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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



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

Photo Meredith Friedman

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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Burton Valley Traffic Calming Study results presented to Lafayette council – Page A2

**Public Safety**

Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall in Lafayette - Page A7

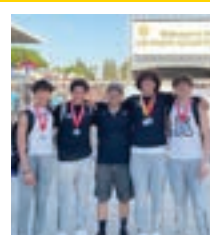
**Life in Lamorinda B1-B4**

Town Hall Theatre offers fun programs for all ages - Page B1



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Success for Dons and Cougars at State Track Meet, led by Acalanes 4x100 relay team – Page C1



**Our Homes D1-D12**

Weeding your way to a field of flowers in backyard landscapes - Page D1





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# Council hears final recommendations from Burton Valley Elementary Traffic Calming study



Traffic Count Location Map

Image provided

By Lou Fancher

Transportation Program Manager Patrick Golier presented the city staff's final recommendations for the Burton Valley Elementary Traffic Calming Pilot Project to the Lafayette City Council at its May 22 meeting. The project launched in 2021 and followed years of requests from residents of the neighborhood and the Burton Valley school community to improve safety in the neighborhood and specifically, around Burton Valley Elementary.

The one-year pilot project conducted by the city included pre- and post-project evaluations of the installed measures. In February and March, a survey was mailed to households located within the area of the pilot study to gather community response to three of the pilot project's nine traffic

calming and pedestrian/bicycle measures. The survey results were key to determining which elements should be retained and which should be removed.

Golier itemized the traffic calming elements that were installed during the pilot project, including: eleven speed humps on Burton, Lucas, Silverado, Merriewood, and Rohrer Drives and Michael Lane; white pole delineators on both ends of each speed hump to discourage drivers from using the roadway shoulder; part-time restricted parking zones on Silverado, Merriewood, and Rohrer drives aligned with school drop-off and pick-up hours; red curbs/permanent no parking zones near corners; reduced lane widths to slow vehicle speeds and provide a wider shoulder; markings and delineators to emphasize lane lines; the addition of a stop sign on Indian Way at Merriewood Drive; a right-turn-only sign from the Burton Valley Elementary driveway at Merriewood Drive; installation of a fourth leg to the crosswalk at the intersection of Burton, Silverado, Lucas and Somerset drives and "ladder striping" emphasizing existing crosswalks at Silverado and Merriewood.

The staff had been directed by the council to gather information regarding adding a permanent pathway/sidewalk to Burton Valley Elementary School along the west sides of Burton, Silverado and Merriewood Drives. Toole Design Group, a civil engineering consulting firm, prepared conceptual designs and planning-level cost estimates for the permanent pathway. To help the community visualize the sidewalk a photo-simulation was created and a link to the rendering on the city's project webpage was included with the community survey.

The specific items eligible for community input on the survey and up for consideration and public comment at the May meeting were the speed humps, the white pole delineators, the part-time parking restrictions, and whether or not to continue with the permanent pathway. Some of the measures are co-dependent and would result in specific, interlinked actions – for example, if the delineators were eliminated and the speed humps retained, the humps would need to be extended to the gutter. For that reason, Golier recommended the linked items be addressed "as a package."

The data collected during the study included vehicle speeds and traffic counts. The results showed a 42% reduction in the number of drivers speeding, with an overall 5 mph reduction from an average of 32 mph to 27 mph in areas with posted speed of 25 mph. The safety measures were less effective when it came to the volume of motor vehicles, which dropped only 7% in one area and in all other areas decreased at lower percentages. The average numbers of bicyclists and pedestrians was mixed; increasing only slightly in some locations during school start and end times and dropping by small numbers in other areas and at different times.

The community input related to the permanent pathway, which would come at an estimated cost of \$2.9 million, and the pilot project's other measures came from the nearly 737 households within the study area receiving the survey. Golier said the survey in summary communicated that the city should retain the speed humps, remove the delineators and extend the speed humps to the gutter, and eliminate the part-time parking restrictions. Furthermore, plans to pursue a permanent pathway/sidewalk were not supported by 66% of the respondents, with only 115 (34%) who favored retaining the option. The staff report noted the city does not have a dedicated funding source for the sidewalk and it is unclear how construction funds would be acquired.

Questions from the council included one from Mayor Carl Anduri, who asked if the collective vehicle speeds in Burton Valley going down 5 mph is a significant number to an expert in the field. Golier said in terms of public safety, the reduction "is a great success story."

Public comments came from one man who spoke for the 415 residents active in Burton Valley Safe Streets, a coalition working together to make the streets in their neighborhoods safer. He urged the council to follow the staff's recommendation and to approve and extend the speed humps, invest more funds in and focus on downtown safety, work to preserve the character of the neighborhood, and make efforts aimed at rebuilding the trust of the Burton Valley community. Most speakers acknowledged the pilot study was a success in terms of the city's Zero Vision plans and traffic calming, but objected to what they perceived as extended, undue and "undemocratic" focus on Burton Valley and its safety. Importantly, several people encouraged the council to consider the needs of elder adults and people with disabilities separately from traffic calming and seek a proper safety study and funding for measures aimed specifically at protecting the safety of vulnerable residents.

Recognizing that concluding the pilot project requires compromise and has involved divisive confrontations during its long and contentious process, council members expressed their intention to work with the community to re-establish trust. The cost to make the recommended changes to the traffic calming and pedestrian/bicycle measures in Burton Valley is approximately \$40,000, which will be discussed and acted upon during a council meeting in June. The vote to support the staff recommendation was unanimous at 4-0 (with Vice Mayor Gina Dawson absent).

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## SWELL Center at LLLC offers respite for teens and tweens this summer



A welcoming, inclusive space for teens to gather, meet new friends, unwind, play games, and if they want, try new activities!

Image provided

By Sharon K. Sobotta

A little over a year ago, a cohort of caring community members co-imagined what it would be like to give tweens and teens in Lafayette a safe place to land, where they could connect with other youth, try their hand at an activity, have some nutritious food, and be free to just be. The radical idea blossomed into a program and a space within the Lafayette Library and Learning Center called the SWELL Center. The Center opened June 5 and offers an assortment of activities, snacks and authentic connection opportunities for rising sixth-12th graders throughout Lamorinda on a daily basis from 10:30 to 2:30 p.m. during weekdays leading up to July 28.

Beth Needle, the executive director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, said the collective that brought the SWELL Cen-

ter to fruition used an ‘if we build it, they will come’ approach and hoped for the best. “We hypothesized that if teens had a place to go when school was not in session, a place where all students were welcome, a place to gather, to explore and engage either individually or with friends, that they might feel that sense of community or belonging that we all need,” Needle said. “Unfortunately, in Lafayette there was not a place to go (before the SWELL Center formalized).

Thankfully, Needle said, the foundation board had a vacant space and some of the key elements of getting the project off the ground. “The Foundation board supported the concept, provided seed money and with an additional grant from the Community Foundation of Lafayette we opened our doors and the kids came,” Needle recalled.

... continued on Page A9

## Lafayette’s Utility Box Art celebrates over 175 years of history



Photo Vera Kochan

Leisure Pastimes Utility Box Art

By Vera Kochan

Lafayette’s founder, Elam Brown, first arrived on Feb. 7, 1847 to check out the land grant that he and his wife, Margaret, had purchased. Originally called Rancho Acalanes, the 3,300 acres grew to become the bustling city that is today’s Lafayette.

This past February, the Lafayette Historical Society (LHS) in conjunction with the city’s Public Art Committee chose graphic designer

Danielle Gogo-Gallagher to create seven examples of photo-wrapped utility boxes depicting historical snapshots in time throughout Lafayette’s 175 years. Each box is located along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, at seven different intersections along an approximately 0.8-mile stretch of road (between First Street and Delores Drive). Once you know what you’re looking for, finding the boxes is not difficult.

A QR code is located on each box that can be scanned using a smartphone. This feature connects to a short LHS presentation that explains the historical relevance of each particular utility box’s images and includes more archival photos. For example, the “Saklan People” box takes viewers back in time when the Bay Miwok tribe first inhabited the area thousands of years ago. How they looked, what they wore, how they hunted, what they ate, and their homes are discussed.

An “Early Downtown” box helps to explain Lafayette’s first settlers and the businesses that were available during the late 1800s. ... continued on Page A5



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Design Review**

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
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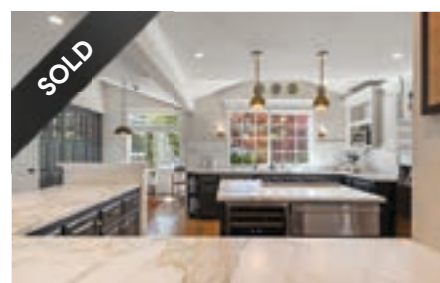


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**LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL**

**Town Council:**  
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
Monday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.,

## Moraga wins Lamorinda Zero Waste Challenge

By Vera Kochan

During the March 15 Lamorinda Councils' annual meeting, the city of Lafayette issued a Sustainability Challenge to the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda.

The challenge letter involved two competitions. The Sustainability Challenge will determine which city's residents take more actions to save carbon dioxide and water and therefore have a higher cumulative score on the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge dashboard by Dec. 31. The Lamorinda Zero Waste Challenge would determine which city's residents reduced waste more between April 3 and May 14.

According to the Sustainable Contra Costa website, "It's been a very exciting 6 weeks of the Lamorinda Zero Waste Challenge! In an exciting turn of events, we are happy to announce 2 winners: Congratulations to Moraga for earning the most points overall! Congratulations to Lafayette for winning four of the six weeks and for having the highest % growth in points!"

The final statistics at the end of the 6-week period show Moraga with 99,880 points (and 9% growth); Lafayette with 70,970 points

(and 17% growth); and Orinda with 16,090 points (and 3% growth). However, Moraga was already considerably in the lead at the start of the challenge (prior to April 3) with 1,083,660 points. Orinda's point total was 572,900, and Lafayette's was 403,570. Cumulative point totals at the conclusion of the Zero Waste Challenge (May 14) were: Moraga 1,183,540; Orinda 588,990; and Lafayette 474,540.

Of the 28 cities participating in Contra Costa County, Moraga leads the way with Orinda coming in second and Lafayette in fourth place behind Walnut Creek. Given the size of the Lamorinda municipalities compared to many in the county, the rankings are very impressive. Also, winning the top spot on the county's Community Leaderboard is Moraga's Campolindo High School with 397,110 points.

During the May 24 Town Council meeting Mayor Renata Sos announced the news that Moraga had won the first phase of the challenge. "This is a friendly competition between Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga to see which municipality could get more residents to participate in the Contra Costa Zero Waste Challenge. The idea

was to get more households in our community to take small steps that can add up to be very large steps in the big impact in reducing our carbon footprint." Sos noted that 131 new Lamorinda households signed up once the challenge began and helped to reduce the CO2 impact by 186,940 pounds.

Sustainable Contra Costa presented various actions that residents committed to in order to reduce waste: recycling; using reusable bottles, bags and straws; buying local and organic; participating in a circular economy; going paperless; shopping smart/buying less; skipping the packaging; bringing your own mug/container; making things last; growing your own food; and sharing resources.

"Just because the challenge is over doesn't mean we should stop our efforts at reducing each of our household's carbon footprint," added Sos. "Those who are enrolled, please keep doing what you're doing, and thank you for the difference you're making; and those who haven't enrolled yet, there's no time like the present. Just go to sustainablecoco.org and follow the easy steps to enroll, and see how you can help."

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## Outdoor summer concerts and events return to Lamorinda



Many families enjoyed the Rock the Plaza event last week.

Photo Jeff Heyman

... continued from Page A1

You can also catch concerts in Orinda and Moraga this summer.

The Moraga Summer Concert Series is a beloved community tradition put on by the Moraga Park Foundation. Concerts are held Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Moraga Commons Park throughout the summer. Food is available for purchase from on-site food trucks and vendors. Picnics

are welcome.

Orinda's Community Center Park will feature concerts from 6 to 8 p.m., including: June 8, Three Day Weekend; June 22, Opera in the Park; July 13, Lamorinda Idol; July 27, Grateful Bluegrass Boys; Aug. 3, Kate Burkart Bank; Aug. 24, Vintage Jukebox; Sept. 7, Hipster Cocktail Party; and Sept. 21, Patron Latin Rhythms. Outdoor movies will also be featured at the Community Park this summer from 8 to 10

p.m., including: July 7, "Missions: The Rise of Gru;" July 14, "Night at the Museum;" Aug. 18, "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish;" Aug. 25, "Encanto;" and Oct. 6 "The Super Mario Bros. Movie."

Remember to bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and have your air guitars ready to rock.

Sora O'Doherty contributed to this article.

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# Bubble Palooza event delights children with white foamy fun at Moraga Commons Park



Photo Vera Kochan

Local kids enjoy a morning of fun May 30 during Bubble Palooza at Moraga Commons.

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Parks and Recreation Department has, once again, put on an event to keep the townsfolk entertained in an unusual way.

The brainchild of Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson, Bubble Palooza's May 30 festivities at the Moraga Commons Park saw approximately 70 kids (5 years old and younger), throughout the morning plunge into a huge mound of bubbles across a 20-foot by 20-foot

area produced by an electric machine that closely resembled a leaf blower, but without the noise.

A concentrated bubble solution was poured into a tank where water was added to create the foamy white bubbles one would see during a bubble bath at home. There was no "tub" per se. The bubbles were sprayed onto the grass under what serves as the town's Holiday Tree in December. There were also several small machines around the perimeter that

blew the kind of bubbles made from a typical bubble-blowing toy.

Children played for about an hour in the two-foot-deep bubbles wearing their clothes and enormous smiles. One can't help but wonder if bath time at home is met with as much enthusiasm. Parents watched with expressions that could have said, "I wish I could jump in there, too!"

Isabelle (3) could barely muster up a few words for an interview when asked if she was enjoying herself. Rather, she kept pointing to the bubble pile as if to explain that's where she wanted to be, and the interview was over.

Emily, Isabelle's mom, said that her daughter was initially hesitant to go into the foam, let alone touch it. "Now she's putting piles of bubbles on her head."

While a new batch of bubble solution was being made, the small revelers stood around the dwindling remains with expectant looks on their faces and refused to leave the area in the hopes that a fresh batch of suds would soon be manufactured.

"It's kind of hokey," said Bateson, "but if it's 15 minutes of smiles for the day, then it's worth it."

# Lafayette's Utility Box Art celebrates over 175 years of history



Early Downtown Utility Box Art

... continued from Page A3

A grist mill, hotels, a store, a blacksmith shop, and a school were the first signs of retail activity. A few decades later a church and post office were added.

The "Pioneer & Farm Life" box reveals how and when the first farmers arrived and would eventually grow crops that included pears, peaches, walnuts and grapes. Many farmers also kept cows on their property and made their own butter and cheese from the milk.

The "Mt. Diablo Boulevard" box lets viewers know that the main road was still unpaved by 1926, even though cars were beginning to travel on it right alongside cattle. Ten years later, the main streets were paved and included lane lines, but drivers, as yet, had no traffic signs or signals to deal with. As the decades passed, additional lanes were added and more businesses came to Lafayette.

An "Early School Days" box explains the 1850s opening of the first grammar school and subsequent schools to follow. One of the teachers, Jennie Bickerstaff, arrived to work each day riding sidesaddle on her horse due to the long skirts women wore at the turn of the last century.

Not to be left out is the "Leisure Pastimes" box. Lafayette worked hard and played hard by enjoying sports (there was a baseball team), May Day and Fourth of July events, community dances, horse shows, and in 1941, the



Mt Diablo Boulevard Utility Box Art

opening of the Park Theatre for movies.

Situated at the crossroads of Martinez, Canyon/Moraga, Oakland and Walnut Creek, the "Tunnels, Roads & Rails" box denotes the importance of enhanced travel routes for Lafayette's citizens. The 1913 electric railroad service through town, the 1937 opening of what would eventually become the Caldecott Tunnel, and the building of Highway 24 in the 1960s would serve to connect Lafayette with its neighbors and beyond.

For more information or to take the tour visit: [www.love-lafayette.org/175plus](http://www.love-lafayette.org/175plus). You can also visit the LHS website: [lafayettehistory.org](http://lafayettehistory.org) or <https://facebook.com/LafayetteHistoricalSociety>.

Special thanks to LHS Oral History and Social Media Director John Kennett.



Photos Vera Kochan

Saklan People Utility Box Art

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## William Penn Mott award ceremony returns in person after pandemic



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**Winners of the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award, from left: Bruce McGurk and Jan Chushman, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; Erica Bains, Friends of the Orinda Nature Area, Barbara Leitner, Botanist, and Toris Jaeger, Naturalist.**

**By Sora O'Doherty**

The Orinda Association on Sunday, June 4 presented the 2023 William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award to the Friends of the Orinda Nature

Area in a ceremony at the Wilder Art and Garden Center. At the same ceremony, the OA also honored two previous awardees, since they had been unable to hold an in-person event during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award for 2022 went to Orinda Eagle and Gold Scouts and the 2019 award went to Barbara M. Leitner.

The Friends of the Orinda Nature Area support the Nature Area adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School as a natural environment and a historical site with the goal of enhancing environmental conservation for the community. The Orinda Nature Area features 18 acres of meadow, forest, ponds and streams and is a certified Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

More than 15,000 children have experienced the Nature Area since 1970 through a variety of programs that help students embrace the connection between themselves and their environment and foster-

ing a lifelong stewardship.

In addition, the Friends present an annual Olive Festival and the Wildlife Festival where adults and children can experience nature activities and learn more about the local flora and fauna. Unfortunately, severe winter storms caused significant damage to the Nature Area which remains closed while repairs are made. Hopefully, it will reopen in the fall of 2023.

Since 1957, Orinda Scouts have beautified areas around the city and enhanced the local environment. To recognize and honor these decades-long contributions, The Orinda Association (OA) chose Orinda Eagle Scouts and Gold Scouts to receive the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award for 2022.

To earn the Gold Award rank, Girl Scouts must spend a minimum of 80 hours on their projects and demonstrate extraordinary leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, national and global challenges.

To earn scouting's Eagle advancement rank, boys and girls must fulfill requirements in leadership, service and outdoor skills, in addition to completing at least 21 merit badges and organizing and leading a service project for the betterment of the community. Over the years, many Eagle Scout projects have added to the environment of the Orinda Nature Area.

The 2019 winner of the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award is botanist Barbara Leitner, a native plant expert, environmental consultant and longtime community volunteer. Leitner is a past president of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and a board

member of Friends of Orinda Creeks. She frequently volunteers at the nonprofit Natives Here Nursery in Tilden Park, and her home was featured in the 2023 Bringing Back the Natives Tour last month.

Leitner was nominated by Cinda MacKinnon on behalf of Friends of Orinda Creeks. MacKinnon praised Leitner for a tree survey that tagged and mapped more than 218 trees along San Pablo Creek in Orinda Village as part of a creek restoration project. Leitner, who has lived in Orinda for 30 years with her husband Steve Leitner, has worked for the city as a consultant for over 20 years offering advice about creek restoration.

The William Penn Mott, Jr. award, is given annually in memory of 50-year Orinda resident William Penn Mott, Jr. The award is presented to an Orinda resident, group of residents or organization which has worked for the preservation, improvement, promotion or educational use of Orinda's environmental and ecological assets.

Often described as "Mr. Parks" and a "modern day John Muir," Mott worked for 60 years to create tens of thousands of acres of parkland at the national, state, regional and local levels. He headed the National Park Service (NPS), the California park systems, Oakland's city parks, the East Bay Regional Parks and the Moraga parks department.

At the time of his death in 1992, the 82-year-old Mott was serving as a special assistant to the NPS, working on the conversion plans for civilian use of the Presidio of San Francisco. Locally, Mott was a founding member of The Orinda Association and served as its first president.

## Pro bono vocal coach Rena Wilson helps Lamorinda Idol competitors

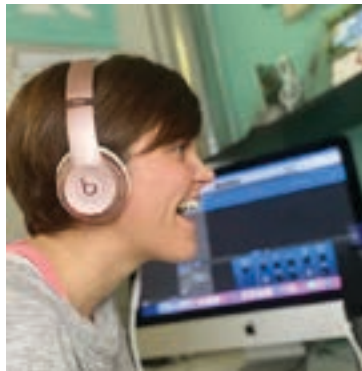


Photo provided

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Since 2011, actor and vocal coach Rena Wilson has been offering free coaching to young voices hoping to win the Lamorinda Idol contest, and she loves it. She considers it a gift to be able to help the young singers, and program chair Steve Harwood calls her "an absolute angel."

Wilson, with her best friend and business partner, ran Performing Academy and had been coaching private students for the Lamorinda Idol competition. She contacted Harwood and offered to do pro bono training open to all the contestants and Harwood

jumped at the offer. He was very supportive of Performing Academy, Wilson says. Her partner Rene Dewese Moran took over when Wilson moved to Los Angeles, but she continues to offer Idol coaching over Zoom.

Wilson teaches vocal technique and performance coaching. At first, she did the coaching in person, but since the pandemic, she has found that the Zoom conference platform works very well for this purpose.

Her goal is to help the students be more confident on stage, to deliver a more passionate performance, and to engage with the words and storytelling of the song. "Every year," she says, "it never ceases to amaze me; sometimes a kid will come in quiet and timid, but they grow their performance and by the end of the session they are singing from bottom of their feet to top of their head." Competitors have to be good singers and strong performers. Wilson explained, but coaching can take their performance to the next level.

Over the past dozen years, Wilson has had the privilege of working with many families,

and many students she coached have become her private students. Those who follow the contest will know that there are contestants from the same family who appear in different years. "It is such a gift to see a younger brother or sister," Wilson says. In addition, she coaches those students who come back year after year.

Wilson describes her coaching style as "really direct but very positive, creating a warm environment where kids feel supported."

"What Steve and the Lamorinda Arts Council have created gives the kids this beautiful level of confidence in themselves, confidence to create a video and post it on YouTube," Wilson adds. "Kids feel really good about themselves, really positive."

Wilson emphasizes breathing technique, vowel placement, diction, and performance coaching. She wants the students to focus on what the words really mean and how can they convey the story to their audience. This year, coaching sessions will be offered by Wilson in June and July. ... continued on Page A9

**Correction:** In the May 24 caption about the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group spring tower cleanup Matthew Vurek was misidentified as Matthew Vireo.

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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](mailto: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](http://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

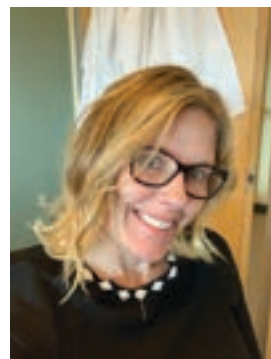
Fire's assistant chief of communication systems, Con Fire continues to grow with aviation, boats and transportation systems in the county, but regardless of growth, he said, "we really need you."

"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/](http://cccfdp.org/wildfire-prep/) or Cal Fire's [readyforwildfire.org](http://readyforwildfire.org) [www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/hazardous-wildfire-fuels-reduction-program](http://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.

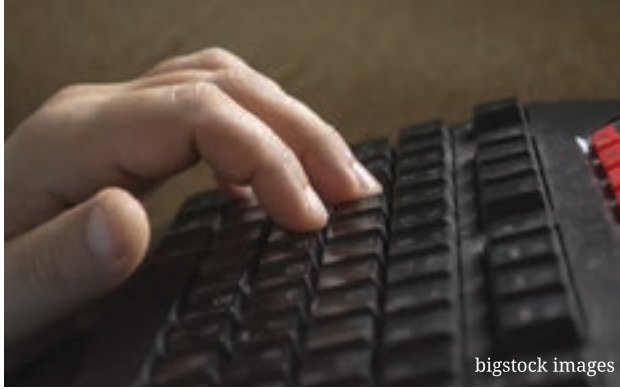
**Planning Commission:**

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

**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**

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

# The rise of technology scams: be aware



bigstock images

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

Technology has revolutionized the way we live and work, providing us with unprecedented access to information and resources. However, this increased connectivity has also led to an uptick in technology scams, where fraudsters use technology to deceive and defraud unsuspecting victims.

An increasing number of my clients are falling victim to scam attempts. In this day and age, it is es-

sential to be aware of the risks associated with technology and to take proactive measures to protect yourself from falling victim to scams.

I was working for a client the other day when their telephone rang. The caller said they were from her bank and had noticed fraudulent activity and asked if she had knowledge of the charges. She said she didn't make the purchases and was frightened that someone had stolen her information. They asked her to allow them access to her computer and they would help her sign into her bank account so they could credit back the fraudulent charges. I heard her start to give her personal information to the caller, and I immediately ran to her and told her to hang up and to call her bank directly. She hung up and called her bank. Guess what? No fraudulent activity and the bank had not initiated the call.

If the call was legitimate, the bank would never ask her for personal information. Although she was shaken, she was grateful she hung up in time, otherwise, she could have been scammed out of thousands of dollars, not to mention the hassle factor of trying to unravel the ensuing mess.

These scammers target everyone! It is essential to stay vigilant and safeguard yourself from scams, re-

gardless of your age, as scammers are constantly improving their tactics to obtain your money.

Another client was planning to send money to his grandson who sent him an email saying he was traveling and lost all his credit cards and couldn't get home. I told him to call his grandson directly and of course, the grandson didn't know anything about the request and had not emailed my client.

A third client sent me an email saying that she had been sick and wanted to know if I could purchase an Amazon gift card for her niece's birthday. Instead of responding back to the email, I called her on the phone. She was devastated and told me she had been on the phone all day with all of her friends and family calling to make sure she was OK. This scammer was able to take control of her email contacts and send them all requests for a gift card purchase. It took her weeks to unravel this scammer's work. Can you imagine having your email hacked?

**Here are just a few suggestions for protecting yourself against scams:**

- Scammers are often pushy and use scare tactics to get you to provide them with access to your credit card, social security number, or other personal information.

... continued on Page A10

## Letters to the editor

### Meeting the need for affordable housing

Like many communities across the Bay Area, Lafayette is struggling to get its housing plan approved by the state. After its second submission was rejected on March 29th, the City now risks losing state funding and local control unless it submits a compliant plan on an expedited timeline.

Every 7 years, California cities are required to submit "housing element" plans to the state for approval. Until now, this has been a paper exercise. Since 2017 however, California legislators have passed a raft of housing bills requiring municipalities to actually demonstrate how they will build enough housing to meet their share of each region's need. Lafayette needs to show capacity for 2,114 units. Our community and city council have created plans for approximately 2,900 homes—on paper. In reality, Lafayette's earlier drafts have concentrated new housing along Mt. Diablo Blvd, with few substantial policy changes to facilitate actual housing development.

The state rejected these drafts for many reasons—first and foremost because the city lacks adequate incentives for new homes and because of concerns that putting all new housing downtown would exacerbate segregation. To their credit, Lafayette city staff and council members are considering major improvements in the next Housing Element draft. For example, the city is considering allowing missing middle housing (think fourplexes and cottage courts) in single-family zoned neighborhoods near downtown. These smaller units are more "affordable by design" and more appropriate for young people and seniors who lack affordable housing options.

Inclusive Lafayette also supports efforts to expedite the city's timeline for developing af-

fordable housing on city owned land, and to limit the types of projects which require discretionary review. Meeting our housing obligations need not be a burden, but instead an opportunity to create the kind of community that most people in Lafayette want to live in: a community where families with kids can afford to live, supporting our school enrollment; one where seniors can find options to downsize while remaining in the community and retail workers can find an affordable home instead of the two-hour plus commute or severe rent burden that many endure now.

We must seize this moment and embrace the pro-housing future our community desperately needs.

The Board of Inclusive Lafayette Jeremy Levine, Max Heninger, Chris Mickas and Allison Hill

### Orinda needs an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance

Thanks to Lamorinda Weekly and its reporter Sora O'Doherty, for the May 24, 2023 story about the Orinda City Council's overdue consideration of an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance ("IO"). An IO would require that any new housing project include a specified percentage of affordable housing. A four person household qualifies for lower income affordable housing with an annual income up to \$100,000; for moderate income the limit is \$171,000. I am pleased that the council is considering such an ordinance.

But I am troubled by the quoted comments of many of the council members, who appear to believe that bringing affordable housing to Orinda is optional. It is not.

Only a few months ago, as required by state law (RHNA), Orinda adopted, and the state approved, a Housing Element that contains a plan to rezone Orinda. The state mandated

that, of the total of 1,359 new units, 43% be designated for lower income and 16% for moderate income. But the City's designations are not binding on developers. For example, the city has upzoned the Country Club Plaza area from 10 (current zoning) to 55 units per acre and designated 43% of units on the site for lower income and 16% for moderate income. Housing Element Table 5-5A.

<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/6thCycleHEAdoptedCertified> Yet a developer can take advantage of the 55 units per acre new density and build exclusively market rate or luxury housing without any affordable units.

Thus, the only way to actually get affordable housing is by enacting an IO.

Not mentioned in the story is that if by January 2027 actual building permits have not been issued at each income level equal to half of Orinda's RHNA at each income level, the mid-cycle consequences of SB 35 would come into play, which would dramatically limit the city's approval powers over new projects. At that point, zoning is insufficient.

Another reason for compelling developers to include affordable housing in new projects is that it is one of the only ways to increase diversity in Orinda, a goal presumably shared by the Council.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

### Anti-trans demonstrations

We have anti-trans bigots in Lafayette. They are demonstrating outside the elementary school on Fridays to indoctrinate kids to hate on LGBTQ communities. Bigots hate blacks and said interracial marriage would lead to the breakdown of society, but we legalized inter-racial marriage in 1967 and they were wrong. Bigots hate gays and tried to stop them from marry-

ing saying it would destroy the "sanctity of marriage," we legalized it in 2008 and they were wrong. Now they are hating on trans people saying they are pedophiles.

Look bigots, you are wrong again. If you want to find proven pedophiles in dresses, please demonstrate in front of the Catholic Church as this is where the abusers are. Indeed, the diocese of Oakland just declared bankruptcy to defend itself from 330 cases of child abuse. But you won't do that, as you are not really about child abuse but about bigotry.

Matthew Fogarty  
Orinda

### The dismissal of head coach Bill Fraser

On May 31 Lafayette citizen Bill Fraser was dismissed from his position as Head Coach of the Acalanes Girls' Lacrosse team. The reason given by Associate Superintendent Amy McNamara and Principal Eric Shawn was essentially "sometimes a change is needed". No specifics.

Bill is an exemplary, upstanding and engaged member of the Lamorinda community. He's made lasting impacts on families through his coaching contributions at Acalanes, MOL, Lafayette Little League and his work with Boy Scout Troop 204.

In 2022, just last year, Bill was named the Lafayette Citizen of the Year and US Lacrosse Nor-Cal Coach of the Year. On April 1, 2022, the Acalanes Boosters published an article titled "Acalanes Salutes Coach Bill Fraser, Lafayette's Citizen of the Year!" "The Acalanes athletic

community is fortunate to have Bill Fraser coaching and mentoring so many of our student-athletes." "Bill's players consistently mention their appreciation for both his coaching on the field as well as his mentoring for life off the field." The City of Lafayette proclaimed, "Bill Fraser, through his coaching, creates community on and off the field and builds self-esteem and confidence of the young men and women in our community by encouraging them to be the best they can be."

What has changed since last spring? Was it because Bill publicly supported school board candidates who ran against current incumbents last November? Was it First Amendment protected opinions that Bill may have rightly and publicly shared? Was his dismissal retaliatory in nature?

Lamorinda, it's well past time to speak up against cancel culture in our communities. We have parents, students, community members, teachers and business owners who all fear sharing their thoughts and questions out of fear of being canceled. It's time to get off our collective knees and stand up. Speak up. Don't be a bystander. All voices deserve to be heard – whether or not you agree with them. There is no pride in being a passive coward and hoping that someone else will combat this insidious cancel culture. The person you're waiting for is yourself. People like Bill Fraser deserve our respect and support.

Jean Follmer  
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence – we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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94549Traffic@gmail.com

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**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan  
925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

**May 14 - May 27**

Alarms	44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	27
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	10
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	26
Vacation House Check	29
Welfare Check	22
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
3000 Block Camino Diablo	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	



Carjacking	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)	
Reckless Driving	
Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
200 Block Lafayette Cir.	
Road Rage	
Glenside Dr./Burton Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
30 Block Deer Trail	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Computer Fraud	
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
Misc Burglary	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Panhandling	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
600 Block Augustine Ln.	
Petty Theft From Veh	
4000 Block Tilden Ln. (2)	
Residential Burglary	
1100 Block Estates Dr.	
Robbery Armed	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Robbery Strongarm	
10 Block Caselton Pl.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (7)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.	
3700 Block Sundale Rd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
1200 Block Panorama Dr.	
Loud Music	
900 Block Janet Ln.	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Loud Noise	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Party	

1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
3100 Block Ford Ln.	
Public Nuisance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Willow Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Creek	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Florence Dr./Helen Ln.	
1000 Block Almanor Ln.	
Vandalism	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Other</b>	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.	
Indecent Exposure	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
100 Block Alamosa Dr., Dan	
Sb I 680 At Marina Vista Ave., Mar	
Loitering	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Stray-traf Haz	
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Hilldale Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
1300 Block Masterson Ln.	

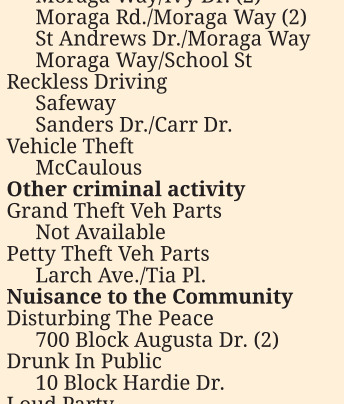
<b>Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report</b>	
<b>May 16 - May 22</b>	
Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	26
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	10
Patrol Req./Security Check	4
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	2

Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
St Marys College	
Auto Burglary	
Not Available	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori	
Moraga Rd./Sky High	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)	
Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd., Laf	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way (2)	
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/School St	
Reckless Driving	
Safeway	
Sanders Dr./Carr Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
McCaulous	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
Not Available	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
Larch Ave./Tia Pl.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
700 Block Augusta Dr. (2)	
Drunk In Public	
10 Block Hardie Dr.	
Loud Party	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
<b>Other</b>	
Corporal Injury Spouse	
100 Block Wallace Cir.	

Traffic	35
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	13
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.	
Orinda Way	
Police Department	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.	
Auto Burglary	
200 Block El Toyonal (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
Wilder Rd./Eb Sr 24	
90 Block Loma Vista Dr.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Commercial Burglary	
70 Block Moraga Ct.	
Identity Theft	
80 Block Van Ripper Ln.	
70 Block Van Ripper Ln.	
Warrant Arrest	
Orinda Way (2)	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-domestic	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	
Loud Music	
10 Block Hilldale Ct.	
Loud Noise	
Washington Ln. (2)	
Public Nuisance	
10 Block Orinda Way	
<b>Other</b>	
Possession Of Stolen Prop	
Camino Sobrante	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
Wilder Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Unauthorized Possession	
Oak Rd./Barbara Rd.	
Violation Of Parole	
Orinda Way	

<b>Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report</b>	
<b>May 21 - May 27</b>	
Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9

Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9



<b>Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report</b>	
<b>May 21 - May 27</b>	
Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9



# Miramonte graduates revisit their elementary schools

... continued from Page A1

The event was the brainchild of Robinson and her team and was truly a group effort between them, ONE, and the elementary school principals. Allen said it was lovely to work with the senior class parent advisors and, knowing how busy this time of year is for senior families, she would love to offer the opportunity for them all to enjoy the parade and let ONE do the leg work in the future.

"There was so much excitement in the air," Allen said. "Elementary students were able to high-five the seniors as they paraded

through. There was cheering and shouts of "Happy Graduation Day!" as the graduates visited each school. Allen observed Mrs. Okamitsu's first-grade students at Wagner Ranch asking the visiting seniors for their autographs. Patsy Templeton, principal at Sleepy Hollow, said she overheard kindergarten students trying to determine how many years it would be until they would return to their school, wearing caps and gowns. Maple Lai, principal at Del Rey, said that the seniors were "genuine stars on campus." And this was certainly felt by the seniors.

While the parade lasted

about 10-15 minutes, the graduates were on each campus for about 30-40 minutes as they lined up for the parade, took photographs, and visited their old teachers and chatted with the younger students. Retired teachers also came back to campus for this event. Each school held a formal parade with elementary students flanking the walkways, reaching out for high-fives, and calling out congratulations. Some students made signs for the seniors and held those high. Wagner Ranch provided maps of the campus with the teachers' names and room numbers so seniors could go visit their old teachers.



Glorietta graduates

Photos provided



Del Rey graduates



Wagner Ranch graduates



Sleepy Hollow graduates

# SWELL Center at LLLC offers respite for teens and tweens this summer

... continued from Page A3

"It was a wonderful thing to watch."

Some of Needle's co-conspirators or collaborators for the SWELL Center included Jennifer Wakeman from the City of Lafayette, Lynna McPhatter-Harris, manager of the Wellness program for the Acalanes Union High School District and Suzy Pak, a volunteer on the committee, who also happens to be on the Lafayette School District governing board. At the time there had been an uptick in suicide ideation and attempts and the need for positive outlets was undeniable. "We

knew that Wellness Centers in the schools provided an excellent resource for students but only when school was in session and that unfortunately it was during school breaks that suicide (ideation and attempts) increased," Needle said.

Pak said that even as the program continues to evolve, it offers something great to those who engage. "The SWELL Center continues to evolve to meet the attendees where they are, as seen through repeated visits and lots of positive feedback. It also highlights many facets of our incredible Library and Learning Center, making it more accessible to our young residents and increasing fu-

ture visits," Pak said. "Our attendees walk away with a great appreciation for the staff and services at our local library, while having a great time and meeting new friends."

A rising ninth-grader shared her experience of engaging with the SWELL Center during a community forum in the LLLC last fall. "It was awesome to be able to connect with real friends, where you could be your real self and not have to worry about trying to impress fake friends," she said. "You can truly be yourself there, as you try new activities, eat food and have a genuinely good time."

# Pro bono vocal coach Rena Wilson helps Lamorinda Idol competitors

... continued from Page A6

In her experience, Wilson says that parents can be very hands-on, or not. Until the kids hit middle school it can go one way or the other, she noted. Some parents are not involved, but parents do tend to be much more involved with elementary students. Once

they hit middle school, the kids try to take control. Getting accepted into the finals includes all of the performances and coaching during the summer.

This year the Lamorinda community will have an opportunity to hear the finalists perform at three local concerts: Lafayette Plaza (June 23); Orinda Community Park (July

13); and Moraga Commons (Aug. 2). The final performances and announcement of winners will take place on Aug. 20 at the Orinda Theatre. Finalists were notified on June 1, and the complete list of finalists and runners-up can be found on the Lamorinda Arts Council website, at lamorindaarts.org.

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\*No camp on June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

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references available

## The rise of technology scams: be aware

... continued from Page A8

Pause and remember don't let fear push you to make a rash decision to provide personal information to a scammer.

- As a general rule, if you receive any email from an address that you do not know, you should block the sender's address. You do not want to open the email or even unsubscribe. Further, you should not respond with STOP in the subject line. Any response you send back is "engaging" with the scammer and could put your email in danger. Never open any attachments, even if it says you have a voicemail message waiting. I have received these email messages at my Efficiency Matters email saying I need to download the link to hear a voice mail message.

- Never respond to a text message from someone you don't know. The text message can say something like "I'm having an emergency, can you help me?" Naturally, because you do not know this person you would want to respond with "I'm sorry, I think you have the wrong number." Unfortunately, this is the start of another scammer's plan. Again, do not respond to the text, delete the message.
- I know that I receive emails

that look like they are from Amazon, GoDaddy, Wells Fargo and Netflix. They either send me a receipt for a large purchase or tell me my account could not be charged and they are canceling my membership. They all ask for personal information ... all scams.

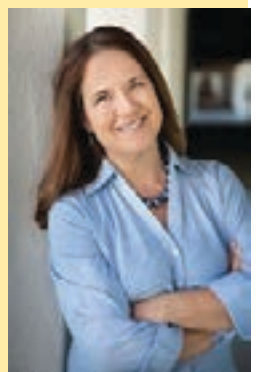
- Some of the ways to keep your information safe is to assign unique passwords to each website and use a password manager. If you have trouble remembering your passwords – and a password manager isn't the right fit for you – you can use an old fashioned address book to keep them listed in alphabetical order (keep it somewhere safe and don't label it "Passwords").
- Another suggestion is to use

a two-step authentication for all websites. This means that they will send you a code (by text or email) before you can sign on.

- If you are over 60, some of your passwords may be the original ones you used when opening an account (back in the day when we used personal info for passwords). One of my older clients still uses a combination of their last name and birthdate as their bank account password. Danger! It's best to avoid creating passwords from personal info that others might guess.

The benefits of modern technology are many...yet scams are on the rise. It's important to be aware!

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



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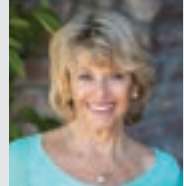
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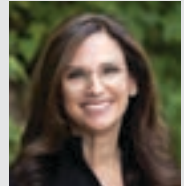
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DRE# 01917597

CAROLYN WAY



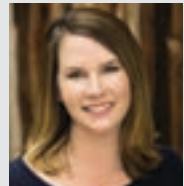
925.890.4115  
DRE# 00947460

CHRISTINE WRIGHT



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DRE# 01896147

JOY WIEHN



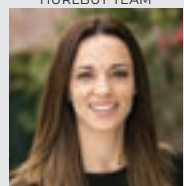
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DRE# 02047712

JILL BALAZS



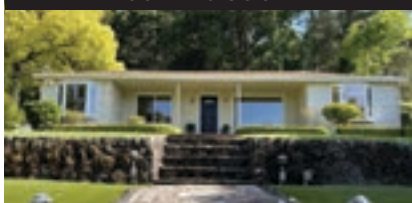
925.804.0200  
DRE# 02038791

LAUREN DEAL HURLBUT TEAM



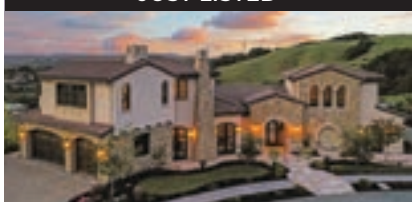
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COMING SOON



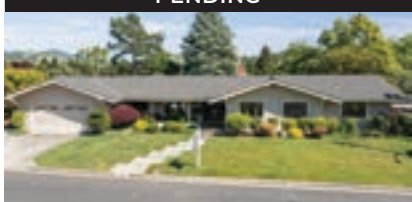
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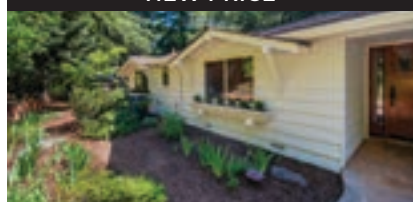
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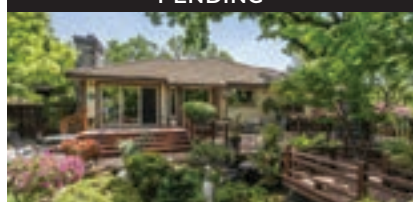
4067 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
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J. DEL SANTO / T. FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851

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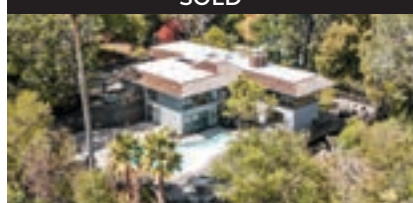
3270 THERESA LANE, LAFAYETTE  
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RACHEL DREYER | 415.990.1672

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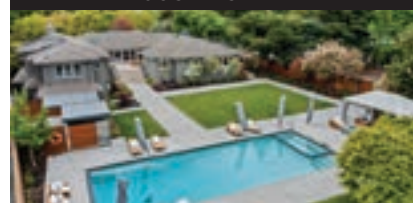
64 BRUBAKER DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK  
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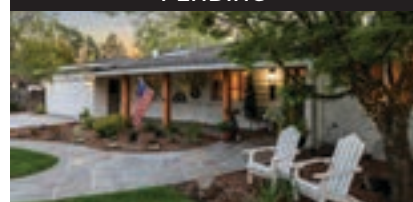
9 RANCHO DIABLO ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
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LAUREN DEAL | 925.876.4671

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MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500

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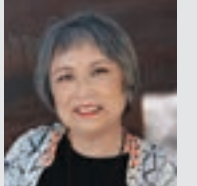
827 SANTA MARIA WAY, LAFAYETTE  
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BRYAN HURLBUT



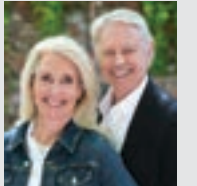
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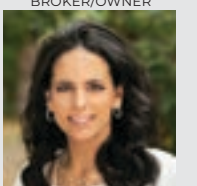
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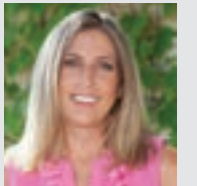
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JULIE DEL SANTO BROKER/OWNER



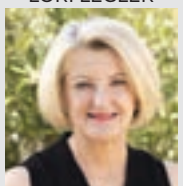
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DRE# 01932119

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DRE# 00805732

MATT MCLEOD



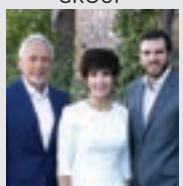
925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

RACHEL DREYER



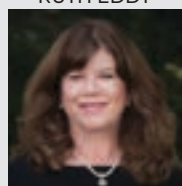
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DRE# 01994561

COLOMBANA GROUP



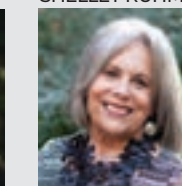
925.878.8047  
DRE# 01979180

RUTH EDDY



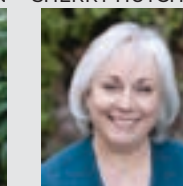
925.788.5449  
DRE# 01313819

SHELLEY RUHMAN



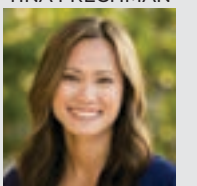
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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## YES! Town Hall Theatre has something for everyone – even adults



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Adult improv class participants share laughs at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Tim Shoji, a Moraga resident and a financial advisor, went online to register his daughter for a children's improv class at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre, he found more than he bargained for.

"I randomly found an adult improv class (called 'Yes-And-Wine') and decided to sign up and I'm having a lot of fun," Shoji says. "I realized I had stopped trying new things. I'm a financial advisor, so I talk to people about money (for my day job). Doing this lets me exercise a different part of my brain."

Shoji is one of the half dozen people who have been showing up since March for the adult improv class which takes place every third Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m. It comes with two drinks (alcoholic or non), on-the-spot exercises, community connections and countless laughs. It costs about the same or perhaps slightly less than having a few drinks out on the town (\$30) and also has scholarship or partial scholarship opportunities available. As long as the class is offered, Shoji says he'll be there. "I think it's important to have something like this not just

here in Lamorinda but everywhere (for all age groups and disciplines)," Shoji says.

"There's so much pressure to learn skills like math and science, but I also recognize that art nurtures the soul so we really need a robust program within the community to help people nurture that side (of themselves)."

Lisa Anne Morrison is at the center of the 'Yes-And-Wine' adult improv class and she seems to have just as much fun as her intergenerational crowd of students ranging in age from early 20s to 80s. The class's title stems directly from the foundation of improv – 'Yes, And,' and the wine, for those who choose, can be the social lubricant to lean in. "I feel like I'm pretty good at putting people at ease. Sometimes they come in nervous and by the end of class, they're surprising themselves," Morrison says. "They're taking that step (toward being creative while playing with improv) and really enjoying themselves."

As an actor with experience under her belt and the mother of someone who was involved with Town Hall Theatre, Morrison knew for certain that she didn't want adults to be left out. "Teaching

adults) is something that I feel passionately about. There's all this programming for kids. But adults (would) drop off their kids, and (wonder) why don't I get to do theater and play like I used to?" Morrison set out to fill that void. "I wanted to give parents (and adult community members) who work so hard a place to come and meet new people and laugh."

Neja Diani drove over from San Ramon to join the class after being gifted a package of classes. "It's super intimidating (at first) but I'm loving it. We've had so much laughter in the past few hours," Diani said after class. "Improv specifically gets people out of their comfort zones. It makes everybody more creative."

As House Manager, Trisha Kelley greets the adult improv students each month and pours them their drinks. Kelley has been the theatre's house manager for eight years, but her time with Town Hall Theatre dates back to the 1960s when she did ballet and continued as her own children were involved with programs at the theatre. "As we get older, we forget to use our creativity and imagination and that's why I love seeing some of the people who are older than

children back in here using their brains to get light-hearted," Kelley says. "There's nothing better than sitting below the theatre (where drinks and snacks are served) and hearing people interact and laugh."

Behind the bar that Kelley staffs is a sign which reads, "Have your drinks everywhere." Kelley says that sentiment is part of what makes the Town Hall Theatre the place it is. "We want people to feel like they can come here for a fun and quaint night out. We've kind of got a Cheers vibe going on here and it's meant to be fun and relaxing and it is."

Dennis Markham, the managing director, says community engagement and community involvement is not just a part of the vision of Town Hall Theatre but a part of the building itself which was built in 1944 during World War II. "This was built as a gathering place and the company itself was founded by mothers who were looking for activities to do with their children," Markham says. "The first year was all women and our first production was a Christmas show and it's grown from there."

The pandemic hit the theatre hard, causing attendance to drop and a lag in participation. Still, Markham is optimistic that with programs ranging from summer camp for kids to back porch music concerts to new voices plays along with traditional acts and adult programs like 'Yes And Wine,' the seats will fill up again. Markham hopes that if someone has always wanted to try out for a play, they do it, and that if they have a creative idea for another program, they do that too.

"There is something for everyone here. Anybody is welcome to audition for parts in plays or participate in any of our educational or engagement activities. We have opportunities for seasoned professionals as well as for people who are new to acting, and lots to offer appreciators of theatre who want to come out for a good time."

The monthly 'Yes-And-Wine' class takes place the third Sunday of every month. For information about that, audition opportunities for all ages, upcoming shows or camps for children, visit townhalltheatre.com.

## Campolindo Robotics Club offers new Girl Scouts STEM program



Photo provided

Submitted by Meera Phadnis

Thanks to patience, persistence, and dedicated community support, the Campolindo Robotics Club (active since 2006) helped develop, and is offering, a new Girl Scouts STEM program. The Robotics Club is known for competing with other Bay Area robotics teams in the FIRST Tech Challenge. The Club has won several awards this year.

The primary goal of these workshops is to inspire more women to enter STEM careers by exposing them to exciting, hands-on group projects and activities. The first session consists of girls working in small groups to construct mBlock robots; the second focuses on coding the robots using the Blockly app. The final project allows for more freedom and creativity, enabling the Scouts to develop and

present their own fun twist.

Campo Robotics relies on the Parents Club for financial support, with help from local companies, such as Moraga Ace Hardware. For this new venture, the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley provided critical funding to purchase a starter set of robots and computers. Many individuals also stepped up. Mrs. Stephanie Verbanszky, a local troop leader and chemistry teacher at Campolindo High School, provided the opportunity to work with her troop in developing the curriculum. Ms. Nita Madra, a Campolindo STEM teacher, is the Club's leading mentor and helped guide the team. Mr. Ferenc Kovac (Kiwanis) spearheaded the effort and helped provided supplies, contacts, and insight to community outreach programs, as well as volunteer help from UC Berkeley's College of Engi-

neering women faculty, staff, alumni, and Shefali Goel, a current student. Campolindo's Tech Club also contributed with post-production of Craig Kovac's online tutorial video on the robot components, assembly, and functions.

The Campolindo Robotics Club is looking to schedule more workshops with Girl Scouts troops. The plan is to roll it out to more of the local GSUSA Service Unit 327, which consists of over 800 girls. For more information or to schedule workshops with the Campolindo Robotics Club, you can visit their official website at campolindobossbots@weebly.com or email them at campolindobossbots@gmail.com.

*Ware Designs*

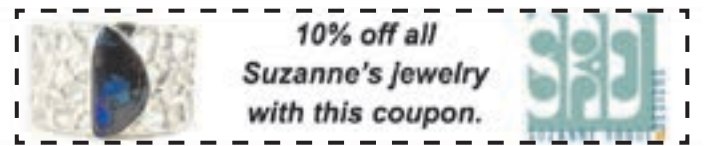
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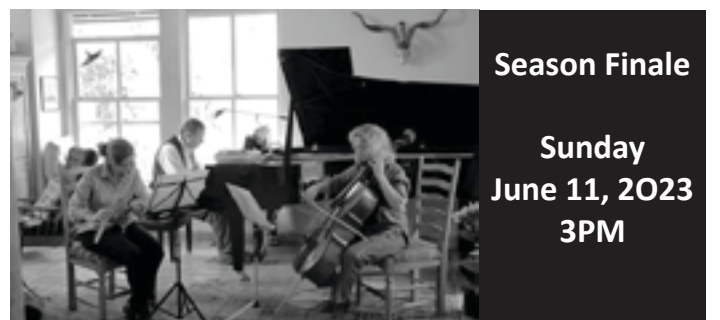
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## SIERRA CHAMBER SOCIETY

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Masks strongly advised.

## Orinda Books Author Event!

**Jennifer Ackerman**

will discuss her new book

**What an Owl Knows**

Sunday, June 18 at 2:00  
at the Orinda Library

Call 925-254-7606 or  
visit OrindaBooks.com for tickets.



## Nothing says spring more than a bright and light lemon tart dessert



Main component of Lemon Cookie Crust Photo Susie Iventosch



### INGREDIENTS

#### Lemon Tart on Lemon Cookie Crust

(Serves 6-8)

##### Crust

2 cups processed lemon cookie crumbs  
3 tbsp. melted butter

##### Filling

6 large eggs  
1/2 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
2 tbsp. salted butter  
2 tsp. lemon zest  
3/4 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt (be sure to use a strained yogurt, which most Greek yogurt is)

##### Garnishes:

1 lemon, thinly sliced  
1/2 cup fresh berries (blueberries, blackberries, or raspberries)  
6-8 edible flowers

### DIRECTIONS

#### Crust

Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare a 9.5-inch tart pan (with a removable bottom) by thoroughly coating the sides and bottom with a thin coat of butter. Be sure to get the butter into the side grooves of the pan. Sometimes it's easiest to use your fingers to do this. This will help you to remove the tart from the pan when you're ready to serve dessert. Set aside.

Process lemon cookies until fine crumbs. Pour into a mixing bowl and stir in melted butter. Mix well.

Dump this mixture into the prepared pan and pat it to evenly cover the bottom and into the sides of the pan. Bake for about 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely.

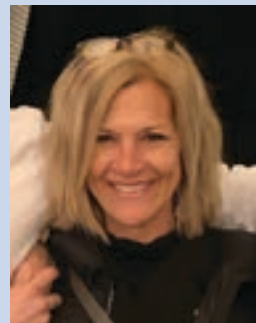
#### Filling (lemon curd plus yogurt)

Whisk eggs and sugar together in a saucepan or in the top of a double boiler. Add lemon juice, lemon zest and butter. Heat over medium-low heat, stirring constantly with a wire whisk, until mixture thickens so it will coat the back of a spoon. Remove from heat. Set aside until completely cool. If making ahead of time, cover the lemon curd with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

Cooking the curd slowly helps to minimize lumps forming in your curd, but if you see lumps of egg in your curd, you can simply strain it through a sieve when you remove it from the heat. Push the curd through the sieve using a spoon or rubber spatula. Be sure to scrape the curd that's left on the bottom of the sieve into your bowl of strained curd. Then cool completely and cover until ready to use. The lemon zest will make it through the sieve, but the lumps will stay in the sieve.

When you are ready to make the filling, gently fold the yogurt into the chilled lemon curd. Pour into prepared crust and smooth out with an off-set spatula. Chill the tart for at least 20 minutes before garnishing.

Garnish with lemon slices, berries and flowers. Chill until ready to serve.



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

### By Susie Iventosch

Lemons make the perfect spring dessert, especially when you add a few colorful, fresh berries and edible flowers on top. This tart filling is made with lemon curd and nonfat plain Greek yogurt to give it a creamy and airy texture, and it's lighter in the calorie department, too. We could mix it with whipped cream, but what the heck ... it's almost bikini season! The crust is made of crushed lemon cream sandwich cookies ... think Oreo cookie crust, but lemon.

When making a tart, one of the big decisions is what kind of crust you want. You can always go with a traditional crumbly and buttery shortbread tart crust, or you can make a flourless crust with almond meal, almonds or even pecans. Or, you can use crushed lemon cookies like this recipe. I used Dare's lemon cream sandwich cookies, but if you can't find that brand, don't worry. There are

usually plenty of lemon cookie options at most grocery stores.

I like to use lemon cream sandwich cookies, because the filling helps hold the crust together, but if you have trouble finding them, just use lemon shortbread or any crispy lemon cookie you can find, or make your own. If you use cookies that don't have the cream filling in the center, you may need to use an extra bit of melted butter to make the crust stick together as you press it into the pan. Just test a little bit to see if it holds together and if not, add the extra butter a little bit at a time.

I like to use Greek yogurt for this recipe, because it has generally been strained and is thick – almost solid – which is much better for this recipe. Some yogurts are very runny, and that would make the filling too thin.

For the garnishes, just pick your favorite seasonal berries, and if you can find edible flowers, they add a nice touch.

## Zheng, Acalanes head to Speech Nationals for first time



Photo Casey Scheiner

Acalanes High School freshman Andrew Zheng

### By Casey Scheiner

Eighty-three years after its founding, Acalanen notched a new "first" this year, with freshman Andrew Zheng qual-

ifying to the National Speech and Debate Association's (NSDA) National Tournament in Phoenix this June, becoming the first Don to make nationals.

Zheng did not take an easy route to the nationals by any means, opting to select International Extemporaneous Speaking (IX) as his primary event.

"IX is a spontaneous event where competitors have 30 minutes to prepare a 7-minute speech on a global current events topic," Michelle Giovinazzo, a state finalist in IX from Miramonte, said. "It's not as fun as National Extemp where you get to talk about domestic topics, but it too requires quick thinking, research skills, and good delivery, making it a very challenging event."

In spite of these clear challenges raised by the impromptu nature of IX and the broad base of knowledge it demands, Zheng faced the event and all of its tribulations head on.

"I started doing speech and debate since I've always been interested in public speaking and learning more about current events," Zheng said. "That's also why I chose to do IX as my event since I thought it'd be a great opportunity to learn more about a broad variety of topics and current events around the world."

Many students interested in speech and debate can simply join their school's team and get started competing. For Zheng, the process was not so

simple.

"Acalanes didn't have a speech and debate program so I started one so that I'd be able to compete," he said. "Starting a club from scratch has been a great opportunity to learn about running an organization and building a community."

However, after months of tirelessly working to organize a high school speech program, the hard work finally paid off for Zheng, culminating at the Last Chance Qualifier, an online tournament in late April constituting a final opportunity to punch a ticket to Phoenix for the National Tournament.

"It was definitely a very different experience since it was my first time competing in an online format. For example, a lot of delays happened because of technical issues, which was predictable, but looking back it was a valuable experience," Zheng said.

In spite of any technical difficulties, he still notched a spot in the National Tournament, proving the Last Chance Qualifier a worthwhile endeavor.

Through his dedication and hard work, Zheng has won praise not only from his judges, but from his fellow speakers.

"Qualifying to nationals in a competitor's first year of extemp is a big accomplishment and Andrew should be proud,"

Giovinazzo said.

As a result of his appreciation from and bonds with other speakers, in addition to the competitive elements of the tournament, Zheng is looking forward to deepening those friendships when he travels to Phoenix this month.

"It's been great to meet competitors from other schools and it's been refreshing to find that people have very different goals and interests but are still united by a passion for public speaking. As someone who competes for a small program, the speech and debate community has been incredibly welcoming and I've made many close friends through this activity already," he said. "I think nationals is a really unique opportunity to meet people from around the country with different backgrounds and experiences and I'm really looking forward to Phoenix."

Additionally, as he heads to Phoenix for the National Tournament, Zheng appreciates the sheer remarkability of what he's done already as a freshman.

"I'm super excited for nationals! I started this year watching people at nationals as a way to learn, so I never could have imagined competing less than a year later. Knowing that I'll be competing with the best speakers out there is incredibly motivating," Zheng concluded.

## 'Moments in Time' opens at the Moraga Art Gallery

### Submitted by George Ehrenhaft

The Moraga Art Gallery (432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center) on Wednesday, June 7 will welcome a riveting new exhibit, "Moments in Time," featuring the work of

two popular local artists: Judy Miller, a sculptor who captures figures at particular moments in their lives, both ordinary and unique, and acrylic painter Debby Koonce, whose forte is colorful and appealing images of outdoor places both near (Mt. Diablo) and far (other lands).

Also featured is a collection of woven art by guest artist Dinah McFarlane, whose abstract wall hangings consist of materials that have been painstakingly layered, woven, dyed, twisted, looped and shaped into strikingly colorful, eye-catching assemblages.

The exhibit, which also in-

cludes the work of more than 20 other artists – photographers, ceramicists, jewelry-makers, painters, woodworkers, printmakers, and more, will grace the gallery until Aug. 13.

A free reception will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. The public is in-

vited to view the art, chat with the artists, enjoy wine, light snacks, tasteful music and the company of fellow art lovers. The gallery, is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

## AAUW-OML Branch awards scholarships to local students



Photos provided

**High School and Saint Mary's Student Scholarship Recipients: Tess Gundacker, Nilab Ahmed, Liesel Hilkemeyer, LaReina Torres, Briana Alexander, Sophia Gonzales**



**Tech Trek Scholarship Recipients: Ally Rogin, Sophie Westin, Thea Wilberts, Evelyn Hollenberg, Adelaide Chan, Vasy Pridatko, Morgan Butler, with Molly Mudgett, keynote speaker and 2013 Tech Trek graduate**

**Submitted by Heidi Mayer**

The American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch recently held a Celebration of Excellence honoring 13 local middle school, high school, and Saint Mary's College students.

Seven seventh-grade middle school girls received scholarships to Tech Trek, a weeklong STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) immersion program held this coming July at Sonoma State University. Tech Trek is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The camp is designed to encourage rising eighth-grade girls to persist with their excitement about STEM through high school, college, and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to make friends with other girls interested in STEM and to meet professional women in STEM fields.

The following students will attend camp: Ally Rogin and Sophie Westin (Orinda Intermediate School), Evelyn Hollenberg and Thea Wilberts (Stanley Middle School) and Morgan Butler, Adelaide Chan and Vasilisa Pridatko (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School).

Three graduating high school students were awarded scholarships: Tess Gundacker (Acalanes), Nilab Ahmed (Miramonte), and Liesel Hilkemeyer (Campolindo). Sophomore and junior members of the High Potential program at Saint Mary's College also received scholarships: Briana Alexander, Sophia Gonzales and LaReina Torres.

The selection criteria for these high school and college scholarships are academic excellence, community service and leadership. In addition to outstanding grades, these students demonstrated a desire to help others by volunteering in their schools, local volunteer agencies and global programs.

Students, family, and friends along with branch members attended the event which featured keynote speaker Molly Mudgett, a prototyping engineer at Apple. Molly attended Tech Trek in 2013 and continues to volunteer in the program. She graduated from Acalanes High School and received her bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering at Northwestern. While sharing the experiences that led to her job at Apple, she highlighted the importance of young women working equitably and comfortably in the STEM field.

## Troop 212 Celebrates New Eagle Scouts



Photo Karen Drinkwater

**Submitted by Steve Bartis**

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 presented its 60th Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, March 26 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, the Troop chartering organization. At this National Court of Honor, there were 10 Scouts who earned the highest and most prestigious rank in Scouting.

Tai Lee, son of Hanns and Katy Lee is a senior at Campolindo High School. Kye Wesselman, son of Brian Wesselman and Kristen Tjaden is a junior at Campolindo High School. Thatcher Cattell, son of Aubrey and Cindy Cattell is a junior at Campolindo High School. Daniel Berkes, son of Andrew and Elizabeth Berkes is a senior at De La Salle High School and will be attending Boston college. Christopher Seo, son of Suk and Deborah Seo is a junior at Campolindo High School. Griffin Bartis, son of Steve and Lori Bartis is a senior at Campolindo High school and will be attending Montana State University. Brandon Mayo, son of Mike

and Kristen Mayo is a junior at Campolindo High School. Maxwell Sheehan, son of Matt and Deanna Sheehan is a senior at Campolindo High School and will be attending Chapman University. Isaac Jai, son of Henry and Irene Jai is a junior at Campolindo High School. Alexander (Will) Barash, son of Jason and Kirsten Barash is a senior at Campolindo High School and will be attending Montana State University. These 10 young men have served under the guidance of Scoutmaster Hanns "Tabasco" Lee, and they will join 438 Eagle Scouts who have "Eagled" from Troop 212 before them.

All of these young men were conferred the Rank of Eagle by the National BSA Council after successfully completing the requirements including holding a Leadership rank of Patrol Leader or higher, earning a total of 21 merit badges, and demonstration of the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. In addition, each Scout planned, developed, and completed an Eagle Scout project for the community.

## Kiwanis Club Moraga Valley sends books to the Philippines



Photo provided

**Brother Kenneth Martinez, FSC, of the Philippines, and Kiwanis Club members Cherie Grant, President Gloria Eive, and Peggy Brown-Salazar with boxes of books ready for shipment to the Philippines.**

**Submitted by Steve Woehleke**

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley helps the Friends of the Moraga Library with its twice-yearly sale of donated books to the public.

The club helps with set-up, and take-down of the books at the completion of the sale, and manages distribution of many unsold books to local nonprofit organizations. The club also selects books for the Bahay Pagasa Center in Bacolod, Philippines. About 800 books per year are shipped to the

Bahay Pagasa Center, a center for juveniles in conflict with the law, sponsored by the University of Saint La Salle, located outside of Bacolod. While some of the books are added to the small library at the center, most are redistributed to needy schools in very remote rural areas outside of the city of Bacolod.

Recently a few Kiwanis members lunched with Brother Kenneth Martinez, president of the University of Saint La Salle to discuss his vision for expanding access to the library at Bahay Pagasa to the local public school teachers.

## Scouts place flags in honor of Memorial Day



Photos provided

**Submitted by Lauren Herpich**

The grounds of Lafayette Cemetery are currently sprinkled with red, white and blue thanks to members of Cub Scout Pack 220. Scouts, along with their parents and pack leaders, spent a couple hours on the morning of May 21 placing flags on the graves of nearly

300 U.S. military service members buried there. The Lafayette Cemetery holds the remains of veterans who have served in military conflicts dating back to the Civil War.

Prior to placing the flags, the scouts performed the traditional Presentation of Colors, which included the Pledge of Allegiance, and the saying of the Scout Oath and Law. They also sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America The Beautiful." Accompanying the Scouts were veterans Scott Swantner and Bill Lew.

According to Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District Manager Patricia Howard, this was the first time in more than 30 years that a local group has offered to place flags for the cemetery staff. "It's just so wonderful to see these children take time out of their weekend to do this," Howard said. "Seeing our kids in their uniforms carrying American flags was like a piece of Americana," den leader Jim West said.

Pack 220 is comprised of students from Lafayette Elementary, Springhill Elementary and St. Perpetua's School. The Lafayette Cemetery has invited them to come back in November to place flags for Veterans Day.



## Local veterans organization embarks on community service project to enhance Lafayette's beauty

**Submitted by Patrick Lieneweg**

Members of VFW Post 8063 on May 13 proudly joined forces for a community cleanup project, dedicated to enhancing the aesthetics and cleanliness of Lafayette. The volunteers, as part of the nationwide VFW Day of Service campaign, diligently cleared weeds and removed litter along the sidewalks and pathways along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, between the Veterans Memorial Center and the Lafayette Reservoir. This initiative not only provided the Post an opportunity to volunteer their services, but also served to showcase the ongoing positive impact veterans make in our local communities.

The VFW Day of Service, a national campaign recognized for its dedication to community improvement, is a testa-

ment to the veterans' unwavering commitment to serving beyond their military duty. By engaging in local projects, these dedicated individuals exemplify the values instilled during their service and promote a sense of unity among citizens.

"The members of VFW Post 8063 are incredibly proud to have participated in the community cleanup project," said Patrick Lieneweg, the Post's Community Service Project Coordinator. "As veterans, we understand the importance of serving the greater good. By coming together and taking action, we hope to inspire others to do the same and foster a greater sense of pride and unity within our communities."

For more information about VFW's Day of Service project, visit <https://today.vfw.org/vfw-day-of-service-faq/>

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

Art

**Wednesday, June 7 new exhibit, "Moments in Time,"** at the Moraga Art Gallery, 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. Featuring the work of two popular local artists: Judy Miller, a sculptor who captures figures at particular moments in their lives, both ordinary and unique, and

acrylic painter Debby Koonce, whose forte is colorful and appealing images of outdoor places both near (Mt. Diablo) and far (other lands). A free reception will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. The gallery, is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance** is pleased to announce our member show "Opposites Attract" at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery in San Ramon through Wednesday, June 28. "Opposites Attract" is an exhibit exploring the subtle or overt creative tension displayed when opposites are used (Yin and Yang, black and white, geometric and organic, as well as other types of artistic opposites) to heighten interest and drama in individual works, as well as between two paintings. Artist reception on Saturday, June 10, from 4 - 6 p.m. The Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery is located at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd in San Ramon.

see and buy local art! Learn more at <https://lafayettechamber.org/rock>.

**St. Paul's Concert Series** is excited to host pianist Kevin Ayesh for a fabulous solo piano performance. In-person event Saturday June 17, 7 p.m. and we will also broadcast this performance simultaneously online. To receive the online link and review the full concert program, visit St. Paul's at [stpaulswc.org/concert-series](http://stpaulswc.org/concert-series). 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek.

**Barefoot Chamber Concerts** presents Hallifax & Jeffrey with Andrew Canepa: 'Music by Couperin and Marais' on Friday, June 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley. The greatest chamber music of the court of Versailles: music of the great Marin Marais and Francois Couperin for two viols and harpsichord. Cost: \$20. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call (510) 220-1195 or email [info@barefootchamberconcerts.com](mailto:info@barefootchamberconcerts.com).

Music

**The Rotary Club of Orinda** and the City of Orinda, with Festival Opera, proudly present their 13th Annual Opera in the Park on Thursday, June 22 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Park. Bring the entire family, a blanket, a chair or two and enjoy a picnic from home or delicious food truck offerings. This is an evening of best-loved opera pieces and musical theater favorites performed by first-rate professional musicians. Free admission - BART and handicapped-accessible - Free parking.

**Rock the Plaza Concert Series:** Friday evenings June 9, 16 and 23. Free live music in Lafayette Plaza Park, 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 9: The 925 Band; Friday, June 16: Hot Dog Chicken; and Friday, June 23: Lamorinda Arts Council's Lamorinda Idol Contestants. Plan your picnic in the park by ordering takeout from Lafayette's restaurant row. Lawn chairs, blankets, and air guitars are welcome! Stop by vendor row for kids' activities, to meet local nonprofits, and

Theatre

**Hurricane Diane at Aurora Theatre Company** on June 16 - July 17: Tues-Wed 7 p.m.; Thurs-Sat 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m., at Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley. Carol wants her house to have a garden that will be the envy of her neighbors. The Greek God Dionysus returns in the guise of a butch gardener, Diane. Cost: \$20-70. For more info see <https://auroratheatre.org/hurricane-diane> or call (510) 843-4042 or email [info@auroratheatre.org](mailto:info@auroratheatre.org).

**Orinda Starlight Village** Players present "The Secret of Chimneys." Directed by Laura Martin-Chapin June 2 through July 1 Fridays and Saturdays

8:30 p.m., Sunday June 25 - 4 p.m. and Thursday June 29 - 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org)

Literature

**The Sweet Thursday Author Series** is on June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Author John Shea will discuss his book "24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid." This is free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/sweet-june23](http://tinyurl.com/sweet-june23).


Other

**Be the Star You Are! charity SHOE DRIVE:** Clean out your closets of shoes you no longer want or need to support families in poverty in developing countries. Shoes may be dropped off at Moraga schools through June 1 and through June 30 at <https://5aspace.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or [www.TeamHoogs.com](http://www.TeamHoogs.com), 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit [www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive)

**Please join us for a showing of award-winning "Kiss the Ground,"** June 10 at 3 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church Creekside Commons in the fellowship hall. The Creekside Commons is located at 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. The film is an uplifting narrative about the wonderful characteristics of our soil, narrated by Woody Harrelson. The showing is free and is sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette and the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center..

*In Memory*

**Gerald E. Picolla**  
Feb. 12, 1936 - May 29, 2023



Gerald Picolla passed away on Memorial Day, 2023. Jerry was a resident of Moraga for 53 years. Jerry grew up in San Leandro as a huge sports fan, a trait he shared with his son and grandsons, and he competed in doubles roller skating throughout high school. After high school, he worked at the Oakland Airport, where his uncle ran the Barber Shop. Here, he met the love of his life, Carol, the beautiful Hawaiian stewardess, flying in from Honolulu.

Jerry's love of airplanes, travel, and tourism became a 60-year career. Though he retired in the 90s, he continued to consult on travel industry events and as an engaging speaker worldwide. He was beloved by all that knew him and remembered as an upbeat guy, full of humor and empathy. His friendship, loyalty, leadership, and life-changing opportunities he created for his family and friends are remembered by so many.

Jerry's real legacy, however, was built in the home in Moraga that he shared with the love of his life of nearly 59 years, Carol, who preceded him in death in 2019; his children Jeff, Lisa and Rick, and Keri and David; and his eight grandchildren. He was a fierce fan of his family and enjoyed traveling with them, attending sporting events, dance recitals, plays, musicals, and concerts with and for them.

Jerry and Carol's remains will be laid together near Carol's parents in Honolulu, near the church where they married and began their life together.

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Success at State Tournament for Dons and Cougars, led by Acalanes 4x100 relay team



Photo provided

**Acalanes' 4X100 relay team (from left): Ethan Torres, Paul Kuhner, Coach Escobar, Trevor Rogers, and Kyle Bielawski**

By Jon Kingdon

To make it to the California State Track Meet is one thing and placing is quite another. The Acalanes boys 4x100 relay team of Ethan Torres, Kyle Bielawski, Trevor Rogers and Paul Kuhner would finish in second with a time of 40.96. Kuhner would finish in 19th in the 200 meter race and Rogers finished in fourth in the long jump with a jump of 23'4" which was 3 1/2 inches longer than his jump at the Meet of Champions.

The Dons finished 12th overall in the state. "California is the most competitive meet in the country because it's the only state that does not have divisions," Acalanes head coach Joe Escobar said. "Our success is all that more impressive when you think about a school of our size to go that far and perform at that level is absolutely insane."

Their 40.96 time was the fastest time ever run by a Diablo Athletic League team, the fastest public-school time in the state this year and the fastest time in the history of the North Coast Sectional. "It's just much more impressive when you consider that none of our runners made it to the finals in an individual sprint event," Escobar said. "Every other team had at least one runner that made it to one of those finals."

It was the ultimate team effort where the sum was greater than the whole of its parts, said Escobar. "Paul has been an incredible anchor, Trevor an incredible curve runner, Kyle an incredible leader and Ethan incredible out of the blocks," Escobar said. "They all played their parts as well as they could, and they were perfectly set up to run well together."

Last year the team did not make it to state due to a baton drop at the Tri-Valley meet so there was a determination to make sure that did not happen again, but it wasn't that easy in the end due to various injuries during the season. "Trevor did not compete until late April and Paul missed time with two hamstring injuries and the four of them did not really get

experience."

### Campolindo

Finishing in 60th, the Campolindo girls' team was a combination of strength, endurance, and speed. Pinkie Schnayer competed in the shot put, Mari Testa in three speed events and Ellie Buckley in the 3200-meter race. Josh Myer was the lone representative of the boys' team in the 100-meter race.

"If we take our year where we've had four person relays, this is up there for the numbers that we have sent," Lindquist said. "There were a couple of years where we've sent a few more but to have four individuals making it to state is an incredible accomplishment."

Junior Pinkie Schnayer finished 11th in the shot put with a throw of 39 feet, 7 3/4 inches. "This was just Pinkie's second year as a shot putter," assistant coach Andy Lindquist said. "She was good last year, but to go from that to 11th in the state of California is pretty phenomenal and it shows you just how talented and hard working she is and how much potential she has out there for next year."

Senior Ellie Buckley finished her career for the Cougars by finishing in 11th in the 3200-meter race with a time of 10:42.54. "Ellie ran a smart race," Lindquist said. "The top 10 runners went through the first mile in 5:10 which is pretty fast, and Ellie was patient and moved up in the middle of the race and to finish where she did in the state of California is pretty impressive."

In her time at Campolindo, Buckley has won three state championships in cross country, three NCS championships in cross country and two NCS meet championships in track. "Ellie has been our most consistent contributor in the team's successes over the past four years," Lindquist said.

Mari Testa finished in 6th in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.01, a personal and school record, and the highest finish ever for a sprinter from Campolindo.

... continued on Page C3

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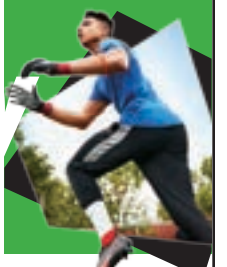
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## Softball and engineering for Haley Stripling next year at Rutgers



Haley Stripling

Photo Rutgers athletics

By Jon Kingdon

When Haley Stripling was a freshman, she joined an Acalanes team that was led by Morgan Salmon and Kaylee Pond, both of whom would go on to play Division I softball, Salmon at the University of Santa Clara and Pond at Iowa State and the University of California. Stripling will be following in their footsteps next year by attending and playing softball at Rutgers University.

"Haley belongs on the same level as Morgan and Kaylee," Acalanes head coach Victor Silva said. "From her freshman year, she got stronger, doing a lot of weight work, and really built herself up. Every single game, I appreciated her more and more. For the last two years, she has

and grandmother both really helped me to improve."

There have been a number of coaches that have been instrumental in Stripling's development. "I'm a natural righty but when I started playing travel ball, my coach, Mike Saulstitch, saw my speed and wanted to put me on the left side," Stripling said. "He taught me how to slap and hit every type of bunt. I'm very thankful that he put me on the left side because otherwise I wouldn't be the player that I am today with all the skills and the threat that I am from that side. He also taught our team that it was more than just a game and that he really cared about us as individuals."

Had she not suffered an injury, Stripling would have played for Ernie and Lindsey Munoz on the Lady Magic team over the summer. "I still take hitting lessons with Ernie at his facility every two weeks, and they have been crucial for me because without those lessons, I can see the difference in my confidence and my performance. Ernie is one of the best hitting coaches out here and I'm thankful that I could work with him."

It all then led to playing for Acalanes and Victor Silva. "You can't play for Victor and not have fun," Stripling said. "He can be very witty and funny, and it was never a dull moment with him. He's a very

good coach that knows a lot about the game and really cared for us and about what we wanted and how we wanted to improve."

For Silva, Stripling's intangibles were as valuable as her physical talents. "This year was my favorite team because I did not have to do much," Silva said. "If Haley thought the players needed to be jumped on, she would jump on them. If she felt they needed encouragement, she would encourage them. It was like having another coach out there for me. She set a great example for the underclassmen and hopefully they have learned from her example. She was the perfect role model on and off the field. She is one of the few that made time for the younger players. If an underclassman had a tough day or had problems figuring something out, Haley would go over and talk with her and work things out, which was an example of how she made things easier for me."

In choosing to attend Rutgers University, Stripling knows what she is getting into, weather wise. "I've always lived in California and will have to adjust to living with four seasons. In my first visit to Rutgers, it was 16 degrees, and I bought the clothing that I would need for the winter. The weather will be just fine and won't bother me as much as I thought it would."

Rutgers will be more than softball for Stripling, already choosing to major in Biomedical Engineering. Besides being named the Acalanes Female Athlete of the Year, Stripling also earned a scholar-athlete award all four years. "My dad is an engineer, so I got some wisdom from him from his experience as an athlete and an engineering student," Stripling said. "I took an engineering class at Acalanes, and it was a lot of fun. I've always loved creating things, problem solving and doing puzzles. Engineering is a good balance between creating things and problem solving and I can use my creativity and logic to solve my way out of things."

Haley was as impressed with Rutgers head coach Kristen Butler as she was with the university. "It was just finding the right school for me, and my parents really supported me in my decision. I knew that (Rutgers Head) Coach Kristen Butler was a good coach because I would just talk non-stop with her, and I could tell that they really cared about me equally as a person and as a player and how I play the game. I want to be available for whatever Coach Butler wants me to do because coming in as a freshman, it's going to be hard to get playing time but whatever the team will need from me, I will do the best that I can with whatever is asked of me."

## Campolindo loses championship game 2-1 to Cardinal Newman

*Underdog Cougars suffer late inning loss to top-ranked opponent*



Photo Jon Kingdon

Graham Schlicht pitching against Cardinal Newman

By Jon Kingdon

When Campolindo defeated

Redwood Christian High School in the semifinal game of the North Coast Section Baseball Championship, there were

not a lot of people outside of Lamorinda that gave the Cougars, ranked 116th in the state much hope in the championship game against Cardinal Newman (25-1), ranked 6th in the state and 22nd nationally.

The Cougars (18-8-1) approached the game as they had done all season, winning their prior eight games. It was the philosophy that head coach Julian Fiammengo brought to Campolindo that enabled the team to go toe to toe with a team like Cardinal Newman and come within two outs of winning the championship: "It was the little details and the focus intensity that were needed if we wanted to compete on a daily basis. We got our players to 'engage with every pitch,' taking things slow, keeping the game slow and worrying about each pitch as it came in. It had been one pitch at a time, one inning at a time and one game at a time."

With freshman Graham Schlicht on the mound for Campolindo and Landon Rota for Cardinal Newman, it was a scoreless game going into the sixth inning. At the top of the inning, Hideki Prather was hit by a pitch and then was forced out at second on a ground out by Greg Palamountain. Miles Clayton then hit a double to drive in Palamountain putting Campolindo ahead 1-0 but was thrown out trying to stretch his hit into a triple.

The lead held up until the bottom of the seventh. Sam Valenti started the inning for Cardinal Newman with a single. After an out and then a double by Justice Brinson, there were men on second and third and Schlicht was relieved by Hudson Pergamit. An infield single tied the game and a bunt down the first base line drove in the winning run, for a heartbreaking 2-1 loss for the Cougars.

Schlicht's performance

was a great capstone to a dominating year. "It's really insane that a freshman can be mentally ready and dominate against a team that had only lost one game this year," pitching coach Gavin Shipp said. "After walking a couple of men early in the game, Graham just locked in, and it was all strikes from there on out and it was impressive to see him bounce back. It was a tough way to lose but Graham did an excellent job."

It was not an easy loss for Fiammengo to accept. "We competed and gave ourselves a chance to win and we shouldn't have anything to hang our heads about," Fiammengo said. "We were right there and couldn't get it done and that's how the game and life go sometimes. We were three outs away and we couldn't get it done. You know the toughest three outs to get are the last three outs and that was shown today."

## Orinda Intermediate breaks 52-year track drought



Submitted by Peter Lindberg

The Orinda Intermediate Bulldogs won sixth-grade girls, seventh-grade boys, and

eighth-grade girls championships to help win the coveted Overall Middle School Track & Field Championship. The last time OIS won, it was 1970 and the school was known as Inland Valley.

There were many outstanding performances with Rowan Keenan, Tom Riley, Jordan Matthews, Zach Denniston, Rorey Freer, Grace Stott and Brendon Collins all top-point scorers helping OIS win



Photos provided

its first Overall Track Championship in 52 years.

Special thanks are due to the now legendary OIS coach Jason Curry. With more than 80 events in a single meet, Curry's attention to detail,

preparation, patience, and inspirational leadership helped the more than 100 participants compete at the highest level.

## Success at State Tournament for Dons and Cougars, led by Acalanes 4x100 relay team

... continued from Page C1

She finished in 12th in the 100 meter and 19th in the 200-meter race. "Mari held her own in those races, but the state of California is just so

deep in the sprints you really have to be one of the best sprinters in the country in the flat stuff just to make the finals," Lindquist said.

As a freshman, Testa took 20 seconds to run the 100-

meter hurdles and fell in love with the event. "As she got her technique down and built year after year of training, this is the end result," Lindquist said. "For Mari to show so much improvement over a course of

a career, it's pretty awesome to see and it will be interesting to see how she progresses over the next couple of years at University of California."

Josh Myers ran a 10.74 in the 100-meter race finishing in

19th place. "For Josh to make it all the way to the state championship was a great accomplishment," Lindquist said. "He improved by over 0.3 of a second from the start of the year to the finish."



# LMYA CHAMPIONS 2023

Congratulations to our players and thank you to coaches, refs and parents for a great season!



**4/5 GRADE GIRLS SOFTBALL - MINORS - ST. MARYS**

(Front L-R): Ellen Kang, Noelle Kang, Ashley Sidensol, Maddie Elliott, Paige McPhaden, Hadley Daniels, Skylar Silverman, Quinn Stevens. (Middle L-R): Addison Leo, Liliana Schnurr. (Back L-R): Coaches Drew Elliott, Bryan Sidensol, Chris Schnurr.



**6/7/8 GRADE GIRLS SOFTBALL - MAJORS - ARIZONA**

Team not listed in order: Talia Burciaga, Taryn Stevenson, Camly Garces, Mila McDevitt, Ashley Silverman, Lila Graham, Nicole Furtado, Lillian Shaw, Rowan Neufeld, Avery Stoneman. Coaches Susan Jewel, Heather Stoneman.



**6/7/8 GRADE GIRLS SOFTBALL - MAJORS - ST. MARYS**

(Front L-R): Beatrice Nelson, Elizabeth Knox, Juliette Lee, Ciel Chen Speckman. (Back L-R): Jenny Wright, Madeline Garber, Coach Jeff Lee, Nicky Sturtz, Ellen Graham, Margaux Stone, Coach Matt Stone.



**6/7/8 GRADE GIRLS SOFTBALL - MAJORS - MICHIGAN**

(Front L-R): Layelle Al-Awadhi, Brooke Bernstein. (Back L-R): Coach Cassidy Raheer, Ashby Raheer, Eva Norek, Cam Deane, Natalie Cosso, Bella Albiento, Sophie Tadlock, Silvia Ursino, Coach Josh Norek.



**3/4 GRADE BOYS BASEBALL - YARD GOATS**

(Front L-R): Kai Moreno, Xavier Anderson, Caleb Kim, Kiran Shu, Willem LaPorte. (Middle L-R): Ezra Simon-Harris, Aulay Kalberg, Hudson Lynn, Carter Lynn, Teddy Mahoney, Winston Payne. (Back L-R): Coaches Stu Lynn, Rob Mahoney, Andy Moreno.



**3/4 GRADE BOYS BASEBALL - TIN CAPS**

Nathan Talcott, Tyler Ilhan, Ben Shaw, Olu Okupe, Gavin Gutierrez, Carter Haden, Ben Benson, Jose Ruiz. (Not pictured): Brendan Bono, Teo Quinonez, Ryo Nakamura and Coaches David Talcott, Steve Bono.



**5/6/7 GRADE BOYS BASEBALL - GRASSHOPPERS**

(Front L-R): Blake Pigeon, Ryland Perera, Christian Dunphy. (Middle L-R): Reed Anderson, Brayden Dunphy, Raymond Raleigh, Brady Morrill, Wyatt Dafferner, Brady Pigeon. (Back L-R): Coaches Alec Dafferner, Kevin Dunphy, Dan Morrill.



**4 GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL - HERMOSA BEACH**

Coach Rachel, Coach Jeni Corso, Coach Dana Reedy, Adelia Corso, Ellis Yandell, Aerin O'rourke, Whitney Lewis, Zara Shriner, Nora Graham, Kate Davidian, Callie MacKenzie, Mille McCashin.



**5 GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL - COCOA BEACH**

Coach Gayle Parkin, Savannah Welch, Alyssa Matter, Peyton Lanphere, Avery Parkin, Beatrice Toben, Blythe Walterspiel, Catherine Hattersley, Matilda Mogensen, Coach Ashley Matter and on the floor Quinn Walterspiel.



**6 GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL - HAMPTON BEACH**

(Front L-R): Gabby Jaramillo, Gabriella Rickman. (Back L-R): Coach Loto Rickman, Jasmine Dhillon, Katie Sanguinet, Alex Karris, Soyara Abuja, Gigi Reisman, Amberlyn Gurtler, Cameron Smith, Coach Carla Jaramillo.



**7 GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL - HAWAII**

(Front L-R): Willamina Wolcott, Eva McGinley, Stella Champion, Daric McSorely. (Back L-R): Coach Jamie McGinley, Madden McSorely, Annabel Inzeo, Mave McAllister, Hope Petersil, Harleen Kaur, Coach Scott Champion. (Not pictured): Megan Sugiyama, Aleah Mathis-Jackson.



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# Sweet Thursday Author Series: book on lessons learned by Willie Mays

Submitted by Laurie Miles

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center are excited to end the programming year by offering John Shea, author of “#24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid” at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15 in the Don Tatzin

Community Hall. “#24” is about Willie Mays, nicknamed the “Say Hey Kid” and Baseball Hall of Famer. He is considered by many to be the greatest all-around player of all time. According to Leo Durocher, Mays’ first Major League manager, “He was a superstar who could hit, hit with power, run, throw, and field. He had that other ingre-

dient that turns a superstar into a super superstar. He lit up the room when he came in. He was a joy to be around.” The book is divided into 24 chapters, the same number Mays wore his entire baseball playing career. Each chapter is based on a “life lesson,” such as “life and baseball aren’t fair: the story of a game of inches” and “never give up: the story

of a 16-inning classic.” In each chapter, Mays makes some brief comments, and then author, Shea, fills them out with anecdotes from fellow players, friends, and even ex-presidents. His chapters on batting, hitting, fielding, and running bases are for everyone to learn from and enjoy. If you love the game of baseball, you will love this book.

This is a free event although registration is required. Register at [tinyurl.com/sweet-june23](https://tinyurl.com/sweet-june23). The DTCH doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and sweets before the talk. Books will be sold after the event. This program will be presented in-person or via Zoom livestream.

# Rain doesn’t dampen fun and generosity at Rotary event



Photo Leander Hauri

Submitted by Tom Guyette

The First Annual Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Speed Croquet Tournament was held May 6 at the Lafayette Reservoir. The bad news – the intermittent inclement weather kept many folks away. The good news – those of us who did come out had a fantastic time. The croquet players ranged in age from 3 to “it’s not polite to ask” and all competed with fortitude and good humor.

Rule No. 1 (“Have fun!”) was strictly adhered to. The rules of croquet were strictly ... approximated. Each team of six had to make it from one end of the croquet field to the other in the least amount of time. The top teams had a playoff to determine the winners of the highly coveted medals.

When the dust had settled, Team

Mad Hatter, consisting of the Wilkinson-Textor family and whatever ringers they could round up, took the top honors.

But everyone was a winner. The rain that fell immediately before and immediately after the event held off throughout the tourney. The event was continuously punctuated by cheers, laughter, creative interpretations of the alleged rules of croquet, and a shared sense of a day well spent.

Wrapping up the day was the Magic of Cosmo. Perhaps his greatest feat of magic was the grace and facility with which he blended his illusions, the spirit of Rotary, a message (“Be wonderful, not perfect”) that is important for the self-esteem of everyone, but especially for the self-esteem of the middle school students who will benefit from the \$650 funds raised.

The Speed Croquet Gold medalists, The Mad Hatters, from left: Daphne Wilkinson, Nick Wilkinson, Michael Wilkinson, Jamie Textor, Perrin Kliot, Brad Davis

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 7, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Fields of Dreams

Photos Cynthia Brian



A field of gold and orange nasturtiums with irises.

Photos Cynthia Brian



This field in the apple orchard is planted with seafoam statice, nigella, calendula, and climbing roses.

### By Cynthia Brian

*“When the primal forces of nature tell you to do something, the prudent thing is not to quibble over details.” ~ From the movie, “Field of Dreams”*

Is there anyone who doesn't marvel over the sight of a fabulous field of flowers? As a plantaholic, I swoon each spring when the promise of a kaleidoscope of flora burst from the ground. Alas, this year my swooning turned into sweating.

With the 12 atmospheric rivers and continued rain through May, the ground is also bursting with unwanted weeds of every sort – bindweed, choke weed, thistle, dayflowers, vetch, black medic, wild cutleaf geranium, dock, fleabane, spurge, ragweed, cudweed, euphorbia, poisonous hemlock, unidentifiable thugs,

and a plethora of grasses blown in from the hills.

Yes, I know. A weed is just a plant growing where it is not wanted. Yet many of these unwelcome invaders are pernicious, poisonous, prickly, and painful. For the past two months, I have spent every free moment living the advice from the film and doing the prudent thing caused by the primal forces of nature: digging and pulling up the roots of these assailants. I practice the no-dig method to maintain my fields and borders. The less the soil is turned, the few weeds sprout, or so the research indicates. Last spring, I added innumerable yards of nutrient-rich soil and covered it with equal amounts of mulch. In the fall, I scattered seeds of nasturtium, nigella, seafoam statice (also known as sea lavender in the *Limonium* species), and calendula, as well as rhizomes of

various bearded iris and corms of common cornflag. Climbing roses adorn the fence. Everything sprouted as anticipated, but the winds and the birds brought these uninvited visitors who happily took up residence in the lush environment.

When the broadleaf wild cutleaf geranium is small, it is quite beautiful with tiny pink flowers and bright lime green leaves. It is also very fragrant. As this cranesbill matures with its red stems it spreads two or more feet wrapping around neighboring flower stems, making weeding more difficult. The leaf structure mingles with the nigella often resulting in more love-in-the-mist being eradicated than is wanted. Bindweed, with flowers that mimic morning glory, twines to the top of any plant, adding to the difficulty of clearing it from the orchard.

... continued on Page D8



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	1	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	5	\$622,000	\$4,000,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,590,000	\$2,005,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

3238 Driftwood Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 1540 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-28-23

### MORAGA

1992 Ascot Drive #C, \$622,000, 2 Bdrms, 1062 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-24-23,

Previous Sale: \$340,000, 06-17-13

802 Augusta Drive, \$1,781,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-24-23

12 Corte Annette, \$1,565,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-24-23

124 Derby Lane, \$4,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 5057 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-25-23

22 Idlewood Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-28-23

### ORINDA

15 Aspinwall Court, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-24-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 05-24-18

48 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-26-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 08-21-15

35 Citron Knolls, \$1,590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 04-24-23

1 Crestview Drive, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 04-25-23,

Previous Sale: \$967,500, 10-20-06

40 Las Palomas, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1156 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 04-28-23,

Previous Sale: \$445,000, 09-13-00

24 Miner Road, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2278 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 04-27-23,

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-15-02

10 Rustic Way, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 3329 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-24-23

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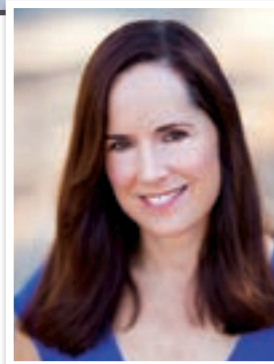
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## Recycling through the Reuse program

By Ashley Louisiana

Growing up in Moraga, my mom would get excited when it was "pick-up day." She would get up early and drive around picking up the goods she wanted from the curb that others no longer needed. She would come home with new kitchen gadgets and household items. The good news for our unsuspecting neighbors, she retired almost 10 years ago and doesn't live in the area.

Coming full circle and working as the Program Manager at RecycleSmart, I am now carrying on my mom's legacy of finding good homes for usable cast-offs, but in a more organized (and legal) way. I help manage a unique program our communities can feel proud to be part of, called Reuse & Cleanup Days. The program was started in 1999 to respond to the environmental, social, and economic issues impacting Contra Costa County. Twice a year on pre-scheduled days, all 65,000 single-family homes in the RecycleSmart service area can set out gently used household items at the curb, at no additional cost, to be picked up by Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR).

... continued on Page D9

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## THREE NEW BUILDS COMING SOON IN UPPER HAPPY VALLEY



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1046 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 5.5 BATHS | ±4447 SF | ±.73 ACRE LOT  
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1036 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
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\*\*Preliminary architecture shown is subject to change based on jurisdiction's design review process. Illustrative landscaping shown is generic and does not represent the landscaping proposed for this site.

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*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Fields of Dreams

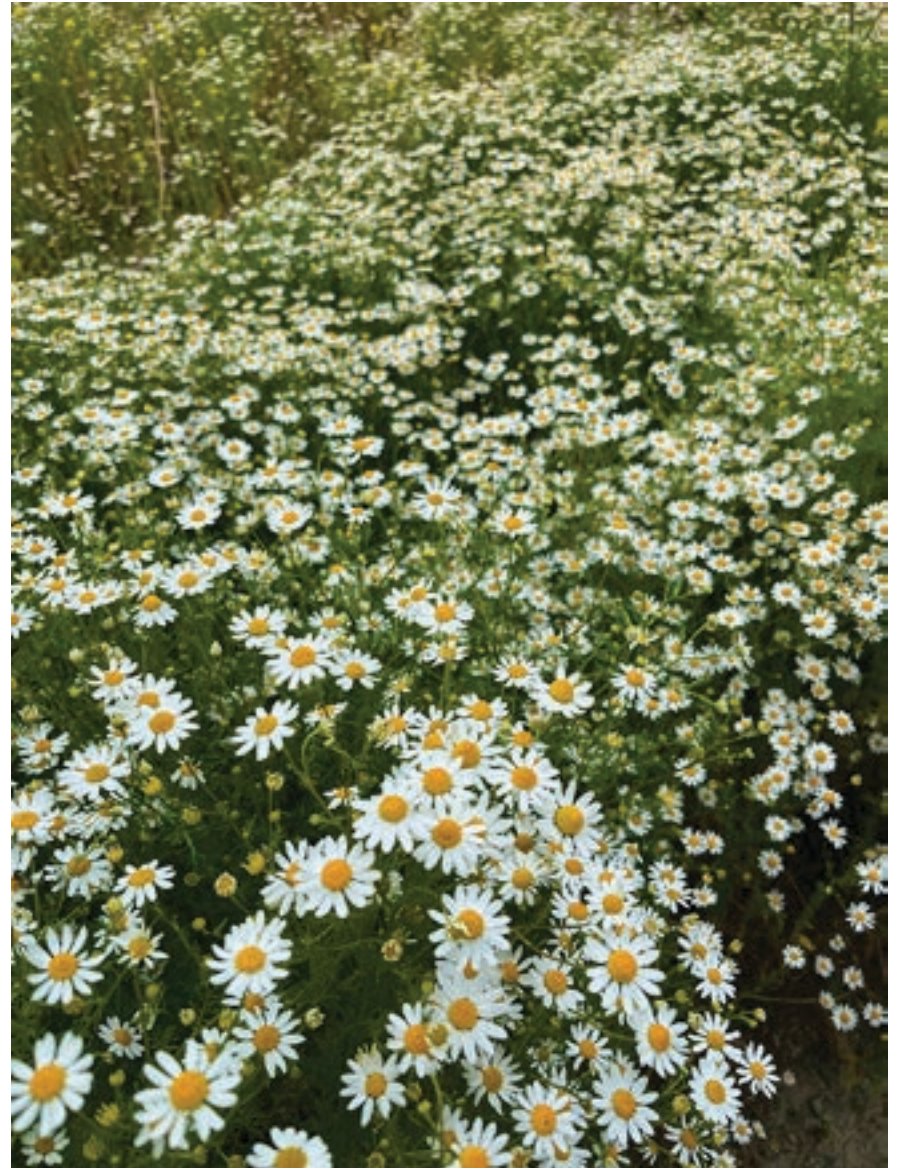


**This field has not been weeded and is overgrown with vetch, euphorbia, thistle, grasses, and more, covering the flowers below.**

... continued from Page D1

Many of the grasses that self-seeded from the surrounding hillsides would be interesting in a container as a stand-alone display, but infiltrated into the centers of my flowers hinder the graceful arches of color.

Allergy season is ferocious this year. My eyes are consistently red and irritated and despite taking an antihistamine, I sneeze while weeding. According to a 2021 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of America, an academic journal, between 1990 and 2018, the North American pollen season lengthened 20 days with 20% more pollen. Warming temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and ris-



Photos Cynthia Brian

**This field of chamomile smells as beautiful as it looks.**

ing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are cited as causing increased pollen production. Trees, grass, and weeds are causing this sniffing, stuffiness, coughing, congestion and itching. Hopefully, these seasonal allergies will be alleviated by late June.

As I write this, I'm taking a break from my weeding work. Tomorrow I'll be back wearing my coveralls, hat, sunglasses, apron, boots, and gloves for another round of freeing my fields of dreams from the primal forces of nature. Slowly and joyfully, I am witnessing the glistening glory of my efforts.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

# Recycling through the Reuse program

... continued from Page D4

I recently visited the 18,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Pittsburg where all the reusable items collected from the curb are taken. The warehouse is more organized than many homes, thanks to the dedicated staff of MDRR, Jim Nejedly and Adriana Medina. It was a bustling scene of incoming trucks and a sorting crew separating small furniture, appliances, electronics, clothing, home décor, medical supplies, school supplies and books, scrap metal and batteries. Almost 20 tons of batteries were collected in 2022 on Reuse Day!

Adriana had so many stories of where our central Contra Costa reuse items end up, from the Paradise fire victims to Contra Costa schools needing sporting equipment. She happily connected me with "Make it Home," a nonprofit in Walnut Creek that Social Services uses to help furnish apartments for those previously unhoused or aging out of the foster care system. "Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference," says Adriana, as she expressed how fortunate she feels to see the faces of families receiving some-

thing they need. Furniture in usable condition is the number one item needed.

Since RecycleSmart contracted with MDRR in 2015, over 22 million pounds of reuse items have been donated to East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, St. Vincent DePaul, HOPE Solutions, Homeless Action Coalition, Uplift Family Services and many other charitable organizations. Over 32,000 homes placed reusable items at the curb in 2022, and RecycleSmart saw the program's highest participation in 2020-2021 when we all had plenty of time to clean house. Residents can also take advantage of the Cleanup Day provided by Republic Services, the day after the Reuse Day, for any junk or unusable materials.

Reuse of materials is even better for the environment and the community than recycling. RecycleSmart is a national leader in curb-side collection of reusable items and has inspired other communities to develop similar programs. We are proving the old adage that one person's trash is another person's treasure. To learn more about the Reuse & Cleanup Days Program, or to look up your upcoming dates with our new search tool, visit [RecycleSmart.org/Cleanup](https://RecycleSmart.org/Cleanup).



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## Cynthia Brian's June Digging Deep Gardening Tips

**CLEAN** patio furniture with a thorough scrubbing of lounge chairs and cushions.

**MAINTAIN** your weeding schedule. Be vigilant pulling weeds as soon as they appear as they zap nutrients and water from plants. Make certain to get the roots.

**ECHO** colors when you plant. Even if you plant different plants of form and texture, to capture the exuberance and energy of flow, plant swaths of the same color in opposing areas.

**PRUNE** lilacs after blooming to encourage more blooms next year. Lilacs can be pruned by 1/3 for optimal flowering.

**LIFT** your mood by designing a refuge area amongst your favorite plants with a bench or chair where you can relax, recharge, and feel protected. Throughout my landscape, I have created areas to sit, rest, and appreciate the natural beauty.

**PLANT** pumpkins now for a Halloween harvest. This is also a perfect opportunity to get your corn, eggplant, beets, and cucumbers started.

**SUCCESSION** plant your greens every three weeks including lettuce and arugula as well as root vegetables like carrots, radishes, and turnips.

**SOW** seeds of basil, cilantro, chives, and parsley for a summer season of savory spices.

**CHECK** your drip irrigation systems as well as any sprinkler heads.

**WATER** only once or twice a week, early in the morning when the plants will absorb the most or later in the evening.

**PROPAGATE** azaleas, carnations, fuchsias, and hydrangeas by taking cuttings and planting in rich soil.

**DEADHEAD** spent rose petals weekly to encourage continuous blossoms. Roses are spectacular this year. Keep them healthy and blooming.

**MULCH** your entire garden with at least three inches of material to help retain moisture, keep the soil cooler, and prevent drought related problems throughout the upcoming hot months.

**BRIGHTEN** patios, porches, and balconies with containers of colorful Bowles mauve (wallflower), petunias, or sweet William flowers.



Graceful and dainty blue nigella, love-in-the-mist, re-seeds, and is long-lasting in cut arrangements.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Roses are spectacular this year. David Austin rose with salsify, Jerusalem star.



A favorite maroon and mauve bearded iris.



Bowles mauve wallflower is excellent in a border or a container.

PS: Don't forget the Be the Star You Are!® Shoe Drive. Shoes may be dropped off through June 30 at <https://5aspace.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or [www.TeamHoogs.com](http://www.TeamHoogs.com), 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>



Sweet williams, petunias



**Working in the weeds, Cynthia Brian is suffering from seasonal allergies.**

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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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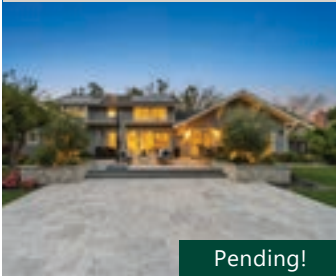
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## ORINDA

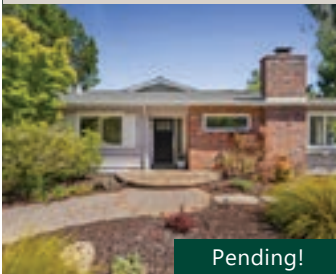


### 367 Dalewood Drive

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## ORINDA



Pending!

### 52 Bates Blvd

Sprawling, light-filled, 2677 sqft rancher with 4 bd/ 3 ba on a level .53 acre lot w/ incredible vista views & convenient location!

\$2,350,000

## ORINDA



### 710 Miner Road

Peaceful 1.15 acre knoll setting w/ sunset views! 5 bd/ 3 ba, 3088 sqft home w/ spacious open floor plan & exceptional separation of space!

\$2,295,000

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 1 Valley Court

Quiet 5 bd/ 3 ba single level Glorietta ranch on a .55-acre cul de sac!

\$2,595,000

## LAFAYETTE

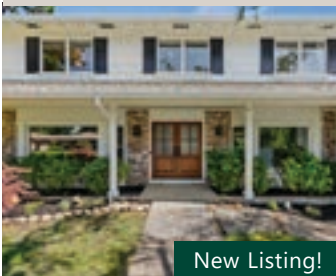


### 3158 Withers Avenue

Charming ranch style 4 bd/ 2 ba home on wonderful private lot ready for pool, gardens, play yard, or ADU!

\$1,288,000

## MORAGA



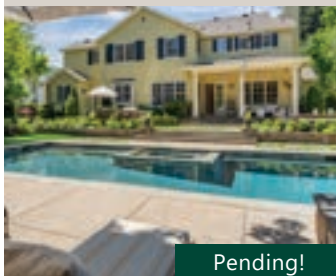
New Listing!

### 35 San Pablo Court

Beautiful 5 bd/ 3 ba traditional home w/ great views, large grassy backyard & sparkling pool!

\$2,249,000

## ALAMO



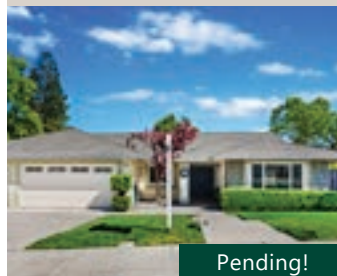
Pending!

### 954 Forest Lane

Beautiful custom-built Estate located in the highly coveted West Alamo neighborhood features 5 bd/ 5.5 ba & luxurious backyard!

\$5,500,000

## PLEASANT HILL



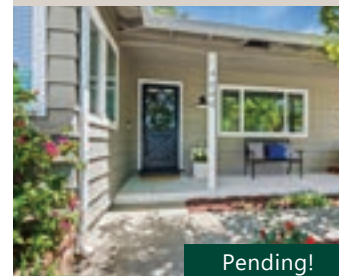
Pending!

### 1416 Stonehedge Drive

Lovely 4 bd/ 2 ba single-story home features updated kitchen, lg living room w/ soaring ceilings & spacious backyard!

\$1,399,000

## CONCORD



Pending!

### 4649 Benbow Court

Complete turn-key home in the heart of the Bishop Park neighborhood! Updated & light filled w/ beautiful finishes throughout!

\$875,000

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich  
Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Liz Gallagher

Claudia Gohler

Ari Hatton

Gillian Judge Hogan

Dexter Honens II

Christina Linezo

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Alexis Thompson

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Margaret Zucker

Village  
ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392

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