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Trees damaged by winter storms pose a safety risk at the Orinda Nature Area.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Outcry grows as downed trees keep Orinda Nature Area shuttered

By Sora O'Doherty

A group of young volunteers who feel passionately about the Orinda Nature Area attended the Orinda City Council meeting on June 20 looking for help to restore the battered area, that has been completely closed since early March. The effects of several years of drought followed by a winter of strong storms have wreaked havoc on the Nature Area. Some of the huge old oaks have fallen. Some trees are leaning dangerously, many resting on other trees and endangering them as well. While the huge eucalyptus trees appear healthy, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, which does work on the property to reduce the risk of wild fires, would like to see them go. Monterrey pines are beyond their life span and are being removed all over Lamorinda in an effort to improve fire safety.

Speaking for the group of volunteers, Elsa Cooke

said that there are many dedicated volunteers ready to help restore the Nature Area when they are permitted to do so. Over the years, there have been numerous projects constructed within the Nature Area by Eagle Scouts, and the Scouts continue to be interested in helping with future improvements.

Unfortunately, the council told the students that the nature area is not under its jurisdiction, but Vice Mayor Darlene Gee, who was presiding in the excused absence of Mayor Inga Miller, promised to work with the Orinda Union School District in their 2 x 2 subcommittee to see what can be done.

The Nature Area is owned by OUSD, but has been maintained by the Friends of the Nature Area. OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme says that there is no fund in the OUSD budget for the nature area, and she is loath to take funds from classrooms, teachers, or other school facilities for maintenance of the Nature

Area. However, she says that the district can and will accept any donations, which can be earmarked for the Nature Area.

The volunteers had begun a GoFundMe campaign, but had to take it down as the Nature Area was closed. However, if part of the area is reopened, they do plan to start another GoFundMe campaign. OUSD is also looking at grant possibilities.

Council Member Latika Malkani said she was "really impressed and very happy" to see individuals standing up for what is important to them at the meeting.

Council Member Brandyn Iverson agreed that the matter is on the agenda for the 2 x 2 meeting, adding that while everyone wants to get the nature area reopened, there are great concerns about the safety of people on the property at this time.

... continued on Page A7

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Not to be missed B3
Obituary B3
How to contact us C3
Classified C1
Community Service A10/B2
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Updated Traffic Calming Program presented to city council



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

Speed humps help to reduce speeding on neighborhood streets.

By Jennifer Wake

The City of Lafayette Traffic Calming Program has been designed to help manage speed-related traffic concerns along local and collector streets across the city, according to Patrick Golier, Lafayette's Transportation & Circulation Program Manager. Lafayette's existing Traffic Calming Program, adopted in March 2003, has been paused for approximately a year as the planning process for the City's Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) has been underway.

Golier on June 26 presented the city council with an updated Traffic Calming Program Guidebook to be utilized by Lafayette residents interested in pursuing traffic calming measures in their neighborhoods. The intent of the updated program is that it be aligned with the di-

rection of the LRSP.

According to the staff report, "The current process is complex, requires significant time of city staff as well as members of the community, results in long time horizons for project delivery, and does not articulate the metrics that are used to evaluate requests for traffic calming intervention in a neighborhood or on a street."

Golier explained that the 2023 City of Lafayette's Traffic Calming Program remains a resident-driven, application-based program that addresses speeding on local (residential) and collector streets in Lafayette. "This is as opposed to more proactive transportation initiatives such as our Safe Routes to School efforts and implementation of projects identified in the City's Bikeways and Walkways Master Plans," he noted.

... continued on Page A3

Civic News A1-A10

Moraga citizens asked for input on mural theme -- Page A4

Public Safety

MOFD receives special donation - Page A6

Life in Lamorinda B1-B3

Working Cat Program adopts out feral cats for rodent control - Page B1

Sports C1-C3

Two water polo players from Lamorinda are dominating goalies at Princeton - Page C1

Our Homes D1-D12

How to keep your summer blooms brighter - Page D1



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Staff provides Lafayette council with requested input for multi-use pathway

By Lou Fancher

Engineering Services Manager Matt Luttrupp reminded city council members at the June 26 meeting that they had requested updated cost estimates for preliminary and final designs for a multi-use pathway proposed for the east side of Pleasant Hill Road. The preliminary design and proposed work was planned in addition to an existing multi-use pathway project already being completed in the center median of Pleasant Hill Road, between Deer Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Several members of the Lafayette community had requested that options to improve the quality and safety of the area receive further attention, prompting city staff to request new information from the project's design consultant firm, Kittelson and Associates. Luttrupp said the proposed items and costs received by staff included the following: 1) Prepare a strip map concept drawing for east side multi-user

pathway with summary of pros/cons and potential impacts. (Approximate cost \$17,000); 2) Provide a strip map concept drawing for west side multi-user pathway with summary of pros/cons and potential impacts. (\$17,000); 3) Provide a concept sketch for signalized ramp terminals on the east side (\$3,500), a traffic analysis for signalized ramps (\$4,500) and design concept for signalized ramps (\$10,000); and 4) Develop full design plans, specifications and an estimate for east or west side design (\$110,000).

Luttrupp said the current center median alternative design assumes roadway configuration would not change. There would be no additional vehicle delays unless pedestrian and cyclist use at signaled intersections is heavy. Staff reached out to the Terraces project developer to obtain more right of way information. Those discussions led staff to understand that no additional right of way was needed beyond what has already been approved, provided the bike lane on the

southbound side of Pleasant Hill Road is eliminated or the buffers (the shoulders) between the center pathway and the concrete barrier are reduced, or the buffers between vehicles and the K-rail concrete barriers are reduced from 2 feet to 1 foot in width. "You can kind of mix and match," he said. The details and costs, depending on the council's choice, would be worked out as the final designs for a center multi-use pathway are completed.

Staff was also asked to consider improvements to the safety of the east side sidewalk along Pleasant Hill Road as part of the center median improvement effort. Luttrupp said the concern he heard expressed most often was the close proximity of vehicles to pedestrians. Eliminating the bike lane would shift vehicles away from pedestrians by creating a buffer that could be designed as a landscape buffer or with striping, but would not increase the safety of people traveling on foot. He suggested the buffer be designed as a

landscape element because there are funds to accommodate such a decision. South of Acalanes, where the buffer is four or two feet wide, he said is not optimum and "is skinny," but cautioned it might be costly if extensively altered. "Any time you're touching curbs, gutters and sidewalks, the costs go up considerably," he said. Again, if a decision were to be made to approve either option, the associated details and costs would be studied by the project design team and incorporated into a future center pathway design.

He emphasized that the primary goal of the pathway project is to reduce conflicts and improve safety between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles at the freeway interchange. Staff said the center median design eliminates potential conflicts at the on- and off-ramps to Highway 24 and addresses residents' concerns about the safety of the signalized intersections on both ends. While none of the designs eliminate the need for pedestrians and cyclists to cross at the intersections, full traffic signaling increases the safety considerably.

The designs are unfunded and would require additional resources to be identified. Because an east side path does not eliminate conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles at the freeway on- and off-ramps, and additional design work is unfunded, he said staff does not recommend allocating reserve funds to consider a design alternative to the existing proposed center multi-use pathway.

Council Member Susan Candell asked about how the current design impacts cyclist traffic. Luttrupp said the Ter-

rance bike path would terminate at the freeway on-ramp. The proposed signalized lights safety percentages were not numbers Luttrupp could quantify, but pointed out that the signals are \$750,000 each and because they would be on Caltrans property, would need their approval, which is highly unlikely. He said the "road warrior" cyclists would not be compelled to use the center median because they travel at the rate of vehicle traffic, but he envisions commuters, kids going to school, and casual bike riders would use it most often.

Council members asked for details about reducing the width of the buffers, cost proposals, the usefulness of more discussion with Caltrans and invited public comment on the project.

Public comment included concern about crashes at the intersections, arguments and evidence supporting the belief that the median strip would be used primarily by cyclists, not pedestrians, and suggestions that funding for the project was perceived as remaining unclear. While voicing appreciation that the council is listening to residents' input, several speakers at the meeting said they continue to have reservations about the pathway plans and staff recommendations.

Council addressed the public's comments, discussed the pros and cons raised about safety, usage, and design features, and focused in the final moments largely on the budgetary decisions involved and when those discussions might occur. They directed staff to hold conversations with Caltrans before moving forward on any of the options presented.

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Council Member Susan Candell asked about how the current design impacts cyclist traffic. Luttrupp said the Ter-

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Updated Traffic Calming Program



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

Speed humps help to reduce speeding on neighborhood streets.

... continued from Page A1

The intent of the updated program is to address funding availability, ensure community support for traffic calming measures proposed on neighborhood streets, as well as data supporting any requests, and reflect a realistic availability of staff time to execute the program.

One of the main changes to the process includes an annual deadline for applications of Sept. 30.

“This new timeline reflects that the updated program will be managed on an annual cycle, rather than accepting applications on a rolling basis as is the current practice,” Golier noted in his report.

According to Golier, the city receives approximately 12-15 applications per year. Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok asked with the new deadline of Sept. 30 if all the applications would be processed together and if that “bulk processing” is helpful to the staff.

“For staff time, it’s easier to evaluate everything at once,” Golier said. “To have one set of data collection, one kind of intensive [review] to compare them all, I know I have ‘x’ amount of funding available, so it’s easier to prioritize, to rank and it’s much more transparent to residents as well and they get feedback sooner.” All applications received thus far will be

required to follow the new standards, and the city will reach out to those applicants with information.

In addition to streamlining the approach to handling neighborhood traffic calming requests, the updated Guidebook is intended to align with the city’s overarching Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic-related collisions that result in serious injuries and fatalities, as well as with the Lafayette Local Road Safety Plan, which supports projects and programs that go beyond traffic calming to address safety in Lafayette.

According to the Guidebook, this program “does not replace a resident’s ability to contact the city about maintenance or other issues that do not fit the definition of ‘traffic calming.’” These requests can be addressed by submitting a Transportation Action Request form or calling the Engineering Department at (925)284-1951.

City council members unanimously voted to adopt the updated Traffic Calming Program, offering their thanks to Golier and Placeworks, which has been working with Golier to update the Traffic Calming Plan.

City Manager Niroop Srivastava also thanked Golier for his work, noting, “This is huge. With all of Patrick’s experience, this document will be put to good use.”



Lafayette Public Meetings
City Council
 Regular Meeting
 Monday, July 10, 7 p.m.
 Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting
 Monday, July 17, 7 p.m.
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Design Review
 Wednesday, July 24, 7 p.m.
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council:

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

Planning Commission:

TBA

Park and Recreation Commission:

TBA

Town's CIP Biennial Budget adopted for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25

By Vera Kochan

During its June 28 meeting, the Moraga Town Council unanimously approved the adoption of the Biennial Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget, and to establish the annual Gann Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.

A Gann Appropriation Limit, according to the staff report by Administrative Services Director Annie To and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, is a state law whereby "local governments are required to annually approve a local resolution that includes a 'Gann Appropriation Limit' calculation to ensure that the local budget doesn't exceed the local appropriation limit based on each local jurisdiction's population and annual per capital personal income change from the previous year.

The Town of Moraga's calculated applicable Gann Appropriation Limit of \$9.9 million for FY 2023-24 falls within the applicable Gann Appropriation Limit of \$19.1 million."

Included in the Budget Appropriation Revisions requested by the council are: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) items such as, earmarking \$25,000 for the town's 50th Anniversary Celebration in November 2024, by reducing ARPA funds that supported the FY 2023-24 Annual Storm Drain Repairs Program CIP Project. Also coming out of ARPA Funds is an appropriation of \$20,000 to be split among four businesses that missed the deadline to participate in the COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grants.

The Lamorinda Fee and Financing Authority (LFFA) Fund 799 item regarding the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program Subsidy appropriation of \$20,000 in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 was suggested by staff as a "two-year trial period" based on an annual performance review.

There are several projects without Budget Appropriation Revisions. First is the Town Hall & Council Chamber Energy Re-

liability Study & Initial Projects (\$230,000 in FY 2023-24 and \$405,000 in FY 2024-25). This proposed CIP Budget includes funding for initial stages of Town Hall and Council Chamber projects, along with energy efficiency projects at the Moraga Library.

An Evacuation Study appropriation for up to \$100,000 in FY 2023-24 directed staff to explore cost sharing options with other local government public safety partners including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Staff recommended using the FY 2023-24 General Fund Planning Department's Contract Services line-item budget to pay for a Noise Ordinance Study – \$40,000.

The Upper Moraga Road Preliminary Traffic Study appropriation of \$25,000 in FY 2023-24 should come from the CIP Project 14-404 Traffic Safety Program. If additional funds are needed, staff recommends using the Palos Colorados Development Impact Fees Fund.

Other "housekeeping" revisions to the Proposed Biennial Budget that staff has identified according to the staff report are: an "Updated Town Manager Budget Message; Revised

Department Performance Measures; updated general and department budget/financial summaries to reflect the final budget totals; Revised CIP Project narratives to ensure more accurate individual project descriptions; and other revisions/updates where needed."

The Town's total Operating and CIP Budget for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 is proposed to be \$22.6 million and \$21.2 million respectively. The General Fund's share of the budget will be \$11.9 million for FY 2023-24 and \$12.3 million for FY 2024-25. Staff states that "the CIP Budget for the next two fiscal years will total \$20.8 million to support 30 ongoing and new Capital Improvement Projects, including \$16.4 million for transportation safety, street rehabilitation and storm drain projects, and \$3.9 million will be dedicated to funding eight traffic safety and congestion projects around local schools."

Staff also added that "the budget for both years will remain 'balanced' and fully comply with Town Council's Strategic Plan, Fiscal Policies, and Budget Policies, including maintaining a 50% reserve for both fiscal years."

Hacienda Nights

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SMC President Richard Plumb steps down; interim president named



Photo Saint Mary's College

Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, is serving as Saint Mary's College Interim President

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College parted ways with its president of two years, Dr. Richard Plumb, according to a March 30 press release announcing his departure.

According to the press release, "The Saint Mary's College of California Board of Trustees Chairman and Trustees in consultation with its Brother Visitor, Provincial of the District of San Francisco New Orleans, have been in discussion with Saint Mary's College President Richard Plumb and determined that the College would be best served by a change in presidential leadership to propel it forward into its next chapter of growth and innovation." Plumb's last day with SMC was June 30.

Plumb, who served as the college's 30th president, also issued a March 30 press release through SMC. "After careful consideration and discussion with my family and the Board of Trustees, I am stepping down as President of Saint Mary's College," he stated. "I will continue in my current role through the end of the current academic year and continue to support the highly talented and strong senior leadership team as we ensure the College's operations continue smoothly and support our students, faculty, staff, and our extended community."

Both press releases listed many of Plumb's accomplishments during his short term, which included guiding the College through the COVID-19 pandemic and positioning it for success in the post-pandemic environment, as well as establishing a new senior leadership team and facilitating the completion of the College's five-year strategic plan. Plumb also worked with Facilities Services and the board of trustees to facilitate the update of several residence halls, prioritize critical safety repairs, and take steps towards modernizing the college's buildings and grounds.

Brother Visitor Nick Gonzalez, FSC, and Eric Flowers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, in a statement on May 22

named Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, as interim president effective July 1, while the board begins the search for Plumb's replacement. Jones is an SMC alumnus and is currently the college's Staff Psychologist in Counseling and Psychological Services, having been a resident director since 2012.

"I am both honored and humbled to serve Saint Mary's as its Interim President," stated Jones. "Throughout my life I have been committed to Lasallian principles of education, principles that are embodied in the College's mission and have inspired and grounded the transformational experiences of students since 1968."

Jones added, "I enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to work with the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, our amazing student body, and other supporters as we position ourselves as a leading innovative, national Catholic university that inspires minds, touches hearts, and transforms lives."

A nationwide search will commence at the start of the 2023-24 academic year with the help of an executive search firm. An SMC Search Committee made up of Trustees, Christian Brothers, faculty, staff, and student advisors will all take part in the selection process.

A glimpse of Summer Camp in Moraga – 46 years ago

By Vera Kochan

The United States House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month, and in conjunction with that decree, the Town of Moraga issued a proclamation declaring the same during the June 28 council meeting.

A 46-year-old version of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department's Activity Guide was discovered in Moraga's Historical Society archives. First of all, it differs greatly from today's "guide" in that it's not the nifty, colored booklet that residents are used to nowadays. Instead, the Midweek Sun's Wednesday June 8, 1977 issue included a full-page ad entitled "Moraga Parks & Recreation Presents Summer '77" with all of the class offerings listed on one page along with a description. There were no photos. Rather, townsfolk were forced to use their imagination when it came to classes such as "Tennis Anyone?" or "Watercolor Workshop."

The summer of 2023's

classes/camps include: "Glee Club," "Chess," "Musical Theatre," "Movie/Film Making," "Skateboard Academy," "Soccer," "Cooking Round the World," and "Flag Football." There are also camps designed to foster success as children get older by building self-confidence, along with camps that use physics and engineering concepts. Some of the teen/adult programs offered include "Online Driver's Education," and a combo of "Fitness, Yoga & Meditation."

Director of Parks and Recreation Mackenzie Brady explained the many ways camps and classes are currently chosen for each summer. Sometimes a contracted instructor will make a proposal to teach a particular class; a popular class will often be offered again; staff will choose classes on topics that are trending; or classes will be chosen through public suggestion.

In 1977, nearly two generations ago, the youth in Moraga had much of the same interests as kids today. Classes

such as: "Mini-Chef," "Rookie Soccer Clinic," "Arts & Crafts," or "Drama Workshop" were on the summer camp "menu."

"Tennis Anyone?" allowed students to "take advantage of Campolindo's newly lighted courts." A "Jazz Dancing Clinic" urged students to "bring lots of energy and a snack, too." Girls, grades 4 - 6, were offered "Pom-Pom and Cheers," which was "back by popular demand."

A class called "Think Thin – Teens Only" with a description that demands, "It's time to get in shape – bring a friend – think thin!" might not fit in today's climate of downplaying a perfect body image. And while this class did not specify girls only, there was a class geared to teenage boys called "Weight training – Strength Building For Young Boys" that promised "test measurements will be taken."

A practical class for women and teenage girls was "Self Defense" that incorporated Aikido, Karate and Jiu-Jitsu techniques.

... continued on Page A8

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Art in Public Spaces Committee asks Moraga residents to participate in mural theme survey



Photo Teresa Onoda

The 36-foot-long wall will be a perfect canvas for the new mural.

By Vera Kochan

How often does an entire town get asked to choose the type of art that residents would like to see displayed within their community? The Art in Public Spaces Committee is on track to have a mural painted on the large wall (5 feet high by 36 feet long) outside of the Town

Chambers at 335 Rheem Blvd., next to Town Bakery. "The sculpture that's been there about five years is gone, so it's time to fill the space," explained APSC Chairperson Teresa Onoda.

During a March 8 meeting, the Moraga Town Council gave APSC the green light to allow the public to get involved in

the early stages of the mural process by participating in a survey. In an effort to bring even more visible art to Moraga, committee members are thrilled to have the community's input. "What I like is that the public art is going to be so highly visible," stated APSC Committee Member Holly Hartz.

"We've been looking for a spot for a mural for several years," said Onoda. "Now, it's an opportunity for the people of Moraga to have art that reflects their values. We're really looking forward to seeing what people want."

The survey is open to Moraga's residents (school age and up), and it basically poses the question: What do you believe is the essence of Moraga? There are only six questions to answer, and responding is as easy as checking a box from a list of possible APSC suggestions/ideas. There are also boxes labeled "other" where

residents are encouraged to come up with their own ideas. "It's a short survey," noted Hartz. "You should be done in about three minutes."

A sample of the six questions are: What do you like best about Moraga? What Moraga activities do you participate in? In 2-3 words, what defines Moraga? and What is your connection to Moraga? Participants of the survey are also asked for their own ideas when responding to: Is there something you would like us to consider about creating a mural that we did not ask?

The deadline for taking the survey is July 31, at which point the APSC Mural Subcommittee will pour over the public's responses and determine the most popular ones and how they can be tied together to form a cohesive mural. The Town Council will give a final review and their approval, at which point the search for an artist will begin via a Request

for Proposal (RFP). All costs associated with the mural (survey, design, installation and maintenance) would either be paid from Fund 134 or through APSC fundraising efforts.

The APSC currently has six members who meet quarterly to discuss other projects such as adding more sculptures around town, poetry readings and fundraising options. They're also looking into utility box art, along with engaging Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's College students to participate in additional art projects. APSC members occasionally go on field trips within the Greater Bay Area to get ideas for possible art projects for the town. For more information about APSC contact: tonoda@moraga.ca.us.

To take the Mural Survey visit: <https://bit.ly/moragamuralsurvey>, or Google: Moraga Mural Survey, click onto About Town -- June 16, 2023, and scroll down to Mural Survey.

Moraga Town Council adopts Hacienda Biennial Budget

By Vera Kochan

Town staff had to come up with a separate Biennial Budget presentation during the June 28 council meeting with regards to the Hacienda de las Flores in order to avoid a conflict of interest due to the fact that Council Member Kerry Hillis lives within 500 feet of the facility. As such, Hillis recused himself from that portion of the proceedings.

With a vote of four in favor and one absent, the Hacienda Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 is as follows, thanks to a staff report by Administrative Services Director Annie To and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp.

The Hacienda Operating Budget revenue with regards to events and rental for the FY 2023-24 Budget's total appropriations comes to \$326,335. These costs include \$54,800 for personnel; \$126,655 for maintenance personnel; and \$144,880 for operations and maintenance. There is a Net Operating Variance of (\$14,135), making the total revenue \$312,200.

Events and rental for FY 2024-25 Budget's total appropriations comes to \$335,616. These costs also include \$56,380 for personnel; \$130,358 for maintenance personnel; and \$148,878 for operations and maintenance. The Net Operating Variance is (\$18,358), making the total revenue \$317,258.

The Hacienda Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project has a carryforward from FY 2022-23. The Laguna Creek Restoration at the Hacienda - Phase 2 is \$223,000; and the Hacienda's Metal Entrance Fence and Gate \$42,000 which totals to \$265,000.

For the FY 2023-24 Budget, the Laguna Creek Restoration continues at \$56,000; the Metal Entrance Fence and Gate continues at \$3,000; and the Hacienda Creek Fence comes to \$34,000, all totaling \$93,000.

Lastly, the FY 2024-25 Budget for the Laguna Creek Restoration is projected at \$2,707,000; and the Hacienda Parking Lot Retaining Wall Repairs will come to \$119,000, all totaling \$2,826,000.

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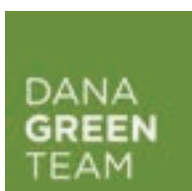
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Council urged to get independent opinion on legality of Plan Orinda EIR

By Sora O'Doherty

Frequent commenter on the activities of the Orinda City Council, retired attorney Nick Waranoff on June 20 urged the council to obtain an independent opinion on the legality of its Plan Orinda Environmental Impact Report (EIR), including the evacuation analysis. Waranoff maintains that the EIR is defective. Orinda is being sued by Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation (OSEE), and Waranoff says that he supports their position.

OSEE is seeking a Writ of Mandate from the Contra Costa Superior Court, asking the Court to order the city to vacate and set aside certification for the EIR and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act and the CEQA guidelines. The petition, filed by attorney Jason R. Flanders of Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group, also seeks costs and attorney's fees.

At the end of May the parties entered into a stipulation, which vacated the case management conference and agreed that the hearing on the Parties' briefing be set for Dec.

7. In addition, the parties agreed that the administrative record shall have an additional section solely dedicated to emails produced to Petitioner by the City.

The city is represented by Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP. While it is unusual for litigation to be discussed in the public portion of a city council meeting, the case is available to the public on the Court's website. Discussions of litigation by the city council and its attorney are generally conducted during closed sessions.

OSEE's position is that the city has failed to adequately analyze and/or mitigate potentially significant impacts to wildfire evacuation and emergency response resulting from Plan Orinda, adopted by the council on Jan. 31. While stating that they are not opposed to increased residential development or population in Orinda, OSEE argues that the Plan Orinda EIR fails to analyze or mitigate the impacts on wildfire evacuation of exacerbated traffic congestion resulting from the expected increase in population.

Family of Pete Wilson donates medical equipment to Rescue 1

By Sora O'Doherty

The wife and family of the late Pete Wilson, a founding member of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, have made a donation

to the Rescue 1 in honor of the former MOFD Director who passed away last November. Mimi Wilson and her family donated funds to the Rescue 1 Foundation toward the purchase of a Stryker Lifepack Cardiac monitor/defibrillator, and Rescue 1 matched their donation to purchase another.

Battalion Chief Lucas Lambert told the Lamorinda Weekly that the equipment represents the latest technology, is lightweight and can easily be taken into inaccessible areas. Mimi Wilson says that she knew that her husband would have wanted something that would benefit the men and women of the MOFD.

According to Lambert, crews had been looking for a compact cardiac monitor, different from frontline emergency equipment, a unit that can be carried in gear bags when MOFD firefighters are called to work on large wildland fires elsewhere in the state or nation. MOFD crews are often called upon to support the health and safety of firefighters, acting as fireline paramedics.

The choice of the "latest and greatest" equipment was researched by firefighter paramedic Tom Schwedhelm. Lambert says that Schwedhelm did an amazing job in researching the best equipment for staff and shared some of Schwedhelm's background. On one occasion, Schwedhelm was a fireline paramedic during fires up in Redding. "Tom was resting at a local hotel during his time off for rest and rehabilitation between shifts when he was awakened by a family at the pool whose child was drowning. Schwedhelm and others jumped into action and saved the young child, intervened with lifesaving measures, including a cardiac monitor and medications." Lambert noted, "This is why these types of tools are very important to Tom and to us. We use the equipment for any emergency that comes up at any time."

Mimi Wilson says that the fire district was very important to Pete. He was on the Orinda Fire Commission before there was a fire district, when the county was making



Photo courtesy MOFD

Chief Dave Winnacker, Mimi Wilson and Firefighter/Paramedic Tom Schwedhelm

all the decisions, which is why he joined the effort to form a fire district that stands alone and the county can't make decisions for the district. Wilson believed it was important that the district serve the needs of Moraga and Orinda, which are unique in the county. He had to resign from the board because of his health, but his wife thinks that we would have been really pleased by the donation of something that will be useful to the firefighters themselves. One of the new monitor/defibrillators bears a plaque in Wilson's honor.

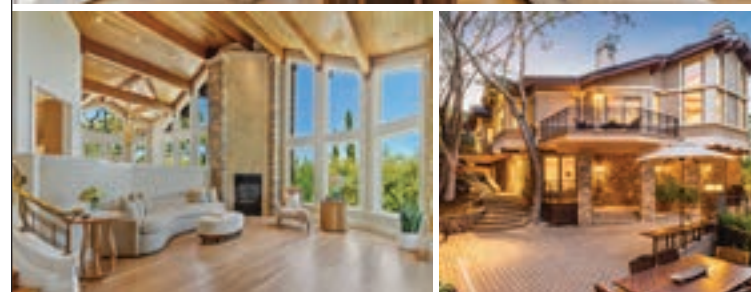
Sally Whittaker of The Rescue 1 Foundation reported that the cost of the two life pack machines totaled about \$7,000, half of which was donated by the Wilson family. She recalled that Wilson had been a MOFD director for 12 years and instrumental in

combining the fire districts back in 1997. "Our fire district is very cutting edge and is sought after," Whittaker said. They will take the two monitors into the field with them for the health and welfare of the men and women of MOFD and other firefighters when they are out fighting fires. Mimi thought it was apropos to purchase this particular equipment to help the firefighters of MOFD. "The MOFD family is grateful for both the equipment provided through the generous donation in memory of MOFD Founding Director Pete Wilson and his lifetime of service to the community."

MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said, "We are proud to be able to carry this reminder of his commitment to public safety on our apparatus as they deploy throughout the region and state."



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City Council Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission.:

Wednesday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission

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

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Outcry grows as downed trees keep Orinda Nature Area shuttered



Volunteers with Toris Jaeger at council meeting. Photo Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page A1

Glimme later spoke to the Lamorinda Weekly, and gave this reporter a tour of the area after she had consulted with an arborist concerning the safety and fate of the trees on the 18-acre parcel that is owned the OUSD. A rough estimate of the cost of making the entire area safe stands at a quarter- to a half-million dollars. However, the district is hoping to proceed by addressing one area at a time, starting with reopening the garden area where volunteers used to convene each Sunday to work on raising plants both for food and for replacing plants in the nature area. This area is fenced off, so by trimming the trees to remove dead branches it can be made safe for occupation.

Last week Glimme conveyed to the Friends of the Nature Area that the estimate for making the garden portion of the property safe for volunteers as well as the Wagner Ranch Elementary School Garden, which provides access to the Nature Area, was \$27,500. Although it is uncertain whether there will be any funds available in the OUSD

budget, the Friends have decided to commence a fundraising effort in conjunction with the Wagner Ranch Elementary School Garden Advocates.

The Wagner Ranch Garden, which has also been closed since the last storms, is especially critical for the Special Education children, according to Gina Gabriel, one of the parent advocates. One child with a severe disability has been pointing at the garden area every time he is nearby, so the Wagner Ranch Garden parent advocates are eager to have the school garden reopened.

The next area could be the kitchen area, however it is not fenced off from the remainder of the nature area, so that might present a difficulty.

Theodore Wagner was a surveyor general for the state of California. Wagner bought 241 acres in Orinda in the 1880s and built first a small ranch, then an elegant two-story mansion that was the center of Orinda social life at the turn of the century. The property included a forge, a dairy barn, a brick kiln, a car-bide gas plant and a winery, but the family lost most of its

assets in different business ventures, capped by the failure of the California Nevada railroad and a fire that destroyed the main house.

Most of the property became part of the holdings of the East Bay Water Company, now the East Bay Municipal Water District, except for a portion given to Orinda for a school, now the site of Wagner Ranch Elementary. Today EBMUD owns the creek and the land beside the creek, including approximately 20 feet on the Nature Area side of the creek. There was a path alongside the creek that was used by the children during their educational activities in the Nature Area. That path was so damaged by the winter storms that it is no longer considered safe for the children, and a spokesperson for EBMUD states it has no interest in restoring the trail.

According to Toris Jaeger, Naturalist at the Orinda Nature Area, during their time, the Wagners planted a number of non-native trees on the property, including eucalyptus, Monterey pines, cedar trees, and a specimen linden tree. The property is covered with many types of oak trees, including, a black oak, a garry oak, one or two tan oaks, one canyon oak, and many valley oaks and California live oaks. Some of the oak trees on the property are as much as 400 years old. Oak trees range in life span from 300 to 600 years, depending on species. There are also some redwoods on the property; redwoods can live for up to 1,500 years.

Since its inception, the Nature Area has offered hands-on experiential education to approximately 1,000 Orinda school children annually. Until the closure of the Nature Area, the OUSD had

been planning on expanding the educational opportunities to other schools. The Nature Area comprises 18 acres of meadow, forest, ponds and streams and is a certified Schoolyard Habitat (#1568) by the National Wildlife Federation. San Pablo Creek, which is home to thousands of native plant and animal species, borders one side of the preserve. Since 1970, the programs of the Nature Area have helped students embrace the connection between themselves and their environment and develop a sense of lifelong stewardship.

The Friends of the Orinda

Nature Area is a grass roots nonprofit organization formed in 2005 to prevent construction of a maintenance yard on site of the Nature Area. The Friends again stepped up in 2009 to fund education programs when the Orinda Union School District was unable to continue its support for the Nature Area due to funding limitations. Since then, The Friends have received substantial donations from the community for the naturalist, nature aides, and materials needed to conduct environmental education. For information, visit www.fwrna.org

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To answer these questions and many more, attend the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class series this Fall in Orinda.

Classes will be held in Orinda on Thursday nights from 9/14 – 11/9. For more information and to register go to: <https://classes.lamorindacert.org>

Now is the time to get prepared. As Snoopy would say "Ten minutes before the party is not the time to learn to dance"!



MOFD adopts same fire flow tax, despite objections from one Orinda resident

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda resident Steve Cohn has been campaigning for some time to have the annual fire flow tax rate of Moraga citizens raised. Cohn had asked the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board to raise the fire flow tax on Moraga residents from six cents to 30 cents. Cohn was unhappy that the board adopted the same six-cent fire flow tax rate for both Orinda and Moraga that has been in effect for since 2013.

At the MOFD Board meeting on June 21, MOFD Vice President Mike Roemer addressed the issue. "It is my position that legally and morally and politically we have an obligation to keep this commu-

nity united," he said, "and it seems to me that it is a fundamental matter of fairness that if we were considering doubling or tripling or quadrupling the taxes of Moraga citizens we ought to reach out to them and see how they feel about that." Roemer added that he had spoken to many taxpayers in various MOFD districts who told him that they consider the present structure to be fair.

The board voted unanimously to keep the fire flow tax rate at six cents for both Moraga and Orinda residents.

Cohn later wrote to the board members objecting that Roemer had misrepresented the facts concerning the fire flow tax, particularly by stating that the tax was assessed at six cents per \$1,000 of assessed

property value. Cohn says that the tax has nothing to do with assessed value but is based on the "fire flow" required to extinguish a structure fire and is based on the square footage of the structure and whether or not it has a fire suppression (sprinkler) system."

Given an opportunity to respond to Cohn's email, Roemer said, "The fire flow tax rate is six cents for Orinda and six cents for Moraga and brings in roughly the same revenue from each municipality, and it seems to me that that is fair." Roemer added that the board can't control major portions of the revenue that it receives, which is governed by Proposition 13 and that the fire flow tax represents only about 3% of MOFD's revenue.

One rescued from burning home in Moraga



Photo courtesy MOFD

A structure fire was reported at approximately 11:30 p.m. June 17 on the 1000 block of Sanders Drive in Moraga. According to Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker, "the first fire engine on scene encountered a fire that was well established in the attic space of a single-story home with two occupants reported inside. Crews executed a rescue of an occupant inside of the structure and escorted a second resident who was outside of the structure." There was significant damage to the property, however there were no reported injuries on scene from staff, Winnacker noted. The fire is under investigation. - S. O'Doherty

County promotes earthquake safety

Contra Costa County Volunteer Program Coordinated Theresa Dade-Boone is urging residents to take advantage of a Safer at Home Webinar Series offered by the Earthquake Country Alliance.

Those who live in earthquake country know that large earthquakes may happen at

any time. Fortunately, there are simple steps we all can take to be "safer at home" before the earth shakes. Access to the webinar and a great deal of other useful information about earthquakes can be found on the Earthquake Country Alliance web page at www.earthquakecountry.org. - Sora O'Doherty

A glimpse of Summer Camp in Moraga

... continued from Page A5

Ironically, strength and size were not critical in this instance. Another class that was workout related was "Tumbling," and students were advised to "wear loose shorts."

A very practical class was offered for teens that would soon be off to college. The "Surviving on Your Own" description posed some heavy-duty questions to teens who think they are ready for life away from home. "Are you

going to know what to do when you leave home and are on your own? Will you be phoning home to find out why your white clothes came out of the washer blue and your blues came out white? Will you know better than to go into a self-serve gas station and fill up your gas tank with water? Will you know how to establish credit and balance your check book?" With scare tactics like these, it's a wonder that teens ever left the house.

An "Outdoor Camp" for

girls and boys aged 9-12 taught kids to learn about nature, develop camping skills, and explore the creeks and woods at the Hacienda de las Flores. While three of the days were morning sessions, the last was an overnight camp-out. Parents were assured that after the camp was set up and everyone fixed their own dinner, the kids would "spend the night totally supervised." Forty-six years later, it's comforting to know that some things never change.



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Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
June 11 - June 24

Alarms	38
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	39
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	25
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	34
Patrol Req./Security Check	9
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	23
Vacation House Check	31
Welfare Check	19
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	
Police Department (3)	
Auto Burglary	
1000 Block Pine Ln.	
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	

Moraga Rd./School St.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.	
2Nd St/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1St St/Wb Sr 24	
Tc - Property Damage	
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
3900 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
10 Block Eleven Laf	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Vehicle Theft	
900 Block East St.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft Veh Parts	
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Misc Burglary	
500 Block Morecroft Rd.	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
1400 Block Tichenor Ct.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct.	
3400 Block Monroe Ave.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Theft Access Card	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	
900 Block Dolores Dr.	
3200 Block Withers Ave.	
Disturbance-fight	
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3rd St/Moraga Blvd.	
Loud Music	
900 Block Mountain View Dr. (2)	
Loud Noise	
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct.	
Loud Party	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)	
Brook St/Mountain View Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Lafayette Cr/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
1000 Block Dewing Ave. (3)	
Vandalism	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Silver Springs Ct.	
Other	
Brandishing Weapon	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Defraud Innkeeper	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Fireworks	
3400 Block School St.	
H&S Violation	
3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.	
Harassment	
1400 Block Tichenor Ct.	
Illegal Entry	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
Nb Sr 242 No Nb I 680, Con	
Threats	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Rose Ln.	
Unwanted Guest	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
June 20 - June 26

Alarms	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	23
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	11
Patrol Req./Security Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	7
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	
Rheem Theater	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Dui Misd	
500 Block Augusta Dr.	

Excessive Speed	
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.	
Moraga Way St. Andrews Dr. (3)	
St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.	
Camino Ricardo Moraga Way	
Nb Moraga Rd. Twd Lafayette	
Country Club Dr./School St	
St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Country Club	
Vehicle Theft	
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas, Ori	
Other criminal activity	
Computer Fraud	
100 Block Quintas Ln.	
Petty Theft	
Moraga Country Club	
Residential Burglary	
300 Block Calle La Montana	
Warrant Arrest	
200 Block Corliss Dr.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
Ascot Dr./Ascot Pl.	
Public Nuisance	
Campolindo Dr./Corte Monterey	
Other	
Harassment	
70 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Trespass	
500 Block Center St.	

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo	
200 Block Camino Sobrante	
10 Block Altarinda Rd.	
Auto Burglary	
40 Block La Vuelta	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Alice Ln./Zander Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd. (2)	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Via	
Other criminal activity	
Burglary	
100 Block Silver Oak Terrace	
Forgery	
20 Block Orinda Waynda Ca	
Grand Theft	
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln	
30 Block Las Vegas Rd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Camino Lenada	
Petty Theft	
Camino Sobrante	
Wilder Sports Fields Ori	
100 Block Las Vegas Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
10 Block Via Hermosa	
Shoplift	
Moraga Way	
Warrant Arrest	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
Camino Pabo	
Loud Noise	
10 Block Hall Dr.	
100 Block Hall Dr.	
20 Block Coachwood Terrace	
Loud Party	
Owl Hill Rd./Oakwood Rd.	
20 Block Owl Hill Rd.	
20 Block Moraga Via	
Public Nuisance	
10 Block Theatre Sq (2)	
Theatre Square (2)	
500 Block Orindawoods Dr.	
Other	
Failure To Obey	
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas	
Return After Eviction	
300 Block La Espiral	
Trespass	
Camino Sobrante (4)	
Theatre Square	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
10 Block Quarry Hill Rd.	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
May 28 - June 10

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	107
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	60
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	6
Ordinance Violation	5

New aquarium shop opens in Orinda Village



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Customers shop for fish at The Fish Barn, a new aquarium store in Orinda Village.

By Sora O'Doherty

Owner A.J. Glassman cut the ribbon to open his new store in Orinda Village, The Fish Barn, on June 10, following a soft opening on June 3. The Fish Barn is located at 19 Orinda Way.

Glassman has spent six years working in the tech industry, but during the COVID-19 pandemic he found himself wondering what he would really like to be doing. Aquarium fish have been a lifelong hobby for Glassman, so he decided to try working in a fish store in Oakland. From there he went to work for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and interacted with small business owners in Lamorinda.

He found the perfect spot in Orinda, and opened The Fish Barn, which he hopes will be a destination spot for people along the 24-680 corridor in Contra Costa County and even from across the hill to fulfill their aquarium needs. The only other aquarium store in the county is located in Concord, and when Glassman was working, he found it impossible to get there during opening hours.

The Fish Barn will be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from noon to 6 p.m. on weekends. The store will be closed on Tuesdays.

Glassman's emphasis is on creating natural ecosystems with little plastic, although the fish he sells do require heaters to maintain the water temperature at between 72 to 78 degrees. He offers plants that are easy to grow and make the care of an aquarium easier. He likes to think of people having a little piece of nature in their homes.

The Fish Barn focuses on fresh water community fish, that is, fish that get along together. Glassman will not stock cichlids, for example, which are not generally peaceful in a community tank.

Generally, the store caters to people who want aquariums from 10 to 40 gallons in size. However, the shop is still being developed, and a nano area is coming soon, where very small varieties of fish, including fresh water shrimp, will be available for tanks as small as three gallons.

For more information, visit www.thefishbarn.com



Owner A.J. Glassman outside his new store in Orinda Village.

AUHSD board seeks to fill vacancy

By Sora O'Doherty

The Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) governing board at its June 14 meeting decided to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the board created by the recent resignation of board member Kristin Connelly. Connelly resigned "due to the need to exclusively focus on [her] responsibilities as Contra Costa County's Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters." Connelly was elected to that position in November 2022. Her resignation was effective June 30.

AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson said, "We are grateful for Ms. Connelly's commitment and service to the AUHSD students and greater community since her initial election in 2018."

The provisional appointment process must be completed by Aug. 9. The board will be accepting applications for the provisional appointment until 4 p.m. on July 21. The board will interview eligible applicants at a public special board meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3. According to the board's Bylaw 9223, the public will have the

opportunity to provide oral or written input.

The district will hold an orientation at the district office for eligible applicants at 6 p.m. on July 26, a week prior to the public interviews on Aug. 3. The Board will select the appointee by majority vote. The appointed seat will be up for election as part of the next general election, which will be in November 2024.

An application form can be obtained from the district office receptionist at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette or online from the district website. To be considered, an applicant for the vacant seat, a letter of interest, current resume, and the completed application form must be submitted in person to the superintendent's office or via email (superintendent@auhdschools.org) no later than 4 p.m. on July 21.

For further information about the Acalanes Union High School District go to www.acalanes.k12.ca.us or contact John Nickerson at jnickerson@auhdschools.org or (925)280-3900 extension 6602.

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Letters to the editor

Bigotry and hatred in Lafayette

Though one reader has responded to the (June 7) letter, it requires a further response. It's wrong on dates and case law, and very wrong on attributing bigotry across the spectrum on every issue solely to practitioners of one faith.

California decriminalized interracial marriage in 1948, in Perez v Sharp, 19 years before Loving v Virginia. The US Supreme Court protected gay marriage in 2013, two years before Obergefell, in In Re Marriage Cases. The opinion was written by Roberts and joined by Scalia, both Catholic. Sotomayor dissented.

The author is rightly concerned about transgender backlash. However, it's quite clear that the three to five people across the street from Lafayette Elementary are convincing no

one, which is exactly as it should be. It's also unclear how many live here and how many may be evangelicals or something else. At least one travels throughout Contra Costa.

The author's anger may be rightly directed at Thomas. I concur. His wish to overturn Obergefell is unconscionable but not even with this Court is it gaining any traction. Thomas is not Catholic.

I doubt the letter writer is aware of what the Catholic Church is for or against but the Black priest in my former parish has full pews, including

lesbians and gays.

I can personally attest to the fact that one can attend Mass on Sunday and write a check to get morning afters to women elsewhere on Monday. It happens often.

Bigotry is a two-way street when based on assumptions, gets the facts wrong and worse, lacks nuance. Pedophiles in dresses says more about the author than anything else.

Kate Alderman Ruby
Lafayette
JD, Berkeley Law 1974

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

Miramonte student facilitates letter writing campaign for pediatric cancer patients

A few months ago, Miramonte student Vinny Yu, after hearing stories from young cancer patients at a camp last summer, was determined to do anything he could to help.

"At first, I wanted to wait until I was experienced enough to make a change on the medical side of things. However, in January I realized that I did not need medical skills to make a difference for patients," Yu said. "Positivity can make a huge impact for such a mentally exhausting battle, and it struck me that I could bring the positivity of my community to the patients." Yu decided to base his project around letters, as they were accessible for anyone to make, while also having the flexibility to be a creative drawing or a heartfelt message. He contacted local elementary schools and while he was unsure of the number of students involved, three schools participated (Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, and Del Rey), according to Yu, with "a whopping 595 letters written, as well as a mind-blowing 1,006 pieces of origami hearts from one Sleepy Hollow class."

Glorietta Librarian Anne Lowell says she can't say enough good things about what Yu has done. "We are lucky to have him in our community; he's a great kid, and a real asset to the community."

- J. Wake



Miramonte High School student Vinny Yu smiles with a collection of letters destined for pediatric cancer patients.

Photo provided

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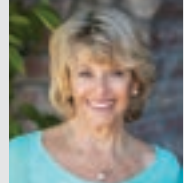
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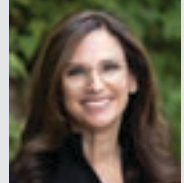
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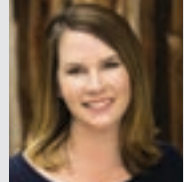
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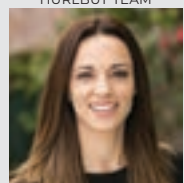
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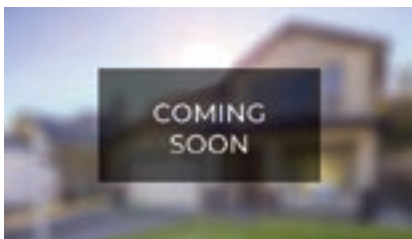


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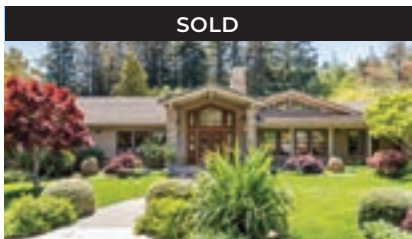
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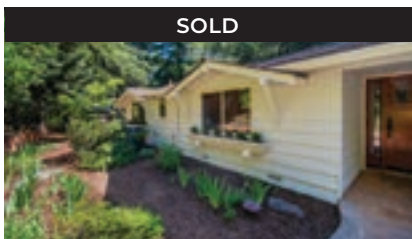
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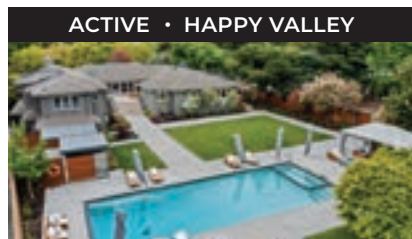
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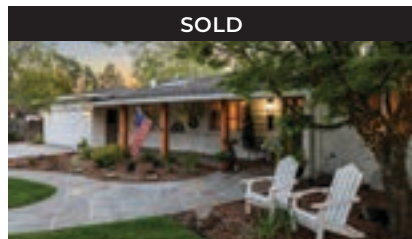
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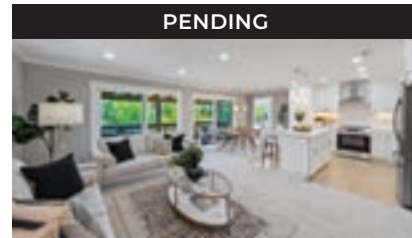
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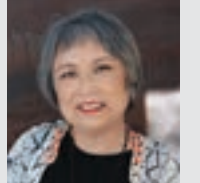
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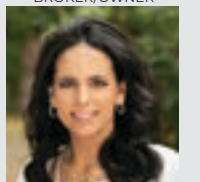
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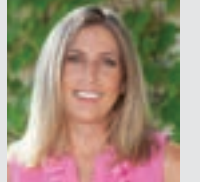
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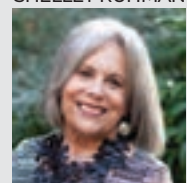
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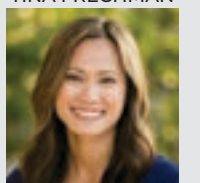
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Got a rodent problem? Working Cats could be the answer



Photos Vera Kochan

Oakland Animal Services' feral cat holding facilities temporarily keep the cats before adoption

By Vera Kochan

For nearly 10 years, Oakland Animal Services has been running a successful Working Cat Program designed to encourage folks with rat, mice, vole, or even gopher problems to adopt feral cats.

Feral cats have had almost no contact with humans, and as such make perfect rodent hunters as a matter of survival. Life on the streets has made them very low-maintenance, and they are most often found around homeless encampments or parks. According to OAS Community Cat Coordinator Tiffany Ashbaker, "The cats are only brought to us if they have lost either their caregiver, their home, or live in an unsafe neighborhood. Rather than have them euthanized, OAS provides them with a second chance at life. The East Bay Regional Park District has offered OAS a contract that allows the safe removal of cats from its parks to use in the Working Cat Program."

The cats in the program are not social or suited to be pets. They may even take a long time before they can trust their new human owner enough to be touched. In order to be successful working cats they will not live in the house, but rather in sheltered areas such as a garage or barn. This is not to say that a once feral cat can't become a house pet someday, but that would be entirely up to the cat. The youngest cats in the program are approximately six months old; anything younger would not yet have the skills to remain outdoors safely. The typical age of adoptable cats are between 1 and 5 years old.

OAS does not charge a fee

for the adoption, but they do expect new owners to keep the cats healthy and provide food, water and shelter. All cats that come into OAS will be spayed or neutered, receive current vaccinations, microchipped, treated for worms or fleas, tested for FeLV/FIV, and ear-tipped. The cats are kept in holding facilities, usually in pairs, for about a month. This allows OAS to observe them for any illnesses and gets the cats used to being fed cat food and given clean water. This will become part of their care once they are adopted, and they will learn that humans will be a part of their lives.

Ashbaker has delivered cats throughout the East Bay Area, including Lamorinda, and as far away as Santa Rosa. Word-of-mouth is their only form of advertising. Besides residences, OAS has adopted cats out to warehouses, breweries and wineries. Once they determine that the placement will be beneficial to the cats, two or more are transported to their new home. They will need to be confined in an escape-proof room or an extra-long dog crate (approximately 6 feet) for 4 to 6 weeks while they acclimate to their new surroundings. During this time, they must continue to be fed, given water, have their litter boxes cleaned regularly, and have toys to play with. After the obligatory time period has passed, the cats begin to accept their new home and can be released in order to "do their job" of hunting rodents. By continually providing food and water, the cats know that this is now home and should return to it at day's end.

This reporter also went to a scheduled delivery with Ashbaker to Orinda. Resident

Tracy Ellman, who heard about the Working Cat Program from a friend and had also seen it online, had already purchased all of the recommended supplies in order to take delivery of three cats. This included Fancy Feast cat food, brand new feeding bowls, scratching posts, a collection of toys, cat carriers that would serve as each cat's apartment and a litter box.

Ashbaker brought Ellman two females and a male which were delivered in a special feral cat box made of metal with plastic doors. She also brought all of the OAS paperwork containing each cat's history and vaccination information. Not only did Ashbaker help Ellman set everything up, but she checked in with her the following day to see how things were going. She will continue to call Ellman in the following weeks until things stabilize and is always available for any questions.

One week later, this reporter asked Ellman how things were progressing. "They hide when I come, but I know that they play with the toys, because they're scattered everywhere," said Ellman. "They are easy to take care of, and it seems that the rat noises have quieted down. I'm happy with them. The cats are doing great!"

While Ashbaker prepares to make a Working Cat delivery to Moraga, she suggested a phone call to Charles Tian of Lafayette who had recently released his cats after the suggested waiting period. "I had two cats delivered around April 15, and I've had them in the large cage for six weeks," he reported. His daughter (8) enjoys watching them eat in the cage and they seem to respond to her more than Tian. "Once I released them they went right into work mode after the gophers. My neighbor is more pleased than I am, because they're taking care of his gopher problem, too. They only come to their cat house for food and water, and they hang out in the yard. They also like to lay in the sun."

In recent years, some wildlife organizations such as Lindsay Wildlife have raised concerns about outdoor cats negatively affecting bird populations.

Ashbaker stressed that the working cat placements are "truly the cats' last option."

"Relocating cats isn't 100%. Our program is very successful, mostly because we are in constant communication with the new caretakers and also because of the amount of support we give throughout the process," she said. "I want this program to be successful. I am very invested in the cats and the program."

For more information about the Working Cat Program visit: Oaklandanimalservices.org/adopt/Oakland-cats-program.



OAS Community Cat Coordinator Tiffany Ashbaker (left) and new cat owner Tracy Ellman prepare the cats' new home



Feral cat tries to play with reporter's camera.

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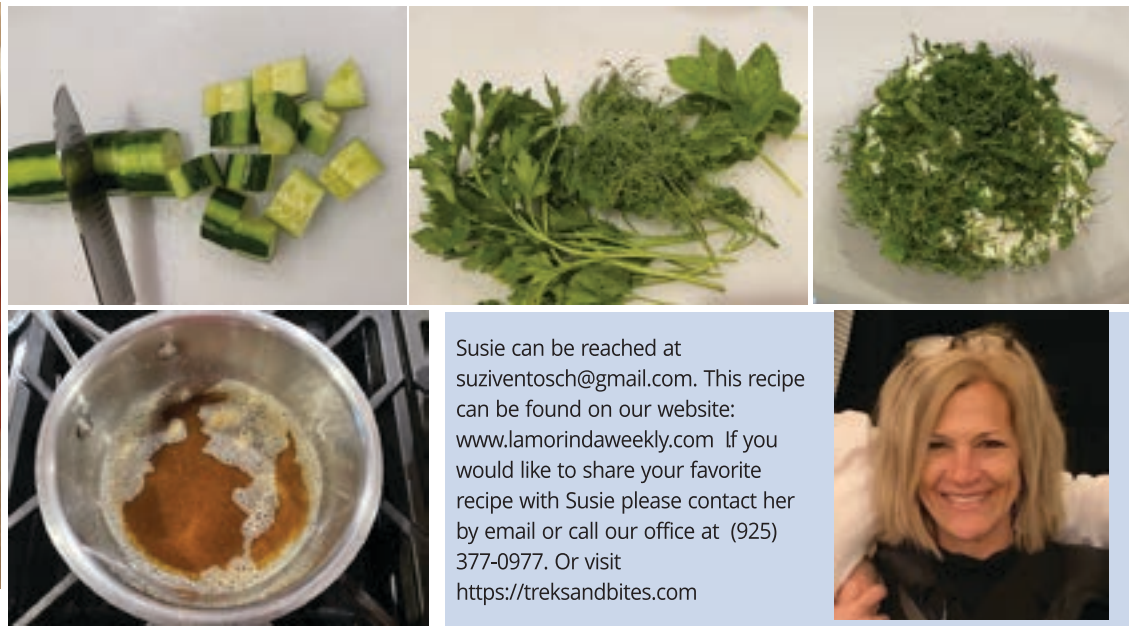
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Cucumbers, cumin and coriander create wonderful twist on tzatziki



Spicy Tzatziki

Photo Susie Iventosch



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

By Susie Iventosch

My brother served this dish that was published in the New York Times when I last visited and I have absolutely fallen in love with it! It's a wonderful twist on tzatziki made with cucumbers tossed in a cumin and coriander infused olive oil, cider vinegar and finely diced green onions, served on a base of plain yogurt blended with lots of fresh herbs — dill, parsley and mint. The flavors are bright, warm and zesty all at the same time. My family loves cumin, and as the cumin is cooking in the olive oil, it smells so good. If you've ever toasted cumin seeds, it's that same kind of delightfully warm and toasty aroma.

We follow the recipe closely with just a few exceptions. We like to use olive oil for this recipe instead of grape seed oil called for, and we also like to cut the cucumbers into bite-sized chunks to make it easier to serve and to eat. We

cut the amount of mint in half, and finally, we toast the pine nuts before tossing them on top. Other than that, the recipe is perfection and it's a great side to almost any Mediterranean dish you might want to serve, from lamb, chicken, or fish to roasted veggies — especially eggplant, tomatoes, and peppers. It's also great as zesty dip for pita bread.

You can prepare the spiced oil ahead of time and snip the herbs and cucumber in advance, too, but don't assemble the dish until you're ready to serve it, because the cucumbers will get a little bit soggy which will make the yogurt runny if made too far ahead of time.

I like to make the cucumbers look fancy, so I peel stripes of the skin off with a potato peeler, leaving some green and some white vertical strips. Then I run a fork down the length of the peeled stripes before cutting the whole cucumber into bite-sized pieces.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 pounds Persian or English cucumbers, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp. powdered coriander
- 1 tsp. powdered cumin
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 tsp. cider vinegar
- 2 green onions, finely diced
- 1 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt (can use full or partial fat if you prefer)
- 1/4 cup mint leaves, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh dill, finely snipped
- 1/4 cup parsley leaves, finely chopped
- 1 lemon (use both zest and juice)
- 2 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted
- Lemon wedges for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Toss the cucumber pieces with the salt and set in a colander to drain. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a small pot and stir in the coriander and cumin. Cook over medium-low heat for about five minutes, or until the spices become very fragrant. Stir with a wire whisk as needed. Remove from heat, add red pepper flakes and cool completely.

In a bowl, toss the drained cucumbers with the infused olive oil, cider vinegar and diced green onions. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Combine yogurt and half of the herbs, lemon zest, lemon juice and olive oil. Stir well. Season to taste with salt and freshly cracked pepper. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

To serve, spread the yogurt in the bottom of a shallow serving bowl. Using a slotted spoon to drain the cucumbers of excess liquid, lay the cucumber mixture evenly on top of the yogurt.

Garnish with remaining herbs and toasted pine nuts. Serve as a side or with pita.

Looking Good in Lamorinda

Fashionable summer adventures



Image courtesy Walnut Creek Historical Society



Image courtesy Dey Street Books.

Memoir by Patricia Field.

By Moya Stone

Summer has arrived and it seems everyone I know is traveling to such places as Sweden, Italy, Alaska, and I just returned from San Juan Island in Washington State where I attended a wedding.

One of the tricky things about fashionable travel is deciding what handbag to sport. Crossbody or tote? Canvas or leather? I checked in with Lafayette handbag designer Debra Szidon from Cass Clutch. "My ultimate summer travel bags," says Szidon, "are the Cass Getaway Tote and The Cassie." Both bags are from the

Cass Clutch line. "The Getaway Tote's expandable design makes it ideal for weekend getaways, beach outings, or visits to the farmers' market," explains Szidon. "Meanwhile, the coordinating Cassie with its crossbody strap is perfect for strolling around hands free and when night arrives, it effortlessly transforms into a chic tote or clutch." The Cass Clutch line has expanded to include new silhouettes and colors. Take a peek: www.thecassclutch.com.

Whether en route to an exotic destination, sitting by the pool, or relaxing on the patio, a good book is an essential part of summer. For fashion fans I recommend the memoir "Pat in the City: My Life of Fashion, Style, and Breaking all the Rules" (Deyst Publishers). Patricia Field is known for styling the costumes on the hit TV shows "Sex and The City" and "Emily in Paris," among others. In 11 chapters "Pat in the City" takes the reader through Field's childhood to her first New York City retail shops where in the '70s and '80s she created a haven for club kids and drag queens. Each of her first commercial successes get their own chapter filled with behind-the-scene tidbits. The book itself is quite stylish with colorful illustrations, photos, and photo col-

lages. The images of Field, her family, and other people in her life help complete the story for the reader and they're just fun to look at. I can't think of a better story to dive into during the long summer days.

The Shadelands Ranch Museum's Summer Barn Market in Walnut Creek has become a fashionable trend. Happening on Sunday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Market is in its third year and bigger than ever with over 65 vendors selling all kinds of handmade and vintage goods including jewelry, clothing, art, baked goods, and new this year woodwork and ironwork.

Fabric designer Margaret Szabo and glass artist Cynthia Whitchurch, both from Lafayette, are among the scheduled vendors selling their wares. (Full disclosure, I'll be out there too selling vintage jewelry and clothing). The museum is offering for sale antiques, collectibles, and small pieces of furniture from their archives. Let's not forget food! Look for the oh-so-popular Cousins Maine Lobster and I've heard talk about a pizza vendor. There's more to enjoy in the form of live music and the museum plans to offer tours of the Shadelands mansion. It's always a festive day at the Summer Barn Market (2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek).

Every sewist will tell you it's never too early to start a project, particularly if there's a deadline and the Make it With

Wool California State Contest entry deadline is Oct. 14. Make It With Wool is a state and national fashion design and sewing competition sponsored by the American Sheep Industry. Founded in 1947, the competition website says it seeks to "Promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics, fibers, and yarns." The contest is open to pre-teens, teens, and adults. Do you like to sew? Have a project in mind using wool? For more information check the www.makeitwithwool.com or contact California State Director, April Ward at april.ann.ward@gmail.com.

Enjoy your summer adventures and go forth in style!

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.



Image courtesy The Cass Clutch.

The Cassie in Imperial Dune

Troop 219 honors five new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Emily Fettig

Troop 219 from Lafayette honored the following five new Eagle Scouts on June 4, from left: Tyler Toni, Acalanes

High School; John Cain, Acalanes High School; Lex Lung, Acalanes High School; Roan Fettig, Campolindo High School; and Lucas Dissman, Acalanes High School.



Photo provided

Not to be missed

Art

Exhibit at Valley Art Gallery:

Arrivals and Departures paintings by Connie Ryan, through Aug. 5. Connie Ryan, born in Ireland, lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her paintings are rooted in remembered landscapes that she carries with her, and explore ideas about land, memory and belonging. Meet the Artist from 2 to 5 p.m. July 15 and Aug. 5. Free, open to the public, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311

LAA Summer Exhibit and Coffee Klatch at Papillon Cafe & Gallery! Lamorinda Arts Alliance is proud to present its “Summer” Show at the Papillon Cafe & Gallery in Lafayette. The exhibit runs through Sept. 12. Fifteen member artists will be showing a selection of paintings, collage, encaustic and prints. Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffee & Tea is located in La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.

The Lafayette Public Art Committee is pleased to announce the opening of “Freedom of Abstraction” by artist David Lew, whose work has been shown at the Bedford Gallery. This collection of vibrant abstract paintings and collages reflects the artist’s focus on freedom in life and through artistic medium. The visual effect of the paint’s fluid movement in these works invites the viewer into the process. The exhibit is on view through Aug. 3 at the Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St, and is open to the public for free during theatre hours. Lew will be giving the featured artist’s talk on Saturday, July 15, as part of the Lamorinda Arts Council’s Art Embraces Poetry event from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Theatre. Immediately following the program, the Public Art Committee will host a reception for the artist from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Music

California Symphony presents 4-part music education course for adults “Fresh Look: The Symphony Exposed” at the Don Tatzin Community Hall in Lafayette Library. Award-winning instructor Scott Foglesong takes you on a journey covering what a conductor does and how the orchestra came to take shape, through to Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and beyond. \$30 for all four classes, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., on July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Information and tickets at californiasymphony.org/FreshLook

Theatre

Town Hall Theatre Company announces Staged Reading “Starlight.” An original piece written by San Francisco-based playwright Christian Wilburn, “Starlight” will have a one night only staged reading on Saturday, July 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15. Pay-What-You-Can tickets will be available at the door. 3535 School Street, Lafayette, www.townhalltheatre.com/starlight.

Bharatanatyam Arangetram by Avya Poddatoori. Bharatanatyam Arangetram, graduating performance of a classical South Indian dance by Avya, a sophomore at Miramonte High School. Avya is a

disciple of Shyamjith Kiran and Viraja of Kalakshetra. The event is at 3:30 p.m. on July 29 at Hofmann Theatre, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The event is free to general public. Details: www.avya.org

The Eugene O’Neil Foundation is proud to present the premiere of the play Yellow Wallpaper 2.0 2020, which was developed at Tao House by LA playwright Jennifer Maisel, one of the artist-in-residence fellows. Performances will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Danville. Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 20, 2 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in July. For more information about the festival, go to eugeneoneill.org

This year’s Eugene O’Neil Foundation festival will be headlined by the production of Eugene O’Neill’s “Anna Christie” in the Old Barn at Tao House, Danville. Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 10, 2 p.m., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 17, 2 p.m., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets available in early July. For more information about the festival, go to eugeneoneill.org

Literature

Thursday, July 6, 11 a.m. Pat’s Book Club will read and discuss “Foster” by Claire Keegan. A piercing contemporary classic, “Foster” is a heart-breaking story of childhood, loss, and love. All readers are welcome. Thursday, July 13 and Thursday, July 27, 11 a.m. Orinda Books Story Hour: Bring in your little bookworms (ages 2-6) and snuggle in for a reading

of popular children’s books with Megan.

Tuesday, July 25, 6 p.m. **Ethan Scheiner** will introduce “Freedom to Win: A Cold War Story of the Courageous Hockey Team That Fought the Soviets for the Soul of Its People—And Olympic Gold.” During the height of the Cold War, a group of small-town young men would lead their underdog hockey team from the little country of Czechoslovakia against the Soviet Union, the juggernaut in their sport. As they battled on the ice, the young players would keep their people’s quest for freedom alive, and forge a way to fight back against the authoritarian forces that sought to crush them. This is a free event—register at www.eventbrite.com/e/ethan-scheiner-author-of-freedom-to-win-tickets-647664581197

Other

Knit a cap or scarf for a child or adult undergoing chemotherapy, a debilitating illness, or experiencing homelessness. As part of Community Service Day, new knitted items will be distributed to patients at John Muir Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, Hospice of the East Bay, Warm Winter Nights and Safe Parking. Items knitted over the summer will be gathered in late September to distribute to the agencies. Any size, style, color ... let your imagination guide you! (Items for pediatric oncology patients need to be from a pet-free home...please label them as such; other children’s items do not need to be.) Contact Bobbie Preston at barbarampreston@comcast.net to arrange drop-off of your gifts in September.

In Memory

Angie Seitz



With heavy hearts we announce the death of Angela Seitz, 54, who departed this world peacefully on June 9, 2023, at her home in Moraga, California, surrounded by her family.

Angie had a vibrant personality and her enthusiasm and strength were apparent in everything she did. Her warm nature drew people to her and she built strong lifetime friendships. She loved travel and

adventure and found a fellow explorer in her husband Tom. They traveled the world together and shared their love of adventure with their children.

Angie had a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and international affairs from the University of Nebraska. She excelled in project finance, government relations, and strategic planning. She was motivated by teamwork and finding ways to make the world a better place. Throughout her life, she was a Nebraska farm girl at heart: down-to-earth and always willing to do the hard work and problem-solving to get a job done right. She served in the Peace Corps in Morocco, implementing agricultural extension projects for rural women’s groups, and she volunteered with community development projects in Puerto Rico, Illinois, Washington, D.C., and Colorado. In her personal time, she was driven to learn about the sources of climate change, its effects on underprivileged populations, and strategies to change its path.

Angie was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in early 2020. Because of her strength of will and love of life, she maximized the next three years with her family. She found solace in the great outdoors and in her beautiful garden with buzzing bees, birds splashing in the fountain and with a warm cat in her lap. She will be remembered on every hike and down every slope, but also for the positive impact she made in so many people’s lives.

Angie was cherished by her family and community. She was a pillar of strength for everyone who knew her. Angie is survived by her spouse, Tom Shephard, daughter, Helen, son Peter, parents Robert and Beverly Seitz of Beatrice, Nebraska, sister Heidi Seitz, and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

A service will be held at Lafayette United Methodist Church in Lafayette, California at 11 a.m. on Aug. 12, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to causes that were important to Angie, including the planting of trees to help underserved communities by Trees, Water & People or to the Angie Seitz Fund (<http://tiny.cc/AngieSeitzFund>) at the ALS Association Golden West Chapter.

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Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda.com

LAMORINDA SPORTS

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

Lamorindans West Temkin and Lindsey Lucas dominating goalies at Princeton



Lindsey Lucas in goal against Cal.

Photo Samantha Toy

By Jon Kingdon

The Princeton men's and women's water polo teams had a lot in common this year. They were both very successful. The men's team finished with a 27-6 record, lost to USC, the ultimate runner up in the NCAA tournament and were ranked seventh in the nation at the end of the year. The women's team had a 30-4 record, lost to USC, the ultimate runner up in the NCAA tournament and were ranked fourth in the nation at the end of the year. And each started a freshman goalie from Lamorinda: West Temkin (Campolindo) and Lindsey Lucas (Miramonte).

Temkin, a three-time All-America at Campolindo, was the first high school freshman to receive an All-America nomination and started half the games at Princeton last season. "There is a misconception that the water polo on the East Coast is lower level," Temkin said. "It is right up there with California and my being able to play on the national teams proves that you can still go to the East Coast and play at a super high level."

At Miramonte, Lucas was a USA Water Polo Academic All-American three times, the Cal-Hi Sports North Coast Section Scholar Athlete of the Year, and a four-time junior Olympian all American. Lucas started every game for Princeton and stopped 57.8% of her opponent's shots and even scored a goal. "I've always loved to play the field as well as in the goal and when someone drew a 5-meter penalty, my coach let me go in and shoot it and that was my one goal for the season," Lucas said. For her efforts, Lucas was named to the third team All-American and was named to the first team in the NCAA tournament.

"I knew that I was going to be the goalie before I arrived because my coach, Derrick Ellingson, told me that they did not have a returning goalie and I was going to be the team's goalie," Lucas said.

Lucas is still not satisfied with her play despite having such a dominant season: "I still feel that I can get better in every area, particularly in communicating with my team. We ran a lot of different defenses in preparation for our games, which was great to have in my toolbox because I was used to

just running a press, so I've learned a lot more that way."

The Princeton men's and women's teams made West Coast swings which enabled Temkin and Lucas to see many of their high school and club teammates: "It's the best because I know players on most of the teams, and after the games, I get to see everyone and be able to spend time with them and their parents and that was great," Temkin said. "It is a small community and it was often like a reunion."

The academic demands at a school like Princeton are high, exacerbated by playing a varsity sport. Temkin was also a three-time scholar athlete in high school which helped in his adjustment to Princeton. His major is in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), which is a combination of international relations public policy, economics and politics. "Princeton is obviously a difficult school, but I've learned a great deal and have been taking some very interesting classes," Temkin said. "Not surprisingly, the most interesting classes are also the hardest ones. I'm only going to be here for four years, and I see it as an opportunity to invest in my future and I'm really enjoying it and am looking forward to next year."

During the season, the demands are that much tougher. "The season was the hardest time of the year for me, by far," Temkin said. "I happened to take some very difficult courses during the water polo season and with a lot of traveling, I would be doing my schoolwork on a bus, at airports and on planes. During the week, we would practice twice a day along with weight training. There were times when I would stay up until 2 or 3 in the morning, get up at 10, go to class, practice, lift, practice, eat, study go to bed and then repeat the process. When you have 30 teammates going through the exact same thing, it does make you feel a lot better."

Lucas went through the travails of playing and keeping up with her studies. "During the season, we take a lighter workload," Lucas said. "There is also a lot of support and understanding from your teammates and a lot of resources if you need it so they make it a lot easier to manage your time. The water polo programs at East Coast schools such as Princeton

and Harvard have less of a time commitment than the big four water polo schools in California. This leaves more time for players to focus on their schoolwork and social lives. I believe this balanced college experience is extremely beneficial to our mental health and team culture, two factors that are huge in creating success."

Still, Lucas would need to utilize whatever opportunities she had to complete her school work: "There were a lot of days where we were taking a five-hour bus ride coming back from a game and I was writing a full essay that needed to be turned in right when we got off the bus. You make it work and its fun being on a bus with all of your friends and there are traditions that we did like singing karaoke. My song was 'Life is a Highway.'"

Even when he wasn't playing for Princeton, Temkin had to find a way to keep up with his schoolwork as he was going through tryouts for the US Men's under 21 team that recently competed at the Junior World Championships in Romania.

"It was pretty tough balancing this with my schoolwork because it was a six-hour flight to the West Coast and then getting to and from the airport over a 48-hour period," Temkin said. "I would try and do my work on the plane and in the end, I got it done."

The tournament began after Temkin's school year had ended. "I had finished my classes for that semester but some of my teammates from UCLA and Stanford were taking finals that were proctored by our coach which fortunately was something that I did not have to deal with," Temkin said.

Once the U.S. team was whittled down from 50 to 15 players, preparation for the tournament began in earnest. "We would have national league weekends with teams like the New York Athletic Club, The Olympic Club and the L.A. Athletic club, training in northern and southern California," Temkin said. "Prior to leaving for Serbia for a mini-tournament and Romania, we trained with the UCLA and USC teams."

The tournament was held in Bucharest and Temkin came away with a great appreciation for the city: "Bucharest is a beautiful city and I loved it

there. It's a combination of old and new architecture. There were buildings that were very old on the bottom and modern sections built right on top of it. The city is starting to become more modern, but it also maintains an old feeling to it. The food was very good, and it was inexpensive so that was a plus."

The U.S. team, comprised of amateurs, faced a number of teams that were made up of professionals. "The competition was unreal, but we had a really strong team," Temkin said. "A number of the players that we were competing against were already under contract and making money playing water polo and the ones that did not have contracts were trying very hard to get a contract to feed their families, so they did seem to play with more passion."

The U.S. team would go on to win the bronze medal defeating Greece 11-6, the first ever medal for a USA men's national team at a world championship at any age. Temkin was named the tournament's top goalkeeper with 12 saves in the medal round and a total of 66 saves in the team's seven games.

"The shooters were really good, but I treated all of our opponents similarly and I treated each shot one at a time, sticking to my foundation, my basic principles of how to block and how I play the game and it worked out in the end," Temkin said. "My save percentage was 67% but I couldn't have done it with my teammates. My parents (Michael and Heidi) were in attendance and my mom told me that she was tearing up in the stands when I won the best goalie award."

Temkin's ultimate goal? "I am pointing to making the 2028 Olympics team in Los Angeles which would be awesome. There is a lot of work to be done but I have confidence in myself, and I know that people have confidence in me to work it out and I believe I can do it."

Lindsey Lucas also has made her way to Europe this summer, but for more academic reasons, attending the London School of Economics, getting class credit at Princeton studying micro-economics. "After I finish my class, my family will be coming over and we will be taking a family vacation," Lucas said.

Lucas is focused on only playing for Princeton. "I was never into that kind of Olympic Development Program where you start when you are young and serves a pipeline to the national team," Lucas said. "I did play for the U.S. National Youth Team in high school and went to Greece to compete, but it just wasn't my thing, so I quit that team and I haven't done it since."

Temkin and Lucas have been there for each other all year. "I got a lot of support from West, and he would come to some of our practices to try and stay in shape," Lucas said. "We watched his final game in Romania, and he really played phenomenally."

Temkin shared his appreciation of Lucas' performance. "We're good friends and she was awesome this season," Temkin said. "We talked about water polo and playing goalie a good amount. Our team would go to their games, and they would go to our games."



Photo provided

West Temkin with 3rd place trophy and bronze medal.

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Teacher, coach, Renaissance man Chris Walsh retires from Campolindo



Photo provided

2001 Campolindo Girls cross country state championship team (Walsh pictured second from the left)

By Jon Kingdon

With the end of this school year, along with all the seniors in Lamorinda that will be moving on, Chris Walsh, a physical education teacher, track and cross-country coach and yoga instructor at Campolindo is also taking a new path.

For Walsh, there were many accomplishments as a coach and creativity as a PE instructor but the acknowledgment which he values the most was when he was selected as Campolindo's Teacher of the Year competing against all of the other district schools. "That was five years ago, and it was a real honor because we have such an exceptional staff at Campolindo," Walsh said.

With a love of running,

Walsh was fortunate to be coached by four Hall of Fame coaches – his Southington High School coach Wane Nakoneczny, Wil Wright and Jim Barber, his coaches at Southern Connecticut State, where he set records in the two and three miles and competed in two national championships in cross country and Bill Bowerman at the University of Oregon, the 1972 Olympic coach who partnered with Phil Knight in a company called Blue Ribbon Sports that eventually became known as Nike.

"They were the best of the best," Walsh said. "I was simply the torch bearer as best as I could be." Walsh would carry that torch into the Southington High School Hall of Fame at his induction in 2015.

While competing against

the University of Oregon runners, it led Walsh to pursue a career in coaching. "I really met my match, running with the greatest distance runners in the United States that went on to win numerous Olympic medals," Walsh said. "I was far behind them in the workouts but that really piqued my interest and Bill Bowerman encouraged me to go into coaching, which I did."

In 1989, while teaching middle school in Oakley with a daily commute from Pleasant Hill, Walsh's wife, Kathy, who was working as a nurse at John Muir Hospital, let him know that there was a school called Campolindo that needed a track coach and soon after he became the Cougars' track coach.

The commute from Pleasant Hill to Oakley to Campolindo began to wear thin on Walsh and when an opening for a PE teacher opened up at Campolindo, Walsh jumped at it. "I met with Tom Ehrhorn, the principal at the time, and spoke of the good rapport that I had with the kids and parents at Campolindo," Walsh said. "I believe what really won him over was when I showed him a pad where I had calculated that I had driven about 170,000 miles over the previous five years and that was why he should hire me, and after coaching off campus for five years, I was officially hired to teach PE in 1994."

When Walsh first arrived as a coach, the cross-country team had 35 players turn out for the team. Coaching alongside Alison Adams and Dino Petrocco, by 2,000, the number of runners had jumped to 210. Walsh had a simple way of getting more students to come out for the team. "The first week of school, we had the students run the mile and if anyone ran it in close to six minutes or less, we would tell them they should go out for cross country," Walsh said. "Bob Wilson (the AD at the time) and I always tried to get kids, especially freshman, into sports. If there was some reluctance on their part, I would encourage them to just come out for a month and see what happens."

Walsh soon discovered one of the secrets to success: "I learned that if you have good athletes, you'll look good. In my first year of coaching cross country, we had a girl named Sarah Riley who won the state championship, so I looked like a good coach. She went on to Notre Dame, becoming the first female to be an All-American there and we were able to build our program off of Sarah's success."

Ryan Gallagher was another athlete that made others around him better. "In 1994, Ryan's senior year, he was the NCS champion and finished fifth in the state," Walsh said. "He was a great co-captain and with a large pool of freshmen and sophomores, he nurtured those kids and the team's success came from the dedication of the athletes."

It was also a matter of finding the athletes that were willing to pay the price to be successful. "When I came to Campo, I encouraged a couple of our seniors to run a thousand miles over the summer (14 miles a day) which was an idea I got from my high school coach to determine who really wanted it," Walsh said. "The more excited the athletes got, the more excited we would get, and the boys would be running 500 to 700 miles and the girls about 350 to 400 miles over the dog days of summer and that's how our championships were built."

After 16 years, Walsh stopped coaching at Campolindo while remaining a teacher there because of his commitment to his family. "Kathy and I have been married for 38 years now and we never wanted to miss anything with our kids," Walsh said. "I really loved coaching but when my son went to De La Salle and my daughter to Carondelet, they played fall and spring sports and we never wanted to miss anything they did so that's why I stopped coaching."

How did Walsh judge his success? "That's simple," he said. "If the kids are still running. In my lineage with the great coaches I had, the runner should do their best running in their 20s, 30s or older. The idea was that the high school experience should be fun. They should be student-athletes, not athlete-students."

During Walsh's time coaching at Campolindo, the boys' and girls' cross country teams won 11 NCS titles and had one state champion in Sarah Riley. The team's overall winning percentage was 84%. The girls' cross country team won Campolindo's first cross country state meet in 2001 and was a runner up three times and finished in third place three times. The girls' team finished in the top five every year but one from 1995-2005 and from 1997 to 2001, the girls' team had a 55 race win streak. In 2003, Walsh was named the California Coaches Association High School Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year and was a finalist for the National High School Coach of the Year.

In Lamorinda, yoga was first taught at Acalanes High School by Manny Myers. Su-

perintendent John Nickerson was the principal at Acalanes at the time, and he strongly endorsed the program. "Dr. Nickerson said that this is great for the kids and all of the Lamorinda schools have it now," Walsh said.

Led by Jenna Wrobel, a counselor at Campolindo and principal, John Walker, their first yoga class began in 2014. "We started out with one class period for 45 kids and in 2018, we switched to five periods which I taught, still having 45 kids per class with more and more athletes taking the class," Walsh said. "The Campolindo parents club and the Moraga Education Foundation were very supportive and paid for the mats, the equipment, and the teacher training and I ended up teaching five classes a day and loved it. One of the goals with our yoga classes, was for the students, some who had ADHD and others overwhelmed with AP classes, was to build our classes where the kids would have a place to come and feel safe. Many of the teachers, when they had a free period, would come and take a yoga class."

Walsh also used the class to make a social statement, memorializing the victims of the Parkland High School shooting. "That touched our hearts terribly so I was thinking what we could do," Walsh said. "We went up to the football field with about 50 kids and we made a big heart with all of them on the mats, and we took a picture from the press box and sent it to the principal of Parkland to just let them know that we were with them."

What prompted Walsh, who will continue to be teaching yoga at the Moraga Country Club, to retire at this point in his life? "When I first came to Campolindo, we had a lovely teacher named Dee Cobo who was getting ready to retire and I asked her when she knew it was time to retire and she said it was when you start teaching the kids of the kids you once taught," Walsh laughed. "There are now six teachers at Campo that used to take my class. What I really love about Campo and the other Lamorinda schools is that we see a lot of the graduates come back to teach and coach at our schools. Campo was and remains a great place to work."

Bill O'Brien coached with Chris Walsh for a couple of years, and read this poem to Walsh at a recent staff meeting. "It just blew me away," Walsh said.

What is a Coach? By Bill O'Brien

What is a coach?
Coach Walsh is a Coach.
A teacher, preacher, parent,
Pointer of the Way,
Of being so much more
Than you were yesterday.

An inspirer, pulling, pushing
Floating motivation in the air
For those who heed,
To pushing themselves
To winning moments,
Coach has planted the seed.

An organizer, gathering various energies
Into coalescing teams, bringing together
The best in individuals,
Delivering themselves to dreams.
Mothers' comfort, fathers' rules,
Showing the Path,
From stumbles, running,
Standing tall, digging down
Within oneself finding what's there,
Intangible grit, work ethic, mental steel,
Physical preference and pain.

What one does for another,
Aides, assists, shapes, marks,
Never leaves the mind
Living over years,
As affection transcends tears,
Others helping one grow,

Like a Marine, always a Marine,
Once a Coach, always a Coach.
No other name means the same,
Shows what one has done for others
Bringing forth from bodies of mind
Such growth, strength, discipline,
Beautiful flowing physical movements
Competing for and against others,
From unseen deep recesses of mind over matter
Personal and long standing records shatter,
Are reborn anew, for today a new you.

Coach remains ever there,
In one's experience growing, showing
How physical agility and strength,
Fluidity and bodily beauty
All flow together, remain
With gains from Coach's care.

Coach Walsh, ever upbeat, caring, gentle,
His encouraging voice, his laughing, smiling,
Knowing what you need before you do,
Finding roads into another's spirit
To become better than ever,
Coach Walsh is forever Coach,
From the best of him to the best of you,



When I say "good,"
you say "neighbor."

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Baseball,

Sammy Lee, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
Henry Souza, Second Team, Junior, Acalanes
James Stadt, Second Team, Sophomore, Acalanes
Nathan Michlitsch, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
Andrew Habas, Honorable Mention, Senior, Acalanes
Keegan Goddard, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Acalanes
Graham Schlicht, First Team, Freshman, Campolindo
Greg Palamountain, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Hideki Prather, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Nick Rogers, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Philip Jagard, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Andy Moon, Honorable Mention, Junior, Campolindo
Hudson Pergamit, Honorable Mention, Senior, Campolindo
Miles Claydon, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Campolindo
Michael Bohm, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Justin Bellamy, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Joe Shallat, Second Team, Junior, Miramonte
John Pearce, Second Team, Junior, Miramonte
Luca Gamboa, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte
Cooper Bohlig, Honorable Mention, Senior, Miramonte
John Williams, Honorable Mention, Senior, Miramonte

Girls Softball,

Hailey Stripling, MVP, Senior, Acalanes
Emme Young, First Team, Sophomore, Acalanes
Esa Orman, First Team, Sophomore, Acalanes
Maya Shoenhair, Second Team, Freshman, Acalanes
Tess Gundacker, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
Keilly Kilpatrick, MVP, Senior, Campolindo
Ashlyn Chin, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Lyla Marcus, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Molly Strohmeyer, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Clara Hwang, First Team, Sophomore, Campolindo

Nikita Vayner, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Cassidy Mintz, Second Team, Freshman, Campolindo
Peyton Tallarico, Second Team, Freshman, Campolindo
Lucy Wilson, Second Team, Sophomore, Campolindo
Gracie Hamilton, Second Team, Sophomore, Campolindo
Maya Hammerman, Second Team, Sophomore, Campolindo
Sarah Michels, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Antonia Lawrence, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Julia Quinn-ferguson, First Team, Sophomore, Miramonte
Aubrie Jalowiec, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Izzy Roy, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte
Abby Meyers, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte

Competitive Cheer,

Anie Heffernan, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
Isabelle Quinn, Honorable Mention, Junior, Acalanes
Alice Ball, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte

Golf,

Chase Regan, First Team, Junior, Acalanes
Nate Lyons, Second Team, Junior, Acalanes
Gus Mc Kinney, Honorable Mention, Junior, Acalanes
Justin Rodriguez, MVP, Senior, Campolindo
Tim Daugherty, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
Leo Mc Donough, First Team, Freshman, Campolindo
Barrett Dellamar, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Dylan Breznikar, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
James Giordani, Honorable Mention, Junior, Campolindo
John Dunne, Second Team, Junior, Miramonte
Marcus Erickson, Honorable Mention, Senior, Miramonte

Girls Lacrosse,

Haley Rurka, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
Grace Imrie, First Team, Junior, Acalanes
Maya Wang, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
Avery Ives, Second Team, Junior, Acalanes

Addie Martin, Second Team, Junior, Acalanes
Megan Churchill, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Acalanes
Catie Mc Cauley, MVP, Senior, Campolindo
Paige Davis, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
Haley Richards, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
Sadie Geenty, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
Ava Martinez, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Bridgette Lane, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
Carley Hudson, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
Kate Difranto, First Team, Junior, Miramonte
Sawyer Bohlig, First Team, Freshman, Miramonte
Lindsay French, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
Mackenzie Pearce, Second Team, Freshman, Miramonte
Taryn Pearce, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte
Ashlyn Browning, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Miramonte

Boys Lacrosse,

Owen Estee, MVP, Senior, Acalanes
George Churchill, First Team - Defense, Senior, Acalanes
Dylan Olson, First Team - Attack, Senior, Acalanes
Cooper Olson, First Team - Attack, Senior, Acalanes
Ben Foox, First Team - Specialty, Senior, Acalanes
John Cain, Second Team - Specialty, Senior, Acalanes
Zach Appel, Honorable Mention, Senior, Acalanes
Harrison Leenhouts, First Team - Midfield, Senior, Campolindo
Dante Aviccolli, First Team - Goalie, Junior, Campolindo
Jack Alcalay, Second Team - Defense, Senior, Campolindo
Patrick Sebree, Second Team - Midfield, Senior, Campolindo
Gaetan Aviccolli, Second Team - Attack, Sophomore, Campolindo
Jack Spencer, First Team - Defense, Senior, Miramonte
Chase Bliss, Second Team - Midfield, Senior, Miramonte
Jake Disston, Second Team - Attack, Senior, Miramonte

... to be continued in an upcoming edition

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Publishers/Owners:

Andy and Wendy Schreck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Schreck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:

Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; sora@lamorindaweekly.com,
Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com, Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian;
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com, Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Jenn Freedman, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson,
Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Elizabeth LaScala, Lou Fancher, Sharon K. Sobotta, Ashley Dong, Jim
Hurley, Casey Scheiner, Toris Jaeger

Photos:

Tod Fierner, Gint Federas, Jeff Heyman

Layout/Graphics:

Andy Schreck. Printed in CA.

Mailing address:

Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556
Phone: 925-377-0977; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 5, 2023



The Real Estate Quarter in Review ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Summer blooms brighter

Photos Cynthia Brian



A fan favorite, Asiatic lilies. Daylilies are also great for summer blooms.



A plethora of blooms including lamb's ear, roses, mint, and nigella.

By Cynthia Brian

"I should like to enjoy this summer flower by flower, as if it were to be the last one for me." ~ Andre Gide

Summer is the most beloved season of the year for most people for many reasons. It is a time for vacations, picnics, beach excursions, barbecues, and plenty of outdoor activities. For me, summer is all about the flowers and alfresco living. I finally finished my first round of weeding my landscape, cleaned my deck and patio furniture, re-potted plants, and am in the process of adding additional compost to my

blooming plants.

Compost is an essential ingredient to promote blooming, improve the health of the soil, and increase the vigor of any plant. As a nutrient-rich soil amendment, compost is aptly referred to as "black gold" with its balanced mix of macro and micronutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, plus other slow-release nutrients. The organic matter in compost acts like a sponge that retains moisture around plant roots. This retention reduces the stress on plants during hot and dry periods. Teeming with beneficial microorganisms including fungi, bacteria, and earthworms, organic

matter is easily broken down to create a healthy soil ecosystem that suppresses disease, resists pests, and encourages root growth. When I'm planting new specimens, I mix the compost with new soil before planting, and for established plants, like my roses, I use it as a top dressing.

Thankfully, June was cooler than expected which allowed for summer plantings to take root. Because the sun's intensity usually brings soaring temperatures in summer, we must implement specific strategies to grow our gardens in July and August. For vegetables, heat-loving tomatoes, sweet potatoes, eggplant, peppers, and okra can still be planted. ... continued on Page D8



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	22	\$1,100,000	\$6,750,000
MORAGA	13	\$887,000	\$2,501,000
ORINDA	14	\$1,570,000	\$3,600,000

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

- 3579 Boyer Circle, \$2,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 3475 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 05-16-23, Previous Sale: \$330,000, 10-01-91
- 848 Broadmoor Court, \$3,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 05-24-23, Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 11-16-17
- 1708 Chapparal Lane, \$2,478,000, 3 Bdrms, 3573 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 05-24-23
- 3408 Echo Springs Road, \$4,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 4867 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 05-23-23, Previous Sale: \$2,700,000, 06-19-12
- 940 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,635,000, 3 Bdrms, 1475 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 05-25-23, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-10-16
- 60 Knox Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-22-23, Previous Sale: \$915,000, 05-31-11
- 5 Lark Creek Lane, \$6,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4191 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 05-18-23, Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 06-11-14
- 3369 North Lucille Lane, \$1,127,500, 2 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-23-23, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 12-15-21
- 3641 Madrone Drive, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 05-19-23, Previous Sale: \$530,000, 04-05-13
- 3746 Meadow Lane, \$3,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-15-23, Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 04-23-19
- 3736 Mosswood Drive #3744, \$1,900,000, 6 Bdrms, 3108 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-24-23, Previous Sale: \$174,500, 06-01-86
- 481 Peacock Boulevard, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1676 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-26-23, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 11-09-16
- 3163 Plymouth Road, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1540 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-15-23, Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 08-20-19
- 9 Rancho Diablo Road, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3610 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-22-23
- 1347 San Reliez Court, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2703 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-15-23, Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 04-26-17
- 3472 Silver Springs Road, \$2,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 2302 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-15-23, Previous Sale: \$1,693,000, 04-23-13
- 3425 St Marys Road, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2593 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-16-23, Previous Sale: \$524,000, 08-16-99
- 3176 Surmont Drive, \$2,470,000, 4 Bdrms, 2642 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 05-19-23, Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 11-28-17
- 3181 Teigland Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3278 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-24-23

MORAGA

- 62 Amberwood Court, \$1,735,000, 5 Bdrms, 2312 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-18-23, Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 07-14-15
- 88 Ashbrook Place, \$1,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2364 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-25-23, Previous Sale: \$867,500, 02-26-03
- 731 Augusta Drive, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-17-23
- 3 Buckingham Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1582 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-23-23
- 140 Calle La Montana, \$2,427,000, 4 Bdrms, 2585 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-22-23, Previous Sale: \$775,000, 09-08-16
- 1473 Camino Peral, \$887,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-16-23, Previous Sale: \$730,000, 08-25-20
- 678 Carroll Drive, \$1,420,000, 3 Bdrms, 1352 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-18-23, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 06-09-17
- 714 Crossbrook Drive, \$2,355,000, 5 Bdrms, 3013 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-22-23

... continued on Page D8

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review



By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The second quarter of 2023 remained strong on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The total number of sales was down everywhere and the average price was steady in Lafayette but lower in Moraga and Orinda. The closings that occurred were those that mostly went under contract from mid-February to late May in a period of relatively higher interest rates than a year ago.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1

through June 30, 71 single family homes closed in Lafayette. This was a decrease from the 115 single family homes closed in the same period one year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$947,000 to \$12.45 million and the average number of days on market was 17. In the year ago second quarter it was nine days. The average sales price was \$2,499,679, just above the \$2,479,025 one year ago. It was \$2,180,240 in 2Q2021 and \$1,794,912 in 2Q2020. In 2Q2019 it was \$1,779,112.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 43 – the same amount as from April through June a year ago. In 2Q2021 it was 57. Prices ranged from \$1.365 million to \$4 million. The average sales price was \$2,121,393, a drop from a year ago when it was \$2,376,836. It was \$1,936,316 in 2Q2021 and 2Q2020 it was \$1,548,585. In 2019 it was \$1,542,888. The average marketing time was 12 days where a year ago it was seven.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 61 – a drop from the 97 in the year ago span and substantially lower than 2Q2021 when there were 136. Sales prices ranged from \$835,000 to \$3.45 million with an average price of \$2,135,898 which was slightly below the 2Q2022 average of \$2,198,041. This was lower than the \$2,317,982 in the same quarter in 2021, but still well above 2Q2020 when it was \$1,808,271, and from \$1,623,995 in this quarter in 2019. It took an average of 20 days to have a house go pending – similar to the 14 days in the same period a year ago.

There were only two single family sales below \$1 million in the three communities combined.

In the quarter ending June 30, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$882.95 – a significant drop from \$1,029.97 a year ago. In Moraga homes sold for \$872.32 a square foot, which was below the \$935.79 last second quarter. Orinda was \$833.29 – down from \$915.40 a year ago.

... continued on Page D8

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Upsizing or Downsizing, I've Got You Covered



404 Wovenwood, Orinda

Super Indoor/Outdoor Living
120 Via Floreado, Orinda
5 bd | 4.5 ba
3719 sqft | .50 acre
120viafloreado.com



Amy Rose Smith
925-212-3897
amy@amyrosesmith.com
amyrosesmith.com
DRE# 01855959

Renovated in Orindawoods
404 Wovenwood, Orinda
3 bd | 2 ba
1811 sqft | One Level
404wovenwood.com



ORINDA DOWNS CONTEMPORARY!

4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 3,645 square feet | 21,600 square foot lot | \$2,895,000



NEW LISTING



Beautiful contemporary traditional on one of Orinda Downs' most coveted streets! This home offers a main floor with luxurious primary suite and two other generous bedrooms. The generous and recently reconfigured chef's kitchen is truly the hub of this home, surrounded by a cozy family room, lovely breakfast area and media room on one side and the formal living and dining on the other. Downstairs there is a large office or living room, another spacious bedroom and full bath as well as access to the backyard with abundant patio space and built in BBQ- perfect for multi-generational living or extended guest stays!

The beautiful, manicured streets of Orinda Downs offer convenient access to Orinda and Lafayette downtowns as well as BART stations in both cities, Award winning schools, easy commute location and near wonderful recreational activities.



INVESTORS (no rental restrictions) or First Time Buyers!

Fantastic centrally located condo featuring 2 large bedrooms, 2 full baths and in-unit laundry. Freshly painted,, this home offers generous living spaces and easy access to all that Walnut Creek has to offer - a stone's throw to Downtown, Iron Horse Trail, Pleasant Hill BART & Walden Park. A wonderful place to live or a quality investment property, as there are no long term rental restrictions. **Offered at \$619,000**

WE HAVE MORE LISTINGS COMING:
Orinda, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Berkeley, Danville and Concord
Call Us – WE KNOW WHERE THE GOOD ONES ARE!

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20+ Years in Real Estate	YOURS Sold in 2023



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Kelly Crawford Team

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724 Ironbark Court, Orinda | 5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 3414 Sqft | .74 Acre
Private, End of Cul-de-Sac Location | Solar Panels and 2 Tesla Battery Walls
(Not to Mention the Perks of Orindawoods Living!)



Listed By:

Molly Smith, Shannon Conner & Amy Rose Smith

For More Information Contact Molly Smith

415.309.1085 | molly@mollyslist.com

724IronbarkCt.com



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

192 Draeger Drive, \$2,501,000, 4 Bdrms, 2458 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-18-23,
 Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 05-10-22

101 Eileen Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2306 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-26-23

ORINDA

7 Bel Air Drive, \$1,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 2515 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-24-23

43 Berkeley Avenue, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2114 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-25-23

212 Camino Sobrante, \$3,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3779 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-23-23,
 Previous Sale: \$3,150,000, 05-24-21

183 Canon Drive, \$1,635,000, 5 Bdrms, 2292 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-26-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 01-14-22

115 Coral Drive, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-26-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,310,500, 03-02-18

3 Del Mar Court, \$2,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 3268 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-26-23

1 Dos Posos, \$3,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3920 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 05-17-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 12-27-11

6 Glorietta Court, \$2,730,000, 4 Bdrms, 2673 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-15-23,
 Previous Sale: \$535,000, 11-29-99

1 Hacienda Circle, \$1,820,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-26-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 07-21-21

178 Hall Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3817 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 05-19-23

4 Mariposa Lane, \$1,570,000, 3 Bdrms, 1562 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-24-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 06-08-21

10 Sanborn Road, \$1,570,000, 4 Bdrms, 2118 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-16-23,
 Previous Sale: \$93,000, 06-01-78

The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from Page D4

The drop in all of these averages can be attributed to a smaller number of sales in general and in the average sales prices.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was just over 100% of the final asking price. A year ago, the average was over 113% of final asking. In Moraga it was 104% versus 115.3% in the year ago period and in Orinda it was also about 104% versus a year ago when it was 111.8%. The reason for this can be attributed to agents using more transparent and realistic pricing than they had recently been doing.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had nine closings versus the year ago quarter when there were 10. They sold between \$851,000 and \$2.045 million. Moraga had 14 when a year ago there were 36. Sale prices ranged from \$622,000 to \$1.6 million. Orinda had two that were \$515,000 to \$1.25 million.

As of July 1, there were 52 homes under contract in the MLS in the three communities combined. One year ago, there were 70! The current pending homes have asking prices of with asking prices of \$415,000 to \$4.75 million.

Inventory has decreased. There are 89 properties on the market and a year ago there were 109 available properties in the three communities combined.

There are 48 properties on the market in Lafayette – an increase from the 52 at this same time a year ago. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$581,784 to \$8.995 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 12 homes or condominiums listed between \$385,000 and \$3.65 million. A year ago, there were 22.

In Orinda there are 25 – again a decrease from 35 on the market at the same time a year ago. The list prices range from \$899,000 to \$5.6 million.

There is only one bank-owned or short sale currently in the MLS available in the three communities.

It is interesting to note that of the 89 dwellings on the market, 13 have lowered their asking prices in the last seven days.

Interest rates have continued to rise and this has affected the market. We are still seeing many buyers come to the area from across the Bay and Oakland because they feel they will likely not be commuting every day and feel that to live further distances from San Francisco or Silicon Valley is manageable.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year most homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 115 single family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2023, 42 of the 71 closings sold at or above the asking prices.

In Moraga, only 11 of the 43 sales was below the asking price and in Orinda, only 21 of the 61 sold below the final listing price.

We are still seeing many buyers having to make offers without the traditional contingencies of obtaining financing or having a home appraise or even having the home inspected. Many sellers continue to obtain pre-sale inspections in order to understand the condition of their homes and to also prevent a buyer from trying to renegotiate a lower price or repairs.

The combination of higher interest rates and higher supply will affect the numbers in the third quarter in Lamorinda. There are a lot of potential sellers who have refinanced in the past few years who are reluctant to give up their mortgage rates of under three percent and to go out and buy a home and pay what is now around seven percent.

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REAL ESTATE TEAM



STYLISH LAFAYETTE SENSATION WITH SWEEPING VIEWS

216 SECLUSION VALLEY WAY
LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA
5 BED | 4.5 BATH | 3,674 SQ FT
BUILT IN 2018 | \$3,200,000

Superb newer construction residence with majestic panoramic views on stunning .48-acre lot. No detail was spared: high-end finishes throughout, gourmet kitchen and great room that open to a magnificent California room, luxurious primary suite with breathtaking views, and lovely yard with multiple entertaining/dining areas.

Beyond the privacy afforded from the exceptional location, the pulse of Lafayette is in close proximity. Wonderful restaurants and shopping, trails for jogging and dog walking, hiking in Briones, and top-rated Lafayette schools are all located nearby.



FOR MORE: 925.285.8336

216SeclusionValleyWay.com
brydonivesteam.com

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
bi@brydonivesteam.com
[@BrydonIves](https://www.instagram.com/BrydonIves)
DRE 01408025 | 01367466

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COMPASS



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Nature talks



Mexican primrose and calendula bloom in July.



The lime green leaves of newly sprouted poison oak are sprouting in gardens.



A bee just left the big magnolia blossom's nectar.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

Flowers that will thrive in the heat include zinnias, sunflowers, cosmos, marigolds, Mexican primrose, calendula, daylilies, birds of paradise and lamb's ear. Echinacea, lavender, Black-eyed Susan, and California poppies will be stellar bloomers throughout the summer months. Continue to deadhead your roses for repeat flowering. My roses are the bedrock of my July blooms. I cut bouquets for the house for their colorful beauty and enticing perfume.

To keep your summer blooming brighter, follow these instructions:

1. Deep water to encourage deeper root growth.
2. Water early in the morning or later in the evening to minimize evaporation.
3. Focus watering on the roots, not on the foliage to prevent disease.
4. Apply a layer of mulch now before the summer heat begins. Mulching will assist in retaining moisture, suppressing weeding growth, and insulating the soil from the extremes in tem-

peratures we are experiencing between daylight and nighttime hours. Wood chips and straw are excellent choices.

5. Use shade cloth, umbrellas, or plant sun-sensitive plants under taller plants to provide shade. Intense sunlight stresses many plants.
6. Choose heat-tolerant plants such as natives and succulents that will thrive in drought conditions. My succulents are blooming with very interesting colors, shapes and textures.
7. Apply slow-release or organic fertilizers as necessary. Do not over-fertilize or you'll encourage weak growth and increase the need for moisture.
8. Deadhead perennials as needed, remove wilted flowers, and trim leggy growth to encourage new and continued blooms. By doing this you will also maintain the health of your garden and keep your landscape tidier.
9. Remove weeds as they emerge. Weeds zap the water and nutrients from the plants we want to showcase. Poison oak is popping up in unexpected places. Wear gloves when pulling it out and never burn it as the oils are toxic and

can cause severe allergic reactions.

10. Birds, bats, butterflies, lizards, frogs, spiders, and snakes are welcome in the garden as they pollinate, eat detrimental insects, and in the case of gopher and King snakes, devour rodents including gophers, moles, rats and mice.

Make a field trip to your favorite nursery to see what is in bloom. Ask for advice from the experts. Buy a flowering specimen or two or three. These floral investments will spice up your porch or patio. Enjoy summer, flower by flower.

I'm excited to announce another blossoming sensation. My second book, "Family Forever" in my children's book series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures, is in publication. Pre-sales are available now at a discounted price at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Order your autographed copies today for summer reading!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy July!

DON'T FORGET: Shoe Drive for Be the Star You Are!® extended to July 30th as our goal is 2,500 pairs. Shoes may be dropped off at <https://5aspace.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or www.TeamHoogs.com, 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>



Cynthia Brian's newest children's picture book, Family Forever.



Wear sunglasses and sunscreen while gardening advises Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available for PRE-ORDERS now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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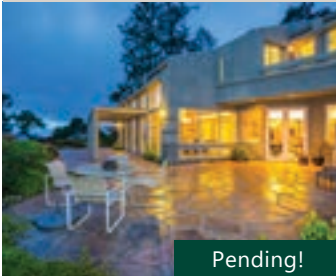
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Pending!

134 Diablo View Drive

Stunning 4000 sf custom built estate! Private 1 acre knoll w/ dazzling panoramic views & level yard!

\$3,495,000

ORINDA



37 & 20 La Madronal

A private sanctuary in the Orinda Hills which features two detached residences & 11 separate parcels totaling approximately 4 acres!

\$2,995,000

ORINDA



367 Dalewood Drive

Fabulous single level home w/ large chef's kitchen & formal living room w/ doors out to incredible backyard!

\$2,995,000

ORINDA



5 Hidden Lane

Updated Modern on Sleepy Hollow cul-de-sac. 2616 sf, 3 bd/ 2.5 ba, plus separate 1,012 sf lower level, pool!

\$2,450,000

ORINDA

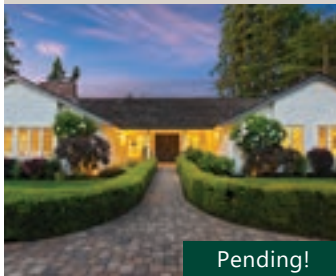


710 Miner Road

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

LAFAYETTE



Pending!

3732 Happy Valley Road

Treasured Happy Valley Estate, premier loc, 5 bd/ 4.5 ba, coveted, flat lot. Stunning pool, cabana & views!

\$4,750,000

LAFAYETTE



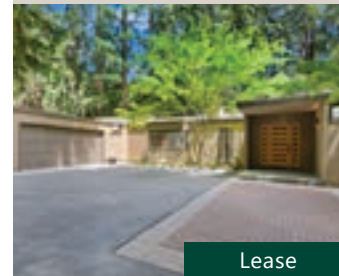
New Listing!

1324 Martino Road

Charming Lafayette Vintage home on beautiful .50 acre flat lot w/ 3+ bd/3 ba + separate "carriage house" now a 490 sf office - maybe future ADU!

\$1,658,000

LAFAYETTE



Lease

9 Redwood Circle

Situated down a private lane, surrounded by majestic redwood trees is this spectacular 5 bd/ 3 ba home!

\$12,000/mo.

MORAGA

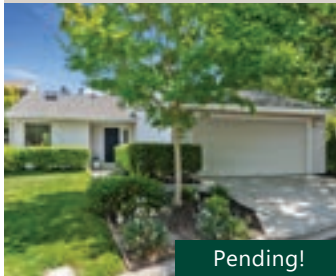


35 San Pablo Court

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

\$2,249,000

MORAGA



Pending!

863 Augusta Drive

Super convenient, one-level living in Moraga Country Club. This 2bd/2ba + bonus office, 1552 sf home sits on a private corner lot!

\$1,295,000

MORAGA



1183 Cedarwood Drive

Spacious 4 bd/ 3 ba home situated on large flat lot w/ gorgeous backyard, sparkling pool & multiple outdoor spaces!

\$1,625,000

PLEASANT HILL



1411 Stonehedge Drive

Stunning 3 bd/ 3 ba tri-level w/ fabulous curb appeal is located in the desirable Valley High neighborhood!

\$1,689,000

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