



The Miramonte High School cast of "Grease" rehearse the song "Summer Nights" featuring Danny Zuko (junior Diego Aguilar) and Sandy Dumbrowski (junior Lauren Wagner). Photo Jeff Heyman

High school students prep for fun spring productions

By Ashley Dong

In just a couple of weeks, a musical flurry of tap-dancing newsboys, hand-jiving greasers, and bend-and-snapping sorority girls will take to the stages of Lamorinda's three high schools. For two fantastic weeks of performances, the musical theater casts of Campolindo, Miramonte, and Acalanes high schools proudly present "Newsies," "Grease," and "Legally Blonde" – respectively.

To kick off the performances, Campolindo's musical opens on March 10, whisking its audience back in time to the turn of the 19th century. Led by long-time director David Pinkham, Campolindo students are excited to put on "Newsies," a captivating musical based on the revolutionary newsboys' strike of 1899. In the streets of New York, orphaned newsboy

Jack Kelly – played by junior Gavin Juni in the World Cast and senior Charlie Hansen in the Sun Cast – will lead his clan of newsies in a strike to protest the raised prices of newspapers, or "paps" as the newsies call them.

Out of all three schools, Campolindo is the only school with two casts, each with over 100 performers. "Our casts are dedicated and enthusiastic. I'm proud of their commitment to the quality 'bar' we have set over the years and of the tremendous participation. Many in this show will have spent practically every night in the theater from January to the middle of March," Pinkham said. "Newsies" will run from March 10-12 and March 17-19 with four shows for each cast.

"I'm so proud of our casts for putting so much energy and excitement into the shows, and I'm really looking forward to performing in this amazing pro-

duction!" said sophomore Sofia Rose, who plays the newsie, Race.

The next show to open is Miramonte's production of "Grease" on March 17. Set at Rydell High, the new girl Sandy Dumbrowski – played by junior Lauren Wagner – and the leader of the greasers Danny Zuko – played by junior Diego Aguilar – struggle to sustain their summer romance as they navigate the ups and downs of high school in this iconic '50s musical. Directed by drama teacher Heather Cousins and choir teacher Meredith Hawkins, the show will run March 17-19 and March 25-26. The show is primarily student-produced: the stagecraft class built the set, designed the costumes, and will run lights and sound during the shows, while a student band plays the live soundtrack.

... continued on Page A6

Lamorinda Weekly	
Not to be missed	B4
How to contact us	B2
Classified	C1
Community Service	B2,B3
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Clash of the seasons visible on Lamorinda hillsides



What a difference a week makes. Lamorinda residents were hit with weather whiplash during the week of Feb. 20, with 70-degree weather, sunny skies and a blanket of daffodil blooms gracing hillsides on the corner of Happy Valley and Deer Hill roads in Lafayette as well as near the Moraga Commons and at Orindawoods, showing signs of an early spring on Feb. 21, before just three days later morphing to a wintry landscape, with strong winds and chilly temps that brought a light dusting of snow to Lamorinda hillsides on Feb. 24.

Civic News	A1-A10	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B4	Sports	C1-C4	Our Homes	D1-D12
Residents take to the polls for Measure Z parcel tax March 7 - Page A6		Gold Coast Chamber Players plan final productions - Page B1		Campo boys basketball wins NCS Championship - Page C1		With spring comes a host of gardening chores - Page D1	
Public Safety							
Fire code and traffic calming measures discussed - Page A8							



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

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City returns to in-person public meetings on March 1

Coinciding with the end of state's COVID-19 State of Emergency Order on Feb. 28, all regular city of Lafayette public meetings will return to being held in-person starting March 1. The city plans to offer the ability for mem-

bers of the public to participate virtually in regular meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Commission and Transportation-Circulation Commission, but cannot guarantee that tech-

nical difficulties will not occur. Unless required by the Brown Act, the meeting will continue despite technical difficulties for participants using the teleconferencing (Zoom) option. Meeting locations as well as instruc-

tions to make public comments via Zoom will be detailed on the meeting agendas, located on the city's website. — J. Wake

Aunt of George Floyd and author of 'Lift Your Voice' visits Lafayette



Author Angela Harrelson

Photo provided

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Angela Harrelson's nephew died under the knee of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020, people in Lamorinda and across the country took notice while pondering what

could be done for a more just, inclusive world. Harrelson will add her voice to the local conversation at 7 p.m. March 13 at Town Hall Theatre, as she shares her story as the aunt of the man much of the world came to know posthumously as George Perry Floyd.

Lafayette Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok still remembers coming together with others in Lafayette in June 2020, just weeks after Floyd's death. "I participated in an unprecedented gathering and Black Lives Matter march (organized by local high school students) from downtown Lafayette Plaza, over to the Veteran's Hall, and then back. In my 20 years living in this city, I have not seen a larger and more emotional crowd," Kwok remembers. Kwok believes Harrelson's voice is an important one for residents to hear. "In a world with so many other crises and challenges consuming our time, energy and mindshare, Angela Harrelson's voice is a personal and timely reminder to stay the course."

Harrelson first met her nephew when she was 17, when Floyd's mother returned to her childhood home with 5-year-old Floyd and his four siblings. As one of 14 children and the daughter of sharecroppers, Harrelson grew up humbly.

"We were very poor. We didn't have indoor plumbing. Our house could have easily been condemned," Harrelson says. "We didn't have much of anything, but we had a house full of love. I remember little Perry (George Floyd). He was so humble and sweet. He didn't care that he had to use an outhouse or that the house was falling apart. He was happy."

Floyd grew up in the projects of Houston, Texas with his mom and siblings. Harrelson says that Floyd's father struggled with addiction and Floyd's mother raised her own kids and some of her grandchildren.

"He always knew that his father was out there somewhere and I think that weighed on him." That, she says, is how he got into drugs.

"He did the wrong things for the right reasons (and he ended up getting addicted)."

Floyd, who experienced bouts of incarceration for crimes related to sustaining his addiction, went through treatment and worked hard to stay sober, but sometimes relapsed, as more than half of people with substance addictions do.

It was Floyd's determination to stay sober, and carve out a better life for himself and his community after he got out of prison, that led him to Minnesota. "When he got out of prison, he started doing a lot of community outreach work with a pastor in Houston," Harrelson says. "Through that work (and the pastor that he helped) he got connected with someone in Minnesota and relocated for a fresh start."

Once in Minnesota, Floyd went through treatment, got a job at the Salvation Army, another at a club as a bouncer and another as a truck driver, and had a long bout of sobriety. "He was working out every day and he was talking straight and going to work. He really was doing well." Things started to go downhill for Floyd when his mother's health began to fail.

Floyd's mother died on May 30, 2018, just shy of two years from the day that Floyd was killed. When Floyd and Harrelson met in Texas to bid Floyd's mother farewell, Harrelson, who is a nurse for people with chemical dependencies, knew that something was wrong. "He wasn't the same. I could see it in his eyes. And when I hugged him, I could feel how skinny he'd gotten." That's when she knew Floyd had likely relapsed.

On Floyd's last day of life, when he called out for his mother, Harrelson believes that he saw her and reunited with her. "When he said

'Mama,' I think she appeared with open arms and said, 'Come to me, son, I'll take care of you' and he went."

Now, Harrelson and others have created the George Floyd Global Memorial, a place to memorialize those who have died of violence and a project that works toward a world where police-involved killings will no longer be common-place.

Dennis Markam, the managing director of Town Hall Theatre, is thrilled that Harrelson is bringing her story to Lafayette and believes the theater is the perfect venue for Harrelson's forthcoming visit. "This building has been a community gathering place since it was first built, so it feels right (for this) event." Markam says, noting that the event is important, not only to Town Hall Theatre, but also to the town of Lafayette.

"(In largely) white communities, when we talk about racial injustice and systemic abuses of power and all of these big, multifaceted topics it becomes incredibly easy to turn folks like George Floyd or Breonna Taylor or Trayvon Martin or Miles Hall into ideas rather than people," Markam says. "Ms. Harrelson's work gives us a human context to the narrative of George Floyd's murder, a sense of who her nephew was as a person, and how the world can honor his memory by enacting systemic changes."

For information or tickets for "Lift Your Voice: An evening with Angela Harrelson," visit townhalltheatre.com. Tickets are available for free will donations and all proceeds will benefit the George Floyd Global Memorial. Copies of Harrelson's book "Lift Your Voice" can be pre-ordered with Reasonable Books via email at books@reasonable.online, or by calling (925) 385-3026.

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Lafayette has openings on the following Commissions and Committees

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- Citizen Advisory Committee to CCTA
- Design Review Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement (DSIMPIC)
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Senior Services Commission
- Transportation & Circulation Commission

For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website lovelafayette.org/volunteers or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@lovelafayette.org

Positions open until filled.

Mayor Mike, Citizen of the Year - diplomacy, patience and grace under pressure



Mike Anderson

Photo Jeff Heyman

By Pippa Fisher

This year's Citizen of the Year award goes to Mike Anderson – a name familiar to most Lafayette residents for his 25 years of volunteer civic positions. But if his many, many years of service have been impressive, what people remember most is his calm, welcoming demeanor along with his respectful leadership style.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa reflects, "Mayor Mike, as he is fondly called by city staff, has taught me diplomacy, patience and how to remain graceful under pressure. His ability to develop consensus between people of opposing viewpoints is legendary as is his keen sense of humor."

The vote for Anderson was unanimous this year in what is the 72nd Lafayette Citizen of the Year (no award was given in 2021).

Anderson was appointed to the Planning Commission in 2000. He served on the Downtown Specific Plan Committee and was elected to the city council in 2004, serving as mayor for five years, including two back-to-back years when a prior mayor stepped down, before retiring in 2021. He was the 2021 Ann Deny Award recipient.

A graduate of UC Berkeley, Anderson worked for East Bay Regional Park District as Assistant General Manager for Planning/Stewardship and Development. He says that his job with EBRPD, which involved visiting the different cities where they had projects planned or being implemented, led smoothly to his transition into public service. "So I got to see city government in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties." He says he saw all sorts of local government styles, from old-school to Lafayette where everyone had a chance to have a voice. "I got a good feeling for Lafayette."

Fast forward 25 years and another former mayor and previous Citizen of the Year, Don Tatzin has done the math. "At a rate of approximately three meetings per month (and often more), this means he (Anderson) attended over 1,000 meetings on behalf of Lafayette residents and businesses." Tatzin adds that meetings are like icebergs. "What the public sees is participation in a meeting. What they miss, because it is work that council members and commissioners do alone, are the hours of preparation that occur to be ready."

Anderson says he is most proud of how the city handled the COVID crisis, especially in terms of finding support to help small businesses cope, and making sure they had all the information they needed to access

the money that was available in grants. "I think we were really out in front of recognizing there was going to be a need there." He credits Cam Burks who was on the council at that time, for helping him understand the seriousness of the situation at an early stage, enabling the city to think and act proactively.

As for the biggest challenge? Anderson says that the Regional Housing Needs Allocation numbers were, and still are, the biggest challenge. "The job is to help people feel comfortable with what we have no control over. We can't not do it," he says referring to state-mandated housing requirements. "And people don't want to hear that. People have a fear of losing the character of the city, and there's some truth to that."

Given that the housing has to happen, Anderson's approach was always to encourage people to weigh in on making development the best it can be, by looking at such things as design. He acknowledges that over time he learned it's impossible to make everyone happy, but you can listen and find common points that are good and at least include those good components in what has to happen.

Tatzin recognizes this gift for listening and finding common ground. "Mike always has a calming demeanor which leads others to adopt a similar disposition, and which goes a long way to reduce the level of vitriol that often occurs in public debate in current times." Tatzin notes that when controversial topics arose, Anderson would listen to all residents and find a way to incorporate their concerns into his decision.

Longtime Chamber of Commerce Board Member Kathy Merchant says that just two words define a perfect facilitator: "Mike Anderson."

Merchant says that Anderson has played a key role in shaping the things that represent the best of Lafayette. "He is patient, smart and intelligent," she says, continuing, "Several years ago, sitting on the Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee chaired by Mike, I watched him orchestrate a cacophony of views with perfect pitch."

Anderson remains optimistic about the future. He says that while there will be more people living here, as long as people continue to wave to one another, that's what builds community. "It's simple stuff."

Now, with a little more time on his hands, he is certainly keeping busy. He and his wife Courtney walk daily and enjoy greeting people along the way. He continues to grow tomatoes in the summer and brew beer.

... continued on Page A8



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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
Town of Moraga:
 www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

MORAGA

Town Council: Regular meeting Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, March 14, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Do you have a person or couple in mind to be honored as the 2023 Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year?

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Cannot be a current elected member or paid staff of the Town Council, the Town or any other local public agency (e.g., School District or Fire District);
- Must have a Moraga mailing address;
- Nominees should be persons who: (1) have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop; and (2) bring the community together and make us proud to be residents of Moraga.

Please email your nomination to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or mail it to Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations, Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road Suite C # 202, Moraga CA 94556. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Thursday, March 9. A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, April 28, in the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga to honor the winner.

Town Council agrees on 2023 Goals and Priorities

By Vera Kochan

As is customary in the town of Moraga, each new year provides council members with the opportunity to establish its goals and priorities for the coming year. The purpose is to inform the community of Moraga's priorities while providing town staff with a direction for the future.

After a presentation of the goals by Mayor Renata Sos during the Feb. 15 town council meeting, only some minor tweaking was in order after discussions and staff clarifications on a few of the topics.

The Moraga Town Council and Community 2023 Goals and Priorities (Collaboration and Community) are as follows: Continue to lay the foundation and create pathways for a better mix of housing and the revitalization of the town's two commercial areas, including adopting a certified Housing Element, rezoning the commercial centers and Bollinger Canyon, updating the General Plan, and completing an evacuation study; Maintain fiscal disci-

pline, position the town for long-term fiscal sustainability, and efficiently sustain core operations of the town services to residents; and Complete the second year of the 2022-2024 "Worst Streets First" Pavement Reconstruction Project.

More goals are: Continue the Storm Drain Operations and Maintenance Program and complete 2021-2023 Storm Drain Capital Improvement Projects; Support high-quality police and emergency response services, including by securing energy alternatives for emergencies, and coordinate with MOFD on fire safety and planning; and Enhance the town's parks, open space and facilities for the benefit of the public, and move forward with public input into a town-wide recreation and open space plan.

Additional goals include: Pursue measures designed to improve traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety, especially around our schools, crosswalks, through routes, and residential street entry points to the town's main roadways;

Work with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College, and local school districts to enhance Moraga's business and educational climate; Continue outreach to the public and provide opportunities for input from all segments of the community; and Continue to work with Wedgewood to enhance the Hacienda and address the impacts of operations on the neighborhood.

The final four goals are as follows: Onboard the new town manager with minimum disruption to staff and to operations, and collaboratively streamline town council meetings; Lessen the town's impact on the environment by continuing to implement sustainability and resiliency initiatives and viable strategies in Moraga's Climate Action Plan and in the town's Facility Energy Generation Study; Conduct a town council/town manager session focused on effectiveness and organizational competency; and Initiate the process of amending the town-wide noise ordinance.

Moraga's Vice Mayor opts for prescribed burn in yard to reduce future wildfire threats



Photo Vera Kochan

ConFire Captain Aaron Brunton supervises his fire crew

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda was worried about the risk of additional wildfires in her neighborhood. "We have evacuated twice, and that makes me very concerned about fire, because we live on Merrill Circle." A friend and Firewise member, Suzanne D'Arcy, told Onoda about the free ember-resistant vents that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District was offering to residents thanks to a \$500,000 home hardening grant they received (www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/home-hardening-grant-program)

Upon picking up her pre-ordered vent from MOFD, Onoda arranged to have a Firewise meeting in her home for her neighbors. MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker came to the meeting and used her yard as an example of what needed to be done, most of which involved limbing-up trees. Winnacker reminded everyone in attendance that MOFD could arrange a prescribed burn for free on residential properties if the job required it.

Onoda's next step was to

hire Will Thorn, owner of Wildland Corporation (wildlandcorp.com), a fuels mitigation expert. "He limbed-up all of the trees, and just before the prescribed burn, during the January storms, two of our oak trees fell."

Thorn was in contact with MOFD's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein who decided when was an optimal time for the burn. The day before the Feb. 16 burn, MOFD alerted residents in the area to prevent any panic from the smell of smoke and to advise keeping windows and doors closed.

"Our job for the pile burning was to deal with any fallen trees, limbing-up trees, and removing any brush or flammable vegetation," stated Thorn. "We ended up with three piles about 8 feet or higher. One pile is called a "feeder," and that's what is used to toss onto the burning piles when the flames have died down a bit." Thorn was present during the burn, because "I like to be there to see the job through."

Captain Aaron Brunton of Contra Costa Fire Crew 12 brought a 16-man crew of

firefighters to perform the prescribed burn which was located near the top of a steep incline. According to the Bureau of Land Management, "A prescribed fire (also called a controlled burn) is an important tool that can be used to reduce the risk of large uncharacteristically severe wildfire, increase public and firefighter safety, as well as meet a variety of integrated natural resource management objectives."

"MOFD often reaches out to ConFire (the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District) to assist with these types of projects," stated Brunton. His crew size fits the minimum requirement for a Type 2 IA (crews that can form into three or four separate squads of four people to initially attack fires separately). None of the fires that Brunton has supervised have ever "escaped."

Optimal weather and seasonal conditions for the burns is winter when Mother Nature has provided enough rain and the trees have absorbed enough water to make it safe. The fire crews also hook up hoses to the nearest fire hydrants in the street. Once the burn has been completed, the fire crew spreads out the embers and hoses down any hot spots to prevent a possible fire coming back to life at a later time.

Brunton noted that these types of free, prescribed burns are available in Contra Costa County thanks to funds from Measure X.

Onoda has already decided what she will do with all of the cleared space. She has purchased a Bay Area Wildflower mix of seeds from Pacific Coast Seed, Inc. of Tracy, Calif. that will attract butterflies. Thorn will return during planting season to help sprinkle the seeds. The cycle of life continues.

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Planning department presents possible design standards for Rheem Park Area to town council



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The recommended style of architecture would be an adaptation of the Spanish-Colonial style such as at Saint Mary's College, to add a cohesive tie-in between the college and the Rheem Shopping Center.

By Vera Kochan

The town council received an informational report from the Planning Department with regards to the Draft Objective Design Standards for the Rheem Park Area during its Feb. 15 meeting; the purpose being to give feedback and input.

According to the staff report by Planning Director Afshan Hamid, Senior Planner Brian Horn, and Planning Consultants Aaron Welch and Barry Miller this step is necessary as "part of the Town of Moraga's Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative (CAPI) and Housing Element effort and builds on work completed as part of that effort."

In creating Rheem's Design Standards, the aforementioned team considered standards already adopted for the Moraga Center Specific Plan; considered applicable multi-family and mixed-use guidelines and concepts already in existence; examined concepts recently adopted by other local municipalities; made site visits to other recently updated shopping centers; and applied standards developed by Housing and Community Development (HCD).

After a Feb. 7 Planning Commission study session the following feedback was presented to the team: "Encourage outdoor seating and dining areas, similar to Canyon Club, open spaces, walking paths, public art, and places for gathering; avoid disjointed development, encourage designs that are cohesive and compatible with other properties; encourage building materials that age well even when they are not effectively maintained; consider color restrictions for buildings, such as principally earth tone colors; consider how Center Street will shape the development; regarding residential bicycle parking in multi-family developments, create a room for bikes, however, in town-home/rowhomes, bikes can go in private garages; be mindful

of onerous requirements for locating parking - requiring that it's in the back of buildings, etc.; make sure we are not double-requiring things; confirm that the proposed 25-foot setback would apply to Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road adjacent to Housing Opportunity Sites; developments should only need to make improvements based on the size of their project; and review and clarify whether multiple types of glass would be counted as multiple types of materials and counted individually towards the three required materials."

During the presentation to the town council it was noted that the Rheem Theatre was exempt from any changes due to its unique architectural character and that any improvements would be processed through the current design review process.

With regards to site circulation and access, the intent is to create a network of smaller blocks as opposed to long continuous "superblocks" in order to encourage internal pedestrian connections. Another goal is to turn Center Street into a walkable and active internal street.

The design of the setback areas should encourage attractive facades and promote seating areas, outdoor dining, plazas, and landscaped areas that would draw community gathering and pedestrian activity.

Building massing and articulation should include requirements for differentiating upper and lower stories and provide distinctive architectural elements and details.

Building facades and materials should require regular doors, windows and window transparency between indoor and outdoor areas. It is hoped that this would avoid blank walls.

By having minimum size requirements for ground-floor building spaces the hope is to avoid any low-quality construction which would become more obvious if vacant.

With regards to vehicle

parking spaces, "the intent is to create parking and loading facilities that are easy to use while protecting pedestrian safety, minimizing negative impacts of car storage, and encouraging park-once opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors to the Rheem area."

Long-term bicycle parking for residents and workers should be in a covered and secure space within the building itself. Short-term parking for shoppers, guests and visitors would take the form of outdoor racks near building entrances.

Private open space would be established by a parcel's underlying zoning district. Concerning public space and landscaping, "there is no direct requirement for publicly accessible open space in either the Standards or the underlying zoning districts, beyond requirements for site circulation and pedestrian facilities." The Standards do include landscaping specifications for different types of trees, shrubs or ground cover and their maintenance.

While limited fencing and screening for residential security and privacy is allowed, the same will be limited along commercial sidewalk frontages and public streets; and pedestrian lighting along sidewalks and pathways will need to incorporate soft lighting in order to reduce light pollution.

Council members offered opinions about the style of architecture that would enhance the Rheem Shopping Center, with the point being made that by using an adaptation of the Spanish-Colonial style such as Saint Mary's College, the tie-in would make the short distance between the two locations cohesive.

Given the additional feedback from the council, Hamid stated that the team would continue to explore topics such as the impact of noise to units living above retail; public and private open space requirements; bicycle storage criteria; landscaping; and architectural style.

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Special election to allow Orinda residents to vote on a new school parcel tax

By Sora O'Doherty

The only polls open in Contra Costa County on March 7 will be in Orinda, where residents will be able to vote on a new proposed parcel tax of \$295 per parcel to support Orinda schools. The new tax would last for seven years and is anticipated to provide somewhat over \$2 million per year for the schools. In order to pass, the measure needs to receive two-thirds of the votes cast. Persons over the age of 65 may opt for a waiver and not pay the tax. Because it is a special election, the Orinda Union School Board will have to bear the expense of the election, but this is common for school financing matters.

As is often heard at OUSD meetings, Orinda is among the districts receiving the lowest funding from the state of Cali-

fornia. In 2013 the state of California adopted the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) with the object of providing more state funding for districts that inherently had less money, in addition to boosting the money that flowed to school districts that had more English language learners, children from lower income households and foster youth.

Despite low funding from the state, Orinda has received a great deal of additional funding from the community itself. The parcel taxes are in addition to other funding mechanisms, such as bond measures. In addition, local schools raise funds from donations, a field that has recently been brought under the umbrella of ONE Orinda, the Orinda Network for Education, that works with all of the school parent clubs on

fundraising.

According to OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme, the new measure, known as Measure Z, would be added to the existing two measures approved by Orinda voters in 2003 and 2009, neither of which has an end date. Measure A provides the schools with \$385 per parcel and measure B provides an additional \$124 per parcel. If Measure Z passes, Orinda residents would be paying \$804 annually per parcel for school support for the next seven years.

The new parcel tax is intended to maintain core academic instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, arts, music, reading and writing programs by attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers, specialist and staff and preserving small class sizes. The tax will not

fund administrative salaries, and will be subject to an independent citizens' oversight committee.

No argument against the proposed tax was submitted, but an argument in favor of the tax was submitted by State Sen. Steve Glazer, former mayor Sue Severson, and representatives of ONE and several parents and grandparents of Orinda students.

Polls will be open on election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Santa Maria Church and St. Stephens Episcopal Church. In addition, ballots may be dropped into official ballot drop boxes located at Orinda City Hall and the Contra Costa Department of Elections in Martinez. The elections department expects to have final results of the election available by March 17.

Orinda takes return to in-person meetings slowly

By Sora O'Doherty

Mandated by the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency to return to in-person meetings, the Orinda City Council decided on Feb. 21 to proceed slowly with a hybrid option. City Manager David Biggs, who presented the staff report to the council, noted that since he was hired during the pandemic, he has actually never attended an in-person council meeting. While the

council heard and considered options for having a hybrid option to allow members of the public to continue to attend city council meetings via the Zoom meeting platform, the council decided to try simply returning to in-person meetings for the first two meetings in March.

In March, the council will return to its usual meeting place, the Orinda Library Auditorium, with all required staff and council members present in person. The Library Auditorium appeals to the council because it is a very large venue, allowing for the attendance of many people but still permitting a degree of social distancing. Insofar as the continued use of Zoom in that room, however, it is complicated, according to Biggs and City Clerk Sheri Smith, by the fact that the venue is used by many groups for a variety of events, which means that the technical equipment cannot be left in place but needs to be reinstalled each time it is needed.

As an alternative, the council considered holding meetings in the Sarge Littlehale room, a smaller venue at city hall where there would

be less difficulty with the equipment. Currently the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been holding hybrid Zoom meetings from the Sarge Room, as it is known. However, Mayor Inga Miller was concerned about the smaller size of the room making social distancing difficult and making it less attractive to groups who would like to attend the meetings, for example, Scout troops who might like to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Darlene Gee said that while she has no problem starting back in the Sarge Room, she didn't favor it for the long term. She suggested that participation via Zoom has not been very high during the pandemic and that during the transition data should be collected and evaluated to determine the benefit of hybrid meetings. Council Member Latika Malkani agreed, noting that "the one thing that COVID taught us is that we have to be flexible."

Additionally, the council agreed that it would be a good idea to keep an eye on what other jurisdictions are doing and how it is working out. Council Member Janet Riley

summed it up: "I think we should take baby steps and evaluate it as we go slowly, trying different approaches."

City Attorney Osa Wolff spent some time explaining the possibility of council members attending meetings via Zoom under AB 2449. The new law provides that council members may attend via Zoom under certain circumstances, including in the event of the illness of the council member or a family member, or when the council member is traveling for the business of the council, but not for personal business travel. The procedures are rather complicated, and the council agreed that, while the possibility remains available, as a norm they prefer to simply miss a meeting in the event of illness or absence.

There was no public comment during the meeting, but Steve Cohn submitted a written comment that Zoom had been very helpful to people who might have disabilities involving mobility or hearing and he encouraged the council to continue with Zoom or a similar format.

Spring productions

... continued from Page A1

This year, the "Grease" cast created a TikTok account, and their first video went viral, reaching over 3 million views. "We decided to make a TikTok because we figured it would be a fun way for the cast to bond. We also thought it was a good way to publicize the show because many people have worked very hard to bring the show together, and it should get all the attention it deserves," said senior Sabrina Hernandez, who plays Betty Rizzo.

The cast is extremely excited for performances to begin. "I feel very proud of the show we've created. I would say that our cast has a

special bond, and we've all gotten very close over the past few months. When the show is over, I will miss playing Danny since it's grown to be one of my favorite roles. We hope to see you at Rydell High!" Aguilar said.

Acalanes's musical, "Legally Blonde," is set at a much more prestigious school: Harvard University. From March 22-25, Acalanes' theater will be home to the bubbly and sharp-witted Elle Woods – played by junior Lux Downing Griggs – and the charming and well-read Emmett Forrest – played by sophomore Cameron Zeder. Supported by her Delta Nu sorority sisters, Elle Woods chases the man of her dreams to Harvard, embarking on a journey of self-discovery which involves eventful visits to the beauty salon, many Harvard law lectures, and innumerable moments of female empowerment.

The show is directed by Hawkins, who teaches at both Miramonte and Acalanes, and drama teacher Edward Meehan. Like "Grease," "Legally Blonde" is led by

teacher directors, but is fully student produced. "All of our performers have been working very hard to fine-tune their acting, singing, and dancing. In addition, our directors, pit orchestra, stagecraft team, and costume designers have been putting in so much hard work. Everyone involved in "Legally Blonde" cares a lot about how the show will turn out," junior Monty Gumabay, who plays Professor Callahan, said.

Now, the only thing these performances need is an audience. "When we have a live audience in front of us, they bring the energy, the reactions, the applause, and the laughter, which is the last piece of the puzzle," Hawkins said.

Whether joining the newsies in their strike against newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, driving around with the greasers in the automatic, systematic, and hydromatic Greased Lighting, or hanging out with Bruiser at the Old Valley Mall – or all three – come out and support these talented high schoolers!

Ticket information: For Miramonte's show, "Grease," visit www.showtix4u.com/event-details/70947. For Campolindo's show, "Newsies," visit <http://campochoir.com/tickets/>. Acalanes ticket sales open March 6 at www.ahsperformingarts.org.



City Council
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 7 6:00 p.m.
Planning Comm.:
 Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.

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Three-restaurant complex to be developed on old Bank of America site



Rendering provided

By Sora O'Doherty

The Bank of America building in Orinda Village, which has sat empty for some years now, will be redeveloped to house three new restaurants with a shared raised deck overlooking San Pablo Creek and business offices on the second floor. The project, which was enthusiastically approved by the Orinda Planning Commission on Feb. 14, will be the new location of the business offices of Paymun, the real estate development firm partnering with Mo Mashhoon of Mash Petroleum on the new project.

Paymun will be moving from 25 Orinda Way to occupy the second floor at 31 Orinda Way, the site of the new project; 25 Orinda Way is in contract, recently sold to a food production company to be used as its corporate headquarters, according to Bahadour (Ben) Zarrin, Paymun's Chief Executive Officer. Although the existing building is only one story, a second floor is included in the plans for the new development.

Mashhoon and Zarrin,

along with Ali Mashhoon, Mash Petroleum Senior Manager, recently met with Lamorinda Weekly to discuss the project. The three businessmen are excited by the prospect of a destination where they envision Orinda residents dropping by for morning coffee, lunch or dinner, and hanging out, enjoying the outdoor seating and visiting with friends and neighbors.

Although it was noted when the project was considered by the Planning Commission that under recent laws, the project does not require any parking, the property currently has 33 to 34 parking spaces which will be retained. Now that the project has been approved by the Planning Commission, the job moves into engineering and sanitation planning. The partners aim to submit final plans for construction soon and hope to begin construction this summer, with the site opening for business in 2024. They have already interviewed over 40 potential tenants for the remaining business offices on the second

floor and the three downstairs restaurant sites.

The Mashhoons and Zarrin all live in Wilder, and have completed a number of successful projects in Orinda. Zarrin has built a number of residences in Wilder, in addition to residences elsewhere in the Bay Area and commercial buildings in Stockton. Mo Mashhoon is the owner of Mash Petroleum and the company's headquarters in the Theatre District was extensively remodeled. Mashhoon also owns Mash Gas on Bryant Way in Orinda and won a Mayor's Award of Excellence in 2020.

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

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MOFD deletes fire code traffic calming restrictions; disagreements still exist

By Sora O'Doherty

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District adopted its new fire code Feb. 15, with the exception that the board of directors agreed to remove a section clarifying the requirements for traffic calming measures. At the introduction of the ordinance, the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda had objected to the provisions, and in response MOFD withdrew them. But MOFD retains the authority to authorize, or reject, any traffic calming measures proposed by the town or city. Orinda Director of Public Works Scott Christie confirmed that "we don't believe this has a material impact on how traffic calming requests are processed."

The removed section 503.4.1 had stated that traffic calming devices shall be prohibited in all very high

fire hazard severity zones, and required that all applications for traffic calming devices provide information on the volume of traffic, the posted speed limit, the number of accidents in the previous three years attributed to excessive speed, the traffic engineer's determination that the site is suitable for traffic calming, the number of citations or warnings issued, as well as summaries of education and enforcement efforts.

At the Feb. 15 meeting, it was decided that, following further discussions with either the Orinda-MOFD 2x2 committee or direct discussions with staff or elected officials, one of several options could be adopted. One option would be to issue a blanket permit to the city and the town for traffic calming measures other than speed bumps, speed humps and tabletops, that is,

any physical alteration to the roadway that would substantially alter the speed over which fire and emergency vehicles could travel on that road. Other options include exempting such non-physical traffic calming measures or issuing ministerial permits upon application by the city or town.

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs confirmed to Lamorinda Weekly that MOFD will proceed with an internal policy on traffic calming measures. Whenever the city or town wishes to approve a physical traffic calming measure, it has to submit a permit, to which, Isaacs said, the MOFD will apply language in a standard operating procedure. The MOFD is concerned about the effect of traffic calming measures on fire engines and ambulances, as well as upon evacuations during emergency situations.

Orinda Mayor Inga Miller has expressed to the MOFD board the city's belief that the ability to have traffic calming measures are important for pedestrian safety and bicycle safety. Orinda City Manager David Biggs submitted written comment to the MOFD board expressing the city's views that traffic calming opportunities are of tremendous value to the council and our neighborhoods. He wrote that the city council requested that the board consider alternatives to an outright ban and would like to engage with the fire district to ensure that there is a shared understanding of what types of devices are covered, there is a process to consider exceptions to any type of ban, and that fire related considerations be balanced against other public safety concerns including traffic.

Mayor Mike, Citizen of the Year - diplomacy, patience and grace under pressure

... continued from Page A3

And he plays golf with a group called the Blind Squirrels. "We're not very good, but even blind squirrels can find an acorn every now and then," he says.

Says Srivatsa, "Thank you for your countless contributions to Lafayette, Mayor Mike!"

The 2023 Citizen of the Year Dinner Honoring Mike Anderson will be held on Friday, March 24 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. Reception with no host bar from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Evening ends at 9 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website:

<https://cca.lafayettechamber.org/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=CALAF&evtid=82038&class=B>

Letters to the editor

Ways to consume less

Remember your 3 R's? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But there are actually more R's! Rethink before you purchase or consume something to see if you really need said item, or see if you can do without (Refuse!) If you need it, see if you can borrow from a friend or neighbor (try out our local Buy Nothing Lafayette groups!) or even rent from a local business. If you cannot, then maybe Reduce your consumption of the item. Reuse, Refill, Repair/Repurpose as much as you can to prolong the uses of the item. Ultimately, at the end of its life, find a way to responsibly Recycle or Rot (i.e. compost). From grocery bags, coffee cups, water bottles, utensils to even bigger items like smart phones, TV's, and furniture... swap to reusable, high-quality alternatives or make do with what you already have!

Thanks to California laws like AB619, customers are allowed to bring their own containers and cups to businesses to be filled with food/beverage items. So the next time you stop by a business to order coffee or boba, bring your own (BYO) cup or jar! You might even score a small discount for doing a good deed (thank you Starbucks!) The Contra Costa County Health department is supportive of customers bringing their own containers, and you can even hear it directly from them in this webinar hosted by the Lafayette Chamber given May 2022: <https://lafayettechamber.org/reusables/> (scroll to 19:53). To learn more about how customers and businesses can work together to make BYO mainstream, you can look to these really cool graphics at this website: <https://www.canadareduces.ca/health>.

Shout out to Lilikoi Boba in downtown Lafayette who is totally cool with me bringing my own KleanKanteen cup for filling up with boba milk tea. They serve beverages in 16oz and 20oz cups, so know your cup or jar's dimensions beforehand to help out the employee serving you! Many of us have conditioned to BYO reusable bags when grocery shop-

ping. Let's expand that to BYO cups, containers, and utensils!

Nancy Hu DDS
Lafayette

In support of Measure Z

Orinda has great schools because we have great teachers. My 7th grade and 10th grade children have had veteran teachers that have taught in Orinda for many years and also young professionals that bring energy and new ideas to the classroom. Keeping great teachers in Orinda classrooms is the single most important thing we can do to keep our schools among the best.

My parents moved to Orinda for the great schools in 1975 and my sister and I attended Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Intermediate and then Miramonte. The number one reason I returned to Orinda to raise my children is the great Orinda public schools.

Orinda students move on to high school, college and careers prepared for success. However, Orinda teachers are among the lowest paid in our area and Orinda increasingly loses qualified and experienced teachers to other school districts that offer more competitive compensation.

Voting YES on Z provides locally controlled funding directly to Orinda's elementary schools and intermediate school to make Orinda schools less dependent on Sacramento for funding.

Whether you are like me and have kids in Orinda schools now or you had kids in the schools in the past, we all benefit from maintaining quality education in our community.

By Tuesday, March 7th, join me in finding your ballot and voting YES on Measure Z to keep great teachers in Orinda.

Dana Wentworth
Orinda Union Alum
Sleepy Hollow & Orinda Intermediate
Parent

Measure Z is fiscally sound

As a former Certified Public Accountant (CPA), I always do my homework on any funding measure before casting my vote. I know a fiscally sound plan when I see one, and Measure Z is just that.

Voting YES on Z provides locally controlled funding directly to Orinda's elementary schools and intermediate school to make Orinda schools less dependent on Sacramento for funding, while annual audits and independent citizens' oversight will ensure that funds are spent responsibly and as promised.

As a 36-year Orinda resident and former OUSD parent, I know what an impact local teachers and schools have on our students' lives and our local quality of life. I've already cast my Yes on Z vote and hope you will join me in doing the same before next Tuesday, March 7.

Bob Burt
36-Year Orinda Resident

Keep great teachers in Orinda with Measure Z

Having recently completed my term on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees, I have watched with concern as a growing number of teachers leave Orinda for other neighboring school districts with more competitive pay. For example, last year 18 teachers left OUSD; there are around 20 teachers at each elementary school, so losing 18 is equivalent to losing an entire Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow or Wagner Ranch teaching staff. Furthermore, over the past four years the district has lost 55 teachers, or almost 40% of the teaching force. While teachers leave for a variety of reasons and it is impossible to know exactly how many leave over salary concerns, clearly OUSD is grappling with a retention problem. In addition, our district is also faced with a recruitment problem because qualified applicants can go to other school districts that offer

more money to new teachers. Many other nearby districts give higher starting salaries as well as signing bonuses for new hires. Currently, we can't compete with these districts financially so we continue to lose potential excellent new teachers to other places.

While I was on the Board I voted to place Measure Z on the ballot because it is the only realistic mechanism we have to recruit and keep the best teachers here in Orinda. We rank near the bottom of all school districts in California with regard to state funding and this funding situation is not going to change anytime soon. Locally controlled funding from Measure Z can only be used to attract and retain teachers, support quality academic programs, and keep class sizes small. By law, funds cannot be taken away by the state or used for administrator salaries.

One of the most important predictors of student success is the teacher in the classroom, and Orinda's teachers are what sets our district apart. The bottom line is that quality teachers are essential for maintaining quality education in Orinda schools. This election is extremely important and Measure Z needs support from two-thirds of voters to pass. Please take the time to find your ballot, mark Yes on Z and mail it back by March 7th. Our kids are counting on us!

Liz Daoust
Former Orinda Union School District Board Member and OUSD Parent

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 for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

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Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
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Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 5 - Feb. 18

Alarms 51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 25
Traffic 102
Suspicious Circumstances 5
Suspicious Subject 23
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 26
Patrol Req./Security Check 37
Public/School Assembly Check 5
Supplemental Report 22
Vacation House Check 12
Welfare Check 9
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
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3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
600 Block Huntleigh Dr.
Reckless Driving
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Reliez Station Rd./Richelle Ct.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Glenside Dr./St Marys Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
Police Department
600 Block Los Palos Dr.
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.
1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./1St St.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Computer Fraud
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
Police Department
900 Block Janet Ln.
1000 Block Orchard Rd.
Grand Theft
900 Block Risa Rd.
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3200 Block Burton Ct.
400 Block Florence Dr.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block Janet Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft Bicycle
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Petty Theft From Veh
3700 Block Highland Rd.
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Residential Burglary
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Theft Access Card
3200 Block Park Ln.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
900 Block Risa Rd.
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
800 Block Reliez Station Rd.
Loud Music
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Loud Noise
Glen Rd./Monticello Rd.
Public Nuisance
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
1100 Block Sunset Lp.
Happy Valley Rd./Wb Sr 24
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

Other
Attempted Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
H&S Violation
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Harassment
3300 Block Sweet Dr.
Threats
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
800 Block Revere Rd.
Violation Custody Order
Police Department
Violation Restraining Order
Police Department



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 5 - Feb. 18

Alarms	31
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	180
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	8
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	37
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
100 Block Crest View Dr.	
Orchard Ct./Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
10 Block Van Tassel Ln.	
Carjacking	
Orinda Way	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
70 Block Moraga Way	
Fireworks	
Ivy Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Camino Pablo	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.	
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way	
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Ivy Dr.	
Orinda Way	
Tc - Property Damage	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft From Veh
Orinda Way
Identity Theft
70 Block Southwood Dr.
10 Block Las Aromas
Petty Theft
Camino Sobrante
Orinda Way
Residential Burglary
40 Block Hillcrest Dr.
10 Block Northwood Ct.
20 Block Miner Rd.
Shoplift
Camino Sobrante
Warrant Arrest
60 Block Oak Rd.
Camino Pablo Before Claremont Ave.
Nuisance to the Community
Public Nuisance
Camino Pablo Bart Path
Theatre Square
10 Block Theatre Sq.
Vandalism
20 Block Orinda Way
Vandalism - Felony
500 Block Tahos Rd.
Other
Mentally Ill Commit
Police Department
Happy Valley Rd./Orinda View Rd.
Transient Contact
Theatre Square
Violation Custody Order
300 Block La Espiral

Our Community Values Our Local Schools

Dear Neighbor,

While all of our children are grown and no longer attend Orinda schools, we are proud that our community places a high value on quality education. However, out of over 1,000 school districts in California, OUSD consistently ranks in the bottom ten in per student funding.

Orinda teachers are among the lowest paid in our area and Orinda increasingly loses qualified and experienced teachers to San Ramon and other school districts that offer more competitive compensation.

By Tuesday, please join us in voting Yes on Z to keep great teachers in Orinda classrooms and protect quality education for Orinda students.

Even if you are like us and don't have school-age children, improving local schools is a wise investment. Good schools protect our quality of life and improve our home values. Additionally, to ensure this measure is not a burden to those of us on fixed incomes, Measure Z offers a full exemption from the cost for senior homeowners, aged 65 and over.

Please join us in showing that our community values quality education for local students. By March 7, find your ballot and vote Yes on Z to keep great teachers in Orinda schools.

Sincerely,

Amy Worth
Former Orinda Mayor
& 40-year Orinda Resident

Pat Rudebusch
Former OUSD Trustee
& 27-year Orinda Resident

Sue Severson
Former Orinda Mayor & OUSD Trustee
& 44-year Orinda Resident

David Fay
Former Orinda Mayor
& 27-year Orinda Resident

Carol Brown
Former OUSD Trustee
& 31-year Orinda Resident

Stuart House
Former OUSD Director of Facilities
& 18-year Orinda Resident



Join Us in Voting Yes on Z!

Organizations

- Orinda Educators' Association
- Orinda Network for Education (ONE)
- Del Rey Parents' Club
- Glorietta Parents' Club
- Miramonte Parents' Club
- Orinda Intermediate School Parents' Club
- Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club
- Wagner Ranch Parents' Club
- AUHSD Governing Board
- Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Christina Linezo Real Estate

Elected Officials

- Steve Glazer, State Senator
- Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, State Assemblymember
- Don Perata, Fmr. State Senate President Pro Tem
- Candace Andersen, CoCo County Supervisor
- Sarah Butler, CoCo County Board of Education
- Inga Miller, Mayor
- Darlene Gee, Vice Mayor
- Brandyn Iverson, Councilmember
- Latika Malkani, Councilmember
- Janet Riley, Councilmember
- Laura Abrams, Fmr. Mayor
- Dennis Fay, Fmr. Mayor
- Joyce Hawkins, Fmr. Mayor
- Bill Judge, Fmr. Mayor
- Tom McCormick, Fmr. Mayor
- Sue Severson, Fmr. Mayor
- Victoria Smith, Fmr. Mayor
- Amy Worth, Fmr. Mayor
- Nick Kosla, Fmr. Councilmember
- Hillary Weiner, OUSD Board President
- Cara Hoxie, OUSD Board VP
- Edda Collins Coleman, OUSD Board
- Eve Phillips, OUSD Board
- Katie Shogan, OUSD Board
- Carol Brown, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Liz Daoust, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Nancy Kaible, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Jason Kaune, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Linda Landau, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Julie Rossiter, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Pat Rudebusch, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Riki Sorenson, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Clark Wallace, Fmr. OUSD Board
- Christopher Severson, AUHSD Board
- Vanessa Crews, Fmr. AUHSD Board
- Susie Epstein, Fmr. AUHSD Board
- Steven Danziger, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director
- Alex Evans, Fmr. Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chair

Community Leaders

- Scott M. Adams
- Belinda Adams-Walker
- Rahul Aggarwal
- Joanna Allen
- Andy & Carole Amstutz
- Andrew Anagnost
- Sandy & Dave Anderson
- Sarah Anderson
- Ashley Appel
- Kristin Avicelli
- DeEtte Baise
- Deepa Bangalore
- Scott & Stephanie Barmmer
- Sandy Barnett
- A.R. Bassa
- Todd & Amy Berryhill
- Renee Bertenthal
- Patrice Bilello
- Allison Bingham
- Diane Bode
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- Olivia Brown
- Annie Burgess
- Dianna Burns
- Robert Burt
- Natalie Lacuesta Byrum
- Catherine Campbell
- Elisa Carpenter
- Mindy Carrington
- Amanda Catanesi
- Patricia Cetrone
- Molly Chapman
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- Sara Cherry
- Gretchen Chevalier
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- Niall Conway
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- Erica Damianakes
- Mark Daoust
- Susheel Daswani
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- Jennifer Dodd
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- Natalie Fay
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- M'Liss Greenlee
- Jess Greer
- Chunyan Gu
- Rahul Gupta
- Kitty Guptill
- Cherise Gutierrez
- Lowell Haky
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- Jud Hammon
- Lori Hardy
- Steve & Tish Harwood
- Chris & Lisa Haskell
- Pete & Helen Hasselman
- Liz Headley

- Charles & Eva Heath
- Matt Helder
- Stephanie Helder
- Jodi L. Helffenstein
- Duke & Jill Herrero
- Kristin Hilty
- Vickie Hilty
- Kendra Hoffman
- Christina Holling
- Stuart House
- Stacy Howard
- Mary Howe
- Shelley & Bob Hubner
- Jill Hughes
- Mark Hurst
- Landon Hyles
- Marc Jacuzzi
- Nathan Jaskowiak
- Elisabeth Jewell
- Jane Ji
- Debra Jockisch
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- Ron Keller
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- Stephanie Kreutzer
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- Craig Larsen
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- Hana Lindberg

- Christina Linezo
- Dr. Nicola Longmuir
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- Carlie Magill
- The Mains Family
- Srilakshmi Makkenna
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- Rodney Mangus
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- Wayne Phillips
- Marcella Place
- The Plackter Family
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- Terry Pollack
- Julia Prinzi

- Will Prinzi
- Shawna Puljiz
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- Brian Rogers
- Taylor Rosa
- Dylan Rosenberg
- Juliane Rossiter
- Lisa Rudolph
- Gabriel Sable
- Sarah Sable
- Amy Sabol
- Marshall Sachs
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- Abby Sanchez
- Elizabeth Sarica
- Joel Schaffer
- Mary Ellen & Charlie Schneider
- Terry Schrittwieser
- Tracee Schultz
- Natalie Schutzman
- Lisa & Steve Sernett
- Charles Shannon
- Howard & Joyce Shao
- Joel Sheiman
- Bella Shirin

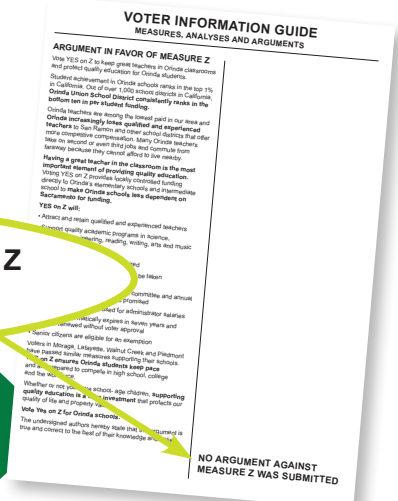
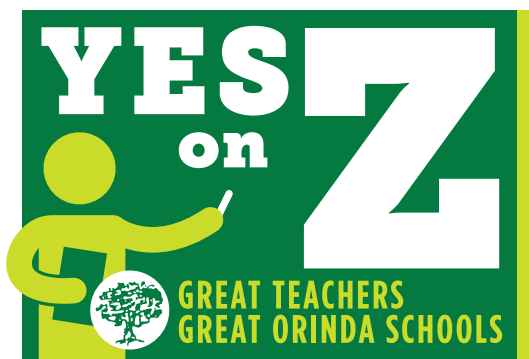
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- Caitlin Stahle
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- Heather Swedeen
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- Bridgette Thomas
- Heather Tiraschi
- Kristan Torres
- Kelly Trestrail
- Michelle Trosclair
- Kelsey Tu
- Mark & Marcie Tuttle
- Ted & Lida Urban
- Karen Ursino
- Haavar Valeur
- Natalie Valeur
- Alison Waterman
- Susan B. Wecht
- Dana Wentworth
- Janai West
- Richard Westin
- Richard Winefield
- Deanna Wood
- Tom Worth
- Shauna Yeager
- Ellen Zapalac & Tony Foster

Partial list. Titles for identification purposes only.

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Z WAS SUBMITTED

There are usually two sides to every argument, but check your ballot book...
There is no argument against Measure Z.

By March 7, Vote Yes on Z:
Local Students Are Counting on You





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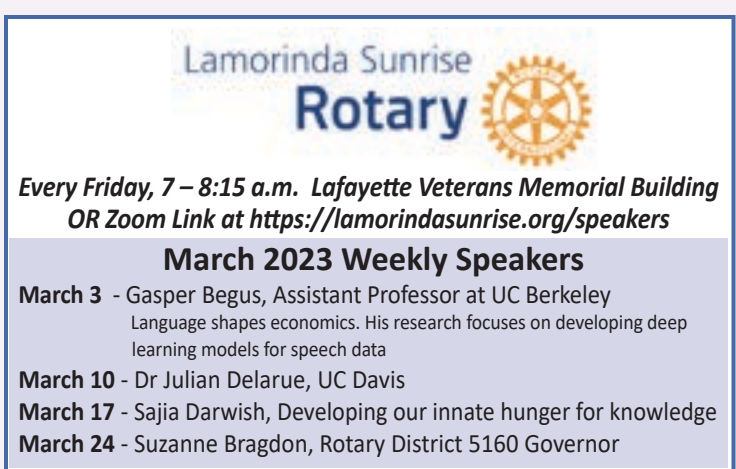
Public Notice

Sara Brent Giordani is legally changing her name to Sara Brent Hall.

Help keep our local animals wild, especially coyotes.

It's mating season for coyotes and they are more active, including during daylight hours. Absolutely do not feed them, as it will likely result in aggressiveness. Precautions include not leaving dog and cat food outdoors. Children, adults and pets all thank you.

Service Clubs Announcements



Every Friday, 7-8:15 a.m. Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
OR Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>


March 2023 Weekly Speakers

March 3 - Gasper Begus, Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley
Language shapes economics. His research focuses on developing deep learning models for speech data

March 10 - Dr Julian Delarue, UC Davis

March 17 - Sajia Darwish, Developing our innate hunger for knowledge

March 24 - Suzanne Bragdon, Rotary District 5160 Governor



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SUMMER CAMPS 2023

17th Annual Summer Camp Guide

25,000 copies printed and delivered to homes and business in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

- **March 15** featuring listings of spring and full day summer camps, **Deadline March 1**
- **April 12** featuring a listing of half day summer camps & classes, **Deadline March 29**
- **May 10** short listing of all camps, **Deadline April 26**

Advertise Your Camp, Reserve Your Space Today
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SMC welcomes two new art exhibits



Jacob Lawrence "The Opener" 1997

Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Two new exhibits opened at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art as of Feb. 15: "Jacob Lawrence: Three Series of Prints" and "From the Ground Up," which highlights the work of Louis Siegriest.

Upon entering the museum, guests will first experience the Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) exhibit. Using an expressive and abstract style, the artist, according to the Washington State Arts Commission, "explores the human condition, the African American experience, American history, and themes of social justice."

Lawrence once described his own work by saying, "When the subject is strong, simplicity is the only way to treat it." His three series of prints include the topics: Toussaint L'Ouverture; Genesis; and Hiroshima.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Lawrence spent his early years in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem. Immersing himself in several art courses, thanks to scholarships, he became the first African American artist included in the New York Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. Teaching art at several schools and universities until 1971, he went on to accept a full-time faculty position with the University of Washington in Seattle where he retired as a professor emeritus in 1983. Along the way, Lawrence received several awards including the Spingarn Medal (1970), the NAACP Annual Great Black Artists Award (1988), and the National Medal of Arts (1990).

Lawrence's Toussaint L'Ouverture series depicts the life of the Haitian revolutionary leader, born in 1743, as a slave. L'Ouverture eventually became commander-in-chief of the revolutionary army while leading efforts to create the country's first democratic constitution in 1800. Arrested by Napoleon Bonaparte's troops in 1802, he was imprisoned in Paris and died a year later. Unfortunately, he never saw a predominantly black Haiti become the second republic in the Western Hemisphere during 1804. "If these people, who were so much worse off than the people of today, could conquer slavery," stated Lawrence, "we can certainly do the same thing."

The exhibition's curator, Peter Nesbett, noted, "These prints are based on 41 paintings from a series which was completed in 1938. The paintings were executed in tem-

and to completely destroy our planet Earth, with all its life and beauty?" commented Lawrence. "How could we develop such creative minds and, at the same time, develop such a destructive instrument? Only God knows the answer. Let us hope that someday at some time, He will give us the answer to this very perplexing question."

The second exhibit, "From the Ground Up," features 22 works by Oakland artist Louis Siegriest (1899-1980), along with art by his colleagues from the Society of Six. The paintings range from his early "plein-air" works to his later efforts with asphalt and gypsum.

During the 1920s, the Society of Six (other Bay Area artists) practiced avant-garde approaches to painting with bold and bright colors captured outdoors in the daylight. The works depicted scenes in California.

"Often Siegriest is understood and heavily associated with his early role in the Society of Six, but it's important to remember he was only a teenager then," stated the exhibit's curator Britt Royer. "He continued to paint well into the 1980s, and unlike other group members, his paintings reflect a distinct divisional growth. This exhibition contextualizes Siegriest's exploration of landscape, honing into the meaning of place and how as an artist Siegriest refines his practice."

An interesting note to Siegriest's resume was that during World War II he worked as a camouflage artist. From an aerial perspective, he would assess buildings and determine the necessary patterns and colors needed to conceal them within their surrounding landscape. This helped him in his depiction of land with regards to his paintings. "I saw things with a different view than I had before," he stated. It gave him the ability to use an abstract pattern as the base to almost all of his future works. With this shift in his perspective, the 1950s saw Siegriest use thin layers of gypsum, asphalt, and even plain-old dirt in his more abstract creations.

SMC's Museum of Art (1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga) is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free. For more information visit: www.stmarys-ca-edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379.



Louis Siegriest "Planets in Motion" 1966

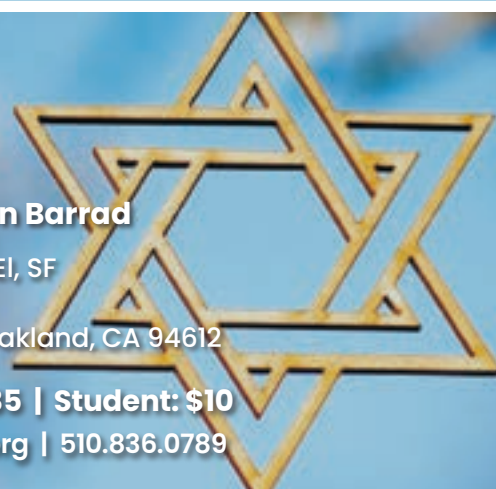
Ernest Bloch's SACRED SERVICE

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General Admission: \$40 | Senior: \$35 | Student: \$10
 Tickets & information: cantareconvivo.org | 510.836.0789



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Final farewell performances planned for Gold Coast Chamber Players



Photo provided

Sakura Cello Quintet: Cellists Stella Cho, Michael Kaufman, Yoshika Matsuda, Peter Myers, and Nathan Chan (guest)

By Lou Fancher

For 35 magical seasons, Gold Coast Chamber Players founder, Artistic Director and violist Pamela Freund-Striplen has brought vibrant, high caliber chamber music concerts and top tier musicians to the East Bay. After launching Gold Coast in grand homes in Alameda and appearing in small- and large-scale venues throughout the Bay Area, Freund-Striplen's effervescent energy and immersive programs—immensely instructive but never pedantic—enriched the Lafayette community with an ongoing series at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Freund-Striplen will conclude the thematic-specific concerts at the end of the 2022-23 season. The March 11 concert, "Cello Extravaganza," is presented in partnership with the Bay Area Music Consortium and features the SAKURA Cello Quintet, whose members are Stella Cho, Michael Kaufman, Yoshika Matsuda, Peter Myers and guest cellist Nathan Chan. The all-cello program is robust, with works by Faure, Dvořák, Falla, Peter Myers, Debussy, Joe Hisaishi, Britten, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Chick Corea.

The final concert on April 15, "Souvenir," showcases Freund-Striplen joined by Brendan Speltz, violin; Connie Kupka, violin; Luke Fleming, viola; Andrew Janss, cello; and David Speltz, cello. The program includes Beethoven's Duo "Eyeglasses" for viola and cello; F.A. Kummer's "Cello Duo #1 in C Major, Op.22;" Mozart's "Quintet in G minor, k. 516;" and Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70."

The performances are preceded by an always-intriguing pre-concert talk presented 30 minutes prior to the 7:30 p.m. "curtain time," led by Freund-Striplen or other musicians involved in the performance, who offer expert insights into the historic and cultural environment within which the program's works were composed and first performed.

About the origins of the cello quintet program, Freund-Striplen said, "A founding member of Sakura, Peter Myers, has performed with GCCP several times and that led me to find out about his cello quintet. I've always been a fan of groups of celli: the range and singing quality is so rich. Once we had eight cellos in a concert and it was simply amazing!"

Most of the works on the wide-ranging program are arranged for cello quintet by Sakura and demonstrate a variety of music styles. Brilliant contrasts in texture and tone—not to mention rhythm, timbre, and balance in the cello voices—are evident to anyone comparing Dvořák's "Silent Woods" to Corea's "Spain" to Schubert's "Erk König," and so on. "Dvorak is my favorite composer and 'Silent Woods' is a great example of why (that is true)," Freund-Striplen said. "From the very first notes, I feel my heart is breaking. Gold Coasters know Dvorak is included in almost every season."

Freund-Striplen first heard Schubert's "Erk König" while a student at Oberlin Conservatory. "My friends and I became obsessed with the original version for baritone and piano. You don't have to read the poem it's based on to feel the excitement of the chase by the supernatural. We'd listen to it over and over, even at parties. We were true music nerds."

The selections for the final concert hold significance for the ensemble but also, importantly, for audiences who have long treasured the unique access they have had to Gold Coast's first class musicians in the library's intimate, small space.

Former Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk, after learning Freund-Striplen will wrap up annual seasons and move on from Gold Coast, wrote on social media: "This is the day I dreaded—but I knew it would eventually come. What you've done in and for Lafayette, Pamela, is nothing short of remarkable, and I've long been proud to tell people about the sophisticated and

elegant music and programming you've delivered to our community. Your basic message: the good stuff isn't owned by the big city; we can do that here, too! And you did. With joy. With young people. With national and international stars. With challenging and interesting repertoire. With intention and integrity. You are one of a kind, Pam, and I bow down now to honor you and the work you've done."

The "Souvenir" program includes what she calls "favorite gems in the chamber music repertoire." Designed as a blockbuster end to the season, she had no idea when she curated the program that it would be the collective's last concert. "The title is a poignant coincidence," she said. "Tchaikovsky's epic 'Souvenir de Florence' will blow the walls down and will be a joyous way to finish."

Reflecting on the group's history and legacy, she said, "I hope our legacy is about building community through music. By creating an adventurous concert series with an international reputation, GCCP became part of the fabric of my community. We provided not just employment, but a place for musicians to really create meaningful work. Also, our educational programs have reached hundreds of students throughout the Bay Area. A former student of mine, now a Campolindo High School sophomore, just formed Young Chamber Players, a student led chamber music organization and a real passing of the torch."

As for Freund-Striplen's specific plans and her next chapter as a professional musician, she said, "I'll be concentrating on special projects with social impact, like 'Cultural Crossroads' from Gold Coast's last season. I'm excited about taking it to a national and maybe even an international audience. I still love performing and curating and will see where my imagination takes me. I'm also going to do some consulting to help others design concerts in their communities."

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Look for our 17th annual Summer Camp Guide on March 15th

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These delicious heart healthy crackers pack a protein-rich punch



Nordic Seed Crackers

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

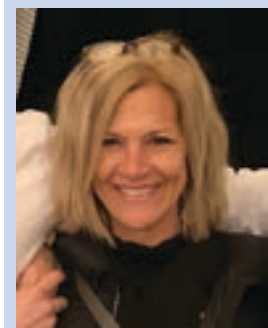
We were a little late to the seed cracker party, since no one in our family is sensitive to gluten, but I was intrigued by a package of them at a local cheese shop, and decided to give them a try. I love seeds and nuts of all kinds, but had never had a cracker full of them. They were so incredibly delicious and, naturally, I decided to make my own version at home. Once you've tasted these, you'll wonder where they've been all of your life! This game changer just so happened to coincide with a family member needing to be on a heart-healthy diet, so we were all really happy to learn of the many health benefits of these crackers. Even the arrowroot, which is used as a thickening agent to bind the seeds together, is supposed to be good for the heart!

Arrowroot powder is comprised of starches from the arrowroot plant – maranta arundinacea. It's gluten-

free, odorless and tasteless, so besides thickening things up, you hardly know it's there at all. It can also be a good substitute for cornstarch, and while some say to use 2 teaspoons of arrowroot for every tablespoon of cornstarch, I use it in a 1:1 ratio. Arrowroot powder has twice the thickening power of wheat flour. It also contains potassium, an essential electrolyte important to heart health. That sure sounds good to us!

While we are super excited about arrowroot as a thickening agent, all of the nuts and seeds in these crackers are also protein-rich, have essential minerals and antioxidants, and contain no cholesterol. But, have we mentioned how delicious they taste? That's our primary objective when we create recipes, but having healthy benefits is important, too.

You should be able to find most of these seeds at your local market or health food store. If you cannot find all of them, just substitute with another seed that you like.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup sesame seeds black or white or a mixture
1/4 cup chia seeds
1/3 cup hemp seeds
1/2 cup raw pepitas
1/2 cup sunflower seeds (can be raw or roasted, salted or unsalted)
1/2 cup flaxseeds
1/2 tsp. sea salt or pink Himalayan salt
4 tbsp. olive oil
1/3 cup arrowroot powder
3/4 cup boiling water
Pink or sea salt grinder for the top of the crackers

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 275 F. Line a 13x18 baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside. Mix all of the seeds in a large mixing bowl. Stir in salt and arrowroot powder to blend. Add olive oil and mix well. Pour in boiling water and blend well. Allow to sit for 10 minutes to thicken.

Spread the mixture out evenly on the prepared baking sheet, smoothing it out with an off-set spatula. Be sure to get the mixture to cover the baking sheet from side to side and end to end in a thin layer. If the spatula gets sticky, run it under hot water and continue the process.

Season the top of the seed mixture lightly with a salt grinder.

Bake for 90 minutes, turning the baking sheet halfway through the baking. The sheet of crackers should be a beautiful golden-brown. Remove from oven and cool completely before breaking it into the cracker-size pieces.

We like to break the sheet into larger chunks until we're ready to serve them. This keeps them from crumbling too much. But, not to worry, the crumbs make excellent salad toppers!

Store in an airtight container in the pantry.

Acalanes DAR awards scholarships to local middle and high school students



Photo provided

From left: Regent Mary Carrillo, American History winners Sophia Zarhouni, Atlee Hamilton, Benjamin Serrano, Good Citizen winner Shannen Swartz, co-chair Sarah Gorham, Good Citizen winners Caitly Ellis, and Jack Ficken, and co-chair Susan Bourne.

Submitted by Louise Diracles

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored three middle school students for their submissions to this year's DAR American History Essay contest, and four senior high students selected by their schools as this year's DAR Good Citizen winners. A High Tea and Award Ceremony was held Feb. 4, hosted by Chapter Members who set the tables with their personal china and served delicious home-made tea sandwiches, cookies, fruit, and other sweets.

All seven students were recognized and provided with scholarships and certificates. Additionally, the American History winners were awarded monetary awards, gift cards and personalized reusable chalkboards decorated with flags.

The senior high students were

awarded a U.S. flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in their honor.

The American History essay winners were Benjamin Serrano in first place, Atlee Hamilton placing second, and Sophia Zarhouni placing third. All three read their winning essays to the group.

Campolindo High School's Good Citizen, Katherine Pflieger, was the Acalanes Chapter's essay winner. The other Good Citizen winners were Jack Ficken from Bentley School, Shannen Swartz from Contra Costa Christian School, and Caitlyn Ellis from Las Lomas who read their essays.

The Acalanes Chapter Members are delighted to reward these remarkable students, and we wish them well as they continue on their life's journey. They are our future!

Boys Team Charity and Lamorinda Village provide storm help to Village seniors

Submitted by Helen Gough

Boys team Charity joined a small group of volunteers from Lamorinda Village providing aid to elders whose homes were endangered by flooding due to the heavy rainfall in January. The volunteers filled, delivered, and installed over 50 sandbags. Lamorinda Village is a nonprofit whose goal is to support seniors who wish to age in place by matching them with volunteers. Boys Team Charity Orinda and Lamorinda are local chapters of a national service organization comprised of young volunteers and their parents who work together to provide aid within their communities.

The teens from BTC and their families went above and beyond to help the seniors prepare for the onslaught of rain, going to multiple locations to find bags and sand and even purchasing bags of soil to use for sandbags. Village member Angie Bailie wrote after the storms to say, "Dave and I cannot thank Vanessa and her family enough for their help. They brought us eight very large bags of bark in an attempt to alleviate some flooding in my garage before the next big storm. Their help could not have come at a better time. The boys were polite, friendly and

worked very hard to help in the entire process. We also want Lamorinda Village, BTC, anyone else who needs to know how very grateful we were to receive this help from such a lovely family doing such good to help others!"



Henry Hunt

Photo Craig Hunt



Cameron Imberg

Photo Angie Bailie

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA. 25,000 printed copies; delivered to homes in Lamorinda.

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Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Scout Troop 303 hosts Open House for boys and girls



Photo Angelica Steinmeier

Troop 303 Scouts camped on Tomales Beach in Point Reyes National Seashore for two nights. Six fought wind and current to bring oysters back from Hog Island Oyster to camp. From left: Aimee Steinmeier, Ira Manav, Gunn Young Kim, Brandyn Iverson, Camille Peterson, Orion Filippenko, Capri Filippenko and Collin Finegan.

Submitted by Angelica Steinmeier

Orinda Troop 303 would like to invite children ages 11-18 to join us for adventure and discovery. Scouts in our troop are encouraged to organize and lead outings. They learn valuable life skills, mentor younger scouts and ex-

plore interests and hobbies with friends. Our troops will be hosting an Open House at 7:30 p.m. March 27 at St Stephen's Episcopal Church (66 St. Stephens Dr., Orinda). Students fifth grade and up are welcome to attend.

For more information, please email troop303g@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://www.troopweb-host.org/Troop303Orinda> for details.

Troop 204 honors new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Submitted by Matt Adler

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor four scouts who achieved the Eagle Scout Rank at the Troop's 70th Eagle Court of Honor at St. Perpetua Church on March 18. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 14 Eagle required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. In addition to the requirements above, these Troop 204 Eagle Scouts participated in the annual 50 mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on an eight-day trip.

Ben Adler of Lafayette, a junior at Acalanes High School, worked with Napa and Sonoma to restore the habitat of the barn owl population by building 30 owl boxes. These boxes will be placed in both areas to restore worn out homes, or homes destroyed by wildfires.

Andrew Baxter of Walnut Creek, a

junior at Las Lomas High School, collected over 100 pairs of running shoes to be distributed by One World Running to support the charity in their mission to bring people closer together through running.

Antonio Godwin of Lafayette, a senior at Acalanes High School, led a donation drive to collect new and used soccer equipment to be sent to a mission in Mexico through an orphanage organization called Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos.

Milan Reimer of Lafayette, a junior at De La Salle High School, led a group of volunteers to refurbish the four baseball dugouts at Stanley Middle School. The group sanded and repainted the benches and backstops and built four removable bat and helmet racks with the goal of encouraging more kids to experience the joys of playing baseball at Stanley.

Troop 204, Lafayette's oldest BSA troop, is celebrating 91 years of scouting and community service and is currently accepting new members. For more information, please visit www.troop204.com

Two Troop 243 Eagle Scouts honored



Aidan Clark and Owen Smith

Photo provided

Submitted by Dean Smith

Two Lafayette Boy Scouts were awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 243. Aidan Clark and Owen Smith, both residents of Lafayette, earned the rank of Eagle after 12 years of Scouting in the Burton Valley area. The Scouts were awarded the rank on Nov. 5, 2022 at an official ceremony at Lafayette Christian Church.

Aidan Clark began his Scouting adventure in Pack 643 at Burton Valley Elementary School. After receiving his Arrow of Light as a Webelo in 2016, he transitioned to Troop 243. Aidan served as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and a number of other leadership posts during his years in the troop. For his Eagle Scout project, Aidan designed and built a solar charging station for use by Acalanes High School. Aiden is currently a senior at Campolindo High School.

Owen Smith followed a similar path in Scouting, beginning as a Tiger Cub in first grade in Pack 645. While in

troop 243, Owen participated in a wide range of activities, including shooting, sports, backpacking and community service projects. For Owen's Eagle Scout project, Owen worked with more than a dozen volunteers to re-purpose shipping straps into dog leashes to support Rocket Dog Rescue of Oakland. More than a dozen volunteer sewers helped to create over 500 Dog Leashes that will be provided to new dog owners when they adopt an animal.

Owen is currently a senior at De La Salle High School in Concord.

The two young men experienced a wide-range of community service projects, and learned the vast knowledge of outdoor survival over the course of their 12-year Scouting experience.

Both Aidan and Owen plan to continue their work in Scouting, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmasters and attending campouts and activities as adult leaders. Both Scouts plan to attend a four-year university after graduation.

Aidan and Owen join more than 75 Scouts who have "Eagled" from Troop 243, including Aidan's father Cooper Clark who earned the Eagle Scout rank in 1982. Cooper Clark has been an active Scout leader since Cub Scouts, where he served as Den Leader, Cub Master, and most recently Assistant Scoutmaster at Troop 243.

Troop 243 meets weekly at the Lafayette Christian Church at 535 Glenside in Lafayette. For more information on joining the Scouts, you can email the troop at Troop243CA@gmail.com.

Campo Key Club Food Drive continues through March 17

Submitted by Tim Freeman



Photo provided

Nina Damiano picks up a donation for the Campo Key Club Food Drive benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The Food Drive extends through Friday, March 17 (four Fridays). Email your address to campkeyclub@gmail.com. On Friday morning place a canned food bag by the front door. Friday afternoon it will be picked up and delivered to the Food Bank.

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Not to be missed

ART

Valley Art Gallery exhibition until March 18, "California Remembered" features the well-known Bay Area artist Maralyn Miller, who works in oils and pastels, painting the golden rolling hills and dramatic coastlines of California. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyart-gallery.org (925) 935-4311 or email us at valleyartgallery@gmail.com

Music

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert Cello Extravaganza on Saturday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m., Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.

Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning March 21. Single tickets \$15-45; Online: www.gccpmusic.com, by phone: (925) 283-3728. Pamela Freund-Striplen, (925) 283-3728

Crowden Music Center presents Sundays @ Four: Quartet San Francisco on Sunday, March 12, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden is proud to present Grammy-nominated Quartet San Francisco performing works by 20th century American legends Eddie South and Raymond Scott. Cost: Free to \$25. For more info

see <https://www.crowden.org/quartet-san-francisco/> or call (510) 559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

Benicia Chamber Players present on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Jean Francaix, String Trio in C Major; Paul Schoenfield, Café Music and Gabriel Fauré, Piano Quartet No. 1, Op. 15. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton. Adults \$20 and students \$10. www.eventbrite.com/e/benicia-chamber-players-perform-francaix-schoenfield-and-faure-tickets-552302741367

Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) presents Passionate, Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at

St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda and Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. at Livermore's Bankhead Theater. This thrilling program welcomes audiences to experience the passionate Nuevo tango of Piazzolla's The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires, an exquisite blend of classical and jazz. Tickets for the performance at Livermore's Bankhead Theater at <https://livermorearts.org/events/pco-passionate/> and for the performance at St. Stephens Episcopal Church at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org. (925) 373-6800

Diablo Ballet celebrates its 29th Anniversary with a one-night only performance featuring a

mixed bill including the premiere of Confetti by Gerald Arpino in honor of his Centennial Celebration, Paquita and the premiere of company dancer, Amanda Farris' ballet, Elevator Operator. One night only on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Single tickets are on sale now (\$25 - \$52) with senior and youth pricing available. Early bird pricing through March 8. For performance tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or <https://diabloballet.org/anniversary-gala/>

... continued on next page

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

Music ... continued

Leather jackets, poodle skirts, and Greased Lightnin'! Watch out, Orinda, Rydell High is coming to Miramonte! One of Miramonte High School's most anticipated annual events returns in March when more than 80 cast, crew, and band members will be cruising the halls of Rydell High, dreaming of "Summer Nights" and "Beauty School Dropout" as they perform the rollicking musical Grease. Since 1999, Miramonte has had a tradition of producing high-quality musicals that are student-centered. Friday, March 17 at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 18 at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 26 at 4 p.m. Purchase tickets here: www.showtix4u.com/event-details/70947

Theatre

Shotgun Players presents The Triumph of Love on March 25 at 8 p.m.; March 26 at 5 p.m.; March 30-April 1 at 8 p.m.; April 2 at 5 p.m.; April 6 at 7 p.m.; April 7-8 at 8 p.m.; April 9 at 5 p.m.; April 13 at 7 p.m.; April 14-15 at 8 p.m.; April 16 at 5 p.m.; April 20 at 7 p.m.; April 21-22 at 8 p.m.; April 23 at 5 p.m., at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. 'The Triumph of Love' follows the sly seductress

Leonide as she adopts the dress and prerogatives of a man and wins the object of her desire. Cost: \$8-48. For more info see http://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/triumph-of-love or call (510) 841-6500 x303 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

Town Hall Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival. The Young Playwrights Festival (YPF) is a part of Town Hall Education's Young Playwrights Program, which connects Bay Area theatre professionals with local high school students to create, write, and develop new theatre pieces. From the many talented writers, four finalists have been chosen whose plays will be performed by professional actors at the Young Playwrights Festival March 12 at 7 p.m., at Town Hall Theatre. Tickets are open to the public and Pay-What-You-Can (\$20 suggested ticket price). Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents: "The Shape of Things" written by Neil LaBute, directed by Salim Razawi. March 4-25, tickets: \$25-40, March 24 is the Pay-What-You-Can performance. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette

Literature

Orinda Books Thursday, March 2 at 11 a.m. Pat's Book Club will read and discuss "The Paris Bookseller" by Kerri Maher. This gripping novel is the dramatic story of how a humble bookseller fought against incredible odds to bring one of the most important books of the 20th century to the world. All are welcome. Note: This title had been scheduled for February but was postponed due to the book's temporary unavailability. 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606, www.orindabooks.com, info@orindabooks.com

Ethical Will Workshop: Join Professional Personal Historian and Soul Forum Podcast Co-Host April Bell on Saturday, March 18 from 8:45 a.m. to noon as she leads a storytelling workshop based on the Ethical Will, offered at Creekside Commons, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Explore, and maybe even share, the stories which have shaped your most cherished values. Refine the legacy you hope to leave. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now. For FAQ and Information, visit www.creeksidecommons.org events tab.

Other

Live At the Orinda - David Burnham. March 5 at 5 p.m. Orinda Theatre, 2, Orinda Theatre Square. Broadway's David Burnham makes his Orinda Theatre debut with his solo show, "Mostly Broadway." Burnham was last seen on Broadway in the mega-hit musical, "Wicked," playing Fiyero, a role that he originated in the developmental workshops of the show. Tix: www.OrindaMovies.com

Campolindo High School DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) committee is hosting a showing of the Not In Our Town documentary, "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life." It is a film that follows the aftermath of the mass shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue. March 9 from 7 to 9 p.m., Del Valle Theater, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. Moderated by Rabbi Jill Perlman of Temple Isaiah, there will be a Q&A session with director, Patrice O'Neill, after the film. Please register for the event here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movie-screening-repairing-the-world-stories-from-the-tree-of-life-tickets-529887476707

Spring Equinox Celebration and Dance Party: Saturday,

March 25, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Creekside Commons of Lafayette hosts a special evening for the whole family. It's a moment to shake off winter and dive into all the energy of spring. Live music, hula hoop performer, projects for kids, a collective art project, Taco Food Truck, adult drinks, and even a moment of reflection from Soul Forum Podcast host, Dan Senter. It's a party with purpose! 1035 Carol Lane, Main Hall. For more information visit www.creeksidecommons.org events tab.

Acalanes High School Color Run Sunday, March 26 at 9 a.m. The 4th annual Color Run will take place at Acalanes High School. This fundraiser supports the Classes of 2024 and Class of 2025 and is a 1- or 2-mile loop through the Acalanes campus. It is open to the entire local community - elementary, middle and high school students. Each participant receives a white T-shirt to wear through the five color stations where participants will emerge in a rainbow of colors by the end of the run. Get your tickets here: https://gofan.co/app/events/848768?schoolId=CA22846

Egg Hunt and Spring Festival: Family fun for all ages! Activities include egg hunt, Easter bunny photo op, games and prizes, arts and crafts, face painting, and more! March 25, 9 a.m. to noon; Moraga Commons. Hosted by Moraga Juniors Women's Club. Visit moragajuniors.org for ticket information.

Presentation: Ensuring Their Future: Greater Freedom to Teach and Learn in Public Education. This a broad look at how education echoes societal outlook, from Indigenous connection to our great challenges, and how education can help recover well-being. Sunday, March 19, noon to 2 p.m.; Creekside Commons, Room Oak View 3, 1035 Carol Ln., Lafayette; no charge; speaker and optional RSVP: peggymagilen@yahoo.com.

Orinda Network for Education (ONE) third anniversary celebration. March 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Wilder Art and Garden Center. ONE was formed in March of 2020 by a small and determined working Board of Directors, in collaboration with all six of Orinda's school Parents' Clubs. success. Tickets can be purchased at www.oneorinda.org/cheers

Garden

Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting begins on March 9 at 9:30 a.m. for social time and munchies before the business meeting starts at 10 at the Veteran's Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Guest speaker Elizabeth Ruiz, a garden designer and aesthetic pruner, will give a talk on the art of pruning. Also at the meeting will be a special person who has volunteered to sharpen garden tools, so bring one of your clippers or other tool that needs sharpening and put your name on it. The meeting is free to attend. We welcome visitors and new members so please contact us at LGCMembershipCommittee@gmail.com.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 13 at the Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr, in Walnut Creek. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting, social time and an educational program. Guest Speaker Rose Loveall is the mastermind and owner of Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville, a beautiful nature hotbed filled with medicinal and culinary possibilities. Rose shares her passion about all things growing and green as she leads you down the path with a sensory awareness. We welcome the public to visit our meetings and to become a part of the Walnut Creek Garden Club. For more information, please visit: www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org.

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Are you looking for a change of pace? Come and celebrate Evensong, a beautiful, candlelight service and traditional Anglican liturgy, in the newly renovated sanctuary of St. Stephen's Episcopal church, Orinda.
ORINDA Community Church 10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
Lafayette United Methodist Church 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
Sunday 10am in person worship
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church An Open, Affirming & Loving Community In-Person & Virtual service Sun. at 9:00 AM
WILLOWSRING community church Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are. www.willowspringchurch.com

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campo defeats Las Lomas to win NCS Championship; NorCal up next



Campolindo celebrates NCS victory

Photo Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

The atmosphere in the Acalanes gym was electric as Campolindo and Los Lomas faced off at this neutral site to determine who would win the North Coast Sectional Championship. With the gym equally divided in Campolindo red and Los Lomas maroon, the respective student bodies standing the entire game and with the gym so crowded, a number of fans were forced to sit in the aisles, it was a game that was destined to come down to a final shot, which it did with Campolindo coming out on top 48-47.

Coming into the game, Campolindo and Los Lomas had played twice with a one-point differential over the two games, with high scoring wins for each team. Campolindo won the first game 85-64 and Los Lomas won the second game 59-39. Campolindo coach Steven Dyer anticipated anything but a blowout game for either team. "I was 100% certain that it was going to be a close game," Dyer said. "Los Lomas is a really good team

that had won 10 straight games and our league has really been disrespected by the NCS seeding committee. With us, Los Lomas, and Clayton Valley, it shows how good the top part of our league was."

It was a back-and-forth game with Campolindo leading most of the way. The Cougars led 29-26 at the half and 46-40 after three quarters. Los Lomas took its first lead since early in the first quarter, 47-46 with 1:33 to go in the game. Logan Robeson, who finished with 13 points, had scored the first basket of the game, then scored the last basket of the game on a drive to the rim with 1:06 left to play.

Los Lomas would have three more opportunities to score in and were turned away each time, with Robeson getting the key rebound with 10 seconds left in the game. Los Lomas fouled Campolindo twice and got their final possession with only two seconds left on the clock. Still, they got off a clear shot by Jake Davis from about 45 feet that banged off the back of the rim, as the Campolindo fans let out a col-

lective sigh of relief.

It was a matter of solid defense and toughness according to Dyer. "Our game plan was to be more physical on defense," Dyer said. "Los Lomas outplayed us from the toughness perspective in our second game so we talked a lot about how we couldn't get out toughed. We didn't make any huge scheme adjustments. We just worried about being tough and playing Campo basketball."

Though it was a true team effort, Dyer singled out his three captains, Robeson, Shane O'Reilly and Clay Naffziger for their play on offense and defense. "These three seniors have had a lot of big-time moments," Dyer said. "It was just effort. These guys really want to win, and it took everything for it to get done."

For Robeson, after suffering through two injury-played seasons, the win was particularly special. "I've been through so much to get here and to finally get this win, it just means the world to me," Robeson said.

... continued on Page C4



Clay Naffziger

Photo Will Bergren

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Dons and Mats girls' basketball compete in NorCal tournament



Photo Jon Kingdon

Acalanes Head Coach Margaret Gartner, with assistant coaches Scott Espinosa-Brown and Katie Rathbun

By Jon Kingdon

With a combined 45 and 12 record, the Acalanes (21-7) and Miramonte (24-5) girls' basketball teams had superior seasons, playing in the NCS tournament. By virtue of playing in the open division, Acalanes was guaranteed a spot in the NorCal tournament and received a seventh seed in Division I, playing 10th seeded Pinewood (Los Altos) on Feb. 28. "Pinewood will be a tough matchup but every team in Division I is a good team and it will be fun to try and get to the state tournament," Coach Margaret Gartner said.

It's been a huge jump for the Acalanes girls' basketball team since Gartner became the head coach. The Dons at that point were ranked 294th in the state by MaxPreps. As they prepare for their opening game in the NorCal tournament, their rank has jumped to 43rd.

Acalanes concluded their 2021-22 season with a first round loss in the CIF state championship to Salesian High School by a score for 76-40. This year, the team lost to the same Salesian team by a score of 64-62. "It definitely showed the girls' growth and that we've gotten used to close game situations."

Gartner made it a point to

have a particularly difficult schedule prior to the league games with the goal of making the team ready for the playoffs. With a 20-7 record entering the North Coast Sectional tournament, the team has been battle tested through the year. The seven losses came against teams from California, New York, Arizona, and Las Vegas that on the average were ranked 17th in their respective states and had a combined 140 and 22 record.

"Our goal was to be playing our best basketball at the end of the season," Gartner said. "The players have learned from playing tough games. We say we win, or we learn. The team has to learn

from a loss and look at it, which can be hard, but if you don't review it, you won't be able to correct it."

The team has been led by a core of sophomores Karyss (K.K.) Lakanlale (16.0 points, 4.2 assists, 3 rebounds and a 2.43 assist to turnover ratio), Dulci Vail (14.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.4 assist), Sophie Chinn (12.9 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists), Natalie Frechman (3.9 points) and Ariana Hallstrom (7.0 points, 3.1 assists and 3.3 rebounds).

The team has solid depth with junior Jenna Steele (1.3 points, 2.3 rebounds) and seniors Emily Du (5.3 points, 3.8 rebounds and 1.3 assists) and Nicole McCarthy (1.5 points and 2.3 rebounds). Natalie Lyons who was averaging 6.7 points is out with a concussion. Senior Sophia Alvarado was out for all of the season except for 20 seconds on senior night due to injuries and concussions but "she did provide great leadership for us," said Gartner.

Freshmen Alexis Le (5.3 points, 1.4 assists and 3.0 rebounds) and Cameron Thorn-ton (3.0 points and 1.8 rebounds) have both contributed a lot and have shown great potential for the future.

Running hard practices has in many ways made the games less difficult, Gartner said: "Playing an opponent may actually be easier than practice because they don't know our players' games as well as their teammates do."

Gartner also works on the mental aspect of the game. "There are things we do in practice to show the girls that no lead is safe," Gartner said. "It helps them mature as players, knowing they are never out of a game and to just always compete."

Gartner is quick to share the team's success with the players: "They are a great group of girls that believe in each other, and they all put in

the work. They came in with a competitive spirit and it was just a matter of being consistent day in and day out. They know they can't turn it on and off, it just has to be there 100% of the time."

Miramonte

By only making it to the semifinals in the Division II NCS tournament, Miramonte had to rely on receiving an at-large bid for the NorCal tournament. "It came down to us and Pinole Valley as to who would be chosen," Coach Vince Wirthman said. In the end, it was Pinole Valley that got the bid, but any way to look at the Matadors season, it would have to be considered a successful year."

After their first game of the season, the challenges that Miramonte faced increased exponentially with the season-ending injury to junior Willa Mapaye who was being counted on as the team's point guard and leader on the floor. In that first game, Mapaye had scored 11 points and had 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 steals.

At that point, Wirthman and the players decided to not look back. "We had a team meeting and talked about it and everybody realized what they had to do and they all stepped up their games," Wirthman said. "It also helped that Willa, a co-captain, came to all our practices and games and was a pseudo-assistant for us as well."

Leading the way were senior co-captains Katherine and Courtney Scheingart. "After Willa got hurt, Katherine stepped in as the point guard and it was a real eye-opener for me," Wirthman said. "She went right at her opponents. She, Courtney and (junior co-captain) Karena Eberts, were great leaders all year long.

... continued on Page C3

St. Monica's third grade boys CYO Champions



Photo provided

Top row, from left: coach Carey Barker, coach Chad Hamilton, Jake Barar, Timmy Shaffer, Kellan Ward, Andy Hamilton; bottom row: Pierce O'Brien, Cato Ly, James Barker, Ryan Brown

Submitted by Allison O'Brien

The St. Monica's third grade Spartans

are the 2023 CYO West Diablo League Champions. Moraga is so proud of this team and their hard work and sportsmanship.

St. Monica fifth grade American Girls capture back-to-back West Diablo CYO Championships



Photo provided

Back row, from left: Ava Ricksen, Sierra Romagnolo, Avery Zwakman, Logan Crosson, Abigail Moon, Vivian Welch, Lizzy Gilbert; front row: Aria Salvi, Sytney Osteen

Submitted by Tenaya Garrett

After completing an undefeated 10-0 regular season record the St. Monica's fifth grade American Girls basketball team defeated a relentless Santa Maria's fifth grade American Team 30-

26 on Sunday, Feb. 5 at Tice Valley Gym in Walnut Creek. The Spartans have now captured back-to-back CYO basketball championships as all nine players returned for their second season of CYO Basketball. The team is coached by Marino Salvi, Eric Moon and Jerry Gilbert.



St. Monica's 7th grade boys American Team captures West Diablo League Championship

Submitted by Craig Pinedo

The 7th grade boys American team from St. Monica on Feb. 12 won the

West Diablo League Championship. With the win, they earned the top seed in the Oakland Diocese tournament the weekend of Feb. 25.

Top row, from left: coach Craig Pinedo, Matthew Morelli, Denzel Parker, Charlie Sullivan, Ben Shaffer, Jaden Albiento, coach Brian Shaffer; bottom row: Riley O'Toole, Kian Malekafzali, Jake Pinedo

Photo Tami Shaffer

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Success and potential for Lamorinda Wrestlers; Campo wrestler makes it to state



Caiti Freeman (expecting a daughter), Tyson, Phil Freeman and NCS Commissioner Pat Cruickshank

By Jon Kingdon

As is his wont, Campolindo wrestling head coach Phil Freeman was very optimistic heading into the season, looking to win the boys' and girls' league championships and hopeful about sending someone to state again this year.

The boys team was 5-1 in league matches, finishing second to Concord but, after some late season adjustments, defeated Concord finishing in third at the NCS duals, and brought home a banner. Freeman was looking for the girls' team to finish in the top 10, but they came up just short. "Our girls were third after the first day and finished 11th out of 70 teams, earning their highest NCS finish to date," Freeman said.

With a roster of nine boys and 10 girls at the NCS tournament, it capped a successful season for the team. Senior Chase Yang placed seventh, ending his season with a 36-8 record, with 29 of the wins being by pinfall. The other boys at NCS were Gavin Juni, Daniel Thaler, Shane Harris, Adam Barash, Kevin Humphries, Kaleo Howell Young, Soushians Bahramifar and Luke Hansen.

"As a group, they just got better and better as the year went on," Freeman said. "Chase had a very good year and he will be missed. Gavin had an injury prior to NCS and was super tough, wrestling with a bad shoulder, still beating some opponents. Daniel will continue to show improvement. Adam wrestled at 108 and was a pleasant surprise, nearly winning the league. Luke and Soushians, freshmen that came over from the football team, were two big people that provided us with a lot of size. Kaleo made a lot of progress and Kevin got a win at NCS at 122 which is what we hoped he would do."

There was a solid core of female wrestlers for Campolindo with only one senior, Molly Breznikar. The underclassmen at NCS were Natalia

Kalas, K.T. Thompson, Patricia Davila Gil, Analise Gonzalez, Camila Baxter, Isabel Zabronsky, Piper Lalli, Ori Rogers, and Atlas Benko.

Leading the way were Zabronsky who finished fourth, Lalli seventh, and Baxter in eighth place. "We had a number of wrestlers like Natalie and K.T. that lost in the 'blood round,' the round you need to win to be able to place," Freeman said. "Molly helped the team all season and contributed a lot to the team. Patricia and Analise showed improvement all season. Atlas missed a lot of time with a concussion but contributed in a number of ways and Ori also fought through some nagging injuries and like Atlas showed improvement throughout the season. Our girls program is only getting better and better and my goal is to eventually win it all."

It was Zabronsky, who wrestles at 145, that fulfilled Freeman's preseason prediction that he would have a wrestler at the state meet this year. Going off last year's record of 0-8, most would not have given her much of a chance to have such a good year, but it was not a surprise to Freeman or Zabronsky. "Isabel did freestyle and Greco with my girl's class all summer long," Freeman said. "She did everything. I took her down state, to Fresno and Hawaii where I coached at a wrestling clinic over the summer, and she stuck with me like glue. She showed up all the time, was hungry to learn, worked hard, developed rapidly with an enormous amount of mat time. This is a real testament to Isabel's work ethic, mental toughness and mindset."

The state meet was, as anticipated, a very competitive tournament. "Isabel lost to the No. 2 ranked wrestler in the first round and then lost a tough match the following round," Freeman said. "It was tied going into the second round and even though Isabel wrestled well, she got pinned.

She will be back, better and stronger."

Freeman also received special recognition being named the 2023 NCS, CIF Honor Coach Award (Coach of the Year) in his 17 years of coaching at Heritage, Liberty, Deer Valley and Campolindo high schools.

With accomplishments too many to list, Freeman has served as a manager and director of many wrestling groups, coached several wrestlers that went on to college, among them a collegiate and national champion. What may have served Freeman best was his personal philosophy: "Wrestling should be fun! Wrestling should be for everyone!"

Acalanes

For Acalanes head coach Greg Weitzman, it was a year to grow on that showed potential for the future. "We have a lot of young talent on the boys' team and we came in fourth overall in league competition," Weitzman said. "Part of it was dealing with a number of kids that were out sick but we worked with what we had and I was really proud of the team. The theme for the season was that a lot of our wrestlers had illnesses and they did not have as much mat time as we would have liked."

The boys' team was led by senior co-captains Hunter Goyert (138) and Zachary Robb (HW). "Hunter was close to the medal round at NCS and overall he had a great season and I'm really proud of the work he contributed to the program," Weitzman said. "Zachary had a good season but was unable to wrestle in the league tournament due to a concussion suffered earlier in the season."

Also representing the Dons at NCS were Kirian Gracie, Dylan Potter and Sam Whipple. "Kirian making it to NCS as a freshman in his first year as a wrestler was very impressive and he learned a lot this year," Weitzman said. "Sam was an amazingly hard worker with a lot of talent and he should be

great next year. Dylan did well at NCS and is set up to also have a great senior year."

There is a solid core of young wrestlers that Weitzman is counting on – Marley Oh, Bryce Birdsong and Gracie. "They all did well and showed up for us at the DAL tournament," Weitzman said. "They were really bright spots in our program and wrestled tough against juniors and seniors and should continue to improve over the next three years."

Weitzman is equally enthused about the girls' team, comprised of junior Dakota Goyert, sophomore Anya Haas Hollenbeck, and seniors Joy Baker and Olivia Banks. "Joy was a pleasure to watch wrestle," Weitzman said. "She did a great job coming back from an injury that caused her to miss last season. Olivia was a fighter and a warrior that put in the work and had a great tournament at the NCS, losing a tough match right at the end. She contributed a lot to our program and it was fun to coach her. Dakota was close to the medal round at the NCS and had a spectacular season going 19-5. I'm really proud of all the

Miramonte was also represented at the NCS by freshmen Melissa Le and Claire Casado and junior Izarra Ballesteros who was a first year wrestler that transferred to Miramonte this year.

"Izarra won a match and Melissa and Claire got great experience being able to wrestle in a big time tournament and I expect all of them to come back next year and be more competitive," Head coach Louis Suba said. "We went from a roster of 9 to 28 this year after doing demonstrations for all of the freshman PE classes and will do it again this year and hopefully we'll get our numbers up again next year."

Willy Gilmore, who began the season wrestling at 132 and then moved to 122, was the clear leader among the boys' team. "Willy won the league championship which was great for a sophomore," Suba said. "Willy went 2 and 2 at the NCS which was a big accomplishment and finished the year with a 22 and 9 record."

Suba is confident that Gilmore will be making big steps next year: "Willy can get on the podium and maybe



Campolindo's Isabel Zabronsky and Coach Phil Freeman

work she put in. Anya was also close to medaling and also had a very good season. She is naturally strong and should continue to develop."

As with most schools, Weitzman is looking to increase the numbers on the team next season. "We'll be recruiting by spreading the word around campus and make it easier for the students to find us and come out, especially the freshmen," Weitzman said.

Miramonte

It was somewhat of a bittersweet season for the Miramonte wrestlers, epitomized by senior Hannah Ripper's season. After going to the state tournament last year, Ripper suffered an early season concussion, missing regular season, finishing with a 3-1 record. Despite such limited time on the mat, Ripper went on to win the DAL tournament and made it to the NCS finals before having to injury default. Even though this qualified her to go to the state tournament, Ripper opted to pass on going to the tournament.

make state next year, depending on much stronger he gets and how much he improves in the off season. He has the endurance to last an entire match. If he can get stronger over the summer and can improve on his technique and do a better job in using his legs to wrestle, he can certainly meet those goals."

Suba will also be counting on the return of junior Zach Fineman who wrestled at 170 pounds. "Zach did well finishing 15 and 15 and had his share of good showings," Suba said.

Owen Beidelman, Xander Egan, August Hance, Calvin Lai, Zach Lindheim, Brody Suba and Julio Villanueva were a solid core of freshman boys that are being counted on to be the foundation of the team. "They are going to carry us into the future," Suba said. "August led the group with a 14-4 record and qualified for NCS but failed to make his weight. We're looking for a core of 15 more wrestlers to come in next year."

Dons and Mats girls' basketball compete in NorCal tournament

... continued from Page C2

It was also fortunate that we did not have any other major injuries during the season."

Eberts led the team averaging 18 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. Katherine

Scheingart averaged 10.1 point, 5.8 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 3.7 steals per game. Courtney Scheingart averaged 14.0 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. The other starters were sophomore guard Julia Quinn Ferguson (5.0 points, 5.3 re-

bounds, 2.5 assists and 2.8 steals) and junior guard Marianna Lawrence (3.7 points, 3.0 rebounds and 1.6 assists).

"Julia worked into the starting lineup and played a ton," Wirthman said. "She is just a good all-around player

that played good defense, rebounded and handled the ball when needed. Marianna played well and got better all year long."

With the team only graduating the Scheingarts, Wirthman is already optimistic

about the team's future: "Katherine and Courtney were very valuable to this team but with our returning starters, we have young talent coming up and we'll also be getting Willa back for her senior season."

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

St. Monica Spartans 2023 CYO fifth grade boys' National Division Basketball Champions



Photo provided

Standing, from left: coach Craig Pineido, Eytan Brosh, Jackson Freeman, Stanley Martin, Alex Schell, Jason Fok, Thomas McCarthy, Callan Op't Holt, coach Andy Nguyen; seated: A.J. Pineido, Nolan Greenlee, Ryan Nguyen, Ben McCollum and Dalton Winkler

Submitted by Jolie Nguyen

Division Basketball championship through hard work, strategy and strength.

The fifth-grade boys basketball team St. Monica Spartans won the National

Campo defeats Las Lomas to win NCS Championship

... continued on Page C4

O'Reilly scored 13 points and held Los Lomas' leading scorer, Jake Davis, who was averaging 20 points a game, to 7 points. "Every game this year, Shane has guarded the other team's best player," Dyer said. "I can't say enough about how much he's done defensively this year for us. We probably would have been somewhat lost defensively without him because he takes out the other team's best guys. So huge credit to him because he has been a willing and great defender this year for us."

This was a win that O'Reilly saw as representative of the team's unity. "This team is a special group and we're all in it and play for each other," O'Reilly said. "I feel like I can emphasize this whole season, being together as a unit like the previous Campo teams. We lost a lot of pieces from last year so we knew that we had to be close, and I think that's what separated us from the other teams."

Dyer then took another opportunity to sing the praises of this team: "Nothing has been handed to us. We have a lot of damn good players and I think that people forget that these guys have won a lot of games and it's their turn and they're hungry for it. This year hasn't been perfect, but they've continued to fight and just play the next day."

With a 23-7 record and the NorCal tournament coming up, Dyer's initial game plan is very simple: "We're just going to lock in our principles and play great. We'll share the ball on offense and make sure that we take good shots, and whoever we end up playing, we'll take away their best players on offense."



Shane O'Reilly Photos Will Bergren

For the NorCal tournament, Campolindo received the 13th seed in Division I and will be playing at the fourth seeded Archbishop Riordan High School (S.F.) who finished the season with a 21-6 record, on Feb. 28.

Despite the lower seed, Campolindo defeated Riordan 54-51 in a tournament game Dec. 9, 2022.

Los Lomas was given the No. 1 seed in Division III. "It doesn't make a ton of sense that a team that we beat by one point would be seated essentially 20 spots below us in the state," Dyer said. "Still, I would rather win the NCS and get the harder pass than be somewhere in Division II. We can't control what they give us, so we'll take the challenge."

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 1, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

March In



The blooms of flowering Bradford pear trees are ubiquitous.

By Cynthia Brian

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." — Thomas Jefferson

Throw open your windows! Inhale the sweet smells of the blossoms. Bradford pears, cherry plums, crabapple, peach, and tulip magnolias are in full bloom. Flocks of doves have begun their annual aerial acrobats, raptors are kettling in the warmer thermals, cows are happily grazing on the green grass, and bees are buzzing and pollinating. The hills are emerald, the creeks are flowing, and sunny daffodils brighten our roadways. Spring is in the air!

As excited as I am to start sowing summer veggies, it is still too early. March is a month to peruse catalogs and groom our beds as nature's winter slumber awakens. This is a month of garden transition with unpredictable weather, chilly mornings, warm afternoons, and frosty nights. Additional rain is necessary and anticipated.

With preparation and care, we can give our gardens a boost for spring



Fragrant Peter Pan daffodils.

Photos Cynthia Brian

by cleaning our garden beds. Remove dead leaves, branches, and debris that have accumulated over winter. By doing so we'll prevent pests and diseases from invading while making our gardens tidier and ready for planting in April and May.

It seems that overnight my garden burst into bloom. The Amaryllis that I've been carefully tending opened its eyes to my delight. Bright pink Bergenia is bigger and fuller this year and even the yellow shamrocks are already on display, pre-St. Patrick's Day. Many gardeners find oxalis to be a noxious weed, but I welcome it in my landscape. It covers the barren soil with electric yellow flowers and delicate clover-like leaves. I find it very pretty, and I've been growing it for several years without it invading unwanted locations. Purple bearded iris don't last long in bouquets, yet they are stunning and fragrant in the garden. Poor man's saffron, more commonly known as calendula, has self-seeded on my hillside in blooms of orange and yellow. Red, pink, and white cyclamen are stretching their buds between the ferns while azaleas transform the garden from dull to dazzling. Winter is waning. The garden is marching on.

... continued on Page D9

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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	4	\$1,275,000	\$2,800,000
MORAGA	3	\$1,300,000	\$1,825,000
ORINDA	4	\$1,079,000	\$2,350,000

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.

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828 Avalon Avenue, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 1613 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-20-23

3169 Diablo View Road, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2448 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 01-13-23

1456 Rancho View Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3141 SqFt,

1973 YrBlt, 01-13-23, Previous Sale: \$42,500, 06-01-92

1336 San Reliez Court, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4098 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 01-11-23

MORAGA

370 Calle La Montana, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2216 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 01-11-23,

Previous Sale: \$337,000, 06-01-88

603 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1419 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 01-13-23

92 Warfield Drive, \$1,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 2527 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-09-23,

Previous Sale: \$700,000, 03-11-04

ORINDA

13 Carmen Court, \$1,079,000, 4 Bdrms, 2035 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 01-12-23

5 De Soto Court, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 01-12-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 03-13-17

332 Village View Court, \$2,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 01-18-23,

Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 08-25-22

619 Watchwood Road, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 2014 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 01-09-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 07-28-20

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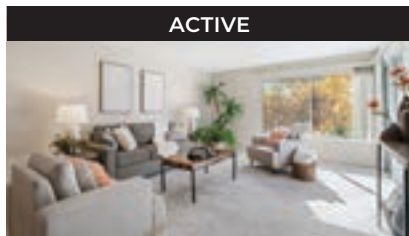
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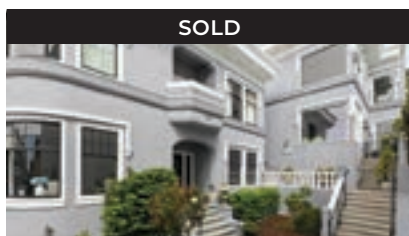
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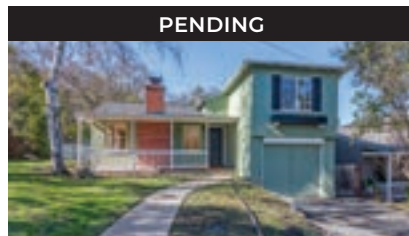
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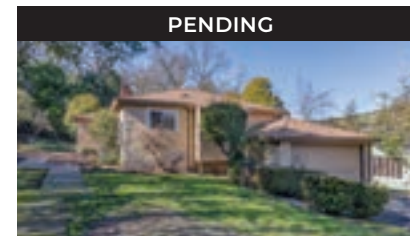
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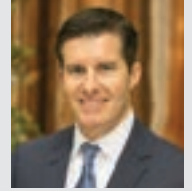
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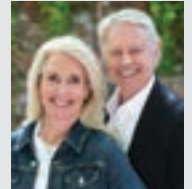
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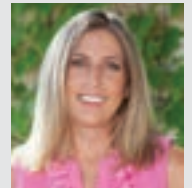
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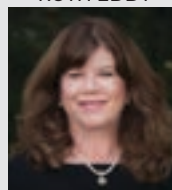
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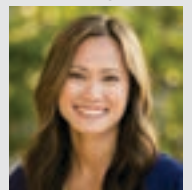
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New tax credits increase appeal of heat pumps for homeowners



bigstock images

Outdoor air conditioning and heat pump unit system

(StatePoint) More and more people are turning to heat pumps to heat and cool their homes. It is estimated that 18 million American households already use them. With new energy incentives being offered, and more homeowners choosing greener technologies, that number is expected to rise dramatically.

What is a heat pump? Heat pumps are powered by electricity and transfer heat using refrigerant. Heat pump technology moves heat outside your home in warmer months and is able to pull heat into your home during cooler months. Here are three reasons to consider one for your home:

1. **Sustainability.** Heat pumps are electric and don't burn fossil fuels like furnaces do, making them more environmentally friendly. In fact, heat pumps are becoming the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry go-to for reducing consumers' carbon footprints.

2. **Control.** Newer two-stage and variable speed heat pumps offer high- and low-stage heating to warm your space when outdoor weather changes; they operate more efficiently for longer periods of time at lower speeds and use less energy. They provide more precise temperature controls and more consistent comfort. Both options con-

tribute to managing humidity levels too.

3. **Technology.** Heat pumps today are more advanced than ever and handle both heating and cooling by redistributing air. Carrier's Infinity 24 Heat Pump with Greenspeed Intelligence operates at temperatures down to -15 degrees Fahrenheit, making heat pumps an advanced solution for mild and colder climates. Does your region get colder than that? Heat pumps can be combined with a gas furnace for a dual fuel system that is energy efficient and cost effective. Looking ahead, heat pumps that work in colder temperature are in development and will be available soon.

Get the Right Size

There are several factors that go into picking your ideal heat pump. The size of your home, climate, sun exposure, desired features and ductwork all play into the size of heat pump. An undersized unit will work overtime to hit target temperatures. A unit that is too large will achieve the desired temperature before its cycle is complete and waste energy. It is best to work with a professional dealer in choosing the heat pump that is best for your home.

Money-Saving Tips

Heat pumps, including installation, can range anywhere from \$3,000 to \$15,000 or more. Thankfully, there are many cost-saving options for homeowners.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes federal tax credits that reward homeowners for purchasing certain high-efficiency HVAC equipment, including many of Carrier's line of heat pumps. Up to \$8,000 in tax credits are available for all-electric heat pumps.

Lower energy consumption means energy bill savings, up to \$500 on energy bills every year in some cases. Look for Energy Star certification and Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings. The SEER rating is like your car's mileage per gallon – the higher the number, the greater the potential for savings.

Many manufacturers and utility companies also offer rebates and low-rate financing. For example, Carrier's heat pump rebate offerings are listed on their website. At the time of this publication, up to \$1,300 in rebates are being offered for most units.

Beyond the basics, today's heat pumps offer new comfort-enhancing, energy-saving features that could help you reduce your heating costs.



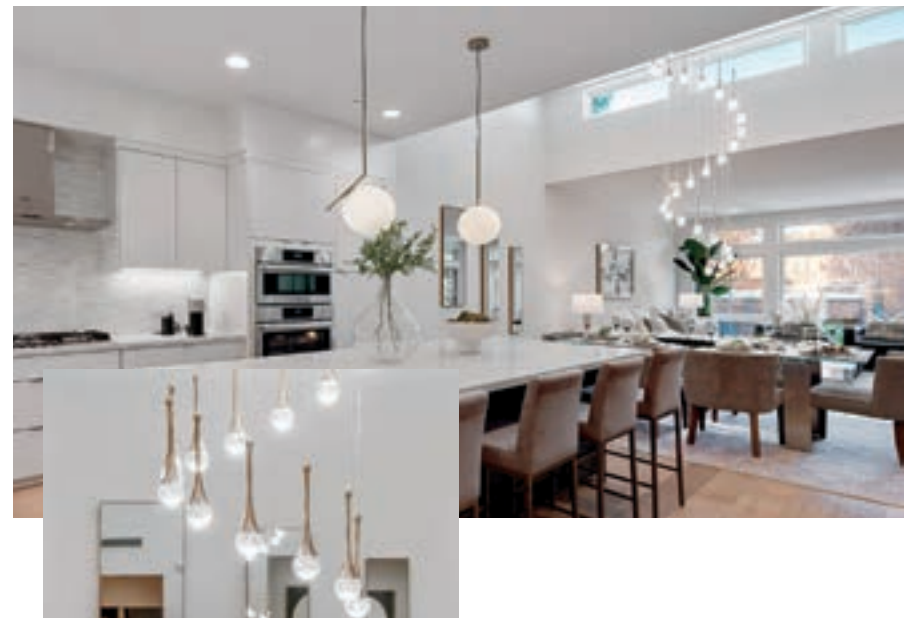
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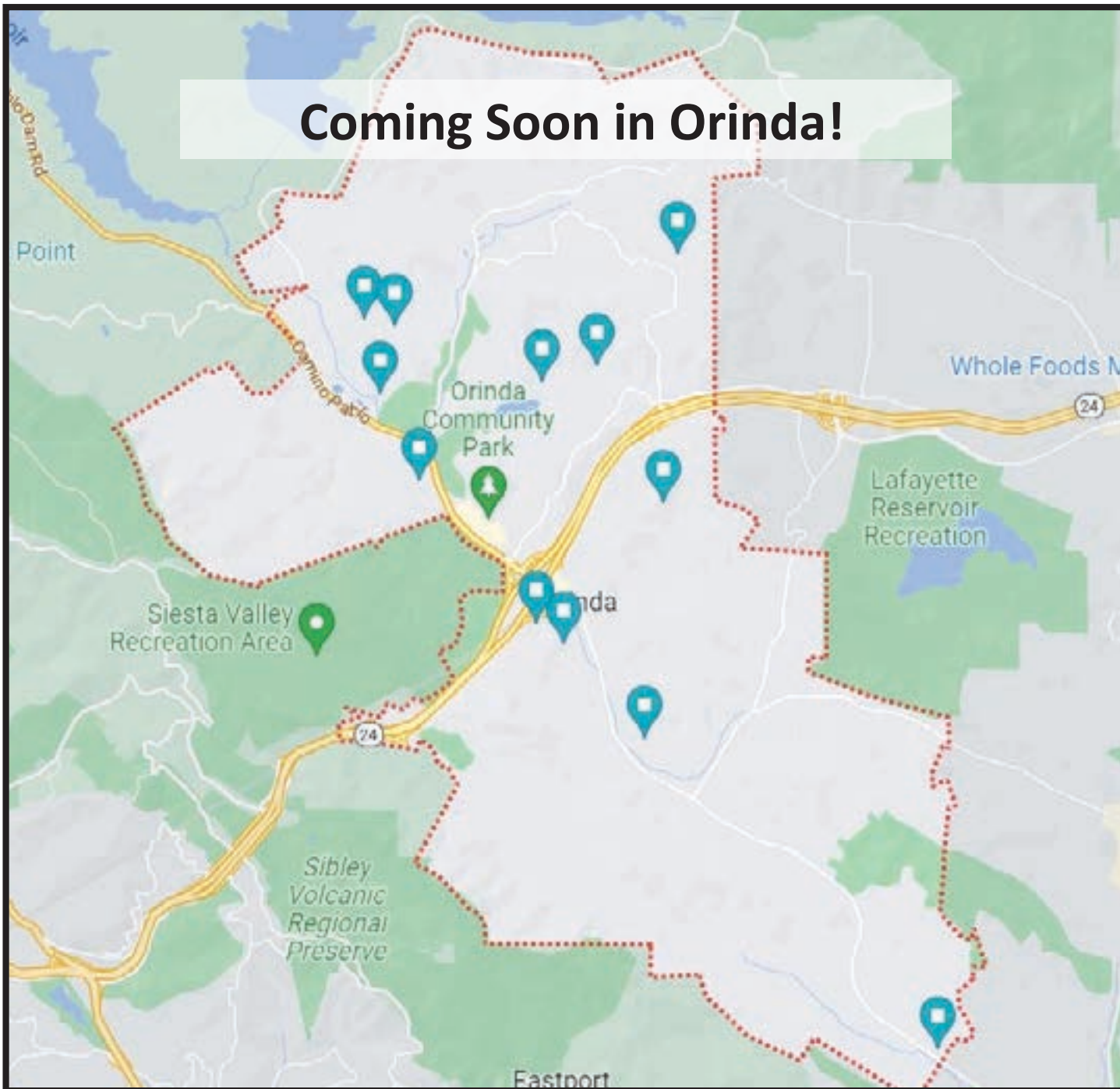


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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

March In



Yellow oxalis is also called shamrock.



A red amaryllis flower.

Photos Cynthia Brian



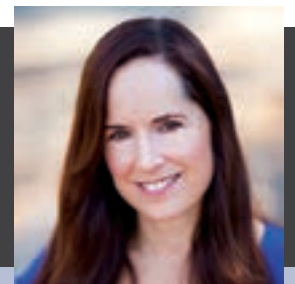
Don't believe the news. This is a great time to sell in Lamorinda. There is limited inventory and there are lots of buyers wanting to move to the area.



Please reach out so we can make a plan to get you where you want to be.

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The Goddess Gardener's March Gardening Guide

AMEND your soil with compost to add the nutrients necessary.

MAKE compost by combining green (nitrogen) and brown (carbon) materials. To a bucket, bin, or pile, add coffee grinds, tea bags, chicken and rabbit droppings, grass clippings, vegetable scraps, straw, leaves, shredded newspaper, hay, dead plants, cardboard, and paper. Keep moist and turn. Do not use the animal waste from any carnivorous animals, including dogs and cats, and do not add diseased plants to the bin or pile.

CHECK irrigation systems. Repair leaks, clogs, and broken sprinkler heads.

START seeds indoors if you want a head start on growing your favorite vegetables. You will have to harden them off before planting in the garden.

FORAGE for wild greens including Miner's lettuce, mustard, creek watercress, and wild strawberries. The young leaves are delicious in salads and sautéés.

ORDER tubers and root starters from Renees Garden for the best selection of horseradish, potatoes, onions, and asparagus for spring planting.

FERTILIZE trees, shrubs, and ground covers with organic feed.

APPLY snail bait around plants most susceptible to snail and slug damage or handpick the mollusks.

SPRAY roses, boxwoods, viburnum, iris, fruit trees, citrus trees, and crape myrtle trees with dormant oil to protect them from overwintering insects and fungal disease.

HARVEST lemons, limes, and oranges. The extra vitamin C will boost your immunity during this cold and flu season.

SHARPEN and clean tools.

AERATE lawns while the nights are still cool. Leave the plugs on the grass to feed the grass.

PULL weeds as they sprout.

CUT bouquets of daffodils, narcissus, viburnum, flowering quince, and Bergenia to brighten any room.

DIVIDE perennials including daylilies, agapanthus, yarrow, and phlox while they are semi-dormant.

FLOAT camellias in a pretty bowl and dispose of all fallen camellias from bushes.

KILL aphids with a strong spray of water or spray with a mixture of water and dishwashing detergent. Make sure to spray all sides of foliage and flowers.

LEARN what to do in your garden every month with the book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," available at <http://starstylestore.net>

PLANT bare root roses, vines, and berry bushes.

PRUNE a branch of peach, plum, or pear and place the cutting in a tall vase to force the blooms for an enticing indoor arrangement.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. March in. March on.



Pick wild mustard greens while they are tender, small, and spicy.



Harvest citrus, including naval oranges.



Peach blossoms.



Black cows on the hill munch on grass underneath the flowering pear tree.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A Cynthia Brian selfie in the garden.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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. 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 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 <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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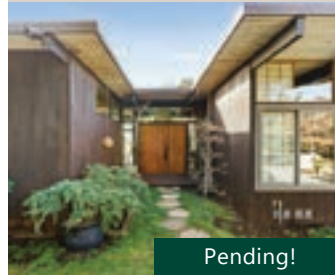
ORINDA



411 Tahos Road
Private single level home on 1.34 acres w/ 4 bd/4 ba (4th bd & ba in ADU) & easy access to downtown Orinda & Lafayette!

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ORINDA



147 Overhill Road
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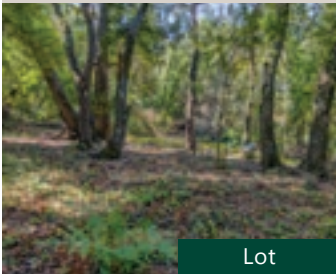
ORINDA



2 Orchard Court
Home sweet home! 3 bd/ 2 ba home needs lots of TLC now & is awaiting the next generation!

\$999,000

ORINDA

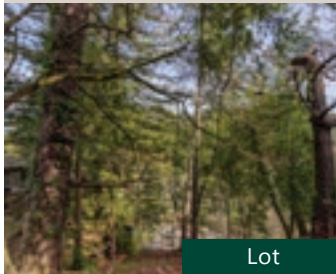


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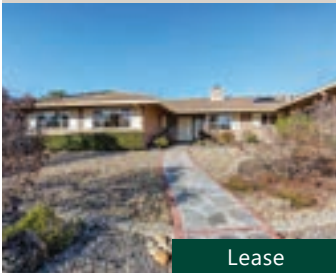
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3434 Woodview Drive
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\$5,700/mo.

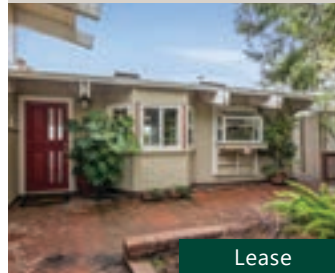
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3802 Randolph Avenue
Beautifully updated home providing all level living w/ 3 bd/ 2 ba, an open floor plan, & a peek of San Francisco!

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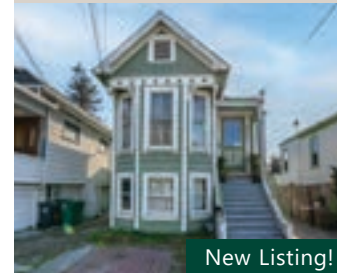


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6061 Westover Drive
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