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Bea Haase with her Lincoln Mk IV Continental Cartier edition

Photo Sora O'Doherty

# Classic Car Show features massive 'Land Yachts' that focus on 'smiles per gallon'

By Alison Burns

It's time to "show up and show off" – which is how the invitation to Orinda's Classic Car Show was worded when vintage car owners were invited to display their cherished vehicles at Orinda's upcoming 19th Annual Classic Car Show, at and around Orinda Motors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

And who could resist, especially when this year's theme is Land Yachts — those outrageously massive vessels with their huge engines, cushy interiors and enough torque to captain a 3-speed transmission, so prized back when gas averaged 30 cents a gallon.

One such car is Bea Haase's treasured Mk IV Continental Cartier edition.

The car, bought for \$7,900 in 1972 by Haase's fa-

ther, who promptly named it "the Black Widow," still has less than 50,000 miles on the clock. That's because it was mostly used on high days and holidays and cosetted in the garage the rest of the time.

One problem with a 50-year-old vehicle is locating a mechanic who understands autos that pre-date the computer, but Haase has found herself a highly skilled "Lincoln Whisperer," whose own Lincoln carries license plates that wittily read "Mary Todd."

Haase is not a tall woman but she handles this behemoth with great panache. She misses the cup holders and charging ports that come standard on 21st century vehicles but laughs to think that the amenities we now take for granted weren't even on the horizon 50 years ago when her parents purchased their brand new "Black Widow." What the car does have aplenty,

though, are redundant ashtrays at every seat. Who knew that drivers would ever demand coffee-on-the-go, or that smoking might prove so unwholesome?

Haase's mom and dad always thought they would be passing their elegant automobile onto one of their grandchildren but they could never have anticipated the rocketing cost of gasoline or the trend toward smaller cars. And so it has come to Haase.

"My dad would be so pleased that I love it," she says, "and take good care of it."

Also at this year's car show, Phil Toy will be highlighting a true Land Yacht: the white 1959 Cadillac Convertible, Series 62, that he's owned for over 40 years. At 19.5 feet long, it features power seats, power steering and still has its original paint.

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# EBMUD conducts extensive illegal trash dumping cleanup near Upper San Leandro Reservoir



Photo Vera Kochan

A crane stands at the edge of the ravine while pulling up tons of trash from the watershed.

By Vera Kochan

When it comes to the fairly remote

area of Canyon, the drive from Moraga to Oakland via Pinehurst Road sports some amazing views of Upper San Le-

andro Reservoir. There are even a few turnouts for people to pull over and enjoy the beauty of nature. However, for years some nefarious individuals have taken advantage of the secluded surroundings and steep valleys to turn the area into an illegal dumping ground.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which owns the land in question, has spent more than \$280,000 since July 2021 to clean up the trash along the East Bay watershed which eventually runs into the USLR. According to an EBMUD press release, "Cleaning trash is costly and dangerous. Rate payer dollars that should go toward water service are instead spent on cleaning garbage. Crews who clean these sites risk their safety to reach the trash that falls down the steep embankments."

EBMUD points out that garbage on

the watershed – an area of land that drains or 'sheds' water into a specific water body – can have a negative impact on the quality of drinking water as well as the environment. The trash can release various types of hazardous materials into the water and land thereby killing fish, birds and other animals, in addition to damaging trees, native grasses and other natural East Bay features.

"It takes several months to coordinate this type of project," EBMUD Public Information Representative Nelsy Rodriguez explained. "There's the danger of fire threat, and we have to coordinate with the East Bay Regional Park District's rangers, who are already short on personnel."

A cleanup in July yielded eight vehicles which were discovered in one section of the watershed.

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See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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# Iconic Lafayette symbolism changes hands but keeps its purpose



Photo J. Wake

By Sharon K. Sobotta

In her younger years, Lynn MacMichael was a bit of a globetrotter, spending time advocating for peace, opposing war, and doing her best to be an ally to people from all walks of life. Now, as she approaches her mid-80s, she is part of a collective of elders who advocates for accessible and affordable housing for all, inclusivity, acknowledging

systemic racism, and making sure that even people in Lamorinda get a glimpse or a visual reminder of the interconnectedness and local relevance of global issues.

In her quest to think globally and act locally, MacMichael visited the city council meeting in the early 2000s, soon after the U.S. had invaded Iraq following a trip that she had taken to the country to make a statement

against the war.

“When I came back from Iraq, I went to the city council and said we can’t do this war. People who I loved and respected were a part of the council and they all had bought the line about why the U.S. should invade Iraq,” MacMichael recalls.

MacMichael and others knew that even if they didn’t have the power to stop the war or even convince others to adapt their perspective, they had to do something – even if it was small. “There was a local sentiment of ‘what war?’ so we started the Hillside Memorial to remind people. We wanted to make it visible and to say that war is not a good thing. It’s not good to kill each other,” MacMichael says. “So we started.”

Across the street from the Lafayette Bart Station is the place, now known as the Hillside Memorial, that MacMichael refers to. The hillside has grabbed the attention of passersby with the hundreds of crosses, handful of crescent moons, stars of David and other symbols. But, getting the visual reminder of

the cost of war to the magnitude that it is today hasn’t been easy.

“First we put 15 crosses up and then they got torn down so we put them back up,” MacMichael says. “Then the word got out and people started joining us – until there were 4,000 to 5,000 symbols.”

MacMichael credits local community member Jeff Heaton with initiating the project and quickly gaining the support of MacMichael and a dedicated group of invested Lamorindins who supported the cause and helped both with maintaining the hillside, the visuals and planning an annual Memorial Day acknowledgment.

“I had hoped that we could also acknowledge the Iraqis dying in war, but that piece was complicated,” MacMichael says. Still she is proud to have played an integral role with keeping the land and the memorial up and running for just shy of two decades. “It gets harder and steeper as we age,” she says while acknowledging her age: 84.

When the owners of the land that is home to the memorial died, they left it to their son, who ultimately decided to sell. This put the Hillside Memorial Board and community members on edge, as they worried that Lafayette may lose its visual reminder of the human cost of war, depending on the wishes and aspirations of the buyer. Today, those who’ve contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial and those who think it’s simply an important thing to have, are breathing a sigh of relief. Although the land has been sold, it’s now in the hands of an anonymous owner, who, according to Board Member

Janet Thomas, remains invested in the mission of the project and considers herself a friend of the memorial.

“The hillside memorial is such a powerful statement reminding us to be mindful about how we treat each other – at the interpersonal level and (to acknowledge) our interconnectedness at the global level,” Thomas says. “We as a board and the new owners agree that the memorial is important to preserve the impact it continues to have on our community and in the larger region.”

What the next chapter of the Hillside Memorial will look like as its ownership changes hands is still being determined, but there seems to be a level of certainty around the fact that in some way, shape or form, the mission of the space will stay intact. “There are no specific plans right now. Watching the process unfold is exciting as there’s a lot of thoughtful creative talent in our community,” Thomas says.

Thomas remains grateful to have a site that is visible both from Highway 24 and the BART station. The board will begin raising funds for maintenance and insurance until the future plans are in place. Although it’s unclear how the space will appear in its next iteration, both Thomas and MacMichael are counting their blessings that the overarching mission begins the same. The one thing they are clear about is their desire to get buy-in from younger generations of Lamorindans. “We’re always looking for new volunteers,” Thomas says. For information, updates and ways to get involved or support the project, visit [Lafayettehillside.com](http://Lafayettehillside.com)

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## Hollie's Homegrown prides itself on offering local artisan products



Hollie's Homegrown offers a wide variety of Lamorinda-made items. Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

For years, Hollie's Homegrown was a mainstay at many of the local farmers' markets. Hollie Lucas-Alcalay had been looking for a retail location for quite some time, until she found the perfect spot on one of Lafayette's busiest intersections at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard a couple of years ago.

"I wanted to have a brick and mortar," Lucas-Alcalay stated. "I was getting tired of having to pack stuff up every weekend. This way I can close the door at night and just leave. We're really fortunate that

we're here and for people to celebrate our local artisans." As before, Hollie's Homegrown sells her own products made from her Moraga herb garden, only now everything is handmade and assembled on site in her shop's production kitchen. Items such as seasoning salts, raw honey, olive oil, vinegars, risotto mixes, biscotti mixes, focaccia mixes and tea blends are all available, in addition to her family's Lucas & Lewellen Estate Wines (LLwine.com). Body products include bath salts, handmade soap, fragrance roll-ons, body scrubs, essential oils and healing salves. ... continued on Page A8

## All Ages Play at Lafayette Plaza Park



Photo Jeff Heyman

Osamirho Gloe Stable Martinez (left) and Wahedi Dilara play Giant Jenga.

By Jeff Heyman

It was certainly a glorious day in Lafayette's Plaza Park this past Sunday, Aug. 27 – all the more beautiful due to the perfect mid-80s degree late summer weather. The All Ages Recreation Pop Up, a joint program of the City of Lafayette, the Community Foundation of Lafayette and a new nonprofit, All Ages Recreation Downtown (AARD), was in full swing. All ages – and we mean all ages – were serenaded by students and faculty from the Bradley School of Music. Some performances were first-timers for the students and as they played, Plaza Park was filled with tunes familiar to everyone from the Stones and Beatles to Nirvana and Green Day. Just the right beat for kids and those young at heart to play a variety of games such as Giant Jenga, chess, badminton, ping-pong, giant pick up sticks, and dig into kinetic sand, some

simple crafts – all this and a chance to win small, fun prizes. But the games, especially badminton and Giant Jenga were the most popular. Holding forth on the Giant Jenga court were Osamirho Gloe Stable Martinez and Wahedi Dilara (pictured) who enthralled on-lookers with their monumental stack of the wooden bricks – just before the carefully constructed pile collapsed to their great delight. The pop-up has been held all summer long on July 1, 16 and 30, as well as Aug. 13 and 27, at different locations. And if you missed any of those, you have one last chance, on Sept. 17, to take part in what undoubtedly is some of the most all-inclusive family fun you can have on a Sunday afternoon in Lamorinda. Don't miss the fun and check out the Pop Up Recreation webpage on the city of Lafayette's website for details of the last All Ages Recreation Pop Up of the summer at <https://www.lovelafayette.org>.



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
Monday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Design Review**  
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

# PG&E reps attend Town Council meeting to provide power outage updates

By Vera Kochan

In an attempt to update and console certain residential customers in Moraga and Lafayette who've experienced an inordinate amount of power outages within the past couple of months, Pacific Gas & Electric Company representatives came to Moraga's Aug. 23 town council meeting to explain and hopefully reassure customers that the problem is being addressed. PG&E reps planned to attend the Aug. 28 Lafayette City Council

Meeting, which occurred after press time.

PG&E's Local Government Affairs Representative Sarah Yoell stated, "We understand the inconvenience that the outages have caused to the residents of Moraga and Lafayette, and we understand that the communication that was given to residents was not acceptable, and we're here today to respond to what was causing the outages - what we're doing, and we've done a lot of work to address the outages and improve the situation." Because Yoell's territory covers the Lamorinda region, she asked Aaron Johnson, PG&E's Vice President of the Bay Area Region to join her in addressing the town's concerns.

Johnson apologized to residents and the town's leadership for the slow communication regarding the many outages and mentioned that many of PG&E's executives live in the Lamorinda area and are aware of the customer dissatisfaction.

"We have not found the challenge with the Rossmoor 1108 circuit," stated Johnson when referring to the problem in question, "and we're pretty frustrated with that. Within a month-ish period there have been over seven outages on that circuit, many of them concentrated together, and we have done everything that we know how to do to find the challenge on that circuit."

Johnson enumerated several measures that PG&E has attempted in order to fix the

problem. They've reconfigured the circuit to remove some customers to other circuits; done full inspections of the circuit; vegetation teams have made inspections; they've added 14 fault indicators to the lines; added a sectionalizing device (a circuit breaker on the grid that breaks down into smaller sections), and more.

"We continue to search for the challenge - the gremlin in the grid," Johnson said. "We believe there's a very small defect somewhere on the circuit, and it's hiding, and it's not showing itself, because the fast trip setting that we have to have the circuit on turns off so quickly that it's basically hiding that fault from us. It is turning off before we would usually see a hot spot."

Public comments were many and came in a variety of grievances: Misinformation given; no response at all; customers felt like they were talked-down to; on hold for lengthy periods; no email as an alternative form of communication; would like some type of credit on future invoice statements; how does PG&E expect to handle the demands of the future; what about an intentional overload of the circuit to expose the problem; customers are tired of the 800 number and want to call a direct line; students, doctors and the work-from-home labor force were greatly affected by the continual outages.

Council Member Steve Woehleke wondered how reli-

able the Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) program was with so many false alarms, while Council Member Kerry Hillis asked how long customers had to wait before a more aggressive solution was explored. Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda would like to see EPSS outage notifications; and Council Member David Shapiro wanted to know why PG&E should expect customers to trust anything the electric company tells them given their track record.

Johnson acknowledged that PG&E has a long way to go in order to earn trust back from their customers, and with regards to an invoice credit, those aren't given out for outages lasting less than 24 hours. He explained that having a dedicated phone line to handle a large volume of phone calls wouldn't be practical, but pledged that PG&E would be proactive as far as contacting customers. He added that the company is already thinking ahead with a 10-year plan for future electrical needs, but that attempting to purposely overload the system to expose "the gremlin" would just invite bigger problems. Johnson stressed the importance of customers signing up for outage alerts by visiting: [www.pge.com/notifications](http://www.pge.com/notifications).

Mayor Renata Sos asked PG&E for a return visit in the near future, with the expectation of a more positive update in regards to the issue at hand.

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# This year's abundant crop keeps Pear Harvest pickers busy

By Vera Kochan

Originally scheduled a week earlier, but postponed because the fruit wasn't quite ready for harvesting, the Aug. 19 Pear Harvest had pears literally falling off the tree without any help from the pickers. What a difference a week makes!

The annual community event, co-sponsored by the Moraga Park Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, took place on properties owned by the Moraga School District (next to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School) and Saint Monica Catholic Church, stated MPF's man-in-charge, John Burgess. Thanks to the heavy winter rains, the pear trees were loaded with fruit meant to be delivered to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Several community groups were on hand between 8:30 a.m. and early afternoon to volunteer their services, including scouting troops, church groups, the National



Photo Vera Kochan

**Volunteers hard at work on Aug. 19 picking pears for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.**

Charity League and Teens and Parents Volunteer Services (TAPS). An impressive amount of Moraga residents came, many with their children, who worked just as hard as the adults did.

Posted at the check-in table were pear-picking rules for rookies or anyone who

needed a refresher course from last year, like how to properly pick pears and warning folks not to climb the trees. The pears picked at the event will be stored at the Contra Costa and Solano Counties Food Bank for a week or more before being distributed to families.

# EBMUD conducts extensive illegal trash dumping cleanup

... continued from Page A1

The most recent Aug. 16 cleanup, in another section, exposed an additional three vehicles, one of which was determined by crews to have been a blue Volkswagen Karmann Ghia built between 1955-1975. The Karmann Ghia was pulled up from the depths nearly hidden by trees using tow truck cables, arriving to the top in two pieces, with one section having a tree growing out of the wreckage.

EBMUD estimates that this month's cleanup will produce more than 10 tons (20,000 pounds) of trash that will be pulled up in nets by a crane from 12 dump sites on watershed land. Anything from mattresses to construc-

tion debris, a bag full of firearms and old furniture has been uncovered. "The rangers always patrol the watersheds looking for dump sites," said Rodriguez. "If they find vehicles, we call in law enforcement to investigate in case there's a body inside or the vehicle was involved in criminal activity or stolen. We've put up signs and fences to dissuade people from dumping, and we're looking into putting up barricades down the hills to catch the garbage before it reaches the watersheds. If we can prevent this [the dumping], it would be ideal."

Rodriguez asks homeowners to hire a reputable disposal company that will go through the proper channels

to dispose of junk. "Pay the company half of what you owe them, and give them the second half when they come back with a receipt."

EBMUD Senior Public Information Representative Andrea Pook asks citizens to "report illegal dumping and any identifying information to local law enforcement non-emergency [number]. In Contra Costa County report at 1-800-No-Dumping or (925) 646-2441. In Alameda County report at (510) 670-5480 or by using the Mobile Citizen app."

Pook added, "Lamorinda residents are some of the biggest users of this road, so we're hoping they spot dumping and report it."

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**Town Council** Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, Sept. 5, 6:30 p.m.  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.



# Campo alum invents Torch Sensors – an outdoor smoke detector for use against wildfires



An example of a Torch Sensor doing its job. Photos provided

By Vera Kochan

It wasn't all that long ago when Campolindo High School alum, Vasya Tremsin (23), was busy winning accolades for his science projects. The 2018 graduate, whose classmates might remember him as Vasily, went on to attend the University of California at Berkeley, and later graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2022, with degrees in computer science and economics.

While a student at Campo, Tremsin was disturbed by the havoc of the 2017 blazes in Napa and wondered why there were smoke detectors for the inside of homes, but nothing on the market to alert residents to a fire outdoors. And so, an idea was born.

According to his former science teacher, Roxanna Jackman, Tremsin was initially a quiet student, but began to blossom into a helpful classmate, always willing to assist others with their lessons. "Vasya's projects always showed that he was thinking of how to help others," recalled Jackman. "He made a bicycle helmet that could detect different sounds approaching to assist the hearing impaired. He made a device to detect if one's sunscreen was still effective, or if it was time to reapply. He developed the prototype for the Torch Sensor during his senior year and won many awards at the international level. One of the awards was money for his high school, which he requested be used to encourage more students to do science fair projects." With that, Campo's Science Fair Club was created.

Tremsin's Torch Sensors project was based on the indoor smoke detector concept, and in a wildfire-weary California, began to take top prizes on several competition levels starting with county, then state, and eventually winning the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair five years ago.



Vasya Tremsin (right) with partner Michael Buckwald at Silicon Valley Latam Capital Summit 2023

owners, government agencies, businesses, and vineyards."

John Cornell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Lafayette Police Department stated, "By only reviewing the website specifications, I can say that the idea of having pieces of technology throughout a neighborhood that could help determine if there is an actual fire, and how large of one, is always helpful. I am a huge proponent of any product

that could give first responders a better idea of the incident, no matter what it is, and technology advances are only going to improve the preparedness level of local agencies."

Cornell added that "the idea is fantastic," and that he's aware of other companies working on various types of remote heat sensors that operate in a similar detection fashion.

According to Tremsin,

"Torch Sensors will be available at the end of this year or the first quarter of 2024. We have pre-orders available now at a cost per unit of \$299, which will cover 10 acres. We don't charge an order until the product is delivered."

For more information visit: torchsensors.com or email: vtremsin@torchsensors.com.

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### Save the date for Moraga Community Service Day, Oct. 6-8

Volunteers will be needed for Moraga's Community Service Day, the weekend of Oct. 6-8. Organized by several Moraga community groups as a way for residents and families to come together and help those in need within and outside of our town, benefit local schools, and beautify Moraga. For more information contact: mmmcluer@aol.com. - V. Kochan



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**COMPASS**

## Council recognizes cybersecurity expert for work with local jurisdictions

By Alison Burns

If Don Hester's intention was to terrify his audience, then he probably succeeded. But his recent presentation also served as a timely warning in an ever-evolving cybersecurity landscape where cyberattacks have become increasingly common and sophisticated.

Invited by Douglas Alessio, Orinda's Administrative Services Director, to speak at the Aug. 15 City Council meeting, Hester said his aim was to create a cyber-safe world through education and collaboration.

Hester has over 25 years' experience as a cybersecurity professional and is currently an advisor with the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for the San Francisco Bay Area. CISA, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the nation's leading collaborative

agency, with a goal to bolster local governments and stakeholders in an effort to make them become more cyber-resilient to attack.

Working at the local government level, Hester says that Oakland, Hayward, Livermore and Modesto cities have all been hit with the kind of cyber incidents that resulted in a debilitating impact on each organization's functions, and prevented critical services from being delivered.

Further afield, perhaps one of the most alarming episodes involved the public school district in New Haven, Conn., which recently lost over \$6 million when hackers impersonated the city's chief operating officer. The money, misappropriated via multiple cyberattacks, was long gone by the time the school bus company asked why it had not yet been paid.

And then there are the "ransomware" attacks, of which both Oakland and Hayward have been victims. Even if you have good backups and are able to recover your system, there is still the danger that "the bad guys" discovered documents which they now threaten to put on the "dark web," according to Hester.

One example of this happened earlier this year when over 300,000 confidential school documents, reporting sexual assaults, psychiatric hospitalizations, abusive parents, truancy and suicide attempts, were dumped online by ransomware gangs when Minneapolis Public Schools refused to pay the \$1 million ransom.

Sadly, it's not just individual cybercriminals who are responsible for these offenses. Hester knows from experience that "Nation States are oftentimes involved in these attacks."

Since he firmly believes that cyberattacks are not a matter of if, but when, Hester's objective is to assist local governments in better preparing themselves to be resilient. To this end, he is currently working with Alessio in assessing such scenarios. CISA offers cybersecurity courses and a virtual training environment, and



Photo courtesy City of Orinda

**Orinda Mayor Inga Miller presents Don Hester, from the Homeland Security's Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), with a Proclamation of the City of Orinda in Support of Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2023.**

staff undertake cyber drills so that they know how to react if confronted with a ransomware situation.

"Better to learn this before, rather than in the middle of, an attack," says Hester.

Although Hester's main focus is geared toward local governments, CISA also strives to educate the public as much as possible and once again are supporting Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Now in its 20th year, Cyber Month is an internationally recognized campaign held every October to inform the public of the importance of cybersecurity.

In keeping with this year's theme, "It's easy to stay safe online," Hester emphasized the "really four important things that stop the bad guys in their tracks."

The first of these, he said, was to turn on multi-factor authentication, contending that your bank account should not just be a username and password. "Somebody gets that and they have access to your full bank account." He also said that it was wise to

add this multi-factor authentication to your Facebook account, to dissuade anyone from calling your family to tell them you're in jail and need them to immediately wire you several thousand dollars.

Advice No. 2 was simply to "stop clicking on things."

Third came Hester's absolute conviction that an eight-character password, however complex, can easily be broken. CISA guidance advises using a 16-character password or even installing password management software. Another good idea is to use a passphrase, like a whole sentence.

Finally, Hester said "if you get an email that looks fishy, it probably is. The FBI is not going to send you an email that says they're investigating you for a crime and need to check your computer to prove you're innocent. We want people to understand that there are bad guys out there. Even if you think you don't have anything they want, sometimes they just want to wreak havoc."

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## Orinda stands with Maui

By Alison Burns

Before the regular Aug. 15 Orinda City Council meeting got underway, Mayor Inga Miller asked everyone attending the meeting, whether present in the Orinda Library Auditorium or at home in front of their computer screens, to spare a thought for the suffering of the people of Maui. At that point over a hundred people were known to have died, while more than one thousand still remained unaccounted for.

"This is an incredibly sad time," Miller said, "as we listen to the many accounts of all the lives lost in Lahaina, amid what has been the worst wildfire in the last one hundred years in the United States. We don't yet have a full tally of the devastation but as we hear the details of the victims and learn about some of their identities, we know that many more reports will be coming out."

She went on to say that in addition to this being a national tragedy, it's also one

that hits Orinda very deeply, knowing how many of the city's residents have made some of their most important memories in Maui, either as tourists or longtime homeowners.

"Our hearts are with everyone there," Miller said, "and I just ask that we all observe a moment of silence before our meeting, in preparation for the distressing news that we will continue to hear as this disaster unfolds and the community of Lahaina continues to grieve."

## Orinda's Local Road Safety Plan addresses greatest concern: speed



Injury Collisions in the City of Orinda (2017-2021)

adding new pedestrian crossings or upgrading existing ones. The installation of dynamic/variable speed warning signs was also suggested.

Non-engineering strategies include a public information campaign to educate motorists about intersection safety laws, unsafe speeds, distracted driving, improper turning and driving under the influence.

Other recommendations include targeted enforcement at high-injury locations, plus an increase in the number of EMS/fire control personnel undertaking Traffic Incident Management Training.

And since Orinda is very much a town of walkers and cyclists, it was recommended that the city should use media outlets and social platforms to raise awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety needs.

By Alison Burns

After Orinda residents were invited to report their road safety concerns to TJKN Transportation Consultants last year, it came as no surprise to many to discover that the majority of respondents identified speeding as their greatest concern.

Federal regulations require each state to adopt a strategic highway safety plan, primarily derived from data which is then tailored to the community's specific traffic needs. To this end, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated around \$18 million of funding for local agencies to develop their individual plans.

Orinda's award of \$40,000 was further supplemented by around \$70,000 from the city, which then appointed TJKN Transportation Consultants to identify the problems, and solutions, on Orinda's roads. In April 2022, the consultancy began by distributing comprehensive questionnaires to Orindans, via the city website, monthly e-newsletters and social media.

This public outreach garnered 262 responses. Not surprisingly, the highest traffic concern involved speeding (92 residents), with a separate category - "unsafe speed" - adding a further 20 respondents.

Next came 64 people anxious about Pedestrian Safety, while "visibility and safety at intersections" also showed up as an area of concern.

TJKN's data collection covered the years 2015-2019 and identified five "high injury corridors." Camino Pablo (from Bear Creek Road to Santa Maria Way) accounted for 11 injury collisions, while a further 10 "high injury intersections" (three of which involved Moraga Way) tallied an additional 14 injury collisions. Of the 18 signal upgrades currently being undertaken, 13 are along Camino Pablo.

Analysts found that 25% of all collisions, and 44% of "severe injury collisions," involved hitting an (unnamed) object. The primary factor in 24% of all collisions, and 44% of serious injuries, was categorized as "unsafe speed."

TJKN advocated implementing "the five E's of traffic safety" - namely Engineering, Enforcement, Equity, Education and Emergency Medical Services.

Recommended engineering projects include installing flashing beacons at stop-controlled intersections and elsewhere as an advance warning; installing raised medians on approaches and chevron signs on horizontal curves; installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons, and



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 <p><b>City Council Regular Meeting:</b> Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Planning Comm.:</b> Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting</b> Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way</p>
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# Lamorinda Idol Finals come to a close in climactic fashion



Photos Dan Klein

An amazing array of performers graced the Orinda Theatre on Aug. 20 to participate in the much anticipated annual Lamorinda Idol Finals.

"All of our Finalists rose to new heights and gave marvelous performances. The sound, lighting, and video quality was first class. And all the other aspects of the day flowed smoothly," said Lamorinda Idol chair Steve Harwood. "Our Lamorinda Idol 2023 program started with our team of audition judges scoring auditioners. This was especially challenging because we had such a depth of high-quality singers auditioning, and there were twice as many as could accommodate as finalists. Thank you, Tosca Maltzman, Ron Rawson, Rick Starbuck, Daphne Stoermer, Jac Garrell, Sue Farmer, Linda Cohen, Jocie Purcell, and Pam Whitman."

In addition to an army of volunteers who helped make this event possible, three individuals – Co-Chairs, June Lim, Bonnie Kim, and Rodger Morris – were called out by Harwood for their big lift for the finals, attending to every detail. A long list of judges were also recognized for their time. "I thought our judges were some of the best we've ever had, all of them with very thoughtful, substantive feedback for our singers. Thank you: David Pinkham, Raz Kennedy, Teresa Kali, Laurie Roldan, Tielle Baker, Marilyn Levison, Jocie Purcell, Chad Somers, and Lleyton Allen." Harwood said he had mixed feelings about having winners in the program,

"since each of the performers was a winner." But we do have winners, he said in an email, and here they are:

K-2 Solo	Kayla Resnick
3-5 Solo	Keenan Moran
6-8 Solo	Bella Verrico
9-12 Solo	Clea Lee
K-5 Groups	Colara Cara Impallomeni Colette Goodman Loud and Proud
6-8 Groups	Palig Horoupian Alexis Lee
9-12 Groups	VI Alec Home Mina Lim Gavin Juni Burl Hall Kate Bertenthal Katie Welch
Audience Award:	Mia Polichio

Some of the finalists will be performing at the Orinda Classic Car Show on Sept. 9, and then some of the finalists will perform at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival on Sept. 23.

"When you look at the entire program, you realize how much effort went into making it successful," Harwood said. "But boy, is it worth it. This is the good stuff of life." - J. Wake



Audience Award -- Mia Polichio



Solo K-2 -- Kayla Resnick

# Classic Car Show features massive 'Land Yachts' that focus on 'smiles per gallon'

... continued from Page A1

After a five-decade career as a professional photographer working on car collections, Toy is no stranger to auto shows, so he must have found it hard to choose between his eight vintage cars – five Cadillacs, two Eldorados and one Nash Metro – when it came to "showing up and showing off" at the event.

Perhaps he's not quite in Jay Leno's class (the TV host owns over 180 autos and 160 motorcycles) but Toy likes to say, "Jay makes me feel normal."

Toy had an excellent mechanic for many years but after he passed on, Toy decided to work on the car himself,

which he finds both satisfactory and rewarding. He says that working out the finer points of "reverse engineering" keeps him young.

He uses the same theory on his fleet of vehicles, his mantra being "use it or lose it," and so he drives each of his cars for a week or so before moving onto the next one, which keeps everything humming.

Toy doesn't worry about gas gauges or mpg: he checks on the gas by opening the cap and shaking the car to hear "how much splash is in the tank."

"All I know," he says, "is that it gives me smiles per gallon on premium, which is all I need."



Phil Toy with his white 1959 Cadillac Convertible, Series 62 Photo Sora O'Doherty

# Hollie's Homegrown prides itself on offering local artisan products

... continued from Page A3

"I grow most of the herbs that go into my products," Lucas-Alcalay said. "The rest I get from relationships that I've made through the farmers' markets."

The shop also sells aprons, coasters, wine glasses, appetizer/party crockery, candles, jewelry and even doggie treats. "I sell items from 26 local arti-

sans, and 23 of them are from Lamorinda," Lucas-Alcalay explained. "We're very careful about who we allow to join us in the store. Some are first-time producers, and most of them are women. It's so important to support local businesses, and local business profits go back to the community."

Hollie's Homegrown doesn't have a huge marketing budget, and relies on word of

mouth, "but I enjoy giving business advice to first-time craftspeople," Lucas-Alcalay said. To that end, she has begun to offer "classes" in-store with a varying range of participatory activities. Rosé All Day involves wine sampling, wine education and food pairing to go with it, and she offers classes in making seasoning salts using her herbs, lessons in herb-infused olive oil and vinegars and in-

struction in making bath and body products. She also invites other artisans to give classes in things like watercolor art or glass-making.

Hollie's Homegrown's latest event is a monthly California High Tea held every last Sunday of the month. After living in England for two years, Lucas-Alcalay, who's a tea drinker, enjoyed the tradition. Serving sweets and savories

made by local bakers and caterers, she calls it "California" as opposed to "English" in order to give a nod to her California/Lamorinda sources.

Hollie's Homegrown is located at 998 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. For more information visit: [Hollieshomegrown.com](http://Hollieshomegrown.com) or call (925) 385-0732.

## Public Safety

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**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com

**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

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

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Aug. 6 - Aug. 19

Alarms	47
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Req./Security Check	36
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	20
Welfare Check	19
Ordinance Violation	2
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
500 Block Merriewood Dr.	
3600 Block Highland Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	

Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute  
Stanley Blvd./Camino Diablo  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.

Tc - Minor Injuries  
600 Block Moraga Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
900 Block Dewing Ave.

900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Overhill Rd./Moraga Way, Ori  
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Vehicle Theft  
1700 Block Ivanhoe Ave.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Forgery  
3100 Block Lucas Dr.  
Fraud Credit Card  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud False Pretenses  
700 Block Moraga Rd.  
Grand Theft  
1000 Block Carol Ln.

900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Identity Theft  
900 Block Brown Ave.  
600 Block Doreen Way

Panhandling  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Petty Theft  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

900 Block Moraga Rd.  
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block Dewing Ave.  
10 Block Moss Ln.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Sierra Vista Way/Deer Hill Rd.  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Aileen St.

1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
1000 Block Aileen St.  
30 Block Crest Rd.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
10 Block Rimrock Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Highland Rd./Sundale Rd.

Vandalism  
Police Department  
**Other**  
Dependant Adult Abuse - Financial  
800 Block Moraga Rd. (2)

Harassment  
1000 Block Miller Dr.  
Loitering  
Highland Rd./Sundale Rd.

Other Felony  
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.  
Threats  
3200 Block Withers Ave.

Trespass  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
3200 Block Elvia St  
Unwanted Guest  
1000 Block Carol Ln.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
Aug. 8 - Aug. 21

Alarms 21  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6  
Traffic 67

Suspicious Circumstances 3  
Suspicious Subject 3  
Suspicious Vehicle 7  
Service to Citizen 29

Patrol Req./Security Check 12  
Public/School Assembly Check 4  
Supplemental Report 3  
Vacation House Check 1

Welfare Check 1  
Ordinance Violation 2  
**Vehicle violations**

Accident Property  
50 Block Ashbrook Pl.  
Auto Burglary  
600 Block Rheem Blvd.

Excessive Speed  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)  
Rheem Blvd./Fayhill Dr.

Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. (3)  
Moraga Way/School St.  
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. (3)  
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Camino Recardo/Moraga Way

St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.  
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo

Moraga Way/Villa Ln.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Rheem Theater

**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
100 Block Greenbriar

Identity Theft  
300 Block Constance Pl.  
Petty Theft  
1900 Block Ascot Dr.

Robbery Strongarm  
Safeway  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
10 Block Kendall Cir.

Disturbing The Peace  
100 Block Donald Dr.  
Drunk In Public  
400 Block Center St.

Safeway  
Loud Music  
1000 Block Camino Pablo  
300 Block Calle La Montana

Calle La Montana/Campolindo Dr.  
Loud Party  
200 Block Draeger Dr.

Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Public Nuisance  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

**Other**  
Loitering  
Ross Dr./Larch Ave.

Mentally Ill Commit  
60 Block Shuey Dr.  
40 Block Williams Dr.

Other Felony  
10 Block Francisca Dr.

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
Aug. 6 - Aug. 19

Alarms 58  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10  
Traffic 74

Suspicious Circumstances 6  
Suspicious Subject 3  
Suspicious Vehicle 3

Service to Citizen 53  
Patrol Req./Security Check 18  
Public/School Assembly Check 0  
Supplemental Report 19  
Vacation House Check 0

Welfare Check 4  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
100 Block Crest View Dr.

Dui Misd  
Miner Rd./Bien Venida  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Glorietta Blvd./Virginia Dr.

Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Meadowlands Ct.  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. (2)  
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.

El Toyonal/Camino Pablo  
St Stephens Dr.  
Valley View Dr./Moraga Way

Vehicle Theft  
60 Block Brookwood Rd.  
30 Block Brookside Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Burglary  
300 Block Glorietta Blvd.

Commercial Burglary  
Camino Pablo  
Camino Sobrante

Fraud False Pretenses  
40 Block Diablo View Dr.  
Identity Theft  
Not Available

10 Block Aspinwall Ct.  
100 Block Manzanita Dr.  
Petty Theft  
300 Block Village Sq

20 Block Bryant Way (2)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Noise  
300 Block El Toyonal

Loud Party  
10 Block Carisbrook Dr.  
40 Block Haciendas Rd.  
Woodland Rd./Valley View Dr.

Public Nuisance  
10 Block La Cuesta Rd.  
Vandalism  
St Stephens Dr.

St Stephens Episcopal Church  
Vandalism - Felony  
Moraga Way  
50 Block Barbara Rd.

**Other**  
Checks Non Suff Funds  
Police Department  
Failure To Obey  
Wb 24

Mentally Ill Commit  
Not Available  
40 Block El Gavilan Rd.  
Revoked License  
Orinda Way  
Tammer With Vehicle  
70 Block Moraga Via  
Unwanted Guest  
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.



# Lafayette residents raise money for hard-hit Maui

Submitted by Rachel Kemp

Casey Thornton, Tristian McGinley, Eloise Kemp and Sydney Tumilty of Lafayette raised \$768 for Maui Humane Society and Royal Hawaiian Surf Academy in Lahaina in the wake of the recent tragic fires with a lemonade and bake sale on a very hot Sunday afternoon.

Photo Julie Thornton



# Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club donates 100 school backpacks



Photo provided

Volunteers from Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Target, and the Monument Crisis Center pose with a colorful range of 100 backpacks on July 13.

Submitted by Steve Woehleke

The Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club has, once again, partnered with Target to assemble and provide 100 backpacks with back-to-school supplies

that were distributed through the Monument Crisis Center in Concord to some eager children preparing for the next school year. This has become a beloved annual event and a great example of a nonprofit and company partnership to provide a vital

service to our communities. The work was done by eight Kiwanis volunteers and several Target volunteers, assembling the backpacks at Target and then delivered to the Crisis Center for distribution to participating Contra Costa County families.

# Troop 243 honors four new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Submitted by Michael Strittmatter

Troop 243 of Lafayette came together for an Eagle Court of Honor on Aug. 12 at the Lafayette Christian Church to honor and celebrate four scouts: Cole Mason, Miguel Strittmatter, Tyler Gough and Brady Quinn, each of whom were recognized for earning BSA scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. To achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, these young men completed a rigorous set of requirements, including earning at least 21 merit badges, holding various leadership positions within their troop, and executing a significant community service project to benefit the public or a nonprofit organization.

The Eagle Court of Honor not only celebrates the accomplishments of these exemplary young men but also highlights the dedication of Troop 243 and its commitment to shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Troop

243 has a long history of producing Eagle Scouts since 1964, and it continues to foster a nurturing environment for personal growth and community involvement.

As part of Troop 243, these Scouts have been on a transformative journey, gaining practical life skills and outdoor survival expertise through various adventures and activities. From summer camp at Camp Wolfboro to overnight camping and backpacking trips, leadership and public speaking training, along with opportunities to give back to their community through service projects. They have each grown into well-rounded and capable individuals.

The Eagle Scout service projects undertaken by these exceptional young men showcased their commitment to making a positive impact on their community and beyond. Cole Mason, for the Thacher School, designed and built an elevated scorekeeper chair, with a built-in table, as well as

hosting a gun range cleanup. Miguel Strittmatter repaired and restored the Acalanes High School Water Polo display case. Tyler Gough partnered with Kids Against Hunger to supply ingredients and pack over 40,000 meals for Ukrainian refugees. Brady Quinn cleaned and repainted dugouts and score tables at three baseball fields for the Junior Optimist Baseball League.

Scouts BSA is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The organization provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of citizenship, participating in their community, and developing personal fitness.

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

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

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## In Memory

**Nancy Taylor Chenoweth**  
May 2, 1936 – Aug. 13, 2023



Nancy Taylor Chenoweth, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, and garden enthusiast, passed away on Aug. 13, at age 87.

Nancy Ellen Taylor was born in Effingham, Illinois on May 2, 1936, to parents Harold J. Taylor and Elsa C. Kugler Taylor. She was the youngest of three children. Her siblings were Marilyn J. Taylor (deceased 1931, age 4) and Thomas F. Taylor (deceased 1983, age 47).

She earned degrees from University of Illinois and University of Florida and then worked as a high school English teacher and an editor. She loved gardening and being a grandmother.

She was active in the Orinda community for decades serving on the boards of the Montelindo Garden Club (charter member), Friends of the Orinda Library, and the Orinda Association. She also volunteered at Hospice of the East Bay and Lamorinda Adult Respite Center.

Nancy is survived by her two daughters Anne Binnie and Amelia Chenoweth, their spouses Alec Binnie and Nic Anastassiou, grandson Neil Taylor Binnie (age 24), and step grandson Alex Anastassiou (age 25).

Her remains will be interred in her family's plot in Effingham, Illinois. There will be a private service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Orinda Library or your favorite garden.

## In Memory

**Nancy K. Rogers**  
May 24, 1955 - May 28, 2023



Longtime Lafayette resident Nancy Rogers passed away on May 28, 2023. She faced a number of chronic health issues, but her death was sudden and unexpected. Nancy is survived by her children, Megan and Eric, as well as siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son Jeffrey and husband Mark.

Her family and friends would like to invite you to her memorial service that will be held on Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m. with reception to follow at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin St., Lafayette.



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# Letters to the editor

**Remove abandoned vehicles in Moraga**

If you're tired of the blight from abandoned vehicles in Moraga, please read this.

Like many of you, I'm tired of being overwhelmed by the number of abandoned and wrecked vehicles in and around town.

In response to recent resident complaints, Town staff has been undertaking the process of code enforcement to get the offending businesses to remove these vehicles. Unfortunately, this process appears to be lengthy and time consuming, especially where cars have been stored for a long period of time. Ongoing, this process includes Town staff visiting each offending property, compilation of data, sending out letters to each business and/or property owner, additional requests to remove the vehicles, issuing of progressive fines, potential litigation, and, then the ultimate removal of unauthorized vehicles.

How can we help expediate the removal of these vehicles? Sending emails (from as many residents as possible) to the Town Manager's Office is a strategic and helpful way to ensure our voice is heard and to keep Town Hall focused on this serious quality of life problem. The more our local government hears from us (in writing), the more ammunition they will have to continue the effort to clean up our town!

So, here's my ask: Please take a minute to send a polite (but forceful) email directly to the Town Manager. Be sure to be specific about the vehicle(s) location and share your point of view and concerns about how this problem has affected you. Feel free to share how this has impacted how you feel about living in Moraga. Include information like how long you've lived in Moraga. Use words/phrases like "blight," "dilapidated vehicles," "abandoned vehicles," "inoperable vehicles," and so on to convey how this has degraded our community to the point where our two shopping centers have become automotive junkyards. You can certainly come up with your own words.

Please send your emails di-

rectly to Town Manager Scott Mitnick: [smitnick@moraga.ca.us](mailto:smitnick@moraga.ca.us)

It'll only take a few minutes and our collective emails will be instrumental in accelerating a solution to this problem.

Thank you!

Paul Cohune  
Moraga

## Slow Down Lafayette

Although at face value the Slow Down Lafayette program sounds like a great program, I do not think that it is enough to actually work. As a resident of Lafayette for over 50 years I've heard this rhetoric for far too long.

Not only are cars easier to drive, they accelerate much faster. The roads are smoother as well. Car ads, movies, and TV promote speed and frankly reckless driving. I was told by a Lafayette police officer that they don't even issue tickets for speed any longer. Moraga sure does.

If you want people to obey the law you'll have to start enforcing it. Video evidence and/or cameras may help, yet it's the police presence that tames people. Set up speed traps on an alternating basis in various locations. Do something. Bikes, pedestrians, and auto drivers would be safer. I see speed signs in a few areas yet no enforcement.

Heavily traveled roads through town like Mt Diablo, St Mary's, and Moraga Road are driven at ridiculous speeds. People have no consideration for those that live on those roads and need to slow to enter their driveways. When schools let out the roads are packed beyond capacity and those same residents have an even harder time getting into their driveways. Safety takes a back seat then.

Come on police and city government, get busy, start enforcing the law and following through with prosecution. You've been talking about controlling traffic for at least 25 years. So do something about it.

Neil Stewart  
Lafayette

## Orinda's evacuation analysis must be redone

Folks in Orinda and Moraga who intend to evacuate through downtown Orinda, in the event of a wildfire, should insist that Orinda's Evacuation Analysis be redone. It assumed that a wildfire would not spread. Of course, in that event, there would be no need to evacuate. The MOFD Fire Chief pointed out this flaw to Orinda staff last fall, saying that wildfire spread should be modeled. Attorney General Bonta has said the same thing. Orinda staff did not relay the Fire Chief's concerns to the City Council, even though he asked staff to do so. Orinda's staff also promised that the Evacuation Analysis would analyze the effect on evacuation through downtown of the planned 1,618 new housing units to be built downtown. But it didn't do so; it only analyzed current conditions. Even so, and without considering any spread of a wildfire, it determined that it would take 60 to 90 minutes to evacuate. This is troublesome because many residents of Orinda and Moraga will need to evacuate through downtown, which is a known pinch point. Unfortunately, to date, although the Orinda City Council has been made aware of these issues, there is no indication that it intends to do anything about them.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

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

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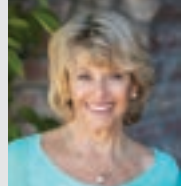
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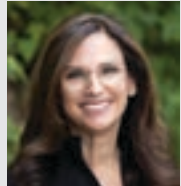
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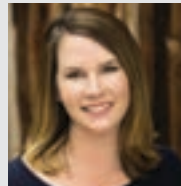
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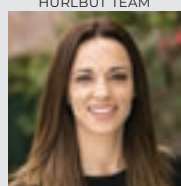
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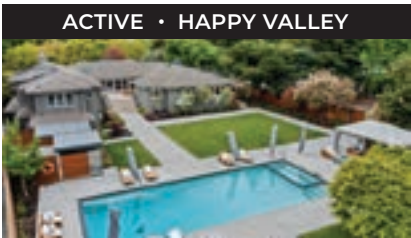


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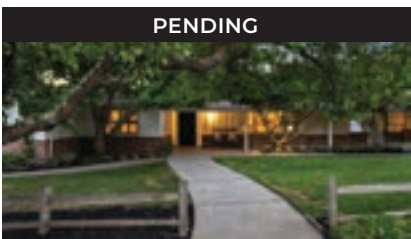
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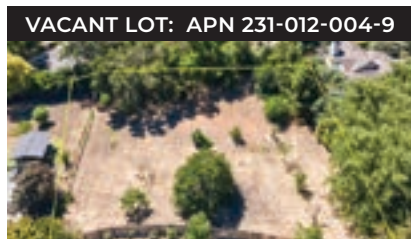
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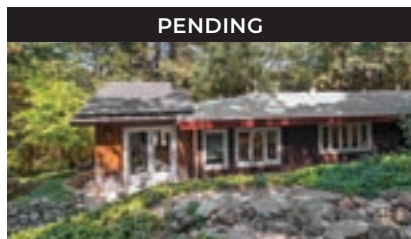
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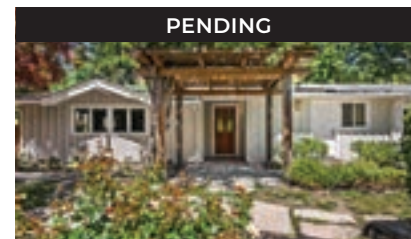
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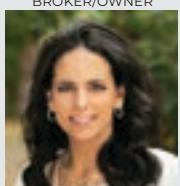
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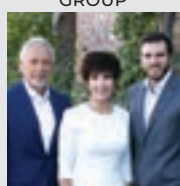
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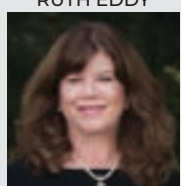
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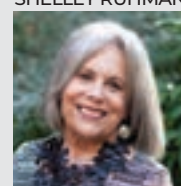
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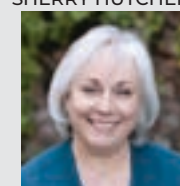
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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Audience at sold-out Historical Society event learns about local Native American sites



Photo Vera Kochan

**James Benney discusses Native American sites located in the East Bay.**

**By Vera Kochan**

Many Lamorinda residents are aware that Saklan Indians once inhabited the region as part of a larger nation known as the Bay Miwok. However, few are aware as to the extent these tribes, and many others, lived in this area surrounding what we know today as Mount Diablo.

The Moraga Historical Society welcomed guest speaker James Benney, a member of the East Bay Hill People organization, to enlighten the sold-out crowd in the Casita, at the town's Hacienda de las Flores on Aug. 20, with a brief history of the Native Americans who once lived in the shadow of Mount Diablo.

Benney, a house painter by trade, acknowledged "not a drop of Native American blood in my veins," but that he was intrigued with the topic while a student at the University of California at Berkeley after taking a hike with a friend and discovering bedrock mortar (a circular depression in a rock outcrop historically used for grinding food). During that time, he came across hundreds of bedrock mortars without even knowing what they were,

but thought it was a shame that others didn't know of their existence.

Through his research, Benney has learned that there were eight Saklan villages along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette: one at the intersection of Moraga's Canyon Road and Pinehurst, a larger tribe at the intersection of Canyon Road and Country Club Drive, one at Saint Mary's College, Lafayette Community Center, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda, the San Leandro Reservoir, Rossmoor, the Bentley School in Lafayette, Wagner Ranch, and a gated community in Lafayette at the end of Pleasant Hill Road along with the Orinda Country Club's 11th hole, which were the sites of sacred burial grounds.

Benney explained that Mount Diablo had been considered sacred to the Native Americans for 10,000 years. The Volvon tribe lived in that vicinity and were deemed the keepers of Tuyshtak (Dawn of Time). "Mount Diablo has been considered a sacred place by tribes from as far away as San Francisco and Nevada. In the Brushy Peak area [south of Mount Diablo] artifacts have been found that have come from tribes all over the United States – it was a major trading

hub. Whatever made it sacred for 10,000 years – it still seems sacred."

Sadly, the eventual elimination of the Bay Miwok tribes can be attributed to European diseases, enslavement by the missions, and even manslaughter. Benney stated that many Native Americans were so afraid of being killed that they denied their heritage by claiming to be Mexican. Prior to that, they lived much like any modern community today, gathering around water and food sources, having children, defending their territory, and dealing with all types of extreme weather.

Benney has written a book titled, "Native American Indian Sites in the East Bay Hills: A Guidebook" which discloses hundreds of bedrock mortar locations in the hopes that it will encourage visitors to learn more about the peoples who were the caretakers of the land all those years ago and to visit the sites with respect and contemplation. However, he has met with resistance from several stakeholders such as Native American descendants and the East Bay Regional Park District who fear the possibility of vandalism or defacement. During the MHS event, a few attendees expressed their concerns to that effect, while others would love to visit the sites to soak up the atmosphere while imagining what it was like to live under the shadow of Tuyshtak.

Benney hopes that today's descendants will use the many sites for occasional ceremonies or as tribal gathering places, because he feels that it would be a shame if they were left to the elements and disappear forever, rather than teaching and reminding people of the ancient culture that once called all of those places home.

"The greatest threat I see," stated Benney, "is ignorance and bulldozers."

For more information visit: [www.eastbayhillpeople.com](http://www.eastbayhillpeople.com).

## Singer brings cabaret show to the first place she experienced live theatre



Laurie Roldan Photo provided

**By Sharon K. Sobotta**

When Laurie Roldan, a singer and mom approaching her late 50s, prepared to become an empty nester as her daughters headed off to college, she took stock on what her next chapter should look like and what kind of legacy she'd like to leave behind in the world. "I've always been passionate about singing. I've been doing that for 30 years. When I was thinking about my life and what I should do next as my daughters auditioned for colleges, my voice instructor suggested that I think about doing a cabaret (a one woman show)," Roldan says.

Several years later, after lots of soul searching, reflecting, writing and curating life experiences to the tune of Karen Carpenter's music, Roldan is ready to bring her cabaret, "Laurie Sings A Song For You" to the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Roldan's

show will run Sept. 9, 10, 15 and 16 at 2 p.m. and will have a special opening night complete with champagne and conversation at 7 p.m.

As the daughter of a musician father who played the clarinet, Roldan grew up to the tunes of Peter, Paul and Mary, the Mamas and the Papas and a host of other folk musicians, but she says no one inspired her quite as much as Karen Carpenter. "I grew up in Moraga and I used to lay by the speakers and listen to Karen Carpenter's music and sing along with that," Roldan says.

As Roldan reflected back on her own life and the kind of stories she wanted to tell in her cabaret, the music of Karen Carpenter was the soundtrack to so many of her memories. "After a lot of write-throughs and revisions, I decided ultimately that I would be doing a show about my life and my story through the music of Karen Carpenter."

Roldan says the Town Hall Theatre has always held a special place in her heart. She remembers watching "A Christmas Carol" there in the mid-1970s, which was her first theatre show ever. "I remember the building, the bar area where I went to meet the actors after the show and it had a real impact on me."

And Roldan says, it's only fitting that her show should be in that same special place, where people have been living out versions or aspects of their

dreams for years. "I want people to leave my show knowing that it's never too late to live out our dreams." Although Roldan's show may be inspired by her lived experience, she promises that along with the specificity is relatability.

"We've all struggled with something or been affected by anxiety and all had to grieve at some point, and many of us have struggled with big things like motherhood," Roldan says. "I want people to know that no matter what, we should never stop dreaming."

Dennis Markham, the managing director of Town Hall, says it's an important homecoming for Laurie Roldan's show. "Coming together and celebrating our community and the individuals in it has been something that has been baked into this building even before it was a theatre. As much as we want to honor new stories, it's important for us to uplift the stories that are already here."

Markham is excited to see Roldan's full show in the very same building where she saw her first show some five decades earlier. "There's a nice symmetry to that. And, anyone who comes to see Laurie Roldan's show, can both celebrate her story and think about the stories they may have to tell – whether it's a musical, a short play or another form of storytelling."

To purchase tickets for "Laurie Sings a Song for You," or learn about the forthcoming offerings of Town Hall Theatre, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com)

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# Smoky, savory street tacos a perfect pre-prep dish for a relaxing Labor Day



Street Tacos

Photos Susie Iventosch

## By Susie Iventosch

My son was visiting his brother and discovered a wonderful cookbook, “Rachel’s Good Eats,” on the kitchen shelf. He saw so many great recipes and wanted to try them at home. So, we quickly got around to making the Mexican Street Tacos and were so taken with this recipe, that we have made it four times in the same number of weeks! The chicken thighs are first browned with this amazing rub made of cumin, chili powder, oregano, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Then, instead of finishing them on the stove as the recipe indicates, we slow cook them in a Dutch oven for about 2 1/2 hours until they are fall-off-the-bone tender. The kitchen smells so

delicious as these are cooking in the oven. Then we make the tacos with the shredded chicken and all of the fixings — shredded cabbage, diced tomatoes, cheese, cilantro, sliced radishes, jalapeños, lime wedges and guacamole. Lots of guacamole! I just used this same chicken along with shredded breast meat in my enchiladas and am really excited about that too.

Instead of the regular chili powder called for in the recipe, which is usually a blend of chili powder and other spices, I substitute New Mexico chili powder, because it has mild heat, but such a beautifully robust and slightly smoky chili flavor. Not surprisingly, New Mexico chili powder derives from the New Mexican Chile, which was first

grown by the Pueblo and other Hispanic groups throughout the state of New Mexico. The New Mexico chili grows from a green pepper to a ripened red, and while the flavor is retained, the heat mellows in the drying process. There are many different strains of the New Mexico chili, but allegedly the most prized peppers are grown in the Hatch Valley area along the Rio Grande.



## Street Taco Chicken Thighs

(Serves 6)

### INGREDIENTS

10-12 boneless, skinless chicken thighs  
1 recipe taco rub (recipe below)  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 large yellow onion coarsely chopped  
1 cup chicken broth  
2 tbsp. fresh squeezed lime juice  
12 tortillas  
1 cup grated mixed Mexican cheese, or crumbled feta, or Cotija cheese  
Garnishes: guacamole, shredded cabbage, diced jalapeños, cilantro leaves, diced tomatoes, sliced radishes, shredded cheese, feta cheese, lime wedge and salsa  
Taco Meat Rub  
2 tsp. ground cumin  
2 tsp. New Mexico chili powder  
2 tsp. Himalayan pink salt  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. dried oregano  
1 tsp. ground black pepper

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 250 F. Get a Dutch oven or cast-iron pot with a tight-fitting lid ready. You will cook the chicken in this pot.

Rub chicken thighs, top and bottom, with half of the taco meat rub. Heat oil, a little bit at a time, and sauté onions until translucent. Sprinkle 1-2 tsp. of the rub over onions and continue to cook for another two minutes. Remove onions from pan and place in the Dutch oven. Set aside.

Heat more oil in the pan, and working in batches, brown the chicken thighs on both sides until very aromatic and golden brown. Remove thighs and place on top of the onions in the Dutch oven. Add about 1 cup of water to the frying pan to deglaze, scraping up any bits of chicken, onions, and spices. Pour the deglazed pan scrapings, along with the chicken broth and lime juice over the top, cover and bake for 2 1/2 hours, or until very tender. Remove from oven and cool enough to handle.

Using two forks, shred the chicken and put the shredded chicken back into the broth that is still in the Dutch oven. Cover and refrigerate until ready to heat and serve.

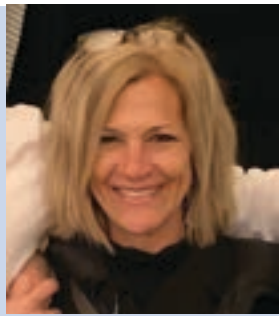
This step can be done several days ahead of time, and in fact, the chicken is even better if it has a couple of days to sit back in the juices.

When ready to serve, reheat chicken in the Dutch oven at about 300 F for 30 minutes or so. Heat tortillas in the oven, on a cast iron pan or over the grill. Serve with shredded chicken thighs, grated cheese and top with all of the garnishes you love to have with your tacos!



Rachael’s Good Eats <https://rachaelsgooddeats.com/>

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



# Is there a future doctor in the house?

## By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

One of the most critical decisions you can make as a high school student is selecting the college that will best support your goals. If you have your eye on becoming a doctor, knowing what medical schools look for will help guide this decision.

For medical school admissions, earning a high GPA, especially in medical school prerequisite coursework, is much more important than attending a “brand-name” school. It is imperative that pre-med students get strong grades in the 5-6 prerequisite courses for medical school, including organic chemistry, a notorious “weed out” course for premed students. Generally, large public research universities do not have as many personalized resources, like professor office hours and

pre-med advising staff available to help students to succeed. They also tend to have much larger class sizes and often a tougher grading scale. It is important to realize that medical schools do not take the selectivity of the college nor its academic reputation into account – in terms of quantitative assessment, they evaluate the Math/Science GPA and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores, which the prerequisite coursework prepares the student to take.

Since the screening process for medical admissions does not take into consideration the rigor of the undergraduate program or how difficult it is to earn a high GPA, it can be said that MCAT scores are used to “validate” a student’s GPA. For example, a high GPA from a lesser-known or highly recognized school is affirmed when a student scores well on the MCAT. It proves that the applicant

knows the subject matter well and their academic success is not limited to the confines of undergraduate coursework. Contrarily, if a student with a high GPA scores poorly on the MCAT, the low score is a red flag to medical schools.

As such, medical school applicants must take the MCAT very seriously and aim to score well. Unlike standardized tests for college admissions, it is not wise to plan to take the MCAT multiple times. My advice is to take the required coursework, set aside 16 weeks for focused study, and get your best score the first time. I only recommend retesting if a) you are certain you can achieve a higher score, or b) you have older scores that schools you want to apply to will not accept.

When selecting a college to attend, high school students must take into consideration other important pre-med requirements. For example, if

research opportunities are reserved for graduate students, as they often are in public research universities, then undergraduates may have a critical gap on their resume. Further, some admissions advisors focus their support on applicants who excel in the early pre-med coursework at their institution. They may counsel (directly or less directly) lower achieving students to consider a different health profession or aim for a research career. Be sure you have the support you need and the resources you require to assemble a strong profile. Ranked ordered, the main factors are grades in pre-med coursework, complimentary MCAT scores, sufficient clinical experience, a strong record of volunteerism and some research involvement.

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Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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◆ **Not to be missed**

◆ **Not to be missed**

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◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

**Art**

**"Wonders of Man and Nature"** on view until Oct. 22 at the Moraga Art Gallery, located in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center at 432 Center Street. The show also includes work by more than two dozen gallery members and guest artists. For more information, visit [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**Main Street Arts is excited** to have Martinez artist, Dean Evans, present "Around the Strait," an exhibition of his landscape and cityscape paintings of the Carquinez area Sept. 8 until Oct. 29. A reception will be held for Dean Sept. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Main Street Arts, 613 Main Street, Martinez, [www.mainstreetarts.net](http://www.mainstreetarts.net)

**Music**

**Fall Music Series: Vibes** at the Veranda. An exciting season of music featuring larger bands with a much more robust sound. Join us every Wednesday from Sept. 13 through Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fountain Pavilion Park. This free 6-week Fall Music Series is the perfect way to celebrate the arrival of autumn with phenomenal food, delightful entertainment, and a fantastic atmosphere. The 2023 Vibes at the Veranda lineup includes: Sept. 13: Aerial Marin Band; Sept. 20: Jonah Melvon Band; Sept. 27: Hella Fitzgerald; Oct. 4: Jazz Mafia ft. Erin Honeywell and Solas B Lalgee; Oct. 11: Feed the Kitty and Oct. 18: Grupo Nostalgia

**Crowden Music Center presents** Sundays at Four: Baumer String Quartet on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden presents the extraordinary Baumer String Quartet in concert, followed by its free 40th Anniversary launch party. Cost: Free to \$35. For more info see [www.crowden.org/baumer-string-quartet/](http://www.crowden.org/baumer-string-quartet/) or call (510) 559-6910 or email [concerts@crowden.org](mailto:concerts@crowden.org).

**Live At the Orinda announces** their 2023-24 concert season! World-renowned artists from Broadway, London's West End, France, Germany, Russia and Québec perform in concert at the Orinda Theatre. Opening night features Canadian singing sensation and recording star Geneviève Leclerc in her U.S. concert debut! Also featured this season: jazz singers Nicolas King, Seth Sikes, Ann Hampton Callaway, David Marino, Ute Lemper, Tony winner Donna McKechnie, Natalie Douglas and the U.S. concert debut of Vladimir Kornéev! Subscriptions on sale now: subscribers get substantial ticket discounts, reserved seats for the season, complimentary drinks and more! Info: [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com)

**Internationally known pianist** Randall Benway returns to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Diablo Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 1 and his majestic tone poem "Finlandia" are also featured. Benway, a longtime Lafayette resident before moving to Washington State, has performed extensively in the US, Europe, and Asia. Visit [www.diablosymphony.org](http://www.diablosymphony.org) for details and a ticketing link.

**Theatre**

**Laurie Roldan has partnered** with Town Hall Theatre Co. in Lafayette to bring back her popular Cabaret series, "Laurie Sings a Song for You: A Cabaret Concert Inspired by the Music of Karen Carpenter." Sept. \*9, 10, 15 and 16 at 2 p.m. (\*Second show at 7 p.m.) Featuring special guest vocalists Anita Colotto and Michelle Ianiro, musicians Scott Welsh and Devon Minser, and Town Hall Education students. Happy hour from 1-1:30 p.m. during the matinee performances. There will be a special VIP meet and greet with Laurie and David Bryant (original Marius on Broadway in Les Miserable/Broadway Producer) from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. on the Sept. 9 evening performance. Town Hall Theatre Co, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: general, \$45. senior/youth, \$40. [www.townhalltheatre.com/lauriesings](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/lauriesings)

**Town Hall Theatre Company:** "The Turn of the Screw," adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, story by Henry James. Sept. 28 and 29 (Previews), Sept. 30-Oct. 21. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$20-45, Pay-What-You-Can tickets will be available at all performances at the door. [www.townhalltheatre.com/turnofthescrew](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/turnofthescrew)

**San Francisco Shakespeare Festival** presents Free Shake-

spare in the Park 2023: Cymbeline on Sept. 16-24 Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m., at The Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. SF Shakespeare Festival presents Free Shakespeare in the Park's 'Cymbeline' - an epic tale of adventure and romance. Free. For more info see <https://sfshakes.org/cymbeline/> or call (415) 558-0888 or email [sfshakes@sfshakes.org](mailto:sfshakes@sfshakes.org).

**Free performances of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's** production of Cymbeline take place at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda on: Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 24. All shows are at 4 p.m. No ticket or reservation is required. More info at <https://sfshakes.org/free-shakes-venues/#orinda>

Shotgun Players presents Wolf Play by Hansol Jung and Directed by Elizabeth Carter on Sept. 2 - Oct. 1, Preview performances Sept. 2 Sept. 8 at 8 p.m., Opening Sept. 9, Wed & Thurs at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m., at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. The play has humor, puppetry and sharply written dialogue in this tale of people grappling with questions of identity, trust, and parenthood. Cost: \$8-\$42. For more info see <http://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/wolf-play> or call (510) 841-6500 x303 or email [boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:boxoffice@gmail.com).

[boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:boxoffice@gmail.com).

**The Orinda Starlight Village Players** present: Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio. Sept. 8 - Sept. 30, Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sunday Sept. 17 and 24, 4 p.m., Thursday Sept. 28, 8 p.m. The Theatre is located at 28 Orinda Way, Orinda.

**Literature**

**Local award-winning author** TL Bequette will be talking, writing and signing his latest mystery, "A Long Time Dead" on Sept. 2 from 2-4 p.m. at Reasonable Books, 3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

**Other**

**The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch** of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall. Guests are welcome to join this meeting. The morning's special guest speaker will be Teli Thayer, community partner coordinator for "Girls Crushing It," a locally run program that offers entrepreneurship programs designed to cultivate confidence and leadership skills in girls ages 8-18.

**The 2023 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival** will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-6

p.m. in Downtown Lafayette. Featuring 4 stages with 20+ bands, 300 artist / craft booths, 4 kid zones, wide selection of California varietals and craft beers, local dining + shopping! Free Admission. View music schedule and learn more at <https://lafayettefestival.com>. Produced by the Lafayette Chamber.

**Don't Miss Dancing with the Cars - Land Yacht Style.** Friday, Sept. 8, from 6 - 8 p.m. at the outdoor Upper Plaza of Orinda Library. Orinda Rotary starts off the Orinda Classic Car Show weekend this year with a party to celebrate volunteerism and 75 years of Club service. Think nautical vibes, Pink Cadillacs, yacht rock, big beautiful cars from the 1950s-1970s, with cocktails, music, appetizer buffet and more. See you dockside! Admission is free this year with a reservation on Eventbrite by Sept. 2. Go to [orindarotary.org](http://orindarotary.org)

**Garden**

**The Montelindo Garden Club** will meet Friday, Sept. 15, at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Shannon Fitzpatrick of Sloat Garden Centers will speak on "Mediterranean Climates and Garden Plan Adaptations for our New Era." Social time 9 a.m., business meeting 9:30 a.m., speaker starts at 10:20 a.m. Visit [montelindogarden.com](http://montelindogarden.com) for more information. 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Free.

*Lamorinda's Religious Services*

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**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
**Sunday 10am in person worship**  
Our student ministry invites you to a **special event** on Sunday, August 20th from 11:00 a.m.-1:30p.m. Join us for a cold treat from the Kona Ice truck! All proceeds benefit Bay Area Crisis Nursery.

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



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

Submit sports stories and story ideas to  
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## Flag football for girls begins its first season in Lamorinda

By Jon Kingdon

As most football fans know, the National Football League plays on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, the colleges play the majority of their games on Saturdays, and Fridays remain the purview of the high schools. This year, a whole new sport is being introduced into Northern California – flag football – which will be played exclusively by the high school girls in the Diablo Athletic League on Wednesdays.

When the California Interscholastic Federation approved flag football as a sport last spring, the high schools, starting from scratch, have been working tirelessly to get things up and running and have received unanimous support from the schools' ath-

letic directors. "All of the schools are looking to expand our programs," Campolindo Athletic Director Ray Meadows said. "Flag football gives another opportunity to play for our female athletes, so it was an easy idea to get behind."

Getting the word out once the schools were committed to having a flag football team was met with a lot of support. "The district sent out an interest form to every student in the district and we had about 40 girls that expressed interest in flag football," Acalanes Athletic Director Randy Takahashi said. "In the spring, we had about a dozen girls that showed up and there were others that were interested but unable to show up at that meeting. We had a meeting with the girls over what we needed to do to get started and



Photo provided

Sample of Campolindo flag footballers, from left: Rose Lipson, Kyle Pearstein, Zoe Lehman, Lane Massa, Jeevan Dhaluwal, Lucy Ross, Coaches Lisa and Joe Waldo



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they were really excited."

"When it was greenlit in the spring, all of the athletic directors were scrambling to make sure we could field a team in the fall," Miramonte Athletic Director Sean Hennessey said. "Once it was confirmed that we were going to have a team, I sent out a mass communication to the Miramonte community and the interest has been good. When all is said and done, I anticipate that we will have 18 girls on the team. Having the opportunity for these girls to have a team is what is important this year and we're really excited about starting the team."

Since each team in flag football only has seven players on the field at a time, having 12 to 18 players has proven to be more than sufficient. Other rules unique to flag football are that the two halves of the games are 20 minutes each, with the first 18 minutes being running time and the last two minutes of the game stopping

the clock when appropriate.

Dave Cutaia, the head of the Contra Costa Football Officials Association, will be providing the two officials that will be working each game and he shared some of the unique aspects to flag football. "The size of the field can vary," Cutaia said. "The width of the field can range from 30 to 40 yards wide and from 50 to 80 yards long, along with the 10-yard endzones. Mouth guards are the only equipment required for the players and sunglasses and jewelry are prohibited though med alert buttons can be worn, though not loosely and religious medals can be worn under the jerseys. Also, we're always looking for new officials and anyone that would be interested in joining our group can contact us at [newofficials@ccfoa.com](mailto:newofficials@ccfoa.com)."

The scheduling of games at this point is still a fluid situation but it's anticipated that each Wednesday, there will be three teams at one site with each team playing two games along with a Saturday Jamboree with a number of teams participating.

Finding a coach was a key mission for the athletic directors. Coaching Acalanes will be Victor Silva, a former football player, who also coaches the school's softball team. "I'm excited but no one knows what this is going to be like because we haven't done this before in our area," Silva said. "We anticipate at least 14 girls on the team and I'm still waiting for some freshmen who I hope will be coming out as well."

Silva is not above accepting help with his coaching. "I spoke with (former Don) Kaylee Pond who played flag football when she was younger and has been explaining the nuances of the game," Silva said. "(Acalanes Head Football Coach) Floyd Burnsed has also offered himself and his assistants to help out in teaching the fundamentals and I've taken him up on it."

Lisa Waldo, the school psychologist at Campolindo, was asked to coach the team by Ray Meadows when he saw a football helmet in her office from the time when she played professional football for the Minnesota Vixens. "Ray learned that I was a defensive back and backup quarterback and how tenacious a player I was," Waldo said. "Playing on that team and working with so many different personalities gave me the skills to succeed in life and that's what I want for these girls, giving them that confidence and seeing them get more aggressive and build on those skills. Each day I can see them getting better and that's kind of cool. It's an opportunity to get to know the kids on a whole different level and to help them develop into better human beings by teaching so much more than just football skills."

Waldo's husband Joe, a

former football player, will also be coaching the team. "Some of the quarterback skills are probably the toughest to pick up and we've also been working on pitches and handoffs," Joe Waldo said. "Starting in May, Lisa encouraged the players to work on their football skills, playing catch every day and working on their agility."

Jennifer Lezcano, the attendance technician at Miramonte will be the Matadors' coach this season having learned to pass and catch as a youngster and after having children, began a Thanksgiving tradition of having a football game at the local elementary school with family and friends.

Last year Lezcano stepped in when there was a need for an assistant boys' volleyball coach. "It was a great way to connect with the kids and having been a teacher most of my career, I had missed the developmental side of working with kids. Watching a person learn and grow as a student-athlete was a very rewarding process that I have missed since becoming an office administrator and when Sean Hennessey approached me about coaching the flag football team, I knew it would be a great opportunity."

Lezcano sees a parallel between coaching and teaching: "I believe it is important to inspire the student-athletes and to teach them to have confidence, credibility and to challenge them on and off of the field. I am thrilled to be a part of a new and exciting program and to learn with my athletes. I look forward to providing them with a meaningful experience."

There are already youth programs starting up that should prove to be a foundation for future flag football players. Former Miramonte and NFL football player, Drew Bennett, has two daughters Dylan (11) and Blane (8) who will both be playing flag football this fall. "Even though they were born after I retired, they grew up in a football family and were enthralled with my career in football and would ask me questions about the sport and loved watching the games and they really got into it," Bennett said. "Flag football is really awesome because football used to be only for dads and sons and now fathers can have those same conversations with their daughters."

Dylan will be playing her second year of flag football on the Bulldogs team in Monte Vista in the Next Level League and did have a head start on her teammates. "I would play catch with my dad," Dylan said. "At first, it was a lot to take in, but it got a lot easier as we went along."

There are not a lot of rules at the junior level, Dylan said: "It was pretty much whoever had the ball, you pull their flag," she said.

... continued on Page C2



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# Great anticipation for Lamorinda Football this season



Photo Ann Murphy

Miramonte players: #9 Preston Rguem (far left), #53 John Kelly, #2 QB Carson Blair and #11 Luke Milmoe

## By Jon Kingdon

The bar as usual has been set high for the Lamorinda football teams, with all three having made NCS playoffs last season. With a constant turnover through graduation, maintaining excellence requires constant adjustment at every position.

### Acalanes

After a 10-2 season, there is great anticipation for the Dons this season. "We've got a lot of talent and experienced players in key positions," Acalanes head coach Floyd Burnsed said. "With both of our quarterbacks returning and a lot of talented receivers, along with a number of talented defensive players, we should be good this year."

Seniors Sully Bailey and Jake Boselli split the quarterback role with equal effectiveness. "Both played well," Burnsed said. "One week, Sully played better and the next week, Jake played better but whoever was out there, I was confident that they were going to get the job done."

Even with the graduation of Ellis Burger, Burnsed is confident with his running backs. "Jack Miller will be the starter and Jack Giorgianni, a three-year starter at linebacker is very talented at both positions," Burnsed said. "We have another player that's very talented, sophomore Deonte Littlejohn, who's going to be a superstar."

With two returning seniors who were on the 4x100 relay team that finished second in the state, Trevor Rogers (19.3/catch and 15 touchdowns) and Paul Kuhner (33 receptions and 13.4/catch), there is no shortage of speed among the wide receivers. "We also have a lot of depth here with seniors Henry Souza and Mason Zirkel along with Niko White, who was a dominating player on the JV and can also be used in the backfield," Burnsed said.

The offensive line has both

experienced and young seniors Henry Hagel, Trevor Carrillo, J.D. O'Rear (whose father played center for Burnsed at Miramonte), Brady Morrow and junior Drew McKenzie who played JV last year and will be lining up at left tackle.

The defensive line will be led by two returners, Morrow and Chase Caicedo. Aiden Yates (3 sacks) is also back playing defensive end.

Besides Giorgianni (94 tackles), Collin Malmquist is also a returning player. Burnsed is very excited about a new player, a junior, Wyatt Cooper, a top baseball player, playing his first year of football. "Wyatt is a great athlete with good size who runs well and shows great potential. He just needs a little playing time."

Gavin Bender (42 tackles), Everet Glass (30 tackles) and Trevor Rogers will be the key cornerbacks for the Dons and Kuhner has really stood out at safety. "Paul really showed great range at our camp in Lake Tahoe, being able to start on one hash mark and make an interception on the opposite sideline and he's going to be hard to get him off the field."

There is still a consistent character and attitude of the team from the success of last season. "We've improved in a couple of areas and maybe quite a couple of other areas," Burnsed said. "The main thing is that I'm really confident with our starting offense and defense but staying healthy is also a big concern and we need to get backups ready to go. Like all high schools in certain positions, we can't afford to lose key kids. It makes a big difference so those are the big things we have to do."

The Dons lost their opening game on the road to San Marin (Novato) 27-20.

### Miramonte

Coming off an 8-5 season and making it to the third round of the NCS playoffs, losing in the finals to the eventual state champion, San Marin, Miramonte looks to be battle

hardened. "This is a good group," said head coach Jack Schram. "Two years ago, when most of them were sophomores and juniors on the JV team, they went eight and two and we can build off of that."

Quarterback coach Ross Bowers also sees that focus with the team: "When you lose a championship, it only motivates the next group. We were just a couple plays short to a very good San Marin team so at the end of the day, we learned from it, and I think the juniors on that team took it personally and really wanted to make sure that we finished the season the right way this year."

Senior Myles Bastani, who saw limited playing time last year backing up Luke Duncan at quarterback has established himself as the team's starter. With Duncan (now at UCLA), the offense has made some early adjustments. "We'll probably be a bit more balanced," Schram said. "We do have very good receivers and if teams stack the lines on us, we'll throw it and if they don't, we'll run it. We have some good run-pass options, so we'll be able to fake the run and we had some success with it in our scrimmage."

There are two solid backups for Bastani in junior Mitch Reichenbach and sophomore Carson Blair. "Both of them have done tremendous jobs as leaders and in running the offense," Bowers said. "They all have different strengths and we're lucky to have three guys that have really stepped up this offseason to really push themselves to lead by example and it's been a lot of fun to watch."

The team is looking to have a more balanced passing and running game. "We do have very good receivers and if teams stack the lines of us, we'll throw it and if they don't, we'll run it," Schram said. "We have some good run-pass options, so we'll be able to fake the run and we had some success with it in our scrimmage. Matt Litwin and Gabe Roman

have been great so far in the backfield along with Luke Milmoe who is also a good receiver out of the backfield. We also used Reichenbach as a running back in our scrimmage and he made a big run."

J.D. Pearce is the top returning wide receiver and Schram is looking to make use of the tight end position. "We are going to use the tight end in a lot of our sets, and we will also go with two tight ends at times," Schram said. "We'll be using sophomore Andrew Bjornson, junior Tanner Gunn and seniors Joe Shallat and Finn McManus and Milmoe can also play there and in the slot."

The offensive line is set with Andrew Davenport at right tackle, Palmer Rhodes at left tackle, with John Kelly and Preston Hawthorne and Nick Blair at center. And it's a veteran defensive line led by Will Scott, Davenport and Kelly and the linebackers are a solid group led by Finn McManus, Gabe Roman and Milmoe.

"We'll also be counting on Wyatt Feusier who was hurt all of last year and is looking very good in the middle," Schram said.

The key for Schram as it has been for every season? "We need to stay healthy, and our goal once again is to make it to the Division 5 playoffs."

Led by Blair's three touchdown passes, Miramonte defeated Berkeley 28-12 in their home opener.

### Campolindo

With the graduation of a number of key players from last year's 12-1 team, the goal for head coach Kevin Macy was to rearm and add depth coming into the season. "We lacked backup in key positions last season and that caught up to us in the section championship," Macy said. "The theme this year is 'Noah's Ark.' We need two of everything though there is more depth on the defense with a lot of players playing new positions." Max Robeson, a 6'4" junior, will be the team's starting quarterback after leading the JV last season. "We are only asking for simple efficiency from the QB position early in the season and we'll go from there," Macy said.

"Max showed in our scrimmages that he can step up and be a leader in the offense and put the ball where it needs to be and he'll certainly be helped out by our offensive coordinator Chris Schofield who knows his strengths and weakness," Senior wide receiver Tim Daugherty said.

With the loss of starting running back Blaise Clancy to a season ending knee injury, the team will be counting on junior Matthew Sugiyama. "Sugi is a really good running back and we've told him that we trust him to be able to run the ball," said guard Max O'Balle.

Senior wide receivers Scott Lyon (46/467) and Tim Daugherty (33/567) bring a lot of experience that should facilitate

Robeson's play at quarterback. "We really have to pay a lot of attention to detail, knowing what we're doing all the time and developing that trust in each other," Lyon said.

The most stable position for the Cougars has to be on the all-senior offensive line which has the same five starters from last season. They will line up with Frank Anderson at LT, Max O'Balle at LG, Nick Walker at Center, Shane Harris at RG, and Bryce McLaverty at right tackle.

"We passed most of the time last year and this year it may be other way around," Anderson said. "It's all going to come down to team effort."

O'Balle accepts the responsibility the offensive line has taken on: "We are the only true unit coming back and we really have to take care of this team. Our job has been to show the coaches that they can trust us. Once we can run the ball, everything else will open up."

The defensive line is being led by Henry Fitzinger, Anderson, O'Balle, Crosby and Rafael Alvarez. "Our aim is to definitely play as nasty as we can and stuff in the run and be just as nasty on our pass rush," Fitzinger said.

For Kelly, who will also line up as a linebacker, it's been a big change from last year's JV team. "The game is a lot faster, but I'm getting more adjusted to it," Kelly said. "The upperclassmen have been great mentors to me, showing me the way."

As co-captain of the defense, outside linebacker James Erickson is taking charge this year. "We had a lot of good leaders on defense and I'm just trying to emulate how they led the underclassmen like me," Erickson said. "We're going to have to play tough in the box, rallying to every tackle, not relying on solo tackles."

Josh Tsai has welcomed his move to linebacker from the defensive line. "The change has not been that big of a deal," Tsai said. "I can move around a lot more rather than just being stuck in the gap. I have been working more on my eye discipline to avoid looking in the wrong place."

Jake Spencer is another returning starter in the veteran defensive backfield. "We've spent a lot of time on the field together and we've built a bond that way," Spencer said. "We've spent a lot of time practicing with Luke Bonardi and we've come to know him well and his tendencies. We're just trying to emphasize grit and turnovers and that's the main force of our DB group."

"We're looking for our offensive line to give us a degree of stability while we sort out some issues in the offense," Macy said. "Our defense will have to be the strong point for the team if we are going to have any success." Behind a stellar defense, Campolindo defeated Vanden (Fairfield) 29-23 in double overtime.

# Flag football for girls begins its first season in Lamorinda

... continued from Page C1

Even at the youngest level, the game can be a little physical, but for Dylan it's been really enjoyable. "After catching a ball, you may get tripped," she said. "It's been a lot of fun playing with my teammates,

especially when you score a touchdown and I found that people were impressed when they heard that I was playing flag football."

Dylan's advice to new players: "Don't be intimidated. It's hard to start a new sport but it's really fun when you get the hang of it. I'm looking forward to playing in high school."

Last year, flag football was played in Southern California and proved to be very successful. Corey Thedford, the flag football coach at Hawthorne High School, was excited at the growth potential of the sport. "I don't think everybody understands how big this thing is go-

ing to be," Thedford said. When the first American woman won a gold medal in wrestling in 2016 at the Olympics the number of females going out for wrestling skyrocketed. All 32 teams in the National Football League have a community liaison aiming for the sport's inclusion in high

school and other arenas and the league is working very hard to see that flag football will be an Olympic event in 2028 in Los Angeles and will be anticipating a similar jump in participation after those games.

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# East Bay Sea Serpent relays conquer the pool at OMPA



Sea Serpent athletes and coaches celebrating after the relays.

Photos provided

## Submitted by Asha Spitzer

This July, the Lamorinda community had the opportunity to watch a long-standing tradition once again: the East Bay Sea Serpents relay at the OMPA swim meet.

Every summer the local swim teams assemble at Campolindo High School for the Orinda Moraga Pool Association swim meet (OMPA). This year, on Saturday, July 29, after the finals session, a bonus team joined the ranks for the OMPA relays: the East Bay Sea Serpents. The East Bay Sea Serpents, founded in 2001, is

the local Special Olympics swim team that practices out of Campolindo High School. The serpents came to the pool clad in green T-shirts for their 13th annual relay, with 16 swimmers. After a brief warm-up in the dive pool, the swimmers marched over to the blocks in their four relay teams, surrounded by the roaring crowd.

As the serpents readied themselves at the blocks, the crowd stilled in anticipation.

With the sound of the starter, the serpents pushed off with a rush of water, the fans screaming in the bleachers.

In lane three, the medley relay consisted of Shari Kim-

ball (backstroke), Ryan Peneliza (breaststroke), Andrea Halliday (Butterfly), and Ramon Silano (Freestyle). Lane four was one of the free relays, with Eric Bobbitt, Lilian Calahan-Klein, Tyler Caporoletti, and Brandon Cordoba. Lane five was the second free relay with Dillon Roach, Thomas Sullivan, Sally-Ann Gaughn, and Katie Vanderleit. Lane six was the third free relay with Brynne Knudsen, Aimee Gee, Trenton Fontes, and John Gomez.

The swimmers raced through their relays, each sprinting across the pool with a hard finish so the next leg of the relay could begin. Brynne Knudsen started her relay off

strong with a powerful freestyle, finishing with an extra-loud cheer from supporters in the Moraga Ranch Swim Team bleachers. As the swimmers dashed across the lanes the enthusiasm from the crowd grew, with thundering roars from all sides of the pool as the serpents finished their final laps.

Simon Keenan, a dedicated serpent who unfortunately could not swim in the relays due to an injury, cheered on his teammates from the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team bleachers. Andrea Halliday, a Sea Serpent with nine years of experience, shared that her favorite part of the relays was "meeting new friends and the cheering of the crowds," and has decided that along with her air-brush tattoos and OMPA T-shirt, she wants to get her hair braided next year.

Katie Vanderliet, who has been a Serpent since she was 13, announced she liked racing her freestyle as the anchor of

her relay and getting her free shirt.

Head coach Brian Wentzel explained, "The Lamorinda community has had a rich history of aquatics and summer swimming tradition. This event is unique in that it fosters inclusion and awareness of swimmers with intellectual disabilities in our community.

"Additionally, the awareness at OMPA has been a recurring source of young volunteers for the program which is core to our long-term viability."

As the summer fades to its end, the East Bay Sea Serpents' dedicated swimming is just beginning. They will be back at Campolindo High School soon for their fall practice season so they can begin preparing for next year's competitive summer.

If you are interested in volunteering or swimming with EBSS, please visit the EBSS team website and register for the fall session.



Katie Vanderliet swimming her freestyle to anchor the relay.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 14 Wednesday, August 30, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Divide and delight!



A hillside of Naked Ladies.

Photos Cynthia Brian

### By Cynthia Brian

*“There are no happier folks than plant lovers, and none more generous than those who garden.” ~ Ernest Wilson*

Many years ago, I was considering adopting two miniature ponies. When I visited the ranch where they were living there was a small pond surrounded by a flush of gorgeous pink blooms that I had never seen before. When I asked the property owner what they were, she told me they were Naked Ladies, a bulb that boasted bright green spear-like foliage in the winter. When the foliage died at the

end of spring, it was necessary to remove the brown leaves, leaving the turtle-shaped bulbs slightly protruding from the ground.

Indicating that her Naked Ladies needed dividing, she dug up a bulb, instructing me to plant it in the sun “anywhere,” irrespective of soil condition. “Wait for next summer’s surprise,” she said. I followed her directions, and that one bulb has evolved into many hundreds that blanket my hillside in a sea of pink perfection. Over the years I have divided, dug, and donated bulbs to many friends, offering them a summer surprise. Divide and delight! It makes me so happy!



Midnight blue agapanthus.

This time of year is a perfect time to divide a wide variety of bulbs and perennials. Besides increasing the number of plants in your garden, divisions can be donated to other gardeners. Dividing overcrowded plants will give the remaining plants room to grow, maintain their health, and rejuvenate your beds. Over-crowded and over-grown plants will not bloom profusely, however, not all perennials or bulbs benefit from dividing.

Before you begin, water the area well a few days before digging. With a shovel or garden fork, dig a large area to remove a clump with the root ball, bulbs, or rhizomes in-

tact. Once out of the ground, shake off the excess dirt and cut or pull apart individual crowns. For perennials, make sure you have roots and leaves. Bulbs and rhizomes need roots attached. To avoid having the roots dry out, plant immediately in another area at the same depth and water deeply. To conserve moisture, add mulch to these newly divided plants.

Not all plants want to be divided. It’s best to leave Baptista, goatsbeard, lupine, milkweed, Russian sage, peony, red hot poker, bleeding heart, Hellebores, lavender, verbena, and oriental poppies alone. ... continued on Page D6





### 11 El Gavilan, Orinda

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### 47 El Gavilan, Orinda

Enjoy San Francisco style in this modern hillside home with contemporary updates, dramatic vaulted ceilings and walls of windows that maximize the impressive 180-degree unobstructed northwest view. Located in the desirable Country Club area of North Orinda. Oversized windows and transoms frame the eye-catching views from the sizeable living room, and a sliding glass door offers a seamless flow out onto the spacious view deck with gourmet kitchen nearby.

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	9	\$1,200,000	\$4,900,000
MORAGA	10	\$780,000	\$2,400,000
ORINDA	7	\$2,400,000	\$3,200,000

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

3732 Happy Valley Road, \$4,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 4536 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 07-17-23

2 Harper Court, \$1,712,500, 4 Bdrms, 2998 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 07-13-23, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 11-16-22

121 Haslemere Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 07-20-23, Previous Sale: \$655,000, 03-17-04

2265 Hidden Pond Lane, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1993 YrBl, 07-21-23

210 King Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 1856 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 07-19-23, Previous Sale: \$320,000, 08-01-90

3337 North Lucille Lane, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2037 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 07-20-23, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 04-30-14

1324 Martino Road, \$1,734,500, 3 Bdrms, 2113 SqFt, 1875 YrBl, 07-17-23

3145 Plymouth Road, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1538 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 07-18-23, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-13-07

3362 Sweet Drive, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2911 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 07-10-23, Previous Sale: \$303,000, 03-01-89

### MORAGA

923 Augusta Drive, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 07-14-23, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 06-10-21

932 Camino Ricardo, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2801 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 07-17-23, Previous Sale: \$1,282,500, 07-28-15

1688 Del Monte Way, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2529 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 07-18-23

429 Fernwood Drive, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3178 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 07-10-23, Previous Sale: \$485,000, 02-01-91

117 Goodfellow Drive, \$1,665,000, 3 Bdrms, 1768 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 07-18-23, Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 11-15-18

1290 Larch Avenue, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2169 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 07-17-23

471 Millfield Place, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3644 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 07-18-23, Previous Sale: \$4,800,000, 06-05-23

3992 Paseo Grande, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 07-10-23, Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 05-15-06

454 Rheem Boulevard, \$780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 07-10-23, Previous Sale: \$643,000, 10-29-18

107 Wallace Circle, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1998 SqFt, 2020 YrBl, 07-19-23, Previous Sale: \$1,115,500, 04-29-21

### ORINDA

26 Broadview Terrace, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3492 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 07-13-23, Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 12-04-00

78 Estates Drive, \$3,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3623 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 07-13-23

8 Fern Way, \$2,660,000, 4 Bdrms, 3313 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 07-17-23

21 Moraga Viax, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3195 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 07-13-23, Previous Sale: \$2,369,000, 08-01-17

44 Oak Road, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2576 SqFt, 2017 YrBl, 07-18-23, Previous Sale: \$499,000, 08-16-16

57 Tara Road, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1937 YrBl, 07-20-23, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 08-19-05

14 Zander Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3165 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 07-21-23, Previous Sale: \$2,620,000, 08-08-22





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1430 Camino Peral, Moraga | List Price \$935,000

**SOLD  
Record Price**



1382 Camino Peral, Moraga | Price \$955,000



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450 59th St, Oakland | Price: \$1,400,000

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*Turning Up the Rock Star Treatment*

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(Secured the winning bid among 7 offers!)  
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Excellent value in the coveted Valhalla Elementary School district with huge lot.  
**\$1,225,000**

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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# Divide and delight!

... continued from Page D1

Plants that need dividing every few years to keep them performing beautifully include:

- Agapanthus
- Bearded and Dutch iris
- Daylilies
- Daffodils and Narcissus
- Hosta
- Lilies
- Peonies
- Monarda
- Phlox
- Astilbe
- Rudbeckia
- Echinacea
- Yarrow
- Lamb's Ear
- Blanket Flower
- Aster
- Coreopsis
- Naked Ladies
- Agave
- Thimbleberries

When dividing plants, follow these general guidelines: Prepare the soil: Amend the new location with compost and choose a well-draining location for the divisions. Water: A day before dividing, water the plants thoroughly to ensure they are adequately hydrated.

**Dig:** Only divide healthy specimens. Be careful to not damage the roots or bulbs by gently digging up the plant clumps using a shovel or garden fork. Start at the drip line by creating a trench and work inwards.

**Divide:** The best time to divide is when flowering has halted. Once the clump is out of the ground, clip off the remaining stems at the base and trim any dead or dying leaves and roots. Carefully separate plants into smaller divisions using your hands or a sharp knife. Make sure that each di-

vision has healthy roots. Replant: Plant the divisions at the same depth as where the original plant was growing. Water deeply and mulch to conserve moisture.

**Maintenance:** To establish these new divisions, continue to water and watch. Remove weeds, leaf debris, and grassroots from beds and add a mulch of straw or wood chips. During the blooming season, spent blooms, as well as spent branches, can be removed carefully to keep your beds looking fresh and colorful.

Bulbs should be divided when they are noticeably overcrowded. Bulbs produce offshoot bulbs and as they grow, flowers diminish although leaves flourish. This is when you know it's time to divide. Let the foliage die back naturally as the plant needs that energy for next year's growth. Although most plants can be divided in spring or fall, by dividing plants in September, the root systems are allowed to grow before winter arrives. Sometimes when dividing in spring, the heat arrives before the roots have had a chance to develop. Ask for assistance from your nursery or gardening expert if you feel your plant has any specific needs. Follow best practices and you will be rewarded with a healthy garden with a bounty of flowers.

The agapanthus that I grow in my garden came from divisions. My favorite color is the midnight blue agapanthus followed by the pure white species. This season I will be dividing my agapanthus and my iris. The healthy green leaves of the iris will be left undisturbed until later this

month, then I'll trim the leaves to approximately six inches and start dividing.

If you are looking for easy-to-care desert-loving species that require minimal water, agave and prickly pear cacti could fit the bill. Agave is propagated by separating the pups from the mother plant and replanting in another location in sandy or gravel-filled soil. If you enjoy eating the fruit of the prickly pear cacti, and admiring its pretty flowers, I suggest you plant one at the back of your garden so that the spines won't interfere with your other gardening tasks. The fruit is delicious, the flowers are bold, and the spines are ferocious. Make sure to wear heavy gloves when working with prickly pears. If you don't want to cultivate a jungle of these cactus, make sure to pick up and discard any pads that fall on the ground. No need to divide a prickly pear ... they spread on their own via dropped pads.

Gardening and sharing the bounty results in joy and happiness. I've been enjoying the flocks of mourning doves that have decided to call my garden home. Each night I go to sleep to their calming cooing. These peaceful birds don't seem to mind me photographing them, even in their nests. (See photo, Page D7).

I didn't adopt the adorable miniature ponies because the family decided to keep them (smart move), yet I am forever grateful for that single division of the Naked Lady as these belladonnas have brought such beauty to my landscape and the gardens of others. Divide, share, and be happy!



White agapanthus will be divided after flowering.



This bed of purple iris will be divided.



The thimbleberry, a thornless relative of raspberries and blackberries, is a delicious treat for humans and animals.





This caterpillar fell on Cynthia Brian's head. What is it?



Cynthia Brian

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, 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](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

On Saturday, Sept. 30, Be the Star You Are!® will host a booth sponsored by the Lamorinda Weekly Newspaper and MBjessee Painting at the Pear and Wine Festival in Moraga. Stop by to plant seeds and pick up bags of free potpourri. More info at [www.bethestaryouare.org/events-1/2023-pear-and-wine-festival](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/events-1/2023-pear-and-wine-festival)



Mourning doves with their baby in a nest.

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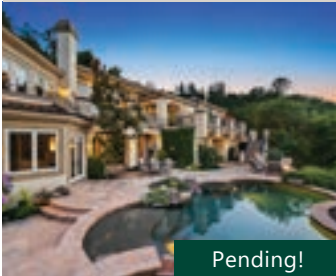
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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA



New Price!

### 124 Sleepy Hollow Lane

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## ORINDA

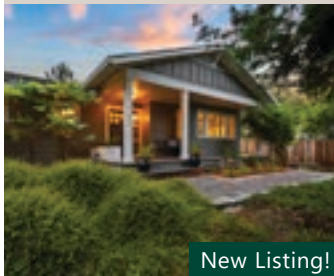


### 29 St. Stephens Drive

Modern architecture meets views in this convenient & desirable Orinda location!

\$2,350,000

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 208 Glorietta Blvd

This 3+ bd/ 2.5 ba Carmel-like home exudes unmatched charm that transports you to a world of tranquility & comfort!

\$1,950,000

## ORINDA



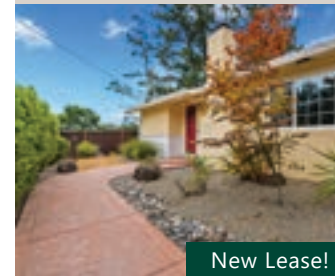
New Listing!

### 24 Altamount Drive

Charming 4 bd/ 3 ba single story ranch home nestled on a private, nature-filled .32 acre gated lot!

\$1,695,000

## ORINDA



New Lease!

### 214 Rheem Blvd

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## LAFAYETTE



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### 670 Glorietta Blvd

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New Price!

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## ALAMO



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