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The band Sausalito performs June 2 at Rock the Plaza in downtown Lafayette.

Photo Jeff Heyman

Outdoor summer concerts and events return to Lamorinda

By Jeff Heyman

Summer has come to Lamorinda. The dismal weather of Memorial Day weekend behind us, and with temperatures flirting with the 80-degree mark, Lafayette kicked off the real start of summer: the Rock the Plaza series of concerts. The family-fun event is held annually in the city's beloved Park Plaza, the community's gathering place at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road in Lafayette.

Hundreds of Lamorindans gathered in the plaza on Friday, June 2, for the first of the Friday-nights-in-June concert series and were greeted by the classic and soulful tunes of the Oakland-based band Sausalito. Families from Lafayette,

Moraga and Orinda brought full-course dinners – some complete with tables atop their picnic blankets – or ordered takeout from Lafayette's prized restaurants. The varied cuisines were washed down with glasses of white, rose and red wine and an astonishing assortment of craft beers.

Couples – both young and old – smooched as children danced among them. Youngsters and oldsters alike joined the dance as Sausalito's singers belted out familiar songs that truly rocked the plaza. R&B, soft rock and soul filled Plaza Park as the warm sun set behind our majestic western ridgeline.

You won't want to miss the concert series which continues through June on Fridays, from 6 to 8 p.m. Coming up: The (925) Band on June 9, Hot Dog Chicken June 16, and Lamorinda Idol on June 23.

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Miramonte graduates revisit their elementary schools, inspire young students



Photo Meredith Friedman

Miramonte seniors John Williams and Sebastian Rguem greet Glorietta students on May 23.

By Sora O'Doherty

About 150 students graduating from Miramonte High School participated in a parade on May 23 during which they visited all four elementary schools in Orinda. This first occurrence of the "Cap and Gown Parade" was enthusiastically welcomed by the younger children, as well as by teachers and principals. Orinda Network for Education (ONE) executive director Emily Allen spoke to Lamorinda Weekly about the event, which she is offering to make an annual occurrence.

The parade was conceived by the Miramonte Class of 2023 Parent Advisors, Charlene Robinson, Jodi Kaelle,

Ynez Wilson Hirst and Kathryn Ishizu. Allen became involved while wearing both her ONE hat and her mom-of-a-senior hat to facilitate outreach to the Orinda elementary school principals with whom she works closely at ONE. Once the principals agreed, it was necessary to find a mutually agreed-upon time that worked for the seniors' finals schedule and the busy nature of the last week of school on the elementary school campuses.

Robinson and her team coordinated senior class parents to be on hand at each of the school sites to gather the seniors together before beginning the parade.

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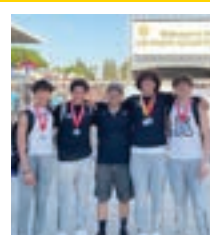
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