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Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, Director of Planning Drummond Buckley, and Assistant Planner Darin Hughes take a moment on Oct. 5 to admire the work undertaken by the Friends of Orinda Creeks at San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda. Photo Sora O'Doherty

# First creek improvement completed, thanks to Friends of Orinda Creeks; more planned

By Sora O'Doherty

Where there was old, broken concrete disfiguring San Pablo Creek as it runs through downtown Orinda, there are now three beautiful rock weirs, that create pools where fish can hang out and a wonderful stretch of natural serenity. The work was undertaken by the Friends of Orinda Creeks, which raised the approximately \$100,000 required for the removal of the broken concrete channel and the in-

stallation of the rock weirs. According to FOC board member Michael Bowen, the weirs operate as grade control structures intended to maintain the channel at approximately the same elevation as it was at the beginning of the project.

This project affected some 50 linear feet of the creek as it runs behind 25 Orinda Way, occupied by the Vintage Building. Bowen expressed the FOC's gratitude to the owner of Vintage House, Daniel Goldberg, who, he said, "graciously allowed us to

stage our equipment and cross his property." The project benefitted from a \$6,000 grant from Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife, but, according to Bowen, "the project would never have happened without the very generous support of the Pease family and other private donations." He added, "Contra Costa County entered into an access agreement with FOC that enabled us to perform the project on the county-owned property."

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# Local students push council for resolution to reduce auto idling



Students at prior protest push for idling car reduction. Photo provided

By Lou Fancher

Three team leaders from Project Earth: Idle-Free Lafayette – Raini Chugh (president); David Siu (secretary); and Lauren Brekke (treasurer) – appeared before the city council Sept. 12 to request a resolution to implement no-idling initiatives in Lafayette in an effort to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change. The joint presentation described a four-year effort headed by the three Stanley Middle School seventh-graders to reduce auto idling at schools and encourage similar behav-

ioral change at other locations in the city.

Raini said the team started the project in third grade at Burton Valley Elementary School. At that time, they identified three primary factors making climate change worse that could be altered with more awareness about their negative impacts.

In addition to no-idling initiatives, Project Earth goals include advocating for and educating people about MCE to support and increase the use of solar and wind power and inspire more homeowners to enroll in the alternative energy

organization's electrical supply programs and increasing the number of bike and walk lanes in the city to reduce auto emissions and to maintain biker and pedestrian safety. The Project Earth leaders said the results of simple action they support would improve overall air quality and "make our air cleaner to breathe."

Asking "Why is idling bad?" with an image on the PowerPoint screen, David reiterated that auto emissions pollute the environment, have harmful health impacts, and cost extra money.

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## Hundreds gather for School Board Candidate Forum



Candidates Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Rob Sturm Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

By Sharon K. Sobotta

A few hundred people gathered at Stanley Middle School on Oct. 3 hoping to learn the

views of the six Lafayette School District board candidates. Unfortunately three of the six candidates declined to attend.

Martha Goralka, the League of Women Voters Service Co-chair and Forum organizer, said Robb McSorely never responded, Neils Larsen felt he'd been attacked and planned to suspend his campaign and Sarah Lind waived on whether or not she'd come but declined in the end for fear that the event would be partisan and one-sided. "I'm disappointed that they felt that way. I think that if they had come, they would've had a chance to present their views," Goralka said. "We did have their name cards ready just in case any of them decided to come at the last minute. I am disappointed that they didn't."

While Anne Granlund, the president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, felt the forum went well, she also expressed regret for

the no-shows. "When we say we're non-partisan, it means that we don't support any candidate and we invite all candidates to participate. I'm sorry some candidates felt otherwise, but we did invite them."

Throughout the evening, the three candidates in attendance, Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Rob Sturm shared their perspectives on topics ranging from diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and the banning of books to the ways in which DEIB and emotional support in schools helps or hinders student learning to the schools' roles in addressing the issue.

While there may have been slight nuances to the candidates responses, they were definitely aligned. All agree that DEIB and emotional support are cornerstones of

education, that no books need to be taken off of shelves (trusting librarians to make those decisions), and that schools do have a part to play in promoting sustainability. In terms of the schools' pandemic response, the consensus was that although the district did the best it could at the time while following the data, the science and the feedback of families, lessons can always be learned in hindsight and protocols can always be improved upon.

When asked about whether students are distracted by anti-racist and social emotional learning, Smith said this type of instruction provides a set of tools to survive and thrive in the community.

... continued on Page A14

## Local students push council for resolution to reduce auto idling

... continued from Page A1

Greenhouse gases released when one gallon of gas is burned can reach 20 pounds of toxins that contribute to global warming, according to Project Earth's research. Parents and guardians of students who sit in their cars with engines idling, he said, causes obvious waste. By simply turning off the ignition, beginning to solve a problem that often seems insurmountable – the climate crisis – becomes possible. If everyone on the planet takes this one easy no-idling action, the degree of change increases exponentially.

The average driver, according to data gathered by Project Earth, emits 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide in one year. Particles released are

many but also minuscule, meaning they harm not only a person's lungs, but pass into the bloodstream. Conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and cancer can be exacerbated or introduced as a result of dangerous auto emissions.

With gas prices hitting all-time highs, the team leaders said the expenditure wasted during idling is an obvious reason to stop the practice. Lauren said their idling experiment conducted in 2018 in the Burton Valley parking lot showed some cars idling for 10 to 20 minutes. A subsequent experiment had them holding up handmade, no-idling signs. They observed that 10% of the drivers turned off their car engines. They were inspired by having created even minor change in what is a patterned behavior and set out to expand

their efforts.

A no-idling poster contest begun in 2019 invited students at all schools in the Lafayette School District to create entries. Selecting the best, Brekke said the award-winning posters are displayed at Lafayette school parking lots.

Raini described presenting a proposal for a no-idling ordinance to the Lafayette Environmental Task Force. The task force advised the Project Earth leaders that their priorities were inarguably important, but resources to enact an actual ordinance were not available. After talking to other cities in the region, a simpler solution was agreed upon: a resolution that requires no official or costly enforcement but comes with the energy of a statement by the city that it supports and is committed to

playing whatever role is possible in making change. Education and encouragement not to idle coming from not only students, but from adults and city officials, she said will hopefully help reduce emissions. Lafayette with a resolution would become part of a national movement for cities to support protecting the environment.

In other action, a Project Earth petition was presented at various events and schools and in neighborhoods asking people so say they care about protecting the environment. The team received approximately 250 signatures and, drawing on enthusiasm from local residents, adapted a resolution adopted by the city of Dublin, making alterations to suit Lafayette.

Council Member Susan

Candell asked if cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles are included. Raini said she thought there are laws about school buses but they would investigate the matter. The council members thanked the team for persisting and expanding their goals.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa brought forth draft Resolution 2022-61 declaring Lafayette an idle-free city for possible approval at the Oct. 11 council meeting, after press time.

The resolution includes exceptions for no idling on days when temperatures are over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or below 35 degrees Fahrenheit. It also commits to not idling municipal vehicles with the exception of cars used by patrol officers while on duty.

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**CANDIDATES' NIGHTS**  
**OCT. 13 & OCT. 20**  
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<b>Lafayette City Council</b> (Recently Appointed) <b>Oct 13 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Lafayette School Board</b> <b>Oct 13 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Acalanes Union High School District Board</b> <b>Oct 20 7:00 PM</b>
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Log onto Zoom at: **LAFAYETTEHOMEOWNERSCOUNCIL.ORG**

## 30th Annual Lafayette Res Run for Education returns Oct. 23



Photo Gint Federas

The Lafayette Res Run for Education will celebrate 30 years on Oct. 23 with an in-person run through downtown Lafayette. Participants can choose from the traditional 2-mile fun run/walk, the 5K along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the 10K route, which takes you around the Lafayette Reservoir, or the virtual Reservoir Challenge, which "runs" around the 2.7-mile paved trail of the Lafayette Reservoir Oct. 13-22 during a time of the runner/walker's choosing. Dogs and strollers are welcome in all races except the 5K (which is the most attended), but no bikes, skateboards or scooters are allowed. The virtual Reservoir Challenge walk/run will not be available on Oct. 23 as the Reservoir will be closed for the 10K runners.

All four races support local public schools. In 2020, Res Run Reimagined (the fully virtual race) gave back a record \$32,185.17 to local public schools - Lafayette Elementary, Springhill Elementary, Burton Valley Elementary, Happy Valley Elementary, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes High School, plus

Campolindo High School in Moraga and Miramonte High School in Orinda - and the 2021 Lafayette Res Run for Education raised \$42,568.75 despite the weekend's atmospheric river weather.

There is also a Race-Before-the-Race planned, which is an additional fundraising opportunity for the Lafayette School District. The district school with the most registrations in total will receive an extra \$500 donation. The school with the most registrations compared to last year will also receive an additional \$500 beneficiary check.

This event is presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Oakwood Athletic Club and the City of Lafayette and attracts up to 3,000 participants, as well as hundreds who come to cheer on runners and see friends and neighbors. Start times for the Oct. 23 in-person event are at 8 a.m. (5K); 8:15 a.m. (10K) and 8:45 a.m. (2 mile Fun Run/Walk). Registration fees increase on Oct. 15. To register, visit <https://lafayettechamber.org/resrun> - J. Wake

## Upcoming Lamorinda Election Forums

Opportunities for local candidates in the school boards, fire district board and county board of education elections will have opportunities to provide opening and closing statements and answer questions during the following forums:

### League of Women Voters Diablo Valley Candidate Forums

**Oct. 12** - Acalanes Union High School Board, 7 p.m., Del Valle Education Center, Room 401, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek  
**Oct. 13** - Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Districts 3 and 4, 6 to 7 p.m., Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda  
**Oct. 13** - Orinda Union School District board, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

**Oct. 18** - Contra Costa Board of Education, 7 p.m., Zoom event that will be recorded by 32nd District PTA. Zoom registration information is pending. For updated info, visit [https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/event/candidate-forums-various-dates-and-locations-person-and-virtual#Board\\_Education](https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/event/candidate-forums-various-dates-and-locations-person-and-virtual#Board_Education)

The format will include brief candidate statements followed by questions. Questions may be submitted in advance by email to [voter.services@lwv.org](mailto:voter.services@lwv.org).

**Lafayette Homeowners Council Candidates' Nights on Zoom**  
**Oct. 13** at 6:30 p.m. - Presentation by recently reappointed City Council members Teresa Gerringer, Susan Candell and Wei-Tai Kwok.

**Oct. 13** at 7 p.m. Candidates for the Lafayette School District board will have introductions, comments and then a Q&A session open to all participants.

**Oct. 20** at 7 p.m. - Candidates for the Acalanes Union High School District board will have introductions, comments and then a Q&A session open to all participants.

A Zoom link will be added at the following website approximately one week before events: [lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org](http://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org). On the day of the event, double click on the link to join the online forum.

<p><b>Lafayette Public Meetings</b></p> <p><b>City Council</b> Regular Meeting Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel: <a href="http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube">http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube</a></p>	<p><b>Planning Commission Meeting</b> Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube <a href="http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube">http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube</a></p>
	<p><b>Design Review</b> Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube <a href="http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube">http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube</a></p>



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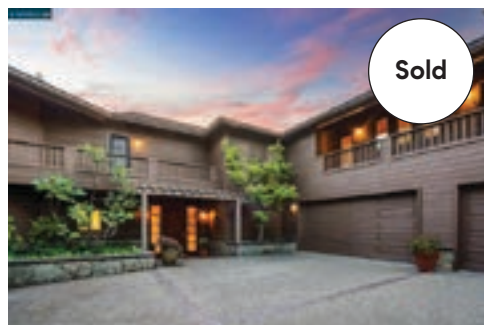
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## Clarification sought regarding Landscaping in the Right-of-Way Ordinance

By Vera Kochan

In order to reduce confusion regarding landscaping responsibilities of Moraga's property owners, the town staff has requested council members to amend an ordinance with respect to trees, shrubs, hedges and other landscaping in the public right-of-way.

A prior June 10, 2020 clarification ordinance apparently had some gray areas involving two sentences about sidewalks and public right-of-way that were subject to misinterpretation by the public.

According to Public Works

Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp's staff report during the Sept. 28 town council meeting, "In one case, a property owner has contended to the MOFD [Moraga-Orinda Fire District] Board that one side of their property does not affront a sidewalk or pathway because their sidewalk area does not contain a hardscaped sidewalk; thus, they have no responsibility to maintain the 'sidewalk area'. To clarify this misunderstanding, the staff recommends adding a Sidewalk Area definition."

The report sites another instance whereby "a property owner has contended that the

town is responsible for the maintenance of the shrubs and trees in the Public ROW affronting their property that were replaced during a public works project completed by the Town or a utility company that may have occurred after the installation of underground improvements. The Town's position for these situations is if the Town, contractor, or utility company disturbed a Public ROW area maintained by property owner(s), this party should restore the area, but this party does not assume maintenance responsibilities indefinitely. This is analogous to work within the street pavement

where contractors and utility companies have underground facilities like pipes beneath portions of paved streets within the Public ROW."

The proposed ordinance would help to clarify certain sections of the Moraga Municipal Code by detailing the definition of "Abutting property owner;" "Public ROW;" and "Sidewalk Area."

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg explained that because these two little sentences are causing residents to appeal their responsibility to undertake work, they have become an issue for the fire district's fire prevention efforts, "so [the district] asked us

to clarify these two issues. One is to make sure that the sidewalk definition doesn't actually require a sidewalk; and the other is to make sure that in instances where a utility or other company has come in and done a public works improvement that that improvement now returns to the responsibility of the property owner."

With a 3-2 vote (Mayor Steve Woehleke and Council Member Mike McCluer voting against), the council approved the waiving of the first reading of a language clarification to an ordinance revision.

## Town looks to the future of pension liability funding

By Vera Kochan

Moraga staff presented the town council with two recommendations regarding the potential use of Fund 100 – One Time Developer Fees (Palos Colorados) with the intent of looking ahead toward long-term fiscal sustainability.

The first recommendation would establish an Emergency Reserve Fund and allocation of \$1 million from Fund 100; and the second would be to set aside approximately \$1.5 mil-

lion, also from Fund 100, in order to reduce the town's future pension liability.

According to a Sept. 28 staff report from Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, "The Palos Colorados fees are unrestricted, thus the use of the funds is not limited or constrained and may be utilized for any purpose the governing body sees fit. Given that these funds are not restricted, the Town can establish policies and guidelines to articulate a framework and approach for

how the government could use or designate these funds over a specific time period while considering the Town's unique circumstances and priorities."

With regards to setting up an Emergency Reserve Fund, the town's policy is to maintain 50% of its General Fund operating costs in reserve. With the town's major source of funding coming six months into the fiscal year from property taxes, the 50% reserve level may not be enough should there be a major fi-

nanial or physical town emergency. The staff recommended an emergency reserve fund which could carry the town through a potential "rainy day." However, the council opted to "stay the course" and not create a reserve fund, because in past emergencies the town has borrowed from Fund 100 and still considers it a viable source to that effect.

The council instead requested that staff, at a future date, present options to set

aside \$1.5 million from the Palos Colorados Fund in order to establish a trust/reserve account that would reduce the town's future pension liability. These funds would be used to address the increased payments projected between the years of 2028-37. The unfunded liability payments are expected to decrease in 2038 thanks to changes in the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) new statewide reduced benefits tier.

## Candidates Night 2022 welcomes Moraga School Board hopefuls

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Citizens Network and Saint Mary's College co-sponsored Candidates Night 2022, on Oct. 3 at the SMC campus. Besides town council and Moraga-Orinda Fire Districts 1 and 3 candidates, the in-person and Zoom broadcasted event featured three Moraga School Board hopefuls Larry Jacobs, Hen King, and Martha White. Candidate Kristen Kraetsch (an Orinda mother, employment attorney, and co-director of Lamorinda Moms) was not able to participate due to an illness. There are three seats to fill on the MSD board.

White is a 20-year resident of Moraga with four children in the school system, whose duties as an SMC administrative assistant for biology, chemistry, EES, and health professions/health sciences is managing budgets. She believes in following the mission of the school board and in putting the students first by making sure that they feel safe – physically, emotionally, mentally – and are reaching their full potential. White feels that COVID's learning loss was difficult in the district and that the state's test score results later this year will be a good indicator of progress made (especially with Special Education stu-

dents). She knows that the Universal Lunch program had some issues and with Universal Busing on the horizon, she's hoping that the two programs become streamlined. White has done a lot of volunteering on various school committees in the past, but feels that her seven years working a variety of jobs at Camino Pablo Elementary School has given her valuable experience.

Jacobs is a 16-year resident of Moraga with two children. He has been a local realtor while serving on several school councils and was appointed to the Moraga School Board in 2020. He believes that the school board has an obligation to the kids to make certain they receive quality education and that the schools continue to exist with the help of teachers, staff, parents and the town. He believes it is also the schools' responsibility to provide quality education to all students, regardless of their circumstances. The schools need to teach how to learn; not just what to learn and get back to pre-COVID levels as far as learning loss, he said. Jacobs would like to continue summer school to help this process and include diversity and equity programs. By serving on various school committees, he has gained a

lot of experience along with his past two years already on the school board. Jacobs believes in collaborating with his colleagues and showing respect through listening to each other.

King has lived in Moraga since 1984, and is a small business owner in the field of transportation technology. As a parent of one son, King feels that the needs of the teachers and the community are very important and must reflect the needs of the students. Most importantly, King said school bullying must be addressed, adding that all kids need to be heard within the school system in order to make it a safe and caring space and that placing a Wellness Center in each of the schools could help. Also a priority to King is how to alleviate traffic during school drop-offs and pickups – the MSB needs to look into more public transit usage or staggering start times among the various campuses, King said. Experience as a resident advisor in college has taught King how to work with people and gain leadership experience and a belief in collaboration with colleagues by being respectful and a good listener.

To view the Oct. 3 Candidates Night, visit <https://moragacitizensnetwork.org/candidates-night-oct-3/>

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Town Council: Wednesday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:

Monday, Oct. 17, 7:00 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m. [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us)





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## Town council contenders participate in Candidates Night 2022

By Vera Kochan

Election Day is less than a month away, and in order to help voters make an informed decision on Nov. 8, the Moraga Citizens Network and Saint Mary's College co-hosted Candidates Night 2022 on Oct. 3. MCN encouraged the community to email, in advance, potential questions and concerns for the candidates to address.

Two candidates, David Shapiro and Kendall Langen, are running for the two-year term that was remaining on former Council Member David Stromberg's term. The other two candidates, Steve Woehleke and Kerry Hillis, are running unopposed for the (two) four-year slots.

MCN President Shari Simon opened the evening, which also included candidates running for the Moraga School Board, as well as Moraga-Orinda Fire Districts 1 and 3 candidates. SMC's Executive Vice-President and Provost Corey Cook served as the moderator.

For brief biographies on each of the candidates, visit lamorindaweekly.com and look for the Aug. 31 article titled "Three Council Member Seats to Fill in Moraga; Four Candidates Running", under the archives header.

While Hillis and Woehleke's appearances were a mere formality due to the fact that they are as good as elected they, never-the-less, read their prepared responses to ques-

tions. Hillis, currently Moraga's Planning Commission Chair, was concerned about building more housing in Moraga especially with a constant threat of wildfires in a town that is virtually a cul-de-sac with regards to escape routes. With more housing comes increased congestion. On the other hand, he acknowledged that the state mandates of Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) could boost Moraga's shopping centers through mixed-use developments. Hillis also expressed the need for more affordable housing not only for seniors, but also first-responders, teachers, and college students who commute to Moraga. He is committed to making state leaders aware of Moraga's limitations to safely add a large influx of new housing.

Moraga Mayor Woehleke, spoke about affordable housing and explained to the viewers the requirements of RHNA, and that there is basically nothing municipalities can do about their assigned housing allocations. Any attempt to fight the state would result in penalties. He agreed that mixed-use housing would do much to revitalize both of the town's shopping centers, but that RHNA would still impact the limited public transportation, schools, fire risks, infrastructure and environment.

Shapiro believed that RHNA's affordable housing mandates will encourage both of Moraga's shopping centers

to revitalize and create new commercial enterprises. He felt that this was a great opportunity to build upon the things that the community really wants. Shapiro stated that the town must learn to limit its expenses; increase revenues (not through taxes); continue to seek grants for project funding; and add to the tax base through additional residents.

Asked to comment on prior town council meetings where civility among members was lacking, Shapiro felt that conditions have improved, noting that while there may be some disagreement it was clear that the current council does respect each other. As an attorney, he has the experience to look at situations and modify them in order to appease all parties involved.

Shapiro supports the idea of residents doing as much as they can to voluntarily help the environment and encourages residents to use mass transit or carpool. Another possibility is to offer incentives to the shopping center developers to subsidize a shuttle bus service.

Kendall Langen was invited to participate in Candidates Night 2022, but declined.

To view the video recording of the Candidates Night, visit <https://moragacitizensnet.org/2022-candidates-night-information/>

## Volunteers roll up their sleeves for Moraga Community Service Day project



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Community Service Day volunteers pull weeds in Camino Pablo's garden

By Vera Kochan

Following in the footsteps of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill, Moraga Community Service Day Organizer and Council Member Mike McCluer felt that the town could use the same type of cleanup project that the other communities have done for nearly a decade.

After meeting with various town organizations (Rotary Club of Moraga, Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Moraga Lions Club, Moraga Garden Club, Moraga School District, Campolindo High School, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and iKind), the ball began to roll. Banning on the fact that Moraga's residents have a history of rolling up their sleeves and pitching in, McCluer set up a website (<http://moragaserviceviceday.org>) with a sign-up

sheet listing the various locations and descriptions of each project.

Using the motto "care, give, connect," a couple of cleanups began on Sept. 30, but the official days of the event were held on Oct. 1-2.

Volunteers had plenty of locations and projects to choose from: non-perishable food drop-off for homeless, low-income and food insecure; painting flower pots with warm messages to seniors and shut-ins; weeding, litter pickup and pruning at Camino Pablo Elementary School, Los Perales Elementary School and Rheem Elementary School; donating blood; Lady Bug Bags assembling of hygiene bags for homeless and disadvantaged women; Campolindo Sustainable Garden weeding, mulch spreading and moving pavers; Moraga Commons Park plant-

ing shade trees near the bandshell and trimming dead branches from Manzanita bushes; Residential SMC Garden weeding, and removal of shrubs and debris; SMC Legacy Garden weeding and cleanup; fire abatement trail clearing; and Stafford Road weed removal and general cleanup.

Camino Pablo mom, Amenda Kung, like many of the parents volunteering at schools stated as she pulled weeds in the over-run garden: "It's great to do community service events and just help."

Fellow CP mom, Yueyue Ning agreed that she was there to "help the children and the school." Ning's son, Tony Li (8), had every intention to help his mom pull weeds, but when he saw how arduous the task appeared to be, opted instead for litter duty elsewhere on campus.

"We had an absolutely wonderful weekend for Moraga Community Service with overwhelming community support from 460 volunteers," said McCluer. "This includes 353 people participating in 13 volunteer projects and 107 volunteers donating food - all of which helps those in need, our schools and beautifies our town. Most volunteers were families looking to help the community, involve their kids and happily volunteered their time and resources.

Hoping to make this an annual event, McCluer added, "We are extremely pleased with the community spirit to volunteer for our events which significantly exceeded all our expectations. Thank you, Moraga!"

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**City Council**

**Regular Meeting:**

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

By Teleconference Only

**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.

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## Six candidates vie to fill three seats on the Orinda City Council

By Sora O'Doherty

Outgoing city manager Janet Keeter, who left in 2017, marveled about the incredible quality of volunteers in Orinda, and the 2022 general election is proving her right again. At a candidates' forum on Oct. 6, all the candidates agreed that whoever wins the election will be great for Orinda. During the nearly two-hour forum, the candidates answered questions from the public on a wide range of issues affecting Orinda. They also responded to a set of questions posed to them separately by The Lamorinda Weekly. The candidates forum was sponsored by the Orinda Association and the Orinda News and moderated by the League of Women Voters, Diablo Valley chapter.

All of the candidates had positive views of the Down-

town Precise Plan, although candidate Brandyn Iverson believes that the city should modify the DPP to create overlay districts alternative to "the state's one-note 'density for affordability' incentive." A common thread in their answers was the need to provide affordable housing for Orinda's schoolteachers, firefighters, and city personnel. Stuart House emphasized that he has been encouraged to run for city council instead of the Orinda Union School District board to promote interface between the city and the school board. He is particularly interested in housing for teachers and seniors.

Alex Drexel, the former chair and current commissioner of the Orinda Parks and Recreation, who was appointed by the mayor of Oakland to the Oakland Civil Service Board where he worked to balance

interest of city workers, community and taxpayers to find just outcomes, suggested that Orinda needs campaign finance reform, so that candidates wouldn't need to raise about \$20,000 to run for a volunteer position.

On the subject of BART parking, the candidates were also unanimous in expressing the need for solutions. Latika Malkani suggested sheltered bike paths and increased bike storage at BART. Janet Riley agreed and suggested that bike storage should provide for electric bicycles as well. She also suggested expanding the park and ride facilities to additional church parking lots. Stuart House is a proponent of the Smart Parking Initiative, which uses an internet-based interface to enable people to reserve parking spaces up to two weeks in advance. Alex Drexel added that in addition

to shuttle services, Orinda should leverage ride share applications, and Sunil Rajaraman added that the city needs to find ways to lessen traffic on Moraga Way through community rideshare options.

The six candidates offer a wealth of experience in different fields. Attorney Malkani noted that she hopes to accomplish what in large part motivated her initial 2020 council bid: to govern from her lived experience "which has given me a liking for results that are good and just, for acknowledging bias and looking for bias interrupters, for caring for today's children and tomorrow's environment." Malkani serves on the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission that is guiding the use of the funds raised by the new tax to improve Orinda's wildfire safety and for other uses.

... continued on Page A12

## Orinda rejects electrification ordinance, for now

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council considered, but rejected, an ordinance that would have required all new residential and retail construction in the city to be fully electric. Overall, the council considered that the ordinance was not yet necessary for the city, which is likely to fall under a state-wide provision soon, and might have a

negative effect on building projects currently underway. The purpose of electrification ordinances is to reduce greenhouse gasses and climate change. Contra Costa County already has an electrification ordinance, but it does not apply to the city. The cities of Lafayette and Moraga are currently considering adopting electrification ordinances, but have not yet done so.

Orinda Planning Director, Drummond Buckley, said that

it is expected that the state of California will adopt an electrification ordinance three years after the next building code, which become effective in January 2023.

Buckley also clarified that would not be affected by an electrification ordinance in Orinda. The proposed ordinance would only apply to new residential and retail construction, but would not apply to remodels. Also, in the purposes of electrification, restaur-

ants and swimming pools are not considered retail operations.

Damian Hardman-Saldana, of Contra Costa County was also on hand at the Sept. 27 meeting to answer council questions. He explained that the county sees electrification as cost efficient, adding that all low income developments are already all-electric because it is more cost efficient to build.

... continued on Page A14

## No evident progress on Wilder stalemate, matter continued

By Sora O'Doherty

Having found for the first time that the developer of Wilder is in default on Aug. 16, the Orinda City Council took up the matter again on Sept. 27, but found little new and nothing to change the determination of default. However, Michael Olson, speaking on behalf of Brookside Land Company, said that he would be meeting with Orinda City Manager David Biggs in early October and hoped to resolve some of the issues relating to the completion of the Wilder project. The matter returned to the council on Oct. 11, after

press time. In August the city council received a letter from an attorney for OG LLC, stating that the developer had run out of funds and would not be completing the tasks remaining to finish the development. Olson had said that the letter had been a mistake, although agreeing that the developer did run out of funds.

Chief among the remaining tasks is the construction of the Red Tail Hawk trail staging area, which is supposed to be located at the far end of Wilder Road, and also to complete one of the trails. According to City Attorney Fran Layton, who had been the lead attorney on the Wilder project for many years, OG LLC is now proposing to relocate the Red Tail Hawk staging area to the existing parking lot as well as proposing that the trail the developer is required to build be eliminated.

Much of the council discussion on Sept. 27 focused on the status of completion bonds and endowments. At the completion of the development, some elements are to be turned over to the Orinda Geological Hazard Abatement District or the East Bay Regional Parks District, with the California Department Fish & Wildlife also holding a \$5.8 million bond for which recent premiums have not been paid by the developer.

The question arose whether the non-payment of premiums would affect the ability of the bond-holders to draw down the funds from the bonds to fulfill the devel-

oper's obligations. City Manager David Biggs said that a number of Wilder issues had just been discussed by the GHAD, and that many of the GHAD improvements could be completed with the bonds. Bruce Yamamoto, speaking for the developer, suggested that the bonds had benefitted from compounding and market appreciation and that their value was well above the level of funding actually required to maintain Wilder.

Biggs explained that from the developer's perspective, there are resources that can be applied to a global solution. "We'll be looking at that next week. City staff and the city attorney are trying to engage with everyone. We want to see this done in a comprehensive way, not piecemeal, for all the people who have an interest in seeing Wilder completed," he said.

Olson said that he wanted to "assure everyone that we are looking at all the issues, and meeting with all the parties. We are not walking away, not trying to drag this out. It just takes a long time. Hopefully this will occur next week."

Council Member Nick Kosla analogized the relationship between the developer and the community: "It's always been a great marriage, and now you are initiating divorce proceedings."

Olson replied, "I don't have any experience in divorce, but I hear that some can be very amicable and that is what we hope for."



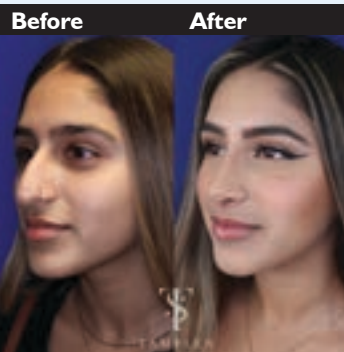
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## Five candidates vie to fill three vacancies on Orinda School Board

By Sora O'Doherty

Five candidates seek to fill the Orinda Union School Board seats being vacated by Carol Brown, Jason Kaune, and Liz Daoust in the November general election. There will be a candidates forum on Oct. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium for OUSD as well as Moraga-Orinda Fire District candidates. Since that is after press time, Lamorinda Weekly put a number of questions to the candidates, and they all responded.

The five candidates, in alphabetical order, are Michelle Chang, Edda Collins Coleman, Linda Delehunt, Eve M. Phillips, and Katie Shogan. Chang has 24 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and central office leader. Shogan holds an M.Ed in educational policy and management and has experience as a public school teacher, administrator and school board member. She helped establish ONE Orinda and was vice president of fundraising for the Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club. Former Orinda city council member and mayor Phillips, who has four children, ran a digital mental health startup, which she believes gave her an appreciation and understanding of the importance of key behavioral health issues like

anxiety and depression and ways to address them. Delehunt holds a doctorate in educational leadership, graduated from UC Berkeley and also holds a Master of Education degree. For 10 years she consulted for the California Department of Education and wrote GATE curriculum for OUSD. Coleman is a parent of three preschool and school-aged children and is an active member of the OIS Parents' Club board. She has over 20 years experience as a policy and communications professional.

When asked if the OUSD should have handled the COVID pandemic differently, opinions differed slightly. Chang felt that the district did well, using the data available and their experience to open the schools in a safe manner. She thought that her daughter's elementary school did an incredible job. Shogan thought that the district did a good job, but observed that "it became abundantly clear that children need to be with peers for both their social-emotional well-being as well as their growth and development." She believes that there is now work to be done addressing the impacts of prolonged social isolation. Coleman believes that there is always room for improvement and that critical lessons were learned during the pandemic. Phillips

pointed out that the OUSD board "was under immense and conflicting pressure from parents, students and teachers to make decisions in an unprecedented environment." She added, "In retrospect, I think we now have a better understanding of the significant social and emotional health issues faced by children being at home for that length of time, and for the learning loss sustained." Delehunt was impressed with the OUSD response to the pandemic, finding staff to be amazingly dedicated and organized. She cited countless hours preparing and delivering the academic program.

All of the candidates responded positively to a question about how a primarily wealthy district can fit into the statewide initiatives for school breakfasts and lunches. Shogan pointed out that providing every student an excellent education includes ensuring that each student's basic needs are met so that they are ready and able to learn, while acknowledging that Orinda schools were accustomed to more control over food offerings and suppliers before the state program commenced. Coleman stated that "these programs have been shown to play a crucial role in student health, well-being, and academic success." She added, "When students succeed, it bene-

fits the entire community." Phillips pointed out that making meals available to all students removes any potential stigma associated with them. While acknowledging that there is room for improvement, she also thinks that parents need to have appropriate expectations. Delehunt praised the statewide breakfast and lunch program as one of her favorite school initiatives, and a supportive measure in all communities. Chang said, "I recently heard from an educator in Orinda about a family who had to forego paying some of their bills in order to pay the fees for their child to participate in sports" at school.

On the subject of balancing academic achievement and social/emotional wellness, Coleman said, "Physical health and emotional health are intimately intertwined and when we approach academic success this way, we can help students fully achieve greater academic excellence." She explained, "My plans call for exploring different pedagogy and strategies for grades K-8 as well as encouraging mindfulness training for teachers and students, which has been shown to enhance attentional and emotional self-regulation and promote flexibility." Phillips responded to the question, saying, "Schools can be a safe haven for

students to find an audience and potential solutions to those issues, and so I am happy to see our continued investment both in counselors as well as OIS's Wellness Center. I believe that investment will pay off in the resulting academic achievements of our children."

Delehunt pointed out that Orinda Intermediate School just received the Blue Ribbon Schools Award, affirming that "the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content." Shogan appreciated the many steps that OUSD has already taken to ensure well-being, including the establishment of wellness centers and increasing access to programming and resources related to mental health. She did note that "in a highly competitive community like Orinda, balancing academic achievement with well-being will always be a challenge." Chang said, "If we want our students to do well, they need to be well." She added, "If students do not feel safe and ready to learn, they will not learn." She pledged to work with other board members, the superintendent, and staff to address these areas of growth.

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# MOFD board candidates discuss issues of concern at Moraga Citizens Network forum

By Sora O'Doherty

There were no startling disagreements among the candidates for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board who took part in the Oct. 3 Moraga Citizens Network candidates' forum at Saint Mary's College. The first forum to feature MOFD candidates covered the races for Districts 1 and 3 (Greg Hasler and Chris Young - District 1; incumbent Steven Danziger and Vince Dell'Aquila - District 3). There is no election for District 2 in the November general election. Danziger and Dell'Aquila as well as District 4 candidate Michael Roemer and incumbent Michael Donner are

scheduled to appear at the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley Candidates Night at the Orinda Library auditorium on Oct. 13.

The candidates each gave a brief introduction, and later a closing statement. All of them were given time to answer six questions.

Hasler, a 22-year resident of Moraga, is a certified public accountant, senior partner at Deloitte. He spoke about his work helping diverse groups with complicated financial issues, and also of his family's involvement with community and civic activities.

Young, a Bay Area native and Lamorinda resident,

worked as a marketing executive, most recently in the broadcast industry. A 10-year resident of Moraga, Young noted that he has had cause to call 911 four times and described himself as the "world's happiest customer!"

Danziger was elected to the MOFD board in 2018 and is currently the board vice president, having served as president for two years, and serves on the audit committee. He mentioned that he is a fire ambassador and a trained member of a search team. Danziger has been a Lamorinda resident for over 27 years.

Dell'Aquila stressed his history of community involvement and fiscal responsibility. He has lived in the area since 1989 and was recently named Orinda Citizen of the Year for 2022.

On the first question, about the possibility of a Contra Costa County Fire Protection District merger, all the candidates agreed that this is a non-starter. Danziger claimed that the issue was misrepresented in the media last year, in that consolidation was not the intention of the director who raised the issue. However, he added that the MOFD did hear from large numbers of the public who want the MOFD to remain independent. Hasler said that the MOFD and the schools are what make Moraga a great place to live. Dell'Aquila noted that although addressed, the issue keeps coming up. With MOFD, he said, Moraga and Orinda have double the number of

firefighters than under ConFire. Young labeled it a dead issue. "I have a fire truck and ambulance five minutes from my house, and I certainly don't want to lose that. Moments matter, and we need firefighters who know the area."

The second question was double barreled, addressing both experience and campaign financing. Dell'Aquila mentioned that as an athletic director at Miramonte High School he had managed 32 different budgets. His financing comes from private individuals. Danziger cited his budget experience and three decades in government, including working in administrative services for the Oakland Fire Department, as an analyst for the Oakland city manager, and at Yosemite National Park. He said his financing comes from various sources including MOFD firefighters, family members and members of the public. Young referred to his experience as vice president of Young and Rubicam for over 30 years, working on strategies and budgets every day. (Editor's note: According to state filings of California Form 460 ending June 20, the only contributions listed for Young were \$1,698.45 from the International Association of Firefighters Local 1230 Political Activity Committee; the same amounts noted in paperwork for Donner and Danziger, but individual contributions may have been received since that filing. All other candidate filings noted only individual do-

nations.) Hasler said he financed his campaign through individual donations, and that he was perhaps his own biggest donor. A CPA for over 30 years, he has worked with multi-billion-dollar companies, setting policies and procedures for clients and practicing goal setting.

All the candidates agreed that current fire code as to exterior hazard mitigation is very important and that the requirements are not excessive, and all had a great deal of praise for the firefighters of the MOFD and Fire Chief David Winnacker.

The question of general operating costs was a bit more complex. Young said MOFD is very financially healthy, with pensions funded at 90%. "We have strong financials, we're in great shape," he said. Hasler said, "We do have issues to address; we're doing everything that we can, but more will have to be done." Danziger said that over the past four years, MOFD has been in its strongest financial situation, and mentioned that they have cash in hand to replace the elderly Station 41, and have entered into a fair and equitable contract under which firefighters got a 13% raise, in contrast to ConFire's 15% raises. Dell'Aquila also brought up the issue of future investments.


The candidates night was recorded and can viewed on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnsolvVww9k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnsolvVww9k)

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 Dick Olsen, Former MOFD Board Member and Past Moraga Citizen of the Year

"Vince Dell'Aquila has been deeply connected to our community in Orinda for many years. Vince will support fire prevention efforts by MOFD and work collaboratively with Firewise Neighborhoods. I enthusiastically endorse Coach Dell'Aquila."

Melanie Light, Orinda Firewise Council, Founder and Firewise Leader\*  
 "Vince Dell'Aquila has served our communities admirably as a professional and a volunteer for decades and he would be a superb Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director."  
 Amy Worth, Orinda City Council, former mayor

\*Titles listed for identification only.  
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ShakeOut website for more information at [www.shakeout.org/california](http://www.shakeout.org/california) and encourage your neighbors to take the next Lamorinda CERT class series beginning in January on Thursday nights in Lafayette. For class information visit [www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org).

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## STEVEN DANZIGER

Previous Fire Board President and Current MOFD Fire Board Director

20 years Oakland Fire Administrator



[Stevendanzigerformofd2022.com](http://Stevendanzigerformofd2022.com)

On November 8, support leaders that walk their talk.  
For Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board

# YOUNG | DONNER | DANZIGER



Paid for by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 FPPC 14448



# MOFD Open House filled with fun



Scott Wertz of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation offered information on burn protection.



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Dennis Rein, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, greeted visitors of all ages.

A recent Open House, held at MOFD Fire Station 41 in Moraga, included pancakes, fire

prevention information as well as rescue reenactments and drone demonstrations.

Station 41 is slated to be upgraded or moved to a new location in the future. - J. Wake

## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
 Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
 Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010  
 Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680  
 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221  
 Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com  
 Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
 Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820  
 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



Sept. 18 - Oct. 1	
Alarms	49
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	55
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	16
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Public/School Assembly Check	14
Supplemental Report	31
Vacation House Check	28
Welfare Check	23
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Silver Springs Rd.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.	
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute	
Nb I 680 At Ygnacio Valley Rd., Wcr	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Tc - Minor Injuries	
3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.	
3500 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Reliez Station Rd./La Canada Rd.	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
Glenside Dr/Los Palos Dr	

Vehicle Theft	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Laf	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln. (3)	
20 Block Via Magnalena	
1100 Block Monticello Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
1800 Block Ivanhoe Ave.	
Identity Theft	
700 Block Moraga Rd.	
Police Department (3)	
Misc Burglary	
4100 Block Los Arabis Dr	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Petty Theft	
3500 Block Herman Dr	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Via Roble	
Petty Theft Other	
4000 Block Marianne Dr	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
900 Block Foye Dr	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3500 Block Brook St.	
1000 Block Via Roble	
Disturbance-fight	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3100 Block Sandalwood Ct.	
Loud Music	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Loud Party	
10 Block Diablo Cr	
3200 Block Camino Colorados	
Public Nuisance	
Ameno Dr/Ameno Ct.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Vandalism	
1000 Block Laurel Dr	
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Trespass	
Los Arabis Dr/Upper Happy Valley Rd.	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report	
Sept. 18 - Oct. 1	
Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	25
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	32
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	8

Welfare Check	3
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
600 Block Moraga Way	
20 Block Sycamore Rd.	
Orinda Wy/Santa Maria Way	
Auto Burglary	
Theatre Square	
Dui Misd	
10 Block Ardilla Rd.	
Hit And Run Felony	
20 Block Sycamore Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr.	
Woodland Rd/Moraga Way	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud False Pretenses	
10 Block El Camino Moraga	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Pico Ct.	
Petty Theft	
Orinda Way	
10 Block Orinda Way	
Warrant Arrest	
Santa Maria Way	
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Rancho Rd., Laf	
Orinda Way	
Warrant Service	
10 Block Ardilla Rd.	

**Nuisance to the Community**  
 Loud Music  
 Moraga Way  
 Loud Noise  
 60 Block Evergreen Dr.  
 Loud Party  
 10 Block Highland Ct.  
 100 Block Lombardy Ln.  
 Vandalism  
 Theatre Square  
 Camino Sobrante  
 St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24

**Other**  
 Mentally Ill Commit  
 400 Block Moraga Way  
 Transient Contact  
 Orinda Way  
 10 Block Theatre Sq 106  
 Trespass  
 Camino Sobrante

**RE-ELECT**

## STEVEN DANZIGER

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT  
DIVISION 3

- 3+ Decades in Public Service
- 20 Yrs Oakland Fire Admin
- Masters Public Administration
- Chair Orinda Parks & Rec Comm.
- CERT Volunteer
- MOFD Ambassador
- 100% Attendance Record

- Increase Fire Prevention Programs
- Restore Dedicated Ambulance Staff in Orinda
- Provide Strategic Leadership & Fire Expertise

**Endorsements (partial list):**  
 Moraga Orinda Firefighters, Oakland Firefighters, Lamorinda Democratic Club, CALDEM, CCC Central Labor Council, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, EBRPD Director Dee Rosario, CCC DA Diana Becton, CCC Board of Education President Sarah Butler, BART Director John McPartland, Director Don Parker San Ramon Valley Fire District, Tom Epstein CA Community College Board of Governors, Toris Jaeger -Teacher/Naturalist Orinda Nature Area.

*"Steve is hard working, community minded and demonstrates unwavering integrity", Robert Lipp-Oakland Assistant Chief (Retired)*

**EXPERIENCED** 🔥 **LEADERSHIP** 🔥 **COMMUNITY** 🔥

Paid for by: International Association of Firefighters Local 55 Political Action Committee FPPC# 892160

## MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT



I have fully supported our fire chief in his fire prevention efforts. The chief and I have a shared vision for district safety

- 4 decades of public Service
- Safety of the District is my number one priority
- Continue our increased efforts in

**Endorsed By:**

State of California Democratic Party, Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, Lamorinda Democratic Club, Moraga Orinda Professional Firefighters Association, Orinda Teachers Association, California Professional Firefighters, International Association Of Firefighters, Matt Moran former Orinda Union School District President, Sarah Butler Contra Costa Board of Education President, Eve Phillips former Mayor of Orinda, Brian Oftedal Contra Costa County Fire Commissioner, San Ramon Firefighters, Alameda County Firefighters, Oakland Firefighters, Retired Assistant Chief Richmond Emon Usher, Contra Costa Firefighters, Retired Chief Vallejo current San Ramon Board Director Don Parker, Contra Costa Labor Council AFL-CIO, Diane Dwyer, Lecturer UC Berkeley Retired News Reporter, Local Business Leaders and many more.

Paid for by: International Association of Firefighters Local 55 Political Action Committee FPPC# 892160

# Elect Greg Hasler Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD)

FIRE SAFETY IS A CHOICE- PRIORITIZE FIRE PREVENTION

**Endorsed by:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Steve Glazer, California State Senator<br>Don Peralta, Former California Senator<br>Steve Woehleke, Mayor of Moraga<br>Karen Mendonca, Former Moraga Mayor<br>Ken Chew, Former Moraga Mayor<br>Dave Trotter, Former Moraga Mayor & Town Council Member<br>Rochelle Tocchini, Former Moraga Town Council<br>Chris Severson, Acalanes Union High School District Board<br>Gordon Nathan, Former MOFD Director<br>Gene Gottfried, Former MOFD Board<br>Marna Eyring, Former Moraga Education Foundation President<br>Dick Olsen, Former MOFD Director | John Jex, MOFD Board<br>Craig Jorgens, MOFD Board<br>Brad Barber, Former MOFD Board President<br>Dennis Fay, Mayor of City of Orinda, MOFD Liaison<br>Kathleen Duffy, Moraga Ridge HOA & Firewise Leader<br>Larry Jacobs, VP Sanders Ranch HOA<br>Anne Obsitnik, Co-Chair Bluffs Firewise Community<br>Melanie Light, Founder Lamorinda Firewise Neighborhoods<br>Dick Wilcox, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader<br>Ian Baird, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader |
|--|--|



Greg Hasler and wife Necia, enjoy family time with son Parker and his wife Rebecca, daughter Malesa, daughter Shaeleigh and her husband Justin Wells.



*"During the 50 years our family has lived in Moraga I have been extensively involved in our local Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Those activities have included service on the County's Emergency Medical Services Committee, the Moraga Fire Commission and the Board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). As a result of those experiences, I sincerely believe that at this November's MOFD Board Election Greg Hasler is the right choice to represent the interests of the residents of South Moraga (MOFD Division 1) -- as well as the interests of all the residents and taxpayers of the MOFD."*

*Dick Olsen  
Former member MOFD Board & Moraga Fire Commission  
President of County Fire Commissioners Association, retired  
Moraga Citizen of the Year 2013*

HaslerforMOFD.com

Paid for by Greg Hasler for MOFD 2022, FPPC #1454835

Fighting for Moraga, not outside special interests

Partial list of endorsers. Titles listed for information only.



## Letters to the editor

### Danziger for MOFD

I am proud to endorse Steve Danziger for MOFD Board. He has done an incredible job for the District. During his four years as board member, MOFD has increased its Annual Fund Balance by 44% and paid off the Pension Obligation Bond. He is hard working, community minded, and demonstrates unwavering integrity. Steve brings 20 years experience as the Administrative Manager for the Oakland Fire Department. He gives time to multiple community groups; Orinda Parks & Rec, Art in Public Places, Friends of Orinda Library, Orinda Creeks, Orinda Nature Area. As a UC Master Gardener, Steve teaches gardening and composting, and home hardening instruction in multiple communities.

While improving MOFD's financial stability, Steve also pushed for reasonable compensation for firefighters. We need our firefighters to be invested in our community. Not

maintaining competitive compensation would turn MOFD into a temp agency. Steve Danziger continues to lead the effort to keep firefighters for a career. Steve advocates increasing our ambulance service, reducing wait times and reducing the incidence of fire engines being unavailable for other emergencies.

MOFD Director is not a place for an experimental foray into government service. Re-elect Steve Danziger to Moraga-Orinda Fire Board District 3.

Robert Lipp – Oakland Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief, Retired  
Orinda

### Hasler for MOFD board – champion for fire safety projects

Greg Hasler will bring a needed change to the MOFD Board. He will represent the tax paying residents of Moraga and Orinda and not outside special interests.

During the past year I have frequently noted split voting by the five directors. It is time that the board consistently support and fund activities that will make the community safe from a catastrophic fire.

Greg will support year-round chipping services and other abatement activities. A unified district leadership and board are essential to accomplish these priorities.

Rob Browning  
Moraga

### Support the independent candidates for MOFD Board of Directors

The first reports for candidate funding are in. Hasler, Dell'Aquila and Roemer are funded 100% by local individuals. Young, Danziger and Donner received no local funding; 100% coming from a state labor union. Four years ago, the union provided \$31,000 total to these candidates.

A letter in the last issue

praised Danziger for supporting Fire Prevention efforts. Just the opposite is true. He has overseen \$125 million in budgets over four years with only a few hundred thousand allocated to wildfire prevention. Chief Winnacker had to fund his wildfire prevention plan with donations from a local foundation and the North Orinda and Tunnel Firebreaks from state grants (which actually earned MOFD revenue which the board, controlled by Danziger and Donner, did not then use for more wildfire prevention).

Wildfire prevention should be MOFD's prime concern. If a wind-driven wildfire occurs, with the level of vegetation we have, MOFD's suppression resources will be overwhelmed. Only fuel mitigation, supported by our tax dollars, will be effective.

Please support (financially) and vote for the wildfire-prevention candidates, Greg Hasler, Vince Dell'Aquila and Mike Roemer.

www.HaslerForMOFD.com  
www.VinceForMOFD.com  
www.MikeRoemer4MOFD.com  
Steve Cohn  
Orinda

### Roemer for MOFD board

Mike Roemer is an exceptionally qualified candidate for our MOFD Board. Mike has a professional legal background, and a record of community service. With the high and growing risks of wildfires in our communities, it is vital that we have committed, knowledgeable and independent leadership on the MOFD.

Mike has been an active volunteer with MOFD since 2016. You may have met him at any of the evacuation exercises; he also functions as a fire support volunteer at prescribed burns. Mike is also a leader in CERT and is trained in emergency communications and uses these skills as a member of the Lamorinda Radio Interest Group.

Mike has good relations with community Firewise groups, Chief Winnacker and many firefighters with whom he has worked side by side for over 5 years.

His is committed to prioritize fire prevention, including maximizing funding for our district for wildfire prevention and preparedness. He is committed to advocating for new technologies that can help us detect wildfires, support evacuations and more effectively fight fires.

We all want to be protected from wildfire risk. Mike Roemer on the MOFD board will give us the leadership we need to prioritize fire prevention and our safety.

Marti Roach  
Moraga

### Endorsing Vince Dell'Aquila

I had the privilege of serving on the faculty with Vince at Miramonte High School. He is highly skilled, communicative, and always prioritizes the safety and well-being of others. He will be efficient and effective on the MOFD Board of Directors!

Jan Carlson  
Moraga

### Hasler will bring valuable skills to MOFD board

We have known Greg Hasler for many years and value the professional skills he would bring to the board. He has the ability to identify and solve long-term financial issues which our community services must address. The District and California are facing an uncertain financial period that could have a dramatic negative impact on the District's financing position. Greg will represent the professionals who serve our community with fairness. At the same time, he will make sure the board keeps the needs and interests of our citizens his top priority, not the special interest groups that fund other candidates. Greg has spent his professional life dealing with similar issues for his large diverse clients and he has the insights and skills to meet the challenges of the MOFD board. Greg will also focus on fire prevention activities and be especially responsive to community concerns.

David and Julene Stevenson  
Moraga

... continued on Page A11

**Election Season SPECIAL POLICY:** Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

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. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556



- **Passionate** about placemaking and how the built environment can change the way people relate to their town and to each other.
- **Proven**, with a JD/MBA and 20+ years experience in real estate development, oversight, entitlement, finance, and investment.
- **Prepared** to continue the great work the City Council has already started. As a 3rd term Planning Commissioner (Chair '18-'20), I have the experience and context to keep up all of that momentum on downtown planning, fire safety, and housing policy.

Orinda City Council Candidate

# BRANDYN IVERSON

endorsed by all five members of the Orinda City Council

Dennis Fay, Inga Miller,  
Mayor Vice Mayor

Darlene K. Gee, Amy R. Worth, Nick Kosla,  
Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember

[www.voteiverson.com](http://www.voteiverson.com)

[Brandyn@VoteIverson.com](mailto:Brandyn@VoteIverson.com)

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Brandyn Iverson for City Council 2022, FPCC #1451433



## VOTE FOR JANET RILEY

### For Orinda City Council



#### Vanessa Crews

Former President, AUHSD

#### Darlene Gee

Orinda Councilmember

#### Steve Glazer

California State Senator

#### Joyce Hawkins

Former Mayor, City of Orinda

#### Cara Hoxie

OUSD Board Member

#### Craig Jorgens

Director, MOFD

#### Nick Kosla

Orinda Councilmember

#### Linda Landau

Former President, OUSD

#### Pat Rudebusch

Former President, OUSD

#### Chris Severson

AUHSD President

#### Sue Severson

Former Mayor, City of Orinda

#### Riki Sorenson

Former President, OUSD

#### Amy Worth

Orinda Councilmember,  
Former Mayor

#### Sarah Albo

Kristine Anthony

Jill & Mike Baker

Barbara & Rick Bennett

Paul Boero

Monica & Dean Burnick

Bruce Burrows

Robert and Karen Burt

Scott & Sheila Butler

Sylvia Carter

Lynda Chan

Ann & John Cinderey

Catherine Dunne

Heather & Kevin Dunne

Sheila Eversole

Hilary Fabian

Kathe Friel

Finola Fellner

Kellyn & Glen Gagon

Brent & Laurie Goetzl

Kaija & Gary Gibbs

Karen Derr Gilbert

John & Pamela Goode

### Partial List of Endorsements

#### Sandy Gross & Paula Reinman

Marina Gracias & Bernard Martis

Shand and Bill Green

Ignacia Guzman

Mary Hake

Marlene Dollar Hallenberger

Tish & Steve Harwood

Pete & Helen Hasselman

Pamela Hemming

Chip & Carolyn Herman

Man Li Kelly

Joan Kiekhaefer & Steve Rosenzweig

Juanita Kizor

Darla Lucas

Sue Lundstrom

Seth & Nancy Madnick

April Matthews

Mary & Mark Maxson

Sandra McGonigle

Victoria Nakamura

Eartha Newsong

Carolyn & Richard Palmer

Cynthia Pearson

#### Janet Pease

Walter Peyton & Marita Platon

John & Benita Quinn

Lorene Quist

Maggie Reeves

Elizabeth Regan

Katie Rittmann

Susie Romak

Mary Rotticci

Laura Sawczuk

Nath & Bill Schmicker

Deb & Brad Scott

Judy Shallat

Maureen Sheehy

Cathleen & Erv Sodos

Deb Stephenson & Mitch Reed

Dave & Jean Sullivan

Robert & May Tong

Tom Trowbridge

Althea (CeCe) Werson

Bobbie & John Wilson

Mike Zischke & Nadin

Sponamore

[www.JanetRileyforOrinda.com](http://www.JanetRileyforOrinda.com)

PAID FOR BY JANET RILEY FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL 2022 COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN ID: 1453079



# Letters to the editor ... continued

## Support independent candidates for MOFD

With all those election signs bidding for our attention as we drive the roads of Orinda, it's easy to forget a crucial difference between the fire district election (MOFD) and the other elections also underway, for example for Orinda City Council. The difference: MOFD candidates run in districts. Unlike candidates for Orinda City Council, where all candidates compete against all other candidates, an MOFD candidate runs only against candidates running in that district.

For example, I see election signs for Mike Roemer and for Vince Dell'Aquila. But they are not running against one another. Roemer is campaigning to be a director for MOFD District 4 and Dell'Aquila (just named as Orinda's Citizen of the Year!) from District 4 – districts largely in Orinda.

Both Roemer and Dell'Aquila have separate opponents. Prior to 2018 MOFD elections had been fairly low-key. Then, a big change. Three candidates were backed heavily by the MOFD firefighters' union: with cash (\$30,000 in total campaign donations) and manpower (pamphlet distributions, sign placement). With the power of surprise, the union-backed candidates won. Two of those winning in 2018 are running again -- against Dell'Aquila and Roemer.

Roemer and Dell'Aquila are running as independent candidates. Not anti-union, but independent. And not against each other.  
Dave Anderson  
Orinda

## Vote Vince Dell'Aquila for MOFD District 3

I support Vince because we need a director with the priorities of Orinda, Moraga and Canyon in providing excellent fire & ambulance services, preventing wildfires, and fiscal responsibility.

Local leaders know the record & have endorsed Vince - city council members, current/former mayors, MOFD Directors, our State Senator, school board/parents' club leaders and others who know the importance of not diluting our resources by merging with outside districts. How many hours/dollars have we all spent fundraising for our schools with minimal return from Sacramento for taxes we pay in?

Key endorsers also include many citizen volunteers leading neighborhood fire prevention efforts and pushing better technologies. Some insurers give discounts for these "Fire-wise" programs as they're proven to protect our families, prepare for and prevent wildfire.

MOFD has successfully retained excellent, well-compensated firefighters with equipment/personnel ratios double those elsewhere. While maintaining that excellence, MOFD needs more focus on community engagement – Vince has the perfect experience and inclusive temperament as a long-time successful leader over 32 budgets; as a coach, and hardworking volunteer (named Orinda's 2022 Citizen of the Year).

Please support Vince Dell'Aquila for MOFD.  
Sandy Roadcap  
Orinda

## Dell'Aquila for MOFD board

Vince Dell'Aquila has a depth of experience and skills that will be invaluable to the MOFD Board. As an educator, Department Head and Athletic Director, as well as licensed General Contractor in his previous career, he has addressed the concerns of thousands of parents and students, teachers and administrators, business leaders and the Community. He's adept at managing budgets, both in the private sector and as Athletic Director, with 32 separate budgets to oversee.

Moreover, for decades, he

has worked tirelessly and collaboratively with a wide range of people, to develop and implement successful action plans. Also, importantly, Vince will be an independent director, whose campaign has been 100% financed by members of the community and friends. As opposed to his opponent's campaign, which to date has been completely financed by the Fire Union.

In sum, Vince has the leadership skills and experience necessary for the Board to strategically meet the challenges that the MOFD faces.  
M'Liss Greenlee  
Orinda

## Danziger for MOFD board

On Nov. 8 voters in MOFD District 3 will have the opportunity to vote for Director. For me it is no contest, and I will be voting to re-elect Steven Danziger. Steve is a wonderful neighbor and friend. He has clearly demonstrated to me over the years that he is a reliable and effective leader who has consistently taken actions to make our District as fire safe as possible. He has actively helped homeowners / neighbors with fuel mitigation to reduce the risk of fires.

During these challenging times for the Fire Service where the Board may make decisions that will affect our life and property, we need Steve's experience and expertise. While Steven has 3+ decades of Public Service experience including 25 yrs. in the Fire Service. Steven served 2 terms as President of the board and is the current VP. He has completed CERT training, is a FAC-Ambassador, Volunteers with numerous local organizations, was local Boy Scout Troop 57 Scoutmaster (where we first met) and as a UC Master Gardener has made dozens of presentations on Home Hardening and Firescaping.

While we are fortunate to have great choices, there is a difference in fire department experience of the MOFD District 3 candidates. Steven is endorsed by the brave men and women that serve as Firefighters with MOFD. We need to re-elect Steven Danziger to the Board so that he may continue to represent our interests on the Board and build on the progress we are making. Join me in Re-electing Steven Danziger to MOFD District 3 Director on Nov. 8th!  
John Turney  
Orinda

## Donner for MOFD board

I am writing to express my support for Michael Donner and recommend him for Moraga Fire Protection District Director. For over 40 years, Michael has been a dedicated and loyal public servant to this community. Decades of fire-fighting experience paired with a proactive, problem-solving mindset makes him easily the most qualified candidate for the job.

On a personal note, I know Michael Donner to be an incredibly kind and devoted neighbor, friend, father and person. Since my dad was diagnosed with ALS two years ago, Michael has stood by my family and shows himself every day to be a true and reliable friend.

When we needed to remodel the house to make it ADA accessible, Michael founded a GoFundMe to help cover the expenses of the modifications. He jumps to our assistance when arduous physical tasks outweigh our abilities and never hesitates to take time out of his schedule to make dinner, have a laugh and a drink with my dad, and be there to support us. As my dad's mobility has become more limited, he has always made an effort to get him out of the house and do the things that bring him joy. As I go into the last year of my four-year undergrad in Scotland, it makes me feel much assuaged to know Michael will be a constant presence around the house as he has been in these years past. My family will never forget the care, time and love he has shown us, and it is my privilege to recommend a man I know to be reliable, giving and committed to this community.  
Ava Killbourn  
Orinda Resident since 2006

## Vote for Roemer and Dell'Aquila for MOFD

No one is surprised when election season brings out selective, faulty or even totally incorrect recall. Mistakes Donner and Danziger have both stated recently, that their No. 1 priority is fire safety. How quickly they forget! Over their first terms, both have voted against the chipper program, against funding the North Orinda fire break, and have reduced funding for the home hardening program by \$250,000. This and other public safety matters expose the true priorities of the incum-

bents: not fire prevention and safety, but doing the bidding of the Sacramento-based Fireman's Union.

Further proof of their misaligned loyalties: the minutes of the March 17, 2021 MOFD meeting quote union leader Vince Wells proposing that MOFD be merged into ConFire. The record shows Director Danziger in support of the merger idea, in spite of his protests of being misquoted.

Finally, public records show that 100% of the funding for the Danziger and Donner campaigns has come from International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 PAC. No such special interest funding has been accepted by Mike Roemer or Vince Dell'Aquila.

Please vote Roemer and Dell'Aquila. Return control of MOFD to Orinda and Moraga-interested directors who prioritize our local fire prevention and safety goals.  
Glen S. Gagon  
Orinda

## Don't believe misrepresentations from Hasler, Roemer and Dell'Aquila

A mailer arrived in Moraga and Orinda mailboxes last week claiming that MOFD Board incumbents Danziger and Donner "voted against" MOFD's Chipper Program. This is a gross misrepresentation of the truth.

At the June 17, 2020 Board meeting, Fire Chief Winnacker and Fire Marshal Isaacs explained that the chipping program had been paused for three months while fuels mitigation staff focused on critical "abatement compliance inspections along major evacuation routes." (MOFD Minutes, 6/17/20, p. 10)

At that meeting, Danziger and Donner both voted to maintain this "temporary" pause in the chipping program—which everyone understood would resume on Sept. 1—to ensure that staff would have sufficient personnel to complete the key task of "follow-up and enforcement" on hazard abatement violations on our essential evacuation routes. (Ibid. pp. 10-13)

Danziger and Donner are strong supporters of the chipping program and voted in favor of MOFD's purchase of its own dedicated chipper so that the chipping program could be not only continued but expanded. (MOFD Minutes, 6/16/21, p. 6) This program has been a major success.

It is disappointing that Hasler, Roemer and Dell'Aquila would distort the facts in this way, especially when Danziger and Donner acted to ensure the best interests of the community and its safety.

Please support Donner, Danziger and Young for MOFD Board. They support robust fire prevention measures including fuels mitigation, and they fully respect the needs and experience of our fire-fighting professionals.  
Suzanne D'Arcy  
Moraga

## Donner for MOFD board

I am writing in support to re-elect Michael Donner for the MOFD Board of Director in Division 4. After a 31-year career as an Oakland Firefighter, Michael continues to serve his community with his extensive knowledge on fire prevention as the current president of the MOFD Board. His accomplishments as a board member include the support of North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, hiring a full-time fuel mitigation staff and providing fiscal stability with major increases to the MOFD budget reserves.

During the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, I was a reporter for KTVU and remember vividly the devastation that occurred. The fire was fueled by dry & neglected underbrush and untended dead brush/trees throughout the hills. Now that I am a real estate agent, I appreciate the strict fire code enforcement MOFD has enacted. The fire prevention efforts that Michael Donner and the shared vision with Fire Chief Winnacker will not only keep us safer from fire but also allow all of us to continue to have options for affordable fire insurance.

Michael has been an active member of the community. He has served on the emergency preparedness committee within the Orinda schools and continues to support his fellow Oakland firefighters by serving on the Oakland Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation. I could not recommend a better person for the position. Please join me in voting for Michael Donner for MOFD Board.  
Thank you  
Diane Dwyer  
Orinda

... continued on Page A12



# LATIKA

## MALKANI FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

### ACCOUNTABILITY, PREPAREDNESS, COMMUNITY

**Endorsed by:**

- Assemblyperson Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Dennis Fay, Mayor, City of Orinda
- Inga Miller, Vice-Mayor, City of Orinda
- Amy Worth, Councilperson, City of Orinda
- Darlene Gee, Councilperson, City of Orinda
- Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

**VOTE BY NOVEMBER 8**

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Paid for by Malkani for City Council 2022  
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NEWSPAPER  
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## Six candidates vie to fill three seats on the Orinda City Council

... continued from Page A6

House recently retired from the OUSD, where he served for many years as Director of Facilities. House noted that, "as an African American and former civil rights worker, I have dedicated my life to fighting for the rights of all people." House has worked for local, state and national governments, is a licensed contractor and has built 1,300 homes for Native Americans. A native of Michigan, he once ran the Michigan Senate and worked on Jimmy Carter's campaign for the presidency.

Iverson, chair of the Orinda Planning Commission

on which she has served for seven years, emphasized her 20 years of experience in commercial real estate. She graduated from Stanford with a degree in economics and architecture and also has an MBA and a law degree. Her parents were real estate developers who built Calistoga Ranch.

Janet Riley is also an attorney, who worked as a business and tax attorney for small businesses and nonprofits, before she had children. Since then, Riley has 30 years of experience volunteering in Orinda, from chairing the Fourth of July Parade to being president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda,

now ONE Orinda. She runs the social justice committee at Santa Maria Church, which has brought three refugee families to Orinda.

Rajaraman has started multiple technology companies, but credits his experience as being a dad of two young daughters at Wagner Ranch Elementary School as keeping him energetic and on alert at all times, while also giving him a firsthand look into the community, where he plans to remain for a long time.

Responding to public questions at the candidates' forum, all of the candidates acknowledged that private roads are of concern in

Orinda, but all thought that they would need further study before they could express an opinion or offer a solution. In response to a question of gun violence, most expressed the opinion that Orinda does not have a real problem with gun violence at this time. House pointed out that most gun violence results in suicide and domestic violence, which, he added, is really hard to regulate. However Malkani suggested that gun violence should be a big priority for Orinda, as gun violence is on the rise everywhere. Education is key, she said. House also noted, in a rebuttal answer, that he had been responsible for school safety at

the OUSD and had done a number of things. However, he said he is afraid of arming all teachers: "That's not a direction in which we should go."

All the candidates supported making Juneteenth an official holiday for Orinda, but wouldn't commit to banning gas leaf blowers, noting the potential effects on gardeners. Election day is Nov. 8. All citizens were mailed ballots on Oct. 10, which can be returned by mail, to secure ballot boxes, or to polling places. In-person early voting will take place on Nov. 4, Nov. 5 and Nov. 7. The closest early voting polling place to Lamorinda is Walnut Creek City Hall.

## Letters to the editor ... continued

### Chen, Kendzierski and Severson for AUHSD board

The Acalanes Union High School District's excellent high schools are the foundation of our communities and for generations have provided our students with a superb education, outstanding extra-curricular activities, and enrichment programs.

To ensure the continuation of this tradition of excellence, we enthusiastically endorse Jennifer Chen, Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson for the AUHSD governing board.

Chris and Nancy's prudent leadership and knowledge of complex educational issues have enabled the district to maintain its excellence, even amid the tremendous challenges faced in the last several years. Jennifer's deep familiarity with our schools, her commitment to all students, and sharp analytical skills will make her a productive and valuable member of the AUHSD board.

These are strong leaders who can be trusted, now and well into the future.

A vote for Jennifer Chen, Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson in the Nov. 8 election is a vote for continued academic and overall excellence in our high schools and a vote for all the students in the district. Teresa Gerring, Mayor of Lafayette

Matt Francois, Mayor of Walnut Creek

Steve Woehleke, Mayor of Moraga

Amy Worth, Orinda City Council Member

### Severson for AUHSD board

As a former Orinda school board member, I know that in these tumultuous times it is more important than ever to remember the qualities that make a good trustee: the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Chris Severson embodies these qualities and deserves your vote for re-election in November to the Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for public education for many years. He has the benefit of experience — not only has Chris served as trustee of the high school district these past four years, he served with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity, and always kept the focus on what is best for students.

Chris will provide a voice for the Orinda community on the board. The high school district is composed of schools in

four communities: Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek. Chris is the only current trustee from Orinda, and is the only school board candidate from our city as well. Despite the fact that Chris lives in Orinda, he also brings a uniquely balanced perspective to this role: Chris's children have attended Miramonte, Acalanes, and Campolindo high schools.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Julie Rossiter  
Former Trustee, Orinda Union School Board (2010-2018)

### Support for Chen, Kendzierski and Severson for AUHSD board

We can be very proud of the accomplishments of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) over the past years and now. This is a dedicated community that cares deeply about Excellence in Education for all students.

We would like to recommend strong support for the following candidates for the AUHSD board to continue that excellence: Jennifer Chen, Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson. We know that these candidates have shown their dedication to lead in our communities. Their knowledge of the issues has been and will continue to be demonstrated. These are strong leaders who can be trusted. Please vote for these candidates in the Nov. 8 election to continue the excellence in our schools.

Former Acalanes Union High School Board Members:

Judy Carney  
Kathy Coppersmith  
Vanessa Crews  
Tom Mulvaney  
Margot Tobias  
Fred Weil  
Richard Whitmore

### Shogan for OUSD Board

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Katie as she took on increasing roles of responsibility on our elementary school board while she simultaneously became a founding member of ONE Orinda, which is a critically important organization that supports our schools. In both of these volunteer roles Katie brought her wealth of knowledge regarding education, as well as her impressive leadership and personal skills. Katie is exceptional at getting things done, cutting to the heart of the matter and engaging with others with respect and diplomacy but also with a bias for action. Her past experience as a school board member and a California public

school teacher and administrator gives her incredible depth of knowledge about the challenges our schools are facing. Between her professional experience and what she has learned about our schools in her current roles, she is extremely qualified and would be an important addition to our school board. Please join me in voting for Katie Shogan for one of the three open seats on the Orinda Union School District Board.

Sara Cherry  
Orinda

### The choice is clear

Candidates should want to be heard by as many people as possible. Candidates should want to take advantage of every opportunity to engage with our community. They should make it easy for you to access their message and understand their platform. In return, they should make it easy for you to share your questions and concerns. If someone doesn't show up for you and our community, they haven't earned your vote.

School board members have to speak in front of people who are not necessarily their friends, who don't agree with them, or who even speak out against them. It's part of the job. Showing up for public forums is a basic prerequisite to show you have the skills to do what is asked of a public official.

Katy Foreman, Dave Smith, and Rob Sturm showed up for Lafayette on October 3rd, by appearing at the non-partisan forum hosted by the League of Women Voters - Diablo Valley and the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs. The other candidates did not.

The choice is clear. When you receive your ballots, please vote for Foreman, Smith, and Sturm for Lafayette School District Governing Board.  
Justine Parmelee  
Lafayette

### Keep toxic national politics out of our school boards

MAGA partisans are attempting to invade and politicize our schools. Last year, a handful of Trump conspiracy theorists protested on the CA24 overpass after the 2020 election, bringing unwanted statewide attention to our otherwise friendly and politically moderate community. Recently, I learned that these same rabble-rousing elements are trying to turn our award-winning schools into a culture war battleground. Lisa Disbrow, one of the organizers of the Overpass Protests according to an interview she granted The DVC Inquirer, is running for Contra Costa Board of Education District 2, which includes Lamorinda.

Closer to home, Renee Nowac, Mark Woolway, and

Gabe Ledeen are attempting to gain seats on the Acalanes Union school board. Woolway was on Trump's 2016 transition team, and Ledeen is a member of the Federalist Society. If they win, we can look forward to board debates on banning books and "wokeness," directing attention away from improving our children's educations. Our top schools are the bedrock of our communities and the foundation of our property values. We cannot afford to sacrifice them at the altar of the right-wing culture war.

Mike Greene  
Orinda

### AUHSD governing board election

It has been a privilege to have served the students, and represented the residents, of the Acalanes Union High School District as a Board Member for the past eight years. Although I am not seeking a third term on the Board in November, the commitment to a high quality, inclusive, and thorough educational experience for every AUHSD student remains.

Thus, it is essential to reelect Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson. Our students and community will continue to benefit from their leadership, knowledge, and experience. Both have continually demonstrated a thoughtful insight into, and deep commitment for, meeting the needs of each one of our students.

It is also very important to elect Jennifer Chen. Jennifer is highly qualified, very knowledgeable, and will be a valuable addition to the Board.

I urge all AUHSD voters to cast their votes for Kendzierski, Severson, and Chen.

Bob Hockett  
AUHSD Board Member  
2014-2022

### School elections more important than ever

I've never been more proud of our community. What should have been a sleepy election has unexpectedly turned into an urgent call of action heard by parents to reject an organized conservative ideological takeover of our excellent school system. And local families have responded with letters, posts, and donations of time and money.

The "trio" campaigns of Lind Larsen McSorley and Ledeen Nowac Woolway are part of a larger Republican movement in California to take over school boards to promote right-wing changes. "Revolt California" and "Leadership Institute" provide support and training, including videos from Ted Cruz on Critical Race Theory. If elected, these Takeover Trios will have majority voting power, thereby jeopardiz-

ing recent gains made in school issues including mental health, diversity and inclusion, sexual education, gender identity, belonging, and school safety. Furthermore, Lisa Disbrow is running for CCC Board of Education. If that name is familiar, she is the organizer of all the Trump "Stop the Steal" rallies on El Curtola Bridge. I shudder to think of the changes they could force on our children.

Let's not elect ideological, inexperienced voting blocks that are out of step with most Lafayette voters. I urge you to vote for Dave Smith, Katy Foreman, and Rob Sturm for LSD; Jennifer Chen, Christopher Severson, and Nancy Kendzierski for AUHSD; and Sarah Butler for CCC Board of Education. Michael Dawson  
Lafayette

### 'No' on all school board incumbents

I ran for the Lafayette School Board in 2012 and won. As an establishment candidate I was supported by the self-appointed Lafayette "elite". My supporters included local politicians, philanthropists, then current and future superintendents, and the school board.

I'd checked all the right boxes - parent club president, parcel tax committee volunteer, member of the Lafayette Community Foundation Board, etc. I believed that bipartisanship was real and that people here wanted good things for everyone.

I took my Oath of Office seriously and, in 2016, I questioned deficit projections in the school district budget and opposed changes that diminished the math opportunities at Stanley. The backlash was significant and continues - my concerns were and are still unwelcome. The board culture of deference to the administration is not negotiable.

Sausage making is ugly and our non-partisan school board elections exemplify the process. "Unselected" parents, who don't hold political aspirations, have dared to place their names on the ballot. They've been ridiculed on local social media, and their children have been bullied at school. The incumbent and status-quo candidates, who self-identify as kind and inclusive upstanders, have shown themselves to be silent bystanders.

School boards exist to serve communities and students. However, the focus has shifted to political aspirations, social agendas and legacies. Vote "no" on all school board incumbents and establishment candidates this year and vote "yes" for kids.

Jean Follmer  
Current Lafayette School District Governing Board Member



# Letters to the editor ... continued

## David Shapiro For Moraga Town Council

We've known David Shapiro and Tina Brier, his wife, for over 20 years, having met through our daughters who went to school and played sports together. David is engaged, smart, thoughtful, and polite. He is more than able to analyze the issues presently before the Town. His legal experience will provide another smart approach to navigating the mandates imposed by the state while also protecting Moraga's special character. He believes our town can provide developers with the tools to increase our residential and commercial centers while also preserving our suburban and rural nature. We strongly support David for Moraga Town Council. Lori and Mark Edystone Moraga

### Yes on 31

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen, former Burton Valley, Stanley, Acalanes parent and now American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN) legislative ambassador. I want to ensure that every parent, teacher, student and Californian votes YES ON 31 to stop the sale of candy-flavored products Big

Tobacco uses to hook kids on nicotine.

California recently enacted a bipartisan law, Senate Bill (SB) 793, to protect children from getting hooked on candy-flavored e-cigarettes, sweet cigars and minty-menthol cigarettes. But Big Tobacco has put forth a referendum to strike down SB 793 in the form of Proposition 31. A yes vote on Prop 31 will uphold SB 793. Before the mail-in ballots go out on October 10th, it is imperative that everyone in California is aware of big tobacco's push to overturn SB-793.

Big Tobacco deliberately targets kids and specifically hones in on our vulnerable communities with candy flavors like gummy bear, cotton candy, minty menthol. Their goal - turn young people into lifelong customers. Sadly, it's working. Today 4 out of 5 kids who use tobacco started with a flavored product: over 2 million middle and high

school students nationwide use e-cigarettes. A YES ON 31 is a vote to protect our kids. Big Tobacco argues that if Prop 31 is passed black markets will be created, tax dollars revenues will be lost, smokers will automatically choose the alternative, regular tobacco products. All of this is untrue, and we all know the cost of tobacco related cancers and chronic illnesses is enormous on our health care and legal system.

I know it is confusing to be voting YES on a tobacco proposition. Confusion is what Big Tobacco is trying to accomplish. That YES vote will help protect our communities. Just remember, a YES ON 31 is a vote to protect our kids from a lifelong addiction which big tobacco is pushing.

Please vote YES ON 31. It's for the health and well-being of our future adults. Tina Tankka Lafayette

**Election Season SPECIAL POLICY: Letters to the Editor letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.**

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. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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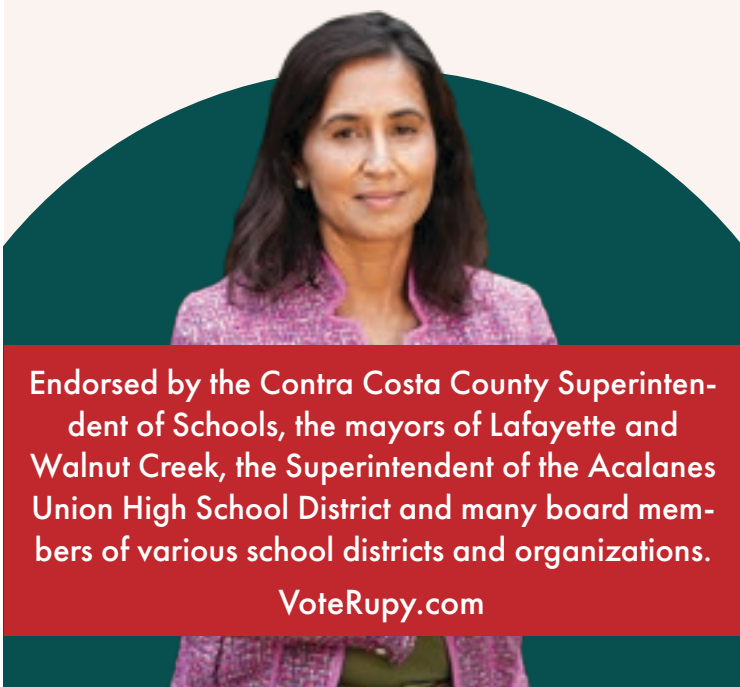


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Paid for by Sarah Butler for CCC Board of Education 2022, FPPC #1410196

# RUPY KRISHNAN

FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AREA 2



Endorsed by the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, the mayors of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, the Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District and many board members of various school districts and organizations.

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PAID FOR BY RUPY KRISHNAN FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AREA TWO 2022 FPPC #1453504



### Katy Foreman

EXPERIENCED LEADER IN LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS

- Lafayette School District "Rapport" Chair, 2021-22
- Lafayette Elementary PTA President, 2020-21
- Recipient of the Las Trampas Creek Council PTAs "Special Person Award", 2021
- 19-year Lafayette Resident

[www.katyforeman.org](http://www.katyforeman.org)



### Dave Smith

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

- Lafayette School District Governing Board Member: 2021 - Present
- Lafayette Partners in Education Board, 2019-21
- Measure L Parcel Tax Leadership Team, 2019-20
- 20 years of executive leadership as entrepreneur in nonprofit, government, and business sectors

[www.daveforlafayette.us](http://www.daveforlafayette.us)

## Endorsed by Lafayette Teachers via the Lafayette Education Association

Lafayette Education Association, as the representative for **certificated and credentialed staff in the district**, feels that **Rob Sturm, Dave Smith, and Katy Foreman are the best candidates for Governing Board.**

- Debbie Deitch, Lafayette Education Association President



### Rob Sturm

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENT

- Lafayette School District Governing Board: 2017 - Present
- Lafayette School District Governing Board President: Consecutive Terms (2020-21, 2021-22)
- 30+ years of law practice and legal community leadership

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Paid for by Dave Smith for Lafayette School Board, FPPC #1449817, Committee to Elect Katy Foreman to Lafayette School Board 2022, FPPC #1446790, and Rob Sturm for Lafayette School District Governing Board (2022), FPPC #1454863.



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## Friends of Orinda Creeks complete first creek improvement with more planned

... continued from Page A1

Bowen credited former Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon with suggesting that creek restoration in downtown Orinda be approached in phases. The planning of the current phase began about a decade ago. Engineering and permitting took roughly two years. Once everything was in place, construction took about a week and a half.

The next phase that the FOC hopes to see come to fruition involves the stretch of San Pablo Creek that runs beside the Chevron Station on the corner of Santa Maria Way and Orinda Way in the Village. According to Bowen, Chevron has generously offered to donate the creek portion of their property to the city to promote restoration of San Pablo Creek downtown.

“As additional properties change hands or new proposals for development [are presented],” Bowen says, “we’ll look at those and try to accommodate creek restoration.” Discussing the two projects, the weirs and the Chevron property, Bowen explained, “As pieces of the puzzle, they both fit into a meandering creek restoration vision. Both stretches are in the right place

relative to the restoration plan.” Similar to the just completed portion on the County property, The channel location on the Chevron property cannot be changed.

The FOC is very attached to its vision of a meandering creek, although the city has yet to be convinced. The FOC presented its vision of the restoration of 1,400 linear feet of San Pablo Creek from Santa Maria Way down to just before the Safeway parking lot to the City Council for the Downtown Precise Plan.

The FOC vision includes a meander, or bend, between the County parcel and the Safeway parking lot. After discussions with the city, the FOC had modified its plan for the meander to reduce its scope as well as reducing the number of parking spaces that would be affected by its creation. Experts hired by the FOC, at their expense, believe that this can be accomplished, but the city has chosen not to include this concept in its Downtown Precise Plan, as the opinion of city expert consultants differs from those experts employed by the FOC.

Another area where the FOC differs from the city is in regard to a trail along the creek bank. The FOC favors an

informal, unpaved trail, while the city plans to put in a paved trail that the FOC believes will damage the riparian area around the creek.

Where both groups agree, however, is in the necessity of restoring San Pablo Creek as it runs through Downtown Orinda. Vice Mayor Inga Miller and Director of Planning Drummond Buckley came to see the restoration work. Buckley commented, “We believe this to be a momentous accomplishment, hopefully followed by additional restoration along other segments of the creek in the near future. Restoration of San Pablo Creek is an important objective of the Downtown Precise Plan currently under preparation by the Planning Department, including the recently-completed creek study prepared by PlaceWorks and Questa Engineering.” As noted, the FOC disagrees with that study.

Miller said, “We were absolutely admiring the FOC’s work, and we are really excited to see the progress on San Pablo Creek, to see the weirs constructed out of natural materials and riparian plantings.” She added, “We are really excited to see this step towards the restoration of San Pablo Creek.”

## Hundreds gather for School Board Candidate Forum

... continued from Page A2

“One thing we focused on was learning loss during the pandemic,” he said. “We’ve rebounded a bit and are on our way to full recovery. Social and emotional learning helps support [students] to move forward.” Sturm said, respectively, that this question involves a false assumption and when you see it through a different lens, this year’s CAP scores are the highest since the pandemic. Foreman agreed with both speakers, and said that social emotional learning is critical to education. “We’ve seen a high increase in suicides,” she said. “I don’t see this as a distraction at all.”

Many audience members expressed disappointment that Larsen, McSorely and Lind didn’t show up. As for those who attended the forum (as well as those who didn’t make it), hoping to learn the full spectrum of perspectives from the six candidates, Goralka said there’s still hope. “They can visit votersedge.org

and see the top three issues of any (and all of) the candidates. Your vote is your voice. Vote the way that feels right to you. It’s not about how your neighbors or others feel. It’s about how you feel.”

The consensus among the candidates who did show up was that they wished their counterparts were sitting at the table beside them so that they could have had an opportunity to debate with each other and so that voters could have learned about the breadth of perspectives.

“I’m both a candidate and a voter and I would’ve appreciated an opportunity to hear the full range of views on a full range of issues,” Sturm said.

“The fact that we had a full gym shows that the community is thirsting for an actual conversation where we can present ideas,” Smith said. “I appreciate that the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, organizes these types of forums. I know there’ll be six candidates on the ballot and I

hope the candidates who showed up tonight were able to answer some of the questions of people in the audience and hopefully we’ll earn some of their votes.”

Foreman contrasted the experience of the public forum to the Lafayette Education Association Teachers Forum when all six candidates showed up. “I appreciated that time to hear from the other candidates and have an event where there was a contrast,” she said. “The event with all six of us was more comprehensive. Teachers got a picture of who all six of us were,” adding that it was disappointing to not have that replicated for the general public at the Oct. 3 forum. Foreman plans to attend the Oct. 13 Lafayette Homeowners Council forum at 7 p.m. on Zoom (<https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>). “I want to share my message with as many people as possible,” Foreman said, “and I want to answer the questions of voters.”

## Orinda rejects electrification ordinance, for now

... continued from Page A6

When Vice Mayor Inga Miller asked why the county did not include restaurants, Hardman-Saldana explained that the state of California does not yet have a cost efficiency study for restaurants, and also that the city of

Berkeley is being sued by restaurants over their electrification ordinance.

Several members of the community submitted written comments opposing adoption of the ordinance. Nick Waranoff urged the city not to put all of its energy “eggs” into one “basket.” He referred to public safety power shutoffs, suggesting that the electric grid does not yet have sufficient capacity to support electrification, and may be hampered in the future to the extent that hydraulic power production may be affected by drought conditions in the state. He also noted that the national power grid is susceptible to terrorist attacks and hackers. Melanie Light also suggested that the proposed ordinance might have unintended consequences. She, like Waranoff, pointed out that during power outages, it is convenient to have gas to cook with and heat homes, if necessary. The California Restaurant Association also

opposed the proposed ordinance.

In council discussion, Council Member Nick Kosla pointed out that there is currently a delay of months for electric installation for new homes. “This needs to marinate a little longer,” he said. “Climate change is a world issue. California has done a great job, with a massive population we can make a difference,” he added. Council Member Amy Worth agreed that the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important, and that the city is doing it in places that they can. Council Member Darlene Gee also agreed that it is clear that the state is heading this way, but added, “We don’t have a lot going on right now that is going to benefit from us taking action right now. At this point,” she said, “I am not interested in changing ordinances just for the city of Orinda.” Miller asked staff to keep an eye on developments in the area of electrification.

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



# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Family Pumpkin Paint Party gets October off to a 'boo-tiful' start



This young Paint Party participant shows off her artistic skills.

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan



Photo courtesy Moraga Parks and Rec

Adults chat while kids paint pumpkins Oct. 1 at Canyon Club Brewery's Parks and Rec event in Moraga.



Photo courtesy Moraga Parks and Rec

The Moraga Parks and Recreation Department and Canyon Club Brewery joined forces on Oct. 1 to spark the Halloween spirit by sponsoring a Family Pumpkin Paint Party for adults and kids alike.

For a fee of \$25 per person, the sold-out event provided small pumpkins, paints, supplies and large facial feature stickers to apply to the finished work of art. Adults were given one pumpkin with a beverage option, and the kids were entitled to three pumpkins each.

Moraga's Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully, who organized the event, estimated that 35 adults and 30 kids participated in the occasion.

"Events are really meant to be relevant during the school year," he stated. "Parents want to go places where the kids can get messy and not do it at home. Parks and Rec provides the supplies and Canyon Club has the atmosphere."

Canyon Club Brewery General Manager Kirsten Popcke had the day off, but brought her daughter, Veda Illyana Popcke (5), to the festivities. The proud artist of a "rainbow pumpkin," Veda was asked how long it took her to paint. She held up three fingers and clarified that it stood for three minutes (not hours). She plans on displaying it "in my room."

Speaking for CCB, Popcke said, "I love that we can partner with Moraga Parks and Rec. It's a fun thing for the community."

## Upcoming SMC performing arts events set to sparkle



Photos provided

The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department has an incredible lineup of wonderful events in the weeks to come, starting with the free Student Recital Series on Wednesdays, Oct. 19 and Nov. 2 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the SMC Chapel. The student

recital series is a collection of beautiful instrumental and vocal recitals featuring wonderful and talented student musicians. They feature vocal, piano, guitar, flute, cello, drum, saxophone, trumpet, and violin works by well-known composers. Please

bring your own mask. Contributions will benefit Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief. [www.stmarys-ca.edu/student-recitals-FA22](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/student-recitals-FA22)

The free Jazz Singers' Performance at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the Museum of Art Patio will feature a not-to-be-missed evening filled with both lively and soul-stirring jazz classics, and if you enjoy jazzy percussion and catchy tunes, join the Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 at The 1928 Pub on campus for the free concert.

The Performing Arts Department and Ballet Folklorico Guadalupano (BFG) will also be hosting a Día de los Muertos Dance Concert at 8 p.m. Friday Oct. 28 at the Soda Center. Special guests will include Conceptos Entidad Dancistica from Edinburg, Texas, and Danza Azteca Xiuhtecuhtli based in Sacramento, Calif. Audience members are invited to bring a copy of a photo of a loved one who has passed for the altar. Tickets/Online: \$5 students, \$8 Faculty/Staff, \$10 Gen. Admission: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/Ballet-Folklorico-Celebration-Fall22](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/Ballet-Folklorico-Celebration-Fall22) (Limited tickets available at the door - cash only.) - J. Wake

**Poker for Pequeños** California  
**Thursday, November 3**  
 6-7 p.m. Registration, cocktails and buffet  
 7-10 p.m. Poker

Enjoy a night out and play some poker while helping transform children's lives. **Proceeds will benefit NPH USA**, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Creekside Commons, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette  
 \$150 buy-in per person Unlimited rebuy \$50 for the first 90 minutes! \$75 Non-poker entry

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# Bubbly goodness of Butternut Squash Lasagna perfect for fall



**Butternut Squash Lasagna**

Photos Susie Iventosch

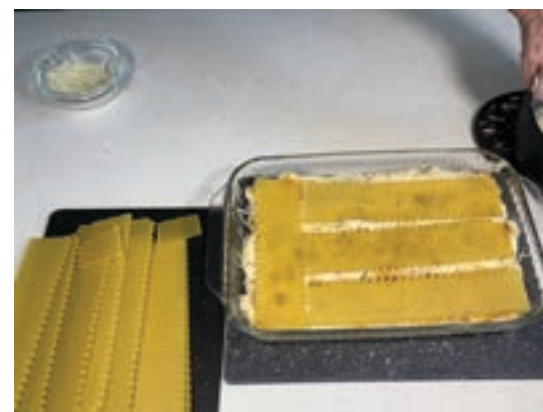
## By Susie Iventosch

A friend of mine made this butternut squash lasagna for us about 10 years ago and it was so delicious that I asked her for the recipe. I'd never had a lasagna quite like it before. She emailed it to me right away and there it sat in my "recipes to try" pile for the next 10 years. Part of the reason, is that my husband really doesn't like squash very much, nor does he like lasagna, so I had to sneak it in while he was out of town. Last week, he happened to be out of town while I was pondering what to feature in the food column and this recipe came directly to mind. The timing was perfect, and after so many years of dreaming about this amazing lasagna, I finally made it myself. It is absolutely as flavorful and delicious as I remembered. The flavors are gorgeous and perfect for this time of year.

I've made a few changes to the recipe, one of which is adding onions, and the other is to replace a cup of heavy cream with a blend of ricotta

and plain nonfat Greek yogurt. This change makes the dish a bit healthier. I also love the way it turned out with these changes.

The key ingredient in this recipe is the roasted butternut squash, and to make life easier, use pre-cubed squash, if you can find it at the store. Then, all you have to do is toss it with the onions in a little olive oil, salt and pepper and roast it in the oven. Peeling and removing the seeds from butternut squash isn't too difficult, but this saves a lot of time. Another time-saving feature of the recipe is the use of "oven-ready" lasagna — the kind you don't have to precook before layering them into the lasagna casserole. That is a game changer. Have you ever cooked your lasagna noodles, only to have them fold over, stick to each other, tear, and just become a big mess? No problem with that in this recipe! Also, I froze half of this lasagna and will report back later with how that turned out.



### INGREDIENTS

12 (2 1/2-inch x 9 1/2-inch) oven ready lasagna noodles  
3 lbs. (about 9 1/2 cups) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into bite-sized pieces  
1 large yellow onion, diced  
3 tbsp. olive oil  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
4 cups milk  
2 tbsp. fresh rosemary snipped (or 2 tsp. dried)  
4 tbsp. butter  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
4 tbsp. all-purpose flour  
2 cups freshly grated parmesan  
1 cup ricotta cheese  
1 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt  
Rosemary sprigs for garnish

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 F. Prepare both a large baking sheet and a 9x13 casserole dish with cooking spray and set aside.

Spread the cubed butternut squash and chopped onion out on the baking sheet and toss with 3 tablespoons olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Roast for approximately 20 to 25 minutes, or until squash is soft and turning golden-brown. Flip with a spatula half way through the baking time. When roasted, remove from oven and set aside. (You can do this step a day or two ahead of time, and refrigerate in an air-tight container.) Reduce oven temperature to 375 F.

Meanwhile, bring the milk and rosemary to a simmer in a small sauce pan and keep warm. Do not boil.

In a larger saucepan, melt the butter with the garlic. Whisk in the flour and cook the roux, stirring for a few minutes over low heat. (This step lets the flour take on a nutty flavor and also helps to create a smooth texture once you start adding the liquid.)

Slowly whisk the milk mixture into the flour mixture, stirring to eliminate any lumps. Continue to simmer over low heat, whisking occasionally, until thickened. This will take about 7-10 minutes.

Stir in the roasted squash and onions and stir well. Set aside.

To assemble the lasagna, spoon about 1 1/2 cups of the butternut squash sauce in the bottom of the pan. Spread out. Lay three lasagna sheets lengthwise on top of the sauce. Use enough of a fourth piece to fill in the opening on the end. Spread half of the remaining sauce over the noodles and sprinkle with 1/2 cup of grated Parmesan.

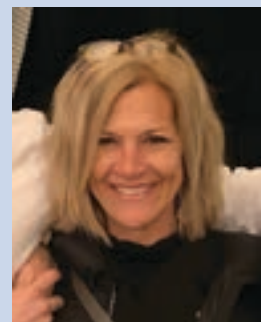
Repeat the process: noodles, sauce, Parmesan. Then finish with a layer of noodles on top.

Spread the ricotta-yogurt mixture evenly over the top of the noodles and cover generously with Parmesan cheese.

Cover tightly with foil, (tent foil if needed so it doesn't touch the top layer) and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake for another 10-15 minutes, or until the top layer is bubbly and golden-brown. Remove from oven and allow lasagna to set up for about 10 minutes before cutting and serving.

Garnish each piece with a sprig of rosemary.

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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>



## Town Hall Theatre reintroduces itself with Oct. 15 Open House



**Daniel J. Eslick (Curator of Artistic Programming)**



**Dennis Markam (Managing Director)**

Photos provided

### Submitted by Elizabeth Curtis

Contra Costa's oldest continually-operating theatre company has used the difficulties of the last two-and-a-half years as an opportunity to create a new and unique kind of community-based theatre company. In an open house at 6 p.m. on Oct. 15, Town Hall Theatre wants to re-introduce itself to the community and share where it sees the historic theatre going forward.

Since reducing its programming and moving it online in early 2020, Town Hall Theatre has taken steps to completely replace and reconstruct its artistic programming and all-ages theatre education classes in order to create a better, more impactful company. The most impactful change Town Hall has made has been to its artistic programming with the adoption of a "curation model."

In 2020 the company made the difficult choice to eliminate the position of

artistic director. "At the time it was entirely a financial decision," says Managing Director Dennis Markam. "But as we looked forward we saw a chance to address an issue we were facing pre-COVID: how do you organically foster more diversity and inclusiveness not only on our stage, but in positions for leadership and direction?" The solution was to create a new position of Curator of Artistic Programming, who will focus on outreach and encouraging artists around the Bay Area to submit works that had significance or connection to them. The CAP would then work with a committee of staff, board, and community members to develop a Main Stage season that reflects the interests and experience of the Bay Area artistic community.

"As both a producer and artist in the area I have seen so many directors that have been overlooked with fresh takes on canonical material, and playwrights with beautifully fresh stories that should be out there for people to see," says Daniel J. Eslick, Town Hall's new Curator of Artistic Programming. "Yet, because of systemic problems those incredible artists are overlooked. Another big programming change is

the New Voices Series. This is Town Hall's new works program that consists of a series of small-scale productions and readings that feature local playwrights whose work is still in the workshopping phase. This offers playwrights a chance to hear their work aloud and see it 'on its feet.'

"I feel so lucky to be able to help champion these new pieces as the Curator of Artistic Programming and someone who loves the medium of theatre," says Eslick. "And I'm so thrilled to be able to lead our community on a journey into uncharted waters. All I can say is, keep an eye on what we're creating."

The Town Hall Open House will give the community a chance to meet some of the staff and board of Town Hall, ask questions, hear about the upcoming season and plans for the space (which the theatre company now owns), and offer feedback and guidance for what they would like to see on the Town Hall Stage. The Oct. 15 Open House is free and will be followed by the final pay-what-you-like performance of "The Body Play," which is part of the New Voices Series and kicks off Town Hall's 2022-23 Season.

## Gold Coast Chamber Players presents 'Folk Inspired,' Nov. 5



**Telegraph Quartet**

Photo Lisa Marie Mazzucco

### Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

The Gold Coast Chamber Players continue their 23rd Season with "Folk Inspired" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the

Lafayette Library. All concerts will be recorded and ticket holders have access to this Digital Concert Hall, making it possible to enjoy recordings of these live performances anytime throughout the season.

"Folk Inspired" features the Telegraph Quartet with Gold Coast Chamber Players violist Pamela Freund-Striplen. Described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "... an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape" and "powerfully adept ... with a combination of brilliance and subtlety," the Telegraph Quartet was awarded the prestigious 2016 Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the Grand Prize at the 2014 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. The Quartet has performed in concert halls, music festivals, and academic institutions across the United States and abroad, including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Chamber Masters Series, and at festivals including the Chautauqua Institute, Interlochen Arts Festival, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Emilia Romagna Festi-

val. The Quartet is currently on the chamber music faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as the Quartet-in-Residence.

The program includes two quartets written in the early 1950s by female composers Grażyna Bacewicz and Florence Price, both of whom are finally receiving well-deserved recognition. Price's quartet was originally entitled "Negro Folksongs in Counterpoint;" but after the addition of two broadly American folksongs to the original three, she changed the title to simply "Five Folksongs in Counterpoint." Bacewicz's energetic fourth quartet utilizes Polish folk music and is one of her most popular works.

Johannes Brahms' first String Quintet in F major, Op. 88 was written "in the spring of 1882," and the work is sometimes given the nickname "Spring." The sobriquet applies equally well to the fresh and colorful mood of the music and begins with a warm folk-like theme.

Tickets: \$15-45, online or by phone at (925) 283-3728. Discounted Subscriptions are available. [www.gccpmusic.com](http://www.gccpmusic.com)



# The most important essay you will write for your college applications

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

After the personal essay is done many students think the hardest part of their application is behind them. In my view, the personal essay is the easier part. In many ways and for many reasons, it is simpler to write about yourself than it is to write about a college and why you want to apply. In part because it is tough to write, the "Why Our College?" essay (and its many variations) is one of the most popular supplemental questions colleges ask. Colleges want to see how you handle this important question.

I implore my students to consider this type of question when they are selecting schools to apply to. I ask them to take careful notes as they research colleges, as well as take photos and make notes after they visit campuses. Then I ask them to make a document with two columns—one heading is "What I Want" and the other is "What the College Has." And complete this task for each school they plan to send an application. Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, students often neglect this important task. But it lies in wait, appearing as students are working on their applications.

And the work still must be done before submission.

So, exactly what are schools looking for when they ask this prompt? First, let's look at what they don't want. They don't want to read about how the school's size, location, ranking and weather appeal to you. Why? Because most students write about those factors and so the admission readers are tired of reading about those things. Another reason is that colleges make the (not entirely absurd) assumption that a student plans to attend college for an education. Since colleges are in the business of delivering an education in the form of a bachelor's degree, it stands to reason that a strong Why Our College essay would emphasize academics and the campus community that supports it rather than the weather or size, at least as a top priority. Some colleges even go the extra mile and spell out for you exactly what they want you to write about. Want an example? Sure thing—here is Northwestern University's prompt this cycle:

"In 300 words or less, help us understand how you might engage specific resources, opportunities, and/or communities here. We are curious about *what* these specifics are, as well as *how* they may enrich your time at Northwestern and

beyond."

Notice the italicized words along with the twice used word 'specifics' and they even ask you to elaborate on how these specifics will enrich your time at Northwestern and beyond (meaning after graduation). Wow! You must pack a lot of punch into 300 words!

Next in line for what you should avoid doing is using overly emotional language. How many times have I read "I have wanted to attend MIT since I was in kindergarten, and it is my dream college."? Now I am not making fun of this type of response—I believe it is from the heart. But it is not going to get you into MIT.

Another important don't is making errors about the college's colors, mascot, and teams. And don't misspell the names of important people associated with the college or use the wrong names for libraries, departments, and research facilities. You may not think using the word 'department' instead of the word 'division' is important, but to those who are reading your application, errors like this are a red flag that show you didn't do your homework.

So, what should you write about? As I mentioned above, academics make a good first start. But be careful—you should not try to lift what you

write about one college's academic programs and opportunities and insert it into another college's essay. That would be another red flag and show the admission folks that you have not done sufficient research. Schools are unique in their offerings, and you need to show them you understand the ways in which they are unique. That will make them feel special! And don't we all love feeling special?

Another set of factors to research and write about are specific classes, professors, clubs and activities that you would be truly excited to be part of. And show how the academics and these activities are a perfect match to your needs and interests. I recently read an essay that included a reference to the student's excitement about a photo journalism contest at Stanford. And it just so happens that the student is an amateur photographer as well as senior staff writer for her high school's newspaper. Pure genius to tie the two together!

So when you tackle these kinds of prompts, try putting yourself in the place of the admission reader and think what would they want to read about? It's very easy for a college reader to determine which students have put in the

effort on this kind of essay. So it is worth taking the time to perfect it.



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## 'Take It or Leave It,' an accurate and tender look at fatherhood and male identity



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Estonia, next to Russia on the Baltic sea, is two hours by ferry away from its richer Finnish neighbor. In the movie "Take it or Leave it (Võta või jäta)" Erik is one of these Estonian workers who live and work in Finland and go back to Estonia as often as possible. The young man works hard, but he is full of unmanaged anger that expresses itself in bouts of violence. One day he gets a note from his former girlfriend. Unbeknownst to him, she has had his baby and, unable to cope, she is now ready to abandon the child. How Erik will cope, what he will decide, and how his life will change is the not-so-linear plot of this endearing movie.

For her first film, female director Liina Triškina-Vanhatalo explores different aspects of motherhood and fatherhood. What makes us decide to become parents, the anguish of those who cannot become parents despite their wishes, and foremost she wonders what is the moment a person becomes a parent and what it means to them.

It will take a lot to transform Erik, the violent young man always ready to start a fight to become a father. When he does, what will he do with his new-found ethos?

Feelings in this movie are not openly expressed. The people in Erik's family or in the family of Moonika, the mother of the baby, are not gifted at expressing and sharing feelings and thoughts. Therefore, year after year, generation after generation, guilt and shame are carried over and impact the younger people. Triškina-Vanhatalo also explores what makes, and destroys, families, and what are their subtle dynamics.

It is because she is interested in social changes that the director is exploring here what it is like to be a single father.

She said in an interview with CineEuropa that there are three ways to be a father: through biology, society, or psychological attachment. She believes that ideally the three aspects are united in the same person, but that when it cannot be the case, the psychological father, the one who is there in good and bad times, is the most important.

Reimo Sagor who plays Erik brings a lot of humanity to this character of a somewhat crude young man who will manage to add a completely new dimension to his persona. The way the film crew worked with a 2-month-old baby is pretty remarkable. Sagor spent time with the baby's real family before production started, carrying her, feeding her, changing her, and learning to do everything with one hand! Triškina-Vanhatalo explained that the film crew worked around the baby's schedule, her feeding and nap time, and was ready to adapt should her mood change.

For non-Nordic Europeans there is also an interesting social documentary aspect to this movie. Work conditions for the Estonians who work in Finland are shown as pretty rough. The men who are expatriates during the week share non-glamorous quarters, and are looked down by some natives. What they want to do during their days off is take the ferry and party back in Estonia. The film offers an often unknown perspective on Estonia where Finland, Norway and Sweden are presented as lands of economic riches that attract some, but at the cost of their Estonian identity.

This engaging movie was selected as the Estonian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 91st Academy Awards. It has received several international accolades. The film will open at the Orinda Theatre on Oct. 14 for at least one week. This is a Bay Area premiere and exclusive presentation.

### Not to be missed

ART

**Art Embraces Words** – Oct. 29, 2 to 3:30 p.m. – Costume Event. Writers paint images with words. Artists tell stories with color. Together they enrich our community. The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to show up as your favorite literary or artistic character at its free program in the Lafayette Library. Emerging writers read from their work surrounded by artwork from local artists. In this way art literally "embraces" the spoken word. The final 2022 program will be a Webinar hosted by AEW alumni Denise Nomura and Natalie Samuels Wheeler in November; date TBD. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/> for more information. This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation.

**Art show at Orinda Books.** October features the paintings of

Sussana Griswold and the woodturnings of Steve Griswold. Sussana's award-winning oil and pastel work focuses on portraits, both human and animal, which are her favorite subjects. For Steve, wood has always been a source of wonder: "Within the ordinary trees we walk by every day, there are miracles waiting to be discovered, and through turning wood on a lathe I try to reveal those miracles." Visit the Artist of the Month at [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com). Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

**Bedford Gallery presents:** The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper. Now through Dec. 18, from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday at Bedford Gallery in the Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$5, free for children under 13 and Bedford Gallery members), visit

### Not to be missed

[www.bedfordgallery.com](http://www.bedfordgallery.com).

**Free open house at the Moraga Art Gallery.** Oct. 15, 5 to 7 p.m. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. Come to meet the artists and to view the gallery's current exhibit, "Unique Expressions," a treasure trove of over 500 pieces of art by a score of local artists.

Music

**Pacific Chamber Orchestra** presents "Glorious" – Treat yourself to the everlasting joy of Handel's Messiah as presented by Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Lawrence Kohl, the PCO Chorus and Soloists- Halleluyah! Tickets at <https://pacificchamberorchestra.org/tickets>. Location: St Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda on Saturday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Adult ticket price is \$48; Student ticket price is \$20.

... continued on Page B5

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## AAUW Virtual Tech Trek Camps a success



Photo Sandy Fox-Sohner

From left: Camille Bradley, Madeline Carpenter, Madeline Sheng-Williams, Kaitlyn Kinsey, Aria Falahati, Meher Jeyakrishnan, and Lane Massa. (Not shown: Miracle Gu, Maya Shu, Viviana Sanchez, Lils McCarthy)

had to learn about a successful woman in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field.

In the afternoons, after a presentation by a woman in STEM, there were two hands-on workshops each day focusing on DNA, water, wind, constellations and building a foldscope microscope and a spectroscope. Each evening there was another presentation on a STEM topic.

In addition to the 10 girls sent to camp, AAUW-OML branch member Sheila Apte and six former Tech Trekkers (Camille Bradley, Michelle Shen, Giorgia Stankus, Emma Wong, Jada Hembrador and Emilia Gutman) volunteered as camp counselors.

The girls said that they really enjoyed the camp workshops and presentations by women working in STEM fields. No one complained about the amount of time spent on Zoom since there were so many hands-on activities that the girls worked on alone or in break-out rooms.

Overall, Tech Trek served 639 campers in California from 94 branches at eight camps (six residential, two virtual) across California, staffed by a community of more than 230 volunteers, over half of whom were Tech Trek alumnae.

that they had constructed in the mornings of the camp. The creations included hats, a backpack, a volleyball and a belt. The other four girls created a corset, a fan bracelet, a fan mounted on a phone holder and a hat. They all designed and programmed their creations to turn LED lights on and off and to move objects on their creations using positional and continuous servomechanisms. Each creation was decorated to include their individual values, strengths and interests. The girls also

### Submitted by Jan Cushman

American Association of University Women, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch honored the enthusiastic eighth-grade Lamorinda girls who received scholarships to attend the AAUW California Virtual Tech Trek camps this summer at a reception at the Orinda Community Church patio on Sept. 17. The six girls who attended the event brought their "wearable tech"

## Sydney Paige Foundation on track to serve over 70K underserved students

Submitted by  
**Rebecca Metz**

With the new school year underway, the Sydney Paige Foundation, founded by Moraga-mom Courtney Brockmeyer, has had an incredibly busy month. That's because there are tens of thousands of kids in underserved communities that depend on the Foundation to provide new, high-quality backpacks, school supplies and books to ensure they have the tools and confidence to be successful in school.

In the past two-plus years of unprecedented circumstances, the Sydney Paige Foundation, like thousands of other organizations, has weathered slowdowns in deliveries and supply chain sna-



Courtney Brockmeyer

Photo provided

fus, a shutdown at the port of Oakland, and inflationary cost increases in shipping and materials. In spite of these challenges, Sydney Paige is on track to serve 70,000 students this year, up from 55,000 last year, and on top of the 140,000 already served to date. For information, visit [www.sydneypaige.org](http://www.sydneypaige.org)

## In Memory

### Lois Elizabeth (Epp) Schroeder

Aug. 8, 1939 – Sept. 7, 2022



Lois Elizabeth (Epp) Schroeder passed away at home on Sept. 7, 2022 after a two and a half year long battle with pancreatic cancer. Lois was born on a settler farm in Laird, Saskatchewan, Canada on Aug. 8, 1939 and moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada when she was a little girl. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, she worked in a local bank for a few years since as the youngest child in a Mennonite family, she felt her role was to stay home and take care of her father. Fortunately her older brother began to randomly leave college brochures around the house to try to convince Lois, who was stubborn to her core and could not be talked into doing anything that was not her idea, to leave home. Thank goodness that this had the desired effect –

Lois enrolled in Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas when she was 19, majoring in English, and met Duane Schroeder when he was an 18-year-old freshman. It was destiny for these two; they married in 1961 at 20 and 21.

After finishing college, Lois and Duane moved their family to the Bay Area, eventually settling in Orinda in 1972 with their three children. Lois found jobs quickly, volunteering in the children's schools when they were young and then working for the Orinda Union School District in the district office for the rest of her career. She retired in the late-'90s when she was the Personnel Coordinator for the district.

Even while working, Lois had many adventures both with and without Duane. She enjoyed traveling all over the world – climbing Ayer's rock in Australia, walking Hadrian's wall in England, and even enduring the breast cancer three day walk in California TWICE to raise money for cancer research, to name just a few. She and Duane visited 49 countries in all! As further evidence of her courageous spirit, 20 plus years ago, she decided that she wanted to live in England for a bit which was natural growing up a Canadian and a royal subject. After much research, and fully supported by Duane, she ended up booking a room for two months, sight unseen, in a little village called Lee on the coast of Devon. The people of this town welcomed her with open arms and it became her summer home away from home that she shared with many of her friends and family over the years. She subsequently mixed in yearly summer classes at Oxford (OUSSA), continuing her education with her ever-curious mind and creating life-long friendships with her classmates over English literature, popcorn, and glasses of Prosecco.

When home, through an exchange program called Mennonite Your Way, Lois and Duane hosted many Mennonite tourists as they traveled through California. This voluntary sharing of their home with strangers was indicative of their generosity and heart. Lois made friends wherever she went and was amazing at cultivating those friendships all over the world. She was a force of nature and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Lois is survived by her husband of 61 years, Duane; daughter Kirsten Rogers (Peter); son Darren (Sonya); daughter Allison Hennessy (Sean); 11 grandchildren (Laura Hackford (Toby), Kyle, Matt, and Jon Rogers; Nicholas, Zachary, and Natalie Schroeder; Shannon, Kacie, Aimee, and Tyler Hennessy) and two great-grandsons (Luka and Ollie Hackford), plus numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please continue her legacy: give what you can to help others, make friends wherever you go, and strive to make the world a better place.

## In Memory

### Richard (Dick) Holt

Sept. 11, 1938 – Aug. 12, 2022



After a lifetime of service to country and community, Richard W. Holt of Lafayette passed away Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 due to heart failure. He was 83. He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and spent 20 years on active duty before transitioning to civilian life in 1981.

He was born Sept. 11, 1938, in Port Huron, Mich., to Richard Watkins and Estella Mahon Holt. After the untimely death of his father when he was 3, he moved with his mother and sister to Carmel. There he made many longtime friends, including Robin Burnham, whom he would re-meet after college and marry in 1962.

Dick joined the Naval Reserve in high school. Through a competitive exam, he received an appointment to the Naval Academy, graduating in

1961 with a BS degree in marine engineering.

Dick served on four ships, culminating with the USS Enterprise nuclear aircraft carrier in Alameda. He was pleased to be selected for one of the earliest classes of the Navy's Destroyer School in Newport, R.I. Along the way he earned a master's degree in human resources management from Pepperdine University. He retired with the rank of lieutenant commander.

In civilian life, Dick used his engineering and management skills at Kaiser Steel. After that, he worked in both commercial and residential real estate as a broker. Committed to improving his surroundings and helping others, Dick was involved in community causes including his children's schools, coaching youth sports, driving for Meals on Wheels, and serving on the boards of several non-profits. He served on the City of Lafayette's Planning Commission (for 25 years) twice as its chairman, and on the city Environmental Task Force.

Dick was an active Rotarian for 31 years, including a term as president. He helped found and organize the annual Concert at the Res at the Lafayette Reservoir to benefit music programs in the schools and spearheaded Rotary's collaboration with the Lafayette Community Foundation to build a permanent stage in the Reservoir in 2012.

As a result of many years devoted to the community, he and his wife, Robin, were jointly named Lafayette Citizens of the Year in 2017.

Dick loved sharing good conversation and laughter with family and friends. He was known for bringing out piles of sweaters for everyone once the evening chill set in on the patio. He planned a bicycle trek through the Netherlands and Belgium when his children were in their 20s and had fun building playhouses, stores, and puppet theaters out of cardboard boxes with his grandchildren. He loved running, sailing, singing, playing the guitar, and costume parties. He always wore his tuxedo on New Year's Eve. Dick and Robin maintained a second home in Carmel, and he always said he was going to come back someday as a dog on the Carmel beach.

He was devoted to his family: soulmate of nearly 60 years, Robin, daughter Stannie of San Mateo, Calif., recently deceased son Tyler (Anne) of Bethesda, Md., son Spencer (Karen) of San Diego, and four grandchildren, Lilly, Daniel, Gavin, and Colin Holt. He also will be missed by his sister Sally Holt Jett, and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m. at the Lafayette Veterans' Building. Donations may be sent to: Lafayette Community Foundation, [www.lafayettecf.org](http://www.lafayettecf.org) or the Cancer Support Community, [www.cancersupport.net/donate](http://www.cancersupport.net/donate).

## Lamorinda Weekly

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◆ **Not to be missed**

◆ **Not to be missed**

◆ **Not to be missed**

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

**MUSIC ... continued**

**Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra** Presents "Around the World" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephens Drive, Orinda. Tickets (Adults \$20; Seniors \$15; Students \$7) available at [ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org](http://ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org) or at the door. For more info visit [www.contracostachamberorchestra.org](http://www.contracostachamberorchestra.org), call 415-794-1269 or email [info@contracostachamberorchestra.org](mailto:info@contracostachamberorchestra.org).

**Chromatica is presenting** its eclectic program of music from stage and screen. Concerts will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way in Orinda. The Peace Lutheran concert in Danville will feature the return of the popular (and free!) wine reception after the performance.

**Folk music finds its way** into the next Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, "Folk Inspired." Brahms' "Spring" Quintet, is featured along with quartets by two female composers, Grazyna Bacewicz and Florence Price at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 (pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.) at Don Tatzin Community Hall, Lafayette Library. This diverse program features the passionate Telegraph Quartet and GCCP violist Pamela Freund-Striplen. Come hear why GCCP was awarded Best Concert Series of the East Bay for two consecutive years! Tickets \$15-45; Online: [www.gccpmusic.com](http://www.gccpmusic.com), by phone (925)283-3728

**"All Things Strings,"** conducted by California Symphony's Music Director Donato Cabrera, will be presented Saturday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6, 4 p.m. at the Hofmann Theatre at Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. A 30-minute pre-concert talk and Q&A led by Cabrera will begin one hour before each performance. Information and tickets (\$49-\$79) are available at [CaliforniaSymphony.org](http://CaliforniaSymphony.org).

**Duo Concert: Soprano** Jumi Kim and Tenor Yo Oh present an afternoon of fine music, spanning art songs, Korean folksong, opera, popular music, and duets at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. [www.trinitypleasanton.org/](http://www.trinitypleasanton.org/) Suggested Donation: \$15-20 General; \$5 Student; Children free.

**Berkeley Chamber Performances** presents the Alexander String Quartet on Tuesday, Nov. 1, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Tickets: \$20 - \$40. For more info see <https://berkeleychamberperformance.org/season/2022-2023/alexander-string-quartet> or call (510) 525-5211 or email [info@bcp1.org](mailto:info@bcp1.org).

**Dia de los Muertos Concert and Celebration** takes place on Friday, Oct. 28, 5 - 8 p.m. at Creekside Commons, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Embrace the wisdom and spirit of Dia de los Muertos as we honor the tradition of connecting to the ancestors that have gone before us. Designed for the whole family, it's a night filled with the music of Bay Area favorites, Cascada de Flores, a Taco Truck, candle light, calavera face painting, Sangrias, pan de muerto baking station, and even a take home booklet for kids. A wonderful way to add some depth to the Halloween season. Tickets available online or at the door. [www.creeksidecommons.org/upcomingevents](http://www.creeksidecommons.org/upcomingevents)

**Live At the Orinda 2022-2023** Concert Season opens at the historic Orinda Theatre. Some of the biggest names from Broadway, TV, film and cabaret will grace the intimate 170-seat theatre for an evening of music. The series opens with Broadway star of "Wicked," "Rent" and "Evita," Eden Espinosa on Oct. 16, followed by NBC's America's Got Talent finalist and Pink Martini vocalist Jimmie Herrod on Nov. 6. Season subscribers receive ticket discounts, reserved seats for the season, comp drinks and more. For full season line-up, info and tickets, visit [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com)

**Theatre**

**Synergy Theater, the folks** who brought you "Improvorsors in Space!" and "Spontaneous Dickens!" returns to the Leshler Center for the Arts, at 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, with the world-debut of "Spontaneous Hitchcock: An Improvised Thriller in the Style of the Master of Suspense!" This completely improvised two-act comedy pays homage to Sir Alfred Hitchcock and his beloved legacy of the Hollywood thriller. It plays Thursday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Oct. 30 at 8:15 p.m., Thursdays - Saturdays, and 3:15 p.m. on Sundays. [www.SynergyTheater.com](http://www.SynergyTheater.com)

**Literature**

**Orinda Books will host** a book launch for Isidra Mencos, featuring her new book, "Promenade of Desire" Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. Her new book is a rich journey into the life of a woman once contained, who finds a way to set herself free. Email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com) to register.

**Lauren Groff, 2022 Joyce** Carol Oates Prize Winner will read from and sign copies of her books, including, the most recent title and just out in paperback, "Matrix," as well as "Fates and Furies," "Florida" and "Arcadia." Orinda Books is partnering with the New Literary Project to bring Lauren Groff to the bookstore. Saturday Oct. 15 at 3:30 p.m. To register, go to the Orinda Books website or email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com)

**The Viet Nam War: Two Perspectives.** Author Steven Burchik will present "Compass and a Camera, A Year in Viet Nam." DAR member, Leslie Pfeifer, will present, "Flying Tigers and the Vietnam War." Thursday Nov. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Library Learning Center, Don Tatzin Community Hall (across the library plaza). Free.

**Other**

**Womyn's Spiral Dance**, a multicultural celebration of our beloved ancestors and crones on Friday, Oct. 28 (Orinda location given upon RSVP - 6:30 p.m. Marketplace open - ritual 7:30 - 10 p.m.) Tickets \$23 in Advance by Monday, Oct. 24 and \$29 at the door. Daughters of the Goddess is an Aloha-Dianic Temple, and community, that is dedicated in the Spirit of Aloha to the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of multicultural Goddess and Indigenous culture, public ceremony, ritual, and Womyn's Mysteries. <https://daughtersofthegoddess.com/>

**On view at Saint Mary's College** Museum of Art (SMCMoA) are two original exhibitions featuring work from the museum's permanent collection. "Fake It Till You Make It: A Quest For Authenticity" embarks on an exploratory journey of painting, photography, sculpture, mechanical advances of printing, and digital media to discover how authenticity shifts through time and context. "Interdisciplinary Voice" features 11 unique responses from faculty,

staff, and scholars to objects in the permanent collection. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 11. Admission and programs are free. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 2 p.m. For more information, visit: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum)

**The Lafayette Res Run for Education's** 5k, 10k, 2-mile fun run/walk, and the virtual race, the Reservoir Challenge, is set for this October. Run or walk in downtown Lafayette during the 2-mile fun run/walk or 5K, or strive for your best 10K time which includes going around the Lafayette Reservoir on race day, Sunday, Oct. 23 (Race Start Times: 5K Race 8 a.m.; 10K Run 8:15 a.m.; 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk 8:45 a.m.). The virtual option is around the paved trail of the Reservoir, Oct. 13-22 during Lafayette Reservoir open hours 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Beneficiaries of this event are Lafayette's public schools as well as Campolindo and Miramonte. Note: Strollers and dogs are welcome in the 2-mile fun run/walk, 10K and Reservoir Challenge only. No skateboards, scooters, bikes or similar. The free Healthy Lifestyles Fair located on Lafayette Circle adjacent to La Fiesta Square from 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on race day, Sunday, Oct. 23 will take place as part of this year's Res Run for Education. Learn more and register at <https://lafayettechamber.org/resrun>.

**Town Hall Theatre's Open House** at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School

Street, Lafayette. Event is free, but feel free to attend Pay-What-You-Can night for "The Body Play" following the open house.

**Your Story Matters: If you** were to craft a love letter to your life, what would it say? With whom would you share it? This thought-provoking presentation uses the "Ethical Will" model to help you discover different ways to explore the essence of who you truly are through spoken word and/or written storytelling. Facilitated by Professional Personal Historian April Bell, founder at Tree of Life Legacies, a storytelling and wisdom-keeping project based in Lafayette. Hosted by Creekside Commons, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, Oakview 3. Saturday, Oct. 22, 10-10:45 a.m. Live stream info provided upon request: [april@TreeOfLifeLegacies.com](mailto:april@TreeOfLifeLegacies.com)

**Garden**

**The Montelindo Garden Club** Oct. 21 meeting, at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, will feature speaker Stan Morgan on "That Incredible Wild Iris." Stan is an active member of the Mt. Diablo Iris Society and an early member of the Historical Iris Preservation Society. Membership is open to all, and interested people are welcome to visit [montelindogarden.com/meetings.html](http://montelindogarden.com/meetings.html) for meeting and club details. 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free.

*Lamorinda's Religious Services*

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on [facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/](https://facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/)

Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

**ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212  
**Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am**  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
All are welcome  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
Worshipping, Learning, Serving  
[www.ststephenorinda.org](http://www.ststephenorinda.org)

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church  
**mvpcc**  
JOIN US  
**SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM**  
OR ONLINE AT [MVPCTODAY.ORG](http://MVPCTODAY.ORG)

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 8:30AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:30AM  
IN-PERSON OR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM

[WWW.OSLC.NET](http://WWW.OSLC.NET) | FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549 | 925.283.3722 | SPIRIT@OSLC.NET

**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
**Sunday 10am in person worship**  
We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves.  
Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

**ORINDA Community Church**  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)  
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

**Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.**  
**Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel**  
**Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel**

*You are invited to join us!*

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1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550  
**10:45 AM Sunday Service**



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## New coaches lead Lamorinda boys' water polo teams



Photo Bill Gerhardt

**Acalanes Goalie Harrison Labrosse, Defender #7 Thomas Parrot, Miramonte shooter #23 Charlie Engs**

**By Jon Kingdon**

It's been a transition for the Lamorinda boys' water polo teams with new head coaches for each school. However, it's more so for Acalanes coach Nicholas Johnson, who after coaching a number of club teams, is making his initial appearance with the Dons. Campolindo co-head coaches, Darren Schroeder and Yuri Henley, though it is their first year coaching the varsity, have been coaching the Cougars JV team for a number of years. The Miramonte co-head coaches are John Nash, a 2009 Miramonte graduate and former varsity assistant coach, and Lincoln Haley, a 2008 Miramonte graduate who also coached at Miramonte for a number of years and was the head coach at Acalanes the past two years.

### Miramonte

After a 16-11 record and making it to the NorCal championship game, Nash and Haley did not have to start from scratch in replacing longtime head coach James Lathrop, now coaching at Stanford. "We're not trying to be James, but we have a very similar system," Nash said. "Obviously, James left us a phenomenal foundation and system that the guys have bought into for years so we're rolling with that. We have five really great coaches who are cohesive and work together while being our own authentic selves. It really is a team effort."

With a 9-2 record and 3-0 in league, there has been a carryover from the success of last year's team. "We've got a bunch of competitors and a really balanced group of guys that want to compete day in and day out and that's made for some great practices. We have a lot of guys challenging for minutes so that has made things more competitive, which is great. We're still finding our identity but we're excited and looking to put ourselves in the best position, come the playoffs in November."

With 18 juniors and seniors and six sophomores and freshmen on the roster, there is no shortage of experience for the Matadors. "We have a great mix on our roster," Nash said. "Our underclassmen are dynamic, and they have raised the level of our practices and competition. It's been fun to watch them learn from the older players who really want to help them. That's what we have been trying to create as part of our culture and the older guys have really bought into it as the players before them did as well."

The co-captains are Matteo Petty, Luke Lewis, and Charlie Engs. "They've done a great job but honestly our entire senior class has taken on the ownership of being leaders," Nash said.

It's a group effort for the Miramonte offense led by seniors Charlie Engs and Brian Edelen, juniors Henry Engs, Grant Kurtz, and Oliver Sherwood. "We're a really balanced group which we hope makes it more difficult for us to game plan against," Nash said.

There are three freshmen who are getting a lot of playing time. Brock Bliss and Jackson Cherry have played in every game and Tristan Tucker has also seen substantial playing time. "They're helping us as we try to play 12-13 guys every game so they're creating depth which puts us in position in the second half where the team is a little more rested."

Sophomore Griff Tunney, a left-handed attacker has been the setup man on the team's offense. "Griff has made huge strides and has been a game changer for us, opening things up for our offense," Nash said. "We're really excited about his improvement."

Seniors Addison Owensby and Logan Haines have both been effective in the net. "Addison has done a phenomenal job after working his butt off the last three years, waiting for his opportunity," Nash said. "He's really come out and taken it and we could not be happier

about how he's improved and when called upon, Logan has also done well."

Nash counts on team defense but acknowledges that center defender Matteo Petty has been a key factor in their success. "Matteo has done a nice job controlling the center for us but really everything is about the team and the team is first," Nash said.

The staff is pointing to improvement on defense as the season progresses. "We want to be one of the best defensive teams in Northern California," Nash said. "That's the goal we set out for in the beginning of the year, because defense translates to the playoffs."

### Campolindo

For Schroeder and Henley, it's a simple plan for the Cougars. "The goal is always the same - to be competitive in the league and North Coast," Henley said. "That's what our goals are."

The team has a somewhat deceptive 4-7 record, having lost a number of close games. Though this is a team with nine seniors and seven juniors, it's still a team learning to play together. "We have a number of upperclassmen, but they've not had the quality playing time in meaningful games in the past," Henley said. "They're learning a lot and we're getting better every game but there is a big difference in the experience level this team has, as opposed to previous years."

Schroeder has no complaints with the character and quality of his players. "This is an amazingly competitive team," Schroeder said. "They swim well, and we have no issues with fitness counters or toughness. They're gaining playing experience as we put our schemes into place. We've been close in every game. We just have to start getting more wins."

After four years of the superlative West Temkin in the net, junior Joey Cecchin has stepped in and seen little dropoff. "Joey played JV last year and has been a very good goalie," Schroeder said. "We've had years of very good goalies and we're lucky with it again this year."

Leading the offense has been seniors Grant Roeshe, Reid Thorson, and sophomore Hayden O'Hare.

It's more design than individual play for the Campolindo defense. "Our defense is more of a scheme than having defensive specialists," Schroeder said. "I call it a simple, water polo help defense."

In anticipation of the team graduating 10 seniors last year, Schroeder and Henley anticipated last year's JV team to be a strong factor this year. "We developed JV last year knowing that several of those guys would be contributing this season, so we always had our eye on having the sophomores play and we developed four of them to be in that role. We have a very strong JV team this year as well and we anticipate that next year we could have as many as six of those guys contributing."

Still, the focus remains on finishing strong this year. "The key going into league is defending to counterattack better and finishing goals quicker," Henley concluded.

### Acalanes

For Johnson, his philosophy as a coach is to stress team unity. "It's definitely team first," Johnson said. "We've all got to be working together and be on the same page in and out of the pool and if we can do that, we're going to be a stronger team that way. We want to emphasize each player's own unique individual talents and make them shine within our team system."

With eight seniors, two juniors, two sophomores and one freshman, it's a matter of the various classes coming together. "We have various talent levels, but everyone is learning and getting better together," Johnson said. "If we do those things, that's how we're going to win our games."

Despite a 3-8 record, four of the losses have been by a combined nine goals. "Every loss is always tough, but we've always tried to focus on what we did well and then what we need to work on," Johnson said. "We take pride in our defense and we're trying to limit teams to as few goals as possible because it will always put us in a good position to win the game."

The offense has been led by seniors Christian Gotterup, Andrew Sappal, Austin Bishop, and Miguel Strittmatter and there is good depth in this area. "There are a number of players that make sure that we get the ball to those guys," Johnson said. "Sophomore Justin Rosenblatt and freshman Thomas Parrot have been doing a great job in stepping up into important roles and giving us good minutes offensively and defensively."

The Dons offense is based on design more than individual play. "We see our offense as schemes," Johnson said. "We're trying to read the defense and that can dictate what we do."

Senior Harrison Labrosse has been very solid in goal. "Harrison is just playing lights out for us and he's on track to do great things," Johnson said. "He's a big person and his movements in goal are great. He slides well and covers shots that are not always his to block. It's good to have his talent and leadership coming from the goal because it's helped us in a lot of games."

As the team heads into league play, Johnson is looking forward to the team continuing to come together. "On defense, we just need to keep tightening up those parts of our game, trying to limit our opponents scoring which increases our chances of winning," Johnson said. "On offense, it's just a matter of continuing to work for each other. With a lot of driving, that will open things up. Working together as a team, that's what is going to help us become a team, not just individual players."

## Lamorinda girls' water polo continues its long-running domination

**By Jon Kingdon**

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "What doesn't kill us, makes us stronger."

He could have been talking about the Lamorinda girls' water polo teams who, year in and year out, have been essentially competing against each other in the highly ranked Diablo Ath-

letic League and this year has been no different.

Since 2013, there has been a consistent domination by the Lamorinda girls' water polo teams. Acalanes (161-60), Campolindo (159-62) and Miramonte (187-40) have a composite 507-162 record for a 76% winning percentage. Throw in four undefeated complete seasons and various NCS and NorCal championships and it's a tri-

umvirate that will compare favorably with any set of teams.

This season has proven to be no different as noted by MaxPreps in their rankings. The North Coast Section rankings are Miramonte-1, Acalanes-2, Campolindo-3. The California rankings are Miramonte-1, Acalanes-3, and Campolindo-4 and nationally it is Miramonte-1, Acalanes-4, and Campolindo-5.

### Miramonte

Coming into this season, Miramonte had won 39 straight games and are 14-0 so far this season. With nine seniors, several of whom will be playing for Division I colleges next year, the Matadors have outscored their opponents 226-69. "We're doing well," second year head coach John Roemer said ... continued on Page C2

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# Lamorinda girls' water polo continues its long-running domination



Photo Ann Murphy

**Campolindo Goalie Sydney Kring, Defenders #6 Ava Jacuzzi, #12 Ainsley Hogan, Miramonte shooter #10 Megan McAninch**

... continued from Page C1

"We have a solid group of girls that are doing well, and our second line has come a long way."

After last year's championship season, Roemer has added a new level to the team's offense. "We're more dialed into the offense," Roemer said. "Last year, it took them a while to buy into the offense and realize how it works. This year, they understand the offense even more which takes a lot of intuitive and fast thinking because it's high tempo with a lot of movement."

Leading the offense are Meghan McAninch, Dania Innis, Allie Lurie, Tali Stryker, and Rosalee Hassett. "Rosalee has really come a long way after playing with the U.S. Cadet national team and has been our most improved player," Roemer said. "She and Meghan lead the team due to their speed and versatility, but all the players run it. We counter and if the ball is at a certain spot, they all know what to do."

Petra Cherry, who split time with Lindsay Houston (Harvard) last season, has been equally effective in the net this year. "Allie Lurie is the defensive leader but as a group, we constantly press everyone," Roemer said. "We have a full box of tools. We press everyone without fouling the ball and we're up in the lanes so that there is no one to pass to," Roemer said. "If we do foul the ball, we'll go right at them again. If we get into a situation where we are behind at center, we have three different defenses that we can drop to."

What makes Miramonte so difficult to play is that they are so hard to game plan for. "We don't play one way on offense and defense, and we will use different tactics depending on who we are playing, what we're trying to do and how the refs are calling the game," Roemer said. "We don't care about the score or who we are playing. I just want the team to focus on doing what we do and if we do that, we'll be fine. Still we're looking to improve in all areas. We can always do better."

## Campolindo

With an 11-6 record, Campolindo can take some solace in that three of the losses came against the top four ranked

schools in the nation (Miramonte (2), Soquel and Acalanes) and also defeated Acalanes earlier in the season by a 6-5 score.

All four classes are equally represented on the Cougar roster this season with four seniors, four juniors, three sophomores and four freshmen. "I have four captains this year (Seniors Shayne Clancy, Kaia Levenfeld, Ava Jacuzzi, and Lauren Lacour) for the first time because each one of them brought something to the table and it has been great as they are finding their way in leading the team," Coach Kim Everist said. "From a chemistry standpoint, the team is great, but we are still learning how to play together in the water as half the team is still pretty young."

Such a balanced class also portends well for the future. "We're able to avoid graduating a big group so we are able to avoid having to fill big holes which allows us to have consistency from year to year," Everist said. "Our seniors are able to ease the stress of the freshmen and they can just go and play."

The scoring is led by juniors Anna Pieper, who is the team leading goal scorer, and seniors Levenfeld and Lacour. "Anna and Kaia are the leaders on offense," Everist said. "Kaia had a slow start but in the last few games, she has been playing great and has returned to form so it's been great to have her playing top level water polo. Lauren has really turned the corner as well."

The goal tending responsibilities has been shared by senior Shayne Clancy and freshman Sydney Kring. "Shayne brings grit and leadership to the team," Everist said. "Sydney has also been very dominant in the net and is seeing a lot of playing time."

Sophomores Ainsley Hogan and Sammy Frazier and freshmen Ella Binney and Olivia Metz have all been contributors though the team is missing Nikki Frazier who is out for the season due to an injury. "Ainsley and Sammy have been doing great," Everist said. "Ella and Olivia have been getting more minutes and they're doing a great job. Overall, our freshmen are still trying to figure it out. They're quick and smart and as soon as it clicks for them, we're go-

ing to have some big moments. I'm really looking forward to seeing what the team will look like when the chemistry of the team comes together."

Despite the performance of the goalies and Levenfeld and Hogan, Everist is still not satisfied with the play of her defense. "Our defense has not been great and that has hurt us in the big games," Everist said. "Kaia and Ainsley have both done a great job, forcing the other team into a zone which has been setting us up for success. We are getting a ton of steals but we're also turning the ball over too often so working to control the ball and our offense are going to be really key things for us."

Everist is optimistic about the team's fortunes once the defense comes together: "In the end, it's getting our team defense buttoned down to set us up for great counterattack opportunities. Once those things start to gel, you're going to see us have a really great October and November."

## Acalanes

Head coach Mischa Buchel

was not certain how good the Dons were going to be this season but the 14-3 record with the losses coming against Miramonte, Soquel and Campolindo in competitive games bespeaks to the quality of the team. "We kind of wondered where we would fit this year and, you know, we're up the food chain a bit," Buchel understated.

With an offense that revolved around Heidi Heffelfinger last year, but only losing two players to graduation, Buchel was looking for players to step into the spotlight. Two new players, freshman Ella Del Rosario (49 goals) and junior Brooklyn Pomp (23 goals) are the team's two leading scorers. "The two of them have added a dimension that was missing," Buchel said. "On offense, there has been more dynamism from Ella, and Brooklyn has been a force on offense and defense. Along with the improvement of our returning players, it's given us a real solid team. Brooklyn has been like the quarterback of the offense. She is a fantastic facilitator offensively and she takes the best matchup defensively against whoever we're playing. Overall, we have a lot of experience and understanding of how we want to play."

Del Rosario, though not very large, plays much bigger than her size. "We try to position Ella, because of her strength as an attacker, with as many opportunities to get out on the counterattack as possible as her anticipation and game sense is fantastic," Buchel said. "Another freshman, Addie Dankworth has also stepped up and shown the ability to really shoot with power."

At this point, Acalanes has had 15 different scorers on the team and six who have scored in double figures so far. "We're

just so much more balanced than we were last year and have a lot more options to go to on offense," Buchel said. "If teams want to take away Ella, we have two lefties that can score from the outside in Sarah Archer and Sophie Hendrickson. If the lefty side isn't happening for us, we've got a variety of players that can go into the center area and create great danger."

Even though the Dons have been averaging 12.4 points a game, it's the 4.6 goals against average that Buchel takes particular pride in. "I've always said we're a defensive team and we pride ourselves on that," Buchel said.

Leading the way is senior goalie Audrey Cox who has committed to play for Indiana University next year. "Audrey has been fantastic," Buchel said. "She reads the plays so well along with her ability to communicate to her teammates what they need to do while still playing her position. When you have someone in goal like Audrey, you can build out your defense from there, which allows us to turn our defense into offense and counterattack which is why we've had such a strong season." In one of our games, a 6-5 loss to Campolindo in the Acalanes Tournament, Audrey was unavailable and Wendy Heffelfinger, a top defensive player stepped in and did a hell of a job in a combat tournament environment."

Buchel still sees room for improvement. "As coaches, we have to find, when teams buckle down defensively, just a little bit more movement and aggression on the offensive side and not get comfortable when we're up," Buchel said.



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## Amazing Karate Results



Photo provided

**Submitted by Thomas Westernoff**

Karate & Fitness USA of Lafayette competed in the 49th Annual Fiestas International Karate Championships in Los Angeles in September. The Fiestas was some tough competition with many athletes from countries south of the U.S. border (Mexico, Honduras,

Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala). Karate & Fitness USA brought their best efforts and returned home with some serious trophies.

Karate is a fun and exciting sport for boys and girls to participate in all the way up to the world level of competition. Karate & Fitness USA Team Results: 14 Athletes, total of 38 trophies and medals (11 First, 12 Second, and 15 Third).



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# Oasis Cafe reimaged by the next generation

By Sharon K. Sobotta

After a four year hiatus, 19-year-old Niala Alam, a student at Diablo Valley Community College with aspirations of studying nursing and her 17-year-old sister Yasmin, a high school senior who plans to study art and design, jumped at the chance to bring Oasis Cafe, a restaurant started by their father nearly two decades ago, back to life.

The cafe sits on the ground floor of the Town Center Apartments adjacent to Baranco Cafe and the AT&T store in downtown Lafayette and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Monday. It offers a menu of coffees, fresh watermelon juice, refreshers, salads, panini sandwiches, pastries and service that the sisters say is pure love. In its original form, Imran Alam, the father of Niala and Yasmin, operated the restaurant as a Mediterranean shop with items like fresh humus, kebabs, falafels and other dinner treats on the menu. Then, while dealing with some major health issues just before the pandemic, Imran took a break from running the restaurant.

"I love this location," Imran said. "When our lease was up, we had to choose between giving up on the restaurant or letting my girls take it over. I wasn't sure, because it's a lot of work. Both of my daughters said they could do it and now they are doing it. I am so proud (to pass the baton to them)."

While passing on the Oasis baton to his daughters, Imran says he wanted to be sure to pass on the key ingredients to restaurant success. "If you treat customers with respect and serve them good, fresh food and kindness, you can't go wrong," Imran said. "When a customer walks in smiling, it will make you feel happy too. Even though the menu has changed, the spirit of kindness and love in the cafe lives on."

In the Alam sister's reenvisioning of the cafe, the menu is simple yet eclectic – offering entrees ranging from a hippie salad with arugula, peaches and feta and a muay Thai salad filled with veggies, chicken and homemade dressing to a range of panini sandwiches.

"We decided that a simple cafe with all fresh ingredients would be perfect," Niala said. "There are plenty of coffee shops in this town, but we

thought offering a place that serves coffee and delicious, healthy food made with love was the way to go."

The Oasis Cafe is not the only restaurant the family runs in town. Sonia Nawabi, the mother of Niala and Yasmin and wife of Imran, has owned and run 360 Gourmet Burrito for the past decade and a half. Yasmin Alam says she's learned the value of both hard work and heart work from her parents, and she's not taking the opportunity to take the reins on running a restaurant lightly.

"It feels really good to be a part of this community," Yasmin said. "People are very loyal here. I've grown up knowing lots of the people that still live in this area from the days when I used to come here with my dad."

Had the Alam family not gotten the Oasis Cafe back up and running this year, they would have had to vacate. But, for them, that wasn't an option. "We had a month to get back up and running and we completely understood why, after being closed for such a long time," Niala said. "But, we knew we didn't want to give up on it. Our mom has helped us a lot and we are doing it."



Imran Alam with daughter Yasmin

Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

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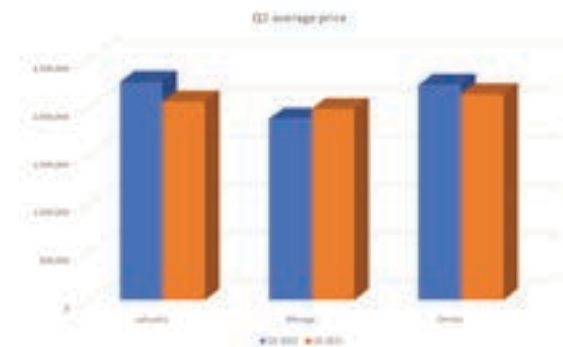
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 12, 2022



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

read on Page D4

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian It's all happening at the zoo



Pumpkins and gourds are piled high for fall.



Squirreling away acorns for winter!

Photos Cynthia Brian

### By Cynthia Brian

*"It's a light and tumble journey  
From the East Side to the park;  
Just a fine and fancy ramble to the zoo!"  
~ Simon & Garfunkel*

When the squirrels start collecting piles of acorns, and pumpkins, gourds, and squash adorn front porches, we know that autumn has arrived. With the cooler weather, we welcome fresh air and respite from the heat waves.

Besides gardening, I have always adored animals (thus, my new children's book series "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures" with the first book, "No Barnyard Bullies"). When I have an opportunity to meld those two passions together, my heart is grateful and invigorated.

With my children and their families, I've been fortunate to spend time at both the Oakland and San Diego zoos.

Monkeys, giraffes, elephants, lions, alligators, wolves, bears, zebras, birds, and

more exotic creatures from around the globe mingle in the lush landscapes. Ponds, streams, waterfalls, and lily pads add to the natural ambiance. Interestingly, and most likely on purpose, many of the species planted throughout both zoos borrow names from the animal kingdom: birds of paradise, lion's ear, foxtails, leopard's bane, zebra plant, snake plant, bear's breeches, turtle-head, elephant ears, wolfsbane, goose grass, staghorn ferns, and many more. Walking through the tropical rainforest surrounded by tall, thick bamboo, delicate ferns, bromeliads, and orchids while listening to the calls of the wild transports me to my travel memories of tangled jungles and saturated rainforests in Africa and South America.

Walking the many paths of both zoos is a great way to engage in healthy exercise while fully immersing yourself in the sounds and sights of global nature. Children are mesmerized by the beautiful beasts and enjoy many hands-on exploratory endeavors that contribute to their knowledge of the inhabitants of this earth. The atmosphere is happy and familial. It is all happening at the zoo.

After a day of celebrating children, animals, and landscapes, it is time to regroup to consider what chores are looming in my paradise. I'm waiting for inclement wet weather to transplant the variegated shell ginger sent to me by the online plant nursery, NatureHills. Spring Meadow Nursery and Proven Winners want me to trial Bouvardia Estrellita and Tecoma Chicklet. Friends gave me a struggling rose in a container which I've resuscitated to glory with measured coffee grounds as well as avocado and banana trees.

... continued on Page D14



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	13	\$825,000	\$5,875,000
MORAGA	9	\$860,000	\$1,680,000
ORINDA	10	\$1,060,000	\$4,995,000

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

- 830 Broadmoor Court, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1508 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-31-22
- 3564 Brook Street, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 996 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-22-22
- 4136 Canyon Road, \$4,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 6489 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 08-25-22, Previous Sale: \$3,333,500, 06-08-09
- 4146 Canyon Road, \$5,400,000, 6 Bdrms, 5725 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-01-22, Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 12-01-89
- 912 Dana Highlands Court, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3103 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 08-26-22, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 10-12-18
- 1000 Dewing Avenue #218, \$825,000, 1 Bdrms, 1071 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 08-24-22
- 451 Fredericka Avenue, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-29-22
- 929 Hough Avenue, \$1,815,000, 4 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 08-29-22, Previous Sale: \$1,509,000, 10-01-20
- 3172 Rohrer Drive, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 1820 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-22-22
- 1261 Rose Lane, \$5,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 4945 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 09-02-22, Previous Sale: \$5,675,000, 06-29-22
- 1 Scenic Lane, \$3,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3797 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 08-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,795,000, 08-05-10
- 3539 Springhill Road #A, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 08-31-22
- 1135 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 08-22-22, Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 07-08-20

### MORAGA

- 1403 Camino Peral, \$1,055,000, 3 Bdrms, 1709 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-23-22, Previous Sale: \$492,000, 12-08-11
- 132 Donald Drive, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-26-22
- 29 Francisca Drive, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 08-22-22, Previous Sale: \$355,000, 04-04-12
- 26 Hardie Drive, \$1,680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1964 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-29-22
- 34 Miramonte Drive, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-22-22, Previous Sale: \$715,000, 04-21-17
- 39 Miramonte Drive, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1447 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-25-22, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 09-25-20
- 169 Miramonte Drive, \$960,000, 2 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 09-01-22
- 307 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,555,000, 3 Bdrms, 1685 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-31-22, Previous Sale: \$916,500, 01-26-16
- 128 Via Joaquin, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-29-22, Previous Sale: \$249,000, 08-01-91

### ORINDA

- 24 Barbara Road, \$1,080,000, 2 Bdrms, 1341 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 09-02-22, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 02-25-14
- 58 Brookside Road, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3190 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-02-22, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 02-07-19
- 270 Camino Sobrante, \$1,695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1952 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-30-22, Previous Sale: \$1,090,000, 08-31-15
- 15 Dias Dorados, \$3,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3463 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-25-22, Previous Sale: \$2,985,000, 07-21-20
- 252 Manzanita Drive, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 1783 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-31-22
- 6 Meadow Park Court, \$3,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2725 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-29-01
- 29 Normandy Lane, \$1,995,000, 5 Bdrms, 2913 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-29-22, Previous Sale: \$995,000, 03-20-03
- 6 Oak Lane, \$2,226,000, 3 Bdrms, 2254 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-29-22
- 47 Orinda View Road, \$4,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 6612 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 08-24-22, Previous Sale: \$6,750,000, 03-03-22
- 100 Ravenhill Road, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1598 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-29-22, Previous Sale: \$935,000, 06-20-07



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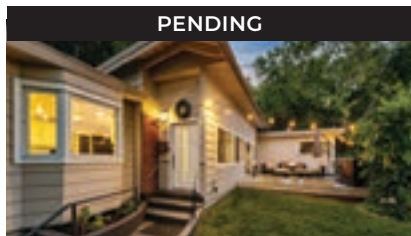
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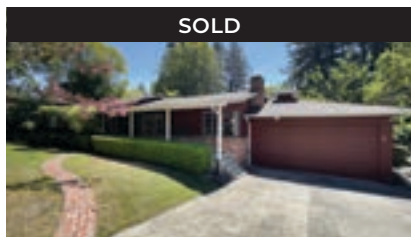
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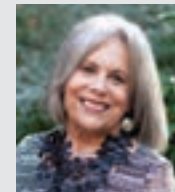
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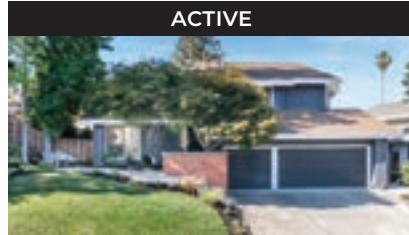


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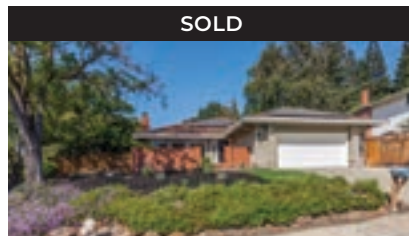
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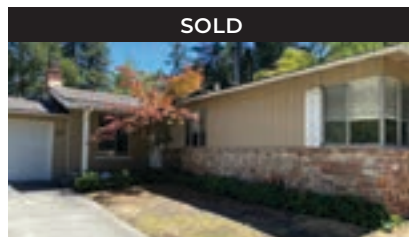
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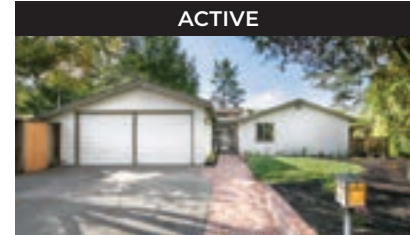
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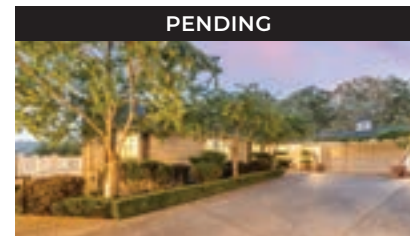
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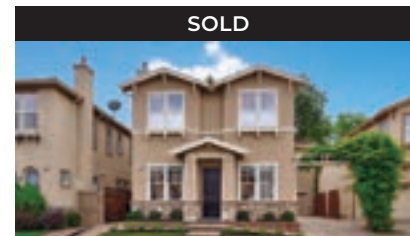
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

**By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T**

The third quarter of 2022, as expected, started to show a significant slowing of activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. This is mostly a result of the increase in mortgage rates over the last several weeks. Supply remains relatively low but the demand has slowed.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 85 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was a decrease from the 120 that closed in the third quarter of 2021. In this quarter of 2020, 136 homes closed. Sales prices ranged from \$655,000 to \$8.81 million. The average number of days on market was 17 versus 12 for the same period in 2021. The average sales price was \$2,273,646, an increase from a year ago when it was \$2,067,747. In this same quarter in 2020 it was \$1,972,380.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 25 – a big drop from the 53 in 3Q2021. Prices ranged from \$1.35 million to \$3.615 million. The average sales price was \$1,890,272 which was a year over year drop from \$1,993,792. In 2020 it was \$1,588,132 in the year ago three-month period. The average marketing time was 18 days, up from 9 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 56 – essentially half as many as the 111 in 3Q2021. Sales prices ranged from \$1.06 million to \$4.995 million with an average price of \$2,243,571, continuing to rise from the \$2,147,497 in the same quarter a year ago. It was \$1,900,069 in 3Q2020. It took an average of 19 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter. One year ago, it took 12 days.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$897.11. This is an increase from the \$846.43 price per square foot a year ago. Moraga homes sold for \$817.63 up from the summer period a year ago when it was \$768.43. In

Orinda it was \$781.02 – a decrease from the \$823.39 a year ago.

The biggest change came in the area of list price versus sales price. In Lafayette, the average sales price was right at 107.2% of the final asking price in this quarter of 2021. This year it was just below 100%! In Moraga, it was 107.1% of asking last year and this year it was 99.9%, and in Orinda it was just over 109.6% a year ago versus 102.7% this last quarter.

This is likely a factor of sellers realizing that they needed to be more realistic in pricing and buyers understanding that there were fewer buyers to compete with so they were not as aggressive in their offers.

On the Oakland/Berkeley side of the hills, agents have still been asking far below the market value of homes in order to generate the multiple offers and the sales prices well above asking. Often this has failed to work so they raise the asking price and call the list price “Transparent.” This phenomenon (sometimes known as “Teaser Pricing”) has started to slow down in Lamorinda.

In Lafayette, 45 of the 85 sales sold at the final list price or above – a year ago it was 103 of 120. In Moraga, 15 of the 25 sold at or above asking. A year ago, 44 of the 53 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 35 of 56, versus 94 of 111 in the third quarter of 2021.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had eight resale closings. They were priced from \$761,000 to \$2.6 million. Moraga had 15, down from 28 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$490,000 to \$2.1 million. Orinda had one sale on Raven Hill at \$1.65 million.

As of Oct. 7, there were 56 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago, there were 91 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single family detached homes range from \$550,000 to \$5.6 million. It should be pointed out that there are no “Potential Short Sales” or foreclosures that are currently pending, although this trend may change.

It is interesting to note that of the 56

pending sales in the area, seven received acceptable offers in the first six days of October. That is an average of about one per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, is steadily increasing. When looking at the available homes in Lafayette there are 57 homes on the market as of Oct. 6 and there were 28 at this time one year ago.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 18 properties, consistent with the 19 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has increased to 45 currently available from 20 one year ago.

Current asking prices range from \$399,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$9.995 million for a Lafayette property.

At the high end, 22 homes closed above \$3 million in the three communities combined during the quarter – down from 30 one year ago. There are 25 currently available above this amount – a year ago there were 11.

The increase in interest rates that were at historical lows have forced some people out of the market as affordability has decreased. You also have a lot of homeowners who refinanced when rates were very low that are reluctant to sell their homes because they do not want to have to give up this “cheap money” that they may have at 3% or less to go and buy something and have to pay 6% or more. This will help limit supply.

We are still seeing Oakland, San Francisco and Peninsula agents representing buyers in their purchase of Lamorinda homes. They are coming from higher priced areas and have more available equity to use in Lamorinda.

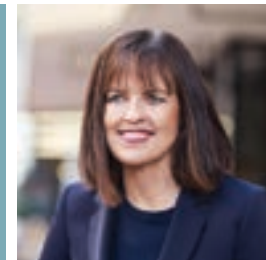
Corporate relocation has also increased as more workers who were working remotely from their old locations are now moving to work in the destination offices.





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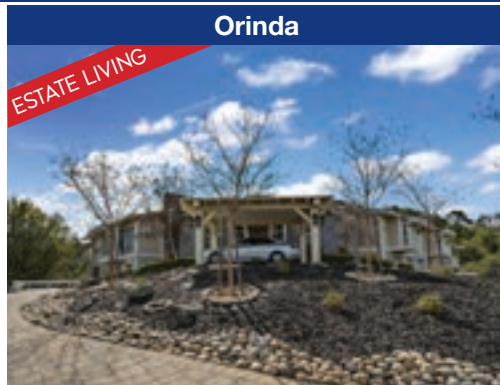
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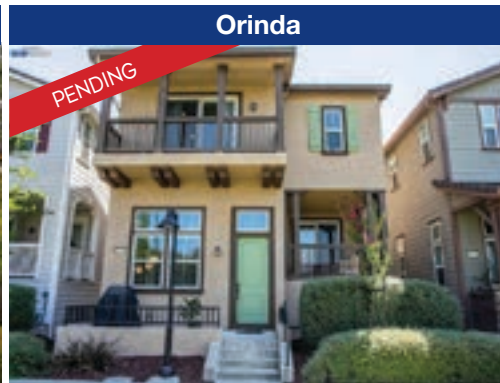
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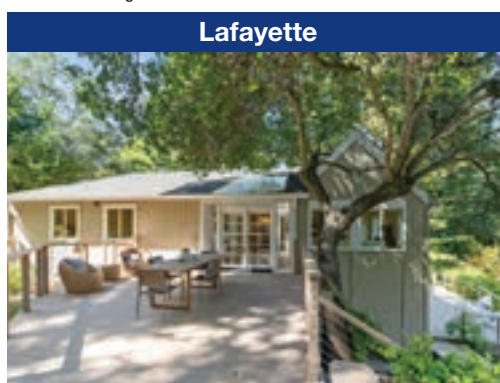
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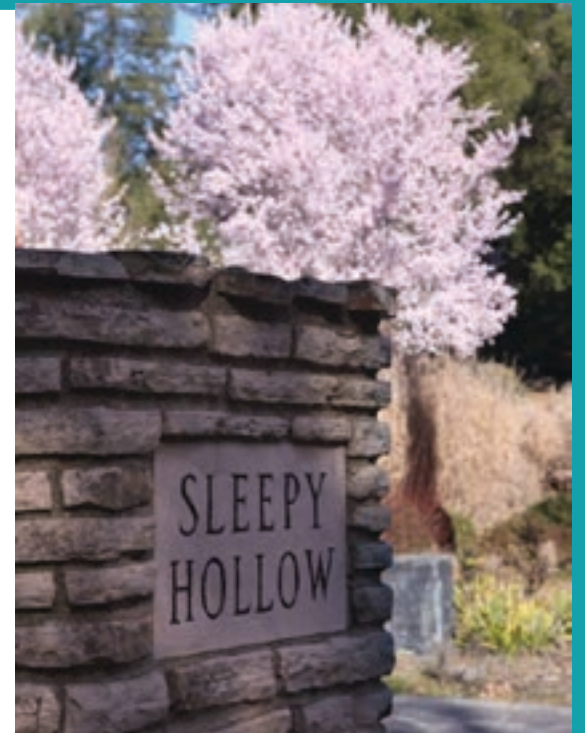
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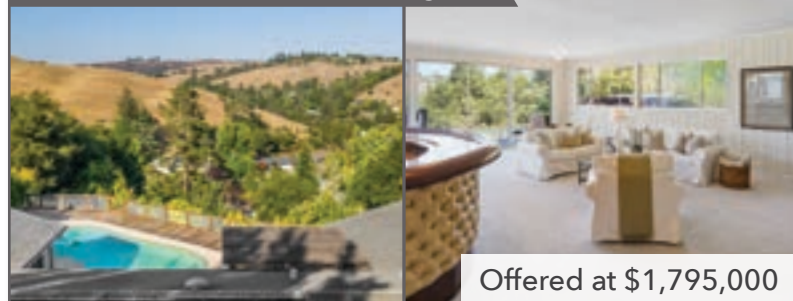
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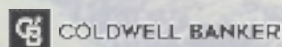
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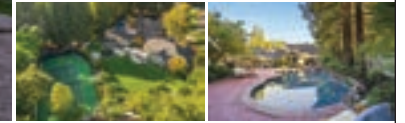


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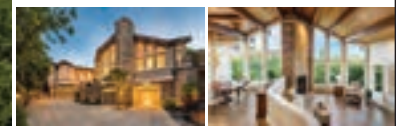


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## September 2022 Sales up from August

The number of closed September sales in Central Contra Costa was up slightly from July & August (371 each month) compared to September (383). Active inventory continues to shrink, July (739), August (570) and September (556). YTD Average Sale prices compared with 2021 are still up for all Central Contra Costa cities. The disappointing news for sellers is that prices have come down from their peak in March/April of this year (see my July blog – Did You Miss the Peak). The good news is that all Central Contra Cities average sale prices are still higher to significantly higher than 2021. The cities with the highest YTD increases are Lafayette (20.45%), San Ramon (19.46%) and Danville (17.23%). The lowest Average Sale Price increases were Martinez (6.29%), Orinda (7.95%) and Concord (8.49%). The bad news for buyers in addition to shrinking inventory, is that Concord and Martinez are the only cities in Central County where you can buy a home for less than \$1MM, but still have YTD Average sale prices of \$938,197 (Martinez) and \$927,177 (Concord).

It's not all bad news for buyers. Few homes are receiving multiple offers. The ones that do have substantial, recent updates, designer finishes, and lovely, landscaped yards. Well priced fixers are also seeing multiple offers. The average days on market (DOM) for sold properties in September was 26.64. Pending sales in September had a DOM of 29.55.

The biggest issue for most buyers is rising interest rates. As of Monday, I saw quotes of 30-year Fixed Jumbo rate - 6.375% (zero pts.) and 5.875% (1 pt.). Buyer's budget should include buying down their interest rate. Many sellers are open to concessions, buyer credits, loan, inspections, and appraisal contingencies. Some sellers will consider offers contingent sale of buyer's home.

See details of your city at [www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com](http://www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com)



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**Terri Bates Walker, Broker, J.D.**

510-282-4420

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[terribateswalker.com](http://terribateswalker.com)

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## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **It's all happening at the zoo**



**The bright orange of birds-of-paradise.**



**A garden of frilly kale plants.**



**The fern forest.**

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

All will be moved to their forever homes as soon as the thermometer allows.

If you have shrubs, trees, bushes, or other plants in need of transplanting, my suggestion is to be patient and wait until heat waves have passed and rain is on the horizon. After three years of record-breaking drought, California is bracing for a fourth year without adequate snow or rain. If we transplant too early in the fall, our plants may not survive.

When the time is right for transplanting, here's what you need to do:

1. Gather the materials needed: gloves, shovel, wheelbarrow, tarp, enriched soil, mulch and your plants.
2. Pre-dig a hole before you take the plant out of the pot or move a plant from another location. The hole needs to be at least 1.5 times the size of the root ball.
3. If the shrub is large, cut it back by 1/3 before transplanting to save energy for growing.
4. Whether digging up a plant or removing it from a container, keep as much soil around the roots as possible.
5. If moving an existing bush, place it in a tarp or wheelbarrow to keep the root ball intact.
6. In the new location, double-check that the hole is the correct size. If it is too small, dig it deeper. If it is too large, refill it with soil.
7. Add a small amount of the new soil to the hole. Position the plant

upright and straight and fill the hole with good soil, tapping down as you go to eliminate air pockets.

8. When the new soil is level with the ground, add two or three inches of mulch.

9. Water slowly and thoroughly.

10. Keep an eye on your new transplant to make sure the soil never dries out yet is not too wet or soggy.

Now, back to the zoo. When you have a free day, consider a fine and fancy ramble to the zoo. The zoo offers a day of respite from the noise, congestion, and distractions of the concrete jungle. Visit an oasis of serenity and marvel at nature's magnificence.



**The sunshine yellow hibiscus hedges welcome zoo-goers.**



**Mark Your Calendars:**

Thursday, Oct. 20, Cynthia Brian presents Water Works to the Moraga Garden Club.  
<https://www.moragagardenclub.com>

Wednesday, Oct. 26, Starstyle® Community, the first NFT drop of one-of-a-kind art derived from characters in Cynthia Brian's picture book, "No Barnyard Bullies." Buy beautiful, collectible NFTs today.  
<https://www.StarStyleCommunity.com>



Resuscitated red roses exhibit a velvety crimson tone.

Photo Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian at the zoo.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your fall 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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store) For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and exclusive experiences, buy StarStyle® NFTs at <https://StarStyleCommunity.com> Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.  
[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
<https://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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**160/162 Camino Don Miguel**  
6 bd/6.5 ba Spanish Revival estate w/ views of OCC golf course and hills beyond. Exceptional location!  
**\$6,395,000**

## ORINDA



**24 Orchard Road**  
Gorgeous Santa Barbara-inspired home on 1-acre lot in beloved Glorietta neighborhood features one of the most extraordinary yards!  
**\$3,775,000**

## ORINDA



**8 Tappan Court**  
Completely renovated 5 bd/ 4 ba home on an unparalleled level .82 acre knoll parcel!  
**\$3,595,000**

## ORINDA



**9 Bel Air Drive**  
5 bd/ 4.5 ba home lies on .46 acre w/ incredible views of Mt. Diablo & private access to the Lafayette Reservoir!  
**\$3,495,000**

## ORINDA



**151 Cañon Drive**  
One of Orinda's signature homes! 5 bd/4.5 ba, 3769 sqft on .67 acre includes 1bd/1ba guest cottage!  
**\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



**5 De Soto Court**  
Mid-Century Contemporary 4 bd/ 2.5 ba offers peaceful private setting on quaint court just minutes from downtown!  
**\$2,395,000**

## ORINDA



**60 Tarry Lane**  
Enjoy privacy & spectacular views from this 5 bd/4 ba beautiful and spacious Sleepy Hollow Mediterranean!  
**\$2,295,000**

## ORINDA



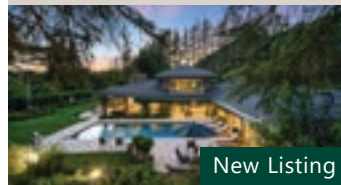
**40 Via Floreado**  
Charming 5 bd/ 3.5 ba gem is full of old-world features yet perfectly updated w/ all the modern amenities!  
**\$1,995,000**

## ORINDA



**2 Orchard Court**  
Home sweet home! 3 bd/ 2 ba home needs lots of TLC now & is awaiting the next generation!  
**\$1,195,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3936 Happy Valley Road**  
Fabulously unique 5 bd/ 5.5 ba single level home w/ soaring ceilings & walls of glass on private 3.38 acre parcel!  
**\$5,500,000**

## LAFAYETTE



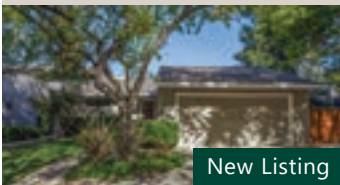
**3015 Bradbury Drive**  
Nestled among majestic oaks 3 bd/ 2.5 ba plus loft sits on 3.2 acres w/ panoramic views, multiple decks & pool!  
**\$1,895,000**

## MORAGA



**92 Warfield Drive**  
Classic two story 5 bd/ 3 ba home sits on a private .39 acre parcel w/ 2527 sq.ft of a fully functional floor plan!  
**\$2,050,000**

## MORAGA



**899 Augusta Drive**  
Located in popular Moraga CC near all the new amenities 3 bd/ 2 ba extremely well maintained & renovated!  
**\$1,250,000**

## BERKELEY



**7164 Buckingham Blvd**  
Sophisticated contemporary 3 bd/ 3 ba set in the Claremont Hills featuring lovely canyon views!  
**\$1,595,000**

## DANVILLE



**501 Garden Creek Place**  
Updated 3 bd/ 2.5 ba end-unit townhome less than .5 miles from top-rated schools, downtown & more!  
**\$899,000**

## GRASS VALLEY



**16056 Mount Olive Road**  
Traditional 3 bd/ 3 ba ranch style home set on 1.97 acres, 1248 sqft w/ detached 'studio-like' structure of approx. 320 sqft!  
**\$525,000**

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