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Sideboard in Lafayette at lunch time.

Photo Emma Wong

Taste of summer in quaint downtown Lafayette

By Emma Wong

Warm sun, good friends, and great food: the recipe for a perfect summertime lunch. And what better place to dine than at Lafayette's picturesque restaurants?

Laughter spreads across the outdoor wooden tables of Sideboard, the charming, snug café on Plaza Way. With red umbrellas and string lights, Sideboard is ideal for family and friend gatherings, attracting both locals and visitors. Before the back-to-school rush, friends Olivia Barakeh and Olivia Park caught up over their summers with a delicious lunch. "It's the perfect place to hang out, talk a little bit, and enjoy the weekend," Barakeh said. Park then pointed to her shrimp ceviche, exclaiming,

"This is my holy grail!"

Down Mount Diablo Blvd. is Social Bird, the hip bar offering refined American classics, from oysters to artisanal cheeses. Social Bird is conveniently seated near many shops, from endearing boutiques like Luck to larger storefronts like Venture Quality Goods. "Social Bird is our favorite — sitting outside is lovely, and the sounds of the fountain provide a nice background," resident Sonya Grover said. "Lafayette is relaxing and you can walk to little shops after eating."

Lafayette's culinary scene is constantly evolving. A new restaurant — the Breakfast Club at Midtown — recently opened near Social Bird, dishing

out fragrant pancakes, delectable omelets, hash browns, and more. Students Tatum Schmedding and Kavina Harabakanda chatted here over crepes and burgers as a send-off before Harabakanda left for a trip. "We come here all the time: the food is always so good, with big portions and great customer service," Schmedding said. "They have a giant menu and make really good club fries with ranch."

Under shining summer rays, downtown Lafayette leaves bellies full and faces grinning. With the city's slogan being "Shop, Dine, and Gather," lunchtime here truly lives up to this motto and more.

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Nominations are now open for the November General Election

By Sora O'Doherty

The window for nominating candidates for the general election to be held in November opened on July 15 and will run until Aug. 9. However, in races when an incumbent does not file by the nomination deadline of Aug. 9, nominations for the seat will be extended by five calendar days to Aug. 14, 2024. Only non-incumbents may be nominated during the extension. There is no extension period for vacant positions or term-limited offices.

In Lamorinda, the following seats are up for election:

The city of Lafayette will have the largest number of City Council slots to fill during the November election in Lamorinda, including three Council members for full four-year terms and one council member for a two-year term.

The Town of Moraga will be

electing three council members. Incumbent council member Renata Sos is seeking reelection, but two others whose terms are ending, Mayor Teresa Onoda and council member David Shapiro, are not seeking reelection.

The City of Orinda has two council member positions open. Mayor Darlene Gee is seeking reelection but council member Inga Miller has announced that she is not.

There will be a total of eight places up for election on the local school boards. Two governing board members will be elected for the following school districts: Acalanes Union High School District, Lafayette School District, Moraga School District, and Orinda Union School District. ... continued on Page 8

Orinda considers pickleball courts and a dog park

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council conducted a wide ranging discussion about the possibility of adding two amenities to the community — pickleball courts and a dog park — at their July 16 meeting. The matters were on the agenda for discussion only, and not for action as the city currently lacks funding for either option.

As potential costs of nearly \$2 million were presented to the council, even the City Manager David Biggs noted that they were shocking, and council member Brandyn Iverson pronounced the costs "dead on arrival."

Council members viewed a Powerpoint from Callander Associates regarding conceptual designs and estimated construction costs for a designated off-leash dog park and pickleball courts in Orinda. The question has also been considered by an ad hoc committee of the Parks and Rec Commission.

Two sites were looked at as being



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potentially suitable for the court and dog park. Orinda does not have a lot of undeveloped land available, so these two sites were considered the best of the available sites.

Orinda Oaks Park is a park that runs uphill from Moraga Way to Donald Drive. There is currently a largely unused portion that used to be used for horsehoes or bocce ball. This area was suggested for the dog park.

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