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Lafayette Community Garden co-founder Janet Thomas (second from right) with gardening team members Regina McGrath, Shirley Sigal, Jeanie Hill and Sue Scholtz.

Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Sowing the seeds of hope, cooperation at Lafayette Community Garden

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Janet Thomas and the gardening team began planning for the Lafayette Community Garden nearly a decade and a half ago, they were planting the seeds to something much larger than a growing ground. “It’s a cooperative garden. We work as teams and collaborate,” Thomas says. “We love to see anyone in the community come any time that we’re open and we’d love for this to be a resource.”

On a drizzly April morning, weeks ahead of Earth Day, multiple members of the gardening team are on site doing their tasks while working on their respective teams, alongside Thomas, who is a co-founder and a work lead at the garden. Regina McGrath, a 10-year member, who’s on the tomato and summer crop team says gardening at the Community Garden is a

team sport. “I enjoy coming here, turning off my phone and being at peace.” Eight-year member Shirley Sigal says she most loves watching nature do its magic. “Watching things grow (is the best part).” Jeanie Hill says she’s a proud contributor to the flower team. “My job is to grow flowers for the pollinators.”

Sue Scholtz is a fifth generation Californian who has farmers from the Central Valley on both sides of her family. “I think it’s in my blood to be out here watching plants grow,” Scholtz says. As a member of the Wednesday watering team, Scholtz says she enjoys being out in nature on her own with the plants, keeping an eye on the real time effects of the drought. When asked where the drought is taking us, Scholtz is optimistic. “It’s taking us to a good place today because it’s raining out here,” Scholtz says. “Today I’m hopeful.”

Thomas says that kind of teamwork serves not only the plants and the wellness of the garden but also the wellness of the community itself. “The sense of community that is fostered here is something that we all benefit from and we certainly did during COVID.”

The planning for the garden began in 2008 and the garden officially opened 11 seasons ago. Whether you’re looking to get in the dirt and plant, breathe in fresh air, hang out with chickens, see cultural artifacts or learn how environmentalism and the garden connects to issues of social justice, take or leave a food donation in the pantry in front of the garden – which is located on Mr. Diablo Boulevard across from the reservoir – there promises to be something for you at the garden.

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EBMUD announces Stage 2 drought mandates



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Lawns like this will likely grace front yards soon.

By Vera Kochan

The East Bay Municipal Utility District announced strategies to this year’s drought emergency following its April 26 board of directors meeting. The decisions should come as no surprise to customers who have been expecting mandates to take affect once the in-

sufficient rainy season had ended. In a 6-1 vote, the board chose to elevate its drought response by issuing a mandatory 10% district-wide water reduction target. The 10% reduction had previously been voluntary with customers managing to save approximately 7% of water usage.

EBMUD’s source for most of its water supply comes from the Mokelumne River Watershed. Between January through March, only 2.5 inches of rain was accounted for, creating the driest first three months of any year in EBMUD’s nearly 100-year history.

According to a statement in March, “EBMUD, like other urban agencies, is required to maintain a Water Shortage Contingency Plan that outlines the District’s drought response. EBMUD’s plan reflects decades of investment and planning for multi-year droughts and is based on local hydrologic conditions and our customer usage patterns. When water storage levels are low, the EBMUD board asks customers to conserve and approves the purchase of supplemental supplies.”

The statement adds that, since October 2021, EBMUD had brought in supplemental water through a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which accounts for almost an additional 20% of its annual

supplies. As of the end of April, EBMUD’s reservoirs are 71% full and not expected to get any better once the Sierra Nevada snow melts.

In an April 26 statement, the board of directors’ Stage 2 drought declaration includes: “Mandated 10% water use reduction District-wide as compared to 2020, and review progress towards achieving this goal in November; Reinstatement of the Excessive Use Penalty Ordinance. The ordinance sets a threshold of roughly 1,646 gallons of water per day for households. Households who exceed the threshold will receive one warning, and then will face fines of \$2 for every 748 gallons of water above the threshold; Updated water restrictions, including limiting outdoor watering to three times per week, prohibiting washing down sidewalks and driveways, and requiring restaurants and cafes to only provide water upon request, among other provisions.”

EBMUD could also consider imposing a drought surcharge of up to 8% on water use charges (not the entire bill) to cover the expense of purchasing supplemental water supplies. This decision was scheduled to come up for a vote during the May 10 board meeting, after press time. All emergency surcharges will remain in effect as long as the drought persists.

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Future use of Moraga's Measure K Funds - Page A5	Gold Coast Chamber Players present 'A Cultural Crossroads' - Page B1	Lamorinda Weekly's 16th annual all Camps and Classes Guide - Page C2 - C3	Miramonte boys and Campo girls win DAL Lacrosse Championships - Page C2	Plantings make May the most colorful month of the year - Page D1



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Beloved music director, Bob Athayde, to retire in June



Photo Gint Federas

Bob Athayde on the piano at La Finestra's old location in Lafayette

By Lou Fancher

Walk almost anywhere in Lamorinda or stretch your arms wide at nearly every Bay Area location where jazz music is studied or performed, you're

likely to bump into a person whose life bears the imprint of Bob Athayde. The Stanley Middle School music director and teacher for more than 30 years – with 45 years teaching in public schools in the Bay Area – will

retire at the end of the 2021-22 school year in June.

Athayde has led the music program since 1986 that has expanded into a half-dozen band classes, early morning jazz ensembles, informal Jazz Cafe concerts and more. Outside or alongside his work in the classroom, Athayde guest teaches, provides private lessons, performs with professional music colleagues, and appears as solo pianist regularly at La Finestra in Moraga. Also in his wheelhouse? A number of CDs, virtual methodologies for studying music he developed in response to the pandemic, founding and leading the annual Lafayette Summer Music Workshop, conducting and playing in inter-generational performances with the Rossmoor Big Band, and collaborations with his children, Kyle Athayde and Juliana Athayde, both of whom are professional musicians.

Athayde's successor at Stanley will be Todd Minson, a former student of Athayde's who is a professional trumpeter, French Horn player, drummer and vocalist. "He was teaching middle school in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. He has great people skills, he's good with kids and he is a fabulous musician. He has one foot in the past and one foot in the present as a music teacher. That means he's good at Mozart and good with digital music programs." Eric Price, Stanley's string teacher, will be leading orchestra and those courses. "He also attended Stanley so these two guys understand Lafayette and the community."

Athayde's approach has always veered toward "ready, fire, aim." Students, volunteers and music professionals appreciate the strategy because they can present a problem and a solution and receive a rapid green light. "I don't tell them I'll think about it and have them come

back later. My happiest times are when I don't try to control anything. I just sit down and let them play."

He recalls one time when a person working with him in the late 1980s grew annoyed and said, "You don't even know what's going on around here." Athayde told him, "It's better that way," noting that his goal is to get people to work together. "My stubbornness wasn't fun for the administrators, but I don't put up with nonsense," he said. "I'm responsible for giving the kids in Lafayette the best music education I can, so I'm not doing things that don't make sense."

Fortunately, most of what Athayde has been doing for more than four decades does make sense. Professional bassist Dewayne Pate was a student of Athayde at Pinole Valley High in the late 1970s. The successful studio and touring artist has performed and recorded with 10-time Grammy winning trumpet player Arturo Sandoval, Tower of Power, Blues musician Chris Cain, Huey Lewis & The News, Boz Scaggs, Maria Muldaur and others.

Pate says Athayde taught him to focus on maintaining a broad repertoire of jazz standards, mastering the ability to play every tune in multiple keys, and "basic professionalism as in showing up on time with a positive attitude and open mind." His favorite memory is a secret, coded greeting they enjoy whenever their paths cross. "We joke about this day when he suspended me from high school for yelling an obscenity to a fellow band mate in symphonic band. The funny, ironic part is that he didn't hear my band mate yell the exact same obscenity at me two seconds earlier. So now it's our secret informal greeting whenever we're on a gig together."

Acalanes senior George Rogers, a former student of

Athayde's, plans to pursue a double major at the Oberlin Conservatory and College of Arts and Sciences in Ohio this fall, studying Jazz Saxophone Performance and Psychology. "From Mr. Athayde, I learned that the most important thing in music, whether it's an audition, rehearsal, or performance, is that you're having fun. As long as that's true, you can't go wrong." Rogers has adopted and been helped by Athayde's all-the-time, anywhere philosophy relating to music. "I remember Mr. Athayde telling us about how when he wasn't practicing music, he was listening to it in the kitchen or while reading. If he wasn't listening to it, he was thinking about it. I have learned to do the same."

Athayde says he is "not going to just disappear" in retirement. "I've taught 45 years in the public schools and with a generous grant underwritten by the Julia Burke Foundation, I'll be able to go into schools next year and help schools in need. There's no reporting to an administration: it's just teaching pure music. I get to do what I do best."

Putting his "ready, fire, aim" philosophy into action, Athayde has already visited schools in the state of Washington and Alaska. With schools in New York beckoning and locally, teachers in Concord, Oakland and San Jose asking for help – not to mention the summer jazz workshop and his three-nights-a-week appearances at La Finestra continuing – Athayde's retirement calendar is definitely busy.

Tributes are planned to honor Athayde and his musical mark on the community at the free Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 14 at the Lafayette Reservoir Stage and at the free Jazz Café concert from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 20 at Stanley Middle School.



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It's Village. Of Course.

*per pub records

Newly renovated Las Trampas facility reopens

By Jennifer Wake

After over two long years of construction, Las Trampas, the developmental care facility in Lafayette set alongside the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail was abuzz with excitement April 23 as dignitaries, donors, participants and their families returned for the campus' grand reopening.

The facility, which has served developmentally and intellectually disabled individuals since originally opening over 60 years ago, has been completely transformed, with caring attention to every detail, from automatic doors, handrails for the visually impaired, widened hallways for those with special ambulation needs to elevators, acoustic paneling, full-spectrum

"tunable" lighting, and a digital communications system that can accommodate evolving technologies.

"Colors on the walls give subliminal cues, the lighting doesn't create shadows and never flickers, which helps those with sensory issues, and handrails along the walls are formed to the human hand,"

... continued on Page A3

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Newly renovated Las Trampas facility reopens



The newly renovated Las Trampas facility Photos courtesy Ian Craig

... continued from Page A2

Director of Philanthropy Katherine Koller said during a tour of the facility. Each room caters to specific needs of the Las Trampas community with high-tech features as well as wheel chair accessible and ADA compliant classrooms, a teaching kitchen, and raised outdoor garden beds. Natural light spills in from floor-to-ceiling windows with views of trees surrounding the property.

Amy Avilez, who has been a participant at Las Trampas since 1993, says she can't go back soon enough. "It's been rough with two days at Martinez (the temporary facility used during construction) and on Zoom three days (a week)," Amy explained between stopping to greet friends in the brightly lit hallway. Amy's mom, Patti, was surprised at how big the building was: "It's so clean and fresh."

The state-of-the-art facility is scheduled to reopen this month and is licensed to serve 120 participants, 50 of whom need assistance with ambulation, according to Executive Director Daniel Hogue. There is currently a waitlist of 32 people, 25 of whom want to start by June, Hogue said. Participants attend daytime classes offered Monday through Friday. They are considering opening the facility to the community on weekends, Koller said.

Michael Detrane, who is visually impaired, has been

coming to Las Trampas for eight years and liked everything that has been done. "I like it a lot and how things are improving," he said, adding that he "can't wait to come back here and be fully on campus."

Michael's father, Joe, appreciated how thoughtful they've been with structural railings in the building as well as the lighting, which can be adjusted for brightness and color to create a more calming atmosphere for those with sensory issues.

Las Trampas board of directors president Michael Collier, who headed the capital campaign with his wife Connie, said the \$14-million project, which was delayed due to the pandemic and supply chain issues, has exceeded his expectations. "The facilities are amazing and what we're going to do for participants in the future ... it tickles me," he said. "It's a beautiful site."

Former Lafayette mayor Don Tatzin was one of several dignitaries who attended the grand reopening, including former mayor Mike Anderson, current mayor Teresa Geringer, council member Susan Candell, Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, and many more. "This is a great addition to Lafayette and a wonderful facility for staff and participants," Tatzin said. "They redefined what a purpose-filled facility for adults can be. We're fortunate for this to be in Lafayette."



Large windows, special lighting and high-tech equipment grace the interior.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 23, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's
YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting


Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love
Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love
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Town Council: Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 25, 6 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings :
 Tuesday, June 7, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Town Council gives staff direction regarding Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Budget

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council reviewed a report for a one-year budget authorization and a four-year forecast of dedicated revenues for specific projects regarding the Capital Improvement Program during its April 27 meeting. The purpose was for council to provide input to staff on what it considered high priority projects.

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp's presentation began with a quick overview of the 2022 Town Council and Community Goals and Priorities that happen to fall under the CIP's purview: Efficiently sustain core operations and services with a nod to fiscal discipline and long-term fiscal sustainability; Satisfy the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) through rezoning and revisions; Complete the finishing touches on the Canyon Road Bridge project and secure reimbursements; Complete the 2022 construction phase and the 2023 design of the "Worst First" Pavement Reconstruction projects; Continue the Storm Drain System Operations and Maintenance Program; American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding allocation to highest priority needs; Enhance Moraga's parks, open space and facilities; Focus on traffic, congestion and pedestrian safety; and Implement viable strategies with regards to the town's Climate Action Plan.

Important points to note, besides the staff report that was prepared by Knapp and Senior Administrative Assistant Jeanet Lara, mention "The proposed CIP allocates available funding to projects. Funding would need to be shifted to add new projects. The \$1.4 million in Measure J remains available and can be allocated to traffic safety projects upon completion of the Local Road Safety Plan which will prioritize traffic safety projects. The CIP continues to prioritize storm drain projects that were started in Fiscal Year 2021-22 given ARPA funding."

New CIP Projects recommended for funding FY 2022-23 are: Pavilion flagstone staircase \$49,000; Town facility energy reliability (funded through Government Impact Fees) \$100,000; Laguna Creek Restoration at Hacienda - Phase 2 (fully funded) \$228,000; Hacienda metal entrance fence and gate \$42,000; Rancho Laguna Park picnic tables \$53,000; Canyon Road Bridge replacement riparian remediation (87% funded from Caltrans) \$340,000; Bollinger Canyon Road tree remediation \$50,000; and Pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements on Camino Pablo \$5,000.

Ongoing CIP Projects with additional funding recom-

mended for FY 2022-23 are: Laguna Creek Restoration at Hacienda - Phase 2; Commons Park picnic area renovation and restroom replacement; Livable Moraga Road Study; Annual street repairs; 2022 pavement rehabilitation; and Corliss Drive safe routes to school.

There were several Carry-over Projects FY 2021-22 with Planned Funds such as: Moraga Library carpet replacement; 2021-23 Annual road rehabilitations and storm drain repairs; Housing Element/General Plan update; and Central Video Surveillance System, to name a few.

Looking ahead to Scheduled FY 2023-24 to 2026-27 CIP: Hacienda parking lot retaining wall repairs; Hacienda trash enclosure; Drainage Sedimentation and Slide Failure Study; 2025-27 Storm drain repairs; Bollinger Canyon Road hillside stabilization; 2023-26 pavement rehabilitation; and more.

The town council and staff received an over-abundance of correspondence from the community regarding the unsafe route from Corliss Drive to Los Perales Elementary School. In deference to the potential dangers of the route, council strongly urged staff to make this a top priority CIP and were willing to shelve non-critical projects in order to make it happen.

Prospective Governing Board Candidates

Candidate Information Session
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Planning Commission approves temporary Bay Area Ballplayers' enhanced outdoor facility



Photo Provided

Project setting for expanded temporary Bay Area Ballplayers location

By Vera Kochan

The success of owner Steve Hammond's Bay Area Ballplayers, located at 1460 Moraga Road in Moraga, began in January 2019, when he took over the space formerly occupied by a Hallmark card store.

When COVID-19 mandates limited public use of his indoor facility, Hammond was granted a permit in August 2020 to run a temporary outdoor facility located on a vacant lot of the property at 1325 Moraga Way behind Safeway. The permit was valid for six months under the expectation that county mandates would be lifted or adjusted.

By March 2021, with the pandemic still looming, Ham-

mond received a one-year permit extension to continue running the temporary outdoor facility. One year later, the popularity of his facility had prompted him to submit an application for a new temporary conditional use permit to allow for an expansion of services for a 70,000-square-foot outdoor sports and recreational facility consisting of sports training and camps, baseball and lacrosse training, adult fitness classes, birthday parties, a 22,500-square-foot artificial turf field, batting cages, portable baseball backstop, lacrosse goals, portable medicine ball wall, portable toilet and temporary walkway.

There was hesitation by the Planning Department staff to sanction the notion for a permit as the location might conflict

with the Moraga Center Specific Plan's Mixed Retail/Residential (MCSP MU-RR) zoning policies and objectives.

According to Moraga Principal Planner Ashley James' May 3 staff report, "In addition, the site continues to be available as a housing opportunity site under the 2023-31 sixth cycle Housing Element for increased housing in order to meet the state mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) as well as a future Town Center."

In Hammond's favor was an overwhelming response from the public commending his facility for giving the town's youth a place to be after school while doing something constructive during COVID's fallout.

Keeping this in mind, the Planning Commission granted Bay Area Ballplayers the requested permit with a limitation of 18 months and an expiration date of Oct. 31, 2023. There were several Conditions of Approval that applied, including: all features and structures must be dismantled by the expiration date; the hours of operation would be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to sunset and Saturday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and no installation of lighting, amplified sound generating equipment or any permanent buildings or structures. The town is also allowed to inspect the site on a monthly basis.

In granting the permit, the Planning Commission made clear that Bay Area Ballplayers must actively work to find a more permanent location.

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Hacienda Nights
Tuesday May 17
5pm-9pm



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Future use of Moraga’s Measure K Funds



Photo provided

Another Moraga street undergoes Measure K improvements

By Vera Kochan

Measure K appeared on Moraga’s ballot in November 2012 and won with 70.5% of the vote. It is a 1% local sales tax that became effective on April 1, 2013, and was approved for

general use purposes with a sunset duration of 20 years. Revenue collected from the tax is meant to be used for the town’s most crucial infrastructural needs. First on the list, and the reason for its passing, is to repair Moraga’s failing

roadways. Additional needs are storm drains and related infrastructure. At this point, the funds have strictly been used for road repair.

In 2012, the town’s Pavement Condition Index rating was 49 (poor). Thanks to Measure K funding the summer-time street repairs had elevated the PCI to 70 (satisfactory) in 2016. In April 2020, town staff initiated a new pavement management strategy called “Worst First” in order to fix Very Poor and Poor streets as soon as possible. This game plan has elevated Moraga’s PCI to 75 thanks to grant funding.

On May 12, 2021 staff recommended that the town council use Measure K Funds for storm drain projects with the reasoning that its General Fund revenue and uses weren’t restricted. Typically, the sales tax generates approximately \$1 million annually, but with the

rise in internet sales taxes the Measure K Fiscal Year 2021-22 looks to generate over \$2.226 million. Additionally, the Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Gas Tax (generating \$331,068) and Garbage Vehicle Impact Fees (generating \$814,000) added to the Measure K Funds totals approximately \$3,371,068.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg’s April 27 staff report recommends that future use of Measure K Funds become part of the annual budget process once the 2022-23 Pavement Reconstruction project is completed. “There are no restrictions on the use of Measure K Funds and the council could at any time allocate the funds for uses other than the pavement management program without rescinding or adopting any previous written policies; for the next three years Measure K Funds are needed for

the 2022-23 Pavement Reconstruction Project to repair as many Poor and Very Poor streets as possible; over \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are available to fund public storm drain system infrastructure projects; and the town has been successful in identifying other funds for the asset replacement program in recent years and the use of ARPA funds to backfill General Fund revenue loss, as well as annual surpluses, should provide sufficient funding of the town’s asset replacement program for the next year or two.”

With the Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee monitoring the spending and continually assigning a clean bill of health with regards to Measure K Funds, the town council agreed that staff should stay the course.

SMC responds to anonymous sexual harassment flyers

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary’s College students, faculty and staff during the last week in April were met with flyers taped up campus-wide describing alleged unwanted sexual encounters from anonymous victims and demanding the campus community believe survivors and take action on campus, such as reposting the hashtag #SMCProtectsRapists, and to following @smcsurvivors on Instagram.

In response, SMC’s Vice President of Student Life & Title IX Coordinator Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht, Ph.D. issued a statement to the SMC community stating, “Over the last few days, the College has been made aware of concerns regarding Title IX. As the Title IX Coordinator, I want to thank our students for holding us ac-

countable and take this opportunity to share updates on what we are doing to build a culture rooted in respect for each other and reaffirm our commitment to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual misconduct.”

Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sexual harassment. “In May 2020, the U.S. Department of Education added specific legally binding steps educational institutions must take in response to notice of alleged sexual harassment,” according to Cornell Law School. “The 2020 amendment defines sexual harassment to include certain types of unwelcome sexual conduct, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.”

Garrison-Engbrecht’s statement encouraged any victims to immediately contact Title IX

Deputies or himself to report an incident, which will be held in confidence. He also noted that SMC has contracted with Grand River Solutions for support training, investigations and review of campus policies and processes. He implored the SMC community to become involved and support any victims of sexual misconduct. Additionally, several support sources were listed: Campus Assault Response and Education Center (925) 631-4193; CARE Line (925) 878-9207; Counseling and Psychological Services (925) 631-4364; Center for Women and Gender Equity (925) 631-4192; Mission and Ministry Center (925) 631-4366.

SMC is working to schedule a meeting to address any con-

cerns in person and to open a constructive dialogue on how

the campus can move forward regarding shared goals.



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2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed, honored at banquet



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed (center) with sister, Diane Lewis and son, Jeff Reed.

By Vera Kochan

After a two-year, COVID-mandated hiatus, the town had once again taken to honoring its latest Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed, at a May 6 banquet in the Soda Center at Saint Mary’s College. The 42nd annual event was sponsored by SMC, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Lamorinda Weekly, and Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Reed was chosen for the honor by the Selection Committee which recognized her continual, broad scope of involvement through the years with regards to numerous organizations and community events within the town. Her tireless volunteerism with the Moraga Park Foundation, Summer Con-

cert Series, Pear Festival, Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Crab/Lobster Fest, See’s Candy fundraiser, Pear Harvest, daffodil planting, Fourth of July festivities, Park and Recreation Commission and Moraga Library, led her to be a hands-down choice for the award.

“I enjoy volunteering in many groups for the variety of new experiences,” stated Reed. “Each time I learn new things about our town and meet new people. I like to know about my community, how it works and how it can be improved for our neighbors.”

Reed’s reaction to the tribute was one of surprise and honor to be included on the list of past recipients.

... continued on Page A10



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

City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
 Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.
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Capital Improvements and a new Director of Public Works for Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's Department of Public Works and Engineering Services submitted to the city council its annual update of the Capital Improvement Plan on May 3. The council took the opportunity to welcome Senior Engineer Scott Christie as Public Works Director. Annually, the CIP comes before the council on three occasions. At the first meeting, staff seeks the council's feedback and guidance. The second meeting takes a deeper dive into fund balances and scheduling. The CIP then goes to the planning commission, returning to the city council for approval.

At this point, Christie said, the budget is really only an estimate, as the rising price of

crude oil will affect the cost of asphalt. Although Orinda's roads are now much improved, Christie said that it is still necessary to make progress under Measure R. The second priority for the department is the city's drainage system, and the storm drain repair plan.

Christie informed the council of an unexpected problem that has arisen, damage in a large concrete culvert from the Safeway parking lot down to Orinda Way, which is partially in the city's right of way along Camino Pablo. Repair will be a multi-year project and is estimated to cost \$5 million. Currently, the design effort is underway. The project will include soil boring work and testing. The department hopes to find out how erosive type damage that has

occurred since the 1950s might be prevented in the future.

Council Member Amy Worth expressed a desire to bring forward the proposed Moraga Way crosswalk to facilitate safe passage for children getting on and off school buses. She also thanked Christie for teeing up projects for grants.

Mayor Dennis Fay was satisfied with the CIP. "I think it is a very good program," he said, noting that he was really happy to see LED lights in there. "It doesn't take much time to convert lighting fixtures to LED," he added, "and it is a very good thing to do that is also good for the environment." LED retrofits are proposed for the tennis courts and Wilder Fields No. 1 and 2. The mayor asked that as a

general rule, the city consider climate change in CIP projects. For example, he said, Orinda's vehicle fleet will contain more electric vehicles over time. Speaking of vehicles reminded the mayor of one of his pet peeves: Parked police vehicles left running just to keep the computer running. "I don't know if we can fit it into the budget," he said, "but can we look at that carefully?" He suggested that perhaps an uninterruptible power system might be possible.

During the discussion, the council also heard about a small sinkhole that developed at the intersection of El Toyonal and Camino Pablo. The council heard how city staff jumped right on it and got it fixed right away before it could become a larger problem.

Orinda bans sale of vaping and flavored tobacco products, no exception for hookah use

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council moved to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products within the city, as well as all vaping products, at its May 3 meeting. The ordinance will not affect the use of such products, as it is limited to sales only.

As introduced, the ordinance would have become effective 120 days after passage. In public comments, Jamie Rojas of a national tobacco trade group asked the council to table the ordinance, and instead allow Orinda voters to express their views concerning a statewide ban, which is on the ballot for the California general election in November. He also argued that bans on flavored tobacco products have been shown to not work, but rather to switch users to

unflavored products. Education and outreach, he said, do work.

Thomas Lawton, the government affairs representative for Hookah manufacturer Fumari and a member of the National Hookah Community Association, asked the council to exempt flavored tobacco products for use in hookahs. Although, he said, "we strongly support this council's goals of ending teen nicotine addiction and protecting minority communities," youth use of hookah is only 0.8% nationally. He said that there is a rich cultural tradition of hookah, and that tobacco products for use in hookahs are traditionally flavored with molasses or honey.

Yete McMahon, Contra Costa County Senior Health Education Specialist, urged the city to ban the use of flavored tobacco products for hookahs. "Given the health risk of hookah," he said, "we know that culturally it is part of some cultures but it is increasingly common in the

general population." He added that "to excuse hookah use could increase health inequality." He informed the council that bans in unincorporated Contra Costa County, San Pablo, Antioch, Dublin, Livermore, and other areas have not excluded hookah, even in cities with hookah lounges within the city. He also offered the county's assistance: "We are available to assist. The County's regulation is comprehensive. County is a resource for you."


The council rejected both the requests to await state action and to exempt products for hookah use. In fact, they eliminated the additional time proposed for retailers to dispose of their current inventory, opting to make the ban effective as soon as allowed by state law, which is 30 days after the date of adoption, eliminating the 90-day grace period that had been proposed.

The council expressed their concerns for Orinda retailers, but agreed that this

ban would not be a burden on them. City Manager David Biggs responded to a council question about which retailers will be affected. He noted that CVS Pharmacy does not sell any tobacco products, so the ban will only affect Safeway and two convenience stores associated with gas stations. Rite Aid Pharmacy in Orinda does sell tobacco products, but does not sell any flavored tobacco products or vaping supplies. Council Member Amy Worth noted that Rite Aid also intends to phase out all tobacco sales.

Council Member Nick Kosla pointed out that Del Rey Elementary School, Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School are close to the border of Moraga, which does not have a ban on flavored tobacco products, although Lafayette does. Council Member Amy Worth suggested that this would be a good topic for Biggs to bring up with the Moraga Town Manager, and the council requested that he do so.

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Overhill Road closed through December for EBMUD pipeline work

By Sora O'Doherty

Overhill Road in Orinda will be completely closed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. through Dec. 30 weekdays to

allow the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to construct a pipeline replacement project that will upgrade 6,000 linear feet of existing pipeline to improve residential service in the area, fire flows, and service reliability and redundancy during outages.

The temporary full road closure will affect that portion of Overhill Road between Moraga Way and Hillcrest

Drive. Portions of Overhill Court, and Tara Road will also be closed to through traffic during construction. Residents located in the vicinity of the proposed road closure will need to detour using Tara Road to Moraga Way. EBMUD has begun informing local Overhill Road residents via mailed letters of the proposed work and associated road closures.

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OUSD honors teachers and staff in May

By Sora O'Doherty

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic presented teachers with challenges never previously experienced in schools, the Orinda Union School District board of trustees resolved to proclaim May 11 as the California day of the teacher. In its resolution adopted on April 20, the board recognized teachers for their innovation and creativity, for giving of their time far beyond the school day to prepare outstanding lessons, collaborate with colleagues, assess student work and provide feedback to students, as they provide encouragement, support, and care. The resolution states that "our teachers have helped to produce

the thinkers, scientists, artists, inventors, technicians and engineers who have led our state to become one of the largest economies in the world."

The theme of the 40th annual California Day of the Teacher is "California educators: at the heart of communities, powering our future."

The board also proclaimed May 15 through 21 as classified school employee week, in recognition of the vital role of classified school employees in ensuring the well-being of the district and its students. The resolution provides that the board encourages activities to recognize and honor classified employees during the designated week and throughout the school year.

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Two pieces of art to be purchased for Orinda



Surfboard Seat

Photos provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Based on the recommendations of the Art in Public Places Committee, the Orinda City Council has agreed to the purchase of two pieces of art that have been on loan to the city for some years.

Surfboard Seat, by Wes Horn, has been located adjacent to the sidewalk near the Nation's restaurant on Moraga Way in the Theatre District since July 2015. According to the staff report, the functional attribute of this piece is unique to the current collection of pieces on loan to the city. The report also says the piece features a "unique

design, using precast concrete coupled with bright color in the way of mosaic tiles, [and] can be moved relatively easily, which allows members of the APPC to relocate the bench when new art becomes available. This flexibility is key to keeping the collection fresh and interesting while providing functional seating in appropriate locations so it can be enjoyed."

Artist Doug Heine has supported the Orinda Art in Public Places program since its very beginning with loans of five different pieces over the years. The metal sculpture, Full Circle, was formerly placed in front of Mechanics Bank in 2017, before moving

to a local art gallery. The work is approximately 6.5 feet tall and 3 feet wide and consisting of metal on aluminum. The artist says that the work was inspired by the times that his life went full circle and he hopes the composition shows the harmony of form. The APPC looks forward to more of Doug's artistry to be on loan in Orinda in the future.

According to city policy, to be considered for purchase, among other criteria, a piece of art must be thought-provoking, memorable or enduring and reflect diverse social, cultural or historic values of the city. A piece must be appropriate in terms of scale, form, content and the environment and be durable relative to theft, vandalism and the environment. A piece may not be religious iconography intended to be perceived as government endorsement of religion in violation of the Establishment Clause of the Federal and State Constitutions and may not create a hostile work environment for public employees, nor may it depict graphic violence or overt sexual activity.

The cost for Surfboard Seat is \$2,200 and the cost for Full Circle is \$6,500. According to Director of Parks and Rec, Todd Trimble, over the years, private citizens have contributed to the Arts in Public Places program by offering a donation to the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation. The



Full Circle

foundation manages the funds in a separate account and releases them at the request of the Arts in Public Places Committee. The Orinda Community Foundation has also contributed funds in the past toward the purchase of public art for Orinda. The city has also used Park Dedication funds in the past to help fund purchases.

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Canyon Emergency Drill goes better than expected



Photo Chris Lavin

Canyon resident Tom Llewellyn, left, and Michael Roemer of Lamorinda CERT in a Moraga parking lot April 23 during Canyon's practice evacuation in case of fire.

By Chris Lavin

The recorded call came from official fire department authorities at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning: "This is a warning. Evacuate immediately." It would have been a call to cause most people in Lamorinda to freeze. An impending fire, this time, very close. We gotta go.

The difference was just about everyone in Canyon had been sipping their morning coffee that day and stayed calm: They knew the call had

been coming.

The evacuation drill was successfully completed April 23 after weeks of planning by a Canyon committee interested in getting residents prepared for the type of disaster that has hit several local and Greater Bay Area communities in the past year.

"This was a great turnout," said Tom Llewellyn of Canyon, who directed the day's event, as he looked out over a crowd of about 80 of the town's 200-plus residents. Another 10 children and their dogs scrambled beneath the trees

where they had been "evacuated" to the parking lot of St. Monica's Church in Moraga.

Llewellyn said he hadn't known how many would actually come out for the drill, but was happy with the turnout.

"I thought we did very well," he said, adding that many residents who did not attend had let him know they would be out of Canyon at that time, anyway.

"The more everyone prepares, the better," said Michael Roemer, of the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which has participated in similar drills in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. "Real fires have already happened in our community."

One of the worst local fires was the Merrill Fire in Moraga's Sanders Ranch neighborhood that ignited at 1 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2019. Nearby residents there were forced to leave their houses in the middle of the night, in complete darkness due to a PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff, many with only the clothes on their backs.

"I heard from a lot of people, when I met them later, who told me they didn't expect to find their houses intact when they got back," Roemer said. "People have to be vigilant, and prepared."

And that is what the people of Canyon tried to do. Some had emergency bags packed and ready; others brought empty bags just for the practice. The weeks it took to get everyone

ready was headed up by Llewellyn and Jamie Barret-Riley, with the help of Dennis Rein of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. They made sure to have updated phone trees on everyone's door well before the drill. The phone tree was utilized in tandem with a local emergency siren system and calls from the Community Warning System, initiated by the MOFD.

All Canyonites were made aware of the drill. Packing an emergency bag was recommended.

"I know I have to get packed," said Aundre Speciale as she accepted coffee from Red Cross volunteer Diana Graham. "You know, I lost everything when I was younger. Yeah, our house burned to the ground. I thought, 'Oh, no! I left my grandmother's ring!' I don't want to live through anything like that again."

One hyper-alert resident in the parking lot beamed. "I have 17 bags already packed," he said. "Even one that has a lot of first-edition books signed by the author."

It didn't hurt that both alert and still-groggy participants could munch on pastries while Red Cross volunteers handed out coffee and hot chocolate, provided gratis by Safeway and Starbucks.

"It was a good turnout," Roemer said, before he continued to talk about wind directions throughout Lamorinda changing every 24 hours. "We all need to take this seriously. We're all seeing the effects of climate change."

MOFD takes to intersections for annual Fill The Boot fundraiser

By Vera Kochan

Local residents traveling through the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road on May 2 between 9 a.m. and noon were witness to the annual Moraga-Orinda Fire District's fundraiser, Fill The Boot. Approximately six off-duty firefighters from the

town's stations 41 and 42 were in evidence collecting cash donations from drivers, cyclists and pedestrians whenever a red light made it safe to do so.

Fill The Boot began in 1954, when the International Association of Firefighters partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The goal was to raise awareness and funds to ensure effective treatments and



Photos MOFD Captain Jacob Airola

MOFD Engineer Matt Lopez (left) and Firefighter-Paramedic Garrison Feil sweep the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road.

therapy to combat neuromuscular diseases such as spinal muscular atrophy, Pompe disease and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. According to a joint statement, to date, over 300,000 firefighters across the country have raised over \$679 million since the venture's inception. Much of the funding has led to 14 new FDA-approved treatments within the past six years.

"It's not just about finding cures," stated MOFD Captain Jacob Airola. "It's also about the quality of life. We want to make

sure that the kids have a chance to enjoy themselves by going to one of the many MDA Summer Camps nationwide. We also volunteer at the one in Occidental."

Airola and Firefighter-Paramedic Andrew Leach, who is this year's primary organizer, pointed out that "there are state and federal laws that allow firefighters to collect funds at intersections as long as you wear your helmet and

gear. And, in Canada."

MOFD's goal was to collect "between \$4,000 - \$5,000," they stated. "Today's total was \$5,687."

For anyone who missed a chance to Fill The Boot in Moraga, MOFD's next fundraiser will take place in Orinda on May 12 between 9 a.m. and noon at the intersection of Brookwood Road and Camino Pablo. Participating firehouses 43, 44 and 45 are setting a collection goal of \$7,000 - \$8,000.

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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
April 17 - April 30

Alarms	37
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	74
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	11
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	1100 Block Glen Rd.
	900 Block East St.
	80 Block Bacon Ct.
	600 Block Los Palos Dr.
	900 Block Alamor Ct.
	El Nido Ranch Rd./Eb Sr 24

Dui Misd	Eb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
	Police Department
Reckless Driving	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.
Tc - Property Damage	Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
	Moraga Rd./School St.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.
	Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
	Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
	2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity

Fraud False Pretenses	500 Block Antonio Ct.
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
	10 Block Diablo Cir.
	3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.
Panhandling	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
	3300 Block Rossi St.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Veh	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	80 Block Bacon Ct.
Shoplift	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	3900 Block Woodside Ct.
	3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
Disturbance-fight	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music	3300 Block Block S Lucille Ln
Loud Noise	1000 Block Carol Ln
	1000 Block 2Nd St.
Loud Party	3300 Block S Lucille Ln
	1000 Block 2Nd St. (2)
Public Nuisance	Golden Gate Way/1st St.
	1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism	800 Block Rosedale Ave.
	Police Department
	900 Block Moraga Rd.

Other

Elder Abuse	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
K9 Outside Assist Request	California High School, Sra
Trespass	3200 Block Elvia St.
	3400 Block School St.
	1100 Block Cambridge Dr.
Unwanted Guest	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
April 19 - May 2

Alarms	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	20
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	4
Welfare Check	2
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury	Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Accident Property	Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
	100 Block Hazelwood Pl.
	Bollinger Canyon Rd./St Marys Rd.
	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
	300 Block Park St.
Excessive Speed	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (4)
	Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
	Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori
	Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
	Moraga Center
	Moraga Way/School St.
Reckless Driving	100 Block Fernwood Dr.
	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
	Alta Mesa Dr./Paseo Bernal
	St Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	90 Block Corliss Dr.
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Grand Theft From Veh	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Petty Theft	400 Block Woodminster Dr.
	20 Block Hour Fitness
	Police Department
	St Marys College
Tamper With Vehicle	1300 Block Moraga Way
Vehicle Theft	100 Block Goodfellow Dr.
Warrant Arrest	St Marys Rd./Stafford Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music	Hacienda
Loud Noise	100 Block Hardie Dr.
Public Nuisance	Rheem Blvd./St Marys Rd.
Traffic	Vandalism
	Safeway

Other

Mentally Ill Commit	200 Block Sonora Rd.
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ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary
Report April 3 - April 16

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

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	Glorietta Blvd./Rheem Blvd.
Dui Misd	20 Block Bryant Way

Reckless Driving	30 Block Camino Sobrante
	Moraga Way/Meadowlands Ct.
	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
	Miner Rd./Lombardy Ln.
	Camino Pablo
Tc - Property Damage	Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.
Other criminal activity	Counterfeit
	10 Block Meadowlands Ct.
Forgery	100 Block Las Vegas Rd.
	Police Department
Grand Theft	100 Block Rheem Blvd.
	Grand Theft Veh Parts
	10 Block Oak Dr.
Identity Theft	40 Block Ardilla Rd.
	10 Block Tara Rd. (2)
	10 Block Meadowlands Ct.
Petty Theft	Camino Sobrante
	Residential Burglary
	80 Block Sunnyside Ln.
Robbery Armed	10 Block Los Altos Rd.
Vehicle Theft	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Warrant Arrest	10 Block El Corte
Nuisance to the Community	Disturbance-domestic
	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
	Brookside Rd./Moraga Way
Disturbing The Peace	Moraga Way
	Camino Sobrante Ori
Loud Music	20 Block Coffee Berry Ln.
	20 Block Orinda Fields Ln.
	Theater Square
Vandalism	600 Block Tahos Rd.

Other

Mentally Ill Commit	30 Block Oak Dr.
Revocation Of Probation	70 Block Moraga Way
Susp Circ/Sexual	10 Block Martha Rd.
Trespass	Camino Sobrante
Unwanted Guest	Not Available

Letters to the editor

What is building electrification?

“Electrifying everything” and powering our lives with clean electricity is an essential way communities can respond to climate chaos (fires, droughts, poor air quality). In our homes and places of work, substituting natural gas appliances with new, highly-efficient electric alternatives effectively reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves health and safety, and lowers energy costs for residents. Therefore, the city of Lafayette is considering adopting policies to require newly constructed buildings to be built all-electric and to encourage existing building owners to convert their fossil fuel appliances to electric as well. Some of the action items

under consideration include the following: 1) Require all new building construction to be all-electric, with no gas hook ups; 2) Require certain electric appliances and electrical system upgrades during major remodeling of existing buildings; 3) Ensure that our citizens and local business owners are supported as we transition our city to meet its future energy needs, and goals toward resiliency; 4) Require an annual review and feedback process to ensure that our citizens’ needs are addressed, and that our city’s goals are being met; and 5) Require that natural gas lines be capped/decommissioned in existing buildings by 2045.

Please go to <http://love-lafayette.org/ebuildings> to learn more, watch the Environmental Task Force’s recorded Building

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

Electrification webinar (22 minutes). For questions, email planning technician Josh Muller JMuller@lovelafayette.org.

Nancy Hu DDS
Chair of Lafayette’s Environmental Task Force

Vision Zero in Lafayette

The Lafayette City Council has just approved improvements in the neighborhood of three of the local schools regarding traffic safety. This is said to be part of the Vision Zero program. Vision Zero is a series of activities said to improve safety as far as pedestrian and vehicular accidents go. It is not a prescribed program but rather a an amor-

phous series of steps to reduce auto-pedestrian collisions.

One thing is evident, Improvement does not come until the speed is reduced for vehicular traffic. When Lafayette started it had to make a decision about how it was going to manage vehicular traffic. They decided that the best thing was to get the automobiles through town. It has now been 60 years and I think it’s time for the city to say “STOP”. Something must be done to moderate vehicular speed.

In many of the cities where the Vision Zero program has been tried there was not improving safety until the speed limit was reduced. A car going at 30 miles an hour covers 1 mile in 2 minutes. A car going

25 miles an hour takes an extra 24 seconds. Surely the people of our community can afford 24 seconds per mile in order to make it safer for children, for adults, for seniors, and for bicycle riders, etc. It’s time for the city to reduce the killer speed limits within the city of Lafayette. They now have that in their purview. The law has been changed and all it takes is city council action. I truly believe that most of the drivers in Lafayette would be willing to contribute a minute or two a day for the safety of their relatives and other people’s relatives.

Sanford Sherman, M.D.
Lafayette

Sowing the seeds for hope, cooperation at Lafayette Community Garden

... continued from Page A1

While giving a tour, Thomas shows off not just vegetable plants, but also elements inspired by cultures and countries around the world, a children’s picnic area, a chicken coop and a nature trail behind the garden that leads to a handmade teepee. While walking, Thomas explains that neighbors in the area have provided artifacts leftover from the Miwok tribe, while acknowledging that we’re walking on Miwok grounds. “We’ve learned that Lafayette was one of the densest populated Miwok areas in the whole country because of the climate and the richness of the ecosystem,” Thomas explains while pointing out the Lafayette Creek. “Native Americans were (believed to be) here until the late 1700s when they were sent to the missions and by the early 1800s most of them were gone. We believe thousands were here.”

While a formal land acknowledgment hasn’t formally

been executed, Thomas says that’s something that’ll be explored in the future with the input of a Tribe and a potential collaboration with schools. “We hope to work with public schools in the future to develop a curriculum. We want to be sure to include Miwok voices in that process.”

Thomas also proudly shows off the more than 120 name tags that belong to 85 active families in the community who are members of the garden. “We like people to get to know each other while they’re here,” Thomas says. Memberships cost \$100 per individual per year and \$150 per family, however no one is turned away for inability to pay. “Anyone who is a working member of the garden can come and take produce at the end of a working day or they can come in anytime if they’d like peace and tranquility,” Thomas says. “Or they can take home harvest that’s in our harvest bin at any time.”

Part of what prompted Thomas to help bring this gar-

den to life in Lafayette was the magic she experienced while teaching environmental science at Acalanes High School. “It really brought me back to the earth. I established an outdoor classroom right alongside Lafayette Creek. Lafayette is full of rich ecosystems,” Thomas explains. “What I get is not just an amazing sense of community and groundedness but also the knowledge that I’m on a creek that’s very much like it has been for hundreds of years here in Lafayette,” Thomas says.

“Now more than ever, in our culture, at this moment in history, we need grounding to get us back to values that are important to nourish our souls, to nourish our planet, to remind ourselves of the natural rhythms that are so healing and so important,” Thomas says. “One has a better enthusiasm about helping the environment if one has had exposure. One of our missions is to give that exposure to the community. We want this to be a place where people in the com-

munity can be reminded how important it is to live simply, to be attached to those (natural) things that are important.”

For those who question how big of an impact a com-

munity garden has on creating a healthy planet or if it’s worth the effort, Thomas says it absolutely is. “I think it’s important for everyone to do what they can and maintain hope.”

What are Lamorinda Schools Teaching About DEI? Is CRT part of it? What is SEL?

Find out on Saturday May 14, 2022: 2-5 PM VIP \$100; 3-5 PM Regular \$15; 3-5 PM Livestream \$5.

Hear Black political scientist and attorney Wilfred Reilly, author of “Taboo: 10 Facts You Can’t Talk About” discuss the gap between the anti-racist narrative and reality. Also US immigrant Neil Mammen, co-founder of Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) and Lisa Logan on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in our schools.

For tickets, QR Code below or search the event title at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Location in Lafayette will be emailed prior to event.

ORINDA’S FIRE AND AMBULANCE RESPONSE IS AT RISK

A Message from your Moraga-Orinda Firefighters

Since 2013, Moraga-Orinda Fire District’s understaffing means there are only enough firefighter/paramedics at your station to put one unit on the street at a time.

- **When the ambulance is in service, there’s nobody on the fire engine**
- **When there’s a fire, nobody’s on the ambulance**

Nobody can be in two places at once. We need to restore full staffing for both fire and ambulance response in Orinda.

WHAT DOES UNDERSTAFFING MEAN FOR YOU?

- **Delayed fire response:** Recently, an Orinda home fire burned for nearly 10 minutes because there was nobody to staff the engine. This is unacceptable.
- **Delayed ambulance response:** Orinda has a large senior population. You depend on fast, professional ambulance response. If the engine is fighting a fire, you are left at risk.
- **Unequal service:** The MOFD station in Moraga is fully staffed, both the engine and the ambulance. Why doesn’t Orinda have the same service?

Orinda deserves the same service as Moraga’s residents. We need to restore full fire and ambulance staffing NOW!



STAND WITH YOUR FIREFIGHTERS

Join your firefighters **May 18th at 7PM** at the **MOFD Board Meeting via Zoom** ([link will be available at MOFD.org](https://www.mofd.org)) or write your MOFD board member to send them a message:

YES ... to restoring full fire and ambulance staffing for Orinda now!

YES ...to fast, effective, professional fire and EMS service for all of our residents

YES ...to putting public safety first

GET THE FACTS AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ... at facebook.com/MOFDFirefighters





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2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year, Karen Reed, honored at banquet

... continued don Page A10

Her family was happy about her achievement, and she noted that her sister and father, who is now 105-years old and retired in Florida, were also volunteers in their communities.

Moraga isn't the first municipality to benefit from Reed's endeavors. She was an Explorer Scout leader in the 1970s with IBM in Omaha. Teaching high school-aged Scouts the use of computers and programs in Basic allowed them to enter computer competitions – something she continued as she moved to different IBM locations.

The Reed family moved to Moraga in 1987, when her kids were toddlers. They grew up to attend Camino Pablo Elementary School, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and Campolindo High School. "We moved to the Bay Area from New Jersey for job promotions for my husband and me," Reed recalled. "We chose Moraga for its great schools and for its sense of community. The town relies on its volunteers to support community projects through fundraising and

hands-on efforts."

Reed's favorite volunteer project is the annual Pear Harvest. She said, "I hope that the harvest will continue as long as the old trees produce pears. The pear orchards are a living legacy for Moraga."

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was 2019's recipient Fred Weil who noted that Reed always credits others for their volunteer work, "that's how humble you are."

Other tributes came from Chamber President Gian Panetta who mentioned that "someone like Karen brings so many good qualities to Moraga."

SMC's Ryan Thompson stated, "Just about every one of your contributions has helped my family. The summer concerts are like experiencing Woodstock in our own backyard." He admitted to buying way too many pear pies and boxes of See's Candy.

Kiwanis President Leslie Engler explained that Reed's "quiet work behind the scenes made the quality of life enjoyable in Moraga. I can testify that there's no job too tough or too nasty for Karen to take on."

"Karen Reed epitomizes

selfless service above all else," praised Moraga Mayor Renata Sos. "She is unflinchingly modest and humble; without any expectation of applause or recognition."

Representatives from County Supervisor Candace Andersen, Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier also sang Reed's praises and presented plaques.

"You don't know Karen until you've worked side-by-side with Karen in Kiwanis," complimented good friend, Tim Freeman. "Her greatest contribution has been her leadership."

Reed wrapped up the evening with her own personal reflections, "The town of Moraga is a very special place. It would be nice if we could give out awards every day, because that's how many volunteers there are in town."

Unfortunately for Moraga, Reed is retiring to South Carolina this month to live near her sister. Being named 2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year is a coincidental, yet apropos, send-off.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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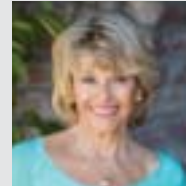
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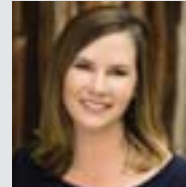
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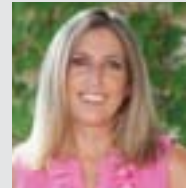
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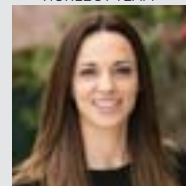
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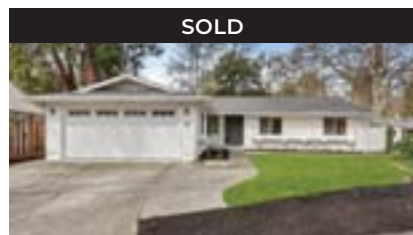
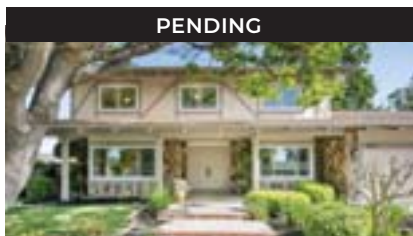


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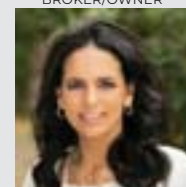
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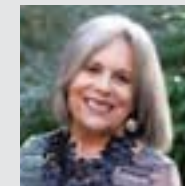
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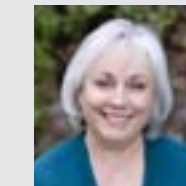
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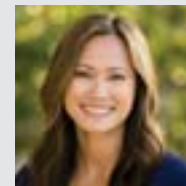
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

GCCP's 'A Cultural Crossroads' features acclaimed flutist R. Carlos Nakai



Alexander String Quartet

Photos provided

By Lou Fancher

Past, present and future unite in Gold Coast Chamber Players upcoming performance of "A Cultural Crossroads, Black and Indigenous influences on Dvorak in America." Led by Artistic Director Pamela Freund-Striplen, the May 14 concert in Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center offers broad-ranging works that sweep across genres to include pieces by Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, traditional African American spirituals, repertoire from African American pianist and composer Florence Price arranged for soprano and strings, and four selections arranged or composed and performed by Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai.

In addition to Freund-Striplen and Nakai, special guest musicians include soprano Michele Kennedy and members of the Alexander String Quartet: Zakarias Grafilo (violin), Fred Lifitz (violin), David Samuel (viola), and Sandy Walsh-Wilson (cello). A pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m. with Nakai and ethnomusicologist John-Carlos Perea (Ph.D.) introduces concepts central to Native American and Indigenous music, jazz, improvisation, and the impact of those art forms on Western composers and music history.

Freund-Striplen says her conversations about the project with Nakai took fascinating and unexpected turns. "When we were speaking about one of his songs, the conversation took a detour to 'blood memory.' He told me that he had always wondered why he was so fascinated with whistles and bagpipes and then discovered that he was actually part Scottish. Most of us are such amazing mixes of cultures and ethnicities."

Nakai is of Navajo-Ute heritage and highly regarded worldwide as a premier flutist. His 50-plus albums have sold

more than 4.3 million copies during a career that has taken him as a solo artist to stages throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. Cross-genre collaborations have led to projects with composers James DeMars and Phillip Glass, Tibetan flutist and singer Nawang Khechog, the Wilde Boys Trio (with guitarist William Eaton and percussionist Will Clipman), Israeli-born cellist Udi Bar-David, and others.

"(Nakai) is open and forward-thinking," says Freund-Striplen. "He remembers but doesn't dwell on the past. One of his main interests is getting native flute music into the mainstream concert hall."

About Oakland-based Kennedy, Freund-Striplen is equally enthusiastic: "I noticed a similarity between her and R. Carlos Nakai in that neither are very interested in berating people or society for the wrongs that have happened throughout history. They both want to move forward with a spirit of collaboration and I find this very inspiring and essential to my concept for Cultural Crossroads. Michele and I have spoken for many hours about race in America. She is deeply reflective and understands how to speak thoughtfully about difficult subjects. Her choice of spirituals for the program are uplifting and she sings them with a special radiance. She is simply a joy to be around."

The three spirituals on the program are "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "By an' By," and "My Lord, What a Morning."

Two works by Price, "Night" and "Sunset," have been arranged for voice and strings by ASQ's first violinist, Grafilo. For people unfamiliar with Price's legacy, she was the first Black female composer to have a work performed by a major American orchestra when her Symphony No. 1 in E minor had its world premier with the



Michele Kennedy/soprano



Pamela Freund-Striplen/viola



R. Carlos Nakai/Native flute

Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Having recently completed a Dvořák chamber music series at SF Performances, Freund-Striplen says the Alexander String Quartet has been "immersed in this special music all season" and contribute an adventurous, collaborative mindset essential to their participation. "Zak's beautiful arrangement of Mahler songs cycles means that this sort of (adaptation) is definitely in his wheelhouse! The warmth of the soundscape created by string accompaniment supports the voice in a nuanced, vocal way."

Turning the focus to Dvořák and the interwoven techniques, textures, rhythms, timbres and melodic motifs that demonstrate the composer drawing on Black and Indigenous music, Freund-Striplen says the opening of Dvořák's string quartet "American No. 3, Op. 97," sounds like "a reconfiguring of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,' the first spiritual that Dvorak ever heard." The simple melody is therefore familiar, even to people who've never before heard the work. "There are drumming effects in the quintet that are evocative of Native culture. Rhythmic pizzicato sections really sound like something you might hear in a ceremony, and the second movement even starts with a solo drum beat in the second Viola, all on an F-sharp," she adds.

The pentatonic scale often used in Czech folk music is also common to Native and African American traditional music, another connection between Dvořák and American music.

"Goin' Home," the third Dvořák composition arranged for soprano, strings and Native

flute features a melody that comes from an English horn solo in the composer's "New World Symphony."

"For a long time, people thought that Dvorak had borrowed a spiritual and inserted it into his famous Symphony, but actually, it is original music inspired by the spirituals that he heard on a regular basis from

(African American composer) Harry Burleigh," Freund-Striplen says. "What I find really interesting is that a student of Dvořák's excerpted the melody, created words to it, and then it did become in fact a spiritual. It's the perfect way to end the program."

To purchase tickets, visit gccpmusic.com.



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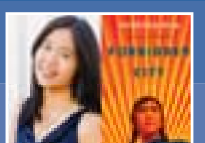
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Saturday, May 14 at 2:00



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Debbie Chinn *Dancing in Their Light*
Saturday, June 4 at 2:00

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'You Will Remember Me' - A touching reflection on transition and memories



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

The International Film Showcase starting May 13 at the Orinda Theatre features the Canadian film from Québec, "You Will Remember Me," that poetically, yet realistically addresses the loss of memory and self caused by Alzheimer's disease. The movie is not grim or sad; it has humor and tenderness. It gently uncovers the traces left in the main character's soul by those he has loved as he slowly loses ground with

reality.

Edouard, a passionate and brilliant retired history professor, is starting to lose his immediate memory. He used to be asked to talk on different media about political and social affairs, he used to give lessons and be in control, but he is now aware of what the disease is doing to his brain. He does not want to give up, he feels that his new state of being can still allow him to share important lessons about life and what really matters. ... continued on Page B3



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This light and airy dessert highlights seasonal fruit freshness



Photo Susie Iventosch

Individual Pavlovas with Lemon Curd and Raspberry Coulis.

By Susie Iventosch

The first time I ever had pavlova was when a friend and her Australian husband brought it to a dinner party at our house for dessert. I was blown away by how beautiful it was, with a fluffy cloud-like meringue shell, a layer of custard, and then filled to the brim with fresh fruit. The meringue is crunchy on the outside and fluffy, like marshmallows, on the inside, and the seasonal fruit is so colorful and beautiful. You can make a great big centerpiece pavlova, or individual pavlovas like those in this recipe. In either case, this is a delicious gluten-free dessert.

Pavlovas are usually made with whipped cream in the center, but we thought lemon curd would be delicious instead of whipped cream and we

loved the way it turned out. The lemon was such a lovely complement to both the meringue and the fresh fruit. Then, we drizzled a little raspberry coulis over the top of the fruit. Yum!

I like to use a pastry bag and a large open star tip to make my meringue shells, but you can easily just spoon the fluffy meringue onto the parchment paper before baking. Just be sure to make taller edges and a lower inside base, so you can fill it with all of the goodies. (Use a spoon to make the indentation.) Another fun idea is to add dark chocolate chips to your meringue before baking it.

Whether you make a grand statement of one large pavlova, or individual pavlovas, your guests will be wowed by the beauty of this light and airy dessert!

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>



Individual Pavlovas with Lemon Curd and Raspberry Coulis

(Makes 10 individual 3-inch Pavlovas)

1 recipe meringue
1 recipe lemon curd
1 recipe raspberry coulis
4 cups mixed berries (raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, or your choice of fruit)
10 small mint leaves for garnish

Meringue

INGREDIENTS

1 cup pasteurized egg whites, or 8 fresh egg whites
1 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar
4 tablespoons granulated sugar

DIRECTIONS

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Preheat the oven to 250 F.

Place the egg whites in the bowl of your mixer, along with the cream of tartar. Beat until frothy and foamy. Slowly add sugar, and continue to beat on high until you have very stiff, shiny peaks. You should be able to hold a spoon of the egg whites upside down and they will stay for a minute or so.

Spoon (or pipe) meringue onto the prepared baking sheet in individual servings about 3-4 inches in diameter. Using the back of the spoon, make an indentation in the center to make a bowl shape. If you are using the pastry bag method, make about three or four layers of swirls to form a shell and then pipe more meringue into the bottom of the shell. (See photo above.)

Bake at 250 for 30 minutes and then turn oven off and leave them in for another 30 minutes. Don't open the oven door! The meringue will become crunchy on the outside, but remain soft on the inside. I also love it when the meringue is crunchy throughout as another option. To make them crunchy all the way through, bake them for 45 minutes before turning off the oven and then leave them in the oven for another 30-45 minutes. Serve right away or store in an airtight container in a cool spot for up to a week or so before using. (If you make one large pavlova, increase baking time by about 10 minutes.)

To Assemble Pavlovas

When completely cool, spoon lemon curd in the center of the meringue shells and arrange the fruit on top of that. If you like the idea of the raspberry coulis, drizzle just a little bit over the fruit before serving. Tuck a small mint leaf here and there among all of the fruit as a garnish.

Lemon Curd

INGREDIENTS

2 whole large eggs
2 large egg yolks
2/3 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon lemon zest
1 tablespoon unsalted butter

DIRECTIONS

Mix eggs, egg yolks, sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice in a small sauce pan. Whisk to blend.

Cook over low heat, stirring often with a wooden spoon or whisk, until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon. This takes anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes, depending upon the heat. Stir in butter until blended.

Remove the curd from the heat and if you have any lumps, (which you probably will), strain through a mesh strainer to remove them. Place plastic wrap directly on top of the strained curd to prevent a skin from forming, and cool to room temperature. Once it reaches room temp, refrigerate until completely chilled, at least 30 minutes. The curd will store for up to a week in the refrigerator at this stage. Just be sure to keep it in an airtight container.

Raspberry Coulis

INGREDIENTS

12 oz. fresh raspberries
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons water

DIRECTIONS

Make a simple syrup by whisking the sugar and water together in a small pot. Bring the mixture to a boil and continue on a low boil until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture is slightly thickened. Remove from heat.

Meanwhile, place rinsed raspberries into the food processor. Pour warm simple syrup over the berries and process until smooth.

Strain the mixture through a mesh sieve to eliminate the seeds, pressing down through the sieve with the back of a spoon. Use a rubber spatula to scrape the strained sauce into the receptacle bowl. The mixture will cool down through the straining process. Pour into a container with a tight-fitting lid and set aside if using soon, or refrigerate until ready to serve. This coulis is delicious on ice cream or frozen yogurt, too!



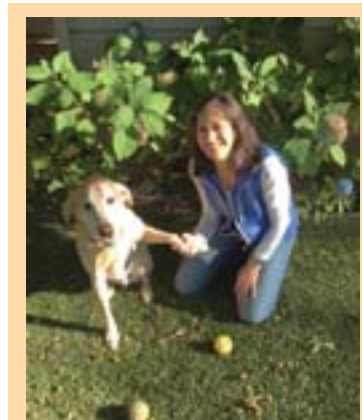
Lily toxicity in cats



Photo provided

By Mona Miller, DVM

One of the most severe, and saddest, toxicities to cats comes in the form of beautiful flowers – the plants in the Liliaceae and Hemerocallis lily genus group. The Liliaceae genus includes imported or cultivated flowers such as Easter Lily, as well as



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

native species in California such as Bolander's, Panther, Shasta and redwood lily. The Hemerocallis genus also includes exotics species such as Tiger and Day lily.

These flowers are often included in florist bouquets and kept inside the home, where curious cats might sniff at the fragrant flowers or chew on long leaves. Secondary methods of exposure can occur when a cat self-grooms the heavy pollen off their fur, or drinks from the vase water. Unfortunately, all parts of these plants are very toxic to cats, with the flowers being the most toxic, causing kidney failure within a matter of hours. As much as we know about lily toxicity in cats, we still do not know the actual chemical principle that causes kidney failure. If a cat ingests a few flowers, kidney failure and death can occur within hours. More commonly, a smaller amount of the plant is ingested, resulting in sudden or acute kidney failure within 12-36 hours and if untreated, death occurs within 3-5 days.

Signs of kidney toxicity include vomiting, depression and lethargy, and decreased or no appetite – and often these occur

within 2 hours of exposure. Generally, the signs might then resolve for several hours to 1 day, giving a sense of false security that all is well. However, the damage to the kidneys continues to progress and full-blown severe failure results in 12-36 hours after exposure. These symptoms include not eating, initially urinating and drinking in large volumes that progresses to not urinating or drinking at all, muscle tremors and weakness or wobbliness, and even seizures.

Treatment can be successful, and the key to success is early and very aggressive action – in the form of diagnostic tests and supportive care. Obviously, there's a head-start to the process if you know that your cat has been exposed to lilies – and exposure means that there are lilies present in the house (or on the property in the case of outdoor cats). Tests include blood and urine panels to evaluate kidney and secondary electrolyte status. Treatment includes intravenous fluids, anti-nausea medication, anti-seizure medication if appropriate, and gut protective medications. If known ingestion has occurred and it is early enough, the emergency veterinary team might make the cat vomit, to reduce absorption of the toxin. These cats need to stay in a 24-hour veterinary hospital for continued treatment and monitoring, and this might be for 2-5 days.

The prognosis for this toxicity is very poor, with death occurring in 50-100% of cases if treatment is not sought early enough. However, one veterinary study showed a 90% survival in cats for whom aggressive treatment was started within 18 hours of exposure.

Not all "lilies" cause this

level of kidney failure. Other plants known as lilies that are not members of Liliaceae or Hemerocallis can also cause toxicity but in a different way – these include Peace and Calla lilies, and Lily of the Valley.

So, as a general rule, lilies and lily-like plants do not mix well with cats. Dogs might get an upset stomach from eating leaves or flowers, but do not have the same severe reaction in their kidneys as cats – an-

other example of the mantra "cats are NOT small dogs"! Cat owners should not bring these flowers inside the house. If you are buying flowers for another, you might ask the florist to remove these if your friend is a cat-owner. If you have a regular florist, you might mention that it would be valuable information for customers to know about this horrible toxicity to our feline friends.

SMC transformed for Campo's high school junior prom



Photo provided

Campolindo students enjoy prom night under the stars at Saint Mary's College.

Submitted by Maura Wolf

Campolindo High School hosted its Junior Prom on Friday, April 23 under the stars at Saint Mary's College. Parents transformed the outdoor space creating a dance floor, casino room and lounge for a wonderful night of celebration. Nearby Carondelet High School did the same for their junior and senior events this year.

"We are so glad we could

partner with Campolindo and Carondelet to host their events here on campus," said Saint Mary's Vice President for Facilities Services Sarah Speron. "Our team, led by Associate Director of Meeting Events and Conference Services Jennifer Weiland, works extremely hard to provide a great experience for everyone who hosts an event on campus and I think the success of these events reflects their efforts. We look forward to partnering with the community on future events."

Here is the ASPCA link to dangerous lily plants for cats:

<https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/how-spot-which-lilies-are-dangerous-cats-plan-treatment>

Wagner Ranch Elementary 4th-graders head to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals



Photo Scott Campbell

Team with costumes and set at state competition, from left: Connor Volk, Anya Parikh, coach Leslie Volk, Ryan Gibson, Drew Alameda, Elise Nguyen, coach Maggie Wang, Stella Schmitt, Gianna Campbell.

Submitted by Jill Gibson

May we serve you a bacon pie? Sounds delicious and creative, as seven Wagner Ranch fourth-graders will be serving bacon pies in the jungle at the May 2022 World Finals Odyssey of the Mind competition in Ames, Iowa. What do pies have to do with the jungle? As one of two

parts in the competition, the team must solve a long-term problem with the following requirements: create an environment with a climate change threat (bacon pies) and an unsuspecting hero who is a solution to the threat. Two environmental scene changes are required and when the hero eliminates the threat, the scene returns to its natural state. The

team met for more than 80 group work hours (560 hours collectively) over five months to complete this production.

The creative process includes brainstorming and teamwork to build the various pieces of an environmental scene. They hand painted boxes to built the jungle. As animals are an essential part of a jungle, the team created monkeys, a polar bear, penguins, a flamingo, a squirrel, and a worm, some with hand-made 3-D paper masks. They sing! While flamingos, penguins, and polar bears are not usual in the jungle, it's all part of the creative process and to meet additional requirements of at least two animal characters, original songs, and the use of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda.

Drew Alameda, Gianna Campbell, Ryan Gibson, Elise Nguyen, Anya Parikh, Stella Schmitt, and Connor Volk, also worked together in the second part of the competition, spontaneous problem-solving. Based on scores from both parts, the team placed first in their division at San Francisco Bay Regional, and third in the

Northern California state competition, where the top three in the state continue to the World Finals. The team's coaches, Leslie Volk (Wagner's Innovation Lab leader) and Maggie Wang said, "There is a unique chemistry among this team and we coach them to bring their individual strengths to collectively make the teamwork creative, think outside the box, and have fun!" This helps to foster the pace during the competitive elements of problem solving.

When asked what has been interesting about the process, Connor Volk said, "I like how our Odyssey team works together to compromise

on a solution that is both funny and creative." The final production will yield a scientific chemical transformation of baking soda, kept secret until the team competes May 26-28.

To get the students to the World Finals from California to Iowa, the team needs to raise approximately \$18,000 to register, ship all life-size, student-built props, and cover transportation and housing. To donate, visit www.oneorinda.org/donate-community under Community Giving, and note in the comments, "Donation for Wagner Ranch Odyssey of the Mind."

Saklan students help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Maria



Saklan students help rebuild homes in Puerto Rico. Photos provided



Submitted by Emily Williamson

At the end of March, The Saklan School's eighth-grade students traveled to Puerto Rico for a meaningful service-learning experience. The task at hand for the students while on the trip was to help rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Maria. To say the students' experience was purposeful would be an understatement.

After arriving in San Juan and taking a day to tour and acclimate to Puerto Rico, the Saklan students started their home-building work. While Hurricane Maria was over four years ago, there is still much evidence of its destruction. Through the bus windows, the students saw the lush jungle

taking over cars that had been swept up and dumped into ditches, houses without roofs, foundations where there used to be homes. And also new construction.

Over three days, the Saklan students added to the new construction. They worked side-by-side with local community members prepping a worksite, using rebar to create reinforced walls and support beams, and then mixing and pouring 10 tons of concrete in two days, under the hot Caribbean sun.

During this hard work, the students bonded with the families they were helping, interviewed community members about the impact of the hurricane and how it changed their lives, learned more about the Puerto Rican people and culture, and gained a tremendous sense of purpose.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Puerto Rico, and the opportunity to help out families in need. When asked about the trip, students Ryan and Anessa shared that "Puerto Rico was a blast that we will never forget." To learn more about The Saklan School visit www.saklan.org.

'You Will Remember Me'

... continued from Page B1

No one in his family is willing or able to take care of a man who is becoming increasingly a danger to himself, so his care is given to young Bérénice, the daughter of his daughter's new partner. The meeting of these two people who have so little in common open new doors for the two of them and Édouard will have to face again a part of his past that he had decided to bury forever.

In an interview for the Québécois media lesartsze.com, film director Eric Tessier said that his purpose was to create a bright movie even if the topic was rather dark. Even if a per-

son is in fact gradually disappearing, Tessier wanted to show a way toward light, as those surrounding the sick person start accepting his fate.

But as Édouard indeed progresses toward a kind of peace, alongside Bérénice, other members of the family just cannot cope. The film shows without any judgment that taking care of someone with Alzheimer's might not be for everyone and that recognizing the impossibility to care for a sick member of the family should not be a source of shame or guilt.

Rémy Girard who plays Édouard deserves accolades for creating a character at times arrogant and insufferable and at

times vulnerable and touching. The actor said that while playing Édouard, he remembered his own father who suffered from that same disease and how sometimes his gaze seemed to be lost in the void, as if the whole person was gone.

The film received two Canadian Screen Award nominations at the 10th Canadian Screen Awards in 2022, for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Cinematography. "You Will Remember Me" will be presented in Orinda as a USA Premiere starting May 13 for at least one week. Tickets, dates and times can be found on the International Film Showcase website at: www.internationalshowcase.org

Happy Mother's Day to my mom, Renata Sos

When I was little, I thought you were special because you were my mom; I didn't yet understand who you were beyond that.

At some point, I recognized that your life doesn't orbit around mine. I began to see you as a person, not only as my mother. I was scared when I first realized that no ultimate authority guaranteed your love and care to me. I worried that I would lose my exclusive claim to you. Raising me took so much thankless work - why would anyone in her right mind put up with that while also working, serving her community, and caring for other family members, friends and strangers?

I know what your "why" is, Mama. You chose me and you choose me for the same reason you choose to be kind to everyone in your life. The same reason you choose to help and guide the community. The same reason you prioritize your friends and family no matter how busy you are.

Nothing external compels any of your choices. Every day, you embody kindness because of your own compassion and strength. You know that how you treat people is the only thing you can't take back.

When I recognized this, you became more special to me than ever. My love, which I once experienced as a desire to be the center of your world, has morphed into a sea of gratitude for the exceptional person you have always been.

Happy Mother's Day.
Love, Jamie

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Not to be missed

ART

Art show at Orinda Books. May features the paintings of Dee Tivenan and Margie Caldwell-Gill who are both Orinda moms and abstract expressionist painters with different styles. Dee creates art intuitively by translating the moment through color and form, which allows her connection to the moment to flow and reveal the boundlessness of creativity. Margie uses traditional and non-traditional tools to explore and interact with the materials on the canvas, moving between intuition and logic to discover order from the chaos of creation. Visit the Artist of the Month at www.orindabooks.com. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

The Public Art Committee is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of local artist David Lew's works entitled Freedom of Abstraction at the Library Public Art Gallery in the lobby of the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, (3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd) through Sept. 14. The show includes seven vibrant abstract works, including one that references Ukraine's fight for freedom. Lew's work was recently shown at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek. Visit the Virtual Gallery to see the works online. The Library Public Art Gallery is open to the public during public events occurring in the Community Hall. Additionally, it may be open at other times for public or private use by reservation through the Lafayette

Library and Learning Center Foundation. For more specific information, please email rosen@lovelafayette.org.

Valley Art Gallery presents "SLOPES of Diablo" Juried Exhibition May 14 – June 25. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311 or email us at valleyartgallery@gmail.com

Music

Lafayette Rotary Club's 27th Annual Concert at the Res. Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Lafayette Reservoir Stage. Featuring local bands including Acalanes High School, Stanley Middle School, and the Rossmoor Big Band. Also included young dancers and singers from the Lafayette Town Hall Education. Along with the great live entertainment, there will be food and drinks for purchase. Though the stage is just a short walk from the parking area, golf cart transportation to and from the stage will be provided for those who may desire it. Public restrooms and a children's play area are nearby. Parking is available for \$8 all day or at metered parking. All proceeds will directly support the local musical programs featured and Rotary projects.

The Diablo Women's Chorale, one of the oldest community choruses in the Bay Area, is performing again the concert "Songs from the Silver Screen" at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek. Order online tickets at:

DiabloWomensChorale.org or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Saint Mary's Jazz Band will host a pair of performances. The first comes May 11 at 1:15 p.m. in Ferroggiaro Quad when the Jazz Band featuring SMC Jazz Singers will host a free performance. On May 15 at 7 p.m., the Jazz Band featuring SMC Jazz Faculty will perform inside LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College, Moraga.

On May 12 and 14, SMC Performing Arts will host its Choir Concert featuring Glee, Chamber Singers and Jazz Singers. The concert is titled "Cargando tu Corazón" (I Carry Your Heart With Me) and will be held in the Saint Mary's Chapel. The May 14 performance includes only the touring choir and contributions received for these performances will support the Choir's tour to Puerto Rico later this month. www.stmarys-ca.edu/performing-arts/box-office.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert "Seriously Mozart," elegant-dramatic-playful will be on Saturday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. Pre-concert interactive experience at 7 p.m. at Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning June 7. TICKETS \$15-45; Online: www.gccpmusic.com, by phone: (925) 283-3728

Cantare of Oakland presents: The 100-voice adult Chorale and Nova youth singers, directed by David Morales and Julie Haydon,

will perform 14 songs by American composers including Daniel Elder, Hall Johnson, Michael Jackson, Burton Lane, and more. The songs address the spiritual attributes of nature, the challenges accompanying those with dementia, the joys of life and of love, and a call to courageously stand up to make a change in our world. Saturday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. www.cantareconvivo.org, by phone at (510) 836-0789, or at the door. General admission is \$30; Seniors, \$25; Students, \$10.

St. Paul's Concert Series presents Pianists Clara and Marie Becker in a 4-hand Duo Performance live from St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. This live performance will be broadcast online, and we invite you to attend in-person also (as permitted at the time of the performance). To register for tickets and receive the live link, reserve a seat in-person, or to confirm in-person attendance status, visit www.stpaulswc.org/concert-series.

Literature

Award-winning author and Orinda resident Vanessa Hua will discuss her latest novel, "Forbidden City" at 2 p.m. May 14 at Orinda Books. Set in 1960s China, the novel follows Mei, a teenaged revolutionary whose escape from the countryside leads her into the arms of Chairman Mao Zedong and growing disillusionment. RSVP by phone (925) 254-7606 or email info@orindabooks.com.

Not to be missed

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center 24th Annual Art and Writing Challenge for students in grades 6-12 of Contra Costa County is open for submissions. Deadline for all submissions: June 1 at midnight. Writing submissions should not exceed 1,500 words. 2022 Theme: Visions of Peace. Submit at www.ourpeacecenter.org

Other

Green Sofa Cinema Series and Sustainable Contra Costa present "The Game Changers," a film that explores the health and performance impacts of a plant-based diet. Watch the film free on YouTube or Netflix, then join us for a Zoom discussion event on May 18 from 7 to 8 p.m. with speaker, Dr. Josh Cullimore, MD, a specialist in preventative medicine for a talk on health and nutrition. Register at <https://sustainablecoco.org/calendar> for the event.

TV Pop Con presents Krofft Kon is the first ever con dedicated to the talents of Sid & Marty Krofft. This will be a '70s kids dream! Come meet your favorite stars that you watched each Saturday morning while eating a bowl of cereal from your TV tray. (Yes, cereal will be served). The day will include episodes, Q&As, lectures, costume contest, trivia games and allow you to meet the stars from your favorite Krofft shows. The Pufnstuf movie (1970) will be shown at the end of the evening to close out this fun-filled day of nostalgia and fond memories. Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Sq, Orinda. May 21 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$25 for all day or \$30 at the door. www.eventbrite.com/e/krofft-kon-tickets-278304134157

Ecology Center presents Berkeley Farmers' Market Salsa Festival on Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Martin Luther King Jr Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Cost: Free For more info see <https://ecologycenter.org/events/farmers-market-salsa-festival/> or call (925) 421-9574 or email cynthia@ecologycenter.org.

Diablo Ballet will present Coppélia, May 20 – 21 at the Leshner Center for the Arts. This full-length ballet, accompanied by the Diablo Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Matilda Hofman with feature newly created costumes by Amanda Farris and Christopher Dunn. Single tickets (\$25 - \$52) with senior and youth pricing available. Virtual option, which will be a recording of the live performance, streaming May 27 – June 5 and available for viewing at any time during this timeframe. Virtual tickets are on sale now for \$37 per household. Call (925) 943-7469 or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

The Forum presents "Mother+Peace" on Saturday, May 14, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at The Berkeley School, 1310 University Avenue, Berkeley. "Mother+Peace" explores healing an individual's relationship with the land by facing the tensions between parental expectations and personal identity. Cost: Pay-What-You-Can. www.facebook.com/events/2817572248389483 or email team@theforumcollective.com.


Memorial Day Vigil on Monday, May 30 at 5 p.m. The vigil will take place at the Lafayette Hillside Memorial, across from BART in Lafayette. Thoughts will be focused on U.S. soldiers who have served on behalf of our country as well as other casualties of war, including those in Ukraine and other parts of the world experiencing conflict. It will include short speeches, music and reflection. www.lafayettehillside.com

Garden

Mark your calendars for June 5 to celebrate "Welcome to the Garden" at Rancho Laguna Park, 2101 Camino Pablo. The two-year effort to establish the Monarch Habitat and Demonstration Garden will culminate into a family-centered day of fun—beginning at noon—replete with ribbon-cutting, parade, food, games, docent tour. Milkweed and other pollinator-supportive wildflower seeds will be available. The Garden is now beginning to bloom and butterflies have been spotted. www.moragagardenclub.com

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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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.



Creative writing contest winners announced



Regan Stambaugh Abby Wallach

Lilly Thies

Kylie Wang

Photos provided

Submitted by Angeni Lieben and Samantha Lee

The Campolindo Poetry And Creative Writing (PAC) Club's creative writing contest received 39 entries and the judges had a wonderful time reading them and picking three winners and three runners-up in the categories. The PAC also hosted an open mic April 12 where the contest winners and club members excitedly shared their work.

And the winners are: Campolindo senior Regan Stambaugh (Long Prose Runner-up); Miramonte senior Abby Wallach (Poetry Winner); Campolindo senior Lilly Thies (Poetry runner-up); Lela Tolajian (Long Prose winner); Campolindo sophomore Kylie Wang (Short prose winner); and Miramonte freshman Jessy Wallach (Short prose

Runner-up).

In her poetry winning entry, "Canyonlands," Abby Wallach writes: "... to fix a horizon in your understanding is to halt the uneven footsteps of progress. to say | i have reached where i want to go is to say | i do not want to go any farther which is to say | i will go no farther."

Wallach has loved stories for as long as she can remember. "Everyone should have an outlet for their thoughts, feelings, and imagination," she says, "and that's what poetry has become for me."



Jessy Wallach

LPIE honors two dynamic individuals with new award



Myrna Kimmelman and Tom Mulvaney

Photo provided

Submitted by Danielle Gallagher

The Lafayette Partners in Education board of directors, at a special fundraising gala held April 23 in San Francisco, announced the creation of the Tom Mulvaney Legacy Award as a way in which to honor those individuals, families, or businesses who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the LPIE mission. The award's first recipient is Myrna Kimmelman.

Mulvaney, the award's namesake, "made significant contributions to our school community through his time, actions, talents, and dedication," according to LPIE. "He is the longest serving member on our LPIE board going on 16 years, and has served on every committee that LPIE has or has had in the past. Since retiring from a successful career in business, Tom has also served as a board member of the Acalanes Union High School District for eight years, chaired or co-chaired six successful parcel tax and bond

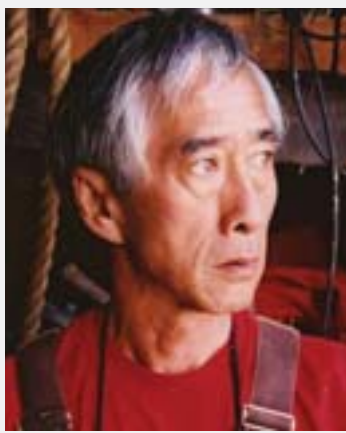
campaigns, and has generously given his time, treasure and talent to our schools. Tom is a doer who believes that our schools are the fundamental cornerstone of our great community, and works tirelessly to ensure an exceptional education for generations to come."

Kimmelman was named Executive Director in 1999, first as part time, and eventually as the foundation's only full-time employee. According to LPIE, in her 21 years of service, Kimmelman managed the foundation while it went from raising \$400,000 dollars per year to raising \$4.2 million dollars per year. "She oversaw the foundation's name change to Lafayette Partners in Education in 2010 as well as its increased responsibility to raise funds for our schools. She retired in 2020 but only after leaving a remarkable legacy. During her 21 years, she worked with thousands of volunteers and instructors, and 19 board presidents, while serving as the heart and soul of the organization."

In Memory

Chester Jung

1943-2022



Chester Jung died of multiple organ failure on March 28, 2022, at the age of 78, in Portland, Oregon, surrounded by his family. He was born in Honolulu in 1943 to Millie and Rufus Jung, and moved to San Francisco with his family at the age of 7. He attended Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco and Saint Mary's College. He served in the Army in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967 and worked at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco until his retirement in 2001. In 1977, he married Elizabeth Yeagy in Lafayette, where they raised their son and daughter and lived for 41 years until their move to Portland in 2017.

Chester was a force of nature. He was a loyal, trustworthy, ornery, straight-spoken man. He cherished his family – nuclear and extended – and was devoted to his children, attending their many concerts and sporting events from elementary school through Stanley and Acalanes; his only bumper sticker was "Love Lafayette." He read voraciously and had a mind like a trap. He loved exploring the world and shared that love with his children who now pay it forward to theirs. He was a man of many hobbies: fly-fishing, mountain biking, boatbuilding, woodworking, and home brewing, among others. He was always on the lookout for a good Asian restaurant, always open to conversation, and made friends easily wherever he went. Throughout his life, he did unflinchingly for others.

Chester is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Andrea, his son Adam (Maiko Uchida), five grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother. We all miss him deeply.

To make a donation in Chester's memory to an organization near and dear to him, we suggest Friends of China Camp, <https://FriendsOfChinaCamp.org/donate>. His family can be contacted at RememberingChesterJung@gmail.com.

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

In Memory

James Arthur Field

Dec. 7, 1923 – April 25, 2022



Jim Field, or Cowboy Jimmy as he was known to many, lived a vibrant and rich life. Brimming with creativity, graciousness and a deep love for his family and friends until he left this world for lush pastures elsewhere.

Born and raised outside Detroit, Jim was the only child of Arthur Clarence Field and Helen Jean Spertner. He attended Royal Oak High School where he was Senior Class President and a member of the varsity tennis team. Summers as a camp counselor at the YMCA Camp in Hale, Michigan were a wonderful time for Jim. He was a wrangler with seven head of horse and Assistant Riding Master where, "each horse was my friend."

Jim attended Dartmouth College where he was a Theta Delta Chi and a proud member of their victorious inter-fraternal hockey team. Jim left Dartmouth for WWII during which he was a 1st Lt. fighter pilot in the US Army Air Corps and returned to graduate Phi Beta Kappa in 1948.

Jim moved to New York where he was a copywriter at BBDO and Young & Rubicam and was one of the original Mad Men on Madison Avenue. Receiving awards for his ads did not quell his entrepreneurial spirit, which fueled multiple small businesses including Raincoat Chaps, "don't get caught with your pants down," Lumps (lamps made out of junk), and others. While in New York, Central Park spawned Jim's "love affair with slow-pitch softball which finally ended after trying out for the Over 70's league in Walnut Creek at the age of 85 and where the hard grounders hit me instead of my glove."

Jim arrived in San Francisco in 1959, working for BBDO and "quick as a wink, I was an obsessed backpacker, fly fisherman and skier." BBDO is where he met Virginia, later to become his wife of nearly 59 years. They left the city for the country, choosing Orinda where they bought a home in 1964 and painted it fire-engine red, the color it remains today. Blessed with two daughters, known as Big Al and Bill Bailey, the three ladies were his biggest champions when Jim decided to turn his winemaking hobby into a business, making "not another \$40 cabernet, but a wine for everybody." James Arthur Field Wine was launched in 1976 with HQ in Lafayette's Fiesta Paint Store. Ahead of his time with a quality vin ordinaire in the U.S., Jim deemed it a "jug wine," which was cheerfully and affordably consumed by even the most discerning before he sold the business in 2001. Before his retirement, Jim enthusiastically donated countless cases of wine to local schools and service club events.

Easily recognized in his cowboy boots, pressed jeans and signature sterling belt buckle, Cowboy Jimmy didn't dally in the pasture. He continued to play hockey into his 60s, skied and backpacked into his 80s and fished, played tennis and golf well into his 90s. He also spent time in his workshop, designing and creating handmade furniture and other goods from nature's and mortals' scraps producing a wonder of pieces. He was quietly philanthropic, but quite boisterous about the love he had for Gina and their garden, and the love and joy he experienced with his children, grandchildren and many dear friends.

Jim Field died peacefully, Gina by his side, in the same fire-engine red house. He is survived by Gina, Allison and her husband Andrew, Bailey and her husband Robert and granddaughters Caz, Gaby and Shira.

Jim loved the Lamorinda area and hiking the local hills and trails. If desired, donations may be made in his honor to the East Bay Regional Parks Foundation: <https://www.regionalparksfoundation.org/>

In Memory

Charles George "Pete" Sonne

Dec. 10, 1938-May 1, 2022



Charles George Sonne, much better known as Pete, of Orinda, California, left us on May 1, 2022 at the age of 83, after a lifetime of making friends everywhere, filling the room with funny one-liners, playing a prank or two on his friends and family, and working hard in multiple long careers. Whether he was frequenting the college bars of Berkeley, shouting an ape call from the chairlift at Alpine Meadows, rounding up cattle with his horse pals, or roaming his almond orchard with one of the many dogs who "found" him, Pete always brought out some bright side of life (except when he was watching a 49ers game).

Charles was born on Dec. 10, 1938, in South Pasadena, California. At an early age, he stopped looking like "little Chucky" and soon became "Pete." He attended South Pasadena High School and UC Berkeley. Pete had a 33-year career in sales, mainly selling corrugated packaging, and a 31-year career as an almond farmer. Pete also served in the US Army and US Army Reserves from 1961 to 1974, retiring as a captain. He was passionate about his work and cared about doing the right thing for his colleagues and employees. His four-month retirement, starting in January 2022, was far too short.

Pete is survived by his wife Muriel, his son Peter and wife Holly, daughter Linda and husband Scott, and grandchildren Annika and Ashton Sonne and Peter and Scotty Harrison.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the East Bay Regional Parks Foundation or Bay Area Ridge Trail.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo girls take DAL Championship



Campolindo Girls DAL Lacrosse Championship team

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

After a two-year break with no postseason tournaments, the Lamorinda girls lacrosse teams all competed in the Diablo Athletic League and North Coast Section tournaments. Campolindo, whose record now stands at 15-1 dominated Northgate in the DAL final winning by a score of 20-8.

Campolindo

With the performance against Northgate in the league championship game, Campolindo went into the NCS with the No. 1 seed. It was an honor that the Cougars' head coach Devon Combe did not take lightly: "It's exciting to get the number one seed but there is also pressure to honor the respect that is put on our team, but we can honor that respect by winning the rest of our games."

The win over Northgate was a team victory in the truest sense with eight different players scoring for Campolindo led by juniors Catie McCauley with six goals and three assists, Paige Davis with three goals and four assists and senior Annie Cimperman with three goals. There were goals and assists from

players from multiple grade years. "That speaks to the depth of the team and the level of the creativity and growth we have had as a program," Combe said. "It shows the way that the girls have connected on and off the field. The team was really excited to end the overall season on a strong note and to be undefeated in league which was a goal that we had set."

Cimperman was third on the team in goals scored and led the team in assists. "That be-speaks to what a complete player Annie is," Combe said. She has an incredible shot and is also a player that wants to elevate her personal game to serve the team to the best of her ability. The number of assists she has showed her space and vision."

Combe attributes the success of the team to her original class of freshman that are now seniors on this team. "They went into this season flashing back to their freshman year, their last complete season," Combe said. "They're grateful for the opportunity to have a full year experience and did not take anything for granted this year. They spread their love of the game to the underclassmen."

The defense was led by senior Laurel Hunter, who will be playing for Chapman next year and sophomore Haley Richards. "Laurel has the speed and understands the game as a defender and attacker and has been huge for us on defense," Combe said. "Haley is someone that everyone plays for and has an impact on the field. She is the total package as a goalie and makes coaching so much easier. It's not just her skills but the way that she connects with her defenders to upgrade and make adjustments in tight games."

After Combe's first year as the Campolindo head coach, the Cougars finished the season with a 7-12 record were ranked 1,271 nationally by MaxPreps. Now in her fourth year, the Cougars made an Everest like jump to now being ranked 85th nationally.

In Campolindo's first two games in the NCS tournament, they shut out San Rafael 21-0 and outscored University 17-4.

Miramonte
In what was seen as a rebuilding year for Miramonte, head coach Jackie Pelletier saw the team begin the season with only three wins in their first 12 games. The Matadors closed out the regular season winning four

of their last seven games, losing to Campolindo 16-10 in the DAL semifinals and to third seeded Tamalpais in the NCS by a score of 18-8.

Playing Campolindo close and making the NCS were important to Pelletier in showing how far the team had come. "I was really impressed at how far we came after starting the season with only six returning starters and finishing out the season really strong," Pelletier said. "We checked all the boxes and improved as the season went on. We overcame a lot of injuries and adversity and to finish on such a higher note than where we started was really great for me and the team."

Pelletier was particularly pleased for four-year co-captains, Elena Gant and Ellie Hawkins, in that they were able to compete in the postseason. "Even though it was a short postseason, they were thrilled to be able to enter the NCS tournament, something they hadn't done since they were freshmen," Pelletier said.

With such a young team, Miramonte had to use more freshmen than anticipated. "We found ourselves without a lot of defenders, so we put two freshmen, Grace Wood and Ashlynn Browning, in starting roles on defense which is the first time we've done that in a number of years," Pelletier said. "I was impressed with how they played along with the other freshmen on the team, against some of the top teams in the region."

Freshman goalie Isobel Starkey stepped in when called upon and showed great potential for the future. "Izzy's attitude was just the most impressive thing," Pelletier said. "She showed up every day wanting to learn more and do better, constantly asking questions. I'm excited to see what her next three years bring."

With a strong core of juniors returning, led by Taryn

Pearce, Lindsay French and Kate Difrancia, taking on the leadership role and upcoming players from the JV team, Pelletier is very optimistic about the future of the team: "With 14 returners from the varsity and a JV team that had 24 players, some of whom we brought up for the NCS game, we're back to feeding the program. We will also have a number of freshmen coming up from our youth program next year. I look forward to coming back next year with a full team and program with a lot of kids excited to play."

Acalanes

This was a difficult year for the Acalanes Dons, but head coach Bill Fraser had nothing but respect for how the team responded. "The resilience of these young women after the last 26 months has been remarkable," Fraser said. "It's been wonderful to have a team that was so close, particularly when they were tested so severely."

Fraser pointed to the way the 15th seeded Dons competed against the second seeded Marin Academy in the NCS tournament, losing by a score of 15-7. "We received a poor seeding which did not reflect the strength of our schedule," Fraser said. "With 15 minutes left in the game, we were only down 8-6. The girls played their hearts out and after the last three and a half weeks of the season, they were mentally and physically exhausted on the bus ride home."

Yet that is not what Fraser will remember most about that day: "We took them out for cheeseburgers, and they were laughing and smiling, and they were kids. That reflects what I wanted to say about this season. I've never seen a team that was closer and cared more about each other and that sums up our season."

Miramonte boys win DAL Tournament; Campo advances in NCS



Miramonte boys DAL Lacrosse Championship team

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

Coming into the Diablo Athletic League lacrosse tournament, the 17-2 Miramonte High School had the No. 1 seed and lived up to expectations defeating Northgate (13-2) and Acalanes (15-7) in the championship game.

Miramonte

It's never easy to defeat a team three times in a season so the Matadors coach Byron McGovern took that into account in the game plan against Acalanes.

"We had to make a few adjustments to make sure we were ready for this game," McGovern said. "Acalanes changes their defense from game to game and they always throw something new at us so we had to get creative about how we would get around it."

The offense was led by juniors Chase Bliss, Jake Disston, Matt Hawkins and senior Anchul Schmidt. "Anchul played really well, dodging through doubles to get goals, running the offense and facilitating to

his teammates," McGovern said. "He also had to be our face off guy due to an injury and he did an awesome job there as well."

Sophomore Rhys Hire, giving up an average of 6.3 goals per game was dominant in the net. "Rhys plays with his heart and talks to the team and did an amazing job," McGovern said.

Hire spoke about how prepared the team was going into the championship game: "We knew their offense pretty well, so we were able to accommodate for that and we gave up

fewer goals against them than the last time we played them."

The Matadors only gave up two goals in the second half and Hire gave much of the credit to Ethan Berndt, Jack Spencer, and Chase Bliss: "We had a great halftime speech from Ethan who is our defensive captain and that really fired us up and

led to better results. Jack was a big help and Chase is our most versatile player, scoring goals and shutting people down on defense."

Bliss pointed to the intangibles in the way Miramonte played:

... continued on Page C4



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Miramonte leads way in return to DAL Championships

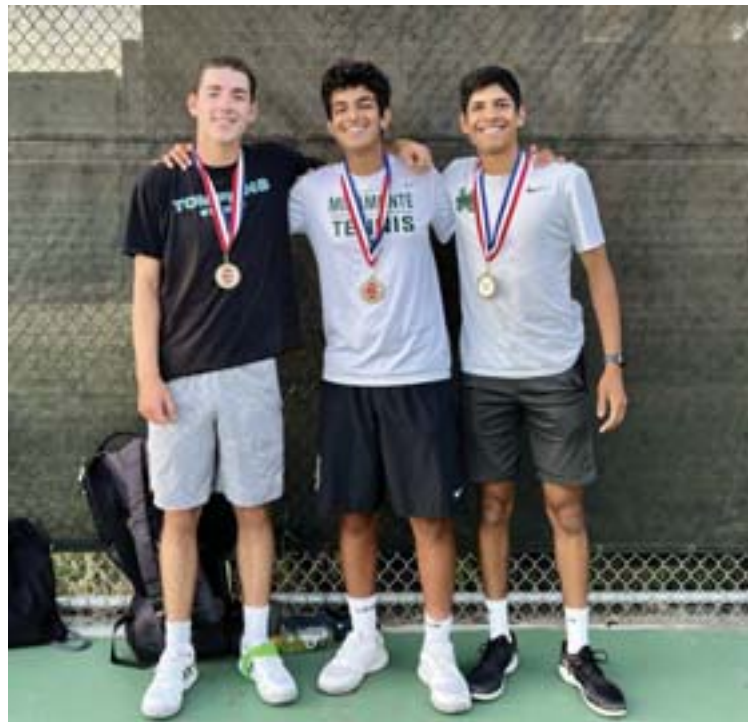


Photo Andrew Lee

Miramonte's DAL champions: Singles champ Nishad Elias (middle) and Doubles champions Liam Sullivan (left) and Gunther Uriarte (right)

By Jon Kingdon

This has been a stellar year for the boy's tennis teams of Lamorinda. They have a combined record of 38-16 (Miramonte 17-4), Acalanes (9-4) and Campolindo (12-8). The Lamorinda teams were heavily represented in the Diablo Athletic League tournament with 20 of the 32 players coming from Miramonte (7), Campolindo (6) and Acalanes (7). The No. 1 and No. 2 seeds were Miramonte's Nishad Elias and Acalanes' Tyler Toni. Elias went on to win the single's championship defeating College Prep's Dibyan Dikhit 6-4, 6-2 and Toni made it to the tournaments semifinals. Elias then competed in the North Coast Section as the second seed, going on to win his first two matches, losing the next two and finishing in fourth place.

The doubles teams from Lamorinda were equally dominant with seven of the top 10 seeds. Miramonte had the No. 1

seed with Liam Sullivan and Leo Cardozo, No. 3 seed, Gavin Dille and Nishad Elias and the No. 7 seed, Ben Torres and Ethan Haines. Campolindo had the No. 2 seed, Kiumars Koopah and Jake Hammerman, No. 5 seed, James Martin and Rex Pastore and the No. 9 seed – Diego Ledezma and Viggo Wistrom. Acalanes had the No. 4 seed, Tyler Holder and Liam McGlynn and the No. 6 seed – Matthew Muren and Aaron Brown. Overall, Miramonte entered three doubles teams, Campolindo, four teams and Acalanes five teams.

Miramonte also won the doubles championship with Sullivan and Cardozo, defeating Campolindo's Koopah and Hammerman in three sets 6-7, 6-4, 10-6.

Miramonte head coach Andrew Lee, a Carnegie-Mellon graduate, was asked to take over the team a month prior to the start of the season.

This is a veteran team with their first four singles players all

seniors – Elias, Clemens van Dongen (missed the DAL with an injury), Sullivan and Cardozo which facilitated things for Lee. "Our seniors are the top class, and they lost the last two seasons," Lee said. "They showed a lot of promise their freshman year and then lost their next two years to the virus, so they really wanted to take advantage of this last chance and do well, which they certainly did."

Lee was particularly enthused with the performance of senior and co-captain Leo Cardozo who really elevated his game this year: "Leo did not have a lot of tournament experience. He had a great desire and found a way to get better and better, showing a massive improvement and being named second team all-league singles. He was undefeated in the regular season and is the type of player that all teams need."

Lee was also pleasantly surprised at the play of his doubles team of two freshmen, Gavin Dille and Jonah Elias. "They had a remarkable chemistry on the court," Lee said. "They had never played doubles together prior to this season and they really understood what each was doing on the court."

It was a team attitude that contributed to their success. "There were no specific things that tied us together, but they all wanted to support each other and to see each other do well," Lee said. "We brought a competitive spirit, supporting each other. Our goal was to be better at the end of the season than we were at the beginning. Nisham brought a lot of experience and was a good leader in setting an example for the younger players to follow."

Acalanes

In his first year at Acalanes, head coach Rick O'Brien brought 20 years of coaching experience, mostly at Alhambra High School.

O'Brien appreciated that he stepped into a positive situation with his players. "The thing I

like about the team was that there are no freshmen or seniors," O'Brien said. "They're one big family with unconditional support across the team. There's no jealousy and arguing. They want to be together, play together and support each other. This year is even more special for the juniors and seniors because there was no DAL and NCS the last two years due to COVID. Everyone on the team wanted to play in the post-season. Our three co-captains Tyler Toni, Luke Brightbill and Liam McGlynn were the leaders that the players looked up to."

The singles players were led by junior Toni and freshman Nick Owens who were listed 1 and 2 on the team. Toni missed most of the season due to an injury but did make it back for the DAL tournament and won three matches before losing in the semifinals.

"Owens had to step up and play No. 1 for us in seven matches," O'Brien said. "Though his won-loss record did not reflect it, he grew up a lot playing in the top spot against a lot of very talented players."

The lead doubles team was junior Aaron Brown who won all 10 of his matches this year and Matthew Muren who won nine doubles matches to end the season. Brown and Muren were paired in seven matches. As the sixth seed in the DAL, they got a first-round bye, won a match, and then lost in the quarterfinals.

The team often refers to O'Brien as Rich 4-S's because of the four things he stresses to his players. "I tell them they're all critical, but I put them in order in how I rank them," O'Brien said: 1) Safety – This always comes first. I don't want them on the court if they're injured or sick. I always tell them to make sure there are no balls around their feet on the court; 2) Scholastics – They're all straight A students so I don't worry about that; 3) Sportsmanship –

Be a gentleman on the court; and 4) Success – Win the match.

Campolindo

In his sixth year at Campolindo coach Jimmy Scott has the youngest team in Lamorinda with four seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and three freshmen.

"We're a pretty young team with a lot of our newcomers having to fill the singles spots, taking on a big role," Scott said. "The overall feel of the team is that they all enjoy being around each other and that really showed on the court as well."

There were 14 players for Campolindo playing singles and doubles in the DAL tournament. "To get back to a full season is so much better than it has been with the abbreviated seasons," Scott said. "The players definitely enjoyed having a full season that included the playoffs."

Leading the singles players for the Cougars were freshmen Kiumars Koopah and Jake Hammerman. "Kiumars did a phenomenal job, exceeding my expectations and Jake also did a very good job and should continue to improve next year," Scott said.

With various injuries and illnesses, the doubles teams were a group in transition much of the season. "There was a lot of fluctuation among those teams, and we had to shift a lot of players around, but they all did a good job in playing with people that they had little experience with prior to their matches," Scott said.

The team's captains were seniors Tobias Kofman and Elton Yu who, according to Scott, "were good in keeping the team together."

In a league with such tough competition, Scott kept things in perspective for his players; "We worked hard on the courts but also in a fun setting. I also made sure that they knew when it was time to work and take care of business."

Miramonte boys win DAL Tournament; Campo advances in NCS

... continued from Page C1

"The difference in the game was our energy level. We all worked hard and had a great team game plan. We just played together and played team ball."

Miramonte showed good ball control getting to the majority of the loose balls. "That's something we've been working on, controlling the game, the ball and the tempo we play at," McGovern said. "It's a sign of how good their sticks are and the way we were able to control the ball."

McGovern praised the defense and singled out Bliss for his play and leadership: "Our top four defenders all did a great job but particularly Ethan who played 100%, putting the team on his back and said, 'I refused to lose this game.'"

The Matadors then came up short against Campolindo in the NCS tournament.

Campolindo

This has been an up and down season for Campolindo. The Cougars had an 8-7 record coming into the NCS tournament having not won or lost more than two games in a row all season.

In the semifinal game of the DAL tournament against Acalanes, Campolindo lost in overtime by a score of 17-16. The disappointment in the loss was exacerbated by an unsportsmanlike penalty after the Cougars tied the game with four seconds left in regulation when a player flung his stick into the air. The penalty carried over to overtime and Acalanes scored the winning goal 15 seconds later.

"It was a dogfight, and we have to take the emotion out of it," head coach Colin Knightly said. "We have to avoid penalties, be professional and keep our emotions under control." Knightly rationalized the late penalty on the fact that "they're teenagers."

After the loss to Acalanes, Knightly was counting on making the NCS. The seventh seeded Cougars won their opening game at home over Rancho Co-

tate, 20-6, and then had a pseudo-home game, only having to travel down the road to play second seeded Miramonte.

In a season that Knightly described as a grind, they picked the right time to play their most competitive game of the year, defeating Miramonte by a score of 15-8. The game was tied after the first quarter 3-3 but Campolindo had a dominant second quarter scoring nine goals and going into halftime leading 12-6.

"This was the best game we played all year," Knightly said. "Our seniors knew that if we lost, this would be the last game of their career. It was a rivalry game and playing at Miramonte was as close to a home game as it could be, so everything was in our favor, and we just really wanted this game."

The 15 goals scored by Campolindo was the most scored against Miramonte all season who came into the game giving up an average of 6.3 goals per game. The Cougars were led by Harrison Leenhouts, who had five goals and two assists, Patrick Sebree with four goals and Holden Coakley with three goals.

"We were able to find the open seams in their defense," Leenhouts said. "We kept our heads up and kept looking for the open guy. This was a game we were looking forward to all week because we knew what they were going to do, and we had our game plan and it worked out for us."

Penetration on offense was the key for Knightly. "The most valuable real estate on the field is right in front of the goal so we wanted to take advantage of that," Knightly said. "We wanted to be 'crease creatures.' Our guys did a good job right by the goal and it really helped us to see the crease. Harrison is just a special player. He's a pleasure to coach, a pleasure to be around and a pleasure to watch."

Miramonte had been averaging 14.4 goals per game but were held to their second fewest goals in a game all season. "We decided to go with a zone defense because we figured that it

would be tough to be the whole team rather than breaking it down one by one," Knightly said. "Our goalie Dante Aviccoli was outstanding tonight and Tyler Kivelson controlled most of the face offs and that really helped us big time and Jack Alaclay did a great job in shutting down their best shooters."

Campolindo's next game was on May 10, after press time, against the No. 3 seeded Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley and if they win that game, they would play the winner of the Justin-Siena – Bishop O'Dowd game on May 12.

Acalanes

Despite making it to the finals of the DAL and the second round of the NCS with a 12-8 record, Acalanes head coach Lorne Smith was left hoping for more. "One of our goals is always to get into the NCS," Smith said. "We're trying to win championships for sure, so you never like to end your season with a loss."

Acalanes earned a spot in the DAL championship game against Miramonte with a 17-16 overtime win over Campolindo, coming up short against Miramonte by a score of 15-7. Against Miramonte, the Dons fell behind 4-0, coming back to trail 7-5 at halftime. "The ball wasn't bouncing our way early in the game and it's been that way in a number of our games," Smith said. "We just had to take a breath and get ready to play. Our guys played hard and battled."

Miramonte closed out the game by outscoring Acalanes 8-2 in the second half. "We feel that with our team that if we do the things we know that we can do, we'll have success," Smith said. "In the first half, we didn't do those things. It was a game of runs and they had more runs than we did."

After a first round 13-2 win over University High (S.F.), Acalanes lost to the third seeded Tamalpais despite the play of Dylan Olson, who was a stand-out on offense with some top goals.

With a strong junior class

and a number of players moving up from the JV team, Smith is already looking forward toward next season. "We're excited to see things keep rolling next year," Smith said.

There are a number of players returning on offense and defense. "Dylan and Cooper Olson at attack are leaders down there and Ben Foox emerged at the midfield as a strong face off player and had a great season," Smith said. "Our first three midfielders are all coming back. John Cain in his first year on the varsity had a great season as a long stick middy and Zach Appel and David Depaeppe are the other returning midfield starters."

Depaeppe did as much off the field as he did in the games. "David is not a big scorer but emotionally he is one of the guys that got the team fired up in practice and before the games," Smith said. "He is a bit of an

emotional engine in a good way."

The defense is set with Blake Chehlaoui in the goal and George Churchill heading the defense. "We feel we will have a great goalie in Blake who is really strong and saw playing time as a backup this season," Smith said.

This will be an experienced team that is very familiar with each other next year. "We have a core group of offensive and defensive players returning, many of whom have played together for a long time," Smith said. "It's always nice to have strong senior leadership led by our co-captains George Churchill and Owen Estee and our other seniors to define the character of what the team is going to be. Every team is different from year to year which is what makes it a lot of fun. There is only an upside in our future."

Lamorinda high school students compete at DAL track and field championships



Photo provided

Pictured, from left: Corina Jones - Alhambra (5th place), Elle Rodriguez - Miramonte (3rd place), Jessica Youn - Miramonte (1st place), Jeanette Lavoie - Campolindo (2nd place), Aiyana Lawler - College Park (4th place), Gema Villafan-Perez - Acalanes (6th place)

Submitted by Doug Bockmiller

Lamorinda high school students sweep varsity women's pole vault finals at Diablo Athletic League (DAL) track and

field championships on April 30. Miramonte sophomores Jessica Youn and Elle Rodriguez placed first and third; Campolindo senior Jeannette Lavoie took second. The meet was held at Campolindo High School.

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 16

Issue 6

Wednesday, May 11, 2022



Handyman Jim Hurley fixing a doorbell read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring succession



The edible Jerusalem star known as salsify tips its purple flower towards the sun.

By Cynthia Brian

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to live on this beautiful and astonishing Planet Earth. In the morning, I woke up with a sense of gratitude."
~ Earl Nightingale

In California, May reigns as one of the most colorful months of the year. Mother Nature has fully awakened from lingering winter doldrums to burst into bloom. The ra-



Photos Cynthia Brian

The elegant foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is toxic to humans.

diant combination of lush green lawns against cheerful vignettes of glowing, flowing flowers, trees and shrubs is mesmerizing. Beauty, fragrance, and food beckon from every direction.

With appreciation, I awake each morning and fall asleep each night to the lullabies from a multitude of songbirds. Pollinators are busy buzzing from nectar plants to other food sources signaling a healthy garden en-

vironment. The succession of blossoms changes daily from spring bulbs to robust roses; bright bearded iris to sprouted seeds scattered last fall.

May is the optimum time to plant annuals, vegetables, and herbs together in a potager garden. By combining a medley of edibles and florals, biological pest control is ignited providing plants to protect one another and be a shelter for beneficial insects. Nasturtium, calendula and marigolds are the colorful workhorses attracting hungry caterpillars and blackflies away from brassicas and beans. Garlic planted between roses, lettuce, potatoes, or even fruit trees will keep the aphids, Japanese beetles and ermine moths at bay. Parsley attracts pollinators and protectors of tomatoes. Mint deters ants and aphids but make sure to plant in a pot as mint can overtake an entire garden. Before planting, weed thoroughly, enrich the soil with compost or add new soil, and rotate crops to maintain vigor while producing greater yields.

Jerusalem star, also known as go-to-bed early, vegetable oyster, or salsify is considered an invasive weed in some areas, but this dandelion-related plant is a forgotten beloved Victorian-era edible that tastes like an oyster and grows like a carrot. Its yellow-flowering relative is named goatsbeard. The taproot grows to 12 inches into the ground. Harvest with care to not break the root. In the kitchen, salsify is versatile and delicious in soups, stews, bisques, casseroles, or grated like beets in a salad for a fresh seafood/artichoke flavor. The entire plant has been used medicinally.

... continued on Page D12



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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	8	\$1,520,000	\$4,350,000
MORAGA	3	\$581,000	\$1,825,000
ORINDA	3	\$2,250,000	\$3,425,000

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

- 4139 Coralee Lane, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2991 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 03-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,062,000, 06-26-07
- 21 Jennifer Highlands Court, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 03-25-22
- 3729 Meadow Lane, \$4,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3233 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-22-22, Previous Sale: \$873,500, 05-30-08
- 3028 Rohrer Drive, \$2,701,000, 3 Bdrms, 2151 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 03-21-22
- 3107 Sandalwood Court, \$2,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2111 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 03-21-22, Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 08-08-13
- 3259 Surmont Drive, \$2,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2962 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-24-22, Previous Sale: \$2,150,000, 11-07-20
- 951 Yorkshire Court, \$1,520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1371 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-21-22, Previous Sale: \$379,000, 10-28-99
- 963 Yorkshire Court, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1773 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-25-22

MORAGA

- 742 Augusta Drive, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 03-22-22, Previous Sale: \$1,011,000, 07-15-21
- 3 Berkshire Street, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1982 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 03-25-22, Previous Sale: \$439,000, 08-06-98
- 820 Villa Lane #3, \$581,000, 2 Bdrms, 952 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 03-23-22, Previous Sale: \$409,000, 07-25-05

ORINDA

- 89 Lombardy Lane, \$3,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 4543 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 03-22-22, Previous Sale: \$250,000, 02-12-19
- 48 Oak Road, \$2,470,000, 3 Bdrms, 3165 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 03-22-22
- 508 The Glade, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2409 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 03-22-22, Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 09-17-07

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Fixing old fashioned doorbells



Photo provided

By Jim Hurley

A common prank for young reprobates is called Doorbell Ditch or Ding Dong Ditch. The principle is to ring a neighbor's doorbell and then run and hide, causing the neighbor inconvenience and consternation at answering the door when no one is there.

The new camera doorbells have taken the fun out of Doorbell Ditch, because the perpetrator is being video recorded and streamed to the homeowner. Not so fun. These doorbell cameras are beneficial for home security if you are tech-savvy enough to connect it to your handheld device and home wifi. There are hundreds of YouTube videos to help with installing these cameras. I won't cover them here.

I do want to talk about old-fashioned doorbells. When the old doorbell breaks, most people just live with it and go back to knocking. I seldom get a call to come fix a

doorbell, but oddly enough, I frequently fix them as part of the "While you're here, could you look at this?" list.

Some homes have wireless doorbells with a battery-operated button (transmitter) and battery-operated bell (receiver). Typically, these are installed after the original, hardwired, low voltage bell stopped working. They use radio waves to connect and have trouble broadcasting through stone, brick, or metal walls. They also have limited range and won't work if the bell is too far from the button.

But if you like the old-fashioned "ding-dong" and wish to repair the hardwired bell, here is my technique. Remember that your doorbell is a low voltage device, it can create very tiny sparks or give you a slight tingle if you are grounded, (standing barefoot on wet soil), so put on your rubber sole shoes and do this fix carefully when the power is on.

Start with the button. Is it hard to push or gets stuck when it is pressed? Time for some Tri-Flow. Spray a tiny bit on the edge of the button and push it a few times. If that doesn't fix the problem, gently take the button off the wall. There are two wires screwed to the back. Take your screwdriver and touch it across the bare wires. If the bell rings, the button is faulty and should be replaced. If the bell does not ring when the wires are crossed, disconnect them from the button and twist them together, closing the circuit, to help continue with your testing.

With the wires connected, go check the bell box. Is it humming? Humming is good news! The humming tells you that the bell's transformer is working, and you have good wiring. The humming means your problem is in the bell box. Go back to the button and disconnect the wires until you finish debugging the bell box.

If you do not hear humming, you need to find the voltage transformer. The transformer is a lump of metal with small wires attached. Typically it is mounted on a cover plate over an electrical junction box on the wall of your garage, or in a closet, or in the basement if you have one. Scout around and locate it. Now, you need an electrical tester

to confirm that it is working. Remember that it is low voltage, (between 12 and 24 volts), and set your tester accordingly. If there is no voltage coming out of the transformer, carefully check inside the junction box to be sure there is power (120 volts) to the transformer. Replace or repair accordingly.

Back to that humming at the bell box. Grab your trusty can of Tri-Flow and lightly spray the little piston (ding) or pistons (ding and dong), work it up and down a little and then see if it bounces up to strike the bell plate. Push the bell button (connect the two wires by the door) and see if that worked. If the problem was with the button sticking and the bell was stuck "on" for a few hours, the coils that make the pistons ring are fried. You will need to replace the bell box. The big box stores don't carry much selection. If you want something nice, it might be better to shop online.

After checking the button, the transformer, and the bell box, your last resort is the wiring. The wire for doorbells is thin (low voltage) and might have been cut or broken accidentally. Use a continuity tester (or ohm meter) to confirm that the wires are not broken. If it is not a complete circuit, it might be easiest to run new wire than to try and trace the old wires. Or call your handyman to come do that for you.

Hopefully by now you are enjoying the dulcet tones of a working doorbell. Please excuse me as I put on my fastest sneakers and go visit my neighbor.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25 years of experience in residential repairs.

Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.





OCC charmer THAT YOU MUST SEE



12 Los Arboles, Orinda

Don't miss this charming home nestled on a peaceful cul de sac in the heart of Orinda Country Club where tasteful upgrades including wide plank white oak hardwood floors, remodeled master suite, top of the line kitchen appliances, designer window treatments & lighting, compliment the original 1947 vaulted exposed beam Living room ceiling with giant sliders to the private backyard. This home has all the right spaces and is located in just the right place! Close to town, fwy, BART and top-rated K-12 schools. Call for pricing!

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4 <i>Bed</i>	3.5 <i>Bath</i>	.42 <i>Acre</i>
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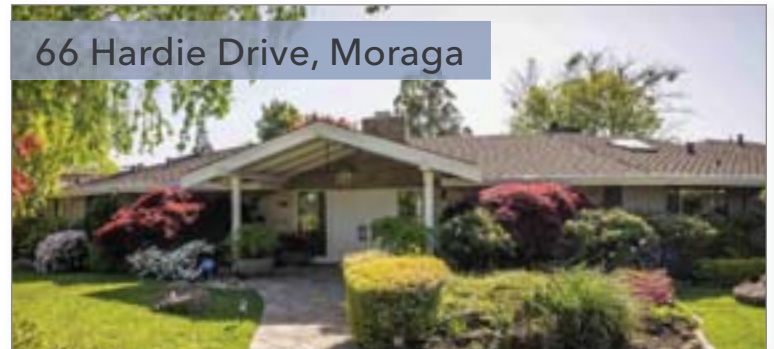
395 Roberts Court, Moraga



**Listed for \$1,899,000. Sold for \$2,300,000.
Represented seller.**

Beautiful traditional two-story home located on a cul-de-sac.
Large, flat, redwood-studded lot and two primary suites.

66 Hardie Drive, Moraga



Sold for \$2,700,000. Represented buyer.

Gorgeous 3,100 sq. ft. single-story home with mid-century
modern elements, sparkling pool and beautiful views.

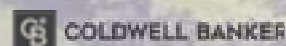
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring succession



Photos Cynthia Brian

Final call to fertilize lawns to maintain the lush green for summer.

... continued from Page D1

Be cautious of poisonous plants invading your vegetable garden. Poison hemlock is everywhere and is deadly if ingested. The pretty plant displays lacy and fernlike leaves with very delicate white flowers. A member of the carrot family, it is often mistaken for Queen Anne's lace, a less-lethal specimen. The best way to identify poison hemlock is to look at the stems which have red or purple spots or streaks. Its most poisonous alkaloid is coniine which causes complete respiratory collapse. Only mechanical or artificial ventilation can save someone who has ingested poison hemlock. Wear gloves and a mask to dig out the root. Don't weed whack it or burn it as small particles could be inhaled. Socrates drank hemlock tea as his preferred



The finished frame of succulents with a turkey feather adornment hangs on the house exterior.

method of dying.

The yellow blooms of the elderberry tree signal spring's arrival, and people need to be aware of the toxicity of this beautiful tree. The stems, seeds, leaves, bark, and roots are all poisonous to humans containing a cyanide-inducing glycoside. The blue-black berries are safe to eat only after boiling for at least 20 minutes. Elderberry jam and wine are popular and include major health benefits.

Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, a spectacularly beautiful biennial plant, is extremely attractive to children and every part of it is lethal to humans. Compounds from this plant are used in heart medicines. Since they grow tall, five to seven feet tall, plant them at the back of a flower garden and keep them out of your kitchen garden.



A healthy potager planted with calendula, rose, parsley, tomatoes, peppers, marjoram, oregano, mint, borage, and garlic.

Besides getting my potager and vegetable garden installed, my latest fun spring project has been creating a living wall garden by using a decorative frame from Nature Hills Nursery that features a built-in watering tray and a reservoir for drainage. This instant wall planter is a step up from the DIY picture frame with chicken wire-filled moss that I designed several years ago. I added potting soil to the portrait garden, arranged a variety of succulents, attached a found turkey feather, watered, and hung it on the exterior of my house in the sunshine as a growing art piece.

Every day I am immersed in gratitude for the wonders of Mother Earth as I watch the procession and succession of nature's bounty. Walk gently through your garden to enjoy the miraculous magic of May.

Another successful Lafayette Juniors Lifestyles Tour

The 23rd annual Lifestyles Tour returned to Lafayette on April 30 with a well-attended event featuring six magnificent residences, including the famous Red Farmhouse owned by Karen and Tom Mulvaney. More than 600 tickets were sold for the event, which raised

more than \$60,000 to help fund the Lafayette Juniors beneficiaries, including Lamorinda Village and White Pony Express. Guests enjoyed viewing beautiful interiors and amazing grounds that included guest houses, pools, and a variety of landscaping treatments.



Lafayette's famous Red Farmhouse



Poolside paradise

Photos Sora O'Doherty



Lush gardens grace this home.



This outdoor kitchen adds living space to the home.



Open concept designs were highlighted in these three homes.

The Goddess Gardener's Gardening Guide for May

FERTILIZE: If you haven't already, fertilize trees, shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, lawns, and ground covers while the days are warm, and the evenings are cool.

FEED indoor plants.

BAIT for snails and slugs that will damage new seedlings with organic Sluggo. The active ingredient is iron phosphate. Corry's Slug and Snail Killer contains 5% sodium ferric Exceda that is safe for pets and people and can be used on edibles. After eating the bait, these gastropods slink to their hiding places to die. Because both male and female mollusks lay eggs, one slug or snail can contribute to thousands of these pests terrorizing crops if not eradicated.

SPRAY roses, crape myrtle trees, and ground cover susceptible to aphids and fungal diseases.

DEADHEAD roses as the petals fade to encourage continuous blooming.

PLANT annuals and perennials including zinnia, salvia, calibrachoa.

ELIMINATE standing water from gutters, old tires, or saucers to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes.

TRANSPLANT small trees, including fruit trees such as nectarine or avocado to the desired area.

MOW tall wild grass to three inches or less as a fire defensible space.

COMBINE edibles and flowers in a kitchen garden with a variety of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beets, squash, garlic, parsley, borage, nasturtium, calendula, roses and marigolds.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Intoxicating scent of yellow bearded iris combined with pink carpet roses.



Roses are bedrocks of a gorgeous garden. (Arizona rose)

Photos Cynthia Brian

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Cynthia Brian is elated about the rain!

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!

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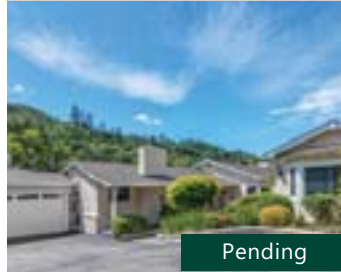


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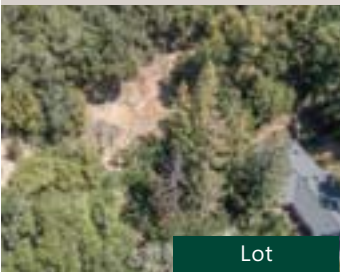
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50 Meadow View
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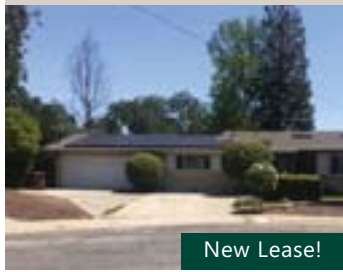
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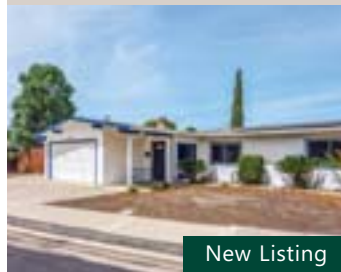


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