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Campolindo celebrates after winning the Nov. 27 North Coast Section Championship game

Photo Rudy Ortiz

Campolindo nabs NCS Championship before tough loss to McClymonds

By Jon Kingdon

Playing the underdog all season, Campolindo kept finding a way to come out ahead, winning seven games in a row and playing in the Dec. 4 state semifinal game. The odds finally caught up to the Cougars, losing at McClymonds 40-21, finishing the season with a 10-4 record.

It was a matchup that Campolindo coach Kevin Macy felt was not done with fairness in mind. "This was not our stage," Macy said. "I get frustrated that we keep overachieving and they keep pushing us into a game like this where we just didn't physically match up. They are a big city, all-star team and we're just a neighborhood team. We couldn't have asked our play-

ers to do anymore than they did tonight."

Looking back on the season, Macy was effusive in his praise for the team: "Our kids did some incredible things this year."

If one game had to be chosen to exemplify the "incredible stuff," it would have to be the victory over Foothill 21-14 on Nov. 27 in the North Coast Section Championship game.

The game was ultimately decided by the Cougars defense, being able to lay claim to a pseudo-shutout by not allowing the Foothill offense to cross the goal line, with the Falcons only scoring off an interception and a kickoff return.

Campolindo took the opening kickoffs and marched down the field with quarterback Dashiell

Weaver throwing primarily to Robbie Mascheroni, capping the drive off with a 2-yard run by Robby Horst to go ahead 7-0. Weaver would go on to complete 18 of 26 passes for 227 yards, nine of them going to Mascheroni for 100 yards.

There was no further scoring until the very end of the second quarter. With 51 seconds left in the half, Foothill's punter Anthony Tahir dropped a punt down on the Campolindo 1-yard line. After a run for no gain and a timeout by Foothill, Weaver dropped back to pass and under heavy pressure in the end zone made an ill-advised throw that was intercepted by Foothill's Noah Lombardi who returned it for a touchdown, tying the game at 7-7.

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Environmental Excellence Award recognizes efforts to ban gas-powered leaf blowers



Image provided

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Jennifer Renton's children –12-year-old Finn and 10-year-olds Scout and Jamie – aren't the kind of kids that take no for an answer. And Renton couldn't be more proud.

It's that persistent pushback that earned the trio of siblings one of the two Environmental Excellence awards from the Lafayette Environmental Task Force and recognition at the Lafayette City Council meeting on Nov. 22.

During the virtual learning period of the pandemic Renton said her children were very distracted both by the sounds of leaf blowers, which made it difficult for them to hear their teachers online, and by the fumes that the gas-powered

blowers emit, making it hard for at least one of them (with asthma) to breathe.

"They started to do research and learned that on top of being very noisy, leaf blowers are extremely bad for the environment," Renton said. "The fumes coming off of a half hour of running a leaf blower would be the equivalent of letting exhaust run for three hours into your open window."

The Renton kids found that some 60 California towns including Palo Alto have already banned gas-powered leaf blowers and they want Lafayette to join the trend. The children wrote letters making their case for pivoting away from gas-powered leaf blowers to neighbors, the superintendent and anyone who would listen. While the children's vision of banning gas leaf blowers has been well received by many, Renton said

some like the school superintendent needed some convincing.

"The superintendent said no at first, because he said that people may slip on leaves. (The siblings) emailed a principal in Palo Alto and asked if any children had ever slipped on leaves. (The principal) said no-never in the past 15 years," Renton said. "Then they checked in with a pediatrician and asked if they'd ever treated anyone who'd slipped on leaves. She said no (and affirmed the fact that children are far more likely to slip on monkey bars." This prompted Renton's children to go back to the superintendent again with new information. "They told him that if safety was the priority) monkey bars should be banned because they are far more dangerous than leaves." Renton appears to be right ... continued on Page A2

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Lafayette council adopts Vision Zero traffic safety policy



Image provided

By Lou Fancher

The Lafayette City Council on Nov. 22 unanimously approved a resolution adopting a Vision Zero policy, which is “a strategy to eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and severe injuries, while improving safe, healthy (and) equitable mobility for all,” according to a staff report presented by Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran. “The Vision Zero approach views transportation-related fatalities as preventable, not inevitable, relies on multi-disciplinary collabo-

ration and is data-informed and equity-centered,” Moran noted in the report.

This presentation followed a Vision Zero presentation to the council on Oct. 12 from Tim Haile, executive director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Moran encouraged the council to carefully consider costs, downtown improvements already planned that might reasonably be put on hold in order to consider the plan’s impact, and staffing needs such as a transportation manager and traffic safety engineer to support the project.

Other concerns included lesser, but still important, realities: possible longer emergency response times (examples: beacon lights, speed humps and/or lane reductions implemented to increase pedestrian safety or provide more bike lanes could restrict and might slow emergency vehicles), and no guarantee that Vision Zero would change behaviors of drivers and cause citizens to walk,

bike, reduce speeds or take similar actions that increase public safety.

Receiving questions from the council after his update, Moran said synergistic, cooperative projects undertaken with other cities – or simply Lafayette on its own adopting the Vision Zero plan – would allow access to increased grant opportunities. Lafayette’s Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) has already been awarded state grant funding. Among the first tasks of a contract transportation engineer recently hired by the city is to solicit proposals for the LRSP. After selecting a consultant, a technical advisory committee will be formed to help with plan preparation.

Outlining the format largely shaped by Vision Zero protocols and guidelines, Moran clarified the stark differences between the city’s 2003 Traffic Calming Guidebook that outlines an extensive public process to implement traffic-calming measures. That process required

the community to come together, often in multiple meetings, to develop a consensus on the safety strategies to implement. Neighborhoods were most often responsible for funding the approved traffic-calming improvements. Under a Vision Zero policy, safety measures would be implemented expeditiously by city staff. Addressing safety concerns for the most vulnerable users would take precedence over concerns about traffic congestion, aesthetics, and public opinion. Moran said the plan might, for example, reduce or eliminate on-street parking in a specific congested corridor in the downtown to create a bikeway.

Council Member Carl Anduri at multiple times during the discussion expressed concern that a promised joint city council and transportation-circulation committee meeting had not taken place. He said the committee should be involved now and represented on the task force that is ultimately formed. Finding agreement

from other council members, Moran and City Manager Niroop Srivatsa confirmed members of the commission were in attendance at the council meeting, would be included in planning, and will be represented on the task force.

Although Vision Zero follows a standard format, the plan enacted in Lafayette can include specific details. Moran pointed to examples such as improvements the General Plan already outlines, such as improvements made near schools, increased connections between roadways and county trails, and more.

Council Member Gina Dawson acknowledged the importance of making improvements that encourage more people to walk and bike in the downtown core, but emphasized also taking steps to increase access for seniors and other people who move within the city by means other than walking or biking.

... continued on Page A3

Environmental Excellence Award

... continued from Page A1

There are around 80,000 documented monkey bar injuries in the United States each year in children under 16, according to a 2020 Biomed Central study. No leaf injuries were noted.

After the children did their research, they introduced their case for banning leaf blowers to the Lafayette City Council and shared it with the Lamorinda community last January. Renton said her children continued writing to the city council and members of the community began writing in support of their cause. The children didn’t stop their efforts in

Lafayette. They also shared their concerns with Sen. Diane Feinstein and California Gov. Gavin Newsom. “When Gavin Newsom announced the ban of (gas-powered) leaf blowers by 2024, my kids threw a loud party.”

Where is it that the Renton children get their persistence from? Renton said it may be a number of factors. The family has traveled extensively and moved to Lafayette from South Africa seven years ago.

“I think there’s something to be said for coming to a new place and having to start from scratch and having a strong work ethic,” Renton said.

In the family’s extensive world travels, Renton said they had never witnessed the quantity of leaf blowers they’ve seen, heard and smelled in Lafayette. Renton says they didn’t quite understand the root of Lafayette’s dislike of leaves, which she points out can serve as mulch or can be contained with a good old fashioned rake or an electric blower. On an environmental level, the Rentons are a one-car family and are already invested in reducing their own carbon footprint. “I don’t drive them to school every morning just because it’s a little cold,” Renton said. “Unless it’s raining, they

cycle to school on their bikes.”

Environmental Task Force Representative Nancy Hu recognized Finn, Jaime and Scout Renton for their activist grassroots outreach efforts to neighbors, the school district and the city to address the use and proliferation of gas powered electric leaf blowers at the Nov. 22 meeting. “Because of their efforts and because of the multitude of public comments the ETF is working on an ordinance to restrict gas leaf blowers and plan to have language for the city next year,” Hu said while presenting the Rentons with an Environmental Excellence award. Hu had nomi-

nated the Rentons for the award and was glad the rest of the committee agreed they deserved it. “Given that there are more than 100 cities that have banned or restricted (gas leaf blower) use ... I think it’s time Lafayette did something about them.”

The children thanked the Environmental Task Force for their award, adding, “We hope Lafayette will join other cities in banning leaf blowers.”

The Environmental Task Force will recognize Project Earth, the other recipient of the Environmental Excellence Awards at a future meeting.



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Image provided

The Lafayette Youth Commission is once again holding its Toys for Tots Toy Drive through Dec. 10. Community members can drop unopened toys, in their original packaging, at the Lafayette Community Center main office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At Christmas, Toys for Tots coordinators, with the assistance of local social wel-

fare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community, according to the Toys for Tots website.

For information about the Toys for Tots Toy Drive, email Steven Heinsma at sheinsma@lovelafayette.org or call (925) 284-2234. - J. Wake

Lafayette council adopts Vision Zero policy in effort to

... continued from Page A2

In public comments, Grace Dixon said, "Anything done to get residents out of cars and have them walk is a good thing, not only morally or philosophically, but it is good for businesses when people slow down and see the shops."

Stella Wotherspoon predicted the city will have more residents living in Lafayette in the next eight years and said safety issues "will increase or continue unless active transportation modes are implemented." Calling Vision Zero a plan in which "we will all win," Wotherspoon said state funding under the last Highway Safety Improvement cycle gave Danville and Moraga approximately \$240,000 for improving bike and pedestrian safety. Drawing the link between grant funding and Vision Zero, she suggested it is economical and practical to implement the plan's infrastructure changes that indisputably will come with costs.

Jessica Lordan told the council she currently holds a petition with over 300 signa-

tures in support of actively implementing Vision Zero. She said, "Infrastructure costs money, but what are lives worth, right? We have real citizens of our city that are dying on our streets because of real drivers from our city." Aside from loss of life, Lordan emphasized that the project will mean getting more grants, suggested response times can be addressed by flex-time lanes, and characterized aesthetic concerns about asphalt berms as "enough of a buffer" and suitable for Lafayette, a small city not in need of big city-style fixes.

The Vision Zero task force will include residents, such as a person involved with Lafayette schools or a representative from the senior community, and will be established by the professional consultant, with input from city council and the transportation-circulation commission. Srivatsa said a December meeting will include recommendations for staffing, duration the task force will remain in place, and other timelines.



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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. 20, 7 p.m.
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Zoom
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Town council and planning commission hold joint discussion regarding affordable housing



An example of a multi-family unit

Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

Moraga is in the process of gearing up for its Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative: 6th Cycle Housing Element and Rezone and General Plan Update. California requires all cities to update its Housing Element every eight years (this cycle will cover 2023-2031), and it must be adopted by Jan. 31, 2023.

The planning department has already held several informative meetings with the town council and the planning commission, in addition to conduct-

ing three community workshops for Moraga's residents. The latest joint council/commission discussion took place on Nov. 17. Also in attendance were Barry Miller, an urban planning consultant, Director of Real Estate Development Susie Criscimagna with Eden Housing, Policy Director Jeffrey Levin with East Bay Housing Organizations, and Managing Principal Matt Kowta with BAE Urban Economics.

According to a staff report by Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Miller, "One objective of the Housing Element is to support the production of a variety of housing types for a diverse range of income groups. The Town is required to plan for its 'fair share' of the region's housing needs over the eight-year planning period. The assignment is made by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) through a process called the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)." For the 2023-31 period, Moraga must identify 1,118 housing units, 501 of which must be for low and very low-income households, located on sites that are zoned at densities of 20 units per acre or more. Since Moraga is not typically known for affordable housing, it must develop policies and programs to support private and non-profit sectors with housing construction.

There are a number of

zoning tools that can come into play with regards to affordable housing. One of the primary tools is to zone land for multi-family use such as apartment buildings. With constructions of three stories or higher, densities of 30 units per acre can quickly help to meet the RHNA standards.

Another zoning tool would make allowances for multi-family dwellings in commercial districts. Minimum density requirements would prohibit single-family homes from being built on land zoned for multi-family units or require any housing built on former commercial areas to be at least 20 units per acre.

Yet another zoning tool would be to take advantage of state density bonuses. These allow developers to build additional units if they create some affordable units within the projects. Bonuses are also available for senior housing, college student housing, disabled veterans housing, foster parent housing and housing for formerly homeless residents.

California density bonus laws already limit the number of parking spaces that a municipality may require for affordable housing units. The Moraga Municipal Code currently requires two parking spaces for each dwelling unit regardless of the type. Additionally, for every two dwelling units, one guest parking space is required. The

staff report states, "The Town could consider reducing parking requirements for projects meeting specific criteria, such as affordability, proximity to bus or shuttle service, availability of off-site parking nearby, or availability of e-bikes, shared cars, or other modes of travel that reduce car ownership."

Other tools the town might consider is to offer reduced permit, planning or impact fees; and streamline the lengthy permit approval processing. It could also offer Inclusionary Housing and Housing Trust Funds, whereby a policy would require a specified share of new market-rate housing developments to be affordable to low- or moderate-income households. If developers opt to pay an "in lieu fee" rather than building the units on-site, then the fee is deposited into a Housing Trust Fund which accrues fees from other projects. When the funds increase, the proceeds may be used to help nonprofit developers build 100% affordable housing or other forms of housing assistance.

Accessory Dwelling Units (sometimes called "in-law" units) are another means of adding to the town's affordable housing requirements. Additionally, large companies or institutions can build housing for their employees; or in a Saint Mary's College example, housing for their faculty, staff and students.

While the Nov. 17 Special Meeting was merely for informational purposes with no direct fiscal impact, the various tools presented and discussed would conceptually have a variety of financial effects on the town.

For more information regarding the Moraga 2023-31 Housing Element Project visit: makemoragahome.org.

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Fatal accident on Moraga Road over Thanksgiving weekend

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department closed Moraga Road to traffic between Rheem Boulevard and Lucas Drive on the morning of Nov. 26 to allow paramedics to tend to a bicyclist who was struck by a car at approximately 10:15 a.m. The driver remained at the scene to cooperate with police. Despite life-saving attempts the victim, Roger Rus-

sell, 77, of Moraga was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to MPD Chief Jon King as of Dec. 2, "The incident remains under investigation. Both vehicles were traveling north on Moraga Road prior to the collision, but the determination of the cause of the accident is pending the conclusion of the continuing investigation."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

website (<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety>) gives bicycle safety advice that MPD Lieutenant Brian South stated offers, "lots of tips in there that we would endorse."

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has information is requested to contact MPD Corporal Craig Walker at (925) 888-7055 ext. 7164 or via email: cwalker@moraga.ca.us.

Independently audited financial reports for the town come back 'clean' once again

By Vera Kochan

For the past eight years, the town of Moraga has submitted its financial reports to the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. To receive the award, a government entity is required to publish an easily readable and well-organized report that satisfies accepted accounting principles and applicable legal mandates. Having passed the independent audit, the town hopes to add its ninth award to the "trophy shelf" soon.

According to a Nov. 10 staff report by Administrative Services Director Norm Veloso, the independent auditing firm of Maze & Associates was charged with examining the town's financial reports for the year ending June 30, 2021. This term's reporting also included a statistical section with up-to-

date historical information on financial trends, revenue capacity, debt capacity, economic and demographic information, and operating information which is required with the town's \$7.72 million issuance of the 2013 Certificates of Participation for Infrastructure Improvements, and with the Securities and Exchange Commission and specifically for annual continuing disclosure compliance.

Moraga's General Fund-General Purpose Unassigned Fund Balance is \$5.04 million at year end compared to \$4.87 million of Unassigned Fund Balance on the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The increase can be attributed to higher revenue in addition to expenditures coming in below budgeted amounts. The \$5.04 million projects a reserve level of 55.8% compared to 51% of the FY 2020-21 adopted budget. The reserve policy of 50% has been met.

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Town Council: Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 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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The Ho-Ho-Ho was back for Moraga's Holiday Tree Lighting



Photo Vera Kochan

The Holiday Tree lights up Moraga Commons Park

By Vera Kochan

Having to bypass last year's crowd-drawing Holiday Tree Lighting event due to COVID mandates, it was a larger than average gathering on Dec. 2 that showed up to the Moraga Commons Park to take advantage of the conviviality of the season.

Presented by the Parks and Recreation Department, Director Breyana Brandt and Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully were very pleased with the turnout of approximately 400 revelers. While Santa-hat-wearing members of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee handed out complimentary hot cocoa and packaged cookies, the crowd of young and old alike were entertained by Selena Soberal & Eli (vocalist and guitarist).

Never one to miss an opportunity for a grand entrance, Santa Claus arrived via a shiny, red, fire engine with lights flashing courtesy of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. From the moment he stepped onto Commons ground making his way to the tree, children trotted behind him like he was the Pied Piper's cousin.

With the customary, and pretty much obligatory, countdown the enormous tree was ablaze with multi-colored LED lights signaling that the holidays have officially arrived in Moraga.

For anyone wishing to make an online Buy-A-Bulb donation visit: moragarec.com. To send a check, make it payable to: Town of Moraga, ATTN: Buy-A-Bulb, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.

Admin Services Director leaving for early retirement

By Vera Kochan

After three and a half years, Administrative Services Director Norman Veloso is leaving Moraga for an early retirement. "We were able to achieve clean audits and healthy reserves through the financial integrity of the town," stated a proud Veloso. "It's a perfect setting to end my public service."

His last day as a town staff member will be Dec. 30, but in the meantime Veloso reflected on what brought him to that decision. "After almost 30 years of public service in three Bay Area cities across Solano, Sonoma and Contra Costa counties, I believe it's a perfect time to pause a bit," he said. "I wanted to retire to spend more time with my wife of 32 years, Bernadette, and my family, as well as take some time to enjoy the opportunity to travel and experience a more active lifestyle while I'm still relatively young and healthy."

When asked what his major contributions to the town were, Veloso replied, "Moraga went through some financial challenges in the past and I knew that taking on this job three years ago would be a challenge. My experience and expertise in financial management helped bring financial

stability, integrity and transparency to the town, which are essential to good governance." He added, "We achieved these with clean financial audits, balanced budgets, very healthy financial reserves, addressing the town's unfunded liabilities, and putting in place a long-range financial plan for the town."

Veloso won't completely put aside his calculator. He enjoys working in a public service capacity, finding it both challenging and fun. If the situation presents itself he may opt to work for a government agency in the future. Making a positive difference in a community is his passion.

Taking early retirement was a difficult decision for Veloso to make. "It has been an honor and pleasure to work for the town of Moraga for the last three-plus years. The town does magnificent work on behalf of the community, and I am proud to have worked with so many talented people, from staff to elected and appointed officials, as well as volunteers who are dedicated to making Moraga a wonderful place to live." Veloso reflected, "Moraga is a gem, not just because of its location, but it's a gem because of the people. This is a community I can call my second home."

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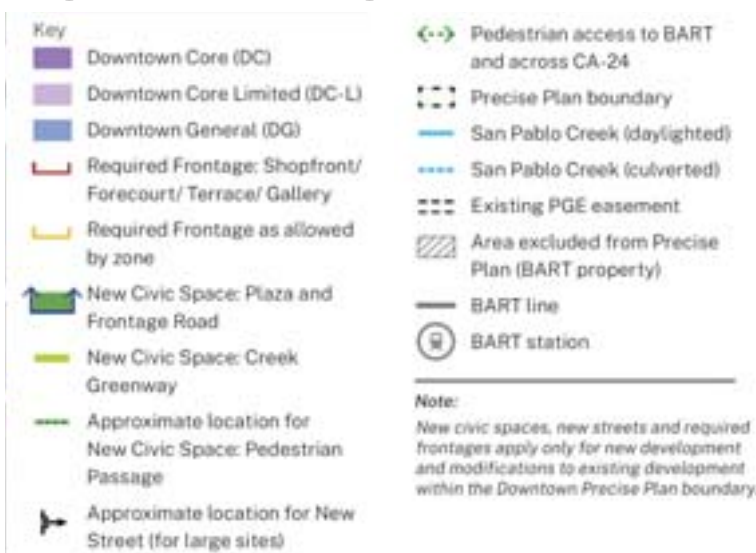
LAMORINDA
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Laborious work continues on updating Orinda housing element to meet huge challenges



Figure 2.02.1 Regulating Plan, www.planorinda.com/



Bill 9 units to meet its RHNA because it is unknown how many SB 9 units will be produced. (SB 9 is a bill recently signed by the governor that will become effective on Jan. 1, 2022 and allows two units on single-family zoned lots as well as easing restrictions on lot splits). Instead of SB 9 units, the city should count more ADUs, the subcommittee suggested. “ADUs are an important part of Orinda’s RHNA,” the staff report said, “and they will continue to be a large part of the housing element.”

Orinda has decided to combine planning for the upcoming housing element with upcoming planning for downtown development. On Nov.16, the city council received a staff report and an update from contractor Placeworks which has been hired to help the city with both downtown development and the housing element. The downtown planning and housing element subcommittee met on Oct. 18 to introduce the housing sites inventory. In the staff report to the city council, feedback from the subcommittee included some matters for the council’s consideration. The presentation by Placeworks was shared by Jennifer Gastelum, Eli Krispi and Cynthia Walsh.

The subcommittee also suggested not including the BART parking lot in the 6th cycle given other planning efforts and the limited capacity of the city to prepare a plan for the BART parking lot at this time. However, it was also noted that public comments favored including the BART parking lots in the sites inventory and would like to see some of the RHNA sites currently located in downtown Orinda dispersed between downtown and the BART parking lots to reduce density downtown.

Public comments also focused on fire risks and minimizing vehicle miles traveled. One resident suggested that Orinda Country Club, which is not included in the upcoming Downtown Precise Plan, looks like an ideal location for multifamily housing. At a Nov. 9 planning commission study session, public comments included the desire to see more low-income units in southeast Orinda near schools rather than concentrated downtown. The public has expressed concerns that

the aging population is being priced out of Orinda, and that there is a growing need for more affordable housing for seniors and others.

The briefing included additional strategies to meet the city’s RHNA, including rezoning church sites to allow for residential units with increased density to allow building more housing units on church property. The BART parking lots, which total approximately 26 acres, could be rezoned for high-density development. The lots are owned by CalTrans. Other sites being considered for rezoning include sites owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District and/or the Orinda Union School District, which has indicated that they are interested in housing development for school employees. There is a vacant 3.87 acre-site north of Sleepy Hollow that could be rezoned for high-density housing. Although currently not accessible from a road, it is adjacent to a vacant EBMUD site of 27.33 acres that is accessible from Bear Creek Road. Both sites are currently zoned for residential use, which allows one single-family residence and one ADU.

Of considerable concern to residents of Orinda, among others, is the safety issue of increasing density in areas that have elevated risks of wildfires. Placeworks is also helping the city to update its safety element in accordance with state law. Updates must show and assess evacuation routes and evacuation-constrained areas. Some of the official hazards in Orinda include fires, floods earthquakes and landslides, severe weather, droughts, extreme heat and air quality and “human health hazards,” which seem to be substances, activities or conditions that are known to have the potential to cause acute or chronic illness, injury, or death. Public commenter Nick Waranoff urged the council to invoke public safety provisions to restrict building in the city. Also in public comments the council was asked about evacuation plans and the consequences of not meeting RHNA requirements.

For more information, visit www.planorinda.com/ or www.surveymonkey.com/r/VBJN9W5

By Sora O’Doherty

As the population of the state of California edges ever closer to 40 million, concerns about providing housing continues to be a major issue at both the state and local level. Every local government is required by the state to have a “housing element” in the general plan and it is required to be updated every eight years. While local governments are not required to actually provide housing, they are required to make certain that local zoning provides the possibility of building a certain number of housing units. This number is assigned to local governments in the Bay Area by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

ABAG is offering a number of free licenses to an on-line public engagement tool, known as A Balancing Act, and Orinda has been awarded one of the licenses. The tool, expected to be launched soon, allows the public to offer comments and suggestions on proposed site inventory.

Orinda is now in the process of preparing for the next housing element update for the next period, the city’s 6th cycle, which will cover the period from Jan. 31, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2031. For each cycle, localities are assigned a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) number, which is the number of units that a housing element must plan for. For the upcoming 6th cycle, Orinda has been assigned 1,359 units, broken down by income level and number of units as follows: very low, 372; low 215; moderate 215; and above moderate, 557. This represents a huge jump up from the 5th cycle, when Orinda’s RHNA goal was just 227 new housing units.

Planning for the housing element is made more complex by the constant stream of legislation (and some litigation) at the state level. The subcommittee suggested that the council not rely on Senate

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<p>City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only</p>	<p>Planning Commission Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only</p>	<p>Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission Regular Meeting Wed., Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only</p>
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Winter break in-person camps available in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

With full safety protocols in place against the spread of COVID-19, winter camps offered through Orinda Parks and Recreation Department will be available in person this year.

For winter break, Parks and Rec will be offering multiple half-day morning camps this year, as well as one full-day option. Kids can learn to cook a French dinner, act in a musical drama, practice skateboarding, or explore the wonders of science. With just a few weeks away, there are a handful of camps with spots available. The half-day (9 a.m. to noon) options and one full-day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) camp option will run during the holiday break, taking place on three days, Dec. 20-22.

Rob's Skateboarding 101 Camp is a "super fun, skateboard program designed for kids of all ages." They work with beginner, intermediate and advanced skaters as instructors are "the best in the industry!" Participants provide their own skateboard, helmet and pads. This camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The link to register for this is: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTE4NDIwNjc=>

In the Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, My Shot-Musical Theater Camp, youngsters of all abilities are "proud to be a part of polished mini-productions of musicals: Fun, challenging, and engaging, self-esteem skyrockets as members learn to develop character, vocal technique, presentation and dance skills." The intermediate cast is given a play lasting about one hour and 15 minutes with about 10 songs. Participants are expected to independently study their lines, songs, and blocking, as scheduled, and to attend all rehearsals. Participants should prepare a song for the first day of class. The camp will culminate with a show at 1 p.m. Dec. 22. To register, visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTE4MjAxNDM=>

The 3-day French Dinner Cooking Camps camp will teach participants to make a French dinner, such as Brioche A Tete (dinner rolls) French onion soup, Coq Au vin (chicken in sauce), Asparagus with Dressing, and Chocolate pots of Crème & Coeur (hearts) A La Cream for deserts. This is a tasty way to learn a valuable life skill, while offering a way for kids to eat what they cook and make new friends in the process. Camps will run from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. To register, visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTE3ODM3NjE=>

And the Wonders of Science Camp explores the science of our world and allows kids to learn about the foundational blocks of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, and more. Participants will experiment with inertia, gravity, and potential and kinetic energy. Learn the forces of flight, swoop into the world of insects, and explore states of matter using dry ice, and more! Using inquiry-based

discovery methods, instructor demonstrations, hands-on activities, and amazing take-home projects, children will be exposed to a variety of scientific areas and feel empowered that they are already fantastic scientists who are exploring and discovering more about our world. Camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon. To register, visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTE3ODc4NjA=>

Any programs offered through the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department will still adhere to and follow all healthy and safety guidelines specified by Contra Costa Health Services, and the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Orinda Parks and Recreation Department's Health and Safety Programming Procedures can be found online on the city's website.

To register for any of these camps, please visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog>.

If you have any questions, contact staff at OrindaPark-sandRec@CityofOrinda.org or call (925) 254-2445.

Orinda Garden Club continues wreath-hanging tradition



Photo Caroline Gilman La Voie

Front row, from left: Lisa Jorgens, Monica Burnick, Shelley Gilligan, Ruth Fortune, Barbara Weikert, Kaija Gibbs, Linda Thompson, Lorene Quist, Jennifer Lyons, Juanita Kizor; back row: Jane Wiser, Laura Sawczuk, Janet Riley, Anne Southwick, Bonnie Cassriel, Cathleen Sodos, Tina Locke, Margene Stahle and Lynn Garrett

Volunteers of the Orinda Garden Club, including Orinda mayor and Garden Club member Amy Worth, assembled 55 holiday wreaths outside the Orinda Community Center Dec. 4 and hung them in numerous locations around Orinda to brighten up the town. The wreaths can be found at the Library Plaza, the Com-

munity Center, on the Orinda sign at the intersection of Camino Pablo and Camino So-brante, on the historic bridge at the end of Orinda Way. This year Club members will also place lighted Christmas trees along the Highway 24 Orinda off-ramp.
- J. Wake

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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
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In Memory

Marilyn Smith Van Stralen

Aug. 14, 1933 - Nov. 13, 2021



Marilyn Smith Van Stralen, born August 14, 1933, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away at the age 88 on Nov. 13 in Moraga, California.

Marilyn's beauty and sophistication were admired by all but it may surprise you to know she was born in Wibaux, Montana and grew up on a farm. She helped her mother and brother work the farm without her father who died when she was 2 years

old. She loved her farm life, which toughened her but did not harden her. She shared fascinating and funny stories about farm life such as backing up into the chicken coop when learning to drive and making ice cream in December with the fresh milk she collected from the cows. We learned that you do not wash the dishes you "warsh" the dishes. We also learned that dinner was served in the middle of the day for extra sustenance during the long days harvesting the wheat fields. Supper was a lighter meal served in the evening. Marilyn's Midwest work ethic was passed on to her children.

Perhaps it was on the farm that she developed her love for all things pigs. She used pig cocktail napkins, pig spatulas and had an entire wall artfully decorated with pigs of every shape and size. If you were lucky, she sent you a pig birthday card.

Her mother, Kathryn A Smith, encouraged Marilyn to pursue new opportunities and attend college. She entered the University of Colorado and joined the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. There, she met a meal hasher named John C Van Stralen, who became her husband. Marilyn had a respected resiliency which served her well throughout her many life challenges. After raising two children she went back to college to finish her education. She boldly moved to new cities for new adventures making a home in Sacramento, California, Moline, Illinois, Ithaca, New York, and finally Moraga, California. In each place she developed cherished friendships because of her generosity, genuine concern for others and her sparkling presence. She left a special mark on all she met.

Marilyn adored her grandchildren and she was a tireless cheerleader at all their activities. You could see her bundled up at lacrosse games, soccer games, cross country races, and water polo games. She never missed a musical or a concert and was ready to greet each performer with flowers.

Marilyn was the ultimate entertainer which was her way of demonstrating just how much she cared for each and every person who stepped into her home. Her dining table was set to perfection always with a beautiful flower arrangement which she created. Holiday gatherings were joyous and yummy. Her tasty recipes for soft ginger cookies, seasoned oyster crackers, and our favorite chocolate wafer roll will be recreated by the entire family. Creating a beautiful experience for everyone extended into her garden, which was her ultimate passion.

Known by all was Marilyn's impeccable sense of style, simple but elegant. Her fashion sense was fostered by her mother who ordered beautiful clothes from Chicago for her. Marilyn paid attention to the details: a gold bumble bee pin on her shoulder, a beautiful flower added to any outfit, her strict adherence to gold but not silver.

Marilyn has left a legacy of love, generosity and creativity that will long be cherished and remembered by family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter Kim, her husband Brian and their three daughters Leahna, Rachael and Jocelyn; her son, Kris, his wife Mollie and their three children Lauren, Nicole and Owen.

She was preceded in death by her parents Jesse and Kathryn A Smith, her brother Earl Smith, and her loving partner of 14 years Ron Ertola.

Marilyn's memorial will be held on Jan. 8, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga, California.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Animal Rescue Foundations (ARF). Be sure to check the box "Make this a memorial gift for Marilyn Van Stralen." <https://give.arflife.org/page/35246/donate/1>

In-person CERT classes resume in Orinda



CERT members at a recent training session.

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

After a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes will resume, in person, in the Orinda library auditorium in January. This will be the second live class in the Lamorinda area; the first class, which was offered in Lafayette, just completed training Nov. 4.

Lamorinda CERT had just finished a class in March of 2020, just before things shut down for the pandemic. Since resuming in-person training, CERT is following all COVID-19 protocols. All participants must be fully vaccinated and must show proof with a QR code. They will wear masks and sit six feet apart. The only exception to the masking requirement is for the instructors, who are far from the trainees and even from the other instructors.

Nevertheless, Registrar Julie Sparks notes that the situation changes frequently, and, if necessary, the classes can be converted back to Zoom meetings, although in order to be certified, the Federal Emergency Management Agency requires at least 16 hours of in-person training.

Trainees will be coming back to a significantly updated program. At the end of 2019, FEMA published major changes to the CERT program. Lamorinda CERT Program Manager Duncan Seibert was on the Contra Costa County CERT Coalition subcommittee to implement the changes. A doctor from Walnut Creek

updated the medical portion of the training, and the HAM radio operators updated the section on communications, Sparks said. FEMA recommended an updated font for the slide deck, so Seibert updated all the slides that will be used throughout the county, and also by Alameda County and San Francisco.

The local CERTs take the FEMA material and specialize it to focus on those disasters that are more likely to happen here, so the local classes focus less on tornados and hurricanes, and more on earthquakes and fires. Although the section on triage, the assignment of degrees of urgency to wounds or illnesses to decide the order of treatment of a large number of patients or casualties, was cut from FEMA, local groups are allowed to include additional sections. Lamorinda CERT has added back the section on triage, as well as keeping sections on pets and adding a section on communications.

Lamorinda CERT Public Information Officer Virginia Merrifield noted that CPR is not included in the CERT training, and never has been, although people are encouraged to seek it separately. CPR classes are offered by several groups, including the Red Cross, which is the main provider, but also by the YMCA, Adult Ed, and Parks and Rec, for example.

During the pandemic, Lamorinda CERT strived to fulfill its mission, which is to do the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT members volunteered at COVID

vaccination sites and testing sites, sold and distributed water drums and fire extinguishers, and assisted at events such as the Lafayette Reservoir Run, spending hours in the rain that day.

A lot of work continued behind the scenes. In addition to revising the slide deck, time was also spent educating instructors. Monthly Zoom meetings were very well attended and allowed CERTs to keep their skills somewhat refreshed, according to Merrifield. The meetings occur at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month, except in December. Currently on Zoom, the meetings usually last about an hour. The convenient meetings have seen a great turnout. While in-person meetings would have had 25 to 50 people in person, the Zoom meetings have attracted from 45 to 60 or more people on Zoom. On two occasions they had over 100 attendees, and had to use the MOFD Zoom license.

The new class in Orinda will start on Jan. 12, 2022 and run through March 9, meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Orinda library auditorium. The penultimate class is a hands-on drill conducted at the Contra Costa County Fire District training grounds in Concord. The drill allows the new trainees to go through a series of training exercises to put into practice the skills learned.

Thus far, 11 people have registered, and the class size is limited to 50. Before the pandemic, class size was up to 60, but CERT is returning to in-person training slowly. There will be a ratio of 1 instructor for every 12 students. The first in-person class was very small; although 45 persons signed up, only about 20 actually attended.

Persons wishing to sign up for the next training can do so on the Lamorinda CERT website where there is a register for training button, or by emailing Julie Sparks at registrar@lamorindacert.org

CERT Website: www.lamorindacert.org/training/classes/

Toys for Tots drive continues in honor of the late Detective Kevin Mooney

Submitted by Cathy Ghiselli



The Moraga Police Officer's Association, in partnership with the United States Marine Corps, will be collecting new unwrapped toys for its annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive in honor of Detective Kevin Mooney, who passed away Aug. 21 from COVID-19 and related complications.

Besides being a rangemaster, a field training officer, and president of the Moraga Police Officers Association, Mooney was the local organizer for the annual Toys for Tots drive - a cause that was very close to his heart.

Barrels will be available for toy donations at OSH, Safeway and the Town of Moraga offices through Dec. 10. Monetary donations can be made through Moragarotary.org.

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, Jan. 18, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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Lafayette Police Department:
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Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheim Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Nov. 21 - Nov. 27



Alarms 29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7
Traffic 33
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 11
Suspicious Vehicle 9
Service to Citizen 14
Patrol Req./Security Check 18
Public/School Assembly Check 0
Supplemental Report 5
Vacation House Check 10
Welfare Check 9
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd. 3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
Reckless Driving Mountain View Dr./Mariposa Rd. Moraga Rd./Via Granada, Mor. Pleasant Hill Rd./Shulgin Rd.
Tc - Property Damage St Marys Rd./Glen Side Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
Throw Moving Vehicle Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
Vehicle Theft 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card 3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses 900 Block Kelley Ct.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
70 Block Lafayette Cir.
10 Block Gable Ln.
Grand Theft

1200 Block Vacation Dr
Identity Theft 500 Block Michael Ln.
Misc Burglary 1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Panhandling 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd. 3300 Block Betty Ln. 3500 Block Brook St.
Disturbance-fight 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Loud Music Franklin Ln./St Francis Dr
Loud Noise Yorkshire Ct./Ridge Rd.
Loud Party 3800 Block Palo Alto Dr. 3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
Public Nuisance 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3700 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Other
Harassment

800 Block Reliez Station Rd. 3300 Block Mildred Ln. K9 Outside Assist Request 1000 Block S 57Th St., Ric 3300 Block Willow Pass Rd., Bpo
Threats 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Trespass 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Nov. 23 - Nov. 28
Alarms 6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6
Traffic 21
Suspicious Circumstances 2
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Vehicle 5
Service to Citizen 16
Patrol Req./Security Check 5
Supplemental Report 6
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 3
Public/School Assembly Check 1
Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations
Abandoned Vehicle



1200 Block Rimer Dr. Accident Fatal 500 Block Moraga Rd. Excessive Speed Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Other criminal activity
Burglary Safeway
Fraud False Pretenses 20 Block Carr Dr.
Identity Theft 50 Block Gaywood Pl.
Shoplift Seven Eleven
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic Not Available
Loud Music Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Loud Noise 10 Block Benedita Pl.
Other
Failure To Obey Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Violation Custody Order 2100 Block Donald Dr.
ORINDA POLICE
Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon

Letters to the editor

DEIB coverage

The Lamorinda Weekly published a one-sided editorial supporting DEI in the guise of a news story. (Lamorinda community works to defend DEIB work, published Nov. 24, 2021.) The important news, as reluctantly reported, is that there is “pushback against affirmative diversity, equity and inclusion practices ... [and] critical race theory.” The local pushback is part of a rapidly growing national movement.

The article fails to honor basic principles of responsible journalism that require that diverse viewpoints be presented. The article uncritically accepts the existence of “systemic racism,” without noting that Asians have higher incomes and test scores than Caucasians. Indeed, white and Asian kids are now falsely describing themselves as BIPOC to improve their chances of college admission. The very existence of affirmative action, the widespread acceptance (94%) of interracial marriage, and the recent two-term Black President refute the claim that our country is systemically racist.

The article also fails to mention that the goal of DEI is to replace merit with proportional representation of races

and of some (but not all) other categories of people, as shown by the elimination of standardized tests. High achieving groups, such as Asians and Jews and many other locals, lose the most. Proportional representation exemplifies the reverse racism that Prof. Kendi preaches in How to Be An Antiracist. A children’s version for use in the schools was presented to Orinda teachers in the guise of “professional development.” Prof. Kendi literally calls capitalism racist. The endorsement of his views in affluent Lamorinda seems hypocritical.

CRT may be an appropriate college course. But proponents of CRT use “CRT-lite” (thank you to Prof. McWhorter for that term) to indoctrinate kids as early as kindergarten that all white people are oppressors from birth until death, and that all BIPOC are oppressed. That is indoctrination of an opinion, not teaching the facts of history. If you believe the cause of every problem is systemic racism, you have a perfect excuse for not working hard to try to succeed.
Nick Waranoff
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

Hundreds gather to ring in the holidays



Photo J. Wake

Hundreds of holiday revelers gathered at Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette Dec. 5 as part of the annual “It’s a

Wonderful Life in Lafayette” event, which featured entertainment by Myeve Capozzi Vocal Training singers and

carols sung by Springhill Girl Scout Troop 3116 ... and, of course, the arrival of Santa Claus on the Lafayette Historical Society’s historic fire truck, “Old Betsy.” Many took part in crafts, purchased hot chocolate and other beverages, and took free train rides on the Lafayette Express prior to the official tree lighting. The event was presented by the Lafayette Chamber, and sponsored by the Dana Green Team and Branagh Development, who together are also hosting the environmentally-friendly downtown Lafayette twinkle lights for the holiday season.
– J. Wake

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Campo football

... continued from Page A1

For coach Kevin Macy, it was a matter of keeping the team focused on what had been working up until the end of the half. "We had a very calm locker room," Macy said. "We just had to get the kids to believe that we were not in a panic situation. Their touchdown was the ugliest type of score that could send a team spiraling in a bad direction. I told them that Foothill was going to come out in the second half very excited after that last play and that they were expecting us to collapse a little bit, but if we just stabilized the third quarter, we would be fine. That was our simple goal. It was just a focus, an attitude, and a perspective. That's what it was all about."

After a scoreless third quarter, Campolindo scored twice after Foothill turnovers, first on a 2-yard run by Will Monkarsh and a 7-yard run by Weaver putting the Cougars ahead by 21-7 with 4:43 left in the game.

"My touchdown was set up by Coach (Chris) Schoefield who set up load packages on the left and right," Weaver said. "It was the only time that we ran that play and it worked for the score. Our line has played so well, I wouldn't be anywhere without them. The past few games, I've taken them out to dinner which I do as a reward to them for no-sack games."

When Foothill fumbled the kickoff on their 25-yard line, the game seemed all but over until Foothill freshman Chris Lawson was the first to the ball and ran the final 75 yards to make the score 21-14.

All Macy could do was shake his head at what had just transpired. "Their two scores were like the freakiest ones you could imagine," Macy said. "As a coach, all I could say was that in my 42 years of coaching, I haven't seen that one and when they picked up that fumble, I hadn't ever seen that one either."

After Foothill's kickoff, Campolindo started their drive with 4:20 left in the game. Despite a holding penalty and facing a first-and-21 from their own 12-yard line, Campolindo converted the first down and only needed one more first down to clinch the victory but history was repeated in a negative way for Campolindo with a fumble by Monkarsh, recovered by Foothill on Campolindo's 49-yard line with 2:51 left in the game.

"That's haunted us all season when we've had the ball and tried to run out the clock and then fumbled the ball with nothing but chaos at the end of a number of our games," Macy said. "So, I guess we were prepared for the type of chaos that we saw tonight."

Chaos may have been an understatement. A defensive pass interference moved the ball to the Campolindo 34-yard line. On fourth-and-9, Foothill converted the first down on a pass to the 18-yard line. One more pass brought the ball to the 7-yard line and a defensive holding on Campolindo put the ball on the 4-yard line with 37 seconds left in the game.

After Foothill's last time out, Macy went out and spoke to his defense: "I told them to play their hearts out and to be mentally prepared if they did score to regroup for a two-point conversion."

After an incomplete pass and a 3-yard loss, it was third-and-goal at the 7-yard line with 30 seconds left in the game, forcing Foothill to pass. With 24 seconds left on the clock, safety Bradley Nestal broke to his right and made the game clinching interception. "We knew they liked the out routes to the sideline, and I knew that we had to come up with a big play," Nestal said.

Macy had to acknowledge the effort that Nestal made on the interception: "That play was incredible. I couldn't believe where he came from to make that last interception. You just don't see those type of plays."

Macy kept coming back to the play of his defense. "For us to play at this level, being outmanned in every game, our kids played with such passion. After we fumbled the ball at the end, our defense just kept hanging on. They never broke and the last couple of weeks, our defense has really held together in that we really have no backups and it's been pretty much down to 12 players."

Co-Captain Elijah Klock, playing on both the offensive and defensive line, never left the field all game, making key blocks on both of the touchdown runs, and could not stop smiling after the game: "We practiced all week on protecting the ball which didn't work out that well but the most important thing for us was to prove everyone wrong. Our defense did a helluva job in protecting the end zone. It's a great feeling. I know that my dad is watching down from heaven, super proud of me and is saying, 'Good job E.J.'"

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Live 'Nutcracker' ballet returns to the Orinda stage



Second Act Land of the Sweets

Photo Jorge Gomez

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Ballet Academy & company will return live to the Orinda library auditorium stage Dec. 10 through 12 to perform Pyotr Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, "The Nutcracker." Evening performances of "A Sweet Dream Nutcracker" will be on Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m., with matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Local students will be joined by professional guest artists Vinnie Jones and Maurice Monge.

Artistic Director Patricia Tomlinson is a graduate of Saint Mary's College. She went on to study at the NYC School of American Ballet, training for five years with George Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova. After that, she danced as a soloist for over 17 years, first with the Houston Ballet, then the Pennsylvania Ballet, then coming to California to dance with the Diablo Ballet.

After retirement, Tomlinson started the school in Orinda. The school, located in the Orinda Community Center,

is currently in its 13th season. "The school has had some really nice dancers through the years, including a student who danced with Atlanta Ballet and is now with the Nevada Dance Theater, a professional ballet company," Tomlinson says. "Some students went off to dance colleges, either (with a) major or minor in dance."

In addition to performing a full-length "Nutcracker" in two acts, the academy also presents a story ballet annually in the spring, such as "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," "The Firebird," "Peter Pan," or "Cinderella." Students from age 3 to 18 dance with guest artists. Classes at the academy run year-round, with sessions in the fall, winter/spring and summer. During the pandemic, Tomlinson started virtual classes. Many of her students, she says, got ballet bars at home; some got special dance flooring. "There were lots of challenges, but everyone stayed super positive." Tomlinson teaches the majority of the classical ballet classes. She employs another teacher to fo-

cus on contemporary dance.

In "The Nutcracker," a young girl, Clara, is given a special magical Nutcracker Doll from by her uncle Drosselmeyer, who performs magic for her family and friends. That evening Clara looks for her Nutcracker Doll under the Christmas tree. She finds the doll has grown life-size as well as the toy soldiers and mice. There is a battle scene. A terrible Mouse Queen tries to attack the Nutcracker. Clara throws her shoe at the Mouse Queen. The Mouse Queen breaks and the magic spell placed on the Nutcracker Doll is broken. He returns to his true self, the Nutcracker Prince. In thanks for Clara's bravery, the Prince takes Clara on a wonderful adventure, to the Land of Sweets, where he is from. They pass through an Enchanted Winter forest where the Snow Queen and her snow-maidens dance for Clara and the Prince. Once they arrive at the Land of the Sweets, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Sweets greet Clara and the Prince. They celebrate the

Prince's return with joyous dancing.

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Advance tickets for children 2-12 are

\$22 and \$25 for adults. At the door, tickets will be \$25 for children and adults. Seating is general seating.

INFO & TICKET LINKS HERE

www.orindaballetacademy.com/2021-nutcracker-ticket-information.html

Food Bank receives \$35K donation from MCC's Turkey Shoot Tournament



Photo provided

Submitted by Paul Boero

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano received about \$35,000 in net proceeds from the MCC Turkey Shoot golf tournament, held Oct. 28 at Moraga Country Club. Nearly 100 members participated in the scramble tournament which included a pre-round breakfast and concluded with lunch and awards. The top five teams, as well as

closest to the hole and accurate drive contests, were presented with 25 certificates for turkeys. The event chairman, Paul Boero, thanked the many participants who contributed as underwriters and hole sponsors as well as in-kind donors who contributed tee prizes, bottles of wine for on course prizes, and gift certificates for turkeys to competition winners.

All contributed to the success of the event's goal, having a fun-filled day of golf while simultaneously contributing to The Food Bank. Following lunch, Joel Sjostrom, president of the Food Bank, presented information about its increase in demand since the onset of the pandemic and the great number of persons needing food in Contra Costa and Solano counties. Joel also cited a new emphasis in servicing victims of wildfires and providing ready-to-eat meals for the many families displaced due to the firestorms. This year's event marked the 9th Annual Turkey Shoot and the proceeds generated are able to feed over 700 families for one week. With this year's contribution and sums raised in prior years, the total Turkey Shoot contribution exceeds \$310,000.



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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. www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries. 26 Orinda Way. All COVID-19 precautions observed. (925) 359.9940 or galleries@lamorindaarts.org.

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. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, www.moragaartgallery.com

or call (925) 376-5407.

56th Annual Holiday Collection at Valley Art Gallery through Dec. 31. Our new gift exhibition includes a wide variety of beautifully crafted, ceramic, wood and glass pieces, original designer jewelry, holiday decorations, small paintings and many other unique, one-of-a-kind gift items. In addition, we will be featuring a trunk from Dec. 7 - 11 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The trunk show will offer the creations of celebrated, multi-talented artisan Carolyn Russell, including her origami items, miniature Christmas trees and other decorative objects crafted from various materials. And, we will again have gift certificates available for giving. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek www.valleyartgallery.org, (925) 935-4311

Art show at Orinda Books. December features the paintings of Paul Kratter – a skillful and accomplished landscape artist. Like many experienced fine-art painters, he comes from an illustration background that instills strong drawing and design skills and a robust belief in graphic shapes and storytelling. His paintings embody a sense of light, atmosphere, and emotion. To preview his work, visit the Artist of the Month section at www.orindabooks.com/events.

MUSIC

Voices of Music presents Holiday Concertos: 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). www.voicesofmusic.org or call 415-260-4687 or email listen@voicesofmusic.org.

Berkeley Symphony presents Berkeley Symphony Chamber I Concert on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave, Piedmont. Berkeley Symphony Chamber I Concert features works by Vivaldi, Debussy, Montgomery, and Nabors. Cost: \$35. For more info see www.berkeleysymphony.org or call 510-841-2800 or email tickets@berkeleysymphony.org.

THEATER

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.

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.

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.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club welcomes the vaccinated public to visit their next meeting held Jan. 10, and to become a part of the Walnut Creek Garden Club. Shawna Anderson from Orchard Nursery shares her pruning tips for all types of roses. She will demonstrate techniques and the best tools for the job. Shawna is a garden consultant and designer and shares her passion for gardening through her business: Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers. If interested in joining the Club or for more information, please visit www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m., September through June at The Gardens at Heather Farm.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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This delicious delicacy helps folks dive into decadent sauces



Naan with Cilantro-Lime Butter

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

We love a good naan and it's hard to beat when you go to a restaurant that has this delicious item on the menu. Hot out of the skillet, naan is the perfect implement for scooping up sauces — especially curry sauces, but really any good sauce that's worth savoring every, single drop! I've made naan many times in the past, but this is the best recipe I've found yet. It comes from Upbeet Anisha's food blog and it's super easy to make, too, which is always a plus. Her recipe calls for no yeast, and is made with simple ingredients like flour, salt, baking powder, water, olive oil and yogurt. It's nice and soft and forms just the perfect air bubbles while cooking. She

makes hers vegan style, using non-dairy yogurt, but I used regular nonfat plain Greek yogurt and it was superb. I have a new favorite Greek yogurt called Esti and I absolutely love their nonfat plain yogurt with fruit, or mixed with cottage cheese, or as a base for condiments for enchiladas, or even a spoonful straight out of the container. It's so good and it was perfect in this recipe, too.

Anisha makes her naan with fresh garlic, which is delicious, but we had it for lunch so decided to go the more subtle route and used lemon pepper and fresh lime juice instead of garlic. A sprinkling of parmesan cheese would also be delicious on this bread. I made a few minor changes from her

recipe in terms of quantities and those are reflected here in this column.

The best way to cook the naan is straight on a cast iron skillet, so be sure to have one on hand before you dive into this recipe. It cooks the naan quickly and gives it the perfect air bubbles, so I highly recommend using one if you have one. I have yet to try baking this bread on any other type of pan or baking sheet, so if you try it, please let me know. Soon I am going to try making this with a 1:1 gluten-free baking flour, and will report back how that works out as soon as I have a chance to try it!



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>



Naan with Cilantro-Lime Butter

INGREDIENTS

Naan

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. Himalayan pink salt
- 1/2 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/3 cup lukewarm water (I found that 1/3 was a little too much water the second time I made this, so add the water a little bit at a time.)
- 1 tsp. olive oil

Cilantro-Lime Butter

- 2 tablespoons butter, softened to room temperature
- 2 tablespoons freshly snipped cilantro
- 1/2 tsp. fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tsp. lemon or lime pepper

DIRECTIONS

Add flour, baking powder, and salt to a mixing bowl. Blend with a fork. Add yogurt, olive oil and all but 2 tablespoons of the water, and mix well. If you need more water, add the rest, but if not, just let it be. Mix until everything is well-incorporated and you can form the mixture into a ball.

Place dough on a floured board if it is still a bit sticky, just knead a few seconds with enough flour to make it smooth. Divide dough into six pieces and form each into a ball shape. Allow the dough balls to rest, covered, for at least 15 minutes. You can let it rest longer, too. When I've made this recipe, I've let the dough rest, covered, for up to an hour at room temperature before cooking it.

Before you cook the bread, mix the butter, lime juice and lemon or lime pepper. Snip the fresh cilantro leaves right into the butter and mix well. (If you want to use garlic, add a couple cloves of either sautéed or fresh minced garlic to the butter.)

When you're ready to cook the bread, preheat the cast iron skillet over medium heat. Once the whole surface of the skillet is hot, roll out the dough balls into circles about 6-inches in diameter and about 1/4-inch thick. (I roll the next one out while the current one is cooking, but you can roll all of them out at once if you have a large enough board.)

Place the dough round in the skillet and cook for about 2 minutes, or until you see the bottom beginning to turn golden brown and small air bubbles form. Flip and cook the other side for the same amount of time, or until it looks perfect!

Immediately spread the cilantro-lime butter over the top of the naan and serve while it's hot.

Note If you make these all at once and want to keep them warm, you can preheat a second cast iron skillet and transfer the cooked ones to that to keep warm, or keep them in a warm oven until ready to serve.*

How to successfully request a gap year deferral

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Some students choose to defer their undergraduate studies to take a gap year, using the time to work, travel, or volunteer. Aside from having a concrete gap year plan, students must ensure that they apply for a deferral at the college they plan to attend. The deferral process differs across colleges, and thus it is vital that students understand their college's policies to successfully apply for a gap year.

An obvious first step is ensuring that the college allows gap year deferrals. While the vast majority do, the University of California system does not allow admitted students to defer their enrollment. Students that aim to take a gap year and attend a UC must reapply the following year, and thus should ensure that they factor in time for

college applications when making their gap year plan. Conversely, many private colleges and some public universities support gap years. Harvard not only allows incoming students to take a gap year but encourages it. Harvard admissions' "Considering a Gap Year?" webpage states that the school believes students should consider deferral, if it will allow them to make the most of their opportunities and avoid burnout; between 90 and 130 incoming Harvard students take a gap year each cycle. The school even has a student-run Gap Year Society to support students during and after their gap year experience. Tufts University also believes that a gap year can be a "fulfilling experience" for students. However, Tufts does not allow students admitted from the waitlist or transfers to apply for a gap year. The university also does not accept deferral requests for stu-

dents to pursue "structured" or "credit-bearing" academic programs during their gap year.

Clearly, schools have varying gap year policies: students must investigate their college's specific gap year deferral process. Most colleges list their gap year information online, but it is most beneficial to call the college's admissions office to learn more about the gap year application process. Students are generally required to submit a deferral form or write a gap year application letter that asks for information like the student's reason for taking a gap year, their gap year plan and objectives, and the length of time they plan to defer their enrollment. Students that submit a concrete deferral plan are more likely to have their application accepted. Thus, conducting thorough gap year program research and identifying clear

goals for the gap year before applying will go a long way to ensuring success. Most schools have a May 1 deferral application deadline, so students should begin considering gap year plans before receiving college admissions decisions.

After learning more about gap years and if your preferred college allows it, students must write and submit their deferral application! As with college essays, it is wise to have a college counselor, teacher, or another strong writer review the application before it is submitted. The reader should be able to easily understand the student's gap year objectives. While applying for a gap year deferral is less intensive than the college admissions process, having clear goals and conducting thorough research will help ensure success.



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

Helping the visually impaired with recycled eyeglasses



Photos provided

Campolindo Leo Club President Luca Rago and Leos

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

The Campolindo High School Leo Club and Moraga Lions Club conducted an eyeglass sorting event Nov. 14 at the Hacienda de Las Flores. The group consisted of nine Leos, six Lions and four Moraga residents and in a few hours they sorted 8,000 eyeglasses that had been donated for recycle.

Each year Lions clubs in California collect many thousands of used eyeglasses, which are sorted, cleaned and sent to local prisons where the prescription will be assigned before the glasses are sent to third world countries where local Lions Clubs will distribute them to the visually impaired.

In past years the Leos and Lions would usually process around 4,000 eyeglasses and this year's event set a record for both clubs.

For more information about the Eyeglass Collec-

tion or Recycle, contact Lion Bob Murtagh at rmurtagh62@yahoo.com



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Lamorinda cross country well represented at championship meet, led by state champion Campo girls



Campolindo girls and boys cross country teams, top row, from left: Coach Chuck Woodridge, Quinn Guthrie, Makena Weberski, Daisy Penney, Shea Volkmer, Angeni Lieben, Ellie Buckley, Caroline McCool, Sloane Pullen, Alejandro Canales, Coach Andy Lindquist; bottom row: Coach Jeff Thomas, Alex Lodewick, Rhys Pullen, Sam Smith, Conner McGhee, Blake Webster, Finn Jordan, Maxon Cook, Coach Megan Gentes

Photo provided

time of 15:53.2.

Despite the second-place finish, Lodewick took great pride in the team's performance. "All of our runners put out a great performance," Lodewick said. "We wanted to start out the first mile hard, push the second mile and see what we had left at the end. Blake really had an inspired race. He dropped 10 seconds from when we ran on this course earlier in the year. He really brought it and really pushed me to go faster during the race."

Lodewick felt it was more than just talent that brought the team together. "Our team unity enhanced our performances," Lodewick said. "We were able to communicate with each other and were able to get out and work during the quarantine which in the end contributed to our performance at the state tournament. We're all very proud of how we ran."

Acalanes

It was also a successful season for the Acalanes girls' team concluding the year with a fifth-place finish at the state meet. The team finished with a combined score of 174 led by Olivia Williams (1), Lauren Yee (25), Megan Yee (30), Elle Casselman (43) and Cameron Powell (75).

For Jeff Hutson, the Acalanes head coach, the season was a success as soon as things returned to a sense of normalcy. "It was all back and it was wonderful. The kids absolutely loved it," Hutson said.

Sophomore Olivia Williams was the dominant runner all season for Acalanes. Prior to the state meet, Williams won the league championship, breaking the all-time course record and the North Coast Section Division IV, also breaking that meet record. At the state meet, Williams came in second to an unaffiliated runner, which is why she earned a first place for the Acalanes team. Out of the 977 girls that ran in the championship for all levels, Williams had the third fastest time. "Olivia loves the culture and the vibe of cross country," Hutson said. "Of all the kids I've coached, she is just the eye of the tiger and is really something special."

Even with the success on the course, it was the intangibles of the team that Hutson valued the most. "The character of the girls was my proudest part of the team," Hutson said. "It's so impressive how they absolutely love, respect and support each other so well. Lauren Yee has been our captain for a long time but we're pretty much of a horizontal organization with everyone coming together. It made things much easier for me, Bruno (Morlan) and Eric (Morford) as coaches. Eric calculated that this was the fastest Acalanes collective time at state by over two minutes, which is impressive because there have been a number of good Acalanes teams."

Running as an independent, Tyler Hunt finished in 26th place in Division IV and in 172nd out of the 986 other runners at the meet. "We thought Tyler ran very well," Hutson said.

... continued on Page C3

By Jon Kingdon

It's no small feat to qualify to run in the state championship cross country meet which was held in Clovis, California. The teams need to finish in the top three at the NorCal Tournament. The Campolindo boys and girls easily qualified by winning their divisions. The Miramonte girls won their division as well and the Acalanes girls team finished in third place and were led by Olivia Williams with a time of 16:50.2, breaking the meet record and finishing ahead of her nearest opponent by 18.4 seconds. The boys team finished in fourth, just missing qualifying but Tyler Hunt finished in fifth which allowed him to run as an individual the next week.

After winning the state meet in 2019, due to the coronavirus the Campolindo girls had to wait 759 days to repeat as the state champions. "I'm really grateful that we were able to compete in the first place, but it was frustrating to have it delayed for so long," said junior Ellie Buckley. "The short season in the spring actually fired up our team because we knew that were going to have new opportunities. Seeing everyone come together and train this summer was really nice and motivating."

Campolindo's top five finishers were Ellie Buckley (2), Shea Volkmer (8), Makena Weberski (20), Daisy Penney (35), and Caroline McCool (44) who finished in second, eighth, 20th, 35th and 44th,

finishing ahead of second place Del Oro whose final score was 120. Quinn Guthrie and Angeni Lieben were the final two runners for the Cougars.

Though conditions were ideal in Clovis, Campolindo had to overcome unexpected problems in the race. Senior Angeni Lieben, who was the fourth fastest runner for Campolindo at NorCal, seemed to have her legs and body give out on her, refusing to quit and finishing far back in the pack but earning the respect of her teammates. "Angeni's mental toughness showed what a trooper she is by insisting on finishing the race," Buckley said.

Makena Weberski also had difficulties when she fell early in the race but got up quickly, finishing the race with bloody knees.

The course was one that the team was familiar with, having run at the Rough Rider Invitational earlier in the year. "Knowing the course helped us strategize our race," Buckley said. "We knew to get out hard because the race funnels quickly in the beginning and we did not want to get caught behind a herd of runners and we were able to keep our position."

Buckley, Lieben, Guthrie and McCool took on the leadership role for the team. "We had an attitude that we wanted to do it together and not have any bad energy or vibes toward each other," Buckley said, "We let the younger girls know that if they had any questions or doubts, they could come to us."

It all paid off in the end, Buckley said: "It was fun just being extremely exhausted after the race, but it was a relief and really nice being with all of the girls, parents and coaches that supported us, having that moment."

Finishing in second with a score of 70, the boys team only trailed West Torrance whose combined score was 57. The five leading runners for Campolindo were Rhys Pullen (5), Alexander Lodewick (12), Blake Webster (13), Connor McGhee (19) and Finn Jordan (21). Pullen's average mile time for the race was 4:58.5. Lodewick just edged out Webster by 0.6 seconds with a

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Diablo Alliance girls and boys teams bring home medals



Submitted by **Todd Halvorson**

This month local water polo club, Diablo Alliance, won a National Championship on the girl's side

and brought home the bronze on the boy's side of the prestigious Kap 7 Champions Cup tournament, at Indiana University. This tournament is one of the oldest age group water polo tourna-

ments in our country dating back to its inception in 1993. It is a unique tournament as it is a National Championship for athletes in eighth grade or under. Athletes from Hawaii, Texas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan traveled to Indiana to compete against the best eight grade and under teams in our nation.

The Diablo Alliance girl's squad is a tight group of young women who have been playing together for several years. Some of these ladies have been playing together since they were 8 and 9 years old. They have always been a highly competitive group of athletes, but this fall have really come into their own.

After a challenging

weekend of high-level play, the girls squad found themselves going into the semifinals. Having suffered only one loss to SoCal (9-6) they matched up with SET in the semis, a team hailing from El Toro, California. The game was a battle, but Diablo was able to secure their spot in the Championship game with an 17-11 win. A couple hours later they hopped back in the tank for a redemption battle with the team handing them their only loss of the tournament, Socal, from Tustin, California. The girls were prepped and ready to go and after an amazing 4 quarters of total team play, they were victorious 11-7.

The boy's squad had a similar path to the



Photos provided

medal stand but with a tough loss to Greenwich (18-12) in the semifinals found themselves matched up with SoCal in the third-place match. Like the girl's team, they too had suffered an earlier loss to SoCal in bracket play 13-7 but were ready to put it all on

the line to bring home a medal. The boys jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, winning in illustrious fashion 13-6. This is a historic win for this group as it is the first National Tournament where a Diablo Alliance boys' team has taken home a medal.

Boys' soccer team champions



Photo provided

From left, back row: assistant coach Keith Klohn, head coach Kevin McClure, assistant coach Michael Chaffin; middle row: Calvin Zhu, Caleb Thoms, Andrew Morgan, Chase Polsky, Logan Bui, Brendan Sproul, Garin Luster; bottom row: James McGinley, Andrew Desai, Owen Klohn, Camden Stern, Brady McClure, Conner Chaffin

Submitted by **Michael Chaffin**

The Lamorinda soccer team, East Bay Eclipse Lunar 2013 boys, won the California Competitive Soccer League this fall. The team went undefeated the entire season, allowed only 6 goals scored against, and scored 61 goals. Congratulations to these hard-working boys for the memorable season.

Miramonte girls water polo team NCS and CIF NorCal champions



Submitted by **April Murphy**

The Lady Matadors we're the team to beat this past high school water polo season. Stacked with multiple quality and talented players gave them depth and the key to their success. The achievements of this team are something to be proud of, special and rare. Coach John Roemer, new to the school but a

seasoned veteran, set the framework, lay the foundation and the team took it from there.

Lamorinda has for many years generated water polo talent across the board, both men and women players coming from different high schools going on to play in college and some the Olympics. This year was the year of the Lady Mats; it was their time to shine.

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Lamorinda cross country

... continued from Page C1

“He had time of 16:05.8 which we thought was great, so he had an exceptional day.”

Miramonte

It was a senior laden team that coach Tristan Tool brought to the state meet. The team was led by seniors Kate Riley (9), Ania Keenan (18), Emma Wirz (36), Claire Nolet (57) and sophomore Grace Bell (60), finishing in fifth place.

“The girls worked hard for their victory in the NorCal

Championship, and it was a great confidence builder for them,” Tool said.

The ultimate results at the state meet were not quite what Tool was hoping for: “Kate ran a good race (100th out of the 977 other racers),” Tool said. “We had been hoping to do better but did not do that well with our later runners. It was a longer and more difficult race than the NorCal meet, but our girls did show a lot of improvement from when we ran there at the Rough Rider Invitational

with some of the girls improving by over a minute which is normally unheard of.”

Tool is going to really miss this group of seniors: “They spent a lot of time together and they’ve all become friends and they do the same in shepherding the younger runners in a genuine way, spending a lot of time away from school doing a number of social things together. The bonding of the group has been phenomenal and a big part of their success. Kate was an especially good leader in that

she is a very gritty runner and the most outwardly tough of the runners which helped in bringing the younger girls up and showing it was also cool to look and act tough.”

Unlike the girls team, the boys top finishers at the NorCal meet were all underclassmen led by sophomores Asher Patel (21) and Jason Wagner (43), freshman James Jenkins (46) and juniors Ricky Davis (55) and Sean Soohoo (59), graduating only Roan Kazmierowski (62).

“This was definitely a year

to build on for the boys,” Tool said. “We have a solid number of kids that love it and another solid group of freshmen and sophomores that have shown a lot of potential.”

Tool singled out Patel for how he had battled an injury all year. “Asher is definitely one to keep an eye on. He had almost no actual running all season, working on a bike and an elliptical and still finished first among our runners. Once he gets a full season under his belt, he is going to be very good.”

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 21 Wednesday, December 8, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall out



Still time to seed or reseed lawns.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

*“Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day!
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.”~ Emily Brontë*

Without a doubt, autumn is a beautiful time of the year with cooler weather and spectacular, ever-changing foliage. What I can't get used to is the early setting sun and the dark skies at 5 p.m. as we enter December. My circadian rhythm is out of sync. My preference is to work in the garden as late as possible every day and in the summer that means until 9 or 9:30 p.m. In fall and winter, my style is cramped, leaving me with long to-do lists.

This past week the newspaper publishers and I received an email from the editor of a DIY garden authority from New Zealand who has enjoyed reading the Digging Deep columns. She sent a link to their

fall garden information that I am posting here because it includes everything you need to know about planting your fall garden and it is perfect for our location. How honored and thrilled we are to know that Digging Deep is being read in the Southern Hemisphere! Check out their guide to fall gardening.

<https://happydiyhome.com/fall-garden/>

Since the weather is warm and mild, it is still a great time to reseed your lawn, cover bald spots, or seed a new lawn. I reseeded mine a few weeks ago when the atmospheric river and bomb cyclone hit our area with force, and the grass is gloriously green and growing. I have always liked the award-winning seed, Pearl's Premium, available in California only online at www.PearlsPremium.com. The roots grow deeper than most seeds and the lawn doesn't need as much water or mowing.

I wrote to Jackson, the founder of the company whom I met when I was lecturing at the National Garden Communicators Conference, and asked if there was a discount that I could offer my readers. He kindly responded that he offers a 10% discount at checkout with the code BLACKFRIDAY. He was apologetic that he couldn't offer more of a discount at this time, however, due to the wildfires and the drought, two years of his work were decimated resulting in his costs escalating to over 300%.

... continued on Page D12



Rake gravel paths and remove debris from garden spaces.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	27	\$385,000	\$3,634,500
MORAGA	19	\$396,000	\$2,405,000
ORINDA	21	\$1,050,000	\$3,600,000

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

- 3637 Bickerstaff Road, \$1,325,000, 2 Bdrms, 1095 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-21-21
 1 Burton Vista Court, \$3,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 4176 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 10-12-21
 1343 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1823 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 10-13-21,
 Previous Sale: \$342,000, 12-07-98
 1142 Garden Lane, \$1,780,000, 3 Bdrms, 2411 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 07-12-18
 1503 Huston Road, \$1,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 2158 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-12-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 03-02-18
 166 Kendall Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-19-21
 704 Las Trampas Road, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,875,000, 06-25-13
 883 Las Trampas Road, \$2,760,000, 5 Bdrms, 3608 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,995,000, 05-28-19
 3291 Marlene Drive #3293, \$1,940,000, 4 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-12-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,270,500, 05-11-15
 3461 Monroe Avenue, \$1,175,000, 2 Bdrms, 1056 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-20-21,
 Previous Sale: \$424,000, 04-08-02
 3235 Mt Diablo Court #107, \$1,325,000, 2 Bdrms, 1641 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 10-20-21
 3235 Mt Diablo Court #209, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1577 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 10-22-21
 3279 Mt Diablo Court #14, \$880,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-26-21,
 Previous Sale: \$555,000, 10-17-13
 2664 West Newell Avenue, \$1,517,000, 4 Bdrms, 1754 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
 Previous Sale: \$925,000, 09-25-15
 1089 Oak Hill Road, \$2,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2180 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-18-21,
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 06-26-14
 1144 Palomares Court, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 10-14-21,
 Previous Sale: \$95,000, 09-01-87
 1544 Pleasant Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-18-21
 3231 Quandt Road, \$1,622,000, 3 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-22-21
 3397 Reliez Highland Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2263 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 10-13-21,
 Previous Sale: \$258,500, 01-31-03
 833 Rosedale Avenue, \$2,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$667,500, 04-29-03
 525 Silverado Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-25-21
 790 Solana Drive, \$385,000, 5 Bdrms, 2689 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-22-21
 3530 Springhill Road, \$2,725,000, 6 Bdrms, 4853 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-15-21,
 Previous Sale: \$250,000, 07-01-79
 1321 Sunset Loop, \$1,205,000, 2 Bdrms, 1377 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-20-21,
 Previous Sale: \$952,000, 04-23-19
 637 Sweet Court, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 1177 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-22-21
 1230 Warner Court, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$442,500, 03-24-04
 3 Wellesley Court, \$3,634,500, 3 Bdrms, 5290 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 10-22-21,
 Previous Sale: \$2,700,000, 03-29-06

MORAGA

- 109 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-20-21
 128 Ascot Court #A, \$450,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-20-21,
 Previous Sale: \$179,000, 02-26-01
 1996 Ascot Drive #C, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1066 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-26-21

... continued on Page D13

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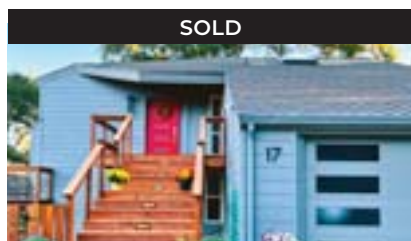
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DRE# 01313819

SHERRY HUTCHENS

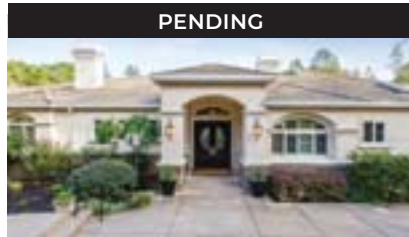


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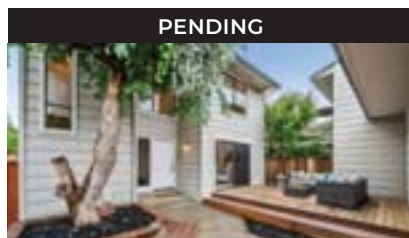


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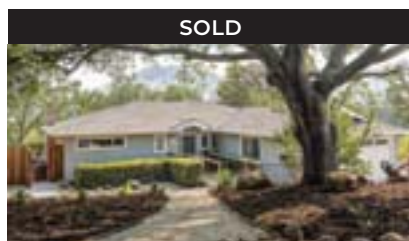
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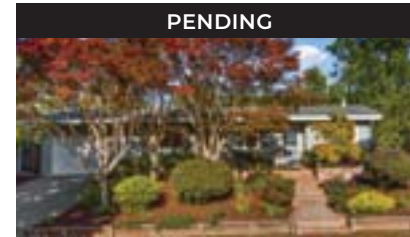
SOLD

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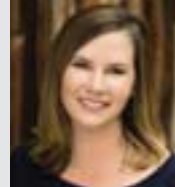
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What to know about water valves



Angle Stop Ball Valve



Gate Valve



Ball Valve

Photos provided

By Jim Hurley

One of our greatest creature comforts in modern life is the availability of hot and cold running water in our homes. We take this for granted because it is so reliable and constant. Consider how many times each day we wash hands, dishes, clothes and bodies, water gardens, flush toilets, and clean our homes. All this water is readily at hand thanks to the pipes and control valves that are built into the home. Most of the time we don't think about them because they work so well, but sometimes things can go wrong.

How wrong? A client once asked me to determine why only the hot water side of a bathroom faucet had very low pressure. I reached under the sink and screwed the shutoff valve closed so I could assess the problem. The faucet did not stop running completely, but it was only trickling, and I decided to proceed.

I removed the cartridge from the hot side and found small bits of debris in the valve. I reached under the sink and opened the shutoff valve a little to clear the line of debris. What a mistake! Those bits of debris in the faucet turned out to be the brittle remains of the shutoff valve's washer and my attempt to shut off the now open valve was futile, because there was nothing left to seal the valve opening. As hot water gushed unabated into the sink, I ran outside to shut off the house main valve. The house main was an old gate

valve which slowed but did not completely shut off the flow of water. I found the water heater (in the garage) and shut off the ball valve there and was able to complete the repair. All in all, no damage done except my temporarily elevated blood pressure.

Now, about those valves. There are three basic types of valves used in homes: ball, globe, and gate.

In older homes, the main shutoff valve is usually a gate valve. Gate valves have a handle that you turn and turn and turn to close or open. The gate valve has a plate (the "gate") inside, which slides between two walls to allow or block the flow of water. They are typically made of brass and may be problematic as they age. The problem is that if it stays open for a prolonged period, the slide gate and walls can collect corrosion and debris, which can prevent the valve from shutting off completely when you need it. An ounce of prevention: routinely shut it and open it every four months to keep the edges clear.

The shutoff valves under your sinks are typically globe valves. Globe valves also have a handle that you turn multiple times to open or close. The difference is that they have a washer or disk that fits over an orifice in the valve to control the flow of water. Again, a problem arises when the washer gets brittle and cracks or breaks and no longer completely shuts off the flow of water. This can make installing a new faucet

difficult.

The best valve to have is a ball valve. You know it's a ball valve because it only needs a quarter turn to shut on or off. The valve is a solid housing with a ball inside; the ball has a hole through it. When the hole is aligned with the pipe, water flows through. When you turn the handle (a quarter turn), the solid side of the ball blocks the flow of water. An additional benefit of ball valves is that the handle tells you if the valve is open or closed. When the handle is aligned with the pipe, the valve is open; when the handle is perpendicular to the pipe, the valve is closed.

Hopefully, you can enjoy the pleasure of running water in your home without adversity. Should you ever need to replace a defective shut off valve, I highly recommend installing a new ball valve in its place.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25 years of experience in residential repairs. Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.



Melanie
Snow

#1 Lamorinda Coldwell Banker Agent YTD 2021



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85 Orchard Road, Orinda
244 Claudia Court, Moraga
320 East Lowell Lane, Lafayette
63 Moraga Via, Orinda
24 Orchard Road, Orinda
1090 Marguerite Court, Lafayette
16 Valley View Road, Orinda
36 Owl Hill Road, Orinda
704 Las Trampas, Lafayette

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1509 Rockledge #2, Walnut Creek
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45 Biehs Court, Oakland
7620 Sterling Drive, Oakland
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85 Orchard Road, Orinda
129 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
58 Tomcat Way, Orinda
1031 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
83 Tiger Tail Court, Orinda
3 Butler Drive, Lafayette
3359 Springhill Road, Lafayette
551 Miner Road, Orinda
3642 Bickerstaff, Lafayette
266 Scofield, Moraga
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5 Pleasant Place, Lafayette



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Reflection. Looking back so the year ahead is even clearer.



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Offered at \$1,585,000 | 132moraga.com

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Offered at \$2,295,000 | 168draeger.com



Terri Bates Walker
Broker | J.D. | DRE 01330081
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COMPASS



SO MANY HAPPY MOMENTS FOR MY BUYERS AND SELLERS THIS YEAR

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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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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall out



Because of our water shortage, planting a succulent garden is a great choice.

... continued from Page D1

He has seed in stock right now, but, because of the unique seeds that go into his mix, once this season is sold out, we may not be able to get any more seed for a year or more. If kept in its packaging, the seed is good for at least 18 months. Order now. Again, www.PearlsPremium.com and put in the code BLACKFRIDAY.

Although we only have a few more weeks of fall, because of the current lovely climate, you can continue planting. My jonquils have been blooming for the past month and I continue to install more bulbs. Planting parsley either in beds or in containers is an excellent edible plant that will provide ongoing beauty as well as culinary interest. I've been harvesting my Brussel sprouts and am planting new seedlings for later harvest. If you are looking for specimens that are deer-resistant, consider Hosta, fern, coral bell, boxwood, weigela, and butterfly bush. Keep in mind that no plant is deer-proof. Succulents are available in many varieties and colors and are an excellent choice for our drought-ravaged land.

As we prepare for winter, we still have a few more tasks in the autumn garden to ensure beautiful spring vegetation. Since the rain, weeds have sprouted and need to be pulled as they are not only unsightly and spreading, but they will be detrimental by providing shelter for overwintering uninvited insects and contributing to disease. Pull them out while the soil is still soft and malleable. Once it hardens, the job is much tougher. Remove any dead or diseased



Maintain fountains and enjoy the trickling sound of water.

plants as well. When substantial rain arrives, it will encourage fungus growth.

To add more nitrogen to your beds, plant a cover crop of vetch, rye, oats, or other legumes. In the spring, dig it into the soil. The Farmer's Almanac encourages protecting fruit trees from winter-hungry rodents by installing a guard of fine mesh hardware around the base of the trees.



Weigela is a deer-resistant perennial that can be planted in fall.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 2024 Ascot Drive, \$806,000, 3 Bdrms, 1687 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$469,000, 11-19-13
- 2091 Ascot Drive #128, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1180 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-22-21
- 653 Augusta Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 10-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$751,000, 05-23-14
- 831 Augusta Drive, \$1,260,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 09-01-21
- 215 Calle La Mesa, \$1,605,000, 3 Bdrms, 1858 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-25-21
- 1369 Camino Peral #C, \$499,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 11-25-15
- 1375 Camino Peral #B, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1279 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$290,000, 04-28-00
- 10 Cortes Court, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2138 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 07-02-03
- 156 Cypress Point Way, \$2,405,000, 3 Bdrms, 2032 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 04-12-04
- 1605 Del Monte Way, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2880 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-15-21,
Previous Sale: \$643,000, 07-18-00
- 3 Hammond Place, \$1,635,000, 3 Bdrms, 1661 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-15-21
- 53 Miramonte Drive, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$195,000, 07-01-92
- 651 Moraga Road #1, \$396,000, 1 Bdrms, 669 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-13-21,
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 09-10-20
- 60 San Pablo Court, \$1,920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-13-21
- 78 Shuey Drive, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 10-18-21,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 09-27-02
- 49 Sullivan Drive, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3408 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-29-21

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- 2 Aghalee Road, \$1,842,000, 3 Bdrms, 2994 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 10-11-04
- 75 Ardilla Road, \$1,760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1513 SqFt, 1929 YrBlt, 10-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$980,000, 05-31-13
- 22 Calvin Court, \$2,065,500, 4 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 10-21-21
- 64 Camino Encinas, \$3,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 01-27-03
- 179 Camino Pablo, \$1,280,000, 2 Bdrms, 1112 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-25-21,
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 06-11-18
- 24 Crescent Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1588 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 10-25-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 10-01-18
- 31 Daryl Drive, \$3,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3516 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-19-21,
Previous Sale: \$2,175,000, 08-16-16
- 60 Dolores Way, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-29-21
- 149 El Toyonal, \$3,475,000, 2 Bdrms, 2261 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$512,500, 06-19-12
- 111 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,280,000, 5 Bdrms, 1980 SqFt,
1946 YrBlt, 10-18-21, Previous Sale: \$299,000, 09-01-92
- 2 Haciendas Road, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2805 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-21-21
- 46 Ivy Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1827 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-21-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,045,000, 07-26-17
- 53 La Espiral, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1688 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-26-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 08-16-18
- 136 Manzanita Drive, \$3,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 3922 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 10-22-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,962,500, 08-06-12
- 26 Meadow Park Court, \$1,905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-15-21
- 35 Owl Hill Road, \$2,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-20-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 07-27-16
- 152 Ravenhill Road, \$1,385,000, 2 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 10-18-21,
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 03-10-06
- 58 Scenic Drive, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2504 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 10-29-21,
Previous Sale: \$430,000, 03-18-98
- 116 Scenic Drive, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-21-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,830,000, 04-04-18
- 69 Singingwood Lane, \$2,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2826 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-27-21,
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 09-01-86
- 35 Underhill Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 10-19-21

THANK YOU

To all the wonderful clients I worked with in 2021:
Wishing you happy holidays and a joyous new year.

So far in 2021, Ann has represented buyers and sellers in more than \$50 million in transactions, surpassing her record sales total for 2020. One of her 2021 transactions, representing the seller of a Happy Valley property in Lafayette, produced the **highest price of any Lafayette sale ever** reported on the Multiple Listing Service. Ann has become the largest sales producer in the Golden Gate Sotheby's Lafayette Office.

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall out

Other last-minute chores before fall falls into winter include:

- **FERTILIZE** your trees while they are dormant. Underground the roots are active and can use the nutrient boost.
- **TAKE** cuttings of coleus, pelargoniums, and geraniums before you prune them back for the winter. Put the stems in a jar of water and when they root, you can transplant them to use indoors.
- **DIVIDE** your peonies daylilies, and bearded iris if you didn't do it last month. Exchange with friends or find new needy places in your garden.
- **CONTINUE** reusing your gray water for outdoor container plants that won't benefit from any rainy weather. Every drop you save is crucial as we are not out of the drought woods.
- **PROTECT** roses from extreme temperature changes by covering plants with eight to ten inches of mulch above the crown.
- **ADD** non-breakable decorative ornaments to trees and shrubs as festive garden features.
- **COVER** frost-prone plants such as bougainvillea with burlap.
- **CLEAN** gazebos, decks, patios, porches, fountains, stairs, bricks, and other structures.
- **RAKE** debris from gravel paths.

Fall gardening is a wonderful way to reap the benefits of nature. Studies show that spending time outdoors decreases levels of the hormone cortisol, lowers blood pressure, and reduces other markers of stress. Relaxation is the reward. When you are working in the garden, you are exercising which is a critical pillar of optimum health. Going outside encourages you to get up and move. With your autumn gardening duties, your mood will be elevated, especially during this hectic holiday season amidst a pandemic. Spend time in green spaces to reduce your anxiety. The magnificence of nature lowers levels of inflammation in the body. Pollution is the culprit for many illnesses including respiratory problems, cancer, and heart disease. Breathe in the fresh air and experience the awe of autumn.

As we watch the final fluttering of autumn leaves, let your garden be a natural prescription to lower your stress and heighten the excitement of the forthcoming holiday season.

Are you shopping for gifts that keep on giving year after year? Books are the answer! Purchase any of my award-winning books from www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store. Proceeds benefit the literacy, arts, and culture charity, Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 www.BetheStarYouAre.org.

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Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A friend's beautiful mature garden with redwoods and healthy shrubs.



Parsley is a perfect plant for containers.



Fallen leaves cover the pavement.



Clean gazebos, decks, paths, and other outdoor structures before winter.



Cynthia Brian hangs non-breakable ornaments on her shrubs and trees.

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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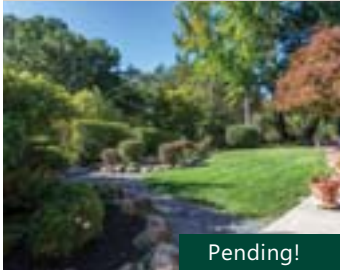
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11 Ranch Road

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\$2,795,000

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Sold!

8 Avis Court

Exceptionally charming 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home located at end of cul-de-sac w/ gorgeous pool, patios, decks, & views!

\$2,101,500

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11 La Fond Lane

Single level 4 bed/ 3 bath home on .71 private acre lot w/ updated kitchen & family room, pool, & outdoor kitchen!

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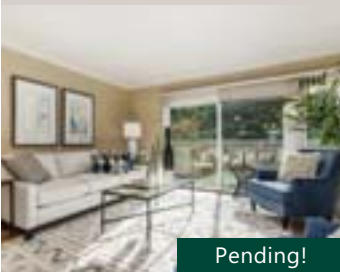
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21 Scenic Drive

Single-level 3 bed/ 3 bath located in beloved Glorietta neighborhood. Sits on almost half an acre w/ views of the hills!

\$1,900,000

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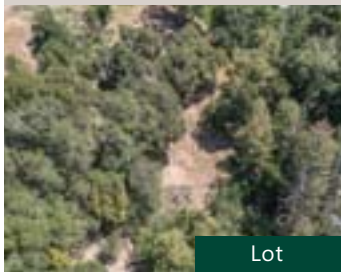
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73 Brookwood Road #13

Updated 2 bed/ 1.5 bath condo conveniently located near BART/ Hwy 24, downtown Orinda, & top-rated schools!

\$689,000

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Lot

23 Kittiwake Road

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

\$575,000

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Sold!

73 Brookwood Road #43

Chic 1 bed/ 1 bath condo in tree-house like setting! Renovated in 2016 w/ vinyl flooring, quartz counter tops & more!

\$488,000

LAFAYETTE



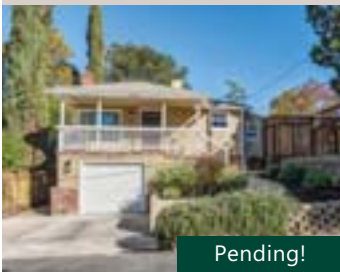
Sold!

22 White Oak Drive

Custom built 5 bed/ 3 bath home w/ single level floor plan perfect for family living & entertaining both inside & outside!

\$2,271,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending!

928 Oak Street

Storybook charm near downtown! 2 bed/ 2 bath w/ work from home or in-law suite set up. Beautifully landscaped!

\$1,295,000

MORAGA



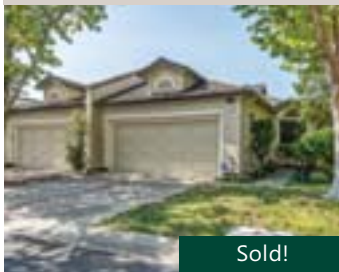
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34 San Pablo Court

Special 4 bed/ 2.5 bath located in The Bluffs neighborhood w/ gorgeous gardens, pool/spa, & private backyard!

\$2,255,000

WALNUT CREEK



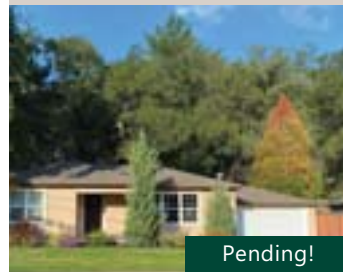
Sold!

310 Beacon Ridge Lane

Private 3 bed/ 3 bath end unit townhouse w/ view of hiking trails & walking distance to pool & tennis courts!

\$1,200,000

WALNUT CREEK



Pending!

1460 Springbrook Road

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath Rancher on private lot near downtown w/ 1 bed/ 1 bath guest house. Remodeled in 2014!

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