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The band The Real Thing performs June 2 as part of the free summer concert series offered at Orinda Community Park.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Free live concerts return to parks in Lamorinda this summer

By Sora O'Doherty

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda will enjoy a bounty of live concerts this summer. The 2022 summer concert season in Orinda kicked off on June 2, with the band The Real Thing performing in Orinda Community Park. The Orinda concerts, held from 6 to 8 p.m., are sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda, and City of Orinda. This year, the concerts will be held on Thursday evenings to accompany the Thursday Night Food Truck event with Taste of the World

Market. The following additional groups will be performing: June 16, Opera in the Park; June 23, EP Sax; July 14, Lamorinda Idol; July 28, Juke Joint; Aug. 4, West Grand Blvd.; Aug. 25, Grateful Bluegrass Band; and concluding the season on Sept. 8, 925 Band. This year marks the 12th year that Orinda Rotary has sponsored "Opera in the Park." The free event features Festival Opera singing and Broadway music.

Concerts are free and open to the community. The Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation will be on hand collecting donations to help fund the com-

munity park renovation project. Families are encouraged to bring their blankets and lawn chairs. Dinner options include the food truck event, or any of the local restaurants.

Moraga Commons will also host a series of concerts, from early June to early August.

Moraga Park Foundation presents the Summer 2022 Concert Series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings, with the exception of July 4, which falls on a Monday. The site is Moraga Commons Bandshell and food will be available for purchase from on-site food trucks and vendors. Picnics are welcome.

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Moraga's iconic Painted Rock trails become hiker-ready

By Vera Kochan



Newly completed trail along Painted Rock acreage

Photo Eliot Hudson

Way before it became part of the John Muir Land Trust, Painted Rock was a symbol of expression and outdoor art perched on the hill overlooking the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. For decades, intrepid high school students climbed the hill and used the giant rocks there as Mother Nature's billboard by plastering them with whatever message was apropos for the moment – thus the eventual nickname.

In 2019, thanks to a successful \$2 million fundraising effort by JMLT, Painted Rock and the surrounding 84-acre property was saved from developers. Soon, with the help of the town of Moraga, an adjacent 421-acres will turn the combined 505-acres into a park with amazing views, natural wildlife habitats, light recreation and hiking trails.

To that end, JMLT partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) over the weekend of May 19-22 in order to cut trails into the grassy open hillsides in preparation for the upcoming hiking season. According to V-O-Cal Project Team Lead and JMLT Board Member Eliot Hudson, "Over 70 trail volunteers and over a dozen more volunteers in the supporting base camp, in the course of a single weekend, built over 2,000 feet of trail across Painted Rock's steep northern slope on a gentle grade that virtually anyone can walk."

Campolindo High School's grassy field, situated along Moraga Road, served as base camp for any overnights who brought tents to spend the evenings. Hearty meals, musical entertainment and showers were made available to the volunteers who braved potential hazards such as sun exposure, dehydration, poison oak, ticks, snakes, and accidents from sharp tool usage.

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Council revisits discussion on potential Housing Element sites

By Jennifer Wake

In its second public hearing on potential opportunity sites to be included in the sixth cycle Housing Element for the city of Lafayette, staff presented a revised draft to the city council at its May 23 meeting.

Thanks to an increase of potential accessory dwelling units (ADUs) projected following analysis showing a 281% increase in ADU permits and approvals over the past four years, upgrading density in three downtown parcels near Highway 24 that had been recommended by the planning commission was no longer required to meet the state's Regional

Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) number of 2,114 units, according to the staff report presented by Senior Planner Renata Robles, Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff and Housing Consultant Diana Elrod.

"As a result of the 240 total projected ADUs and the revised income distribution for ADUs, staff finds the PC's proposal to upzone areas of the downtown is no longer needed to meet the city's RHNA-plus-buffer for lower-income categories," the report stated. "Thus, staff recommends the downtown planning areas (1-6 and 13) remain at the current zoned density of 35 du/acre."

The revised proposed opportunity sites include 2 acres of the DeSilva North site at 35 dwelling units per acre, Planning Areas 1-6 in Downtown with no change in density, and the Brookdale area (Planning Area 13) with no change in density. The Housing Element sites inventory will exclude the Deer Hill Corridor and the approximately 60-acre DeSilva South property on Mt. Diablo Boulevard near Oakwood Athletic Club. Council members agreed that the BART parking lot property would be included as a potential opportunity site at 75 du/acre (the minimum units required by state law) with a 95% development yield.

Assembly Bill 2923 mandates that the BART-owned parking lots within 1/2-mile of the station will be automatically eligible for development at a minimum of 75 du/acre as of July 1, regardless of whether the city takes action to rezone the properties.

According to the staff report, RHNA is not a mandate for jurisdictions to construct the proposed units, but rather to ensure that the regulatory framework, land, and zoning enable the units to be built by the market.

Council members requested staff include detailed information in the narrative of the Housing Element about outreach made directly to BART regarding potential development, as well as how RHNA numbers were much higher per capita to



City of Lafayette sees increase in ADU permits.

Photo J. Wake

neighboring cities due to Lafayette's proximity to the BART station. Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok also suggested including written and verbal correspondence regarding the BART properties and the methodology that guided this process.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Colin Elliott and Robert Lavoie, who have spent countless hours analyzing data and offering suggestions to help the city meet its RHNA allocation, expressed their appreciation of the staff's analysis and increased ADU numbers, noting that cities in Southern California that used this methodology had their Housing Elements approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

"I'm very pleased with the evolution of the sites plan; I think it's getting close," said Lavoie, who added that "ADUs are the real solution to affordable housing in Lafayette. People can age in place, they can allow their adult kids to stay in the community, at least until they get married, probably. Considering a two-bedroom two-bathroom condo is \$2 million, there is no affordable housing, so ADUs offer a way to keep extended members in the community."

Council members went on to offer detailed suggestions for changes to be made throughout the 60-plus-page document and staff will return with a revised draft for discussion at the June 13 council meeting.

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill several volunteer positions.

One vacancy on the Planning Commission. The seven-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the City. The Commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The Commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, variances and land use permits.

Members of the Planning Commission are required to be qualified electors of the City of Lafayette, and are selected on the basis of training, education, occupation and expertise. The Commission reviews technical reports and construction plans. Individuals interested in this key volunteer position may obtain an application from the City's website at www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees or by calling the City Clerk's office at (925) 284-1968. Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm on June 17, 2022.

Affordable housing impacts on Lafayette student enrollment

By Sharon K. Sobotta

If David Curtin still lived in Lafayette, he'd likely be a frequent flier at the newly renovated airport themed Brook Street Park with his soon to arrive baby sister as he eagerly awaited the beginning of his TK tenure at Lafayette Elementary School. He resided on Chestnut Street with his parents Audrey and Conor Curtin and was known for stealing the hearts and minds of those in his neighborhood with his cuteness until last summer

when his family made the difficult decision to relocate to Ireland.

"While David wasn't old enough to attend the Lafayette School District yet, when we were looking to buy a home, this was a huge factor," Audrey Curtin says. "One house we were about to make an offer on was in Lafayette but was a part of another district which meant I would've had to petition for him to attend the high school down the road from our (would've been) home. It seemed crazy to me

that we would make our housing decision based on where my less than 2-year-old son (at the time) would go to high school, but I definitely felt pressure to make sure we were in a good school district."

The Curtin family loved their neighbors and the Lafayette community as a whole, but like many they just couldn't find a way to get ahead or to put down roots here. "We both were working more than 40 hours per week.

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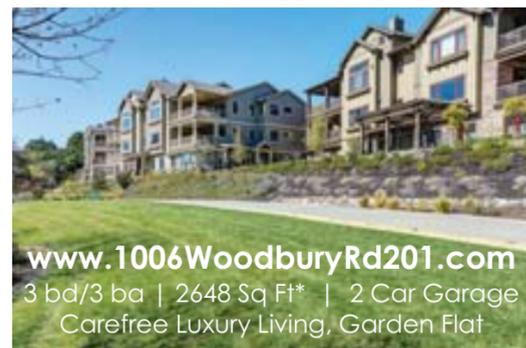
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SWELL Center opens at Lafayette Library

This summer local teens will have a safe place to relax with friends and meet new people in an inclusive, comfortable, casual environment as part of a new pilot program – the Student Wellness Summer Program – which is being offered in partnership with the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and the city of Lafayette, in collaboration with the Lafayette Library.

The idea for SWELL (summer wellness) blossomed over breakfast with Jennifer Wakeman, Assistant Administrative Services Director for the city of Lafayette, Dr. Lynn McPhatter-Harris EdD, Director of Student Support, Equity & Inclusion for the Acalanes Union High School District, and Beth Needle, the Executive Director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation.

“Over the years The Lafayette Library and Learning Center has become a hub

and a haven for teens beginning with their first walk here from Stanley. We love that our library is that place in the community where everyone feels comfortable and welcomed,” Needle said. “With the stress so many have been feeling and with the school wellness centers closed for the summer we wanted to provide a new free space for teens to relax, read, dabble if they choose in art, gardening, and of course connect with other kids in the community.”

The SWELL Center will be open at the library for teens aged 12 to 18 Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through July 29 and will offer a variety of active and self-guided activities such as board games, cards, journaling and crafts, as well as community engagement opportunities and access to support groups. (Please note that no adult supervision will be provided.)

– J. Wake

Affordable housing and student enrollment

... continued from Page A2

We employed a full time nanny and we still didn't have enough time to cover work hours, let alone do things like grocery shopping and appointments,” Curtin says. “Even though we both had good jobs, our employer health insurance was incredibly expensive and with Conor's autoimmune disorders we ultimately decided that we needed access to more affordable health care (and in closer proximity to Conor's family).”

Access to more affordable childcare, healthcare, and, of course, housing are things Curtin says might've made staying a more viable option. Yet, Curtin knows her family's experience is not an anomaly. “Most of the families I met during my time in Lafayette were all very budget conscious and looking for a way to save money on everyday items (on everything from commuting to work to school clothes, groceries and baby gear,” Curtin recalls. “Those who stay are making great sacrifices to do so.”

For those who aren't able to find affordable housing within the Lafayette School District, Richard Whitmore, outgoing Lafayette School District Superintendent, says not to count on interdistrict transfers and not to assume this is the only district offering quality education. “Interdistrict transfers have to be approved first by the district of residence and then by the receiving district. Our policy and practice has been to accept these transfers only in very limited circumstances with qualifying requirements,” Whitmore says. “We have great confidence in our neighbors' ability to provide an excellent education to families who relocate.”

Whitmore reported that the Lafayette School District is down by some 54 kindergarteners for the upcoming academic year, but that the future looks bright for the district as a whole with 3,122 students already enrolled compared to the projected 3,033. The Lafayette School District worked with Davis Demographics to do an enrollment assessment and study. “Our last study was done seven years ago and the projections didn't seem to be playing out, so it was a good

time to revisit,” Whitmore says. “With the city's efforts to adopt a new housing element as part of their obligations, we wanted to better understand the impact new housing units might have on the district. The city has been anxiously awaiting the outcome of our study and we've shared it with them.”

The study correlated the dip in kindergarten enrollment to a declining birthrate. “The birth rate five years prior was 89.3 of the “base year” the study used, so that is evidence that we would expect a smaller incoming kindergarten cohort,” Whitmore says. However, it's unclear how or if statistical nuances for families like the Curtins who might move into the area with visions of someday being a part of the reputable school district and move back out when buying a home is not financially viable are reflected. Whitmore says the formal study projected additional students for the 376 new housing units, but the numbers are still inconclusive as it doesn't reflect units and projects in places like the Terraces not yet completed. Nevertheless, the new housing projects are not likely to have a huge impact on student enrollment numbers. “The new housing is only anticipated to add fewer than 60 students, as our experience so far is that multi-family housing or condominiums does not generate large numbers of students,” Whitmore says.

While the dense housing projects may provide more options for living in the community, it's important to note that just a handful of units are being made available at below market rate while the rest are selling in the \$1-\$2 million range and include homeowner association fees. This reality is what has families exploring alternative locations, and in the case of the Curtins, moving across the world in hopes of building a more sustainable future while clinging tightly to memories of Lafayette. “We loved our neighborhood and our neighbors, but over the years we could see a change in young families getting pushed out due to rents increasing. If we were able to get a home at a reasonable rate, we probably would've stayed,” Curtin says. “We miss our amazing Lafayette community.”



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Town Council: Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, June 20, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings :
Tuesday, June 7, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Moraga town council undergoes mid-term mayor, vice mayor reorganization

By Vera Kochan

Without a lot of fanfare and an almost blink-and-you-missed-it reorganization process, Renata Sos and Steve Woehleke switched positions during the end of the May 25 council meeting. Their new titles, until December 2022, are: Mayor Steve Woehleke and Vice Mayor Renata Sos.

During the Dec. 8, 2021 town council meeting, Sos was elected as mayor and Council Member Sona Makker was elected as vice mayor through procedures established in the Town of Moraga Town Council Protocols which state, "In years when no members of the Town Council are to be elected, the Town Council shall consider the election of the Mayor and a Vice Mayor for one (1) year terms at the first regular meeting in December. An election of a Councilmember to fill a vacancy as Mayor

or Vice Mayor occurring mid-term shall be for the remaining portion of the one-year term for that office."

At issue was the fact that Sos was voted in as mayor, due to the bypassing of Moraga's "tradition" of progressing the vice mayor position (which Woehleke was in possession of) to the mayor position.

Sensing a certain amount of discord with the outcome, Sos called a special meeting of the town council on Jan. 5 during which she explained, "I felt that recent events warranted having this council get together to address thoughtfully, but in short order, an issue that appears to be driving a deep wedge in our community."

Sos also noted that Woehleke had approached her regarding a possible alternative to the outcome and maybe a solution to the disharmony. His scenario would allow for Sos to serve as mayor for the

first half of 2022, with himself continuing as vice mayor; then mid-year the roles would reverse with Woehleke as mayor and Sos as vice mayor.

Having reached the agreed upon reorganization date, Sos figuratively (via Zoom) handed over the gavel to Woehleke. "I want to thank Steve for his partnership and collaboration during these last few months," she stated. "I want you to know, Steve, that I stand ready to support you in your new role just as you have supported me."

"These last five months have actually been a great pleasure for me, because Renata really has gone out of her way to include me in decisions, and it's really worked out, I think, very very well," Woehleke said. "I want you all to know that I have no intention of reshuffling assignments or anything of that nature. Let's just continue to move forward."

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Moraga's iconic Painted Rock trails become hiker-ready

... continued from Page A1

JMLT Executive Director Linus Eukel was notably im-

pressed with the volunteer workforce stating, "Nearly 70 sweaty volunteers laid out the path, hauled rocks, dug dirt, removed plants, leveled out bumps and turns, and smoothed the ground for a delightful half mile of new trail that takes visitors from the top of Painted Rock in Moraga northerly to hundreds of adjacent acres that will open to the public in the near future."

Organizing the weekend event took months of planning by the V-O-Cal team. A truck full of tools, a field kitchen, radios, medical kits, sun showers and anything else necessary to support the large team of volunteers over the weekend were on hand, not to mention experienced staff members and rangers.

Other contributors to the project were Acalanes Union High School District (use of Campo's field), Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (funding), Hi Falutin' (music), Canyon Club Brewery (beer), and Mountain Mike's Pizza.

"The dedication of everyone who works so hard and contributes so generously absolutely humbles me every time there is a project," stated

Hudson. "And, it makes me so enormously proud of them all."

"I worked on Sunday, so I had a chance to walk along all the trail that had been built on Saturday, which felt and looked great," recalled Moraga resident and volunteer Ellen Beans. "I was working unit No. 12, which was assigned to a 100-yard or so stretch to apply some smoothing out strokes with our Polaski tools. When this was done to the satisfaction of our crew leader, we walked to the head of all the working trail crews to begin another section of cutting out the trail."

Beans was disappointed that she didn't recognize any Moraga residents during her Sunday shift, but was impressed to learn that volunteers came from all over the Bay Area (San Jose, Fremont, Santa Rosa) to help out. "I hope that during these summer months that many Lamorinda residents will hike up there to enjoy the incredible views that this new gently sloping trail will facilitate."

For additional information contact: linus@jmlt.org or phone Linus Eukel at (925) 228-1130.

Goats return for fire mitigation



Photo Teresa Onoda

Grazing goats and a handful of sheep perform fire abatement May 20 on the hill behind the Rheem Theatre in Moraga.

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St. Mary's Road roundabouts project goes back on the shelf



Image provided

Rendition of proposed St. Mary's Road roundabouts

By Vera Kochan

The project first took shape in 2007, when the town began analysis work in order to provide traffic relief and safety improvements for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists at two intersections along St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard and St. Mary's Road/Bollinger Canyon Road in Moraga, near the Lafayette border.

According to a staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers for a May 25 town council presen-

tation, in 2008, civil engineering firm Fehr & Peers came up with seven possible improvement scenarios to the intersections in question: 1) Left-turn pockets on St. Mary's Road to Rheem Boulevard and Bollinger Canyon Road; 2) All-way stop at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection; 3) All-way stop at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard and St. Mary's Road/Bollinger Canyon Road intersections; 4) Roundabout at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection; 5) Roundabout at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection, and an all-way

stop at St. Mary's Road/Bollinger Canyon Road intersections; 6) Traffic signal at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection; and 7) Realignment of Bollinger Canyon Road to the intersection of St. Mary's Road at Rheem Boulevard.

Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) provided \$464,000 in funding through the Measure J Major Streets Program in 2016, in order to complete a preliminary design; and later that year, the town council appropriated \$140,707 from the Lamorinda Fee and Finance Authority (LFFA) in order to award a \$590,707 contract to engineering consultants Kimley-Horn and Associates. Their services were used to complete the 35% design and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental documentation from CCTA's funding agreement.

The town held two community informational meetings. The first was held July 2017, from which valuable information was gathered through public comment cards. The second meeting was held Sept. 27, 2018. Its purpose was to answer many of the questions and concerns

from the comment cards filled out by attendees from the prior meeting.

The largest concerns the project team received were geared toward safety, the various configurations in question, and financing the project. Another alternative emerged in the form of adding a large roundabout at St. Mary's/Rheem with a mini-roundabout at St. Mary's/Bollinger. This scenario showed a marked savings in safety cost, reduction of time spent waiting at intersections, reduction in operation and maintenance cost and a slight decrease in emissions. While the initial capital cost was slightly higher than other alternatives, the accumulated costs compared to all the of proposed alternatives was substantially lower over time. As such, Kimley-Horn has completed a 35% preliminary design of this roundabout with probable construction costs in 2022 at an estimated \$7,361,000. If the town is interested in seeking future funding from outside sources in order to complete the engineering design and construction it could look to CCTA for various possibilities.

During the town council

meeting, public comments ranged from those in favor of the roundabouts to those who wanted the status quo. Council members discussed the idea of stop signs with cost savings in mind and the big "what if." What if the town went to the trouble of installing roundabouts, and they didn't work? There was also some concern about dragging the project out even longer without coming to a final conclusion.

Knapp reminded the council that the purpose of the presentation was simply to approve the Initial Study and Mitigation Negative Declaration, and to appropriate \$37,000 from Fund 799 – LFFA (Fiscal Year 2021-22) into FY 2022-23 to pay the final engineering costs and close out the project at the 35% Conceptual Study and Plans level. Staff was able to reduce expenditures by approximately \$70,000 and return it to the LFFA regional traffic impact fund for other town priorities. While the council unanimously approved the resolution, they chose not to budget \$50,000 to pursue grant funding next year.

Honey harvest demonstration attracted anyone who might 'bee' curious



A completed full frame of capped honey

By Vera Kochan

A unique learning experience in the form of a honey harvest was presented to local residents by Lamorinda Bees who teamed up with Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association to give folks a bee-to-honey demonstration during the June 4 event.

Held in the Community Room of the Moraga Library, the curious of all ages came to marvel at the various stages a honey making process goes through before the final product makes its way into jars.

A honey bee trivia board explained some interesting facts: Honey bees have five eyes (two large compound eyes and three small simple eyes); Honey bee queens lay approximately 1,500 eggs a day (in peak season); A single bee makes 1/12 teaspoon of honey in its entire lifetime (a typical 12-ounce bottle of honey needs 864 bees to produce its contents); Bees flap their wings 190 times a second; A honey bee flies 15 miles per hour; Honey bees keep the inside of their hives at 93 degrees Fahrenheit (if it's cold outside, all of the bees vibrate their bodies to create heat to warm up the hive, and when it's hot outside, they

flap their wings like fans to create a breeze); Honey bees never sleep; Honey bees are the only insect that produces food for human consumption; and Honey bees pollinate approximately 80% of all vegetables, fruit and seed crops in the United States.

MDBA President Jan Pinkerton Spieth brought wooden frames (approximately 1-foot by 2-feet) containing hives loaded with worker bees milling around, busily laboring to create honey under the watchful eye of their queen. "It can take a week or two to fill a frame," she explained.

According to Spieth, the wax that forms the hexagonal receptacles/pockets containing the honey is produced inside a bee's body and the receptacles are also used to contain the growing larvae from eggs laid by the queen (whose life span is typically 2-3 years). It takes 21 days for a worker bee to hatch and maintain a lifespan of 5-6 weeks.

Lamorinda Bees were represented by Rosalind Bassett, her son Rhys Pullen (a San Diego State University student), daughter Sloan Pullen (a Campolindo High School student) and husband Mark Pullen. Rhys and Sloan



"Scraping" the wax caps to expose the honey

were introduced to the world of beekeeping while in the 4H Lamorinda chapter when they were 11 and 9 years old, and the family became hooked. Today they maintain three hives at home and two in The Bluffs and estimate that they are responsible for approximately 95,000 bees.

Bassett explained that a smoker is used when a beekeeper wants to calm the bees before opening the hive. "It can mimic a real fire causing the bees to gorge on the existing honey in case the 'fire' will destroy everything including their source of food." This makes it difficult for them to sting. "The smoke also masks a bee's alarm pheromone helping them to remain calm."

Sloan demonstrated the "scraping" process of harvesting honey, whereby a heated metal "scraper" is used to remove the wax off the tops of the cells (also called uncapping). Any excess wax collected by this procedure is turned into blocks and used to make beeswax candles.

The frames with the uncapped cells were handed to Rhys and placed into an "extractor" which rapidly spun the frames for about 10-15 minutes in order to release the honey from the cells

through centrifugal force. The honey was collected at the bottom of the extractor and released from a spigot onto a filter before placing into jars for sale.

Bassett encourages any



Photos Vera Kochan

Placing the "scraped" frames into the extractor

interested local high school students to join Lamorinda Bees by emailing her at: rbassett@mvpctoday.org. Spieth can be reached through www.diablobees.org or by calling (925) 330-7032.



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City Council

Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Monday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Orinda makes parking restrictions on red flag days permanent, may expand scope



Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council has judged that the pilot program to prevent cars being parked on El Toyonal and Loma Vista on red flag days has been a success and has adopted the program on a permanent basis. Residents of other areas asked the council to consider extending such a requirement to their neighborhoods, and the council indicated that they will consider expanding the scope of the red flag day parking restrictions. (The item was agendized for June 7, but was too late for publication in this issue.)

Red Flag Days are declared by the National Weather Service when there is low relative humidity and high winds, or very low humidity for more than 10 hours, or widespread and/or significant dry lightning. The fire chief may also declare a red flag day in response to an extreme hazard.

It is anticipated there are likely to be between 20 and 30 red flag days each year. Residents subject to the parking restrictions can find out if it is a red flag day by referring to street signs posted along the route that can be flipped open when the red flag day is declared. Information is also posted on the National Weather Service (NWS) website, <https://www.weather.gov/>.

Red Flag notices will generally be sent as "until further notice" with a cancellation notice in the future. Plumbers, gardeners and repair vehicles are allowed 5 minutes of active loading and unloading in the red flag day parking prohibition area.

The city pointed out that, no matter how reasonable the justification may seem, creating a potential blockage in the street on days of extreme hazard is unacceptable for the entire community. Therefore, people who live in the zone would have to provide alternative parking for their vehicles if they are on vacation at a time when red flag days are likely. Alternatively, neighbors could cooperate to move vehicles.

By the same token, people with no off-street parking and disabled people are still expected to comply with the parking restrictions on red flag days. The effect of the restrictions is to prohibit stopping or parking while red flag warnings are in effect within

5 feet from the edge of the city paved roadway along both sides of El Toyonal starting from the eastern edge of Camino Pablo, ending at the intersection of Vista Del Orinda, as well as both sides of Loma Vista Drive.

Residents will be given a warning if they were parked illegally on the first red flag day. After the first red flag day, enforcement will begin immediately, with violators being given citations.

Residents will be notified by postcard of the parking restrictions at the beginning of each fire season, and by red flag warning alert signs posted at specific locations.

During public comment on the item, Gene Gottfried said, "I think the most important thing to be remembered is that real progress can only be evaluated during an evacuation. There were plenty of cars parked on El Toyonal before the parking ban, virtually none after. The ban has been very, very well enforced," Gottfried continued, "and there has been no resistance to it." Gottfried was one of several community members who recommended that the council consider extending the ban, especially on narrow winding streets.

Don Moresi from Hillcrest Drive said he was a firefighter for 26 years, including serving in the Oakland fire. He experienced two occasions of complete street blockages when firefighters had to push vehi-

cles off the road. Sue Wecht, Firewise leader in Orinda Downs, suggested, "This is a serious problem which could result in loss of life or property. It should be extended to all areas of Orinda where fire department vehicles would not be able to gain access."

Melanie Light, chair of the Orinda Firewise Council, said, "I am so pleased to see this on the docket tonight. The only complaint I've heard is that it's not enforced enough. I really hope you expand; I hope you do it in conjunction with evacuation groups." She added that she hopes that the council will allow neighborhoods to petition for red flag days parking restrictions.

Ken Light added, "I wish that the council would move quicker. Think back to the Oakland Hills fire when 25 people died. You need to move faster. This is really critical. We're in a crisis with climate change and drought." He noted that "on swim nights you'd never get a fire engine through."

Matt Fogarty expanded the scope of the conversation, commenting, "I'd like the council to recognize that wild fire is a global problem owing to climate change. It's bad and it's going to get worse. We have a lot of responsibility." He concluded that he hopes the council "will do something about reducing our emissions as a community."

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Free live concerts return to parks in Lamorinda this summer

... continued from Page A1

Please bring your own lawn chair and blanket. The Moraga concerts are sponsored by The Bruzzoni Family, Republic

Services, Kiwanis, 5A Rent-a-Space, Moraga Junior Women's Club and Moraga Parks and Recreation.

The schedule in Moraga is: June 9, Midnight Flyer Ea-

gles Tribute; June 16, Juke Joint, Classic Soul and R&B; June 23, Beatles Flashback, Beatles Tribute; June 30, 3 Day Weekend, classic rock and MoTown; July 4, House Rockers Rock & Soul (7 p.m. concert); July 14, Mixed Nuts, Hits from the '40s to present; July 21, Moonalice, Bay Area '60s Psychedelic Rock; July 28, Retroactive, Dance Party; and Aug. 4 Aja Vu, Steely Dan and Chicago Tribute.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce will host the Rock the Plaza concert series from

6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday evenings at Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette during the month of June. The series opened with the 925 Band on June 3, and will continue on June 10 with Juke Joint, A Tribute to Classic Soul and R&B; followed by June 17 Keep on Truckin, Rock, Blues, R&B; and June 24 Lamorinda Idol.

To find out which food trucks will be present at the concerts in Orinda or for more information visit <https://www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/#calendar>.

Orinda's Summer Movies in the Park are back!

The Orinda Parks and Recreation Department is happy to bring back Movies in the Park after a two-year hiatus. The movies, which are presented by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation with support from the Orinda Community Foundation, will now be held on Friday evenings at the Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way.

The first movie of 2022 was "Luca" and the remaining five movies will all begin at dusk:

- July 8: "Coco" (PG)
- July 15: "Raya & the Last Dragon" (PG)
- Aug. 19: "Jungle Cruise" (PG-13)
- Aug. 26: "Bolt" (PG)
- Oct. 7: "E.T." (PG)

This event is free and open to the community. Families are encouraged to bring their blankets, lawn chairs, and don't forget the popcorn!

Nominations now open for the Orinda Citizen of the Year 2022

Do you have a person in mind to nominate for outstanding community service in 2020 and/or over many years of lifetime service?

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- Must be someone who has given of their time, talents and energy as a community volunteer helping make Orinda better, where people want to live, work and shop;
- Must be someone who models excellence and good citizenship in everything they do;
- Must be someone who brings our community together making us proud and promoting community spirit.

A celebration dinner sponsored by The Orinda Community Foundation will be held on Sunday evening, Oct. 23 at the Orinda Community Center Founders' Auditorium to honor the award recipient. The deadline for submitting nominations is by Friday, Sept. 2.

Nominations can be sent to orindafoundation@gmail.com or mailed to Orinda Community Foundation, PO Box 21, Orinda CA 941W 0525 Civic Orinda, 168 words



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MOFD, Orinda City Council 2x2 committee meets, considers recommendations by SSTOC

By Sora O'Doherty

At its second meeting, a 2x2 group comprising two members of the Orinda City Council and two members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board considered recommendations by Orinda's Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee. The SSTOC, formed after the passage of Measure R, considered how best to spend revenue of the increased sales tax. Although the revenue will eventually be used for additional Orinda purposes, the first priority was increasing wildfire safety.

The group, which was welcomed by public speakers, including Melanie Light, chair of Orinda's Firewise Council and a member of the SSTOC and Jud Hammon, chair of the SSTOC, heard a presentation by SSTOC member Paula Reinman, and then discussed the SSTOC's recommendations on education and outreach efforts, the chipper program, grants and incentives, wildfire prevention (boots on the ground) and home assessments, and upcoming fire code updates.

The SSTOC report stated that in its initial year, the committee created near-term and longer-

term goals. The near-term goals set by the SSTOC are: 1) hire and train an additional dedicated city staff member to provide "boots on the ground" support for wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and home hardening efforts; 2) provide roadside fuel reduction and vegetation management, particularly along evacuation routes; 3) create a vegetation and structure inventory of city and residential properties in order to utilize novel computer modeling of fire in the Wildland Urban Interface; 4) continue to clear city property to comply with MOFD Fire Code, and budget and plan for annual clearance; and 5) establish an extensive community education and motivational program regarding wildfire risk reduction, home hardening, and emergency preparedness.

Additional goals include defining police and other emergency staff required to assist the public during evacuations and assure adequate staffing levels will be available; publicizing the existing chipper program and explore implementation of a gridded program; exploring alternate funding to incentivize residents to achieve fuel reduc-

tion, home hardening, and emergency preparedness; and expanding the pilot program for red flag days parking restrictions.

MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker mentioned that he has often seen properties where he has personally spoken with the owners about what needs to be done, and yet the work has not been done. "We have an annual fire safety messaging plan, and it is very simple to integrate someone," said Winnacker, who noted that the MOFD has about 13 points they would like to communicate. "We'll talk to just about anybody on this stuff," he said, adding, "The message is not hard, it is the execution that is hard."

Orinda City Manager David Biggs was optimistic that the city will soon receive grant funds. Biggs also addressed issues concerning the chipper that has been purchased by the city but is scheduled by MOFD, which Biggs recommended. Senior Management Analyst Micki Cronin is working on a gridded chipper program and Biggs noted that they are looking at what would be the right size of target neighborhoods. Current demand is

pretty high, he said, so perhaps the city will roll out the gridded program later on. In order to accommodate the gridded program, the city will have to pull days out of the generally available schedule.

Charles Porges, who spoke during public comments, said his concern was with getting the actual work done once the need has been documented. Winnacker confirmed that MOFD has a list of fuel mitigation providers who are considered trusted partners, having recently completed training by the MOFD. As trusted agents, the providers were walked through the fire code requirements and were certified. These providers can self-report on compliance. The list of trusted providers is on the MOFD website (www.MOFD.org).

On the subject of grants and incentives, without presuming board action, Winnacker noted that there is a proposal coming before the board on a \$500,000 home hardening grant program, which would provide a 50% match to homeowners for ember resistant vent hardening. If approved, it would go into effect early this summer and would provide grants of \$1,000 for

home hardening. Winnacker added that the MOFD just ordered a number of rolls of ember resistant metal mesh, and is willing to explore opportunities for providing the mesh to people to harden attic vents.

In connection with grants, the issue of gifts of public funds was raised, but Winnacker noted that MOFD counsel has been clear to the MOFD board that there is no problem with grants as long as there is public benefit. He warned that if the city attorney takes a different view, it would also affect MOFD's grant program. Biggs also mentioned that state grants for low to moderate income households may be coming as early as 2023.

Gee was very supportive of the idea of using Measure R funds to create grants or incentives. "I think it is a hugely positive way to make action happen, and a really good way of making sure we are getting good use of our Measure R dollars," she said. Mayor Dennis Fay agreed, and saw substantial public benefit to the work on fire safety.

It was agreed that the 2x2 committee will continue to meet, and that the next meeting will be in late June.

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Beacon lit on Mount Diablo in honor of Memorial Day



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The historic Mount Diablo beacon was lit for the first time in honor of veterans on May 30 for Memorial Day. Many groups and individuals, including the Pearl Harbor Survivors Sons and Daughters, the American Legion, California State Parks,

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, California Sen. Steve Glazer, California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen signed a joint proclamation in February agreeing that the beacon should

be lit on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, in addition to Pearl Harbor Day in December. The beacon, which is visible from many points in Lamorinda, is lit at sunset and extinguished the following sunrise. — S. O'Doherty

Letters to the editor

Anti-racism is not racism

"Openly racist ideology" is David Berti's characterization of the Lamorinda public schools DEI values (letter to the editor, April 27 Lamorinda Weekly). He attempts to convince that anti-racism is racism and that love is hate – as if truth can be false. He also proposes a resolution that would prevent the discussion of racism in school. This is especially disturbing considering the recent mass murder of black people in Buffalo by a racist white man – part of an enduring legacy of whites killing blacks.

Berti wants school districts to adopt a resolution to ensure students are judged as individuals rather than by "group stereotypes or averages." This sounds good on its face. But the

aim is to protect white children from "discomfort, guilt, anguish ... or any other form of psychological distress." It's so restrictive that it would stop accurate educating. He anticipates kids being distressed when learning about the catastrophic consequences of racism. I remember my early lessons about slavery, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights movement. Of course, it was distressing to look at injustice and cruelty. That's normal. However, it was also inspiring to learn the ways black people overcame the violence and oppression.

We all have to come to terms with how we either perpetuate or reverse the effects of laws, policies, and beliefs that cause real harm to real people in our community. We might indeed need to face up to some difficult truths about how we

may have benefited from laws and practices that put black and other Americans at a distinct disadvantage.

There are too many white people, like me, who live or lived in ignorance and silence, or who, like me, avoided recognizing the injustice and violence that result from a racist belief system. And who have also long dodged doing anything about it. I hope our kids can avoid real distress by learning the truth now and helping to bring racism to its eventual end.

Learning about racism doesn't harm kids or adults. It frees and inspires us to build a community where all belong, are safe, respected, and loved.

Todd Hollenberg
Lafayette

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

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CNPA awards Lamorinda Weekly reporter second place for photo



The California News Publishers Association announced on May 23 that Lamorinda Weekly reporter and photographer Sora O'Doherty won second place in the 2021 California Journalism Awards Contest for her Feb. 27, 2021 news photo of a Del Rey Elementary School

kindergarten student being given hand sanitizer before entering the classroom on the first day back to school, after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of schools in 2020. Congratulations, Sora!

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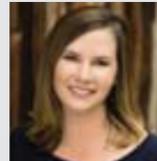
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

A new life in Lamorinda: One Ukrainian family's struggle to leave the war behind



Photo Vera Kochan

The Shkolniy family, from left: Tatyana, Tanya, Denis, Tim, Konstantin and Nadia at Moraga Commons Park.

By Vera Kochan

Over 100 days of the Russian war in and against Ukraine, and refugees are continuing to make their way to safer ground, albeit in less numbers. Nearly 7 million citizens have fled their homeland that once held a population of over 44 million. Ukrainians underwent this type of large-scale devastation not so long ago during World War II – and even as recently as 2014, with Crimea and the Donbas region.

Families and friends are separated, not knowing if they will ever see each other again; homes are abandoned; all possessions are left behind except whatever can be worn or packed into suitcases; even beloved pets must be left to fend for themselves. However, the one thing that Ukrainians do not leave behind is their courage and resiliency. Many have said they will return “home” once the war is over. Others have decided to make a go of it wherever they’ve put their suitcases down.

The Shkolniy family is lucky enough to have a sister, Tatyana, living in Moraga, but the escape route was nothing short of exhausting, dangerous, disappointing and full of red tape.

Tatyana’s brother Konstantin (40), sister-in-law Tanya (36), their sons Denis (13), Tim (2½), and mother Nadia (71) spent over six weeks trying to leave Ukraine and another two weeks trying to reach the United States once they did; finally arriving on April 20.

Konstantin was a construction worker in Ukraine, having recently sunk much of his savings into opening his own business when the Russians invaded on Feb. 24. The family lived in Kyiv, just 15 minutes from Bucha where atrocities against civilians have been reported. His wife, Tanya, was an accountant in the health care industry. Denis attended middle school and was beginning to learn English, while little Tim spent his days playing under the watchful eye of his grandmother, Nadia. Their idyllic life ended when on Feb. 26, Konstantin cleared out their bank account and made the decision to take his family to safety during the shelling of Kyiv.

Packing what they could into the family’s car they first headed south to a cousin’s house in Illintsi (Vinnysia Oblast). The normal four-hour

trip became nine due to heavy traffic from others fleeing the war. They stayed for a week but when they realized Ukraine was in it for the long haul, they headed for Moldova. The three-hour drive became six, and the family was met with disappointment when they discovered that Ukraine issued a martial law whereby males between the ages of 18-60 were required to stay in case additional manpower was needed to back up Ukrainian troops (the Shkolniys have since learned that their cousin enlisted to fight and another has signed up for volunteer-work).

Having come this far, they pressed their luck (after two nights of sleeping on church benches) and drove another six hours to the Romanian border only to again learn that Konstantin would not be allowed to cross the border. He was now the family of five’s sole support not to mention having been his mother’s caregiver for 15 years (she suffers from Addison’s disease – a rare but serious adrenal gland disorder).

Hearing that Poland was accepting a large number of refugees, the family drove 10 hours to Lviv in the hope of catching a train to Warsaw. After standing in line for five hours in the freezing rain, rumors circulated that there was no longer any room on the train. As Tim came down with a fever, the family trudged over to a church shelter and slept on the floor for three nights before heading back to their cousin’s house in Illintsi.

The Shkolniys began to research various laws for a loophole that would allow Konstantin to leave Ukraine with the rest of the family. They found an exception to the martial law that allowed a male to leave if he is “engaged in constant care for persons in need.” Luckily, before they left home, they had the presence of mind to bring all of Nadia’s medical records which proved that she suffered from a life-threatening illness and that her son was her legal caregiver.

Setting out for Romania again, with the sounds of bombing ringing in their ears, the family was able to cross the border intact. Having run through their savings, they became dependent on sister Tatyana’s ability to wire cash to them at various intervals in order to buy airline tickets or rent rooms. They had to lay

over in Romania for 10 days before they could arrange to take a 3.5-hour flight to Spain.

Inching closer to America, from Spain they connected onto a 10-hour flight to Medellin, Colombia. Once again, they waited for 10 hours before catching a 4.5-hour flight to Mexico City where they were detained for two hours and nearly missed their flight to Tijuana. Once in Tijuana they were admitted to the U.S. Days later they heard the border was closed to Ukrainian refugees until further notice.

After crossing the border, they contacted a family friend in San Diego who brought them over to spend the night. Knowing that they were finally safe in the United States, Tatyana drove down from Moraga to bring them home with her.

Tatyana’s marketing business suffered during the pandemic, but she emptied her savings account in order to pay for her family’s long journey to America. They managed to stay with her for two weeks, but space was very limited. Moraga resident Paige Dunn arranged for neighbors to take turns bringing over complete dinners and make cash donations.

Four days after their arrival in Moraga, Nadia suffered a health crisis that was

exacerbated due to exhaustion, dehydration and anxiety. She ended up in the hospital overnight for observation, and returned 10 days later with a relapse. The family is in the process of acquiring health insurance.

Through the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, host family Sue and Al Farmer opened their home to the Shkolniys where they are currently staying.

The family’s strong faith has kept them going, through all of the hardships they’ve endured. They are emotionally overwhelmed by all of the generosity coming from the Lamorinda community. From the meals, to clothing and even toys for the kids they are surprised that so many people want to help complete strangers; and they wish to express their sincere thanks.

Having been in the states for over a month, they have noticed significant cultural differences from their homeland. Nadia feels that American women are lucky to have so many electrical appliances (dish washers and clothes dryers) to help them with their housework. She assumes

that’s why American women are always smiling.

Konstantin couldn’t believe that people gave them so many clothes and how kind and friendly everyone is, while Tanya noticed that women drive cars and that going to a restaurant is a common occurrence rather than a luxury.

Although Denis is missing his friends back home, he was pleasantly surprised to find that American kids come up to him in the park and ask him to play with them. He has managed to continue his studies online and hopes to enter the eighth grade in the fall.

The adults are in the process of learning to speak English by attending special classes while they are waiting for work visas. They are hoping that anyone with an extra, used car in good condition might be interested in donating it to them. If so, send an email to: vabizcon@gmail.com or phone (650) 797-2211. In the meantime, Tatyana has set up: www.gofundme.com/f/orinda to help the family get back on their feet.

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Colorful, creamy pepper poppers make the perfect side dish



Ricotta & Feta Pepper Poppers

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Back in the April 1, 2020 issue, we featured a recipe for homemade ricotta cheese. It's really fun to make and so delicious! Since then, we've used that recipe as an ingredient in many other recipes including these delicious pepper poppers.

Mini sweet peppers are so beautiful and colorful and they are absolutely delicious roasted with ricotta and feta cheese. The tangy flavor of the feta is the perfect foil to these mini sweet peppers. Just stuff them and roast them until the cheese is beginning to brown for a perfect side dish to any meal or the main course for any vege-

tarians in your crowd. You can prepare the peppers a few hours ahead of time and refrigerate them until you're ready to bake them for dinner.

If you don't have time or if you're not interested in making homemade ricotta, then you can easily substitute store-bought ricotta to use in this recipe. But, if you have time and the interest, even if making your own cheese at home sounds a bit daunting, this ricotta recipe is super easy and really fun to do. It takes about 20 minutes or so to heat the milk and cream to the right temperature and then it's just a matter of how firm or soft you want your cheese to be that will determine the total time

Ricotta & Feta Pepper Poppers

INGREDIENTS

24 mini sweet peppers in multiple colors red, orange, and yellow
1 cup ricotta cheese (see recipe below for homemade ricotta)
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1 teaspoon lemon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray a baking sheet or casserole dish with PAM or equivalent.

Prepare the peppers:

Lay peppers on a cutting board. Cut a small triangle on the top side of each of the peppers (see photo) with the wide part at the top near the stem. Leave the stem intact if possible. Remove the triangle and set aside for your salad tonight. Now, scoop out any remaining seeds with a grapefruit spoon. Set aside. (You can also just take the easy route and cut them in half before filling them.)

Mix all remaining ingredients in a small bowl.

Assembly :

Using a small spoon or pastry bag, stuff peppers to the top of the opening with the cheese mixture. Place peppers, stuffing side up, on your baking sheet or casserole dish.

Bake at 400 F for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until cheese is bubbling and beginning to brown.

Serve piping hot!

Homemade Ricotta Cheese

INGREDIENTS

8 cups whole milk
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 1/2 teaspoons sea salt
2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice (strained pulp out)
2 tablespoons rice vinegar (can also use white wine vinegar)

DIRECTIONS

In a medium-large pot, slowly heat the milk and cream together until it reaches 185 F, stirring occasionally along the way. The best way to measure the temperature is to clip a candy or instant-read thermometer to the side of the pot when you first begin the process.

While the milk mixture is heating, line a colander with cheesecloth and sit it over a bowl. Set aside. Mix the lemon juice and vinegar in a small container.

Once the temperature reaches 185 F, remove the pot from the heat and immediately stir in the salt. Slowly drizzle the lemon juice and rice vinegar over the top. Stir gently with a silicon spoon or spatula until the curds begin to form.

Ladle the curds into the colander and roll any loose edges of cheesecloth over the top of the cheese. Allow to drain until it reaches the consistency you desire. This can take anywhere from 20 minutes to a few hours, depending upon how firm you like your ricotta. Store the cheese in an airtight container for up to two weeks in the refrigerator.

involved.

Whole milk makes much better ricotta than low-fat milk, and it's best to find one that is not ultra-pasteurized. Ultra-pasteurized milk is not recommended because it has already

been heated to a very high temperature of 280 degrees Fahrenheit which prevents it from curdling properly. Normally-pasteurized milk has been heated to a much lower temperature of between 145

and 161 degrees. You need the curds and whey to separate for making ricotta, so just stick to normally-pasteurized milk for this project.



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>



Lamorinda volunteers travel abroad to aid Ukrainian refugees

By Sora O'Doherty

Since the outset of the war in Ukraine, residents of Lamorinda have been trying to find ways to help Ukrainian refugees: those who make it here, those still in Ukraine, or those who make it to Poland.

Charles MacNulty, long-time Moraga resident known locally for his volunteer work with, among others, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, wanted to make a difference, if he could. He first attempted to gather medical supplies to ship to Poland, but there were in-

surmountable obstacles. Failing that, MacNulty thought, if he couldn't send help, he would go and help personally.

MacNulty and his wife had planned a river cruise in Europe in May, and MacNulty determined that he would go to Poland after the cruise and offer his assistance. A former medic during the Vietnam war, a certified drone pilot and fork lift operator, he felt that he had volunteer skills that could be useful. Before leaving, he reached out to The International Committee of the Red Cross and passed a background check to allow him to

volunteer.

Leaving his cruise in Basil, Switzerland, MacNulty made his way to Warsaw where he contacted the Red Cross. He was directed to Lublin, and from there he rented a car to travel to Dolhobychow, Zosin, and Hrubieszow. While there he was used to ferry people from one location to another. He met volunteers in Poland from many countries, including Italy, Australia, Ireland, and the U.S. Most of the other volunteers spoke Polish, which

MacNulty does not. The volunteers and the Red Cross staff welcomed refugees from Ukraine and provided them with food and supplies. To MacNulty's surprise, many of the Ukrainians had already been to Poland and returned to Ukraine, but were now coming back to buy cars and trucks, since Ukraine had dropped the tax on bringing in vehicles. The line to return to Ukraine was some 15 miles long, and moved about a mile or two per day. However, MacNulty ob-

served that everyone was patient and polite.

MacNulty spent about 10 days in Poland, and was tempted to stay longer. However, the help that was needed at that point involved driving into Ukraine, where the Russians were not welcoming. "I've been shot at," MacNulty recalled, "and I didn't like it!" The International Red Cross is still looking for people to volunteer in Poland in aid of Ukrainian refugees.

Link for more information:

<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/international-services.html>

Orinda garden club members once again featured in de Young Museum's Bouquets to Art



Diana Kennedy & Phoebe Kahl

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Garden club members Diana Kennedy and Phoebe Kahl have represented Orinda Garden Club for more than 20 years and will once again be featured in the annual Bouquets to Art exhibition in the de Young Museum of art in San Francisco this week. The pair of Orinda gardeners were assigned a piece entitled "Lake Basin in the High Sierras" by Chiuri Obata located in Gallery 11. The exhibition is open to the public through June 12 at 5 p.m.

Kennedy explained that

some of the flowers they used are from the San Francisco Flower Market, a few from a vendor in Southern California called Haus of Stems and the remainder from their own gardens. "Our containers belong to us," she said, and "gourds were sprayed blue to compliment the art work and placed in front and in the back of our design. Participants are permitted to refresh their designs early in the morning before the museum is open to the public.

"It is always a pleasure to be asked to be a part of Bouquets to Art," Kennedy added.



Mari Tischenko's completed bouquet

Photos Sora O'Doherty

Garden club member Mari Tischenko also participated this year, as well as Morgan Carpenter of Morgan Carpenter Floral Designs in Lafayette. Tischenko was assigned a piece entitled "Cat-walk" by Charles Sheeler. It is an oil on canvas inspired by his work as a professional photographer and artist. Tischenko says that this piece resulted from a photograph that he took at a synthetic rubber plant in West Virginia back in the mid '40s. "He was inspired in this paint-

ing by the precise geometric forms that his photo captured. He called himself a 'precisionist' and favored an industrial architectural approach."

She chose a metal container from her Ikebana Sogetsu school and then fabricated her version of a "grid and I-beams" by using a metal grid then welding and screwing together pieces of aluminum material. "I wanted the industrial feeling to come through with the screws and nuts and bolts, the bold grid

form, the strong circular form in the ping-pong balls, and the architectural angular form in the red 99% right angle positioning squares."

Having admired this piece for a few years, Tischenko is happy to have this opportunity to interpret the painting. "I wanted the floral material to be more architectural in nature too, thus the strong red and white anthurium. The bulrush is wired so that I could create more sharp angular line elements," she added.

This is the 38th annual Bouquets to Art event. For more information about events happening during the exhibit, see <https://deyoung.famsf.org/bouquets-to-art>

Birdies and Frisbees fly at Moraga Commons Disc Golf Course



Photo Casey Scheiner

Damon Rothgeb tees off at the first hole of Moraga Commons' disc golf course.

By Casey Scheiner

Brian Hanson is preparing to tee off of the first hole in Mor-

aga. Yet, he is not holding a golf club, nor is he placing a peg in the ground at Moraga Country Club. Instead, between the skate park and volleyball courts at Moraga Commons, he wields a disc, looking to launch the round, flat, plate-like object into a chained basket rather than hit a small, dimpled ball into a hole.

Hanson is one of many locals joining in on the disc golf craze that recently swept the nation, with the Professional Disc Golf Association quantifying that over one million people now regularly play. Further, the Moraga Disc Golf Course Facebook group has accumulated over 600 members. With summer arriving, that number should only spike as citizens flock outside to enjoy the warm weather at the only disc golf course within six miles of Moraga.

"Disc golf popularity locally and worldwide has rapidly expanded," Glenn Murray, the organizer for Moraga Commons' Tuesday Weekly Handicap Singles League, explained. "Lamorinda youth and adults have enjoyed the course over the

past 40 years, but it's more popular now than ever."

The sport that George Costanza of "Seinfeld" coined "frolf," or frisbee golf, has strong roots at Moraga Commons. The course, donated by the Moraga Women's Society, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Co-designed by "Steady" Ed Headrick, the creator of the Frisbee and the father of disc golf, and Bay Area disc golf pioneer Charlie Callahan, Moraga Commons boasts deep ties to the fabric of the sport itself.

Lamorinda residents revere its rich past, with users on the Disc Golf Course Review website calling it a "historically great course" and an "old historical course ... with historical Steady Ed significance."

Although its past glory may constitute much of the course's identity, the future has begun to take the reins of disc golf in the area, as the pandemic triggered a surge in youth participation.

"I started playing disc golf around three years ago, but I got more serious around a year ago after playing one of the weekly tournaments here

and wanting to improve," Chase Kivelson, a sophomore at Campolindo High School, said. "I love the community here [at Moraga Commons]. It's so inclusive. Everyone is always super welcoming, so I've gotten a lot of friends out of the sport."

Through all sorts of fun challenges, from drastic elevation changes to dozens of trees serving as obstacles, the nine disc golf holes, all Par 3s, which wind around the grass of Moraga Commons have brought exercise, joy, and friendship to thousands of Lamorinda citizens over the past four decades.

"It's a super nice course with a lot of variety in shots," Damon Rothgeb, an Oakland man who drives to Moraga twice a month to play disc golf at the Commons, concluded. "I love everything about disc golf: throwing the disc, watching it fly, and making improvements. It's like a fun puzzle that I'm trying to solve."

So, when the calendar turns to National Disc Golf Day on Aug. 6, it's safe to say that Moraga Commons will be filled with disc golf enthusiasts.

Got milk? Lamorinda moms not spared from the formula shortage

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Carley Weiss went into labor with her now 3-month-old son, she never imagined being impacted by the formula shortage. "I always planned on breastfeeding," Weiss says. "But my son was tongue tied which made it difficult for him to get a good latch and painful for me." So after many unsuccessful attempts, Weiss resorted to baby formula. In the past, moms like Weiss might've been relieved to be able to have formula as an option, in spite of its hefty price tag of over \$40/can, to nourish their babies. Now, however, it's not that simple – not even in Lamorinda.

Absent the formula shortage, Weiss might have bought formula from the Moraga Safeway or another local store. Now, in the thick of it, Weiss is on a weekly scavenger hunt to find a sus-

tained supply of nourishment for her child. "A few weeks ago, my husband and I realized after the 6 a.m. feeding, that we needed more formula. We jumped in the car and we went to three different Walmarts and had to go all the way to Vacaville to find formula," Weiss says. "Another day I was at Target and there was a mom crying in the formula aisle because she couldn't find formula for her baby. I got her number and texted her when I found the product she was looking for." Although Weiss is still on maternity leave from her job as a preschool teacher, the weekly hunt for baby formula has become a full-time endeavor. She has out-of-state family as far away as Idaho, searching for her brand and sending it to her. With inflation and record-high gas prices, the cost of driving from store to store is also adding up. "If we have to switch to a generic brand, I

worry about how it will impact my baby's stomach," Weiss says.

Denise Witzig, Professor of Women's & Gender Studies at Saint Mary's College of California says, the nationwide formula shortage is infuriating and leaves her with more questions than answers. "Where is the government oversight of this? Why are so few corporations and so few businesses in charge of producing something that is so vital to many families and babies?"

Certified Lactation Counselor Yael Bromberg says that while the formula shortage is a symptom of the much larger issue of conglomeration, this one is harming the country's most vulnerable people. "Why do we have systems where there's a very small number of players in the formula industry in the United States? Why is it that when Abbot has a recall related to one of their plants,

we're consolidated in such a critical way that the whole supply chain starts to crumble?"

Bromberg says it's naive for people to suggest just switching to breastfeeding if formula is unavailable. "Babies in adoptive families or born to surrogates naturally can't just switch," Bromberg says. "(And neither can formula fed babies in general. If you don't use (breastmilk), you lose it. This is why breastfeeding rates decline sharply after six weeks when many women return to work."

Shameka Brown is a Sodexo caterer in Moraga and the single mom of three children. She stopped nursing her first two children after they were just over a month old, not because she didn't have a right to pump, but because she didn't know she did. "When I was having my son, my coworker told me I had the right to pump as

many times as necessary in a day," Brown says. "So I did until he was 18 months old. My son is the only one of my children who didn't have (digestive) issues. I also lost my pregnancy weight very quickly and it was good for our bond."

As the infant formula shelf in the Lafayette Whole Foods remains empty and the selection of brands of formula in places like Safeway remains limited, many people are taking note of societal ironies as one mom noted on a local social media page. "Why is it that it's easier to buy guns (that kill people) than formula (to feed our babies)?" Even if Weiss and other local moms of infants are left with the same quandary, they can't wait for the formula shortage to be resolved. "We'll get through this," Weiss says. "But it's super stressful."

Don't get burned! Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Event



Submitted by Karen Boccabella

Benjamin Boccabella, Boy Scout from Troop 237 Orinda, and Kathryn Ishizu, Executive Director from Lamorinda Village, partnered to host an educational fire safety event for Lamorinda Village (www.lam-

Duncan Seibert, Program Manager Lamorinda CERT, Gordon Nathan, CERT Instructor, Benjamin Boccabella, Boy Scout Troop 237, and Noell Crosse Public Education Coordinator for Contra Costa Fire

Photo provided

orindavillage.org) members and the community on June 3 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian. Lamorinda Village is a community based network of people over age 55 living in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.

D. Seibert, Program Manager from Lamorinda CERT, G. Nathan, CERT Instructor, and

Noell Crosse, Public Education Coordinator for Contra Costa Fire, spoke about Emergency Preparedness and Home Fire Safety. The hands-on fire extinguisher practice session was a big success.

Frequent emergency preparedness educational events are extremely important.

Hope Walk a great success



Lamorinda Village Hope Walk team

Photo provided

Submitted by Libby Eppinga

The 2022 Cancer Support Community Hope Walk was the most successful yet. Over 900 walkers turned

out virtually and in-person during Hope Walk Week May 15-21 to raise over \$228,000 (with donations still com-

ing at hopewalkbayarea.net) in support of vital programs and services for cancer patients and their families in the community. Team Lamorinda Village had a blast at Lafayette Reservoir with their two-legged and four-legged friends while supporting a wonderful cause.

Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area has been a vital community resource for over 30 years providing free support programs to thousands of cancer patients and their families, both virtual and in-person. Their comprehensive programs complement the medical care patients receive and focus on treating the whole person. Programs include sup-

port groups, counseling, nutrition classes, exercise, educational workshops with leading health professionals – all designed to improve health outcomes and quality of life.

"We are so grateful to the incredible sponsors, including Presenting Sponsors John Muir Health and UCSF Health as well as Platinum sponsor Exelixis and Silver sponsors Stanford Medicine, and Takeda Oncology and the hundreds of generous individuals for understanding how important it is to support cancer patients and families in the Bay Area," says Cancer Support Community CEO, Rob Tufel, MSW, MPH. "We can't wait until next year."

Troop 234 honors three new Eagle Scouts



From left: Asa Smyrl, Calvin Chen, and Alessandro Paolieri Photo Jim Babson

Submitted by Flora Hsu

Troop 234 held their Eagle Court of Honor May 28 at St. Monica Catholic Church to honor three new Eagle Scouts – Calvin Chen, Alessandro Paolieri and Asa Smyrl. The guest speaker was Moraga Mayor Steve Woeleke and some special guests in attendance included Matt Ariker, Briones District Chair, and Chris Kolm, Unit Commissioner for Briones District.

Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in Scouting. It requires scouts to familiarize themselves in outdoor skills, serve in their community and take on leadership positions. It is a journey that requires hard work, tenacity, dedication and leadership. One of the acronyms of teaching a young scout something new is EDGE: E stands for Educate a person; D is for Demonstrate the task; G is to Guide them through the challenges; and E is Enable them to do more by positive reinforcement. It is through this method that scouts become proficient in tying knots, reading the compass, preparing for a campout and ultimately leading a campout.

A major part of receiving the Eagle

Scout rank is to serve the community through an Eagle project. Calvin Chen worked with Moraga Parks and Recreation Association to prepare, paint and install nine wooden trail markers around Moraga. One can see them at Moraga Commons Park, Rancho Laguna Park and the Hacienda. They serve as guides for those who visit the parks. Alessandro Paolieri worked with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Moraga Parks and Recreation to prevent outbreak of wildfires. He removed tree and bush branches in Rancho Laguna Park, lower than 6 feet to the ground to reduce the risk of fire spreading from the ground to tree canopies. This reduces the fire danger to surrounding residential areas and open spaces. Asa Smyrl ran a book drive for Harbor House Ministries to collect books for its after school programs. In providing books for this underserved community, it aims to close the education gap for the students there, whom some of the students are families of recent immigrants.

Three new Eagle Scouts would like to thank Troop 234's adult leaders, fellow scouts and families, and community for their support through the years.

Troop 57 announces new Eagle Scout

Submitted by Maura Aars

Through dedication and hard work Ryan Aars has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 57 in Orinda. Ryan became an Eagle Scout on March 1, after going above and beyond to earn his Eagle Scout rank while earning 86 merit badges. He is still inspired to earn more merit badges this summer. Ryan also earned the 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award where he took the lead, along with other Boy Scouts, to clean up several beaches. Ryan is a sophomore at Miramonte High School and works at Trader Joe's in Lafayette. Ryan built a Volunteer Shed for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding in Orinda, which is a place for therapeutic riding. The Volunteer Shed is used daily and has helped create a place to rest in-between working with the horses.

Ryan Aars

Photo provided



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.

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

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Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 honors new Eagle Scouts



Photo Karen Drinkwater

Back row: Alexander Yee, Michael Coane, Adam Harper, Bryce Maher, Quinn Ricketts; front, seated: Zack Donovan, Ryan Sintchak, Mason Fara

Submitted by Siv Ricketts

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 held its 59th Eagle Court of Honor at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 1. The Court recognized the achievements of eight young men who have fulfilled all the requirements necessary to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, BSA's highest rank. Each Scout earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, participated in 25 or more campouts and at least one 50-miler backpacking high adventure, and fulfilled the Scout Oath to do their duty to God and country by serving in leadership positions at school and in the community.

Just as an eagle flies high and soars over vast areas, so the Eagle Scout sets his standards of personal character high and over all aspects of his life. The 2022 Troop 212 Eagle Scout class members include: Michael Coane, Zack Donovan, Mason Fara, Adam Harper, Bryce Maher, Quinn Ricketts, Ryan Sintchak, and Alexander Yee.

Each Scout planned, executed, and led a service project to help others, another aspect of the Scout Oath. On the whole and though they were individually planned, the Scouts' projects uniquely responded to the needs of our times. Two Scouts, Bryce Maher and Ryan Sintchak, created fire barriers to

protect Rheem Elementary School and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, respectively. Two Scouts worked on school libraries: Alexander Yee refurbished St. John School's Library by reviewing 7,000 books, revising the library's website, and replacing or adding over 500 new books, while Zack Donovan designed and built a new bookshelf to showcase diversity, equity, and inclusion materials at Los Perales Elementary School. Quinn Ricketts' project, planned pre-pandemic yet especially helpful during a pandemic, benefitted Campolindo High School's music program as he designed and built custom music clips that hold sheet music onto music stands so that the Campo bands can play outside. Adam Harper built a bench in memory of Johnathon Klock, father of a close friend, a mentor, and a coach to many Bay Area kids; the bench was originally placed at the Campolindo High School football field, though it has since been moved to the Klock's family property. Michael Coane conducted a toiletries drive for Harbor House Ministries in Oakland, a community development organization that serves an ethnically diverse population, and Mason Fara reminded us of local history as he installed a monument and plaque commemorating the Sacramento Northern Railway Station in Moraga.

AAUW-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch awards Community Engagement Scholarships



Photo provided

From left: AAUW-OML 2022 scholarship awardees Caroline Hoskins, Angela Garcia, Maristella Heo and Emma Bonardi.

Submitted by Mary Ann McLeod

The American Association of University Women – Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette branch honored three local high school seniors and a member of the Saint Mary's College Class of 2023 at their April meeting. The awards are based on grades, community engagement and leadership.

The following students personify these goals: Acalanes High School, Maristella Heo; Campolindo, Emma Bonardi; and Miramonte, Caroline Hoskins. Angela Garcia received the Saint Mary's College award. Each of the awardees searched for ways to connect with others during the pandemic. They launched many efforts in the Bay Area and encouraged others to join them.

Heo found solace in music, joined her church band, and brought comfort to others. As Editor in Chief of the Acalanes school newspaper, Blueprint, she kept the community informed on issues such as COVID and local fires. Bonardi tutored children in Oakland through the Aspire Education

Community Reading Buddy program. She co-wrote a book "Jett the Spy: The Secret to Finding True Friends" and donated the book to the children in the program. As captain of Miramonte's water polo team, Hoskins encouraged team members to participate in volunteer programs such as Grateful Gatherings and Adopt a Family. Hoskins and her teammates helped families transitioning from homelessness or abuse programs by furnishing their apartment to create a welcoming place to call home. Garcia returned to her former high school Ygnacio Valley to assist the softball coach with the idea of enriching the program and serving as a role model to student athletes. She tutors students through the Oakland Public Education Fund to help build the children's reading confidence.

In addition to these scholarships, middle school students who will be attending AAUW's Tech Trek program were introduced. The speaker for the event was Dr. Rosalie McGurk, a staff astronomer at the Keck Observatory, Hawaii.

◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Art show at Orinda Books. June features the paintings of the Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) – a local collection of painters who have been working and showing together for 15 years. The exhibit is titled "Going to the Dogs," and you will meet the BASA artists' favorite canine friends and a couple of cats who appear a little leery about the company they find themselves in. The BASA artists include Suzun Almquist, Jeanette Baird, Lassie Colebourn, Ellen Reintjes, Ruth Stanton, Joanne Taeuffer, Sharon Tama, and Marcy Wheeler. Visit the Artist of the Month at <https://www.orindabooks.com>. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to return to free live Art Embraces Words programs at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center Arts & Science Room. Patrons are seated in the middle of the room surrounded by artwork from local artists. In this way art literally "embraces" the words spoken by emerging writers who read excerpts from their work from a podium. Program dates are June 18, July 23, and Oct. 29 (Costume Program). We invite emerging writers and visual artists to register online if they are interested in participating. Programs run from 2 to 3:30 p.m. where emerging writers read from their work, artists speak about their art and there is an audience Q&A. Reception follows

outdoors in the Library Courtyard.

Every four years the Valley Art Gallery holds a juried exhibition celebrating the iconic mountain that dominates our skyline. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

East Bay Open Studios is an annual, free and family-friendly, self-guided tour of artist studios and exhibition spaces throughout the East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) in over 12 different cities. The event is held on the weekend: 11&12, starting at 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Artist's profiles, map and other details are all on our website. www.Eastbayopenstudios.com

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: The Lamorinda Arts Council presents artwork from many of the 50 creative OAA members during the month of June in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/galleries-current/> for details and to access the virtual gallery devoted to these fine artists.

Art Gallery at Wilder: The Lamorinda Arts Council hosts Carrie Vanhouten as the featured artist at their solo Art Gallery in Wilder through July 9. The theme for her show is "Positivity." Meet the artist at a reception in her honor on Sunday June 19 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. Vanhouten is hosting an interactive Commu-

nity Collage event – join the fun! Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/galleries-current/> for more information and to access her virtual gallery. For directions to the reception visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/>.

Music

Berkeley Symphony Chamber II Concert on Sunday, June 26, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave, Piedmont. Join us for an engaging mix of classic and contemporary works. Get your tickets today! Cost: \$35. For more info see <https://www.berkeleysymphony.org> or call (510) 841-2800 or email tickets@berkeleysymphony.org.

Free Lafayette downtown concerts! Rock the Plaza Concert Series: Friday evenings, June 10, 17, 24, 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 10: Juke Joint is an experienced 6-piece horn band playing Classic Soul, R&B and Blues music. Juke Joint has been entertaining Bay Area audiences to rave reviews since 2001. June 17: A tribute to the Woodstock Generation Keep On Truckin' performs Rock, Blues, Funk and R&B, faithfully recreating the musical experience of one of the greatest events in music history. June 24: Now in its 17th year, Lamorinda Idol, a program of the Lamorinda Arts Council, is an annual singing competition open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Lafayette's Plaza Park is

located in Lafayette at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road.

Orinda Rotary is sponsoring "Opera in the Park" for the 12th year on Thursday, June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. This spectacular free event features Festival Opera singing and Broadway music. Bring friends or the entire family along with a blanket and chair. Enjoy the food and drink trucks provided adjacent to the event. Visit www.orindarotary.org/ for more information.

Volti Vocal Ensemble Performs at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek on Saturday, June 18 at 7 p.m. (1924 Trinity Avenue) or for online broadcast: visit stpaulswc.org/concert-series to receive concert link.

Chanticleer presents No Mean Reward: Chanticleer and the Golden Fleece on Friday, June 10, from 8 to 10 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer presents an evening of exquisite Renaissance choral masterworks from the late 15th century. Cost: \$20 to \$62. For more info see <http://www.chanticleer.org> or call 415-252-8589 or email info@chanticleer.org.

Theatre

Orinda Starlight Village Players – Towards Zero now open. Fridays and Saturdays through July 2, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 26 at 4

p.m. and Thursday, June 30 at 8 p.m. Regular admission: \$20, Senior/Children: \$10. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way.

Literature

Join Diablo Writers' Workshop on Tuesday, June 21 at Orinda Books for Solstice, a celebration of the five-year anniversary of this growing writers' community. The evening will kick off at 6 p.m. and highlight readings by Monica Brar, Jim Gunshinan, Maria Rowland, Pat Rudebusch, Joan Smith and Yolanda Yoosten. There will be a raffle for some fun writing and reading swag, plus cake!

Other

Creekside Commons Presents: Summer Solstice Tuesday, June 21, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Come celebrate the start of summer on this the longest day. Live music with Dougie Free, Classic Taco Truck, Summer Sangria, a chance to meet your local farmers and fisheries, sunshine balloon hats, tattoos and a sunburst craft project for kids. Creekside Commons Courtyard and grounds. 1035 Carol Lane. Donations and drink vouchers at the door or visit CreeksideCommons.org to pre-purchase and for more info.

Sunday Strong! Free summer fitness classes at Moraga Commons begin June 5. Presented by MCF, with the sponsorship of the Town of Moraga Department of Parks and Recreation. This program is free and will be held every Sunday in June and July at 8 a.m. on the grassy area near the intersection of St Mary's Road and Moraga Rd. Schedule: June 12 Flow Yoga; June 19 Tai Chi; June 26 Mat Pilates; July 3 Bootcamp; July 10 Flow Yoga; July 17 Mat Pilates; July 24 Bootcamp. See Moragacommunityfoundation.org to register and see our amazing instructor's bios.

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Chamber welcomes two new businesses to Lafayette

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce held ribbon cuttings for two new businesses on May 21: The Parlor Boutique Salon – a boutique-style hair salon located in The Forge in downtown Lafayette at 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. C – owned by Hillary Ellington and Adrianna Metrick; and Sanctuary - a healing center with a collaboration of healers, intuitives, bodyworkers and wellness consultants – located at 3182 Old Tunnel Rd., Suite C in Lafayette and owned by Sue Arlen, Allison LaMothe and Renee Outlaw. – J. Wake



The Parlor Boutique Salon



Sanctuary - a healing center

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte grad Clair Steele comes home to finish her college career at Saint Mary's



Clair Steele

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

Clair Steele may or may not have read the Thomas Wolfe novel, "You Can't Go Home Again," but if she did, it's clear she did not take it to heart. After playing basketball and graduating from Lehigh University, the Miramonte High School graduate is going to take advantage of her extra year of eligibility by transferring to Saint Mary's so she can study for a master's degree in management and technology and also to play the sport she loves: basketball.

Saint Mary's head coach Paul Thomas jumped at the opportunity to recruit Steele when he saw her name on the transfer portal list. "We're ecstatic to have Clair be part of our program," Thomas said. "She is going to add a lot of basketball talent and intangibles to our team. The timing for Clair to come back to the West Coast and play at Saint Mary's was just spot on."

There was more than basketball and academics for Steele in going to a school so far away from home. "I had to grow up a lot being across the country and away from my parents," Steele said. "It was a big learning curve and a big step in growing up. I grew into myself and made a lot of close friends. Lehigh is a great school so the classes could be challenging along with playing Division I basketball."

The Pennsylvania climate was another hurdle for Steele.

"My first winter was a real adjustment," Steele said. "I was a summer Tahoe person, so I was not used to the snow, the cold, and the lack of sun so that was a huge difference going to Pennsylvania. I did come to really appreciate sunny days."

With a fifth year of eligibility due to the coronavirus pandemic and having graduated with a major in managing and marketing, Steele was ready to move back home. "I grew up watching Saint Mary's basketball and going to their games. It just felt right," Steele said. "I've known Coach Thomas since the second grade, and he has established a great program here. He's a great guy and I know a number of his players like Taycee Wedin and Ali Bamberger having played with them in Cal Stars."

Steele feels her skills matches up with the Gael's program. "My talents fit in well with the Saint Mary's system," Steele said. "I'm a pass first point guard but I can also score. I'm good at creating and getting my teammates involved so I'll be able to fit right in. I know that there were some turnover issues and that's an area where I can also make an impact."

A good point guard, as a rule, should have twice as many assists as turnovers. After a 2.41 assist to turnover ratio at Miramonte, Steele showed a constant improvement each year at Lehigh in this stat and last year she led the nation with 131 as-

sists and only 33 turnovers for a 3.97 assist to turnover ratio.

"Clair's biggest development over her career at Lehigh was in her shot selection and knowing when to shoot and when to pass the ball," Lehigh Assistant Coach Glenn Rigney said. "One of our favorite plays was for Clair to dribble into the paint and if she didn't have a shot, to keep dribbling under the basket and then look for the open man. She got a lot of assists that way."

A top player is one that makes everyone else around her better and that is what Thomas is expecting to get from Steele. "We have some really good people up front that can score like Amy West, Ali Bamberger, Aspen Garrison and Ellie Croco and Clair will make them all better by getting them the ball in better spots," Thomas said. "We have a lot of talent in the backcourt with Tayce Wedin, Addison Wedin, Makena Mastora, Tayla Dalton, and Jade Kirisome but they don't have the bulldog mentality that Clair brings to the court. She is not afraid of competition, being physical or 'in the moment.' She is going to thrive in the West Coast Conference."

Though only 5'5", the Lehigh staff had no concerns about Steele's height. "It was more her style of play that we saw as a positive," Rigney said. "We noticed that whenever Clair had to switch onto a post player, none of them ever scored on her ... though she did foul once in a while. She just had that fight, grit, and toughness and an 'I'm going to get it done' type of attitude that she carries onto the basketball court and over into life. She is a really focused player who pays attention to preparation and scouting and really prepares for the player that she knows she is going to defend. She's a really smart, heady player."

Lacking some height has never been an issue for Steele, going back to when she began playing basketball. "I don't notice it," Steele said. "I just go into every game the same and don't think about it. I'm not afraid of anyone and I'm the most competitive person anywhere. I don't worry about how tall my matchup is and it's never been a threat to me personally. I just put my confidence over that and make plays."

Kelly Sopak, who began coaching Steele in the first grade through Miramonte High School, witnessed how Steele never saw her height as a negative: "Clair has always been a shorter player but she has learned to make it

an advantage, having learned how to navigate playing against bigger kids from the beginning and has taken that disadvantage and made it a huge advantage of hers."

Thomas made it clear what he expects Steele to bring to the team: "We're looking for her leadership on and off the court with the maturity of a fifth-year player," Thomas said. She knows what Division I college basketball is like and being on the road in hostile environments. Sharing that experience with our eight freshmen and sophomores is something else we are looking for from her. Clair will also provide more competition for our team in practice, and she will make our younger players work and it will only make us better. The players are 100% excited about Clair coming to our team."

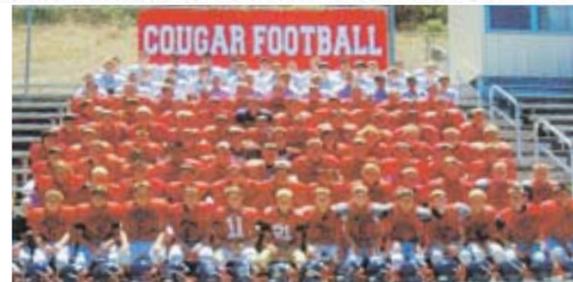
After her parents, Sopak was the first person Steele called after choosing to go to Saint

Mary's. "In my role in coaching high school and Cal Sports, I helped Clair to choose the school where she fit and with their style of play but I admit that I really wanted to see her back at Saint Mary's so I may have influenced her in that a little bit. As a pass first, defensive minded point guard, she will fit in well with Saint Mary's offensive weaponry."

Rigney anticipates only positives with Steele at Saint Mary's: "She will be awesome there. I know Coach Thomas and the Saint Mary's program well. As a fifth-year player, Clair will come in and use her experience. I know the Gaels have a lot of good shooters and Clair, who can also score and who takes a lot of pride in being able to distribute the ball, will be a great addition to the team."

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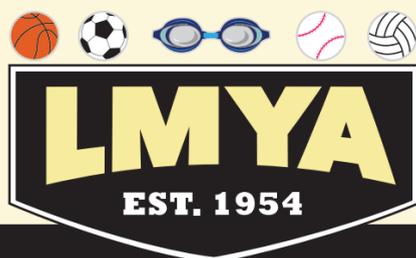
VOLLEYBALL, 6th GRADE, CHESAPEAKE

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SOFTBALL, 4th/5th/6th GRADE, MICHIGAN

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Success in the water for Lamorinda swimmers at NCS Meet



Photo provided

First-place 100-yard breaststroke winner Campolindo senior Theoden Yavuzer-Judd with coaches.

By Jon Kingdon

Led by the Campolindo girls' and boys' swim teams that finished first and sixth respectively, there was a number of success stories for the Acalanes girls (11th) and boys (33rd) and for the Miramonte girls (16th) and boys (23rd).

As with all of the sports this year, the swim teams appreciated the sense of normalcy that had been missing the past two years. "It was a great year for the kids," Miramonte head coach Trevor Rose said. "It took time to rebuild but it was great to get back to a little bit of normal."

Orinda Aquatics head coach Don Heidary was also glad to see a full season but did allow that it was not as difficult for the swimmers as it was for the other sports. "When we started back up in September, it was generally back to normal and it had been difficult for everyone," Heidary said. "The positive during the last two years for the kids was that we had been predominantly in the water, albeit with a limited number, which was a respite to a large degree for these kids, who like everyone, had gone through isolation and remote learning but we were able to get to the pool where they could see

their friends and train. Our seniors have been leaders and role models. Because of them, we were fortunate, more than most, to be able to continue through the pandemic."

For Campolindo, there were several first, second and third finishes. On the girls' side, the Cougars were led by sophomores Adriana Smith who finished first in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 100-yard freestyle, Emilia Barck finished in second in the 100-yard backstroke and fourth in the 200-yard IM and Jasmine Fok finished first in the 100-yard butterfly and fifth in the 200-yard IM.

The girls relay teams were equally impressive finishing first in the 200-yard medley relay (Smith, Barck, Fox and senior Amber van Meines) and in the 400-yard freestyle relay (Barck, sophomore Madison Blackwell, Fok and Smith) and third in the 200-yard freestyle relay (Blackwell, van Meines, senior Audrey Le-Nguyen, and senior Maggie Hawkins).

Others who finished for Campolindo were Madison Blackwell who finished sixth in the 200-yard freestyle and seventh in the 100-yard free, Le-Nguyen, 12th in the 50-yard freestyle, junior Kaia Levenfeld, ninth in the 100-yard butterfly,

van Meines and freshman Clare Baker 11th in the 500-yard free.

Leading the boys was senior Theoden Yavuzer-Judd who won the 100-yard breaststroke and had a fifth-place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay team (Yavuzer-Judd, and seniors Tommy Richards, Henrik Barck, and Nathan Levy).

The 200-yard medley relay team (seniors Owen Younger, Nathan Levy, Tommy Richards and junior Henrik Barck) finished in sixth and the 200-yard freestyle relay team (Yavuzer-Judd, Younger, junior Grant Rosch and senior West Temkin) finished in sixth place.

"We have a lot of young talent and they swim well," Campolindo head coach Ron Heidary said. "I believe it's been about 18 years since the girls won the NCS tournament. Most of our swimmers have been swimming year-round with us since seventh grade at Orinda Aquatics and they've slowly gotten better each year."

At the state meet, the Campolindo girls finished in fifth place and the boys in 57th place and their combined scores placed them ninth out of 132 schools. "We were missing some of our girls and could have finished higher but we were competitive with the team that we brought," Heidary said. "We only brought two boys with many of our swimmers competing in a water polo tournament."

The Acalanes girls were led by freshman Sadie Suppiger who finished eighth in the 100-yard backstroke and 14th in the 100-yard freestyle. The girls relay 200-yard freestyle relay team (juniors Lila Waechter, Sophie Hendrickson, Sophie MacKay, and freshman Sadie Suppiger) finished in fourth and the 400-yard freestyle relay team (Waechter, MacKay, junior Sara Archer and Suppiger) finished in sixth place.

Junior Parker Etnyre placed 14th in the boys' 200-yard freestyle.

Leading the girls' individual events for Miramonte was junior Natalie Stryker who fin-

ished in eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and 15th in the 100-yard freestyle.

The Lady Matadors 200-yard freestyle relay team (seniors Ella Dulski and Grace Clark, freshman Bea Hearey and Stryker) finished in 10th; the 200-yard medley relay team (Clark, Dulski, senior Paige Meyers, and freshman Ali Larsen) finished in 14th and the 400-yard freestyle relay team (Hearey, Stryker, junior Petra Cherry, and Grace) finished in 15th place.

The boys 200-yard free style and medley teams (freshman Logan Gunn, sophomore Zach Hoffman, junior Pat Stice, and senior Dax Sherwood) finished in ninth and 15th respectively.

"Natalie had an excellent year individually," Rose said. "She a talented swimmer that tries hard and does things right and Dax was excellent at the league meet and made the record board at Miramonte in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle."

Despite some key swimmers having to miss the meet for personal reasons, Rose was effusive in his praise of the team: "They did great. We spoke a lot about what it takes to be a team and to compete at a high

level and the team embraced it and the boys' and girls' teams performed very well. We have a superb young team and a very bright future."

It was a good year all around for Orinda Aquatics. With swimmers from all three Lamorinda schools, they were also represented by swimmers from 11 other high schools, competing in 82 individual events which included 31 double event qualifiers.

For Don Heidary of Orinda Aquatics, success had to be in and out of the pool. "It was a good year for us," Heidary said. "We had a lot of OA swimmers that placed high with several individual event winners and a lot of relay wins."

Besides the aquatics and academics, leadership is the third aspect that is of equal importance. "Our tagline is putting character first in swimming and in life and we talk about it extensively and it's embedded into the program on a daily basis," Heidary said. "The character side is being a leader and a role model and making the right decisions and building that culture out, not just for those who are innate leaders but having it culture driven."

Individual and team success for Lamorinda at Meet of Champions

By Jon Kingdon

For the first time in two years there was a North Coast Section Championship on May 21 and 22 at Dublin High School. The girls' track and field teams were led by Campolindo and Acalanes who finished in first and third respectively with Miramonte coming in 19th. Though the boys' teams were unable to crack the top 10, there were a number of individual performances worthy of recognition and showing great potential for the future.

There was a unanimous feeling among the head coaches about how much better this season was over the prior two abbreviated seasons. "I don't think that the sense of normalcy is all the way back," Campolindo head coach Chuck Woolridge said. "It's been nice to have a full-blown track season, but we still have had to be very careful and still we've had some of our kids that came down with COVID and that made a big impact on their season because they had to miss a lot of days. It's been wonderful to have full track practices instead of the pods and being able to be a team and that has been wonderful."

Miramonte's head coach Tristan Tool concurred that "it's better. It's much closer and recognizable as a track season unlike the last two seasons." When asked if things were better, Acalanes head coach Joe Escobar answered succinctly, "Absolutely."

With a balanced team, the Campolindo girls won the NCS for the first time in their history. "It's been a long time since Campolindo did not have to rely so heavily on the distance events," Woolridge said. "This was really a complete team this year which has been really exciting. It's been wonderful to watch our sprint and hurdle teams thrive. We've some really good success with the relays and we have to give credit to Coach Angela and Coach Greg Mahr who have done a wonderful job with our sprint, hurdle, jump group. Coach Gabe in the long jump and triple jump, Jackie the pole vault and in the throws, without a lot of experience we've seen a lot of improvement with our kids with Coach Jeff and they have all done a fantastic job."

Mari Testa won the 100-meter hurdles, the 100-meter race and was part of the 4 x 100 relay with Kyrstin Wilson, Megan Kennedy, and Sara Tabibian. Tabibian also won on the 300-meter hurdles and placed third in the 400 meters race, with all of them qualifying to go to the state tournament. "With our core of outstanding sprinters, the rest of the team has fed off the excitement and performances that they have brought," Woolridge said. "Sara last participated in the state tournament in her freshman year, so she really knew what this tournament was about and what it takes and has been a real core for our team."

... continued on Page C4

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Individual and team success for Lamorinda at Meet of Champions



Photo Jon Kingdon

Acalanes' Carly Harriman Young clears the bar at 5'3" at the NCS Meet.

... continued from Page C3

Testa would go on to finish eighth in the state meet in the 100-meter hurdles, the highest among the locals that went on to compete in that meet.

Ellie Buckley, Shea Volkmer and Angeni Lieben finished in fourth, eighth and 15th in the 3,200-meter run. Namratha Kasalanti finished in sixth with a career best of 36'1" in the triple jump. Pinkie Schnayer finished ninth in the shot put, contributing to the final point totals for the Cougars.

For the boys, Mason Fara finished second in the 400 meters, qualifying for state, and sixth in the 200 meters. The boys 4 x 100 meters finished in sixth with Kyle Fossen, Fara, Joshua Lee and Garrett Nelson and Alexander Lodewick finished in 10th in the 3,200 me-

ters.

There was a bigger turnout for Campolindo (100) this year. "We had a lot of freshmen, sophomores and juniors that were participating for the first time," Woolridge said. "To be a smaller school and be in contention for that title is remarkable for our program."

Acalanes

Coming into the season, there were more questions than answers for the Acalanes Dons with a roster of 130. "There were no expectations coming this season," Escobar said. "We had 52 kids that weren't freshmen that had never run track before and still the boys won their first league title in 10 years. (Sophomore) Mike Kuhner really grew since his freshman year and took over this year to the point where everyone on the team knew him by sight and respected him. To have someone big like him in charge of everything really helped us out."

Heading to the state tournament are Carly Harriman Young and Haley Chelemedos who finished second and third in the high jump and Kuhner who finished third in the 100 meters and Trevor Rogers also a third-place finisher in the long jump. Sisters Lauren (senior) and Megan (sophomore) finished in fifth and ninth in the 800 meters.

Escobar saw a lot this season to be proud of. "Our boys' team was successful due to the number of football players (around 20) that came out for our team," Escobar said.

The 4 x 100 relay for the boys of Ethan Torres, Paul Kuhner, Trevor Rogers, and Kyle Bielawski were the favorite to make it to the state tournament but lost out in the Tri-Valley tournament due to a fumbled exchange. It was particularly frustrating for the Dons because the eventual winner El Cerrito had lost twice to the Acalanes team earlier in the season. With no seniors on the relay team, there is much to look forward to.

The two sisters, senior Lauren Yee and her sister, sophomore Megan Yee both competed in the 800 meters, finishing in fifth and eighth respectively, in the same heat. "It was kind of cool for Lauren to go out with her sister in the same heat," Escobar said. "It was very impressive for Lauren, who competed in that race as a freshman and then missed the next two years due to the COVID virus and then come back and compete again."

"We had a terrific girl's high jump team," assistant coach David Kohls said. "They were all over 5 feet and

three of them were over 5'2" (Harriman-Young, Chelemedos and Dulci Vail) making us the only high school in California with three that could jump that high and we're very proud about that. Trevor Rogers is an outstanding long jumper and is developing into a high jumper."

Miramonte

For Coach Tool, there were some outstanding individual performances and a feeling of real optimism on the team. "Because of the virus, we had a number of sophomores and juniors that we had not known about prior to this season because they did not participate the last two years," Tool said. "Sophomore Asher Patel has been our top runner. He is very raw and untapped. He was brand new to running and got hurt running cross country. He has still been battling some injuries and has had to do half of his running on an elliptical and is now one of the better sophomores in the state." Patel finished in sixth in the 1600 meters and 12th in the 3200 meters. Senior Roan Sandhu finished in eighth place in the boys' pole vault.

The girls' team was led by a freshman Victoria Chatter, who set school records this year and finished second in the 200 meters and will be competing in the state tournament. "Tori is fast, coachable and has been great to have on the team and should continue to improve," Tool said.

The strength of the team, the distance runners was a combination of seniors and underclassmen. "Our younger distance runners really showed up this year," Tool said. "It was good to see because we are graduating six of our top eight girls this year and it's been great to see the younger girls and boys coming through the pipe. Our seniors really passed the baton, taking it all seriously and showing the passion for running and showing the ropes to the younger athletes."

Tool did not want to overlook the career of senior Kate Riley. "Kate had a tough go this season, but she is a phenomenal 800 runner and was number one on our winning cross-country team," Tool said. "Kate got sick a couple of times and suffered a hip injury but will be running for American University next year."

Leading the boys team next year will be Patel, Ricky Davis, Jason Wagner. Besides Chatter, the Matadors will be counting on Zoey Schmidt and Grace Bell.

Tool is already looking forward to next year: "We had a smaller team than we were used to, but it is growing and it's a very positive environment and I'm optimistic for what is going to happen in the future."



Acalanes celebrates 2022 senior recruited athletes

Submitted by Bob Sverak

Acalanes Athletics Boosters were thrilled to celebrate five graduating seniors who are continuing their student-athlete journey at an NCAA college next year. Families and friends gathered to hear the amazing stories behind each of these athletes and to recognize their considerable accomplishments as Acalanes student-athletes.

From left: Devon Christensen (UC Berkeley Field Hockey), Tommy Bieker (Concordia University Volleyball), Heidi Heffelfinger (Harvard University Water Polo), Miles Bergman (Pacific University Baseball). Not pictured: Natalie Means (Georgetown University Soccer).

Photo provided

Each of these students demonstrated strong perseverance and commitment that helped them excel at their sport and earn the opportunity to continue their athletic careers at respected college programs. Acalanes Athletics Boosters is proud to have supported the efforts of these outstanding student-athletes over the past four years and wish them all the best in their college endeavors. They will always be part of the Dons family!

First place for MBA Moraga 10U All Stars

Submitted by Meghan Gerber

The MBA Moraga 10U All Stars kicked off their summer all-star season with a first place win in Pittsburg, Calif., over Memorial Day week-

end. The three-day Pittsburg Little League (LL) All Star Memorial Day Tournament was back after a two-year break due to COVID. Ten teams played in the 10U division and the MBA Moraga 10U All Stars came out on top.

Back row, from left: Will Childers, Darren Yee, Dresden Gerber, Jason Fok, Jake Beckwith, Mike Beckwith; front row from left: Tripp Browne, Charlie Erickson, Callan Op't Holt, Robbie Simpkins, Andrew Wang, AJ Pinedo

Photo Rob Gerber



Fourth-grade warriors win MVP Flight Championship



Photo provided

Top row, from left: coaches Michaela Thomas, Ace Wright, Kenji McCrae, Tony Druppall; bottom row: Raaghav Agarwal, Tanner Reinhart, Farah Falahati, Cameron Greer, Benjamin Moran, Mateo Potts, Jeremiah Musoke, Ethan Rogin, Lucas Madamba; not pictured: Gavin Paige

Submitted by Aria Falahati

The fourth grade Gold Warriors Basketball Team won the Spring League MVP Flight Championship on May 22 against ASA. The Warriors fourth-

grade team practiced on Mondays and Fridays at Springhill Elementary Gym and Ultimate Fieldhouse. They ended the season with a 10-0 record. They played most of their games and their championship game at Ultimate Fieldhouse in Walnut Creek.

14U baseball champions, Lafayette Oaks



Photo provided

First row, from left: Zach Tabibian, Leo McDonough, Eli Dudum, Cody Michlitsch, Ian Hughes, Blake Robison; back row: Andrew Upp, Tommy Terhar, Jimmy Cusumano, Branson Smith, Reid Habas, Gavin Beers, Coach Jon Zuber

Submitted by Catherine Habas

The Lafayette Oaks 14U Gold team won the 680 League Championship on May 22 at Lower Community Field, closing out their spring season. Coached for

two years by Jon Zuber, the team is the first to win back-to-back 680 League Championships as both a 13U and 14U squad. The Oaks beat No. 1 seed Danville Crushers 2-1 before defeating Walnut Creek Bulldogs 11-0 in the championship game.

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 16

Issue 8

Wednesday, June 8, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Succulent summer

Photos Cynthia Brian

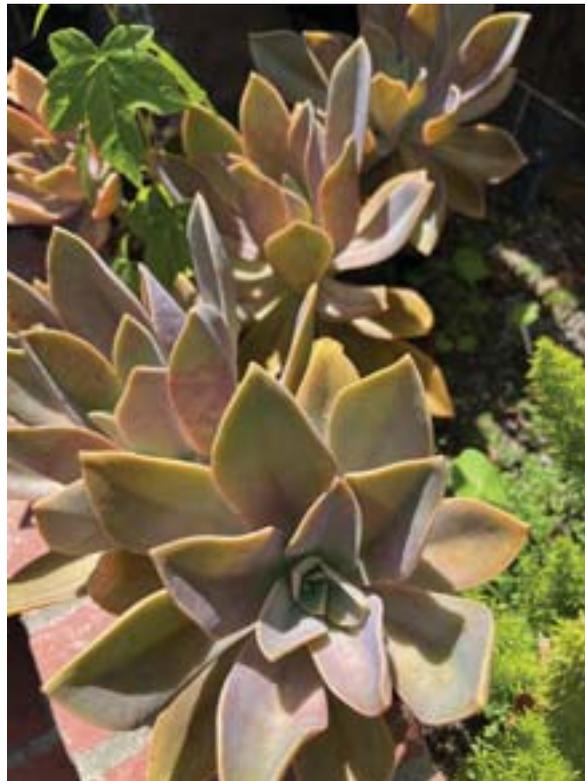


Small succulents in pots result in a minimal maintenance display

By Cynthia Brian

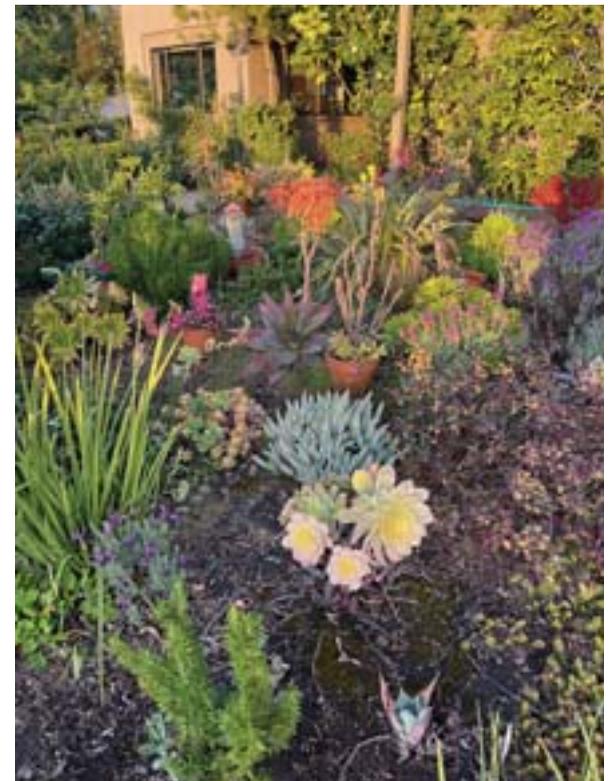
"We Californians are constantly accused of not having seasons, but we do. We have fire, flood, mud, and drought." ~ Phyllis Diller

It's that time of the year again. School is out. The weather is warming. The drought continues. We fear fires. Flood and mud are distant memories. Because of water restrictions, many homeowners are seeking alternatives to thirsty vegetation that demand a constant drink. Enter succulents.



Leather petals, *Graptopetalum rusbyi*, another multi-hued rosette succulent.

Succulents have fleshy, thick leaves that store water and thrive in warm, dry conditions. They are very low maintenance, prefer dry conditions, and enjoy copious amounts of sunshine. Cactus are succulents, although most gardeners prefer succulents that do not have spines, stickers, or prickly pokes. Succulents are beautiful and come in a range of colors including green, silver, orange, yellow, purple, lavender, pink, red, bronze, and mixtures. The more sunlight they receive, the more colorful they become. Many of the fleshy leaves are arranged in rosettes. Succulents are easy to



A kaleidoscope of succulents offers texture and form in a garden.

propagate through cuttings. Sometimes planting a single leaf will result in a new succulent. They have shallow roots and can be packed together for instant impact. Arranging succulents in swaths shows off the varying colors, textures, and forms resulting in a tapestry of interest. Replacing a lawn with an artful array of various succulent species, sizes and shapes is an attractive and waterwise investment. Succulents may be mixed in a garden with other drought-resistant florals such as lavender, lambs' ear, verbena, sage or lantana.

... continued on Page D12



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	31	\$900,000	\$6,000,000
MORAGA	22	\$340,000	\$3,400,000
ORINDA	20	\$435,000	\$2,850,000

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

- 1188 Bacon Way, \$2,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 1574 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-18-22
- 1 Beaumont Court, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1675 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-28-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,026,000, 09-06-17
- 3577 Brook Street, \$1,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 2780 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-22-22
- 11 Brookdale Court, \$2,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1784 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-25-22
- 1160 Brown Avenue, \$1,661,500, 2 Bdrms, 1152 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 05-02-08
- 1000 Dewing Avenue #103, \$1,271,500, 2 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt,
2017 YrBlt, 04-25-22, Previous Sale: \$1,188,500, 06-29-18
- 1000 Dewing Avenue #409, \$985,000, 2 Bdrms, 1159 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 04-27-22,
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 06-28-18
- 3455 Goyak Drive, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2403 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 08-24-16
- 1024 Hoedel Court, \$3,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3824 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-24-17
- 1006 Katherine Lane, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1901 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,320,000, 03-26-20
- 3312 North Lucille Lane, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2310 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-21-22
- 3301 South Lucille Lane, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 04-07-15
- 811 Mountain View Drive, \$4,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2476 SqFt,
1962 YrBlt, 04-19-22, Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 08-14-14
- 3279 Mt Diablo Court #24, \$915,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 04-22-22,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 01-09-17
- 3397 Orchard Valley Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1126 SqFt,
1965 YrBlt, 04-28-22, Previous Sale: \$475,000, 11-07-02
- 1385 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2826 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 04-18-22
- 3719 Rose Court, \$3,215,000, 6 Bdrms, 2576 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-27-22
- 831 Santa Maria Way, \$3,023,000, 3 Bdrms, 2303 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-19-22
- 11 Shreve Lane, \$1,163,000, 4 Bdrms, 2002 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 04-29-22
- 645 Sky Ranch Court, \$2,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 3451 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-15-13
- 3348 Stage Coach Drive, \$3,410,000, 5 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 04-28-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 03-18-14
- 3258 Surmont Drive, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3255 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 04-22-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 01-20-15
- 889 Upland Drive, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1868 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-28-22,
Previous Sale: \$125,000, 11-01-78
- 995 Victoria Court, \$2,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1502 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-26-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,345,000, 07-13-17
- 1003 Woodbury Road #108, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt,
2015 YrBlt, 04-21-22, Previous Sale: \$942,500, 03-10-21

MORAGA

- 1966 Ascot Drive, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-19-22,
Previous Sale: \$112,500, 10-01-88
- 1973 Ascot Drive #B, \$565,000, 2 Bdrms, 964 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$173,500, 01-20-12
- 633 Augusta Drive, \$1,500,000, 2 Bdrms, 2270 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 04-06-22
- 5 Berkshire Street, \$2,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$927,500, 03-02-16
- 17 Brandt Drive, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2817 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 10-13-06
- 1369 Camino Peral #B, \$656,500, 2 Bdrms, 1279 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 04-22-22,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 11-08-18

... continued on Page D13



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Having Appraisal Nightmares?

Winning the bid to buy a home is a great feeling during these crazy times with active listings attracting 10, 15, or 20 offers. Homes are frequently selling for \$300K (or more) over the asking price in the East Bay. Sellers may think they are secure when getting offers, waiving the appraisal contingency (usually all contingencies). However, agents are still sweating bricks prior to the appraisal. While unlikely, buyers may walk away from a deal rather than come up with an extra \$100K to \$300K above their down payment, because the property didn't appraise, even if, potentially, forfeiting their Deposit. Sellers are fearful of the stigma of putting their home Back on the Market if a buyer backs out.

Home values in the East Bay are going up about 1.5% or more per month, causing appraisal issues. How can agents prepare their sellers or buyers and what safeguards should be put in place?

Seller's/Listing Agents should be doing the following to help with appraisals:

Know the current value of their listing at the time of sale.

Grill the buyer's lender about buyer reserve funds and Plan B, to deal with appraisal shortfalls.

Try to get sale prices of Pending sales that may help with their appraisal.

Manage the sellers' expectations about offers that may not appraise.

Meet the appraiser at the property and provide them comps supporting the contract price.

Provide the appraiser with the number offers submitted.

Provide the appraiser with a list of recent improvements.

Ensure that the buyer's agent has a backup plan to deal with appraisal shortfall.

Agents and sellers should anticipate a roller coaster ride with regards to appraisal. Listing Agents must help their clients with a contingency plan to address appraisal shortfalls.

View more of my blog posts at

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The dirty low down



Main Sewer Clean Out

Photo Jim Hurley

By Jim Hurley

One service call that I consistently decline is a plugged sewer main. It is just one of those jobs best left for the specialist to perform. Although the topic is flush with opportunity to be crude, I will explain in the most sanitary language I can muster. So, for the sake of delicacy, please allow me to use the word "roses" as a euphemism for sewage.

How do drain lines get clogged? Sometimes something besides roses gets flushed down the line and plugs it. Sometimes tree roots penetrate seams in the line and clog it. Once it is clogged, the roses don't flow as easily and the line backs up.

A frequent call that I get is to fix a "leaking toilet." The first question is: "Where is it leaking from?" If the answer is "around the base," that means your sewer main is clogged with roses.

How do we know without looking? Because your drain lines are supposed to be empty. Despite the hilarious scenes of roses gushing up out of the sewer we see in movies and TV, there is never a time when roses should back up out from under your toilet. That pipe should be empty. The goose neck bend in the porcelain under your "throne" is a trap that holds enough water to prevent sewer gas from coming back up the pipe. The wax ring on a toilet acts as a seal to prevent air (not roses) from seeping out from under the toilet.

Another sign of a clogged main is when you flush the toilet and roses bubble up in the shower pan or bathtub. No fun, I know, but the problem is with your main line. This is where a handy homeowner might rent a snake and try to fix it himself. My experience has been that you could spend time and money on that with no effect other than to practice creative swearing and possibly get covered in roses. It is time to call a roofer service.

When my clients ask me to recommend a

service, I don't. Guys who deal with clogged pipes full of roses tend to come and go. The services will send the next available "specialist" and he may have three days or three years of experience. It's all luck.

What the service needs to know is "Where is your main Roses Clean Out?" (Should I have added that to my "New Home Primer" articles?) Most modern homes have a large, three-inch pipe with a cap somewhere outside near the foundation. The Roses Specialist runs a mechanical snake down the pipe, hoping to knock the plug out of the way and allowing the roses to run freely. By the way, that main line running under the house and under the ground to the city's main is called a "lateral line." It is how your house main connects to the city main.

If the specialist can't find the main cleanout, he can remove the toilet from its base and run the snake from there, for an extra fee.

If your specialist is unable to get the roses flowing again, that is indeed unfortunate. If the snake does not clear the line, they will talk to you about a possible break in the "lateral line." The better services will contract with you to run a video camera down the pipe. The camera is also connected to a transmitter that can be located from above ground so that the service can point precisely to the spot that the break in the line is. They will then negotiate a price to dig up that spot and fix the pipe. This is where you really want a second estimate.

One of my clients, an older single woman, once called me to say that the Rooter Service was there telling her that it would be \$17,000 to repair her lateral line. The salesman was insisting that she sign the contract immediately and put \$2,000 down on the service. I told her not to sign anything and get a second bid. The second company came in with a \$5,000 estimate and completed the job with no down payment. (I still get angry when I tell this story.)

Here's wishing your life is a bed of roses, just not this kind.

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.



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1259 REDWOOD LANE, LAFAYETTE
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Elegantly set back on a redwood tree-lined 1.25 acre flat lot, this beautiful gated estate in Happy Valley boasts gorgeous classic Alan Page architectural detailing with designer touches and exceptional quality throughout. Offering sophisticated yet comfortable indoor and outdoor living, the main home features dramatic entertaining and living spaces filled with grace and charm. A dream package that offers a loggia, a large firepit, a sprawling grass area, sport court, and a quaint detached guest house with full bath, fireplace, and kitchenette. Working from home? Enjoy doing so in this exquisite oversized office, separate from the house and built above the three-car garage.

This grand estate has over 7,700 square feet of living space, mature lush landscaping, an inviting sparkling pool, and is a very special blend of excellence, breath-taking beauty, and impressive style. Come experience this one-of-a-kind gem in the much-desired Happy Valley community, and make it your very own!

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:



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925.818.5500
julie@dudum.com
DRE# 01290985

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DRE 01882902

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REALTOR®
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SORAYA GOLESORKHI
REALTOR®

MY MOST RECENT HAPPY CLIENTS!



11 REDWOOD CIRCLE, LAFAYETTE

4BR/3BA | 3,707 sq. ft. | 3.33 acres

Represented Seller

Magnificent contemporary in the heart of Happy Valley!
Sold significantly over asking price



137 SHADEWELL DRIVE, DANVILLE

5BR/3.5BA | 4,281 sq. ft. | .49 acres

Represented Buyer

Fabulous traditional in a magical setting in Magee Ranch!
Helped my clients win in a multiple offer situation



2655 CHERRY LANE, WALNUT CREEK

3BR/2BA | 2,067 sq. ft. | .44 acres

Represented Buyer

Fantastic cosmetic fixer in top location with a flat lot!
Helped my clients win in a multiple offer situation



296 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE, MORAGA

4BR/2.5BA | 2,431 sq. ft. | .50 acres

Represented Buyer

Gorgeous property with views, pool and fruit trees on a huge lot!
Helped my clients win in a multiple offer situation



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PLEASE NOTE: In consideration of my clients' privacy, I am not publishing the sales price of the purchased properties. If you have any questions, please call me.



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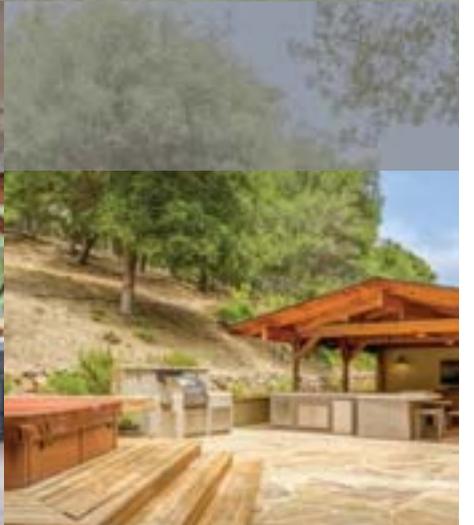


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This single level home on a premium level 1.32-acre lot was completely remodeled and expanded in 2006 and has it all! This expansive lot includes a fabulous sports court, hot tub, chicken coop, deck, level grass and more! Inside, enter into a lovely living room that opens to the dining and kitchen and wraps around a centered fireplace to the family room offering both connection and slight separation to common spaces, the best of both worlds! All this steps away from Sleepy Hollow elementary school, and moments to downtown, fwy & BART make 15 Ichabod a fabulous place to call home!

Listed at \$2,745,000 | Open Sat / Sun 1-4 | 15ichabodlane.com

4 <i>Bed</i>	3 <i>Bath</i>	1.32 <i>Acre</i>
±2,518 <i>Sq ft</i>	1 <i>Jacuzzi</i>	100% <i>Location!</i>

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More photos at www.106CaroLane.com

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Margaret Weil Zucker
Partner / Realtor
(925) 286-2328
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DRE# 01372762



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3357 Springhill Road, Lafayette | \$2,495,000
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Succulent summer



Aeoniums cluster to form a spectacular canvas. Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

Aeonium, Sedum, Echeveria, Sempervivum, Agave and Aloe are just a few of the over 5,000 species of succulents that will thrive in our landscapes.

Aeonium

Native to the Canary Islands, the 35 species of aeoniums tolerate a bit of shade with rosettes that grow taller (some to five feet or more) than ground-hugging succulents. Cascading over containers, they add drama to a patio setting, especially with their conical clusters of flowers that bloom on eight-inch stems.

Sedum

Mostly concentrated in Mexico and Europe, sedums are extremely hardy and useful in dry gardening. They are terrific in containers and often spill over. As ground covers, many are low growing, making them perfect for rock gardens.

Echeveria

Always formed in rosettes and mostly derived from Mexico, these colorful succulents can be frilly, rounded or fuzzy, boasting an arching stalk of a bell-shaped flower.

Sempervivum

Native to Southern and Central Europe, sempervivum is a succulent rosette. The plants flower only once before dying making this genus monocarpic. Before dying, they produce a pup or chick around their mother plant.

Agave

Tequila is made from the agave plant, although the sap from the agave is toxic to both humans and pets. Hailing from North America, these rosette-shaped succulents have long, spiny tips with specimens that grow to 10 feet in height and diameter as well as dish-size varieties. They produce a tall flower stalk from their center at maturity, which could be decades, then die.

Aloe

There are hundreds of species of aloes originating from Africa or Central America. Some are prickly, others thick and fleshy. The Aloe Vera is used for medical applications and is a "must-have" plant for households, especially useful by squeezing the juice from a leaf on a cut or burn.

To get ideas on creating a garden using succulents and other drought-tolerant plants, an enlightening excursion to the natural setting of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek is encouraged. www.RuthBancroftGarden.org. Specimens may be purchased at their nursery and gift cards are available through their online store.



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 1186 Cedarwood Drive, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-21-22
403 Chalda Way, \$645,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$132,000, 01-01-89
1094 Country Club Drive, \$2,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 04-22-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,293,500, 04-22-16
5 Dolores Court, \$1,255,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-27-22,
Previous Sale: \$499,000, 09-03-02
130 Eileen Court, \$1,968,000, 5 Bdrms, 2587 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 04-22-22
188 Miramonte Drive, \$1,040,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-27-22,
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 03-05-20
651 Moraga Road #23, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-20-22,
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 04-19-18
1252 Rimer Drive, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2285 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,870,000, 02-10-21
1849 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 04-26-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,189,000, 09-10-15
1896 School Street, \$3,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 3254 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,760,000, 07-16-14
9 Tia Place, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,380,000, 09-16-05

ORINDA

- 1 Arbolado Court, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 11-06-18
59 Ardilla Road, \$3,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 3070 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 04-20-22
2 Bien Venida, \$2,940,000, 2 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,385,000, 07-21-21
5 Brookbank Road, \$3,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2830 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-18-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,895,000, 06-07-06
52 Brookwood Road, \$899,000, 3 Bdrms, 1096 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-29-22
73 Brookwood Road #24, \$510,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-21-22
6 Cedar Lane, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 05-16-18
9 Darnby Court, \$2,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 2306 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-26-22
66 Diablo View Drive, \$1,260,000, 2 Bdrms, 1229 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 04-22-22
243 El Toyonal, \$1,600,000, 1 Bdrms, 1747 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 04-26-22,
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 07-14-16
5 Evans Place, \$1,870,000, 3 Bdrms, 2401 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-20-22,
Previous Sale: \$25,000, 05-01-91
684 Fox Run, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3053 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,470,000, 06-25-18
344 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2388 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-27-22
247 La Espiral, \$2,855,000, 5 Bdrms, 3095 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$737,500, 12-11-98
27 Martha Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 04-05-17
15 Monte Vista Road, \$1,450,000, 2 Bdrms, 1930 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 10-05-15
4 Oakview Terrace, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3553 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 04-19-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,179,000, 02-24-00
140 Ravenhill Road, \$1,805,000, 3 Bdrms, 2460 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 04-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$70,000, 10-03-20
12 Ridge Lane, \$1,950,000, 2 Bdrms, 2249 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-19-22
7 Rita Way, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2638 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 10-01-91
44 Robert Road, \$4,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3287 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 04-21-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 11-07-18
6 Southwaite Court, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 04-19-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,316,000, 05-15-19
75 Stanton Avenue, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-19-22
28 Via Farallon, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4160 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 04-19-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 05-15-15
7 Westover Court, \$1,712,000, 3 Bdrms, 1655 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 04-27-22



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Goddess Gardener's Guide

Besides boasting about succulents, I am excited that I have been harvesting cauliflower. If you haven't tried growing cole crops, I highly suggest doing so. I grow cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, and cauliflower. All parts of the plants are edible, and they are superfoods.

In full bloom now, peonies and gardenias are a couple of my all-time favorite flowers to add to bridal bouquets as well as flower arrangements. Peonies only last a few days in a vase; however, their impact is dramatic. A single gardenia fills a room with glorious fragrance.

June officially begins the fire season. Make sure to

remove debris from around structures and cut wild grasses to the ground. Most importantly, get your Go Bag ready and prepare for an evacuation, if necessary.

We are in a serious drought with mandatory water restrictions. Maintain your landscape by watering deeply but infrequently in the morning and evening.

Perhaps a pot of peonies or a few containers of succulents would be an attractive gift for a garden-loving, water-saving dad for Father's Day?

Relish a succulent summer and stay safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Father's Day!



The sweet-smelling gardenia is a joyous June bloomer.



Pretty peonies only last a few days in a vase.

Photos Cynthia Brian

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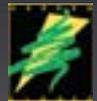


Cynthia Brian in the summer garden.

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

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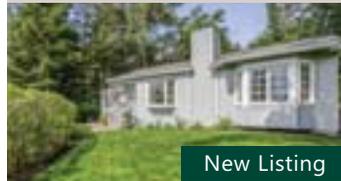
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MORAGA



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