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Orinda Starlight Village Players celebrates 40 years in Orinda Community Park

THE SECRET OF CHIMNEYS



by

Agatha Christie

Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

The 2023 season of the Orinda Starlight Village Players has something for everyone, from farce to fairy tale. Opening the season in June will be Agatha Christie's "The Secret of Chimneys" with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Sunday June 25 at 4 p.m. and Thursday June 29 at 8 p.m.

In the play, the Council Chambers at Chimneys, the Brent family estate, holds a dark and intriguing secret and someone will stop at nothing to prevent the monarchy being restored in faraway Herzoslovakia. A young drifter finds more than he bargained for when he agrees to deliver a parcel to the English country estate. Little did Anthony Cade suspect that a simple errand on behalf of a friend would make him the centerpiece of a murderous international conspiracy. A sinister plot rife

with diamonds, oil concessions, exiled royalty, an elusive master criminal and the combined forces of Scotland Yard and the French Surete should be entertaining.

Directed by Laura Martin-Chapin the play features cast members Patrick Atkinson, Venec Call-Ferrer, John Chapin, Bill Chessman, Jill Gelster, Kenneth Matis, Miriam Michels, Laura Martin-Chapin, Yvette Niccolls, Dan Philips, Ken Sollazzo, and William Sponberg.

Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. OVSP cannot accept credit cards, so please pay by cash or check only. Regular admission: \$20; Senior/Children: \$10. Groups of 25 or more receive a discount off the regular admission ticket cost for the purpose of fundraising. Please leave a message at (925) 528-9225.

Be aware that this is an outdoor theatre and dress appropriately/bring blankets. Theater-goers are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the show.

Two additional plays will complete the season. Ray Cooney's "It Runs in the Family" will be performed July 21 through Aug. 12 Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and on Sunday Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 10 at 8 p.m.

Britain's master farceur ("Two Into One, Run For Your Wife," et al.) is at it again. Set in a hospital, "It Runs in the Family" contains the usual assortment of farcical nuts running in and out of doors mistaking everybody for someone else, as Dr. Mortimore tries to fend off a paternity suit, an ex-wife, a punkish son and various other lunatics so that he may, at last, deliver the Ponsonby Lecture in an international conference.

Finally, Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Carlo Collodi's "Pinocchio" will run from Sept. 8 to Sept. 30, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.; on Sundays Sept. 17 and 24 at 4 p.m. and Thursday Sept. 28, at 8 p.m.

First responders hold Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall in Lafayette

By Jennifer Wake

According to Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Lewis Broschard, who spoke during a Town Hall presentation May 31 in Lafayette, community members are the most important resource to prepare for wildfire. "We have approximately 70 staffed fire engines (one for every 15,000 residents)," he explained. "We can't get there fast enough in a fast-moving wildfire."

While Con Fire has worked on vegetation management along evacuation routes and has been working on fire trail maintenance, as well as pre-positioning fire equipment on red flag days, maintaining your personal property is critical, he said, adding that preparing for evacuation is equally important. "Last year a four-alarm fire on 121 acres with more than 30 mph wind gusts was reported at 2 a.m. but due to good defensible space, no structures were damaged."

According to Lafayette Chief of Police Ben Alldritt, Lamorinda looks a lot like the city of Paradise. "What can we do? Police your own property and talk to your neighbors ... and please, please, please sign up for the Community Warning System (CWS)."

"We have an AM radio station, 1670, that reaches Moraga and Orinda, and ALERTCalifornia (a wildfire camera network (alertcalifornia.org) that the community can access to see if there are any fires in your area). If you smell smoke," he said, "if you go to the wildfire cameras, images are updated every 10 seconds. I encourage you to have situational awareness. Be proactive. Take advantage of resources available." This year's weed abatement deadline was June 4 so if you haven't started creating defensible space around your home, the time to get started is now.

A long time ago, as an 18-year-old, Broschard said he created signs about wildfire preparedness, with the slogan, "Defensible space can save your place." Assistant fire chief Chris Bachman says there are three steps for the safest fire season: Know your Zone-haven Zone (a tool to let you know where evacuations are happening), subscribe to CWS, and create defensible space around your home. For all homes on 5 acres or less, make sure all seasonal grasses and weeds are cut at or below 3 inches, remove all mulch from near structures, and cut limbs away from roof lines.

According to Jeff Peter, Con

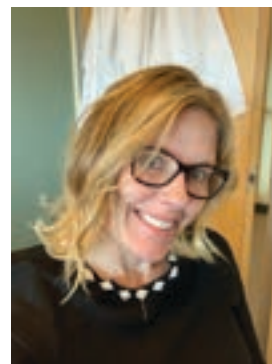
Fire's assistant chief of communication systems, Con Fire continues to grow with aviation, boats and transportation systems in the county, but regardless of growth, he said, "we really need you."

"There's only so much we can do independently of you," said Deputy Fire Chief Brian Helmick. "The reality is we can only do so much."

For more detailed information, visit cccfdp.org/wildfire-prep/ or Cal Fire's readyforwildfire.org www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/hazardous-wildfire-fuels-reduction-program



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City Council Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.