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Mural begins to take shape with huge printed sheets of velum paper taped to the Orinda Library wall.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda mural comes to life on side of library building

By Sora O'Doherty

With the coming of spring, the natural history of Orinda is being brought to life on the side of the Orinda Library by muralist Jane Kim of InkDwell Studios, San Francisco. After the city of Orinda prepared the wall of the library, giving it a coat of off-white paint, the artists of InkDwell got started on March 28, only slightly delayed by rain on that day. The mural is expected to take four weeks to complete and is on schedule, according to Kim.

Kim has done numerous large murals, both indoor and outdoor. Each mural has its own process. For the Orinda library project, the drawing was first done on a small scale, then scaled up to the size of the wall. The company has a very large format printer, which was used to print out the image on huge sheets of velum paper. These sheets were then taped to the library wall, and later, the figures were cut out with Exacto knives, and the outline of the image traced onto the wall with .9mm graphite pencils.

For the details within the shape, InkDwell uses standard transfer paper, working little bit by little bit to transfer the image to the wall and then apply some paint. For this project, Kim has three different transfer techniques going on at the same time. Kim says that her method is very efficient, and that efficiency is key to making a successful project. "Accuracy is very important to us," she noted, "because of our ties to natural history and science. It is not our style to freestyle."

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Ukrainian mother, grandmother, safe in Orinda, worries about family at home



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Victoria Babich and grandson Ruslan in Orinda.

By Sora O'Doherty

Victoria Babich flew in from Ukraine to visit her son and his family in Orinda on Feb. 12, little knowing that when the end of her month-long visit arrived, she would be unable to return home. As the world now knows, Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. And so, the Ukrainian forensic psychiatrist remains in Orinda, separated from the rest of her family, including her husband, sister and mother, who, at 86, is unable to leave the country.

Victoria's only son, Kirill Babich, has lived in the U.S. since 2014, when he arrived here for work. He is married with two sons, one of whom was born here. His wife's family is also still in Ukraine.

Babich's family lives in Zaporizhzhya, a city in southeast Ukraine about 20 miles from the conflict and about 100 miles from the sea. Ukraine actually borders two seas, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Victoria is able to speak with her family every morning; there is a 10-hour time difference. In Zaporizhzhya, they can hear the sounds of war, of missiles landing.

Victoria finds it terribly difficult to watch the news on television. She is affected by the "incredible cruelty of the Russian soldiers," she says. "A lot of buildings are destroyed, and there are people under the destroyed buildings, but the Russian soldiers won't help them. I live in a state of fear every day. I don't know what will be the future of my country."

Still, she is grateful to have new friends in Orinda and Moraga who support her. This is her fourth trip to the Bay Area. Kirill and his family were in Ukraine last summer, when his oldest son, Ruslan, went to camp to improve his language and social skills, he says. Ruslan, who attends Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, speaks better Russian than Ukrainian. His younger brother, Tyler, born in California, is also learning Russian, although he is only 3. Ruslan says that his classmates learned about the situation in Ukraine and made sunflowers, the Ukrainian national flower, but don't discuss politics.

What Victoria wanted most to emphasize is her support for and appreciation of Ukraine president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was elected to a five-year term two and a half years ago.

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Planning Commission holds second public hearing on Housing Opportunity Sites

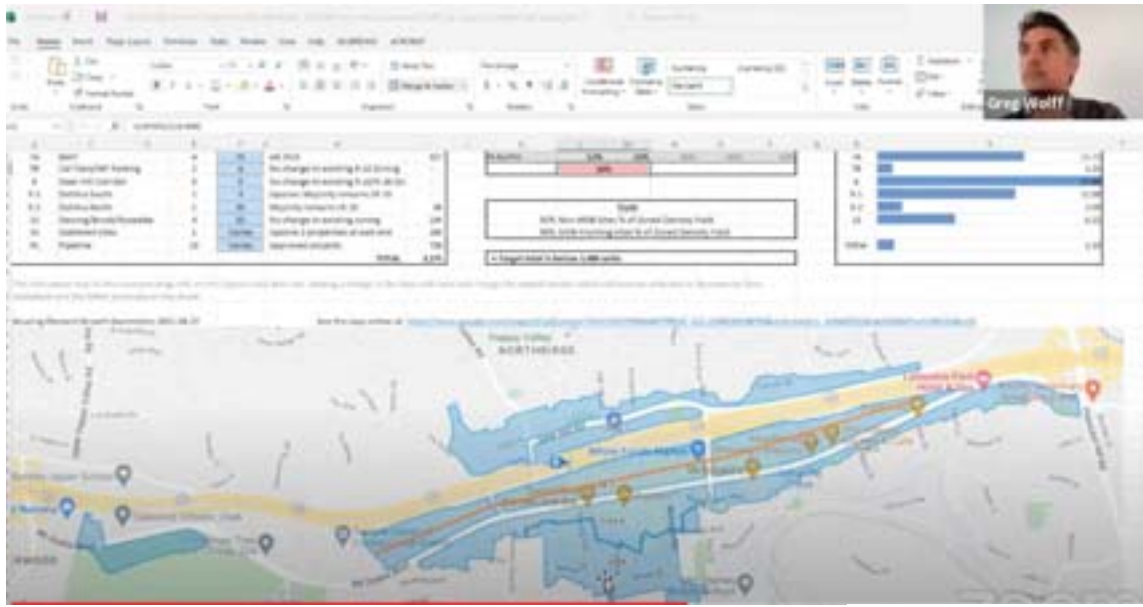


Image provided

Planning and Building Services Director Greg Wolff discusses RHNA numbers if northern portion of area parcels 1, 3, and 5 are upzoned to 50 dwelling units per acre.

By Jennifer Wake

At a second public hearing of the Planning Commission April 4 regarding potential opportunity sites identified in Lafayette that would meet the Regional

Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 2,114 housing units plus a buffer, commissioners ended with a recommendation to staff that included property on the BART parking lots, but left out land on the Deer Hill

Road corridor and the DeSilva property across from the Oakwood Athletic Club (DeSilva South).

According to the staff report presented by Planning Director Greg Wolff, Senior Planner Renata Robles, and Housing Consultant Diana Elrod, the RHNA process is a requirement for all jurisdictions to plan for future housing needs, ensuring development can occur, should an owner or developer wish to. However, it is not a mandate for jurisdictions to actually construct the units. "State law requires that the Housing Element contain a site-by-site inventory of land suitable for development of all housing types, which are referred to as 'opportunity sites.'"

There are 10 areas where environmental impacts have been assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Report

and the Commission needed to identify enough area at appropriate densities to accommodate 2,114 housing units, plus a buffer. Senior Planner Renata Robles explained during the initial March 21 Planning Commission meeting that there are limitations on parcel size that are important toward meeting the city's RHNA allocation and that call for specific income categories, and proximity to transit access and to goods and services.

The Planning Commission reviewed five scenarios developed by staff following recommendations made by the General Plan Advisory Committee. The GPAC, chaired by Jim Cervantes and vice chair Matt Pease, has spent the past year and a half working exhaustively with the community to identify opportunity sites to meet the requirements of the 6th Cycle Housing Element, which begins Jan. 1, 2023 and ends in 2031.

Planning Commission Chair Anna Radonich began the April 4 discussion by focusing on the three areas that would have the largest impact on accommodating the city's RHNA allocation – the Deer Hill Corridor, BART, and DeSilva South – and asked whether each commissioner supported including those locations in their recommendation. Radonich, Commissioners Farschad Farzan, Gary Huisingh, Karen Maggio, Gregory Mason and Kristina Sturm all supported including the BART properties, and all agreed with GPAC's recommendation to exclude the area along the Deer Hill Road corridor, due to the fact that it butts up to single family homes and

would still require upzoning in other areas to reach the desired housing numbers. Huisingh and Mason said they were on the fence about supporting development on the DeSilva property, while the others did not support it, citing the fact that the property is not in close proximity to transit or goods and services, and would reduce open space. Vice Chair Stephen LaBonge was absent.

During the discussion, Sturm asked Wolff about whether the northern portion of the downtown parcels (Area 1, 3 and 5) that about Highway 24 could be carved out and zoned at a higher density. Sturm suggested that increasing the density to 45 or 50 dwelling units per acre versus the existing 35 du/ac would offer a way for the city to meet its increased housing requirement without impacting the look of the downtown corridor, or needing to include changes to the Deer Hill Road corridor or the DeSilva properties.

Wolff agreed that this could be an option.

The commissioners also discussed the potential of increasing the BART parking lot area density from 75 du/ac to 80 du/ac, with the potential for mixed-use construction.

Housing Consultant Diana Elrod, who has worked with the State Department of Housing and Community Development on prior Housing Element cycles, expressed concern that the buffer for very-low and low-income housing wasn't high enough. "I don't want the city to have to rezone or go out of compliance in eight years."

... continued on Page A9

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Pickleball popularity on the rise at the 'Rink' in Lafayette



Photo Budd MacKenzie

Beginner and advanced beginner Pickleball players gathered on April 9 at the Rink in Lafayette.

By Lou Fancher

Some of the swiftest movement in Lafayette doesn't seem to come from speeding vehicles but from the pace of Pickleball drop-in reservations and class enrollments.

Offered by the city's Parks, Trails and Recreation Department, the Pickleball pilot program at the multi-sport rink adjacent to the Lafayette Community Center currently allows for drop-in play seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. On two weekdays, paid lessons for the general public are available through the city's Recreation Department on two of the courts. The site also serves the sport's aficionados, intermediate players and

newcomers to the activity with a rapidly filling roster of classes for people age 12 and up.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan "ACE" Katayanagi, when asked about the court's completion and the next stages in the Pickleball program's history, said staff worked with the PTR Commission and City Council to approve the new surface, which happened in August 2019, that would allow for the new age friendly activity. "At that time there was not an organized big group of Lafayette Pickleball players," Katayanagi said. "It wasn't until the pandemic, when everyone was looking for more outdoor activities, that (the situation) caused a lot of players to find the rink."

Katayanagi says the sport's popularity has brought new life to the rink, but also unique hurdles to climb. With high demand, competition for rentals, and a continued shortage of fields for group sports comes an increased need for planning, rules, and regulations – especially during the program's largely self-policed drop-in times. Another challenge? The city's recreation program is not subsidized by the General Fund and is considered an enterprise fund in which the programs must pay for themselves through collected fees. As Pickleball became more popular, the need for staff or a contractor to set up and take down the court equipment was increasing.

... continued on Page A9

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Earth Day Festival returns to downtown Lafayette

Sustainable Lafayette's annual Earth Day Festival was a mainstay for 14 years – until the pandemic hit – but returns April 30 with a petting zoo, kids' arts and crafts activities, vendor booths, and an electric vehicle showcase hosted by Charge Across Town. The free event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Golden Gate Way, behind the Lafayette Library.

Not only can participants discover how hard people are working to make the world a greener, safer and more equitable space, Sustainable Lafayette believes this festival will inspire everyone to do better. Folks can learn about the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Education Center, Moraga for Monarchs, the Lafayette Buy Nothing Group, the Pullen siblings and their bees, Kylie Choi and her produce bags, Lamorinda 4-H, the students who created the Campolindo goat enclosure, and more.

One of Orinda's finest restaurants, The Fourth Bore, will be sending out its food truck with pizza, grilled items and beer.

Participants can bring

used sneakers for upcycling! And bring small electronics (no big-screen TVs) for e-waste collection.

Nancy Hu from the Lafayette Environmental Task Force will also be collecting for recycling: Brita (only) pitchers, dispensers, bottles, faucet systems, all filters, and filter packaging; oral care products, including toothbrushes, floss containers, toothpaste tubes, mouth wash containers (any brand but must be empty); plastic smoothie pouches and caps (such as GoGo Squeez, any brand, rinsed and dry); Hasbro toys (no batteries, baby gear, or ride-on toys); empty Late July snack bags; and personal cosmetics products packaging for hair care, skin care, lip care, deodorants, etc., (any brand but must be empty).

The Lafayette Earth Day Festival is sponsored by MCE community choice energy. Sustainable Lafayette partners include the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

- J. Wake

For information, visit

<https://www.sustainablelafayette.org/earth-day-2022>

BVE offers free or reduced-price meals to children

Submitted by
Michelle Foxworthy

Burton Valley Elementary School recently announced its policy to serve nutritious meals every school day under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program, effective through May 27. Children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

Households do not need to turn in an application when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR. Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, and children enrolled in their school's Head Start program are eligible for

free meals. Contact school officials if any child in the household is not on the notification letter. The household must let school officials know if they do not want to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Applications will be sent to the household with a letter about the free and reduced-price meal program. Households that want to apply for meal benefits, must fill out one application for all children in the household and give it to the nutrition office at 3477 School Street, Lafayette CA 94549.

For a simple and secure method to apply, use the online application at <https://lafsd-ca.schoolloop.com/>. Contact Michelle Foxworthy at (925) 927-3503 for help filling out the application. The school will let you know if your application is approved or denied for free or reduced-price meals.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



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Town Council: Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings :
Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Moraga encourages residents to participate in Housing Element decisions with the Balancing Act Tool



Photo provided

Example of multi-family housing

By Vera Kochan

California's municipalities are about to enter into the 6th Cycle Housing Element between 2023-31. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for Moraga, as determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), requires the town to come up with 1,118 units to fulfill its assigned quota. Of the necessary units, 318 are for very low-income, 183 are low-income, 172 are moderate-income, and 445 are above moderate-income units.

In an effort to involve the town's residents regarding potential housing sites and proposed densities, the Planning Department recently held three community participation events to that purpose. On March 25, an Opportunity

Sites Walking Tour was held within the Moraga Center Specific Plan and Rheem Shopping Center areas. Maps were provided during the combined 1.5-mile tour and town staff was on hand with explanations and demonstrations of the Balancing Act Tool (an online community housing simulator).

The town also held two community meetings. The first was held in person on March 30 at the Hacienda de Las Flores, while the second took place via Zoom on March 31. The purpose of all meetings was to briefly explain Moraga's RHNA requirements and coach participants on how to use the Tool.

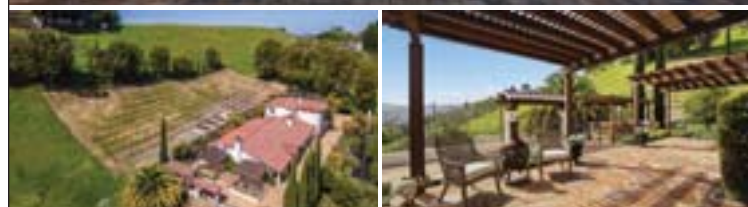
According to the town's website, "Balancing Act is an online mapping tool which allows residents to provide input on the most appropriate locations to potentially develop additional housing units in the Moraga community. Based on projections, and projects currently in the development pipeline, Moraga has a shortfall of 800 units in meeting its housing requirement of 1,118 units. The Balancing Act Tool enables residents to 'click' on each of the sub-areas and use 'plus' and 'minus' tools to add virtual housing units to each area. The number of units that can be assigned to each sub-area is capped to avoid putting all

the units in one zone. Once a player reaches 800 units, they receive the 'You Have a Housing Plan!' message."

During the March 31 Zoom meeting members of the town's Planning Department – Planning Director Afshan Hamid, Assistant Planner Mio Mendez, Associate Planner Brian Horn and Administrative Assistant Suzie Mele – were on hand along with Advanced Planning Initiative Consultant Barry Miller to answer questions and guide attendees through the usage of the Balancing Act Tool and the distribution of units within 11 designated areas throughout town. Included in the Tool are maps of each potential area with visible landmarks making it easy for users to realize the areas in question.

Residents had the usual questions concerning evacuation routes in the event of an emergency; whether there would be more retail (namely another grocery store) to provide for a larger population; and traffic congestion during rush hours.

The Balancing Act Tool is available until April 23, and the town is encouraging all residents to take part in determining Moraga's future housing locations. For more information or to participate in the Balance Act visit: makemoragahome.org.



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JULY 4
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Retroactive
(Dance Band & Motown)

JUNE 23
Beatles Flashback
(Beatles Tribute Band)

JULY 14
Mixed Nuts
(Hits from 40s to Present)

AUGUST 4
Aja Vu
(Steely Dan & Chicago Tribute)

I have such fond memories of Thursday picnics with my girls listening to great music in Moraga Commons Park. We are super excited to be able to gather outdoors again with friends and neighbors. Hope to see you there!

Barb

* Information provided by Moraga Parks Foundation.



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The Town of Moraga was incorporated in 1974 and 'sealed' the deal in 1976

By Vera Kochan

Every town or city has a seal. It's basically a logo designed to include significant aspects of a municipality – symbolism relevant to its citizens. The seal is used on official stationery, business cards, websites, public buildings and more, but how many residents of any community really know what their seal visually represents, or in Moraga's case, the year-long debate that took place concerning the design and its ramifications.

In 1975, the year following the town's incorporation, the Seal Design Committee was led by Saint Mary's College librarian and Moraga historian Brother Dennis Goodman. Fellow committee members included Merle Gilliland, Barbara Gross, Geraldine Meyer, and Brother Jerome West.

What began as the search for something historically meaningful to display on the newly-incorporated town's logo, had turned into a hotly contested dispute to keep church and state separate. Standing in the middle of the brouhaha was SMC's iconic chapel building.

Many designs were in the running as evidenced by architect Gilliland's sketches. One that was quickly ruled out was that of a giant front (such as the one in front of the Moraga Library), with



"1974" in Roman numerals at the bottom. Six other "seals" of Moraga's more noteworthy symbols were also conceived by the committee: the Moraga Library; the Moraga Family Coat-of-Arms; the Hacienda de las Flores; the Moraga Adobe; Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados; and the SMC chapel. It was eventually pointed out that the Moraga Adobe now stands within Orinda's boundaries, and even though it is the oldest historical structure in the area bearing the name Moraga, it was not located in Moraga.

... continued on Page A5



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Bike riding season is fast approaching – are you prepared to cycle safely?



A cyclist heads toward Canyon Bridge.

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

California, in general, is blessed with the kind of year-round weather that makes bike riding pleasant during all four seasons. Lamorinda's many trails and interesting roadway configurations serve to entice bicycle owners of all ages to hit the road, though hopefully not literally.

Before even getting on a bike, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises everyone to ride a bike that fits you – it's harder

to control a large bike. It's also important to make certain that the bike is well maintained, especially the brakes. Never have more than one person per seat. If this suggestion comes as ridiculously obvious, then you've never watched "America's Funniest Home Videos." Make sure to carry all items in a backpack or strapped to the back of the bike – hands should be left free for signaling. It's important to plan your route when riding on a road that also carries motor vehicles. Choose routes with

less traffic and slower speeds. Any sudden lane changes could become a dangerous decision.

What you wear is just as important as how you ride a bike. Although anyone over the age of 18 in California is not required to wear a helmet, it can protect you in the event of a fall. Wearing bright clothing during the day, and something reflective at night adds to your visibility. For that matter, dressing your bike with reflective gear or lights for night riding is also a good idea. Tucking or tying shoe laces and pant legs keeps them from getting caught in a bike chain.

NHTSA warns that many bike accidents occur when the rider is not paying attention to the condition of the road itself. Hazards such as large pebbles, potholes, grates, and train tracks can cause riders to lose control of their bikes and fall. It is important to stay focused especially when sharing the road with cars and trucks. A bicy-

cle is a moving vehicle that should drive with the flow of traffic. Bike "drivers" must also obey the same street signs, signals and road markings the way motor vehicles do. Most importantly, no texting, listening to music, or doing anything else that may cause a distraction.

According to NHTSA pedestrians can also become a hazard to cyclists, because their unexpected movements might occur during a moment when they are unaware of an oncoming bike. If passing a pedestrian, announce your presence "on your left," or "passing on your left," or use a bell.

As the weather warms up, motor vehicle drivers should expect to share the road with more cyclists than during winter months. Seasoned cyclists oftentimes can ride their bikes as fast as cars and are allowed to travel with

traffic in certain circumstances. Drivers should also be aware of their surroundings in parking lots, at stop signs and when backing up because bikes, being smaller than cars, can maneuver with more agility in and out of tight and hidden areas. When stopping to make a right turn, pay special attention behind you as a cyclist may be approaching with the same idea in mind (however, even though cyclists are required to follow the same rules of the road as motor vehicles do, that doesn't always happen). Additionally, passing a cyclist on a narrow roadway can prove difficult. For maximum caution, pass when it's safe to move over into an adjacent lane.

Using common sense, courtesy and obeying the rules of the road, will help everyone to enjoy a safe biking experience.

For more information visit: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety.

The Town of Moraga was incorporated in 1974

... continued from Page A4

It was decided that the public should have the opportunity to vote on which choice they would approve. Rather than hold a costly special election, ballots were made available during two events. The first voting occasion came during a cocktail reception for then new Town Manager Gary Chase. The second occasion was made available at a town booth during Fiesta de Moraga.

After the voting results were compiled, SMC's chapel was the overwhelming front-runner with the Moraga Family Coat-of-Arms running a distant second. According to a newspaper article in the National Catholic Register (Aug. 17, 1975), "The first cries of dissension came only days after the official seal committee decided to recommend St. Mary's chapel to be used as the town's logo and shortly before the committee was to make their report to

the council." One such objection came from a member of the design committee and was followed by other residents who felt that a religious building should not be a part of the town's logo. There were a flurry of letters to various newspapers of the day proclaiming either for or against the chapel. One letter noted that the entire state of California is dotted with cities bearing religious names: San Francisco, Santa Clara and St. Helena to name a very few. Another letter asked whether the SMC chapel could be considered as a landmark building with regards to the seal.

Not wanting to be part of any friction within the town, SMC's Director of Public Relations Michael R. Vernetti penned a letter to the editor of the local Lamorinda Sun newspaper stating, "Since Saint Mary's College has been the center of so much discussion recently concerning adoption of a Moraga Town Seal, we thought you might be interested in how we feel

about the matter. We, of course, would be pleased and honored if the town council chose a design for the seal incorporating the chapel of Saint Mary's, but this is not to say the college is advocating adoption of the chapel seal." Vernetti added, "Support for this design has come entirely from people not associated with Saint Mary's. We feel that encouraging adoption of the chapel design would be improper and have not done so."

Working from the five remaining choices, the seal committee decided to take matters into their own hands. Gilliland, who was also a council member, pushed for the Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados (Ranch of the Lake of the Redwoods) depiction even though the lake no longer exists, but was historically located where Campolindo High School now stands. The redwoods, although non-existent with proximity to the lake, were conceptually borrowed from

the Canyon area as that was part of the 1835 land grant belonging to rancher Joaquin Moraga. To add to the visual appeal of the seal, a setting sun was inserted into the background, presumably because Moraga's western mountain range was factually referred to as "poniente del sol" (west of the setting sun).

On July 21, 1976, in a 3-2 vote, Moraga Council Members William Combs, Merle Gilliland, and Barry Gross (in favor) with Michael Cory and Susan McNulty (against) passed a resolution to adopt the Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados as the official town seal. However, to this day there does seem to be a mysterious discrepancy regarding the actual style of the town seal.

In 1977, Goodman's notes revealed that "the style of lettering is used today to give an antique Hispanic flavor to a publication." The town seal that citizens are accustomed to seeing on the current website, documents and buildings

do not bear a Hispanic-flavored lettering. Also, earlier versions of the town seal have a decided look reminiscent of the 1970s with bright colors within an almost psychedelic-era graphic. Town documents show this seal in use at least through 1992, and Moraga Historical Society publications from the year 2002 also bear this rendition.

Lamorinda Weekly contacted several sources within the town and was met with surprise and bafflement at the thought that there was another seal design prior to the current one which showcases earth tones and a bold font of lettering. One explanation was that there needed to be a digital vector quality seal which can be scaled as large as possible without pixelating. Anyone with more information can email vera@lamorindaweekly.com.

Special thanks to Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry and Moraga Town Clerk Marty McInturf.

2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year – Karen Reed



Photo Stan Holcenberg

Karen Reed – Moraga's 2022 Citizen of the Year

By Vera Kochan

Back from a two-year hiatus due to COVID mandates, the 2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year honor is awarded to Moraga resident Karen Reed.

The basic criteria were that nominees could not be a current elected member or paid staff of the town or any other local public agency; must have a Moraga mailing address; must have given their

time and talent to help make Moraga a vibrant community (one where people want to live, work and shop); and must be instrumental in bringing the community together and instill residential pride.

The Selection Committee recognized Reed for her broad scope of involvement with regards to the Moraga Park Foundation (holding office within the organization, Summer Concert Series, fundraising during the Pear Festival); Moraga Valley Kiwanis (holding office within the organization, Crab/Lobster Fest, See's Candy fundraiser, organizer of the annual Pear Harvest and tree pruning, daffodil planting, Fourth of July festivities); Park and Recreation Commission (research capacity); and Moraga Library (bookstore volunteer).

Many, if not all, of Reed's contributions to the town occur on an annual basis and the committee members felt that her positive energy and long-term volunteerism year-in and year-out embodied the characteristics of an overall exemplary Moraga citizen.

The 2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year Celebration Dinner

will be held Friday, May 6 in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. The festivities begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner starting at 7 p.m., and the recognition program beginning at 8 p.m.

Pre-paid reservations are now available and required through co-sponsor Moraga Valley Kiwanis. The cost of a ticket is \$75 per person, and reserved tables of eight may be purchased for \$600. Tickets may be purchased online at: moragavalleykiwanis.org where one can make a reservation; specify an entrée choice of either filet mignon or four-cheese ravioli; and pay for tickets with a credit card.

Reservations and tickets can also be handled by phone. Call Kiwanis member Chris McGuffin at (510) 499-0243. Provide credit card information or mail a check payable to "Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley" (mail to: Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 503, Moraga, CA 94556) and don't forget to specify choice of entrée.

Deadline to make reservations and purchase tickets is noon on Monday, May 2.



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

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Draft Orinda Housing Element is now available for public review

By Sora O'Doherty

After a number of appearances at city council meetings, and through a combination of staff analysis of sites and public input, Orinda now has a draft Housing Element that identifies land to accommodate the number of new housing units required by the

state of California for the next Housing Element cycle. The sixth cycle since the Housing Element became a requirement, will cover the eight-year period from 2023 to 2031. Orinda will have to provide for 1,506 new units within the city limits.

The next step in the process will be a review of the draft by the city council at

its meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. There are many steps, however, before the Housing Element is finalized. In December 2022 and January 2023, the city council will adopt the Downtown Precise Plan, the Housing Element and the Safety Element. From January to March, 2023, Orinda must submit the final adopted Housing Element to

the California Department of Housing and Community Development for review and certification.

Orinda's draft housing element was released at the end of March for public review and can be found at www.PlanOrinda.com/housing-element.

With record-breaking heat and iced desserts, Orinda welcomes return of Food Truck Thursdays

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda residents were happy to be outdoors on a very warm Thursday evening to welcome the return of the Taste of the World Market food truck event on April 7. Neighbors visited, kids played, and everyone enjoyed the freedom of being outdoors. Cousin's Maine Lobster put in a first appearance in Orinda for the event. Other trucks included Rosie's Mexican Food, Golden Gate

Gyro, The Guzzler, and More Life Ice. The event will continue each Thursday

evening from 5 to 8 p.m. in front of the Orinda Community Center.



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's Day of Action returns in 2022

The public is invited to lend a hand to help clean up Orinda and beautify the community Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is sponsored by the city of Orinda in partnership with the Orinda Community Foundation. Snacks and a light lunch will be provided to volunteers. Volunteers can sign up for a variety of tasks, from trash and debris removal to painting the restroom or adding sand to the sandbox at the Orinda Community Park. Volunteers should meet at the Library Plaza at 10 a.m. on the day.

Volunteer sign-ups are available at www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4baba629a02-orinda6 - S. O'Doherty

Host home sought for visiting Czech student for next academic year

By Sora O'Doherty

A 16-year-old student from Tabor in the Czech Republic has been selected as the visiting student for academic year 2022-23. Sofie studies English, German and Italian. She is also a gymnast and a runner. Sofie says that she is "deeply interested in international relations." She submitted her biographical essay in English and passed an in-person English interview before a three-member board of English speakers in Tabor. She was chosen by the board of the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation over 15 other applicants.

Regulations require that visiting students be provided

with their own bed, a place to study, and three meals a day. Sofie looks forward to living with an Orinda host family, preferably one with a student at Miramonte High School, where she will study.

Sofie will be the 21st student from Tabor sponsored by the sister city foundation to study for a semester in Orinda. If you might like to host Sofie, and are interested in the details of her stay, please contact Bobbie Landers (bobbielanders@yahoo.com). According to Landers, you will embark on a memorable experience! Potential hosts can also speak to previous host families about their experiences with past visiting students.

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**City Council
 Regular Meeting:**
 Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Orinda mural comes to life on side of library building



InkDwell staff applies transfer sheets.

However, there have been some changes to the mural from that which was proposed originally. When Kim and her crew came out to check the wall after the city completed its initial work, they found that the painting did not extend to the lower half of the wall, as originally planned. However, Kim decided to embrace the change as a "happy accident," and adjusted the design to fit the new area.

Kim is now no longer concerned about rain, and rather about the potential of excess heat. She will be having sunshades fitting to the lifts that the artists use to reach the wall.

When the library mural is finished, Kim will be moving on to several commissions that she currently has in studio to complete, including some projects in development for the fall. It is possible InkDwell will be working on something in San Francisco. Among InkDwell's largest outdoor projects are two series of murals about migratory animals, the monarch butterfly series and the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep series that is painted on buildings along highway US 395.

In an interview with the Lamorinda Weekly, Kim revealed, "I love being here because public libraries are very meaningful to me. The library was a safe haven for me and my sister." Kim, who grew up outside of Chicago, added that she and her sister would spend Saturdays and sometimes Sundays too in the public library. Kim moved to the Bay Area 18 years ago, right after she completed college at the Rhode Island School of Design.

According to Nancy Ross-Madnick, president of the Friends of the Orinda Library, they have raised



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Muralist Jane Kim at work.

97% of the cost of the mural, which will later be donated to the city. Anyone wishing to put the funding "over the top," can send donations in any amount to the Orinda Library, P.O. Box 152, Orinda, CA, 94563. The Friends ask that you please note "mural" in the memo line on the bottom of your check. For further information, contact Mary Kate Rittmann at krittmann@hotmail.com.

... continued from Page A1

More ways to support the Friends of the Orinda Library can be found on their website: <https://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/membership/>
A gallery of InkDwell's work is available on their website, <https://inkdwell.com>

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MOFD providing free wood chipping for Moraga and Orinda residents



Photo courtesy MOFD

By Vera Kochan

As the fire season fast approaches, and by all accounts sooner this year due to the lack of substantial rainfall during winter months, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has resumed its free-of-charge Community Wood Chipping Program.

This year the program will run through June 1 and be available to any residents within the MOFD area. According to its website, MOFD will “assist residents in reducing vegetation by facilitating the chipping of material produced in quantities too large for green bins and too small for commercial chipping providers.” Only Orinda residents will retain the wood chipping services through the summer thanks to Measure R.

Beginning in June, the MOFD Fire Prevention team will begin defensible space fire code inspections and doesn't expect to resume the community chipping program until November or December.

Anyone taking advantage of the chipping service is expected to lay the vegetation parallel to the roadway with the cut stems facing in the same direction so that chipping crews don't need to untangle the materials. Falling under the category of chippable vegetation are limbs, shrubs, brush, and small trees up to 6 inches in diameter. Items that are not allowed include grass, leaves, hay, vines, poison oak, fencing of any kind, scrap wood, lattice, tree stakes, dimensional lumber, or individual pieces weighing more than 80 pounds. Make sure there are no staples, barbed wire or nails as they may

damage the chipping machine and can be dangerous to crews.

MOFD asks that there be a minimum of three homeowners requesting the service in a neighborhood in order to reduce travel time between sites. Priority scheduling will be given to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA neighborhoods.

Residents who use a professional tree service to cut down large trees cannot use the chipping program (which is meant to handle smaller vegetation). Similarly, MOFD will not cut any vegetation. It is the homeowner's responsibility.

Vegetation meant for the chipper should be placed within 10 feet of the roadside and off the pavement. It must not interfere with vehicular traffic or visibility. It must not be located on steep hillsides or unsafe areas for the crew. The piles may not exceed 4 feet in height or be located more than 10 feet away from the chipper location.

For any resident wishing to take advantage of the program visit www.MOFD.org/chipper-program, and fill out the online Chipper Request Form. All requests must be submitted online.

MOFD rolls out wildfire safety message with ‘Golden Ticket’ mailing



Photo courtesy MOFD

Wildfire Safety Golden Ticket Crew, from left: Moraga Police Chief Jon King, Rescue 1 Foundation Board Members Maridel Moulton and Gordon Nathan, Moraga School District's Judy Silva, MOFD Clerk of the Board, Marcia Holbrook, and MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker.

Submitted by Dennis Rein

season quickly approaching the Moraga-Orinda Fire District is sending out its annual wildfire safety postcard. The mailing goes out to over 14,000 prop-

erty owners and is designed to inform residents about the steps they can take to comply with the fire code and increase the probability their home will survive a wildfire.

The Fire District is always looking for new ways to engage the community and increase the effectiveness of communications to the residents, so this year it partnered with Miramonte High School's Digital Design Class to restyle the postcard. The class' artwork brings the safety information up to date, clarifies the message and makes the card more readable. The new twist this year is that several of the postcards will include a Willy Wonka inspired “Golden Ticket.” The first resident to present their Golden Ticket will win a ride in a fire engine during the Orinda Fourth of July Parade. Other lucky residents receiving

golden tickets will be able to redeem them for a special family ride in one of the District's fire engines. MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said, “We want to stress the importance of being prepared for wildfire season, encourage families to take protective measures early, and have some fun because who doesn't want to ride in a fire engine?”

Judy Silva from Camino Pablo Elementary School in

Moraga applied the official MOFD gold seal to seven postcards at the Minuteman Press offices in Lafayette on May 30. Rescue One Foundation board members Maridel Moulton and Gordon Nathan acted as official observers to certify the process. Jon King, the Chief of Police for the Town of Moraga and Winnacker were also on hand to witness the process and escort the Golden Tickets to the post office.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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



ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org
(http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?d=&t=ALL)



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Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
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Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 20 - April 2



Alarms	49
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	123
Suspicious Circumstances	15
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	19
Service to Citizen	35
Patrol Req./Security Check	23
Public/School Assembly Check	12
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
20 Block Billington Ct.	
Brown Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Reckless Driving	

Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
Moraga Rd./Brook St.
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo, Mor
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tc - Property Damage
Glenside Dr./St Marys Rd.
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Vehicle Theft
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
100 Block Arthur Rd., Mar.
Computer Fraud
10 Block Diablo Cir.
Dependent Adult Abuse
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
Forgery
1100 Block Via Media
Fraud False Pretenses
El Curtola Blvd./Wb Sr 24
2900 Block Windtree Ct.
600 Block Doreen Way
1000 Block Miller Dr.
Grand Theft From Veh
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Identity Theft
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
600 Block Doreen Way
Panhhandling
1st St/Wb Sr 24
Petty Theft
Police Department
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Plaza Way
Petty Theft From Veh
10 Block Northridge Ln.
700 Block St. Mary's Rd.
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
900 Block Old Hawthorne Rd.
Petty Theft Other
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Residential Burglary
900 Block Reliez Station Ln.
1200 Block Sunset Loop
Shoplift
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Warrant Arrest
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3300 Block Johnson Rd.
Disturbing The Peace
Windsor Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.
Loud Music

Happy Valley Rd./Palo Alto Dr.
Happy Valley Rd No Rose Ln.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Public Nuisance
N Thompson Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
N Thompson Rd./Glen Rd.
10 Block Blackberry Ct.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
1000 Block Leland Dr.
Michael Ln./Murray Ln.

Other
Animal Cruelty
4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Dependent Child
Moraga Rd./E View Dr.
H&S Violation
900 Block Paulson Ct.
K9 Outside Assist Request
1200 Block Mustang Dr., Dan
San Pablo Dam Rd./D Avila Way, Eso
1400 Block N Main St., Wcr.
Trespass
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Fairholm Ct.
Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3400 Block School St.
Violation Restraining Ord
1000 Block Miller Dr.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report March 22 - April 4



Alarms	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	32
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	32
Patrol Req./Security Check	10
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
500 Block Rheem Blvd.
Excessive Speed
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
Seven Eleven
Donald Dr./ Moraga Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
100 Block Ascot Ct.
Reckless Driving
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Other criminal activity
Other Felony
Moraga Way/Meadow Lanes Ct.
Robbery
1500 Block Moraga Way
Shoplift
Safeway
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Not Available
Drunk In Public
100 Block Ascot Ct.
Loud Music
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Hacienda
Not Available
Loud Noise
Not Available
Public Nuisance
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
Other
Mentally Ill Commit
Not Available
Unwanted Guest
Safeway
400 Block Woodminster Dr.

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Orinda Way
Dui Misd
Camino Sobrante
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
20 Block Bryant Way
10 Block Muth Dr.
30 Block Charles Hill Rd.
Reckless Driving
100 Block Las Vegas Rd.
Tamper With Vehicle
St Stephens Episcopal Church
Other criminal activity
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon
Ivy Dr.
Auto Burglary
Camino Pablo
Fraud False Pretenses
10 Block Vianne Ct.
Grand Theft
Camino Sobrante
Identity Theft
100 Block Overhill Rd. (2)
50 Block Wanflete Ct.
60 Block Rheem Blvd.
Panhhandling
Orinda Way
Petty Theft
70 Block El Gavilan Rd.
Moraga Way
Residential Burglary
10 Block Oak Ct.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.
Loud Party
20 Block Queensbrook Pl.
500 Block Miner Rd.
Public Nuisance
10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Vandalism
Martha Rd. (2)
100 Block Bates Blvd.
300 Block Miller Ct.
Other
Animal Cruelty
30 Block Moraga Way
Mentally Ill Commit
Sleepy Hollow Ln./Tarry Ln.
10 Block Valley Ct.
Revoked License
Charles Hill Rd./Charles Hill Pl.
Threaten Exec Officer
60 Block Moraga Way
Unauthorized Possession
Orinda Way
Unwanted Guest
10 Block Theatre Sq
Orinda Way
60 Block Moraga Way

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 20 - April 2

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	74
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	1

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Letters to the editor

Election integrity

In this era of concern about election integrity, it is critically important that voters in Contra Costa County pay close attention to this year's election for Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar, our county's top election official. For the first time in 18 years, there is a contested election for this position and it's imperative that we elect a leader with the ethics, integrity and experience to do the job. Kristin Connelly is that leader.

Kristin has had a long-standing interest in election integrity that started when she was a law student and served as a non-partisan poll monitor

helping people experiencing problems voting. Kristin saw first-hand the lengths some interests will go to suppress the vote, including fraudulent signs directing voters to a non-existent polling place and a fake "MySpace" page targeted at college students erroneously stating that members of one party voted on Tuesday and members of the other major party were supposed to vote the day after the election, on Wednesday.

Misinformation about voting and elections is a threat to our democracy. Kristin believes that transparency about the elections process and battling misinformation about how to vote will be critically important

to maintaining confidence in the integrity of our elections – and our democracy.

Kristin is an East Bay native, who returned from a prestigious career on the East Coast to raise her family in Lafayette. Kristin's leadership skills have greatly benefitted Lamorinda and Contra Costa County. She is the CEO of the East Bay Leadership Council, the Executive Director of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership and a Trustee on the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board.

I urge voters to take the time to learn more about this important office and to vote for Kristin Connelly for Contra

Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar in the June 7 primary election.

Rachel Zenner Kane Orinda

Orinda's Draft Housing Element Proposes Gas Station Monopoly

Orinda's Draft Housing Element proposes that all of the local gas stations, as well as Orinda Motors, be replaced with housing, except for the Chevron station. A monopoly would be created. Also, residents would need to drive out of town to get their vehicles serviced or smog checked. One can only wonder whether this has anything to do with Chevron's "second donation of \$5,000" to Friends of Orinda Creeks.

<https://restoresanpablocreek.org/news#e46b43c3-aaf6-47df-a55d-abace80e0b15> As some of you know, the 1,400 long "day-lighted" segment of San Pablo Creek is a pet project of several council members, and of a small but vocal minority of residents; less than 50% of residents according to a scientific poll. See Table 5-4 (page 133-34) and Figure 5-3 (page 135). Orinda Motors (sites DPP-1 and DPP-8, Mash Gas (DPP-31), 76 (DPP-33), and Shell (DPP-36) are listed as potential housing sites in the Draft Housing Element <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/Draft-HousingElement>. The Chevron station, 11 Orinda Way, is not listed as a site for housing.

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

Easter Bunny to visit Orinda and Lafayette, April 16



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Local children will have two more opportunities to fill

their baskets with colorful eggs in Lamorinda on Sat-

urday, April 16. The Spring Egg Hunt returns to Orinda after its absence during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents and their toddlers to second-graders are invited to this free event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda. The egg hunt will take place at 11 a.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park.

In Lafayette, the Community Candy Scramble sponsored by the Lafayette Rotary Club will take place at 10 a.m. at Plaza Park in front of Sideboard, on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road, for young children up to second grade. According to the

Lafayette Rotary, the Easter Bunny hopes kids "hop on over to the park for the egg

hunt and a real good time." – S. O'Doherty

Lafayette opportunity sites

... continued from Page A2

... The council has always budgeted conservatively, and we're approaching [the Housing Element] in the same vein," said Elrod, who noted that the final decision was up the commissioners and the city.

The commissioners voted unanimously to recommend to staff not to upzone Area 8 north of Deer Hill, not to up-

zone the DeSilva property South (while keeping the zoning of DeSilva North at 35 du/ac), upzone Areas 1, 3 and 5 that are to the north near Highway 24 to 50 du/ac and upzone BART properties to 80 du/ac with the understanding that staff will be looking at pa-

rameters to ensure the buffer is high enough. Staff will return to the Planning Commission on April 18 to review a complete draft of the Housing Element before a final vote to forward the draft HE to the city council for consideration at its May 9 and 23 meetings.

The entire meeting can be viewed on the city of Lafayette's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOrNwPOqxm0&t=13738s>

Pickleball

... continued from Page A2

"I worked with local Pickleball enthusiast Budd MacKenzie to organize volunteers to set up and take down the courts," says Katayanagi. "The volunteers also raised funds to purchase durable, portable outdoor nets. The (Lafayette Pickle Ball Club, an informal group founded by MacKenzie) worked with me to reach out to the Senior Services Commission to approve co-sponsorship of the volunteer pilot program that allows for free drop-in play." Volunteers of the club offer free instruction to seniors in coordination with the Senior Services Department.

The Lafayette rink was developed in 2010 with Park Facilities development fees and donations from the Roller Hockey user group. Prior to that, the PTR department set up a temporary rink several times a week in the Community Center parking lot.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission showed forethought and realized that all the spaces at the Community Center, including the rink, needed to be multi-purpose to maximize use. The roller hockey rink was de-

signed with basketball courts and lined for Lacrosse. When it was time to resurface the rink in 2019, the Senior Services Commission collected feedback from the community about the needs of older adults. Pickleball came up as an activity of interest and city staff began researching; meeting with local Pickleball players and learning that a tennis court surface was necessary to allow for appropriate play.

On the city's website, "Pickleball Guidelines" detail the primary rules and advisories regarding public use, along with sport etiquette and instructions for participants. A schedule for play is posted on a bulletin board on the rink shed and notes that the rink is a reservation facility and "you must have a permit for organized play and fee programs. Single family and drop-in individual use may be allowed if the rink is not reserved."

In the city's mid-year budget, Katayanagi said council members approved staff's recommendation to replace existing rink lights with energy efficient LEDs and install a timer that will open up more nighttime drop-ins and extend the available play time during un-

derutilized winter months. An additional Automated External Defibrillator was purchased to support the activity. A Pickle Ball Club volunteer who is a firefighter gave lessons to players about proper use of the device.

Asked about other improvements or expanding the program in response to the surge of interest that continues even as the COVID-19 vaccine alters the sports landscape again, Katayanagi admits time at the rink is at a premium. Presently the program cannot expand. "The rink was already helping with the city's need for fields and now we are in a place where we need fields to open up more time (for field sports) to allow for more Pickleball on the rink. The Pickleball players love the facility so much and would use it all day, but we need to maintain the multi-use of the rink while there is still a shortage of field space in the community."

The rink remains available for other rental uses, according to Katayanagi. Information about renting can be found at www.lovelafayette.org/rink and group programs (larger than one or two families or fee-based rentals) must reserve the rink for a fee.

Two new listings, pending within a week, with no preemptive offers!!



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Dr. Matthew Tamplen, who grew up in Lafayette and is a well-known Facial Plastic Surgeon with Kaiser Permanente, just opened a private practice in Downtown Orinda to better serve Lamorinda patients.

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Ukrainian mother, grandmother, safe in Orinda, worries about family at home

... continued from Page A1

"I approve of him," she said, "because he stays in the capital and he talks to the people a lot. He raises their spirits. He was a comedian, but now he is a great president."

Since Feb. 24, over 3.5 million people have fled the war in Ukraine. About two million of those are in Poland. "Poland gives them a place to live, food, some money, and classes in Polish," which, Victoria explains is about 50% the same as Ukrainian. Ukrainian was always spoken in some areas of Ukraine, but Russian was more common in the south and east of the country. However, the national language is even more commonly used since the Orange Revolution. In school, everyone learned Russian, she

says, but that all changed in 2014. Ukraine wants to be a democracy, Victoria says.

Kirill works for Grammarly, a company founded in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. The company employs about 700 people, and, before the war, about 300 of them were in Ukraine. At work, Kirill is doing what he can to help those in Ukraine, and the company is endeavoring to support both those in Ukraine and also refugees. Kirill is in daily contact with his colleagues in Ukraine. As Corporate Controller, he is working on financial issues, housing, visas, and any problems he can address.

"Everyone has their own individual circumstances," he explained. "I am grateful to have my mother with me," he says, "but it is so hard to hear what people are going

through, particularly in areas under attack. My wife's sister and her family were able to evacuate to Poland. However, her other family members (uncle, aunt and cousins) remain in Ukraine and live in fear," he said, adding, "Kids are being killed, women raped and killed, and they are civilians."

Grammarly is donating \$5 million to provide relief for Ukraine. Although Kirill advises anyone who wishes to help to follow their heart in choosing how to donate, for those who would like to help, Grammarly has a page on its website with links to some of the agencies working on Ukraine relief now. You can find information about the company's efforts at www.grammarly.com/stand-with-ukraine

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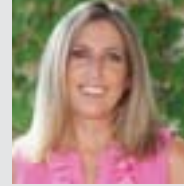
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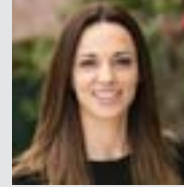
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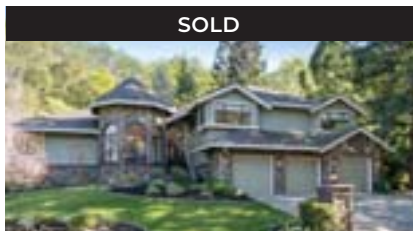
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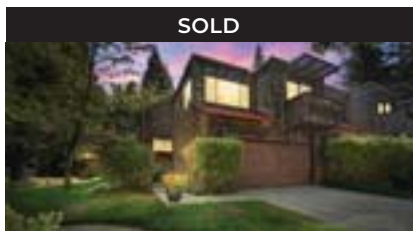
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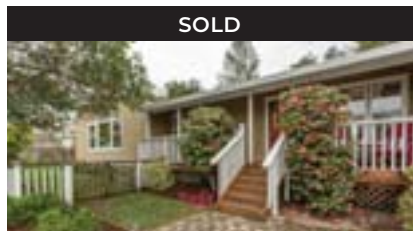
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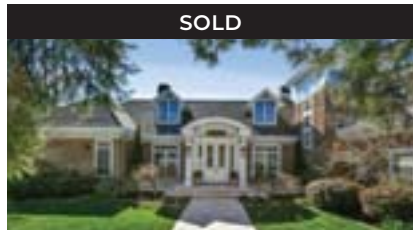
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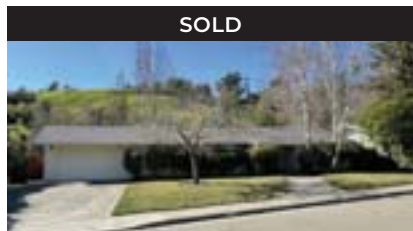
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local family works to build understanding and empathy during Ramadan



The Mishak family during post Iftar (breakfast) prayer in their Lafayette home. Photos Sharon K. Sobotta

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Ten-year-old Omar Mishak is a pretty busy kid. Along with attending Lafayette Elementary School and keeping up with his homework, Omar plays soccer, takes hip-hop class and rehearses for his part in the school play, “Annie.” On top of that, a few days a week, he hops on his computer to take Arabic lessons so he can practice writing and speaking in his native language and reading from the Quran.

Even if the idea of taking another reading and writing class in a whole different language seems like a lot of work to Omar, he understands why he’s doing it.

“I love my life here, but maybe I’ll go back and visit my family in Egypt one day, inshallah (God Willing),” Omar says. “Since I’ve lived in America for so long, I don’t want to be like, ‘Hi, I have nothing to say because I forgot my home language.’”

Omar, his 8-year-old sister Farida and his 15-year-old sister Fayrouz and their parents Faten and Farouk Mishak moved to Lafayette from Cairo, Egypt some five years ago. They are among the 1.8 billion Muslims around the world observing the holy month of Ramadan, which began on the first weekend in April and ends in early May. Muslims who observe Ramadan fast from food and water from sunup to sun down at which time they have Iftar, the special meal for breaking fast, which proceeds prayer. While five daily prayers are a core part of the Muslim faith, families like the Mishaks say Ramadan helps them be extra intentional about the practice of prayer and breaking bread in community. How does Omar’s life as an LES student change during Ramadan? “It’s normal. I just don’t bring a water bottle and I don’t bring lunch during that time,” Omar says. But his hunger and thirst is for a greater cause. It’s all about empathy building. “God wants you to know what homeless or hungry people feel like. Sometimes (unhoused or food insecure) people don’t get to break their fast at sun down.

They just don’t eat at all,” Omar says. “This all helps teach you how to be humble.”

There are challenging moments – times in which resolve and will power is tested – and joyous celebratory moments almost each and everyday. “Sometimes I might go for a walk to pass the time when it’s getting closer to breaking fast and I might walk past the yogurt shack or something that looks extra delicious and I can’t have it,” Omar says with a smile. “Spending time with family and eating (breaking fast) together is my favorite part.”

While Islam doesn’t require children to fast prior to puberty, Omar began fasting when he was in third grade. “I once had a teacher who tried to force me to break my fast by drinking water because she didn’t understand,” Omar recalls.

To help his peers and instructors better understand Ramadan, this year Omar, with the help of his mother, prepared Ramadan care packages including dried fruit, nuts and information about the tradition. He also read a book that he wrote about Ramandan. “I was happy to share,” Omar says. “I ran out of goodie bags because a lot of kids wanted to bring them home to share with siblings.”

Omar’s mother, Faten, says that’s a great problem to have. To remedy it, she plans to prepare more Ramadan gifts to share after spring break. Even if it’s a lot of work for Faten who works full time for Levis, she says it’s well worth it both for the charity aspect and for helping her kids know that they do, in fact, belong in the community.

“The school is a big family for my kids so I’d like my kids to share the love and distribute some of our cultural practices from Ramadan. The kids loved the dried fruits and nuts, things we use to break our fast. We gave out 150 packs and we’ll need more after spring break,” Faten says with an ear-to-ear smile. “Ramadan is not only for Muslims and it’s not just about fasting about food. It’s for human beings and it gives us an

opportunity to fast from bad habits or behaviors we want to change.” While one of the tenants of Ramadan is in providing charity to those in need, Faten says there are many forms of charity. “Even if you see someone and can offer a smile you can make his or her day. It’s about you doing your part to make the world a little better.”

Omar’s teacher, Dr. Dana Fry, says there’s always an educational payoff when making time in the classroom to talk about culture and space to celebrate differences. “When we realize we have a lot in common with others, it’s easier to have empathy and to see ourselves in their shoes. By having children bring their beliefs and customs to the classroom to share, children can learn from their friends that we are very much the same,” Fry says. “Children can learn an appreciation for customs and religions (other than their own) and perhaps (we can) stop the cycle of ignorance and fear that develop when we don’t open our minds and our hearts.”

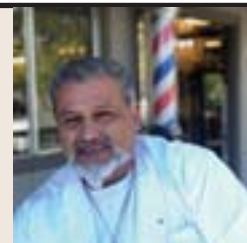
Omar’s sister Fayrouz is a sophomore at Campolindo High School, where she studies German, plays softball and is involved with leadership and diversity activities. The last thing Fayrouz did before going on spring break was collaborate with Campolindo’s librarian to highlight books by and about Muslims. “It’s important to

have Muslims reflected in literature. That way people can get beyond stereotypes and know us as people,” Fayrouz says. When, during an Iftar, a fast breaking meal with her family, Fayrouz was asked why that was important to her, she lit up as she explained it comes down to just one thing: “Representation.”



Omar Mishak

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Blissful buttermilk carrot cake bursts with flavor



Photo Susie Iventosch

Buttermilk Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

By Susie Iventosch

I just adore carrot cake. In fact, I've almost never met a carrot cake that I didn't love, but some are still better than others. It's really just a matter of degrees for me. But this one is my favorite and the best I've tasted yet! I found this one in my old recipe box and it came from my great aunt, who apparently brought it to many a family dinner. I can certainly see why. Made with buttermilk, it is both light and moist, and the fluffy cream cheese frosting is blissful!

When you make the cake batter, it will be very thick due to all of the goodies like raisins,

nuts, pineapple, coconut and carrots in the batter. Don't worry it is a dense cake, bursting with flavor and crunchy bits in every bite.

This cake holds very well for a week or more in the refrigerator and makes a delightful snack for the mid-afternoon munchies. (I actually have a piece for breakfast now and then.) You can opt to make this cake as a 9x13 sheet cake or as a layer cake using either two 9-inch pans or three 8-inch pans. The only difference is that for a layer cake you might want to double the frosting recipe, so you can plenty of the cream cheese frosting between the

layers and over the entire cake. If layer cakes intimidate you, then just stick to the sheet cake

and your guests will be just as happy!

INGREDIENTS

Buttermilk Carrot Cake

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon cinnamon
2 cups granulated sugar
3/4 cup canola oil (or your favorite vegetable oil)
3/4 cup buttermilk (can be low-fat)
3 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups grated carrots (peel before grating)
1 flat can (8-oz.) crushed pineapple, drained
2/3 cup walnuts or pecans, quartered (not chopped)
6 ounces flaked coconut (optional)

Cream Cheese Frosting (double recipe for layer cakes)

1 8-ounce package cream cheese (full fat is better), softened to room temp
1 cube butter, at room temp (4 ounces)
4 cups powdered sugar, sifted
3 teaspoons vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Buttermilk Carrot Cake

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease or spray a 9x13 inch baking pan. (You can also use three 8-inch or two 9-inch cakes pans. If you use round cake pans, dust with flour after spraying or grease the pans to help extract the cooked cakes from the pan.)

Sift flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon together and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat sugar with oil, buttermilk and vanilla. Beat in eggs, one at a time.

Add sifted dries and mix well. Then add the pineapple, carrots, coconut and nuts. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon. The batter will be very thick at this point.

Spoon batter into the prepared pans and bake for approximate 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Reduce baking time by about 10 minutes for round cake layer pans.

Cool completely before frosting. Meanwhile make frosting.

When ready to frost, simply spread the frosting over the top of the entire cake. If you're making layer cakes, then frost in between each layer and completely around the cake. If you aren't crazy about so much frosting on your layer cake, you can also make this as a naked cake, and just frost between the layers and on the top of the layer cake.

Cream Cheese Frosting

Place butter in the bowl of your mixer. Beat until creamy and fluffy, about 2-3 minutes. Add vanilla and sugar and beat until smooth. Now, add in the softened cream cheese. Adding the cream cheese last helps to keep the frosting from getting runny. If frosting is too thick, add a tiny bit of milk or cream, just a teaspoon at a time until it is a good spreading consistency. Conversely, if the frosting seems to soft to spread, add more powdered sugar, a tiny bit at a time.



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>

Family Focus

Helping children during these difficult times

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

These past years have been especially challenging for parents. On top of the typical issues families may experience, there have been many additional threats to our peace of mind. We have had over two years of addressing the coronavirus and all of its worries, accommodations and limitations; political turmoil; worldwide climate problems, with a drought and wildfires threatening our state; financial and housing concerns for many; and now, the tragic war in Ukraine that has been front and center on our minds.

It is more important than ever to try to shelter our children as much as possible from these very scary and unsettling situations. These are adult issues, although even adults often feel very helpless and discouraged by them. Exposing children to worrisome scenarios alters their sense of safety and well-being at a time in their lives when they are dependent and highly influenced by adults' words, behaviors and emotional reactions.

Unfortunately, children may see and hear upsetting information from various sources at times, but parents can refrain from contributing more. You can avoid listening to or watching disturbing media while children are present and avoid discussions of up-

setting subjects on the phone or in person with others when children can overhear. Diligent parents can try to prevent children from being exposed to more than they can understand or handle.

If your children ask questions about troubling events, offer a simple explanation with much reassurance that they will be okay. Starting at a young age, encourage them to come to you with any questions or worries so they can seek comfort from you. You want them to express anxieties as much as possible to ward off behavioral effects such as depression, anger, low academic performance, self-harm, substance abuse, sleep disorders, eating disorders and more.

I have noticed that during these past years, more parents than ever have reached out to therapists to help their children and teens cope with an overload of anxiety. Often the child or teen has been the one to express a desire to talk to someone. These times have been rough for children and their families.

Briana, age 9, was an only child of divorced parents and suffered from too much exposure to adult issues. Because she was highly intelligent and perceptive, she absorbed much more information than her parents realized. Unfortunately, Briana didn't feel that she could confide her fears and anxieties to either parent

and kept them to herself. As a result, she became depressed and developed a nervous tic. These conditions led, in turn, to Briana isolating herself from others which exacerbated her loneliness and depression.

Brad, a sophomore in high school, also wasn't willing to confide in his parents. He heard them experiencing their own anxieties about various issues and didn't want to add to their distress. Brad had high anxiety about grades, getting into college, and being able to socialize comfortably with his peers. Other anxieties revolved around personal safety. Brad didn't want to learn to drive because he worried about having an accident, road rage, and car-jackings. In addition, Brad was worried about what he would do if one or both of his parents died. He only felt comfortable at home, in his room, where he alternated between creating art, playing Minecraft, and watching YouTube.

One important component in working with both Briana and Brad was adding family sessions along with the individual therapy. The goal was to help them become more comfortable sharing their worries and concerns with their parents. Receiving additional support and understanding from the close people in their lives helped Briana and Brad immensely.

Along with sheltering chil-

dren from disturbing events as much as possible, parents need to demonstrate that they are open and receptive to discussing children's fears and worries. In order to do this, you can get your own support if needed so that you can offer your children congruent reassurance – meaning that your words match your behaviors and body language. If you are reassuring a child with comforting words, but your expression looks worried and alarmed, the child will register the entire message you are presenting and will not necessarily be reassured. Similarly, as in the case of one of Brad's parents, if you are consuming too much alcohol or other substances, your child may see this as a sign that you are distressed and not approachable.

Of course, the age of your children makes a difference in how much information you share with them. Elementary school age children and younger need the most protection from adult issues. Even if you need to paint a much rosier picture than you believe, you will be providing important comfort for your children. As your children become older, you will need to assess their ability to handle disturbing information so that you don't overwhelm them. It is much better to be cautious in your approach. And because they will pick up information from other sources, it is essential that you check in with

them frequently to find out what they are reading and hearing.

Psychologist Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a well-accepted principle in the field of psychology, presents physiological needs, such as shelter, food, water and health as the foundation for all humans to be able to thrive. Next is another basic set of needs – safety and security in life and surroundings. These are vital requirements before emotional, social and intellectual needs can be fully attained. We want to provide all the safety nets we can so that our children can be happy and stable and achieve their full potential.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. Her books, "Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families," "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship," and "Appetite for Life: Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia and Compulsive Overeating" are available from Amazon.com.

SMC Theatre Program hosts 'Keeping It Real: A Festival of One-Acts'

Submitted by Benjamin Enos

The Theatre Program at Saint Mary's College is proud to announce the cast and creatives of the upcoming mainstage production, "Keeping It Real: A Festival of One-Acts," a fully-produced evening of world premiere plays under the artistic leadership of the Theatre Program Class of '22. The production will run from April 21-24 in LeFevre Theatre.

Written, directed and performed by students, the performance highlights themes of identity, miscommunication, rebellion, and youth culture. It is a glimpse into the minds of rising theatre artists, led by seniors Sejal Bahl (playwright/performer), Thomas Bradvica (playwright), Grace Clinton (playwright), Audrey Edmondo (projections designer), Aero England (playwright/performer), Naomi Kalter (dramaturg/director), and Sarah Shaughnessy (playwright). What's on their minds? Misunderstandings, hijinks, speaking their truths, and the absurdity of Collegiate Seminar.

"What a powerful opportunity to highlight and elevate the work of our exceptional senior class," said Theatre Program Director Deanna Zibello. "We've been building towards this moment for years, and now we're at the place where the years of training, supported by production resources, gives our students an extraordinary platform to showcase their talents."

The plays, directors, and casts include:

"An Awareness of Eccentricity"

By Thomas Bradvica
Directed by Avery Monson and Will Thompson
With Rianne Biernat, Kendra Eisenmann, Taj Shokar, Lydia Miller and Emma Ledesma

"Seminar 103"

By Sarah Shaughnessy
Directed by Dylan Cazin and Gabriella Thomas
With Emma Scanlan, Roya Amirshaybani, Taj Shokar, Xavier Romero, Weston Wheatley, Rianne Biernat, Naomi Kalter, and Ricky Sanchez

"Sweet Expectations"

By Grace Clinton
Directed by Joanne Houston and Chloë Parmelee-LaPorte
With Kendra Eisenmann, Lucy Bikahi, Chey Torres, Xavier Romero, Esteban LeCam, Molly Baziuk, Tamana Gill, Lanie Carleton, Lydia Miller, Alex Rutter, Aero England and Emma Scanlan

"Uprooted"

By Sejal Bahl
Directed by Kimiya Shokri
With Sejal Bahl, Lucy Bikahi, and Ricky Sanchez

"Unmasked"

By Aero England
Directed by Naomi Kalter
With Aero England, Roya Amirshaybani, Tamana Gill, Julian Florence Villegas, Molly Baziuk, Caroline Long, and Kenji Costantini

All performances will be performed in the LeFevre Theatre, Thursday-Sunday, April 21-24. They will also be available on-demand in May. Tickets are \$8-15 and can be ordered online: stmarys-ca.edu/Keeping-It-Real. ADA/Info: 925-631-4670.

Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to announce its member show "Wellness & Wellbeing" at the John Muir Health Auxiliary Gallery at John Muir Health, Aspen Center, Walnut Creek, April 11 - May 19. Soak in the power of healing through art at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance exhibit. Wellness and wellbeing are reflected in the artwork, creating an ambiance of healing which is important to the patients, their families and friends, staff, volunteers, and healthcare practitioners. The show features 22 artists and 36 original artworks in pastels, oils, acrylics, watercolors, etchings, photography, mixed media, and collage.

New show at Valley Art Gallery: Talking Pictures March 19 - May 7. Talking Pictures, our latest edition, is sure to extend our over 70-plus-year tradition of presenting the best of the best East Bay artists — a record we're quite proud of. So please, drop by the gallery and have a listen. 1661 Botelho Dr, Ste 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org.

Not to be missed

Moraga Art Gallery's new springtime show "Natural Abundance." Reception Saturday, April 23, 5 to 7 p.m., the public is invited. The exhibit features floral and scenic oil paintings by member artist Jill Landau and a collection of works by Bay Area printmaker Donna Brown, whose artistry captures joyous moments, as when colorful birds congregate on the tree outside her window. The Gallery is open from noon until 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday, 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. www.moragaartgallery.com or call 925-376-5407.

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents ceramics by Brad Krebs, paintings by Joseph Loria and Silvia Villanueva Mallon and turned wood by members of the Bay Area Woodturners Association during April in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library.

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents Art Gallery at Wilder: Transience - Paintings of Disquiet and Uncertainty. The featured artist at the Wilder Gallery in April is painter Matthew Felix

Sun. View a video preview of his show at <https://youtu.be/M1iNAY-eEKZ0>. It runs through April 30; in-person viewings can be arranged by emailing Curator Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert: Cultural Crossroads, Black and Indigenous influences on Dvořák in America. Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m., Pre-concert interview with R. Carlos Nakai and John-Carlos Perea at 7 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning May 17. Tickets \$15-45. Tickets online (www.gccpmusic.com) or by phone: (925) 283-3728

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents on April 20 Saint Mary's Chapel Concert. About 60 choral students and musicians from Miramonte High School in Orinda will perform in Saint Mary's Chapel on Wednesday April 20 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Three Mira-

monite choirs will perform individually and as a mass choir. Listen for solo and special ensemble performances as well. The concert is free.

LITERATURE

It's back! The giant spring book sale sponsored by the Friends of Moraga Library will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moraga Library (1500 St. Mary's Road). Books, CDs and DVDs in every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Beginning at 1 p.m., a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it can hold. Proceeds from the sale are used to fund library materials and programs. See you there!

Bay Area Storytelling Festival returns to Orinda Community Center at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets \$25 - \$60. The Bay Area Storytelling Festival shares the magic of storytelling and over 30 years of history. This year's event features five award-winning professional storytellers.

Not to be missed

For more information and tickets please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/BASFestival> or visit www.sfapshows.com.

Join Lamorinda Arts Council co-chairs Elana O'Loskey and Sue Farmer for a return to live Art Embraces Words programs at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Saturday April 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. Emerging writers will read from their work surrounded by original artwork from local artists. Call for emerging writers and original visual artwork - please apply at <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>.

THEATER

West Coast Performing Arts Presenters presents Motown Mania! The Golden Hits of The Temptations & The Stars of Motown on Saturday, May 7, from 8 to 10 p.m., at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. If you love those 'Old School Oldies But Goodies' join us for an unforgettable evening of fun as we present... Motown Mania with 'The Best Intentions Cost: \$45. For more info see <https://lesherartscenter.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=1510> or call 925-943-7469.

Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theatre stages Disney's "High School Musical JR.," May 5 - 7 at Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life with its inspiring message of friendship, self-discovery, and teamwork as the students of East High deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.townhalltheatre.com/thed-residencies for show times and tickets or call the Town Hall Theatre Box Office at 925-283-1557. Tickets are also available at the Town Hall Theatre Box Office one-half hour prior to performances.

The Theatre Program at Saint Mary's College is proud to announce the cast and creatives of the upcoming mainstage production, "Keeping It Real: A Festival of One-Acts," a fully-produced evening of world premiere plays under the artistic leadership of the Theatre Program Class of '22. All performances will be performed in the LeFevre Theatre, Thurs.-Sun., April 21-24. They will also be available on-demand in May. Tickets are \$8-15 and can be ordered online: stmarys-ca.edu/Keeping-It-Real. ADA/Info: 925-631-4670.

Shotgun Players presents "Passing Strange Extension" on April 14 at 7 p.m., April 15-16 at 8 p.m., April 21 at 7 p.m., April 22-23 at 8 p.m., at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. A young bohemian charts a course for 'the real' through sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Loaded with soulful lyrics and overflowing with passion. Cost: \$7 - \$50. For more info see <https://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/passing-strange> or call 510-841-6500 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

San Francisco's 42nd Street Moon announces cast and creative team for first San Francisco-produced version of Five-time Tony Award Winning "Fun Home." April 21 - May 8 with an Opening Night on Saturday, April 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 - \$76 and are available now at 42ndstreetmoon.org/fun-home

The Performing Arts Department of Saint Mary's College presents the Saint Mary's College Dance Company annual spring dance concert "In the Slipstream." Being in the slipstream refers to the "turbulence behind a moving object that pulls us along." The concert features Modern/Contemporary Dance, Tap, West African, Dance Theatre, Asian Dance and Ballet Folklorico. The evening culminates with a tribute to our graduating seniors called "Reposar la Juventud en la Victoria (Standing in Your Victory)." Thursday, May 5, 8 p.m.; Friday, May 6, 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 7, 2 p.m. (also live-streamed) Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m. LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. (925) 631-4670 or tms8@stmmarys-ca.edu.

... continued on Page B4

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
A welcoming and living community of faith that learns, grows, and serves together.

All are Welcome:

April 17
Easter Sunday

Join us for worship:
6:30 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.

Worship in person and on Livestream.
49 Knox Drive • Lafayette • lopc.org

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1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550

10:45 AM Sunday Service

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212

Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
All are welcome
www.christianscienceorinda.org

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

mvpcc

JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:30
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OR ONLINE AT MVPCTODAY.ORG

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Please join us for our Easter Sunday service with music and scripture inspired by Jesus Christ and His Atonement. All are welcome!

April 17th at 10 am
3776 Via Granada,
Moraga, CA 94556

Children ages 3-10 are also invited to our Egg Hunt at the church on April 16th at 9 am. See you there!

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/

WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/
Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

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SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 9AM
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IN PERSON OR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM

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St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
An Open, Affirming & Loving Community
In-Person & Virtual service Sun. at 9:00 AM
If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email cathy.w@stanselms.us
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, www.stanselms.us

ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA

Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
451 Moraga Way, Orinda
www.stmarksorinda.org | (925) 254-5965
All Are Welcome

ORINDA Community Church
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10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.
Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel
Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel
Please join us Good Friday 3 pm & Easter at 10 am

Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org

Worship Services Sundays at 10 a.m.
Holy Week
Maundy Thursday - April 14
6 p.m. Worship Service
Good Friday - April 15
5-7 p.m. Sanctuary open for Prayer and Reflection
Easter Worship - April 17
Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Easter Brunch in between services at 9:30 a.m.

'The Judgement' a thought provoking movie from the Netherlands



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Based on a true story still unraveling today, the movie presented in Orinda this month, "The Judgement (De veroordeling)," is a thriller/drama that will provoke reflection on our celebrity and social media driven society.

The Deventer's murder story, named after the city where it happened, has been in the news in the Nether-

lands for over 20 years. But the truth might be so hard to get at that by the end of "The Judgement," spectators might have divergent opinions on who did it. Beyond the pure murder mystery, the film exposes a chilling and shattering aspect of our time: how a celebrity can overcome the police and judicial systems and lead a real witch hunt. It was the first time in the Netherlands that people in the media were able to spread a

conspiracy theory denying facts twice acknowledged by the judicial system.

Journalist Bas Haan had no idea what can of worms he was opening when he started digging into the clues that led to a guilty verdict against Ernest Louwes for the murder of Jaqueline Wittenberg. At first, he just tried to prove that an innocent man had been sent to jail. But his honest and good intended quest got hijacked by Maurice de Hond, a

pollster, entrepreneur and TV-personality, who started a highly mediated crusade not only to free Louwes, but turned the spotlight on another person with no real proof or investigation. That person, Michaël De Jong, claimed his innocence with Haan's support. But his claims remained inaudible, deafened by the media circus conjured by de Hond.

Even if this story was pure fiction, it would still be sad: the lives of two families are shattered, either by police incompetence, or by the selfishness of a group of people with ulterior motives and no decency.

The scenario is complex and it is a bit difficult to follow the storyline at the beginning of the movie, especially for those who do not speak Dutch and have to read the subtitles. But it is worth sticking with it as everything falls into place and the magnitude of the drama is explored.

The cinematography is in keeping with the story: edgy, dark and contrasted. The fast rhythm and the excellent acting make this thrilling movie excellent entertainment. To the American viewer, the cultural differences between the

Netherlands and the U.S. are interesting to observe and ponder, such as the sentence of 12 years of imprisonment given for first degree murder.

The movie is based on a book written by Haan, the journalist who is one of the story's protagonists. It is his version that is mostly presented here, but there are others. For example, Dutch philosopher of science Ton Derksen published a book in which he defends Louwes' innocence.

The movie was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the 2020 Seattle Film Festival and six awards in the World Competition, including Best Director for Sander Burger; Outstanding Male Performance to Fedja van Huêt as Haan; Best Supporting Actor to Yorick van Wageningen as De Jong; Best Supporting Actress to Lies Visschedijk as as Meike Wittermans; and Best Screenplay adapted from a novel. The showing at the Orinda Theatre is a first in the U.S. to a general audience.

"The Judgement" opens in Orinda on April 15 for at least one week. For further information including tickets, check the website at www.internationalshowcase.org

Three Campolindo Odyssey of the Mind teams advance to World Competition



First team members are: (back row) El Reid, Claire Damiano, Sol Dente, Nina Damiano, and (front row) Lily Thomas and Valerie Yarve.

Submitted by Rich Render

Three teams of Campolindo students who compete in Odyssey of the Mind under the Moraga Rotary name, their sponsor, will advance from State to World Championships at Iowa State University. The team coached by Cynthia Manji won first place and also the Ranatra Fusca Award, one of the highest awards you can receive in Odyssey, for their presentation that was described as high risk and completely novel unlike any other machine.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program for K-12 kids that engages students in their learning by encouraging them to think outside the box. Teams made up of 5-7 members have to solve problems (anything from building vehicles to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics) and present their solution to the problem to judges in an 8-minute skit.

Since 2005, Moraga Rotary Club has sponsored the international

Odyssey of the Mind team competitions, held every year beginning in September and completing in May at the World Odyssey Championships. This year, Moraga Rotary sponsored eight teams from grades K through 12, who competed in February at the Bay Regional Tournament, and the three Campolindo High School teams advanced to the NorCal State Tournament. The teams were supported by Student Leader Amrita Malhotra.

The first team coached by Kathi Dente had to create an 8-minute musical about an unsung historical figure. They chose the actor, Edwin Booth, the brother of John Wilkes Booth. He was the most famous actor of the era. His career and fame were cut short by the infamy of his brother.

The second team coached by Cynthia Manji took on the problem to create a performance that includes one or more team-created vehicles that will help a group of characters escape an unusual room. The vehicles must travel to areas within the room and complete tasks that releases a "clue"



Second team members, from left: Brendan Tonomura, Liv House, Marshall Franklin, Henry Franklin, Tae Woo Kim, and Daniel Granicher.

that allows the group to escape the room. The team set high goals for themselves to improve their vehicles' performances in time for the State Tournament.

The third Campolindo team coached by Sandra Franklin and Raphaelle Wirstrom also had to create an 8-minute musical about an unsung historical figure. This is their sixth year competing in Odyssey as a team. They have been to the State Tournament three times and have qualified for World Competition three times as well. The team tied for second place and this will be their first time actually attending the World Tournament in person, so they are super excited!



Photos provided

Third team members: Hannah Cheng, Grace Franklin, Maureen Kang, Ben Tallon, Sofia Thomas, Kylie Wang, and Viggo Wirstrom.

Moraga Rotary is a community service organization that meets every Tuesday at noon at La Finestra Restaurant. Guests and visitors are welcome.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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

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

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OTHER

Green Sofa Cinema Series and Sustainable Contra Costa present "Our Planet: Too Big to Fail," a short film that explores the connection between the financial system and the health of our planet. Learn how to align your savings with your values and invest in building a sustainable and thriving future at the free online speaker event on April 20, 7 to 8 p.m. Watch the film on YouTube and register at [\[coco.org/calendar\]\(http://coco.org/calendar\) for the event.](https://sustainable-</p></div>
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Paymun Real estate & Development in collaboration with city of Orinda and Taste of the World Market food trucks is organizing a community fundraiser to benefit the people of Ukraine on Thursday, April 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. in front of the Orinda Library. Bring the family to enjoy the fun activities planned and reconnect with the community for this important cause.

The Lafayette Community

Garden and Outdoor Learning Center invites you to view the Award-Winning Film: FANTASTIC FUNGI!. Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. The viewing is free and will be followed by discussion led by LCG and OLC mycologist Charlie Newton.

45th Annual Science Day of Discovery on May 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Make a volcano explode, shoot a rocket, make slime, dig for dinosaur bones and test your senses! These are just a few of the many hands-on activities at

the 45th annual Lafayette Nursery School Science Day. The experiments are designed for children preschool age through third grade. It's a great experience for the whole family. Proceeds are donated to a local math or science-based charity. Cost: \$5 per child. Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street, Lafayette. 925-284-2448 or www.lafayettenurseryschool.org

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club monthly program April 14, 10 a.m. in the Veterans Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo

Blvd., Lafayette. Our guest speaker will be Nate Bradley, owner of Amphora Nueva in Lafayette. Amphora is a family owned and operated olive oil and balsamic vinegar company with roots in the olive industry for nearly 100 years, with tasting rooms/retail stores throughout the Bay Area. Nate will be enlightening us about olives and bringing a variety of Amphora's specialty olive oils for us to taste. It is free to attend. If interested please contact membership@famsf.org for more information.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Boys lacrosse teams looking ahead to post-season



Photo Dan Kivelson

Campolindo (white): #6 Boden Rasmussen and #31 Harrison Leehouts (shooter); Miramonte (green): #22 Rhys Hire, #15 Jack Spencer, #9 Ethan Berndt and #13 Liam Williams

By Jon Kingdon

It's been a stellar year so far for **Miramonte** with a 12-1 record (7-0 in league). As is often the case with a successful team, the chemistry on the boys lacrosse team has been crucial to their success. "This is an incredibly tight knit team," coach Byron McGovern said. "They really care about each other on and off the field. I've never had a group of kids that knows and cares about each other and the team this well. The players have a very 'we not me' attitude."

Over the last three years, the Matadors have won 28 of their last 35 games. The team is made up of players who have played a number of years and neophytes. "We have a mix with players from other sports who are new and just bringing their athleticism; trying to learn how to apply it to lacrosse," McGovern said.

"There are also a number of players that have a lot of experience and many of them have been teammates from the start and have a real good connection with each other."

The offense is led by seniors Mark Cheng, Christian Gee and junior Jonah Azevedo. "Mark has definitely been a leader for us," McGovern said. "He speaks up a lot and communicates to the team. He and Jonah, who is also a huge offensive leader, are our leading scorers and Christian has been a huge factor for us in winning possessions. Matt Hawkins and Jake Disston have been making a lot of great plays and Anchul Schmidt, who has missed some time with an injury, has

recently returned and has a great outside shot."

McGovern's offense does not just rely on individual talents: "It's a very skilled, high-energy offense. We try to read the field and the defense and make the right approach when we go after them."

The Matadors are only giving up 6.1 goals per game and is led by sophomore goalie Rhys Hire who has been dominating in the net. "Rhys has been playing unbelievably well and has no fear in the cage," McGovern said. "He has elite athleticism in reaction time and is a true multi-sport athlete that does everything well and is happy just to play his hardest. He's an incredible athlete who can pick it up on a clear and is liable to go coast to coast. He's only been a goalie for two years and it's been awesome to see him develop."

Senior captain Ethan Berndt has been an unstoppable force on defense. "He leads everyone and is a smart and cerebral player that backs it up with toughness, grit and athleticism," McGovern said. "Chase Bliss and Jack Spencer are two other poles who have played together for a long time. They function as a cohesive unit and are physical and aggressive on the ball and quick off the ball. This is the best defense I have ever coached."

With only one loss, where does McGovern see the need to improve? "Everywhere," McGovern said. "I still feel like we're wildly underperforming for the talent we have on this roster on both sides of the ball. I have to do a better job

of putting guys in position where we can get the most out of their talents. We're a good team but we can be great on both sides of the ball."

McGovern is looking toward the players to share in the responsibility for the team's improvement: "We're working really hard every day in practice and taking feedback from the players, listening to what they're seeing. I'm letting them lead each other, deciding how they want to approach different situations in the game and giving them the opportunity to take ownership over the team and how we approach the game."

Acalanes

With an 8-4 overall record and 5-2 in league play, Acalanes coach Lorne Smith is looking for constant improvement from the team: "As the season has gone on, we've worked to improve our skills to match our intensity level and that's been what we've been trying to get to this season."

The individual player comes second in Smith's coaching philosophy. "We play team offense and team defense, and we communicate on both sides of the ball, so no one needs to stop their man one-on-one for us to be successful," Smith said. "On offense, we need to share and move off the ball, playing a team first style for us to be successful."

The starting six players on offense have been working together like a well-oiled machine. Junior attackers Cooper and Dylan Olson, midfielders Owen Estee and senior midfielder Zach Appel,

attacker and senior captain Jake Henderson and sophomore David Depaape comprise that unit.

"They have been doing a great job playing well together," Smith said. "We're continually trying to get them more reps and experience playing together in our team system. I don't want to draw up X's and O's and tell them what to do and where to go every moment. I want them to be able to read and react on the field which just takes time to get that experience together so they can start improvising, reading and reacting together. Jake is filling the role of field general, making sure we're all in the right spots and helping to call out the plays," Smith said

Responsibility in the goal is being shared with senior captain Evan Daly and junior Blake Chehlaoui with Daly starting the games and Chehlaoui playing in the second half. Junior George Churchill has been the leader and a force on the field, Smith said: "George is a presence out there and definitely leads the way for us down low."

It's a non-stop process for Smith to keep working on the teamwork for the players: "We're looking to improve more in the team game playing more offense and team defense. We know we can't win out there trying to do it as individuals. That's always our focus."

The team has adopted that attitude by making up shirts that read "Two Hearts Beat as One" by U2, which the players came up with and use it to celebrate their post game victories.

Campolindo

With only six graduating seniors and a large number of underclassman and a JV team for the first time in four years, Campolindo is looking forward to the future with great optimism though hardly looking past this season with a 5-5 record and 4-1 in league play.

"We have a strong senior leadership and a number of players that picked up the stick for the first time so it's an interesting mix of upper and lower classman," assistant coach Connor Doyle said. "It's cool to see veterans take the younger players under their wings, teaching them the rules and ways of the sport."

It's been a matter of overcoming adversity for the team having to deal with injuries, sickness and calling upon freshman and sophomores to step up and fill a number of positions. "We've asked a lot of our underclassmen start on offense as attackers which is usually held by senior players," Doyle said. "At times, they're going up against guys who are three and four years older than them."

Leading the offense has been 6'4" junior midfielder Harrison Leenhouts along with his brother, Grayer. "Harrison and Grayer have been playing spectacularly," Doyle said. "Our Fogo (faceoff-go off) is senior captain Tyler Kivelson. This is usually a specialty position, but we've had to ask Tyler to be a first line midfielder, playing as much as he can each game, and he has really been stepping up. Junior attacker Holden Coakley has also been a big goal scorer and finisher. Freshmen Gaeton Aviccolli and Boden Rasmussen have also seen a lot of playing time. Resilience has been the common theme for the team this season."

The Cougars' defense has only been giving up 8.2 goals per game behind sophomore goalie Dante Aviccolli, who has been playing club hockey for a long time and has gotten a lot of experience from playing all over the country. "Dante is very comfortable in the cage and has the right build for a goalie," Doyle said. "He has good hand-eye coordination and along with his wealth of knowledge, it has allowed him to start for the varsity as a sophomore. We have a solid group on defense led by seniors Hudson Orman and Collin Krznaric, and junior Jack Alaclay who have all performed terrifically through the season."

Doyle appreciates the growth the team has shown through the season: "It took a while this season, with the gaps in experience and all the new players, for everyone to get onto the same level. The team has learned things in the victories and defeats and with the work they have put in, it's really allowed the team to come together, along with the work ethic of the seniors, the discipline and motivation of the players to improve."

Lamorinda girls lacrosse teams rebuilding and competing for playoff seeds

By Jon Kingdon

If there is one thing that the Lamorinda coaches can all agree on, it's how satisfying it is to have their first normal season in three years following the pandemic. Acalanes coach Bill Frazier spoke for everyone when he declared that "the best part about this year is that it's a normal full season, something we haven't seen since 2019."

Campolindo

It has all come together for fourth-year head coach Devin Combe with the Cougars 10-1 overall record and undefeated (7-0) in

league play. "This team has a lot of heart and wants to see that success translate into a big end of season finish," Combe said.

Without a League and North Coast Sectional championship the last two years, it has provided a real motivation for the Cougars to succeed this year, particularly for the upperclassmen. "There's really a fire under our juniors and seniors," Combe said. "Our seniors are the only ones who have experienced a full season and know what that experience is like. It's like they've had to mature from freshmen to seniors

overnight and can still understand what the incoming freshmen and sophomores are going through."

The Cougars are scoring at a rate of 14.4 goals per game without having to rely on any one player. Junior Paige Davis (20 goals, 20 assists), who has already committed to UC Davis, senior captain Annie Cimperman (21 goals, 17 assists), also a future Aggie, juniors Catie McCauley (28 goals), Bridgette Lane (15 goals) and sophomore Molly Stephens (13 goals) have all been forces on offense.

"Paige has great vision and may have the best stick

work in our league and Annie is really developing her game," Combs said. "Catie is the kind of player who runs faster onto defense when our team is being attacked than when she does when she has the ball and that's her character. The three have great chemistry and we're really looking to elevate Molly and Bridget."

The Campolindo defense has been just as dominant as the offense, only surrendering 5.9 goals per game and it is a sophomore, goalie Haley Richards who was named to the all-American team as a freshman, that has continued

her dominant play from last season. "Haley can improve herself without the spiraling pitfalls of overanalyzing her errors. She can oscillate between what she needs to improve her skills and to compartmentalize to know what she does best. She has very quick hands, steady feet and is a great athlete. At times she will pick up a ground ball and sprint 50 yards up the field and clear on the run. She's as fast or faster than some field players that are in front of her."

... continued on Page C2

Lamorinda girls lacrosse teams



Photo DeF-stop Photography

Campolindo (red) #48 Carley Hudson, #30 Catie McCauley, #19 Paige Davis, shooting and #20 Georgia Hudson; Acalanes (white) #30 Jojo Bishop and #18 Maya Wang

... continued from Page C1

Complementing Richards is a solid group of defenders in front of her led by senior captain Laurel Hunter who will be playing for Chapman next year, Maddie Krozek, juniors Katie Duff and Ava Martinez, sophomores Sadie Geenty and Caroline Obsitnik and freshman Vivian Tolajian.

"Laurel is holding down the front and anchoring our defense," Combs said. "Maddie, Katie and Ava are all doing great along with Sadie, Caroline and Vivian."

The one loss to San Ramon Valley proved to be a valuable learning tool, Combs said. "We learned that while certain skills and approaches might work in some games, they aren't always going to work in every situation. There's a saying that if your only tool is a hammer, then everything starts to look like a nail. In that game, we were all hammers and that worked in the first half, but SRV made some good adjustments. Still, losses like that one has been empowering because it has allowed us to see the opportunities that can become available."

Even with their success, Combe still sees room for growth with the team: "It's putting all the pieces together at once. I'm comfortable with the progress

we're making because I do think that we're getting closer and closer to having more things fall in line at the same time."

Miramonte

After a six-year record of 84-24, Miramonte coach Jackie Pelletier has seen her team take a step back with the hopes of taking two steps forward. "After so many years of success, you realize that every year can't be a top year," Pelletier said. "We only returned half (six) of our starters from last year, so it's been a rebuilding year."

Saying there are seven seniors on the roster is a little deceptive with only co-captains Elena Gant and Ellie Hawkins bringing experience, having been on the team for four years. "Elena and Ellie have been awesome leaders and great people," Pelletier said. "They're essentially connecting one dynasty of Miramonte lacrosse on to the next. The other five seniors are soccer players that came out for the first time, and they have all been awesome, contributing as much as they can."

Exacerbating the lack of experience on the team has been a series of early season injuries. "We had three players get injured in the first two weeks, on offense, defense and in the goal," Pelletier said. "I'm really proud of the other kids that have stepped up."

After losing half their scoring to

graduation, Elena Gant and Kate Difranco lead the offense and it has been a work in progress. "With so many new players, we've had to shift our offensive game plan," Pelletier said. "I would not say that we been stifled but we have completely shifted from last year in that instead of having a number of plays that everyone knew and could run, we're really teaching a number of the players the basics of the sport."

Starting goalie Alex Dobbs suffered an injury and the team had to call on a freshman, Isobel Starkey, who agreed to step up when no one else was available. "It wasn't a simple thing to ask a 15-year-old like Izzy to step in against some top D1 teams, but she has been fearless," Pelletier said. "She has gone above and beyond the past few weeks, taking extra reps. I have to give props to her. She now loves the position and I expect big things out of her for the next few years."

The defense has been forced to find a way to replace players lost to injuries and some who moved away. "Ellie Hawkins is our defensive leader, but I also want to acknowledge our two freshmen, Grace Wood and Ashlynn Brown, who I had to throw in there right because we were short of defensive players and they have been a phenomenal team," Pelletier said. "Along with the injuries, we lost Bridget Mills who moved away and would have been the third Mills sister I have coached."

With a 4-8 record but 3-3 in league, it's an adjustment for Pelletier and the team: "Nobody's excited to lose games, but they are all handling it well considering that we're mostly a younger team. We have only one sophomore and it's really a freshman heavy team. I'm thankful that we have a JV team this year, unlike last year. We have a lot of kids and we're going to start digging in our heels and making our way back. So, we need to finish the season strong which should make a difference for us in qualifying for a tournament."

Acalanes

It's been a feast or famine season for the Dons, winless against a difficult non-league schedule and 6-1 within league play. Turnout for the lacrosse program is a sign of better days to come with 24 players on the varsity and a JV team comprised of 46 players.

"This is a very close bunch of girls and they're as happy a group of kids as I've ever seen together," coach Bill Fra-

zier said. "Many of the girls had not played lacrosse until they started high school, many of them willing to try something new. It can be a little humbling, but it has also been very insulating and fun which is the most important thing."

After the graduation of Grace Gebhardt, (now playing at UC Davis), who was responsible for over half the goals scored last year, the Dons have had some issues putting the ball in the net. "From an X's and O's standpoint, you don't just replace a player like Grace," Frazier said.

The offense is led by midfielders juniors Haley Rurka and Maya Wang and sophomore Grace Imrie "Our offense runs through these three players," Frazier said. "Haley is our most experienced player and Maya only began playing in 2020 and Grace are all playing very well. Freshman Megan Churchill, who played several seasons in the Lamorinda Lightning Program, has been adopted by the upperclassmen and has been having a very good season. She brings youthful exuberance and her own unique personality to the team."

The Dons are only giving up 9.4 goals per game with sophomore Addie Martin as the team's goalie. "It all starts with Addie who is really strong and playing only her second year of lacrosse," Frazier said. "She volunteered to play goalie and after a workout with one of our coaches, he said that she may be the best goalie we have. I told her she could be our goalie for the next three years and she has just been terrific. Our two senior captains on defense, Elise Flagg and Ellie Ives have been anchoring a good unit in front of Addie."

With such a large JV squad, Frazier and JV Coach Steve Seiler have been scheduling Saturday scrimmages where most of the Acalanes girls are in their first year. "Lacrosse is frequently a second sport for many of the girls, so this is an opportunity get them more game experience," Frazier said. "The improvement has been rapid for the girls who showed up to play as freshmen or sophomores and are new to the sport and find that they enjoy the game. As a coach, it's fun to teach the fundamentals to a beginner and find that after a few games they're doing it and you can see them stand a little taller as they figure it out."

8th-grade All Lamorinda Trojans win championship

Submitted by Charlie Vezzali

The eighth grade "All Lamorinda" Trojans flag football team won the Next Level Passing League Championship at De La

Salle High School over teams from Concord, Benicia, Walnut Creek and Orinda. The core of this team has played together since first grade and has captured five championships in the last five years.

Bottom row, from left: Allesandro Curletto, Brody Jones, Kyler Roberts, Luca Vezzali, Ilias Kaplanes-Jones, Cody Michlitsch, Peyton Beld; top row: Leo McDonough, Ben Pass, Tucker Jones, Branson Smith, Rhett Hollyfield, Andrew Bjornson, Grant Ricker; not pictured: Alexis Le



Photo provided

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Diablo Athletic League 2021-2022 All League Fall and Winter Sports

Cross Country - Boys

First Team	Tyler Hunt Junior	Acalanes
First Team	Rhys Pullen Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Connor Mcghee Junior	Campolindo
Second Team	Maxson Cook Freshman	Campolindo

Cross Country - Girls

First Team	Olivia Williams Sophomore	Acalanes
First Team	Ellie Buckley Junior	Campolindo
First Team	Shea Volkmer Sophomore	Campolindo
First Team	Kate Riley Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Makena Weberski Sophomore	Campolindo
Second Team	Ania Keenan Senior	Miramonte
Second Team	Lauren Yee Senior	Acalanes
Second Team	Angeni Lieben Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Quinn Guthrie Junior	Campolindo
Second Team	Megan Yee Sophomore	Acalanes

Football Foothill Division

Mvp - Offensive	Luke Souza Senior Qb	Acalanes
First Team - Offensive	Dante Montgomery Senior Wr/Te	Acalanes
First Team - Offensive	Tyrone Tuavale Senior Ol	Campolindo
First Team - Offensive	Elijah Klock Senior Ol	Campolindo
First Team - Offensive	Tyler Dutto Senior Wr/Te	Miramonte
Second Team - Offensive	Will Berrien Senior Wr/Te	Acalanes
Second Team - Offensive	Evan Malmquist Senior Rb	Acalanes
Second Team - Offensive	Nolan Flanagan Senior Ol	Campolindo
Second Team - Offensive	Scott Linden Senior Wr/Te	Campolindo
Second Team - Offensive	Robbie Mascheroni Junior Wr/Te	Campolindo
Second Team - Offensive	Max Rittmann Senior Rb	Campolindo
Second Team - Offensive	James Patrick Senior Ol	Miramonte
First Team - Defensive	Logan Ketcham Senior Lb	Acalanes
First Team - Defensive	Connor Fritch Senior Lb	Campolindo
First Team - Defensive	Will Monkarsh Senior Lb	Campolindo
First Team - Defensive	Collin Krznicar Senior Lb	Campolindo
First Team - Defensive	Ryan Mandell Senior Db	Campolindo
First Team - Defensive	Sam Ross Senior Lb	Miramonte
Second Team - Defensive	Sam Hafner Senior Dl	Acalanes
Second Team - Defensive	Robby Horst Junior Lb	Campolindo
Second Team - Defensive	Charlie Wheeler Senior Lb	Campolindo
Second Team - Defensive	Andreas Cornett Senior Dl	Miramonte

Girls Golf Foothill Division

First Team	Kaylen Tu Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Courtney Scheingart Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Katherine Scheingart Junior	Miramonte
Second Team	Haley Chelemedos Freshman	Acalanes
Second Team	Lia Toyama Senior	Miramonte
Second Team	Ainsley Murphy Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Makenna Chelemedos Junior	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Kendal Geddes Junior	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Vera Nguyen Senior	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Chase Obsitnik Senior	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Anna Mooradian Junior	Campolindo

Girls Tennis Foothill Division

First Team Singles	Analese Ruczynski Junior	Acalanes
First Team Singles	Soleil Skjorshammer Sophomore	Miramonte
First Team Singles	Claire Ross Senior	Campolindo
First Team Singles	Alex Goett Junior	Campolindo
First Team Doubles	Emma Bonardi Senior, Francesca Restrepo Senior	Campolindo

First Team Doubles	Dilara Basegmez Sophomore, Liesel Hilkemeyer Junior	Campolindo
First Team Doubles	Kayli Harley Senior, Emily Berkowitz Junior	Campolindo

Second Team Singles	Martha Burns Junior	Acalanes
Second Team Singles	Sophia Raldugina-zhu Freshman	Campolindo
Second Team Singles	Riley George Senior	Miramonte
Second Team Singles	Denisa Dvorakova Senior	Miramonte
Second Team Doubles	Alison Rhee Sophomore, Audrey Kosla Freshman	Miramonte

Second Team Doubles	Avery Bahl Senior, Marecla Wisniewska Junior	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Elena Sullivan Junior	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Marissa Karver Senior	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Ella Morris Senior	Acalanes

Girls Volleyball Foothill Division

Mvp	Amber Chu Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Audrey Baumer Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Emma Johnson Senior	Acalanes
First Team	Natalie Kurtz Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Julia Berg Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Britney Soun Junior	Campolindo
Second Team	Katelyn Olin Junior	Acalanes
Second Team	Samantha Brouhard Junior	Campolindo
Second Team	Nicole Tuszynski Sophomore	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Jade Profilio Sophomore	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Casey Roy Senior	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Olivia Wiseman Junior	Campolindo

Boys Water Polo Foothill Division

Mvp	Brody Crouch Senior	Campolindo
Outstanding Goalie	West Temkin Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Luca Rago Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Grant Roesch Junior	Campolindo
First Team	Owen Younger Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Donovan Davidson Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Charlie Engs Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Owen Van Stralen Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Will Stryker Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Christian Gotterup Junior	Acalanes
First Team	Harrison Labrosse Junior	Acalanes
Second Team	Grant Kurtz Sophomore	Miramonte
Second Team	Henry Engs Sophomore	Miramonte
Second Team	Tommy Richards Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Nate Rego Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Bardia Koopah Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Kyle Rosenblatt Senior	Acalanes
Second Team	Eli Berkowitz Senior	Acalanes
Second Team	Andrew Sappal Junior	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Thomas Colpo Junior	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Matteo Petty Junior	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Austin Bishop Junior	Acalanes

Girls Water Polo Foothill Division

Mvp	Meghan Mcaninch Junior	Miramonte
Outstanding Goalie	Lindsay Lucas Senior	Miramonte
First Team	Maggie Hawkins Senior	Campolindo
First Team	Kaia Levenfeld Junior	Campolindo
First Team	Ana Pieper Sophomore	Campolindo
First Team	Heidi Heffelfinger Senior	Acalanes
First Team	Audrey Cox Junior	Acalanes
First Team	Dania Innis Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Ally Lurie Junior	Miramonte
First Team	Shannon Murphy Senior	Miramonte
Second Team	Sara Archer Junior	Acalanes
Second Team	Olivia Williams Sophomore	Acalanes
Second Team	Anna Painter Senior	Miramonte
Second Team	Lucy Berkman Junior	Miramonte
Second Team	Tali Stryker Sophomore	Miramonte
Second Team	Grace Clark Senior	Miramonte
Second Team	Paige Chivers Senior	Campolindo
Second Team	Shayne Clancy Junior	Campolindo
Second Team	Lauren Lacour Junior	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Wendy Heffelfinger Sophomore	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Ava Jacuzzi Junior	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Ally Smith Senior	Miramonte

Boys Basketball Foothill Division

Mvp	Aidan Mahaney 12	Campolindo
First Team	Cade Bennett 12	Campolindo
First Team	Tyler Dutto 12	Miramonte
Second Team	Shane O'reilly 11	Campolindo
Second Team	James Frye 12	Miramonte
Second Team	Caden Breznikar 12	Miramonte
Second Team	Matt Radell 12	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Jake Davis 11	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Clay Naffziger 11	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Ben Murphy 12	Miramonte

Girls Basketball Foothill Division

Mvp	Karyss Lacanlale 9	Acalanes
First Team	Sophie Chinn 9	Acalanes
First Team	Karena Eberts 10	Miramonte
Second Team	Emily Du 10	Acalanes
Second Team	Chloe Breznikar 12	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Dulce Vail 9	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Natalie Barkey 12	Campolindo

Boys Soccer Foothill Division

Mvp - Defensive	Daniel Adri 12	Acalanes
First Team	Mason Fish 12	Acalanes
First Team	Eli Roth 11	Acalanes
First Team	Will Ruskin 12	Campolindo
Second Team	Jacob Hill 12	Acalanes
Second Team	Rhett Skvarna 12	Acalanes
Second Team	Nauder Maghsoodnia 12	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Jack Alcalay 11	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Aiden Paul 12	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Mason Fara 12	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Aidan Nelson 12	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Liam Mcglynn 12	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Matt Walner 12	Acalanes

Girls Soccer Foothill Division

Co-mvp - Offensive	Mia Colombini 12	Campolindo
Co-mvp - Offensive	Ella Colombini 12	Campolindo
First Team	Sami Kolin 12	Campolindo
First Team	Colette Toubba 11	Campolindo
First Team	Ainsley Murphy 12	Campolindo
First Team	Rowan Blacklock 12	Miramonte
Second Team	Catie Mccauley 11	Campolindo
Second Team	Marion Berzansky 12	Campolindo
Second Team	Ava Garcia 11	Campolindo
Second Team	Julia Hunt 12	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Tahra Minowada 11	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Jada Deitrick 11	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Katrina White 9	Miramonte
Honorable Mention	Mylie Jaquet 9	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Mia Polichio 9	Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Marissa Karver 12	Campolindo

Acalanes Girls Soccer Valley Division

MVP - Offensive	Natalie Means 12	Acalanes
First Team	Camryn Salazar 11	Acalanes
First Team	Chloe Quintella 11	Acalanes
First Team	Tatum Zuber 11	Acalanes
Second Team	Jacque Peacock 11	Acalanes
Second Team	Addie Bailey 11	Acalanes
Second Team	Lauren Yee 12	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Sammy Hess 12	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Taylor Carlin 11	Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Nicole Nguyen 9	Acalanes

Boys Wrestling

First Team	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
220	Sam Whipple 9 Acalanes
Second Team	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
138	Chase Yang 11 Campolindo
170	Walker Johnson 12 Campolindo
Honorable Mention	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
106	Ohia Paris 12 Campolindo
145	Lucas Haase 12 Acalanes
182	Gavin Juni 10 Campolindo
220	Shane Harris 10 Campolindo

Girls Wrestling

First Team	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
133	Hannah Ripper 11 Miramonte
139	Madison Lee 12 Campolindo
Second Team	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
108	Isabelle Lurie 12 Campolindo
128	Camila Baxter 9 Campolindo
145	Piper Lalli 10 Campolindo
152	Isabel Zabronsky 9 Campolindo
162	Olivia Banks 11 Acalanes
Honorable Mention	Weight Class/Name/Year/School
113	Natalia Kalas 10 Campolindo
118	Kt Thompson 9 Campolindo



Photo Gint Federas

Lindsey Lucas



Photo Gint Federas

Kaia Levenfeld



Photo Will Bergren

Aidan Mahaney



Photo Gint Federas

Emma Johnson

Source:
Diablo Athletic League
<https://www.dalathletics.com/>

Submit sports stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Accolades continue to be bestowed upon Campolindo basketball

By Jon Kingdon

For the second consecutive year, Steven Dyer has been named the Bay Area News Group Coach of the Year alongside Aidan Mahaney who was named the Bay Area's Player of the Year following in the footsteps of his former teammate, Emmanuel Callas, who won the award last year.

Numbers can be deceiving but not for the Campolindo basketball team. This season capped an amazing four-year run for Dyer, Mahaney and the entire Campolindo program with a composite record of 96 and 15.

2021-2022 – Making it to the Open Division state championship semifinals, finishing the season with a 28-2 record. The Cougars' only losses came against Modesto Christian who lost in the California state championship game and to

Oak Cliff Faith Family Academy who went on to win the Texas State Championship.

2020-2021 – A 15-0 record in a coronavirus shortened season with a schedule comprised of teams that had a combined 66.7 winning percentage.

2019-2020 – A 26-6 record with a Division I co-state championship due to the cancellation of the final game due to the coronavirus.

2018-2019 – A 27-7 record with a Division II state championship.

Dyer takes great satisfaction in looking back at the successes of his team these past four years: "It's a pretty cool accomplishment. We've had a lot of good players that contributed to that. Our culture has been really strong and looking back on it, it's remarkable what we have accomplished as a public school."

As the personnel and the talent levels evolve each year, things inevitably must change for the coach but there are two things that remain consistent for Dyer's teams. "First and foremost, it's defense," Dyer said. "We've put a huge priority on that. If you can't guard people, then you can't play in our program. Also, looking at our statistics over the last four years, we haven't turned the ball over very much, averaging only between seven and 10 turnovers per game each season. You have a good chance to win the game if you play good defense and don't turn the ball over."

As his players have become so attuned to his system, Dyer has given them more space: "The players have put in the time that has allowed me to be more trusting of them on the court that I was my first couple of years. I've learned that I've had to adapt

every year as the coach to the strength of my players because every team is different, and you can't be hard-headed about things."

Dyer also acknowledged the work of his assistant coaches, his brother Chris, Drew McDonald, and James Williams. "Drew has been with me for five years and has been my main assistant," Dyer said. "He does a great job with scouting and film work, working with our post players and is really great with the details of the game and James Williams who came over this year from Acalanes. Spencer McDonald, our JV coach, just completed his third year at Campolindo and has done a great job in preparing the players for the varsity level and freshman coach Nicky Aikawa, in his fourth year, has provided a good foundation for his players."

Mahaney led the team

with 17.2 points per game, connecting on 61% of his 2-point shots and 38% on his 3-point shots (52% overall), 84% on his foul shots and led the team with 3.7 assists, was second on the team in blocked shots and steals and fifth on the team averaging 3.7 rebounds per game.

As impressive as Mahaney's statistics are, they don't do justice to his overall play. "People like playing with him because he's not a guy that is looking for his own points," Dyer said. "He could have averaged 25 points a game this year if he wanted to. He realized that was not necessarily always the best thing for the team and was really good about sharing the ball this year. You can't get to his level without a lot of hard work and Aidan puts in that work which is something that not everyone knows about him."

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 13, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring shopping: Seeds or starts?



Wait until flowers fade to prune azaleas with hand trimmers, not powered pruners.

By Cynthia Brian

"Spring is the time of plans and projects."~ Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

No matter how many springs I've encountered, I am forever awed and amazed at the bursting of blossoms and the beauty of the lush landscapes. Every year I find myself reiterating how much I adore this wondrous season. A fever warms the air, one that encourages me to weed, seed, feed, plan and plant. Are you feeling this same urge to indulge in outdoor projects?

Before you go to your local nursery or garden center to shop, take photos of your yard and patio. Make a tentative plan of what projects you'd like to tackle. Peruse a catalog to find photos and descriptions of plants that you think will shine in your garden. Do you want to buy seed packets or are you planning on buying starts? It pays to know what plants grow best when seeds are scattered and what plants will do better when they are purchased either in six-packs, flats, gallons, or larger.



A view of cascading wisteria from a pergola.

Photos Cynthia Brian

SOWING SEEDS

It is possible to buy seeds for almost any plant, however, not all seeds will sprout successfully. Over the years, I have found the following flowers, herbs, and vegetables do well when planted by seed.

Flowers	Shasta Daisy	Sorrel
Calendula	Coneflower	Corn
Hollyhock	Vegetables and Herbs	Turnip
Marigold	Beet	Mustard
Nasturtium	Radish	Pumpkin
Nigella	Arugula	Chive
Zinnia	Swiss Chard	Parsley
Sunflower	Kale	Chervil
Cosmos	Carrot	Chamomile
Bachelor's Button	Bean	Dill
Four O'clock	Pea	Fennel
Columbine	Lettuce	Cilantro
California Poppy	Spinach	Lemon Balm

... continued on Page D10



42 Tappan Lane, Orinda
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	16	\$700,000	\$6,106,000
MORAGA	12	\$1,145,000	\$3,250,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,120,000	\$3,200,000

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

- 3322 Beechwood Drive, \$2,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1576 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 03-03-22, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 07-06-09
4123 Canyon Road, \$3,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2856 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 02-22-22, Previous Sale: \$735,000, 02-16-00
1000 Dewing Avenue #205, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1361 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 03-01-22
651 Evelyn Court, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2934 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 02-22-22, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 09-01-17
1117 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2947 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-25-22, Previous Sale: \$1,205,000, 10-09-17
3368 Las Huertas Road, \$4,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 02-22-22
2000 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4550 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 02-28-22
876 Revere Road, \$2,860,000, 5 Bdrms, 3066 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 02-28-22
65 Silverwood Drive, \$2,390,000, 5 Bdrms, 3055 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 02-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 02-25-19
3172 Stanley Boulevard, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1930 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 02-25-22
1261 Sunset Loop, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1577 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 02-22-22, Previous Sale: \$440,000, 04-14-00
1362 Sunset Loop, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1037 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 02-23-22
3298 Sweet Drive, \$3,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3648 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 02-23-22, Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 10-31-19
1143 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$3,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3763 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 02-22-22, Previous Sale: \$1,685,000, 03-31-14
1258 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$6,106,000, 3 Bdrms, 4411 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-01-22, Previous Sale: \$3,900,000, 02-24-15
118 Villa Court, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 02-23-22

MORAGA

- 109 Ascot Court #C, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1106 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 02-23-22, Previous Sale: \$108,000, 07-01-86
1912 Ascot Drive, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 02-24-22, Previous Sale: \$495,000, 02-21-03
643 Augusta Drive, \$1,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 02-23-22, Previous Sale: \$905,000, 11-07-05
1844 Camino Pablo, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2180 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 03-01-22, Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 11-10-21
750 Camino Ricardo, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 1941 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 02-24-22
26 Corte Fortuna, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 02-24-22
1100 Country Club Drive, \$2,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2051 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-01-22, Previous Sale: \$1,483,000, 03-13-17
119 Cypress Point Way, \$1,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-01-22, Previous Sale: \$730,000, 09-21-05
9 Kendall Circle, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 03-04-22, Previous Sale: \$1,268,000, 02-02-17
23 Kent Court, \$3,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 2832 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-02-22
1222 Larch Avenue, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 03-03-22
187 Miramonte Drive, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 02-25-22, Previous Sale: \$234,000, 03-04-98

ORINDA

- 3 Douglas Court, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1792 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-04-22
407 El Toyonal, \$1,305,000, 2 Bdrms, 696 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 03-01-22
5 La Noria, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3309 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 02-24-22, Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 12-21-18
1 North Lane, \$1,503,500, 3 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-02-22, Previous Sale: \$935,000, 09-15-17
136 Spring Road, \$1,120,000, 2 Bdrms, 1667 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 03-02-22, Previous Sale: \$472,500, 04-05-12
46 Stanton Avenue, \$1,522,000, 3 Bdrms, 2412 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-01-22



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Spring cleaning: What do I do with all my stuff?



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By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®, Certified Professional Organizer

Now that spring is here, do you have the urge to start getting rid of things – or is it just me? One of the ways to keep your house from becoming overstuffed is to schedule a regular decluttering session a few times a year (exciting ... I know). Usually, I schedule these sessions after the holidays and strategically before my free trash pickup (because it's free!).

Who knew that we even needed to schedule decluttering sessions. I'll tell you who ... me. Why? Because I work with clients all the time to downsize their belongings. Approximately 90% of my downsizing clients have lived in their homes for at least 30 years! When they find themselves faced with moving to a smaller home or community, they are often overwhelmed by the vast amount of belongings they have accumulated and have no idea where to start (tip: I know where to start).

The interesting thought here is that many families park their expensive cars in the driveway so they have space in the garage to store stuff that they don't even use. It might not make financial sense, but 60% of people do this. Why? Delayed decisions. It's too hard to decide what stays and what goes (and of course, where it goes) so they put off the project altogether.

Where the heck do I start?

Before you begin, it's very important to know your end goal. Whether you are downsizing for a move or just spring cleaning, it's important to decide what you want your life

to look like after you declutter. Defining your goal will help you through this often exhausting and emotional process.

Next, your items need to be sorted to decide what to donate, sell and keep. I suggest that you start with non-emotional categories such as tools, kitchen items, linens or clothes. Often, many similar items are spread throughout the house, multiple closets and the garage. Gathering all of the items (of a category) in one place is helpful because you will see the quantity you have. Give yourself the gift of letting go!

I always suggest taking photos of meaningful items before you start the downsizing process so they are preserved for future generations.

Heirlooms - I recommend that you keep a small number of items (5-10) to represent the generations past and present. Passing on an intentional legacy of items is a way of keeping ourselves and our family's memories alive even after we are gone. It's your family legacy and the value is determined by you!

Photos - Photos are a reminder and history of you and your family. So how do you decide what to keep? I suggest removing any duplicates, anything blurry, and anything without a person that you know in the photo. Note: After you identify the photos that you want to keep, put a description on them so the next generation knows the significance of the photo. I use the 20/80 rule here. Keep 20% of your photos, enough to fill a couple of boxes and recycle 80%.

You might want to consider digitizing your photos as well if you don't want to discard them quite yet. There are also digital services such as Legacybox that you can try as well as the app Photomyne.

Where will it go?

All of the items that will not stay with you will need to go somewhere. Here are a few options:

1. Family (or friends)
2. Consignment/Sell
3. Donation
4. Recycle/Trash

Family (or friends): There are probably many items in your home that have been passed down through the ages as well as items you have been keeping for your children – furniture, grandma's china, artwork,

etc. Talk with your children or other family members about the items you are keeping for them and see if they want them. If your adult children have not landed in a permanent home, they may be reluctant to take extra stuff right now.

Consignment/Sell: If you think your item(s) have value, start researching. Look on the internet, call auction houses and send photos, or check with your local consignment store. If you have a household full of valuable items, ask an estate sales company to come out for an estimate. You can also list your items on Nextdoor, Amazon Marketplace, or Ebay.

Keep in mind that selling your items can be very time consuming and you will need to decide if it's worth it. I recommend that you pick a monetary value for items that will be worth your time to try to sell. You also need to consider that someone buying your item will need to pick it up. If you live alone and the buyer needs to come into your home, be sure to have someone at your house during the pickup time.

Donation: There are many charities where you can donate your items. You will need to call the charity to see if they are accepting donations and what categories of items they accept. Next, you may need to hire someone to transport the items to the charity (very few charities will pick up your items). Here are a few charities and other groups that might accept donations:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospice
- Freecycle
- Nextdoor
- Buy Nothing groups on Facebook in your community
- School or local libraries

Be sure to research your charities, make sure they are registered as a nonprofit to be considered for a tax write-off (check with a CPA).

Recycle/Trash: Most municipalities (Lamorinda included) have a once or twice a year free extra trash pickup. Many of them also have a reuse day. These extra pickups are a great way to get rid of a lot of items all at once. Many trash services also offer an additional free pickup each year that you can schedule at your convenience.

... continued on Page D8

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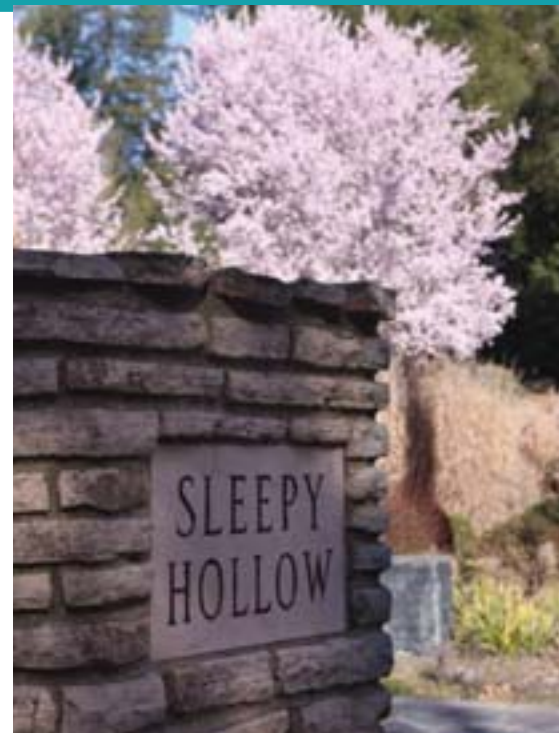
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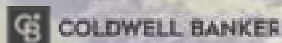


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1074LaurelDr.com

Pending in Lamorinda

Rep: Buyers
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Spring cleaning: What do I do with all my stuff?

... continued from Page D4

You can do this!

Take a deep breath, this can be an emotional rollercoaster. Give yourself permission to know that your reasons for keeping items might not be rational but they are all understandable. As they say, it's never about the stuff, it's the emotions that are tied to the stuff.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



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Traci Miller
DRE 01038042
925.255.4370
traci.miller@compass.com



Erin Schroeder
DRE 02025712
925.282.9993
erin.schroeder@compass.com

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5 Corte Sombrita, Orinda
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957 Stow Lane, Lafayette

4 BD | 4.5 BA | 2857± SF | 1.3± AC | Offered at \$2,750,000

This glorious mid-century home with walls of glass, basking in inspiring natural light, is ideally situated on a breathtaking 1.3± acre Mt. Diablo view lot, at the end of a gated drive. With the option of single level living, this extraordinary and open floor plan has been thoughtfully and tastefully updated throughout. 975stow.com

Contact Chris & Tracy today for more information



**Chris Swim
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925.766.1447

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There are many reasons we love Yorkshire Court and the trails neighborhood of Lafayette. Having raised our kids right around the corner, we understand the amazing lifestyle this little gem of a street provides for all. Yorkshire Court is conveniently located near K-8 schools, downtown, Freeway access and BART.

COMING SOON! 944 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE

944 Yorkshire Court has not been on the market since 1975! Located just three doors from the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, this 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1,868± sq. ft. home was remodeled in 2018.

This is one you won't want to miss! Call us to schedule a private showing.

COMING SOON



944 YORKSHIRE COURT
3 BEDS, 2 BATHS, 1,868± SF
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000

SOLD OFF-MARKET



951 YORKSHIRE COURT
REPRESENTED BUYERS AND SELLERS
SOLD FOR \$1,520,000

OUR OFFER ACCEPTED



945 YORKSHIRE COURT
REPRESENTED BUYERS
OFF-MARKET TRANSACTION





66 Hardie Drive, Moraga ~ \$2,295,000
3 BD | OFFICE | 2 FULL - 1 HALF BA | 2 CAR | .33 AC
Lovely 3,140 sq. ft. of single level living with magnificent views
and ideal indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Inviting pool, tranquil fountain
and open floor plan. Gorgeous corner lot location.



1040 Bollinger Canyon Road, Moraga ~ \$1,595,000
3 BD | 2 BA | 2 CAR CARPORT | 3.99 AC
Privacy galore in this country setting among the oaks. Expansive
yard with raised vegetable beds, lush lawn, and beautiful
gardens. Light, open floor plan, updated kitchen and baths.



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Spring shopping: Seeds or starts?**



Birds have been eating the buds of this Queen Anne cherry tree.

... continued from Page D1

Other than cherry tomatoes, I have never had success growing tomatoes from seed. Cucumber and zucchini have done better in my potagers by sowing starts. Most weeds are spread by seeds including the pretty when small, Herb Robert geranium. The aroma of this lime green weed with the tiny pink petal flowers is pleasing, but it needs to be pulled as soon as possible as it is invasive. A cover crop that I seed in fall is vetch. Vetch fixes nitrogen in the soil and is good in both sunny and shady locations, however, if not managed properly, you'll spend many hours untangling to dig it into the soil.

Before you depart for the nursery, write a list of what you are seeking, and know that once you arrive, your shopping dreams may take a deep detour. You'll be tempted by the



A yellow tulip is a symbol of solidarity for Ukraine...and a happy Easter and Passover.

magnificent selections the nursery offers. It's up to you to know the conditions of your landscape ... where it is sunny, shady, rocky, moist, dry, flat or hilly. Will you be planting in containers or planting directly in the ground? Pay careful attention to the tags on the plants you are considering. They provide an enormous amount of useful information that can help you determine if this plant is correct for your garden. If there is a Q code, scan it to find out additional instructions. Buy only what you can put in the ground within two or three days. You don't want your new purchases to remain in pots longer than necessary. I am very guilty of buying too much at one time instead of making multiple trips.

Another important tip is to determine the container size of each flower, herb, vegetable, shrub, or tree that you will purchase. If you are a person that demands instant



Photos Cynthia Brian

Spring is scented by lovely lilacs.

gratification and you don't want to wait for a specimen to grow to its full potential, or you don't have the time to let the plant grow, buy the largest container. You will pay a premium, but perhaps this purchase could be worth the extra cost to you to have immediate coverage. On the other hand, if you are the patient type as I am and time is not of the essence, purchase the smallest container. It will be less expensive and with time, your plant will be as large or larger than ones available in larger sizes. With annuals, it may behoove you to buy larger sizes, although I am a big fan of buying six-packs and flats. When buying a shrub of any size, look for full and dense leaf formation. Plant health is important. The pot should not be root bound. Healthy roots are white, not gray, or mushy.

... continued on Page D14

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring shopping: Seeds or starts?



Nigella, AKA Love in the Mist, spreads by seed.

I learned an important lesson in planting trees many years ago when I was designing my backyard. As my central focal point, I wanted a magnolia tree that boasts beautiful white blooms attractive to pollinators. I bought the biggest tree that I could find. It was approximately 10 feet tall in a huge container that was so heavy it took three people to manage it. I paid a fortune, but at the time, felt the cost assured me my desired outcome. That same week, my mother gave me a six-inch tall sapling in a quart pot. I planted it at the back of my garden, believing that it would never become a large tree.



Dig vetch into the soil to add nitrogen.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Within three years, both trees were the exact same size, and now, three decades later, my mother's magnolia gift is double the size of my purchase. Both are beautiful, but the free sapling is dramatic!

Easter and Passover arrive with spectacular spring showers of flowers highlighted by tulips, wisteria, bluebells, azaleas, flowering trees, and the fruity fragrances of lilac, hyacinth, and jasmine. Pick a bouquet from your garden to celebrate these sacred holidays.

No matter whether you spring into spring with seeds or starts, just do it!

FREE APRIL EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

Honor Mother Earth on Friday, April 22 by tuning in to the Earth Gratitude Virtual Festival live-streamed at <https://www.unify.org>. Two of my Be the Star You Are!® volunteers who are reporters on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio as well as myself have featured videos. Esteemed contributors include the Dalai Lama, Jane Goodall, Prince Charles, Elon Musk, Deepak Chopra, and others. Together we will celebrate our planet.

On Saturday, April 23 at noon, enjoy a free Virtual Wonders Magic Show crafted for the entire family with a renowned Irish magician. Although the interactive show is free, you do have to register to receive the ZOOM link. More info at <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>. Or email thestarsworkshop@gmail.com

Wishing you a hippity hoppity Easter and a peaceful Passover. Enjoy an amazing April with your family.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Stand in Solidarity with Ukraine.



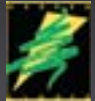
Cynthia Brian and her granddaughter play with their Easter bunny.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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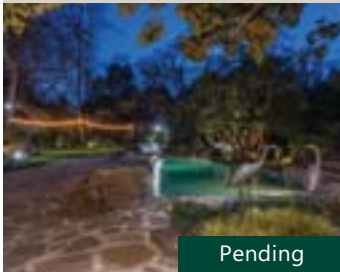
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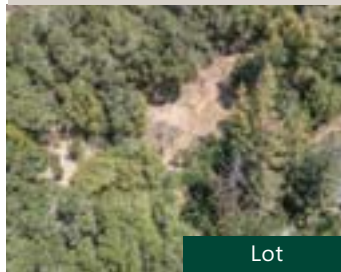
New Listing

41 Claremont Ave

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499 Silverado Drive

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LAFAYETTE

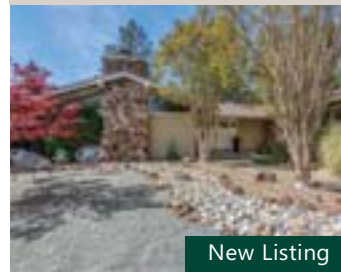


1160 Brown Ave

Fabulous 2 bed cottage w/ amazing panoramic view on secluded 1+ acre! Pool + guest house!

\$1,295,000

MORAGA



New Listing

1835 Joseph Drive

Located in desirable Moraga Bluffs, stunning 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home renovated w/ quality detailing & views of St. Mary's & hillsides!

\$1,925,000

WALNUT CREEK

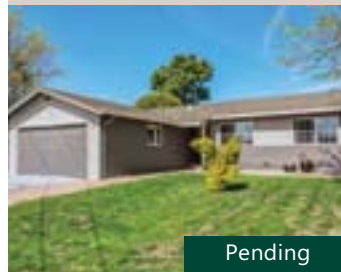


440 N Civic Dr. #313

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