just trying to write the next chapter."

Campolindo

With a record of 16-11, Campolindo still made it to the semifinals in the NCS and NorCal tournaments, losing in a battle against Miramonte in the NCS and then to the ultimate NorCal winner, Sacred Heart Prep 9-6.

For the senior class, it was end of an arduous two years following a NorCal championship in 2019. "They've been through a lot with the COVID," Coach Miles Price said. "After losing (starting center) Ben Larsen for the season due to an injury, it's been an up and down year."

The offense scored at least 13 goals nine times but only finished the season averaging 10.2 goals per game and the team lost four games by one goal and two games by two goals. "We weren't inconsistent, but we did not play to our potential day in and day out," Miles said. "When it all came together, we were really talented and there were games where we weren't, where we really struggled."

The defense only gave up an average of 9.4 goals per game led by Grant Roesch along with Reid Thorson and William Vranesh among a strong group of defensive players.

Once again, Senior West Temkin proved to be a force in the net. "West is a generational talent that has been a blast to have coached for the last four years. (Senior) Ben Blatt also did a good job when he was called upon to play. He and West have been very supportive of each other, and we always had some great practices."

Price never had cause to question the commitment of the team: "Our intensity and effort was always great, and I've been really proud of our captains (Temkin, Luca Rago and Brody Crouch). Our future is bright, and we'll continue to be a good team."

Acalanes

Acalanes started off the season slowly losing six of their first nine games. It was at this point that head coach Lincoln Haley realized that the development of the team's mindset was going to lead the team to the top or sink it far lower: "The biggest things for us to stay positive and find that chemistry within the team, making sure that everyone stayed on the same page."

That they did, going 9 and 5 the rest of the season, even more impressive with the 61st ranked Dons playing 11 games against higher ranked opponents and eight of those teams ranked in the top 20 nationally and making it to the NCS championship game.

Though losing 10-7 to Redwood in the final, the Dons made it a game right to the end. However, it was the prior semifinal game against Tamalpais, an overtime 14-12 victory, which epitomized the attitude, effort, and desire of the team.

The offense was led by Christian Gotterup but when teams were able to shut him down, juniors Austin Bishop and Andrew Sappal were able to step in and carry the offense as they did in the Tamalpais game. "Andrew did a great job getting up and down the pool, scoring some counter goals and Austin came through in the clutch," Haley said. "He had a lot of opportunities in that game and took advantage of his scoring opportunities."

It was seniors Kyle Rosenblatt and Eli Berkowitz who were the cornerstones of the Dons' defense fronting for junior goalie Harrison Labrosse. "We had to find out what we were as a defensive team," Haley said. "Kyle and Eli were just rock solid in there and Harrison also did a consistently great job all season."

The attitude of the team is what really pleased Haley: "We had our ups and downs as you do in any season, with both good and bad streaks. However, when we got into a funk, it might have taken a second to get out of it but once we got over it, the team came out pretty high."

Successful seasons for Lamorinda girls water polo led by Miramonte's championship team

By Jon Kingdon

Starting and finishing the season ranked No. 1 nationally, the Miramonte Lady Matadors concluded a dominating, undefeated season with their 28th win, a victory of visiting Davis High School 11-4 in the Division I Northern California championship. Acalanes (18-12) made it to the Division II finals losing 10-7 to Arroyo Grande in Santa Cruz. Campolindo (15-12), reached the NCS championship game falling to Miramonte, qualifying for the NorCal championships, but came up short against Sacred Heart Prep.

After the celebratory jump in the pool after the win, Miramonte coach John Roemer spoke to the quality and talent of the team rather than singling out any individuals. "The depth of the team was the key to our success. The girls knew that if somebody didn't have a good game, someone else would step up."

Evidencing the statement, in the semifinal game against Sacred Heart Prep, Allie Lurie scored five goals and in the Davis game, Meghan McAninch led the team with five goals.

"It would depend on how a defense would play us," Roemer said. "If they took something away from us, we would have somewhere else to go to. The girls would read what was open and they would know what to do."

McAninch made it a point to share the credit for her performance against Davis and for what Roemer brought to the team: "The five goals I scored were because of my teammates. We worked as a team, not individually. Coach Roemer was someone that we could learn from and look up to because of how much experience he has had in the water polo field."

Miramonte only gave up one goal in the second half of the game. Goalie Lindsey Lucas also made it a point to share the credit with her teammates. "It's all about the team," she said. "It's everyone working together, playing for the player next to you and not for yourself. Allie Lurie and Ally Smith our center defenders were huge but honestly it was everyone that made it work, our starters, our substitutes and even that players that didn't make it into the game were also important."

After the victory, Roemer spoke with the team to make sure they were aware of how unique an undefeated season is: "It's important for all of you to realize how special and rare an undefeated championship season is. It was all about you as a team. All I did was lay the foundation and you took it from there. I'm so proud of all of you."

Acalanes

Despite losing to Miramonte in the semifinals of the NCS championship, coach Misha Buchel was confident about the teams chances in the NorCal Championship. "I was really pleased with how the girls responded in the Miramonte game. They kept on fighting and got ready to take on the next level."

Ready they were, defeating San Ramon Valley (12-2) and Amador Valley (11-4) prior to the championship game against Arroyo Grande. Last Saturday at 10:30 in the morning, a caravan of Acalanes water polo players set off on a 248-mile, four-hour drive to play Arroyo Grande High School in the NorCal Championship.

The Dons were down by four goals after the first half but adjusted and put pressure on Arroyo Grande, reducing the lead to two goals in the fourth quarter. "We had several chances to cut the deficit to one," Buchel said. "We just couldn't find the back of the net, missing some great chances with bar outs and goalie tip outs."

After losing to Arroyo Grande earlier in the season, Buchel adjusted his game plan: "Our point of emphasis was to win the one-on-one matchups. I was really satisfied with our performance

and effort even though the results were not what we wanted. We made it tough for Arroyo Grande and gave them everything that wanted but they just had a few more options on the offensive side than we did and that proved to be the difference in the game."

Once again it was Heidi Heffelfinger who led the offense and Audrey Cox who was her usual dominant self in the goal: "Audrey made some huge one-on-saves that helped us get back in the game," Buchel said.

Sophomore Olivia Williams also merited special recognition. Earlier in the day, Williams won the Girls Division IV NCS Cross Country Championship in Hayward. After stepping off the medal podium, she jumped into a car and made it in time to start and play almost the entire game. For Buchel, there was one regret: "We were only disappointed that Olivia was not able to be the first high school athlete to win two gold medals in a day."

Still, Buchel came away very satisfied with the performance of the team starting from day one. "We made steady progress all year long. Once invited into the Division II bracket, we were absolutely committed to do everything that we could to earn another gold banner and gold medal. We performed well in all three games. Considering where we started the season, I was super proud that we were able to come home with the silver medals, knowing that those opportunities are not frequent."

Campolindo

With 22 of their 27 games played against teams ranked in the top 25 nationally, Campolindo arguably played the toughest schedule of any team in the county.

"In NorCal, the top eight teams were pretty close. We had some rough moments against a lot of tough teams," coach Kim Everist said. "However, the team did a good job in keeping their eyes focused on the end of the season and not getting wrapped up in what was happening in the middle of the season and just trying to maintain their confidence and working through that tough part of the schedule."

After winning five of their first six games, Campolindo had winning and losing streaks of four games. "Still, we were stoked to be in the mix with the top teams," Everist said. "The girls did a good job of developing a familiarity with each other and were able to maintain their confidence and working through the tough games is what ultimately brought them together."

Junior Goalie Shayne Clancy's play since moving over as a field player has been a constant source of pride for Everist: "She just keeps getting better and better. To see her improvement has been spectacular through the course of the season. She's been the backbone of our defense."

The Cougars held their opponents to single figures in 11 of their games. "In the back end of the season, our team defense really came together," Everist said. "Everybody in that primary group has really played a role on defense. Our center defenders were posting up and our attackers were playing center defenders, and everyone has had to pick up some different roles and filled them with great pride."

Maggie Hawkins, Kaia Levenfeld, Ana Pieper, and Paige Chivers were the leaders on offense. "With our strong center and outside shooters, we were able to make it tough on our opponents because they could not shut down the pockets," Everist said.

The growth of confidence the players developed were a key to their ultimate success. "Initially we did not know what we were capable of but, in the end, the girls were able to see within themselves as to what they can be capable of."



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3rd GRADE GIRLS, BELGIUM

(Front row L to R): Keelin Wakefield, Eva Loder, Naiya Trent, Chloe Karma, Emma Rosenblat, Reese Raher, Hadley Daniels, Abigail Kacher, Maya Nagar, (Back row L to R): Coach Matt Wakefield, Coach Logan Daniels. Not pictured: Sana MacMillan, Elyse Edgington, Emma Stack.



4th GRADE BOYS, WALES

(Front row L to R): Sami Zahoori, AJ Jeffery, Tristan McGinley, Kaito Kuniyoshi, Charlie Emerson. (Middle row L to R): Trey Renno, Breck Millar, Carter Crotty, Jacob Shafer, Alqassim Najeeb, Anthony Del Favero, Toby Kelly. (Back row L to R): Coach Jamie McGinley, Coach Ron Del Favero. *Signs created by our loyal fans.*



4th GRADE GIRLS, NETHERLANDS

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(L to R): Finn Aiken, Rhett Brewer, Dylan Castorena, Dane Darby, William Feinstein, Bennett George, Kyle Gleason-Dick, Aiden Castro, Connor Hennessee, Ryan Kohler, Edward Mrachek, William Mrachek, Nico Randesi, Calder Williamson. Coach Erik Darby, Coach Dan Feinstein.



5th/6th GRADE GIRLS, SPAIN

(L to R): Averly Ammerman, Charlotte Smith, Annie Andres, Ashby Raher, Ellis Vukasin. Not pictured: Maya Clarke, Zoe Freese, Aleah Mathai-Jackson, Ruby Peters, Jamie Renton, Scout Renton, Avery Marshall.



7th/8th GRADE BOYS, GERMANY

(Front row L to R): Ollie Penn, Jude Middleton, Nael Benmeziane, Caden Busfield, Harrison Sheffler, Hunter Crandall. (Back row L to R): Coach Peter Marchetti, Emerson Boudreau, Danny Dunn, Grisha Statnikov, Rayyan Khan, Rai Marchetti, Durham Vail, Ian Lin, Coach Jon Middleton. Not pictured: Anthony Mullin, Damon DiPrisco, Chase Belhumeur.



7th/8th GRADE GIRLS, FRANCE

(Front row L to R): Abbey Kohler, Molly Wiehe, Bell Carmichael, Grace "GG" Gallagher, Veronica Flint, Darya Inamova, Cate Mercier, Lexy Platto, Claire Morgan. (Back row L to R): Coach Mark Kohler, Coach Hank Mercier, Ella Mewes, Isabelle Obolsky, Julia Munter, Kate Beaver, Maya Obolsky, Sidney Scovic, Coach Terra Carmichael.



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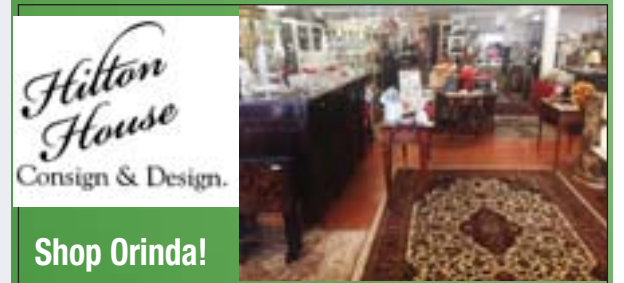
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Lamorinda football in the playoffs; Campo leading the way

... continued from Page C1

Miramonte's defense gave up 29.5 points/game though they were not without their own highlights. "We had a goal line stands against Encinal which allowed us to have 2-3 score advantage, allowing us to coast at the end." Besides Ross, DE Andreas Cornett, LB Aiden Stone and Datto, Bohlig at the safety positions and Chase Bliss

who was the team's best corner were key players on defense. Acalanes

Offense was not the question for Acalanes, averaging 43.6 points per game, finishing the season with a 6-5 record. Luke Souza ran the offense throwing for 3,145 yards, 38 TD with only eight interceptions and a QB rating of 129.5.

Seniors Will Berrien (62/855 10 TDs), Dante Montgomery (58/1108/14 TDs) and

Evan Malmquist (26/234) led the receiving core with underclassmen, Trevor Rogers, Ethan Torres, Andrew Habas, Paul Kuhner ready to step in next year. Malmquist also rushed for 1,010 yards and junior Ellis Burger ran for 341 yards, averaging 12.6 yards/carry.

Acalanes gave up 25.5 points per game. "Defensively we struggled with the size of our players," Coach Floyd Burnsed said. "We had a hard

time stopping the run and making plays when we need to make a big play."

The Dons' loss to El Cerrito in the NCS first round game was another example of mistakes sabotaging Acalanes' chance to advance in the playoffs. "Late in the first half, we were up 26-6 and we fumbled the ball at midfield. El Cerrito ran a half-back pass, and our DB came up and they completed it down to the 3-yard line, scoring on the

last play of the half, which fired them up. They then got the ball to open the second half and they scored in three plays." El Cerrito eventually won the game 40-32.

With 30 returning players on the varsity, 44 players coming up from JV and a freshmen squad that had 58 players, this should set the foundation for next year's team.

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 20 Wednesday, November 24, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grateful gobbler



Photos Cynthia Brian

The muted colors of the forest are reminiscent of an Impressionist painting.

By Cynthia Brian

“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.” ~ Henry Ward Beecher

Are you feeling grateful? Although I feel thankful for every day that I walk on this earth, after such a tumultuous 20 months, this year my heart is overflowing with appreciation. Throughout these times, my garden has been my sanctuary, my refuge, and the place where I recharge. The abelia is blooming and that makes me cheerful.

Autumn is a splendid season with cooler weather and nature’s spectacular showcase of colorful leaves on shrubs and trees. Maple, Japanese maple, tallow, crape myrtle, pistache, liquid amber, beech, black gum, sumac, aspen, dogwood, ginkgo biloba, tupelo, red oak, and many more species are just a few of the magical specimens whose leaves metamorphose from green into vibrant red, yellow, or-

ange, purple, crimson, brown, russet, tan, bronze and scarlet. During the growing season, the green in leaves is a product of the chlorophyll using sunlight to manufacture sugars to feed the tree. As the weather cools with shorter days and longer nights, biochemical changes occur allowing a painter’s palette of vibrant and muted hues. The most stunning displays happen after a succession of sunny, warm days followed by crisp and cool nights. Moisture in the soil is also a factor that can delay or speed up the color.

I have just returned from experiencing splendid fall colors on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. On some of the riverbanks, the tree colors were muted as if in an Impressionist masterpiece. In gardens and parks, singular specimens were neon bright as if painted by Frederick Church.

Before I left, my trees were only beginning to change colors. When I arrived home a few days later, the leaves had already fallen, carpeting lawn, patio, and driveway in a thick layer.

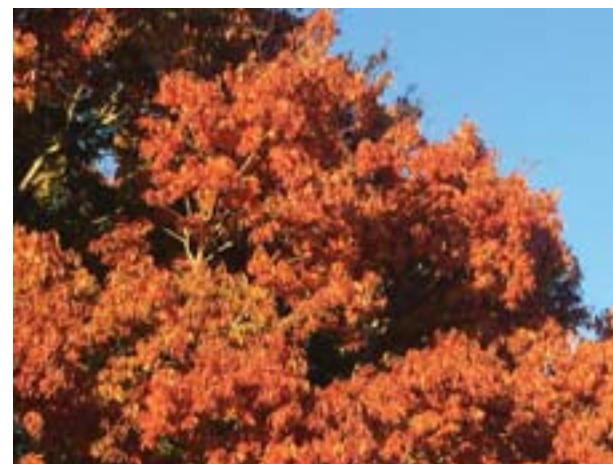
My husband was anxious to clean up the leaves and I had to beg him to *not* put the leaves in the green bin. Fallen leaves are great for the compost pile and as a natural fertilizer for other plants.

Here’s what you need to know about fallen leaves: Keep them in your garden!

We can reduce emissions from landfills by managing the leaves by leaving them around the root zones of plants, shrubs, and trees to suppress weeds, provide shelter for beneficial insects, maintain moisture, control temperature, and return nutrients to the soil which plants will reuse. Microorganisms help small leaves decompose quickly. Larger leaves may need to be mowed to break them up.

... continued on

Page D14



The bright crimson of the beeches.



Happy Thanksgiving
 During this time of year we can't help but think of how thankful we are for all of our clients, friends, and family. Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	19	\$945,000	\$3,217,500
MORAGA	13	\$350,000	\$4,300,000
ORINDA	15	\$1,170,000	\$2,900,000

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

- 15 Beaumont Court, \$1,160,000, 3 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-01-21
- 25 Billington Court, \$2,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 3366 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 09-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,049,500, 03-20-12
- 5 Black Forest Court, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2931 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 09-28-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 05-08-12
- 2 Burr Court, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2099 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 06-26-98
- 3231 Camino Colorados, \$1,430,000, 3 Bdrms, 1527 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-28-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 05-29-17
- 1293 Candy Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1784 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 09-29-21
- 473 Florence Drive, \$2,705,000, 3 Bdrms, 2234 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-04-21,
Previous Sale: \$990,000, 04-24-14
- 3273 Glenside Drive, \$1,665,000, 2 Bdrms, 1835 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-08-21
- 1006 Howard Hills Road, \$2,261,000, 5 Bdrms, 5020 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 04-04-01
- 1540 Huston Road, \$945,000, 3 Bdrms, 1400 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 09-30-21
- 3341 South Lucille Lane, \$1,410,000, 3 Bdrms, 1571 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 09-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$172,500, 05-01-86
- 1 Middle Road, \$3,217,500, 4 Bdrms, 3725 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 09-30-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,825,000, 06-20-11
- 2461 Olympic Boulevard, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1080 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-08-21
- 1050 Pine Lane, \$2,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 3734 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-08-21
- 3386 Reliez Highland Road, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2433 SqFt,
1977 YrBlt, 10-01-21
- 2008 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1072 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 10-01-21,
Previous Sale: \$165,000, 11-01-85
- 3456 Shangri La Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-06-21
- 3550 Springhill Road, \$3,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3274 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 10-07-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,845,000, 01-16-14
- 1083 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2073 SqFt,
1957 YrBlt, 09-27-21, Previous Sale: \$1,905,000, 03-31-17

MORAGA

- 120 Ascot Court #C, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 09-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$489,000, 09-14-05
- 3 Benedita Place, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 07-16-18
- 99 Danefield Place, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2274 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-05-21
- 278 Deerfield Drive, \$2,070,000, 4 Bdrms, 2350 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 09-30-21
- 2133 Donald Drive #18, \$350,000, 1 Bdrms, 560 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
Previous Sale: \$65,000, 10-07-13
- 2145 Donald Drive #2, \$539,000, 2 Bdrms, 1162 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-30-21
- 8 Julianna Court, \$4,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 6607 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 09-30-21
- 8 Kings Crown Court, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-07-21,
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 04-10-12

... continued on Page D11

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SORAYA GOLESORKHI
REALTOR®



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of pumpkin spice and everything nice!

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- Cheers!



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I have one word for
ALL MY BUYERS AND SELLERS IN 2021:
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I'm so lucky to have created a life that allows me to work with great people, explore fabulous properties and help find the right fit for all. Thinking of selling in 2022? Let's talk.

Happy Thanksgiving from my home to yours!

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30 Sea Pines, Moraga
53 Parklane Dr. Orinda
25 Dias Dorados, Orinda
3423 Freeman Rd. Lafayette
38 Muth Dr. Orinda
8 Estates Dr., Orinda
11 Dos Posos, Orinda
9 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda
8 Robert Road, Orinda
154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
120 Ravenhill Rd. Orinda
63 Orchard Rd. Orinda
236 Ivy Dr., Orinda
2 Calvin Dr., Orinda
4 Crown Court, Orinda
1055 Via Roble, Lafayette
114 Merion Terrace, Moraga
10 Joaquin Patio, Stinson
107 Merion Terrace, Moraga
172 Lombardy Dr., Orinda
30 Owl Hill Rd., Orinda
78 Shuey Dr., Moraga
653 Augusta Dr., Moraga
26 Tappan Dr., Orinda
21 Scenic Dr., Orinda



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Barbara

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Season of Gratitude ❤️

As we gather and celebrate this holiday season, we look back on the year with gratitude and deep appreciation for our clients, friends, neighbors & community.

We can't thank you enough for your continued business and support. Succeeding expectations and helping our clients achieve their real estate goals is at the core of why we love what we do.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

- 48 La Salle Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-05-21
 59 Miramonte Drive, \$685,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$565,000, 09-29-06
 79 Sanders Ranch Road, \$2,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt,
 1988 YrBlt, 09-28-21, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 08-25-08
 104 Via Joaquin, \$859,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 09-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$450,000, 11-01-02
 116 Wallace Circle, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2317 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 10-05-21

ORINDA

- 165 Canon Drive, \$2,135,000, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 09-28-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,653,500, 07-31-18
 82 Diablo View Drive, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3137 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-30-21,
 Previous Sale: \$715,000, 01-27-99
 72 El Gavilan Road, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 12-15-20
 205 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt,
 1951 YrBlt, 10-01-21, Previous Sale: \$885,000, 08-14-17
 127 Las Vegas Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2900 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-07-21
 24 Loma Linda Court, \$2,098,000, 3 Bdrms, 3394 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 09-28-21
 172 Lombardy Lane, \$1,710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1667 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-01-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 10-18-19
 10 Lucille Way, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
 Previous Sale: \$41,500, 09-01-90
 50 Mira Loma Road #52, \$1,925,000, 6 Bdrms, 3376 SqFt,
 1966 YrBlt, 10-06-21, Previous Sale: \$1,819,500, 06-18-18
 113 Overhill Road, \$1,695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-05-21,
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 07-18-19
 30 Owl Hill Road, \$1,885,000, 3 Bdrms, 2217 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
 Previous Sale: \$895,000, 02-12-03
 5 Valencia Road, \$1,915,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,057,000, 07-13-04
 300 Village View Court, \$2,105,000, 2 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,020,000, 09-22-20
 57 Windy Creek Way, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 3643 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 09-29-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,282,000, 10-13-20
 15 Woodland Road, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2177 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-07-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 09-24-03



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REALTOR

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grateful gobbler



Photos Cynthia Brian

Hachiya and Fuyu persimmons are perfect holiday fruits.

... continued from Page D1

In 2018, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, over 10.5 million tons of yard trimmings were deposited in landfills, producing copious amounts of greenhouse gas.

Layering leaves in your landscape is also critical for wildlife habitat that benefits the ecosystem of thousands of different species. From earthworms, caterpillars, and pill bugs to toads, lizards and salamanders, leaf litters are alive with promise. Squirrels, birds, and yes, turkeys depend on layers of leaves as a food source during the winter months.

If you have a garden service, deter them from blowing leaves into the street where drains can be clogged and water quality in waterways can be compromised. Encourage these providers to create a pile of this organic material which will naturally break down to be used as free compost in your garden.

Since the downpour of the recent bomb cyclone and atmospheric river, mushrooms of many sorts have sprouted. It's tempting to want to harvest fungi for a delectable holiday recipe but unless one is an expert mycologist, it is wise to purchase mushrooms from a trusted source as many of the 11,000 species that grow in North America are poisonous and deadly.

... continued on Page D14



Kyle Davis

Owner/Partner
Senior Mortgage Consultant
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\$20M+

17

TRANSACTIONS

Just Sold:

114 Merion Terrace, Moraga
466 Woodminster, Moraga
73 Brookwood Rd #43, Orinda
29 Crescent Dr, Orinda
4290 El Nido Ranch Rd, Orinda
25 Los Cerros, Orinda
9 Via Corte, Orinda
35 Underhill Rd, Orinda
859 Grayson Rd, Pleasant Hill
1767 Ruth Dr, Pleasant Hill
257 Kingston Way, Walnut Creek
1673 Poplar Dr, Walnut Creek
2009 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek
2827 Fernside Blvd, Alameda
1411 Ridgewood Dr, Martinez
5325 Stonehurst Dr, Martinez
4337 Clarinbridge, Dublin

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Grateful gobbler**



Don't eat the mushrooms sprouting unless you are knowledgeable.



Pumpkins and gourds for Thanksgiving.



Abelia blooms brighten the garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D12

Persimmons, pumpkins, and squash supply part of the cornucopia of colorful edible produce that is healthy and delicious for any autumn feast. Fuyu persimmons sliced thinly add panache to fall salads and make crunchy, tasty snacks. Hachiya persimmons must be very soft, almost mushy, before they'll release their sweetness. They are delicious as a fresh dessert or made into puddings, cakes, and breads. Pumpkins and squash are superfoods that will boost your immunity and increase your intake of vitamins and minerals including vitamin C, magnesium, vitamin B6, potassium, vitamin E, folate, fatty acids, and other micronutrients. Along with gourds, they also create stunning displays on your Thanksgiving table.

Although many people may disagree, I am grateful for the gobblers that grace my grounds. The wild turkeys eat fallen rotten fruit, fertilize the orchard with their excrement, and respond to my attempts to talk turkey. In other words, turkeys amuse me.

As I look out upon my fall garden, I am comforted by the tranquility, the colors of the vegetation, and the changing of the seasons. Mostly I

am thankful to be alive and healthy and this year, have the ability to celebrate together as a family, along with the wild turkeys, deer, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, and other critters in our rural arena.

With the shopping season in full swing, give the gifts that keep on giving by purchasing any of my award-winning books from www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store. Proceeds benefit the literacy charity, Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 and you'll receive a plethora of additional gifts with every purchase.

Mark your calendars: Join 5 A Rent-a-Space and Be the Star You Are!® on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for free family fun at Santa Day. Enjoy hot cocoa and treats while kids write letters to Santa, take a free photo with Jolly St. Nick, and receive a tree ornament kit. Thanks to Mark Hoogs Team (www.TeamHoogs.com) at State Farm Insurance for sponsoring Be the Star You Are!® For more info visit www.BetheStarYouAre.org.

Wishing you a bountiful, healthy, and love-filled Thanksgiving. Celebrate a Gobbler Gratitude Day!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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Cynthia Brian in the autumn garden.

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

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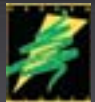
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