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Photo Jeff Heyman

End of Summer at San Pablo Reservoir

By Jeff Heyman

Summer has to come to an end eventually. And the unofficial end of summer is, of course, Labor Day, which this year at the San Pablo Reservoir was a picture perfect day to say goodbye to summer fun. Families gathered on the grassy slopes of the San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area's shoreline park to enjoy a traditional Labor Day barbecue, while others practiced the tried and true summer pastime of fishing the waters of the well-stocked – trout and catfish! – reservoir.

The San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area, just

north of Orinda, is a perfect leisure spot for all ages. It offers a range of outdoor activities including fishing, boating, picnicking, kayaking, and hiking throughout the year. Boat rentals include the family favorite "patio boats," although kayaks, row boats, and aluminum fishing boats are also available – or bring your own boat to the boat launch facility just south of the recreation area.

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great fishing spots, and spectacular wildlife viewing. Not a water person? Enjoy the picturesque picnic areas, playground, or the trails that weave throughout the wooded hillsides and along the shores of the reservoir.

Summer may be officially gone, but you can still have a wonderful time all year around at the San Pablo Reservoir. The entrance to the reservoir's recreation area is located at 7301 San Pablo Dam Road between Orinda and El Sobrante. It's another fantastic reason life is so good here in Lamorinda.

Advertising

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15th Annual Senior Symposium:
Empowering Senior & Caregivers
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 Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center
 Register for the FREE event at <https://bit.ly/ss24lafayette>

Attendance is FREE

Moraga Town Council amends Moraga Center Specific Plan zoning

By Vera Kochan

During the town council's Aug. 28 meeting, an ordinance was approved to waive the first reading and introduce by title only an amendment to Chapter 8.32 of the Moraga Municipal Code implementing Program 4(b) in the 2023-2031 Moraga Housing Element and amending the development standards in the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) Six Dwelling Units Per Acre Multifamily Residential District to facilitate housing production.

The MCSP was adopted in 2010, with the idea of making the Moraga Center's 187-acres into an area containing new residential, commercial, and mixed-use development, in addition to recreational and civic uses for a vibrant downtown.

The area was divided into 17 numbered sub-areas each with its own specific land-use designation. The 6-acre area (small pear orchard) at the



Photo courtesy Moraga Planning Department

Yellow arrow points to Area 15
 intersection of Moraga Way and Moraga Road was labeled "Area 15", and would allow for medium density housing such as townhouses, duplexes, etc. It was designated for residential use of up to six dwelling units per acre. ... continued on Page 7

Talent and potential in Lamorinda football

By Jon Kingdon

With Acalanes coming off a state championship, Miramonte hiring a new coach, and Campolindo being historically successful, there is a great deal of optimism with the football teams.

ACALANES
 Acalanes lost a number of key player to graduation but with a large number of returning seniors and juniors, confidence still reigns supreme in Lafayette outscoring Lowell and Mt. Diablo by a combined score of 97-28.

Head Coach Floyd Burnsed makes it a point to use the season's opening games to keep learn-



Photo Ann Murphy

Miramonte QB Carson Blair scoring TD vs. Oak. Tech
 ing about his team. "We played over 50 players in our opener to try and get the right match on the field with our best players and then go from there," Burnsed said. ... continued on Page 16

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Sports

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Our Homes

Autumn is an excellent time to start digging deep – Page OH1



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See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings
City Council

Regular Meeting: Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Planning Commission Meeting
 Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Design Review
 Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Rotary LamorindaSunrise.org

New public art planned for Lafayette
 By Elaine Borden Chandler

When out and about in Lafayette, it is easy to see a variety of sculptures, fountains, paintings, and other pieces of art dotting the city. Many of these are part of Lafayette's growing public art collection, either gifted by artists and residents or donated because of Lafayette's Public Art Requirement. A new piece of public art will soon be joining this collection -- a glass sculpture titled "Komorebi" by the artist Mariana Botero. It will be installed at 3742 Mount Diablo Boulevard, a property that is currently being remodeled into a condominium complex called Woodhaven.

"Komorebi" will have six glass sections in six different colors and heights, all connected to a central pillar from which they radiate out like the spokes of a wheel. The colored glass will overlap, creating new colors and combinations based on the angle of the viewer and the angle of sunlight. It will also be lit from below at night so that a stream of colored light from each panel will land on a different condo door.

This emphasis on light came from Botero pondering the name Woodhaven when she first started designing the piece. In a presentation to the City Council, she said, "To me, it meant shelter, being

surrounded by nature, [...] and that blissful moment where light comes through the trees and the different colors that it creates." Botero decided to use this piece of art to explore how physical, mechanical actions, such as light traveling through a leaf, can cause transcendent emotions. The sculpture is named after this filtering of light through leaves, which is called 'komorebi' in Japanese.

"Komorebi" is also inspired by the structure and nature of a condo building. The six different pieces of glass represent the six different households of Woodhaven -- unique and separate, but also united and interacting. Each piece of glass also represents the height of a person. "These are all human sizes," explained Botero, "For example, six feet six is the height of the developer, my height is five feet six inches, and my son is three feet tall."

Botero was born and raised in Colombia, leaving to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Architecture degree from Rhode Island School of Design and a Master of Strategic Design from IE University in Madrid. Her interest in art, architecture, and how they interact with each other and with people has remained constant through her career. She has had exhibitions of



Courtesy City of Lafayette

Projected image of what the sculpture Komorebi will look like when installed.

both her art and architecture, including a performance art piece involving laundry machines at Art Basel Week 2014. She founded her interior architecture and design firm, Designio Contento, in 2018 before moving to California. She currently lives in San Francisco with her son Rafael and her dog Shasta. In addition to designing "Komorebi," she is the interior designer and the designer for the façade of Woodhaven.

Woodhaven's location is up the hill from the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Center near the Lafayette Reservoir. Permits were first filed in 2021 to remodel the office building on the property into residential condominiums. It is owned by Nikhil Gera of

Gera Developments and currently in the process of being renovated.

"Komorebi" is being installed because of Lafayette Municipal Code 6-2603, Lafayette's Public Art Requirement. In accordance with this code, all commercial or multi-family constructions or alterations in downtown Lafayette must donate a piece of publicly accessible art to the City of Lafayette. The artwork must be reviewed by the Public Art Committee and approved by the Lafayette City Council.

The initial presentation for "Komorebi" to the Public Art Committee took place on May 1. The committee did not approve it due to several concerns, including that the plan was for the sculpture to be made of acrylic, which is not known for its longevity or beauty. Another presentation was held at the next committee meeting on June 6, where Botero presented the new schema, which including changing the acrylic to glass. The committee passed a motion to recommend that the city council approve the project.

At the Aug. 12 City Council meeting, Jenny Rosen, the staff liaison to the Public Art Committee, formally made a Request for Approval for the sculpture. She was joined by Botero, Gera, and Erling Horn, a Public Art Committee member. Rosen gave a quick overview of the previous meetings with the Public Art Committee, noting what a pleasure it was to work with Botero and Gera. This was seconded by Horn, who added that the collaborative nature of those interactions is what makes being on a city committee a pleasure. After Botero's quick presentation, the city council members asked questions on the sculpture's final appearance and then unanimously approved the sculpture. The sculpture is expected to be installed by winter.

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for more information oml-ca.aauw.net

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It's Village. Of Course.

Conscious social club Holistika seeks to provide connection and healing

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

Ash Lew, Holistika's founder, seated in its studio space with her pug Pucci.

The idea for Holistika came to Ash Lew during a session of psychedelic healing. "It was a message that this is what I need to do," she said with steady confidence while sitting in the club's peaceful white studio. Lew, a soignée woman with a gentle voice, started searching for emotional connection after recovering from trauma and alcohol addiction left her alienated from her old social circles. She wanted to build a holistic and accepting community, one that wasn't online or through temporary retreats. The only question — how? Her answer: to start her conscious social club, Holistika.

On a practical level, Holistika is a studio in Lafayette that hosts workshops, covering topics from yoga to therapy to cacao ceremony to plant medicine healing, and provides a space to work away from home; as well as networking events, dinners, and coaching for members. On a philosophical level, Lew founded Holistika to be a space where open-minded people could socialize, work, and heal.

Several years ago, Lew was a successful real estate agent but struggled with alcoholism and dating addicts. Unfulfilled and tired of her old patterns, she took a six-month life coach program and realized she was trying to recreate the love she didn't receive in her childhood. "I'm coming from two lineages where little access to the heart was allowed," said Lew, "I grew up in a perfectionist, emotionally unavailable, Asian culture family household on my paternal side. The maternal side of my family suffers

from depression and various addictions."

Just as the program ended and Lew was learning how to confront her problems, her mother passed away after suffering from alcoholism for many years. Lew decided it was time for change. She ended both her toxic relationship and her career in real estate, ended her alcoholic pattern through starting guided psilocybin microdosing, moved to Lafayette, and completed her transition to a new life by turning down a large, risky business opportunity. "I had the chance to invest with a bunch of Burning Man guys that are big in the city," said Lew, clearly a bit amused by this bombastic detail from her past. "My ego was so excited, but it was far too much of an investment with zero control. And the medicine was like, no, you're done with that, you are to provide a nurturing, loving, feminine space."

Following this directive, she started planning a conscious social club. Holistika opened in the old brick building on the corner of Mt. Diablo and Brown Ave on March 8 — the anniversary of her grandmother and great-grandmother's passing.

Many of the workshops that Holistika offers focus on embracing spiritual and psychological growth. Different types of yoga, breathwork, cacao ceremony, and sound baths classes are intended to positively affect participants' mental states. There are also workshops for different therapy models such as internal family systems, a therapeutic model where each person has different sub-personalities inside them, or Family Constel-

lations, a spiritual form of family therapy that deals with generational trauma.

Holistika is also the first brick-and-mortar location to offer psychedelic healing in Lafayette. They cannot legally sell psilocybin or other plant medicines, but instead provide guidance to clients who bring their own. Lew finds plant medicine to be particularly useful when emotional problems are unaffected by other forms of therapy or pharmaceuticals, or when ego stands in the way. "I can talk to you until you're blue in the face. I can coach you all day long. You can go to therapy. You can do all these things but until you are able to drop into your body and rewire your neural pathways — the problem just propels you."

Some studies, including from UC San Francisco and Washington University School of Medicine, have suggested that psilocybin can positively heighten neural connectivity. Psychedelics are currently illegal in California, however increasing interest in their potential medical benefits has created four recent attempts to legalize therapeutic use for psychedelics. San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and Santa Cruz have voted to de-prioritize enforcement and punishment for psilocybin, effectively decriminalizing it.

Lew wants Holistika to be an open space where anyone who wants to engage in healing and communion can find a place. She started the Cheung Graham Foundation to give financial assistance for workshops and therapies, feeling that the people who often need them the most are the ones who can't afford them.

She has also learned in these first months of business to support herself by reaching out for support and giving up control. She looks forward to having others guide and develop Holistika's community, but she also tries to stay in the moment. "I'm in this space of figuring this out and wherever this takes us," Lew smiled, "I'm completely open to it."



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“Human Error” demonstrates the importance of seeing past differences

By Sharon K. Sobotta

In a divided nation with an often palpable tension between the reds and the blues, the conservatives and the liberals, those who identify as pro-life and pro-choice and all those in between, it's easy to otherize, ostracize or vilify those who see the world dif-

ferently than we do. In this context, the Town Hall Theatre's production of Eric Pfeffinger's "Human Error," directed by Richard Perez, couldn't be timelier. In the opening scene, an NPR-listening, pacifist interracial couple is in a distressing

conversation with their IVF doctor, who informs them that their embryos have been mistakenly implanted in another woman. He cheekily adds that if Madelyn had simply taken her husband's last name after marriage, then the mistake might not have

happened. Heather, a God-fearing, stay-at-home mother of three and her truck-owning, gun-loving husband Jim are the alleged recipients of Heather and Keenan's embryo.

As the couples grapple with their seemingly irreconcilable differences, they find tidbits of relatability and humanity in one another. While being a stay-at-home mom was once unthinkable to Madelyn and yoga seemed too pagan for Heather, the unlikely friends find themselves practicing together, finding some common ground after Heather leaves her corporate job to teach yoga full time. Meanwhile, Keenan travels down memory lane to his childhood church going days – to the dismay of his wife, Heather. If not for the misplaced embryo that brought these four people together, chances are, they would've steered clear of one another.

Amy Orear, a self described empty nester who went through many challenges in her own journey to and through motherhood, found relatability in the play on many levels. "I found the play to be provocative in a good way," Orear says. While Orear considers herself liberal, many of her friends are conservative and will likely vote differently than her in the forthcoming election. "I spent yesterday evening with those (conservative) people, who are also my people in spite of our different beliefs," Orear says. "This play exemplifies what it means to know people on the basic level and love one another and get angry with one another and be misunderstood but our common core as humans is all the same."

"I think it's a really smart play about the times that we're living in as a very divided country. I also feel like there's a lot of hope in the play," Perez says. "I hope that when folks come to check it out, they'll see a



Photo Jay Yamada

From left: Kyle Goldman (Jim), Melody Payne (Heather), John Charles Quimpo (Dr. Hoskins), Flannery Mays (Madelyn), and Mark Anthony (Keenan).

little bit of themselves in it and open their eyes a little bit to how people across the political spectrum live."

As a woman in her thirties who is an adoptee, contemplating how or if motherhood will be in the cards for her, Flannery Mays, who plays Madelyn, learned a lot from both her character and her counterpart.

As a woman in her thirties who is an adoptee, contemplating how or if motherhood will be in the cards for her, Flannery Mays, who plays Madelyn, learned a lot from both her character and her counterpart. "Madelyn is sarcastic, judgmental, and smart but underneath that shell, she's vulnerable and scared. She wants to connect, but she lets her judgmentalness get in the way," Mays says. "Through her friendship with Heather – a republican and a Jesus believer, who is also kind and smart in her own way – Madelyn's walls come down, go up, and come back down. I relate to that."

Mays has found the play and her journey through it to be challenging, and even triggering at times, but ultimately beautiful. "I come from an open-adoption, so playing a character who wants a biological child so badly was challenging because part of me is like, 'why are you spending all this money and going through all this pain when you could adopt a child?'"

Mays hopes that "Human Error" inspires people to lead with love and good intentions and replace judgment with patience and curiosity. "In this political climate, demonizing the other side doesn't work. I think if we can work towards humanity and understanding, things might get better," Mays says. "If you want to laugh and cry and get in touch with these deeper parts of you right before the election, I think we need this story."

Melody Payne plays Heather, whom she describes as a midwestern Christian woman with three kids and one on the way, who is genuine, passionate, and kind, and tries to do right by people. She says the audience can learn a lot from her character. "Heather has a willingness to try to create relationships with people that she really doesn't understand," Payne says. Payne says her character exemplifies the importance of nuance, and looking beyond the black and white of any situation. "We all have stereotypes of what republicans, democrats, Christians, or any subgroup of the culture is like. If you dig a little deeper and have an open heart, you might find out something new and connect with them on a level you didn't know was possible."

"Human Error" is showing until Sept. 14. For more information, visit townhalltheatre.com

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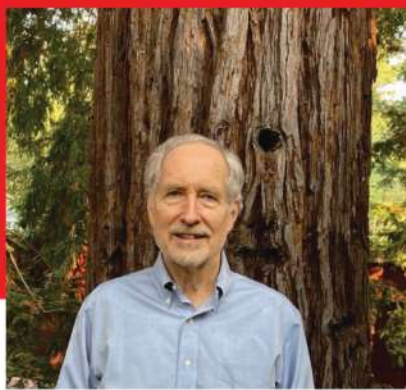
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Looking Good in Lamorinda Seasonal trends

By Moya Stone

There is always much to look forward to as we say goodbye to summer and welcome autumn, including new fashions. Basics are what's trending for the season: trousers, button-down shirts, skirts, wool overcoats, and leather jackets. According to Harper's Bazaar, the fall runway shows were "full of vibrant new ways to wear wardrobe staples, whether that meant turning your button-down backwards or embracing some kooky, shiny tinsel fringe on your trench coat."

When it comes to accessories this fall, the bow motif can be found on everything from handbags to headbands to belts. Speaking of belts, two is better than one. Fluffy faux fur

scarves tick the kooky box and the silk head scarf look is back, giving us old Hollywood glamour. There's lots of fun to be had with fashions this season.

One trend I'm excited about is sweaters. Cardigans have been out of the limelight for years, but they were all over the fall runway shows in bright colors and interesting patterns, and now they're being touted on the pages of fashion magazines. The simple sweater is a hard worker: it's the perfect topper for a dress or skirt when a jacket is too much, it's a good layering piece as the temperatures cool, and it can be used to add a pop of color. I spotted a couple of sweaters hitting this trend by Nic & Zoe at

Harper Greer in Lafayette.

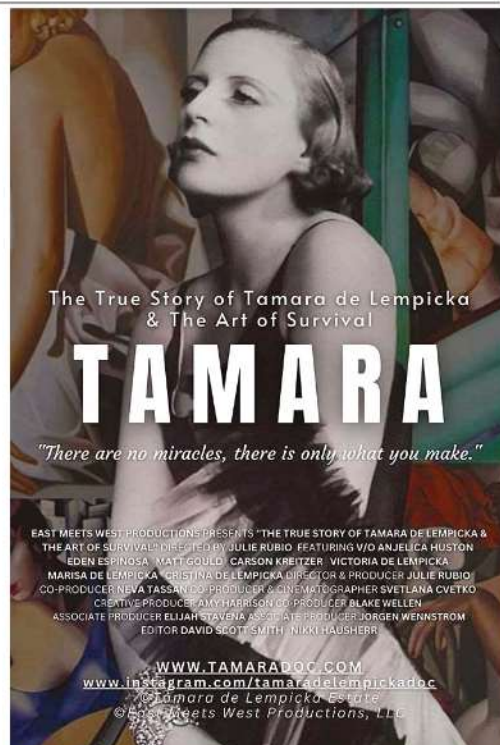
Happening this fall at Wayside Inn Thrift Store in Lafayette are special sales on "Better Handbags" Sept. 24 through 28 and cashmere everything Oct. 1 through 5 (look for cardigans). Plus, all things Halloween go on special sale Oct. 8 through 12.

Something else to look forward to is the Tamara de Lempicka exhibition at the de Young Museum. Lempicka (1898-1980) is herself a trend in 2024 as the focus of a Broadway musical starring Eden Espinosa. Known for her distinct painting style described as "Cubism with soft modeling," Lempicka painted fashionable people of the Art

Deco era, making her paintings a fascinating study for anyone interested in fashion history. She knew all about style, having modeled for a French fashion magazine, designed her own hats, and donned fashions by Coco Chanel.

Set to open on Oct. 12, "Tamara de Lempicka" is the first retrospective for the artist in the United States and will show more than 100 of her works, including her post-Cubist paintings in 1920s Paris. Even more exciting is that Orinda resident and film producer Julie Rubio will feature her latest film, "The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka and the Art of Survival" as part of this exhibit on Jan. 11, 2025.

... continued on Page 12



"The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka & The Art of Survival" Documentary 2024 © East Meets West Productions LLC © Copyrights for images of paintings and photography belong to Tamara de Lempicka Estate LLC, (All Rights Reserved)

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- Lafayette Chamber Board President
- Park Theater Trust Board
- 20 year LPIE Volunteer
- Lafayette Businessperson of the Year

Key Priorities

- ✓ Champion Downtown & Local Businesses
- ✓ Enhance Fire & Public Safety
- ✓ Open Space & Parks
- ✓ Make Lafayette More Green and Sustainable
- ✓ Support Measure H - Keep Lafayette Safe & Strong

"John is a responsible, collaborative, and hardworking City Council Member, as well as a successful local businessperson. He's the leader our community needs, and he has my full support."
 - Janet Thomas, Citizen of the Year

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Discover why John is the right choice for our community. Explore his positions on key issues and see the impressive list of local leaders who stand behind him at McCormickforLafayette.com.



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Photo Credit: Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Town Council Meetings:
 Wed., Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m.
 Wed., Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
 Tuesday, Sept. 17,
 6:30 p.m.
**Parks and Recreation
 Commission:**
 Mon., Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.



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Town Facilities Energy Generation Project update

By Vera Kochan

Over the last few years various portions of Moraga have been hit with power outages either from unknown causes or Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). Residents and businesses were not alone in their frustrations, as the Town Offices experienced the same episodes.

In January 2022, the Town Council authorized a professional services agreement with Natural Capitalism Solutions, Inc. (Clean

Coalition) to proceed with a Town Facilities Energy Generation Study in order to analyze the potential use of a microgrid energy generation system composed of solar panels, battery storage, and small back-up generators at the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Moraga Library, and Hacienda de Las Flores properties.

Clean Coalition offered three options to the Town Council during a May 2022 meeting. The first option was to stay with PG&E and MCE Clean Energy which involves no change to current services. A second option was a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which would involve entering into an agreement with a third-party provider to install and operate power systems using a combination of alternative energy sources and diesel back-up generators for the town's facilities. The third option would be for the Town to self-finance, build, and operate its own energy generation systems to power Town facilities.

The recommendation from Clean Coalition was for Moraga to pursue a PPA due to the Town's limited financial resources. It was also pointed out that the clock was ticking in order to take advantage of PG&E's Net Energy Metering (NEM2) program in order to achieve an

aggregate savings of \$1.7 million amortized over a 25-year period (approximately \$68,000 per year). The Town decided to put the project on hold while directing Clean Coalition and staff to perform further analysis.

One month later, Clean Coalition maintained that a PPA option was still in the Town's best interests, however the Hacienda property was no longer included in the study due to its physical and financial constraints.

Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp's Aug. 28, 2024 staff report stated, "Unfortunately, the delay in the project's analysis significantly reduced the projected savings for the three remaining sites over a 25-year period from \$1.7 million to \$295,000. This was primarily due to the shift in PG&E Net Energy Metering from NEM2 to NEM3 rates which notably reduced the economic benefits of using the solar power sell-back option."

While the Town was preparing a PPA Request for Proposals (RFP), the US Department of Transportation Community Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program awarded Contra Costa County a \$15 million grant which they developed into the "EV-4-All" Program. This would involve installation of six Electric Vehi-

cle Charger stations at the Moraga Library by fall 2026. Before this happens, the Town must complete planned parking lot improvements.

"Due to other capital improvement project priorities (including the extensive street pavement projects currently taking place throughout town), the energy generation project was delayed for a few months during late 2023," stated the staff report. "In an effort to help move this project forward, the Town entered into an on-call civil engineering contract with Concord-based Theis Engineering and Associates. This firm worked with energy resiliency industry experts to obtain additional feedback on Clean Coalition's risk management and economic analysis. This firm also worked with Clean Coalition on the RFP's scope and preparation cost."

On Aug. 28, the Town Council voted 4-0 (Council Member David Shapiro was absent) to approve a Professional Services Agreement Amendment No.1 with Clean Coalition in the amount of \$75,000 to prepare an RFP document to solicit proposals from firms to develop a PPA to design and install microgrid energy systems at three town facilities. They also authorized a 15% contingency of \$11,250 to augment the Clean Coalition con-

tract amount for potential additional professional services.

Once a PPA firm is approved, several tasks will need to be completed before any microgrid systems are installed, including design/build submittals, construction installation inspections, energy generation verifications, and recommendations for acceptance of a constructed project. The Town's multi-year Fiscal Year 2023-24 to Fiscal Year 2027-28 Capital Improvement Program included all of the Town Facilities Energy Reliability Projects with staggered project start and completion dates. According to Knapp, "Staff is recommending combining the three projects into one for economy of scale benefits."

The estimated cost of a PPA microgrid project is \$6,200,000 and would result in a net cost (after discounting the \$5,350,000 in energy savings) estimated at approximately \$850,000 over a 25-year period, but these costs are largely associated with staff and legal fees along with facility and parking lot improvements beyond the scope of the PPA. The energy savings was estimated at \$295,000 (over PG&E/MCE costs), based on PPA and energy cost assumptions.

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Planning Department provides Town Council with helpful Rheem Park Illustrative Design Standards document

By Vera Kochan

Discussing design standards is one thing, but to be able to look at a colored document loaded with pictorial possibilities relating to Rheem Park's future visual appeal is quite another.

The Planning Department provided the



Aerial of Rheem Valley shopping area.

Photo courtesy Moraga Planning Department

Town Council with the Draft Rheem Park Illustrative Design Standards as part of Community Development Director Afshan Hamid and Consultant Barry Miller's Aug. 28 staff report. "The document is a graphically formatted version of the Moraga Municipal Code (MMC) Objective Design Standards adopted by the Town

Council in 2023. It does not modify any of the previously adopted standards and is intended primarily as a user-friendly guide to illustrate the standards with real world examples."

The Rheem Park area includes the shopping center, the Saint Mary's College off-campus site, the Town Hall, 7-11 shopping cen-

ter and vacant property, and others. The Objective Design Standards for this area is in response to state mandates with regards to mixed-use development and is meant to expedite housing production, increase certainty in the development review process, and reduce development costs.

... continued on Page 10

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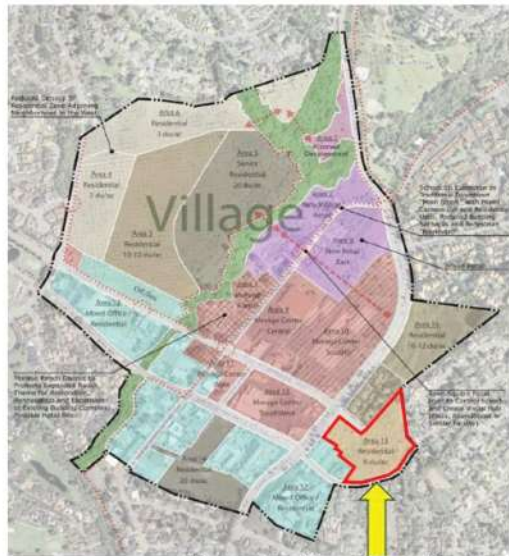


Photo courtesy Moraga Planning Department

Yellow arrow points to Area 15

... continued from Page 1

The Town adopted a new MCSP Implementation Program in 2020, in which the R-6 zone included objective standards specifically designed for small-lot development and multi-family housing. The following year, which included the Housing Element process, it was realized that the MCSP R-6 standards couldn't accommodate the narrow lots and reduced setbacks associated with smaller single family home developments. The Housing Element's Program 4(b) directs the Town to address the zoning code issues by the end of 2024, to modify a variety of housing types consistent with state mandates.

What will not be changing, according to the Aug. 28 staff report by Community Development Director Afshan Hamid, Consultant Barry Miller, and Associate Planner Mio Mendez, is the purpose of the zoning district; the list of permitted uses in the existing district; the list of conditionally permitted uses in the existing district; the allowable density range in the district will remain four to six units per acre; and the standards for landscaped areas, building design, and maximum aggregate building height are being carried forward from the existing code.

However, there will

be changes in the existing standards that cover three different residential product types -- (1) compact single-family homes, (2) conventional single-family detached homes, and (3) multi-unit housing (more than one dwelling per lot).

Additional changes include: minimum allowable lot size is reduced from 3,600 square feet to 3,500 square feet to provide more flexibility in site planning, though the density range of four to six units per acre still applies to the overall site; the standard for maximum allowable lot area is eliminated to provide more flexibility in site planning (four to six units per acre still applies); minimum lot width is reduced from 50 feet to 45 feet to accommodate slightly narrower lots; the front yard and rear yard setback requirements are reduced from 15 feet to 10 feet; and the side yard setback of five feet is retained (however, the side yard requirement for corner lots is reduced from ten feet to five feet).

Also, the "minimum separation requirements" for multiple buildings on the same lot have been eliminated, since separation between buildings is governed by building and fire codes and would be determined on a project-by-project basis; the Floor Area Ratio requirement is eliminated, but the lot coverage limit

of 60% and the height limit of 35 feet are both retained (the 5,000 square foot "cap" on home size continues to apply); and lastly, the two-story height limit is removed, as a 35-foot limit already governs building height in this zone.

The Planning Commission's June 18 public hearing elicited comments from several residents with regards to the proposed changes. Wild-fire safety and evacuation issues associated with more housing units; concern over removing the two-story height limit for single family homes; concern that the elimination of the two-story limit might set a precedent for other single-family zones; the need to reduce width and setback standards; giving adequate notice of the public hearing meeting; potential increased fire risk of denser housing; concern of more units on the site; and reference to Housing Element Program 4(b) being unclear and needs to be more accessible. While three of the commissioners supported staff's height recommendations, two felt that the existing single-family height standards should remain as is.

Moraga Center property owner David Bruzzone had a few comments to make before the Town Council's vote. "I'm excited that we're at this point. From my perspective, it's been years coming. None of these issues that we're talking about are new. We're finally getting around to implementing these -- making the required corrections."

Bruzzone continued, "I do support what staff is recommending and what is before you now. I'm hoping that we can get this done. Stay the course. Get something approved here, because it has been a long time. I want to get some vibrancy into the downtown. I want to get some action going, and I think this is a great first step, and I'm happy that we're here right now, and I'm hoping we can get it approved, and we can get a project in front of you

and then get it built."

The ordinance was approved with a vote of 3-1-0. Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke voted against due to concerns about home sizes and setbacks, and Council Member David Shapiro was absent.

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- Painting pots and rocks with warm, creative images/messages which are donated to local seniors
- Campolindo Service Students to lead or participate in projects
- Assembling Eyeglasses for the visually impaired in Developing Nations internationally
- Knit some Love with Caps & Scarves for unhoused and at risk adults/children
- Beautify Rheem Gateway with gardening, Painting at Rancho Laguna Park.
- Saint Mary's and Campolindo schools improving their Sustainable Gardens

-And several more!
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Court judgment leads to exchange of blame in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

A writ of mandate has been ordered by a Contra Costa Superior court judge against the City of Orinda in partially granting the petition of Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation (OSEE). The conclusion of the lawsuit prompted comments on the cost of the litigation to the city.

Superior Court Judge Charles Trent summarized the case in a minute order last February, saying that petitioner OSEE challenged respondent City's certification of the Plan Orinda Final Environmental Impact Report/Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR ("FEIR") in connection with the approval of zoning modifications and general plan amendments (the "Project" or "Plan Orinda") approved on Jan. 31, 2023. OSEE contended the City failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq. ("CEQA") in approving the FEIR and the Project. OSEE sought a writ of mandate ordering the City to vacate its certification of the FEIR and approval of the Project, and other related relief.

The writ was partially granted by Judge Treat on Aug. 22, entering a writ of mandate in favor of OSEE and against the City of Orinda. The judge also found that OSEE was entitled to recover their legal costs from the city.

The action of the court prompted Nick Waranoff, a retired attorney who frequently appears before the City Council to offer his views, to issue a letter regretting that the city failed to take his advice on the issue and instead "incurred legal fees to its own lawyers and to OSEE's lawyers, of \$1

million, according to a public comment made by Mayor Gee at the July 4 celebration," adding that, "In a city whose annual budget is only \$14 million, that is a sizeable sum."

Waranoff suggested that, "Instead of whining and complaining about Michele [Michele Jacobson, of OSEE] and me, and the others involved with and supporting OSEE, the City should seek a partial refund from Rincon Consultants, Placeworks, and its lawyers."

The city issued a press release in response to the court action. "While we are glad to resolve this legal matter, the City and community have been harmed in several ways by this lawsuit," stated Mayor Darlene Gee. "The City has poured time and resources into defending ourselves from the accusations within this lawsuit, leading to significant costs for consultants and attorneys. Ultimately, this lawsuit has wasted time and staff resources that could have been better spent on other community priorities. We are frustrated that our community was placed in this situation, despite early extensive attempts at settlement. We will continue to serve and protect residents as we take these next steps."

City Manager David Biggs issued the press release, which says that the city will make minor technical revisions and will be able to return its focus to downtown revitalization, which was put on hold pending the conclusion of the litigation.

"One unfortunate impact of this litigation has been to delay the Council's ability to rezone downtown," stated Vice Mayor Latika Malkani. "Councilmembers and residents have expressed overwhelming support for a more vibrant downtown, and I sincerely hope that we can refocus our efforts on bringing that community vision to life."

The City's website addresses this latest court ruling, issued on Aug. 22, saying that it aligns with the stipulated compromise and outlines the following directives: The City will decertify the EIR and refrain from further reliance on it until necessary revisions are made; the City will be held to specific deadlines for revising the EIR and associated documents, specifically addressing the identified deficiencies related to wildfire evacuation analysis; and the City will set aside its approval of the Downtown Precise Plan until completion of the EIR revisions, at which time the DPP can be re-adopted relying on the revised EIR.

Throughout the EIR revision process, the city's certified Housing Element and the Safety Element will remain in place. Upon completion of the revisions, the city will assess the need for potential revisions to the Housing Element and other related documents.

The press release says that following the approval of Plan Orinda, OSEE sued the city under CEQA. Plan Orinda is a multi-year planning effort including the Housing Element update cer-

tified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, a safety element update, the Downtown Precise Plan, and an environmental impact report as required under CEQA.

The city contends that CEQA is "a law that has too often been used to slow or stop municipal development." The city also noted that "OSEE's membership is largely unknown; only one individual, Michelle Jacobson, has come forward to identify herself as a member of OSEE in the paperwork filed in court." Further, the city said, "the OSEE suit against the City under CEQA has led to a lengthy and costly legal process culminating in the recent court ruling."

The city noted that, while "the lawsuit claimed to be about evacuation, . . . the City of Orinda has been a leader within California in pursuing evacuation planning and wildfire resilience," and concluded that, "while precious taxpayer dollars were required to defend this litigation asking for a revised evacuation analysis, the City was always pursuing evacuation planning in a forward thinking, state of the art manner."

Waranoff suggested that OSEE and himself, not a member of OSEE, had repeatedly urged the city to participate in the Court's free, non-binding mediation program. He requested that the city post the court documents on the PlanOrinda.com website in the section that contains litigations documents.

The city has posted a summary of the case on its website at <https://cityoforinda.org/617/OSEE-Litigation>

Many documents from the case are available for viewing from the Superior Court's website <https://odyportal.cc-courts.org/Portal/Home/WorkspaceMode?p=0>

Lucas Lambert new Deputy Chief of MOFD

By Sora O'Doherty



Deputy Chief Lucas Lambert

Battalion Chief Lucas Lambert has been promoted to Deputy Chief of the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD), a position approved by the directors of MOFD in June. Lambert's promotion created three other promotional opportunities throughout the ranks. Engineer Tom Schwedhelm, Captain Anthony Grgurevic and Battalion Chief Jon Bensley have all received promotions.

Lambert is in his 18th year in the Fire Service. He began with the East Bay Regional Park District and was hired by MOFD in 2009. He holds a number of higher education degrees, including a Bachelor's degree in Fire Administration and a Masters in Public Administration and Emergency Services Management.

While the Deputy Fire Chief position has a large administra-

tive component, Lambert says that he will remain engaged with our firefighters and community in the field.

He explained that, "while ensuring we provide the highest level of service to the district residents, MOFD has always participated in the state Master Mutual Aid Agreement. When we have the staff available to assist outside of our area, MOFD benefits from stepping up to assist other communities in crisis by building relationships with other agencies and staying current with incident mitigation strategies and tactics."

Lambert continued, "Over the last seven years, in response to community demand, the fire district has expanded services in many areas.

... continued on next Page

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Wildfire safety and home insurance continue to be high priority

By Sora O'Doherty

There is so much happening on the fire prevention and fire insurance fronts that it's hard to keep up. (See links below.) The California Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara, has been suggesting that new regulations on catastrophe modeling and ratemaking will help insurance companies return to writing new home insurance policies in California. The Commissioner will seek public input at a Zoom webinar on Sept. 17 at 10 a.m., and states that, "the public hearing shall continue until all in attendance wishing to provide comments have commented, or 1 p.m."

However, at a meeting of Firewise leaders in Orinda and Moraga, MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker pointed out that the preliminary list of counties qualifying for property insurance commitments excludes Contra Costa County, including the Lamorinda area. In fact, of the nine bay area counties, only Marin and Napa counties are included in the list of 28 counties, out of California's 58 counties.

The Town of Moraga, the City of Orinda, and MOFD are holding a joint public meeting on Oct. 21

at 6 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium to test public attitudes towards adopting a five-foot non-combustible space around homes, which would include all plants and overhanging trees, as well as wood gates and fences. This would accord with the standards set by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit scientific research and communications organization supported by property insurers, reinsurers, and affiliated companies.

Currently, MOFD regulations include a requirement that homeowners must maintain a clear zone around their homes of two-feet out and one foot up, meaning that plants within two feet of a home must be cleared of all foliage for one foot from the ground. Chief Winnacker told the Firewise leaders that this requirement is the one that more homeowners are resistant to, of the multiple requirements in the MOFD regulations that homeowners must comply with each year. Winnacker also said that homes that were once in compliance often fall out

of compliance. Often this is caused by the addition of plants or combustible mulch in Zone 0.

One thing that the Chief stressed is that being in a Firewise Community does not, on its own, provide any safety and does not affect compliance with MOFD regulations. Firewise is primarily an education and information effort to help its members learn how to comply with local rules. The theory behind Firewise, which is a national organization, is that when all the homes in an area are compliant with fire regulations, all of the residents are safer from wildfire.

Winnacker talked about the three modes of fire spread: from vegetation in wildlands to vegetation in urban areas, from vegetation to structures, and from structure to structure. All of the work that MOFD does in the wildlands surrounding Lamorinda can, at best, reduce risk of urban wildfires by 20%.

According to Winnacker, the five-foot clearing of Zone 0 has been shown to reduce the risk of a house burning by a much, much higher percentage.

Local California As-

sembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan has sent out information about the Insurance Commissioner's Sept. 17 meeting to her constituents. Bauer-Kahan, who lives in Orinda, is one of the many local residents who was non-renewed by her home insurance company and has had to resort to the California FAIR plan, which she notes "comes with higher rates and often reduced coverage when compared to our previous policies."

Bauer-Kahan also quotes Commissioner Lara in stating that "the new proposed regulations mark two 'firsts' for the state's regulation of insurance rates: the first time insurance companies will commit to covering higher risk homes in wild-fire destressed areas and the first use of forward-looking wildfire catastrophe modeling." However, as Winnacker informed the Firewise leaders, the preliminary list of counties to benefit from the coverage commitment currently does not include Contra Costa or Alameda Counties, despite the presence of many high severity fire risk areas.



references available

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Wildfire Prepared Home: <https://wildfireprepared.org/>

Current MOFD requirements:

www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/abatement-requirements-english

Lucas Lambert new Deputy Chief of MOFD



Engineer Tom Schwedhelm



Captain Anthony Grgurevic

... continued from Page 8

As a result, additional leadership capacity was needed and is being addressed through the creation of this position. Lambert expressed his excitement about "the new generation of leaders that our organization has developed."

Looking towards the future, Lambert said, "I am confident that we have built a strong team of employees, volunteers and community supporters that are well positioned to allow the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to meet the future fire safety concerns of our area. I look forward to building upon the foundation which our organization has established and advancing our district's mission of keeping our communities safe."



Battalion Chief Jon Bensley

Photos courtesy Lucas Lambert

Clarification on Orinda creek stairway

In the August 28th issue of The Lamorinda Weekly, a story about San Pablo Creek in Orinda Village quoted developer Ben Zarrin expressing concern about a stairway he believed was constructed by the Friends of Orinda's Creeks. The Lamorinda Weekly would like to clarify that the stairway is not behind Zarrin's current project at 30 Orinda Way, the former Bank of America building, and was not constructed by The Friends of Orinda's Creeks but was an Eagle Scout project.—Sora O'Doherty

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Expect fun, music, and detours this weekend during the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

One of the biggest draws to downtown Lafayette returns Sept. 21 and 22 with four music stages, over 200 artist and craft booths, more than 30 food vendors and ride for all ages as part

of the 2024 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival produced by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of Lafayette. Complimentary bike valet parking



2024 MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Fiesta Stage - 19 Fiesta Lane
Stage located off Fiesta Lane, behind Lafayette Public House and The Hideout Kitchen.
Saturday, Sept. 21, MC Tom Stack
Sound and stage by Legend Theatrical
11:30am - 1:30pm Bay Bridge Beat
2:15pm - 4:15pm Freestone Peaches
5:00pm - 7:00pm East Bay Mudd
Sunday, Sept. 22, MC Brian Aiello
11:00am - 12:30pm Bob Athayde and Friends
1:15pm - 3:15pm Midnight Flyer
4:00pm - 6:00pm Evolution - The Ultimate Tribute to Journey

Premier Pavilion Stage - 20 Lafayette Circle
Stage located behind/west of White Barn Home.
Saturday, Sept. 21, MC - Tom Schnurr
Sound by Desired Effect
11:30am - 1:00pm Lonesome Eddie and the Saddle Sores
1:45pm - 3:45pm The Ripplers
4:30pm - 6:30pm Other People's Money
Sunday, Sept. 22, MC - Tom Schnurr
11:30am - 1:00pm Acalanes Jazz Trio
1:45pm - 3:15pm Juke Joint
4:00pm - 5:30pm 3day Weekend

2024 Community Stage Entertainment
The Community Stage offers family-friendly entertainment throughout both days of the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival! Located on Mt. Diablo Blvd., east end of the Festival near the intersection of Moraga Road.
Community Stage Hosts: Town Hall Theatre and New You Dance Center
Saturday, Sept. 21,
11:00am - The Studio Violin

will be offered at 81 Lafayette Circle and there will be free shuttle rides from the free festival parking in the BART parking lot.

12:00pm - Myeve Capozzi Vocal Training
1:00pm - New You Dance Center
1:30pm - Acalanes High School Choir
2:00pm - The Peter Pan Foundation
3:00pm - Town Hall Theatre
4:00pm-6:00pm - Lafayette Music Co Op
Sunday, Sept. 22
10:15am - Lamorinda Idol
11:00am - Erin Fishler Vocal Studio
12:00pm - FUNKMODE
2:00pm-5:00pm - ModernTone Studios:
2:00pm ModernTone Vocal Ensemble
2:35pm ModernTone Teen Band
3:10pm The ModernTonics
3:50pm Briget Boyle
4:30pm Beyond Fab

The California Repercussions Marching Band

The California Repercussions is a 45-70 piece street band which plays rock-n-roll, pop, and jazz, and even some traditional band music. They will march to the Main Ticket Booth area, corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd and Oak Hill Road on Sunday, Sept. 22 to perform at 11am and at 2pm! Don't miss them!

Bank Stage - 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Saturday, Sept. 21, MC Brian Aiello
11:30am - 1:30pm Charged Particles
2:15pm - 4:15pm The Big Jangle
5:00pm - 7:00pm The Spazmatics
Sunday, Sept. 22, MC Tom Stack
11:00am - 12:30pm Steve Snyder Big Band
1:15pm - 3:15pm ZEBOP!
4:00pm - 6:00pm The Sun Kings

Rheem Park Design Standards

... continued from Page 6

It was during public meetings on the topic that the Town Council and Planning Commission requested an illustrated "user-friendly" version of the standards, because the April 2023 version was formatted as an Ordinance without photos. The new document will also be helpful to developers, architects, landscape architects, property owners, and the Moraga community in visualizing future projects.

The photos included in the document are representative of locations and objects in Moraga, as well as cities such as Lafayette and

Danville for example purposes. All are targeting a focus to mixed-use and multi-family projects along with public-use areas that incorporate street lighting, landscaping, and outdoor seating areas.

Some of the photos included the most popular images that were part of the "visual preference survey" conducted during the April 30, 2024 General Plan Community Workshop hosted at Saint Mary's College and attended by approximately 60 Moraga residents.

All of the images took into consideration site circulation and access, building orientation and setbacks, build-

ing massing and articulation, facades, building space requirements, materials and colors, vehicle parking, bicycle parking, private open space, accessible public space, landscaping, fencing and screening, ancillary equipment/facilities/utilities, and lighting.

Council members appreciated the visual aspects that the new Rheem Park Illustrative Design Standards offered, owing to the fact that when discussing a particular design there would be no mental guesswork as to concepts, and everyone would "be on the same page" as it were.

The City of Orinda names new Police Chief

Orinda: The City of Orinda is pleased to share that Sheriff's Lt. Anthony (Tony) Rossi will be joining the City as Police Chief as of Monday, September 9th, as current Chief Ryan Sullivan departs due to a promotion to Captain within the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Since May, 2024, Rossi

has been a Lieutenant assigned as the Facility Commander at the Martinez Detention Facility, having previously served in Orinda from January 2023 to May 2024 assigned as the Detective/ Patrol Sergeant. He joined the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff in 2006 and has held a number of assignments and special duty

positions over the course of his tenure. "We look forward to welcoming Lt. Rossi back to the Orinda team and to his leadership of the department in this new capacity where he can build upon key already established relationships with the community," said City Manager David Biggs. *Provided by the City of Orinda*

In Memory

Margaret (Maggie) Mary Eggen



Margaret (Maggie) Mary Eggen (1931- 2024) is survived by her husband Norman; her four children David Wigginton, Thomas Wigginton, Sally Wigginton (Mary), Laura Waal (David), her grandchildren Katie and Ryan Waal, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. She had a wonderful life with her husband Norm. They married in 1971 and had a loving marriage for 52 years. He was by her side up until her last breath. Maggie had a lively spirit that touched everyone around her. She shared many memories of growing up in a large Irish Catholic family (eight siblings: Sally, Billy, Patsy, Nancy, Bobby, Dicky, Margaret, Kay and John) in Berkeley, CA. Her stories, with many embellishments, kept everyone around her captivated and entertained. It was always difficult to distinguish between truth and fiction, but that didn't matter, we were all carried along.

She loved her life in Berkeley and Lafayette. She had an active lifestyle: tennis, yoga, exercise classes as well as walking the Lafayette Reservoir. She and her friend Ann Hooper started placing holiday decorations on their "Charlie Brown Christmas tree" at the Lafayette Reservoir. This tradition brought joy to anyone walking around the reservoir. Maggie was also a generous and empathic person. She volunteered at various places and helped many people in need. Her faith ran deep beginning in her Catholic upbringing to her current involvement at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church.

She will be missed by all, yet her charismatic spirit will continue on through our memories. For those wanting to attend her service, please contact a family member.

In Memory

Elizabeth Takao

1949-2023



Last September 9, 2023, Elizabeth Jane Takao passed away peacefully after a 4-year journey with cancer.

After meeting in their hometown Cincinnati, Ohio, Lloyd and Elizabeth eventually settled in Moraga, California to raise their three children. Elizabeth cherished her family.

In the 1990's, Elizabeth became a floral designer and started her own business, Special Occasions. Elizabeth loved arranging flowers, whether she was making bouquets for a relative's wedding, hanging a client's holiday decor, or updating the vase in her home's entryway.

Elizabeth loved learning about different cultures. Her curiosity about the world took her to Africa, Europe, Japan, Bali, China, Sri Lanka and Turkey. In 2004, Elizabeth became a docent at the Asian Art Museum. She loved the wonders contained within the museum's walls.

Elizabeth and Lloyd were married for over 50 years. For relaxation, they frequently traveled to Hawaii and Pacific Grove. Their evenings might be spent together cheering on the Warriors or rewatching Downton Abbey episodes.

Elizabeth will be remembered for her delicious cooking, pecan pie and jams. The sight of lilikoi, orange persimmons, and monarch butterflies and hummingbirds will prompt memories of Elizabeth's beauty, smile, and laugh.

Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Lloyd, sister Sandra (Gary), her children and their families: Elisa (Darin, Austin and Olivia), Jeff (Ashley and Emma), and Laura. She was preceded in death by her father Shelby, mother Glenieve and stepfather Ed, and sister Jeannie.

Donations can be made to the Asian Art Museum Foundation of San Francisco.

Public Safety

Emergency response: 911
Emergency: 24 Hours
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com
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. 18 - Aug. 31

Alarms 40
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18
Traffic 134
Suspicious Circumstances 11
Suspicious Subject 14
Suspicious Vehicle 15
Service to Citizen 28
Patrol Req./Security Check 41
Public/School Assembly Check 18
Supplemental Report 24
Vacation House Check 28
Welfare Check 22
Ordinance Violation 6
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
1000 Block Brown Ave.
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Florence Dr./S Lucille Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Sundale Rd.
Reckless Driving
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.
Glenside Dr./Reliez Station Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)
Condit Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
1st St/Wb Sr 24
Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.
Tc - Minor Injuries
1100 Block Garden Ln.
Tc - Property Damage
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Glorietta Blvd./Corte Rinaldo
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vehicle Theft
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Computer Fraud
900 Block Hough Ave.

Fraud Credit Card
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Hough Ave.
Grand Theft
3200 Block Rohrer Dr.
Identity Theft
3700 Block St Francis Dr. (2)
500 Block Silverado Dr.
Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Bank Of America Laf
Petty Theft
1500 Block Rancho Del
Hambre
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Residential Burglary
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
Sale of Alcohol to Minor
3400 Block Golden Gate Wy
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (13)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tammer With Vehicle
800 Block Rosedale Ave.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Via Roble
3300 Block Victoria Ave.
Loud Music
900 Block Happy Valley Ct.
Happy Valley Rd./Eb Sr 24
Upper Happy Valley Rd./
Hilldale Rd.
Loud Noise
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
50 Block Cricket Hill Rd.
Golden Gate Wy/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Party
4100 Block Canyon Rd.
600 Block St. Mary's Rd.
900 Block Kelley Ct.
4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1100 Block Magnolia Ln.
Vandalism
3600 Block Boyer Cr
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1400 Block Sunset Loop
Other
Fireworks
Vista Bella/Martino Rd.
Harassment
10 Block Burton Vista Ct.
1000 Block Upper Happy
Valley Rd
3900 Block Woodside Ct. (3)
Indecent Exposure
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loitering
Rahara Dr./Upper Happy
Valley Rd.
Threats
1100 Block Upper Happy
Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Camino Diabolo
Transient Contact
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
6400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Violation Custody Order

3400 Block School St.
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 20 - Aug. 26
Alarms 4
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 73
Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 3
Service to Citizen 16
Patrol Req./Security Check 9
Public/School Assembly Check 7
Supplemental Report 3
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 11
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Dui Misd
100 Block Corliss Dr.
Excessive Speed
Moraga Commons Park
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr., Ori
Camino Pablo/Dickenson Dr.
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Wells Fargo
10 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.
Moraga Way/School St.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Dollar Tree
Starbucks
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Camino Pablo Rd. -School
Tc - Property Damage
Roundtable
Other criminal activity
GChild Molest
1000 Block Camino Pablo
Fraud False Pretenses
Not Available
Ascot Dr.
Grand Theft
70 Block Gaywood Pl.
Shoplift
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
School St./Rick Ct.
Loud Noise
School St./Moraga Rd.
Loud Party
1700 Block School St.
Other
Extortion
10 Block Roberts Ct.
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block Donald Dr.
Unwanted Guest
300 Block Birchwood Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Letters to the editor

Lafayette Sales Tax Measure

Measure H, on our November ballot, is vital to preserving Lafayette's exceptional quality of life and maintaining essential city services that keep our community thriving. Measure H maintains police staffing levels, keeps roads in good shape, preserves senior services, and sustains our high quality of life.

Lafayette has always been in good financial shape, with a balanced budget, no debt, and emergency reserves. However, the city budget has been significantly impacted by inflation, including the increased cost of road maintenance, insurance, and state requirements. The city projects an ongoing budget shortfall starting next year. Without our support for Measure H, the city will be compelled to make substantial cuts:

- FEWER police officers on the street
- LESS preventive maintenance for roads
- REDUCED services for our seniors
- DECREASED traffic safety initiatives

Business and community leaders, such as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Homeowners Council, and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley support Measure H because Lafayette would still remain one of the lowest-taxed cities in the region. A significant portion of the funds would come from visitors who shop and dine here and 100% of the revenue stays in Lafayette under local control.

Measure H will add ½ cent to our sales tax rate in Lafayette. This increase is modest and responsible, with a clear purpose of maintaining city services. For example, it would only add \$.50 to a restaurant bill of \$100. Necessities like groceries and prescriptions are exempt. The tax measure is only in effect for seven years and cannot be extended except by voter approval. A Citizens' Oversight Committee will provide you with transparency and accountability. With robust safeguards in place, Measure H ensures that our funds are spent responsibly.

Lafayette is a beautiful and safe place to live. Let's do our part to ensure Lafayette continues to offer residents a wonderful quality of life. Please vote YES on Measure H!
Matthew M. Pease
Lafayette

Lafayette Valley estates

Thomas James Homes bought 3369 North Lucile lane for 1.5 million, and proposed to build a 3.900 SQ foot 2 story house in Lafayette Valley estates, as they were met with a FULL COURT PRESS of 15 home owners who met at the back yard of 480 Peacock and again at 3371 North Lucile for another meeting.

We wrote 15 letters to the city and I had a petition with 265 signatures out of 268 doors I knocked on.

Thomas James revised their plans to 3500 square feet only to be denied. The average home is 1600 to 2000 square feet and single story.

This proposed 2 story would have blocked ridge views and Mt. Diablo views for the surrounding houses, as well as loss of privacy for 5 houses. This is an example of POWER in numbers, or Strength in Numbers. They sold it to the Martin group for almost a half million-dollar loss.

Thomas James homes were successful in building 3 in Happy Valley and 1 in Tice valley. But NOT in our back yard!! We are all PLEASED with the finished product.
Myles McGinn
Lafayette

Creek Access Issues

Friends of Orinda Creeks works to protect and enhance Orinda's creeks. Our efforts include trash cleanups, trail improvements, restoration projects and native plant revegetation. This is supported by Orinda's volunteer community and performed in partnership with the City, Friends of the Nature Area, the Orinda Garden Club, EBMUD, and so on. Our volunteers keep our creeks clean, improve habitat and provide open space.

Some of this work takes place on property leased by the U.S. Postal Service. That area is now closed by a fence that encroaches onto the Post Office from the old Bank of America building (now Paymun). This encroachment adversely impacts our work and terminates public access.

Permission to access this area was provided decades ago by the manager of BofA and successive Postmasters, who generously provided use of their water supply. This neighborliness has unfolded for 25 years without conflict...until now. Our attempts to discuss this new conflict with Paymun have been fruitless.

FOC envisions the creek and its trail as a rare valuable resource for the Orinda community. Integration of a restored and accessible creek into the Orinda Village corridor will contribute to the revitalization of the Village and benefit the entire community, business owners included.

Sincerely,
Michael Bowen, President
Friends of Orinda Creeks

Vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette Council

We have a lot of choices on candidates this November. One sure and secure candidate we can all get behind is Carl Anduri. I strongly encourage you to vote for Carl so he can continue his great work in preserving, while enhancing, our beautiful City of Lafayette. Carl has served on numerous City task forces, committees, the Planning Commission, and several terms on the City Council. He truly understands how our City works which allows him to be effective and responsive to our needs and desires.

I've known Carl for years and served as a Planning Commissioner when he served on the Council. He is intelligent, impartial, and willing to listen to and address the concerns of the community. He has shown his dedication to our City through his community service and during his tenure on the Council. Re-electing Carl will allow us to continue to be the benefactors of his dedication and hard work.

Please join me in re-electing Carl.
Patricia Curtin
Lafayette

City Council Could have voiced a Protest, but did not

As we approach a vote for a new City Council member, note that over the last two years, I have written the Council monthly asking that they send an open letter to legislators in Sacramento, where the Council points out the unprecedented time and expense the new housing laws have foisted on the citizens of Lafayette (with questionable ends no less). I suggested that the Council simply go on record as expressing such sentiment via an open letter to officeholders Scott Weiner (San Francisco), Buffy Wicks (Oakland), and Miquel Santiago (downtown Los Angeles). The Council could have and should have expressed that we do not believe these three, among others, know what is best for Lafayette, based on the dystopian conditions of each of these three representatives' respective districts. In fact, it is safe to point out that the three areas Weiner, Wicks, and Santiago oversee in our state, have probably the worst street conditions in the United States. Lafayette's reply to these Sacramento officeholders' advice should have been: "Thanks but no thanks. We've walked your streets and they are horrific. Why would we possibly have faith in your housing guidance."

The Council never acted on my request, or even explained or replied to me why such a letter should not be sent. I don't know the Council's motives, but they should have taken the offense to push back on laws which a majority of Lafayette constituents do not believe in. Perhaps a new Council member would review this approach more closely and push back on the mandates.
Best,
Jim Rule
Lafayette

Vote for Carl Anduri

I am very pleased to endorse Carl Anduri for re-election to Lafayette's City Council. During my 37 year career with the City of Lafayette, I attended a great number of City Council meetings and was able to observe and interact with many council members (some more memorable than others). One of the stand outs for me was Council Member Carl Anduri.

During his time on the council, there have been numerous controversial topics before him. He consistently comes prepared to each meeting in order to thoughtfully and effectively discuss the matters at hand. His composure and respectful bearing are very much appreciated by his fellow council members, business leaders, the public and staff. The City of Lafayette is very fortunate to have such an accomplished council member who is willing to continue to give his time and expertise as a city council member.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Russell
Former City Of Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Director

Vote for Carl Anduri

I invite my fellow Lafayette citizens to join me in voting for Carl Anduri for our City Council.

Carl has served Lafayette in many ways: as a planning commissioner, as a city council member, and as mayor. These volunteer activities have given him a depth of experience, knowledge and understanding so valuable to Lafayette as it faces new challenges in implementing State-mandated housing and zoning rules in a way that complements our retail and commercial businesses while providing additional housing in that district.

Carl will continue to work for additional parks and parking in our downtown. He will continue to keep development off our ridge lines and out of our open spaces. He will continue to support our schools and library. He will continue to make our town more pedestrian

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY: Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

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

and bicycle friendly. He will continue to mitigate wildfire risk.

Finally, Carl is a careful listener who shows respect for others and who considers all viewpoints before making a decision.

Learn more about Carl by going to his web page:
www.anduriforlafayette.com

I ask you to vote for Carl Anduri who was once a 5th grade public school teacher.
Erling Horn
Lafayette

Carl Anduri for Lafayette's City Council

Neighbors- I hope you will join me in supporting incumbent Carl Anduri for Lafayette's City Council on Nov. 5. Carl has worked tirelessly on behalf of our community, believing in the importance of creating a vibrant, lively downtown that brings together all the demographics that make up our city. He is passionate about arts and culture and how we, as a city, can promote and provide a wide variety of artistic experiences for all.

Carl is a dedicated and experienced council member, serving from 2002-2012 and from 2020 to the present. I firmly believe that institutional memory is a critical component to sound governance. Because of Carl's length of volunteer service, he has been through several economic cycles, has an understanding and knowledge of the history of Lafayette, and has a record of coming up with ideas that look to our future. He is a consensus builder and works to find solutions.

I have known Carl for over 20 years and for the last four have had the pleasure of working closely with him in his role as council liaison to the Park Theater Renovation effort and the Public Art Committee. Carl is responsive, making himself available for last minute meetings and calls. He is naturally curious, loves to do research on the smallest of topics, and as a result, always comes prepared with questions, suggestions and a listening ear. I value his opinion and advice. Carl is a well-qualified candidate for the city council seat.

Please VOTE on November 5!
Kathy Bowles
Lafayette

Vote for Jim Cervantes

As a 45-year resident of Lafayette, former Planning Commissioner, Council Member and Mayor, I urge our city's voters to elect Jim Cervantes to Lafayette City Council for the two-year position. Jim has experience in working with our community by serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the General Plan Advisory Committee. In this service, he has showed a willingness to listen to many viewpoints and work collaboratively with all to advance our updated State approved Housing Element of our General Plan.

I believe Jim can help us address some of our pressing issues. He brings decades of experience in city finance, which is a valuable skill set in ensuring Lafayette's long term financial strength. As the organizer of a Firewatch community, Jim worked with Consolidated Fire District on fire safety measures in his neighborhood providing the experience which will help us address our fire issues City wide.

Jim will bring a balanced, thoughtful and inclusive approach to the work of our City Council and he will help keep Lafayette strong. Please Vote for Jim Cervantes -Lafayette City Council.
Erling Horn
Lafayette

Orinda Should Not Re-Adopt The DPP

Residents have won their lawsuit against the City of Orinda, and obtained a writ of mandate from the Court, ordering the City to set aside the certification of the Plan Orinda Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"), and approval of the Downtown Precise Plan ("DPP"). The ruling is based on deficiencies in the Environmental Impact Report regarding emergency evacuation in the event of a wildfire.

For the reasons explained below, the DPP should NOT be re-adopted. The state housing mandate ("RHNA") requires Orinda to zone for an additional 1,359 housing units. The DPP would add approximately 1,000 more housing units than are required to meet Orinda's RHNA. The DPP isn't needed to comply with the state housing mandate.

The DPP also is not needed to "revitalize" downtown. The Housing Element (without the DPP) will add between 421 and 698 new housing units downtown. See Table 5-5A, page 137 of the Housing Element.

The Density Bonus Law could increase those figures by as much as 50% to 100%.

By contrast, in 2017, the ULI-TAP recommended only 240 new housing units.

The ULI-TAP report shows that the 421-698 new housing units under the Housing Element will be sufficient to "revitalize" downtown.

Moreover, when each city was assigned its RHNA, the state's population was expected to continue to rise substantially, it is now expected to remain almost level. "[T]he state Department of Finance recently projected that it will remain virtually unchanged at around 40 million at least until 2060 – a radical change from earlier predictions that it would top 50 million by then.

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/2023/07/after-growth-california-chronic-stagnation/>

Furthermore, the evacuation danger is worse than previously appeared. A proper evacuation analysis would almost certainly support reducing housing downtown, because the evacuation analysis done for Orinda did not include wildfire modeling. A recent evacuation analysis of North Lake Tahoe used such modeling and has alarmed many.
<https://thenevadaglobe.com/articles/study-lake-tahoe-wildfire-evacuation-times-may-exceed-14-hours/>

Balancing a desire to "revitalize" downtown against the adverse impact excessive new housing will have on emergency evacuation, everyday traffic and parking, and our desire to preserve our "small town" feel, the DPP should not be re-adopted.
Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Lafayette City Council Election:

Operating a business during a pandemic was not for the faint of heart. Some businesses pivoted, found solutions and created new ways of creating income.

Lauren Herpich is one of those small business owners. She quickly and successfully pivoted her in person food tours business to food tour gift boxes & virtual events. Lauren supported other local small businesses including Diablo Foods and Amphora in the process.

Businesses, and the city, are facing many challenges including increased costs and new regulations. Having Lauren on the Lafayette city council, we will all benefit from her passion for small businesses, creativity, fiscal responsibility and common sense. With her background in business ownership, marketing and PR, as well as her fiscally responsible ideals, I believe Lauren will help this city we love thrive. I have known Lauren for seven years. She listens, provides solutions and works to make things happen. Rather than relying on outside paid consultants to find solutions, Lauren Herpich will bring her knowledge and expertise. She understands the challenges small business in Lafayette are facing and will provide solutions that will help our small special community thrive. Vote Lauren Herpich for Lafayette city council.
Laura Magu
Owner RÊVE
Lafayette

Creek Access Issues

People have accessed the creek from the BOA property for as long as I have lived here (32 years). Friends of Orinda Creeks supported Paymun's bid to redevelop the property. Although access was closed on the McCaulou's side, that was acceptable because people could enter between the jointly owned property with the Post Office, until recently. FOC has tried many times to have a dialogue with the developer to find an amicable resolution.

Permission to revegetate after flooding was granted by the manager of BOA and funded through the RWQCB & EBMUD circa 1999. The present Post Master said he had no problem with us continuing to work on their property & water our plants. But FOC cannot access the water nor clean-up that section of creek. The City was fined regularly by the RWQCB until volunteers took over clean-ups with City support.

Obviously, safety at construction sites needs to be addressed. This might be accomplished by fencing along the property boundary instead of encroaching on the Post Office land. This would allow a temporary corridor.

BTW the steps referred to are on County land, not Paymun property. The steps and bench are an Eagle Scout project (not FOC).

At minimum, we hope this historic corridor to the creek trail can be resumed once construction no longer requires fencing.
Cinda MacKinnon
Orinda

... continued on next Page

Letters to the editor ... continued

Firewise and Code Enforcement are Not Enough

Making people aware of, and responsible for, firesafe vegetation management on their properties is commendable. Setting code and inspecting to enforce it puts some teeth behind what we should all be doing.

But it is not enough.

The SF Chronicle reported "At 2,220 total, the 94563 ZIP code covering Orinda had the most non-renewals of any ZIP code in the state." What do the insurers know that we don't? That despite current efforts by Orinda, MOFD and MOFN (Moraga Orinda Firewise Network), Orinda has unacceptable wildfire risk levels.

To check this out, wildfire prevention expert Dr. John Radke and a wildfire fuel mitigation contractor tested three "firesheds" in Orinda to see how well they were doing. The contractor walked the properties and estimated the work needed to bring them into a

"fire safe" condition.

One of the three, around Tiger Tail Ct in North Orinda, was shown to require almost \$200,000 of work to make it as "fire safe" as possible. About 1/3 of the properties in this particular fireshed have been "certified" code-compliant by MOFD and the vast majority of the properties belong to a Firewise Neighborhood. All three firesheds together required \$346,000 of work. Extrapolating to all 100 firesheds in Orinda results in \$11.5 million of work needed to make Orinda firesafe, bring insurers back to Orinda, and minimize the need for emergency evacuations, another evolving news item. Details at www.saferorinda.info/wildfire-prevention-in-orinda-example.

What we are doing is not working. In 2022 Radke made a proposal to Orinda to model the fire risk throughout Orinda, fireshed-by-fireshed, to direct mitigation efforts. This modeling, based on satellite data with ground

verification and enhancement, would be updated periodically to flag where improvements needed to be made (just like we do with the roads). The proposal was endorsed by the SSTOC, tasked with coming up with a wildfire prevention plan, but their endorsement was overridden by City Manager David Biggs who claimed the proposal, utilizing prediction models in use since 2006, "pure research".

It is time for Orinda and MOFD to examine a "Plan B".
Steve Cohn
Orinda

Paul Chopra - Best Choice for AUHSD School Board

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Paul Chopra in the upcoming Acalanes High School District (AUHSD) school board election. In our community, where the quality of education is of utmost importance, Paul stands out as a candidate who not only

brings valuable financial expertise but also demonstrates a genuine commitment to the well-being and academic success of our students.

With 25 years of experience as a CPA and a track record as Treasurer and Board Member for Lafayette Partners in Education, Paul has also contributed to a Lafayette School District Committee that identified over \$2 million in savings and revenue opportunities. This experience is crucial for our school board, where prudent financial oversight and strategic resource allocation are essential to maximizing the impact of our educational programs. With Paul's financial acumen, we can be confident that our schools will benefit from efficient budgeting and thoughtful investment in key areas of innovative curriculum, technology, and teacher development.
Sincerely,
Sue Severson
Orinda

Lafayette's Pacific Chamber Orchestra welcomes world-class pianist

By Emma Wong



Photo courtesy Lawrence Kohl

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra, with Music Director Maestro Lawrence Kohl at center.

On Saturday, Sept. 14, in the gorgeous Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, will be the musical collaboration of a lifetime: world-renowned French pianist Denis Pascal and the Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO).

This organization is led by founder and Music Director Maestro Lawrence Kohl, who previously served as President of the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC). Sue Farmer, current president of the LAC, is also a PCO board member.

"My friends and I started PCO back in 1989 in San Leandro. We are dedicated to sustaining classical music's rich heritage and bringing the community together," Kohl said.

In addition to performing, the PCO also brings its "Discover Music" program to elementary schools, introduc-

ing classical music to the next generation. For middle and high-school orchestras and bands, the PCO frequently provides instructional clinics.

Defined as "one of the finest French artists of his generation," piano virtuoso Denis Pascal has performed everywhere from his native Parisian venues to international festivals.

Educated at the prestigious Paris Conservatory, Pascal traveled overseas after his college experience to study at Indiana University in Bloomington. He has since toured the world and formed a musical group, the Trio Pascal, with his two sons. His repertoire runs the gamut of musical periods and composers, from Romantic-era icons like Franz Liszt to Impressionist figures including Erik Satie.

Now, Pascal will be traveling to

Lafayette — for the second time. 12 years ago, Pascal and the PCO held a prior performance. "I met Denis through his wife Marie-Paule Milone, who is an incredible singer and cellist," Kohl said. "The entire family are all superstar musicians."

Pascal will perform Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, a near-20 minute Impressionist score composed in 1931. The piece kicks off with an unusual instrument, the whip — its crack begins a quick allegretto movement. The concerto features numerous instruments, from oboe to piccolo to percussion. Composed as Ravel's final "farewell" score, the piece is a flowing three-piece movement and is influenced by jazz. Ravel was inspired by American music after spending a summer in the U.S. in 1928.

Directly following Pascal's performance will be the PCO's rendition of Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 3 in F Major. Brahms, a German composer, published Symphony No. 3 in 1883, a half-century earlier than Ravel's Concerto. The composition involves a full range of instruments, including strings, winds, brass, and timpani for a sum of 43 musicians. A secret message hides in the first three notes of the piece — F-A-B — which many say translates to Brahms' personal saying, frei aber froh, which is German for "free but happy."

Kohl anticipates a powerful, genre-blending performance. "What is most exciting to me is to pair these magical works together," Kohl said. "It will be eye-opening to explore the dazzling colors of the Ravel with Denis

and unearth the internal emotive, motivic, and rhythmic glue that unifies the breathtaking Brahms' Third Symphony."

The performance is being supported by the Lafayette Community Foundation and individual donors. Next on the PCO's calendar will be the "Dream American" concert in Livermore on Oct. 27 and a performance of Handel's Messiah in Lafayette on Nov. 31.

Kohl hopes for the performance to uplift the human spirit. "There is nothing like the binding communal experience of an orchestra concert," Kohl said. "The experience in the concert hall is a sacred testament to the best of what it is to be human."

The LAC's president and PCO board member, Sue Farmer, encourages young musicians to attend. "The arts are such an important part of our culture, but they need our support," Farmer said. "Producing a live concert with a full orchestra is expensive, but it is a thrilling experience for the audience. More people should be able to enjoy live concerts, especially the youth."

"When one supports the musical arts, they give not only to the organization but to everyone whose lives are touched by those who attend the concert," Kohl said. "The world is made a bit better with each live performance."

Doors open at 7 p.m., with the two-hour concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$55-75. Student tickets are only \$25. For tickets and information, visit pacificchamberorchestra.org/tickets/.

Meet 101-year-old John Hill

By Mitch Reichenbach



Photo Ann Murphy

John Hill at his residence

In our ever-hectic lives, it is easy to overlook Lamorinda's rich history. Many of us unwittingly pass by historical buildings and landmarks each day, without a second thought, unaware of the legacies each one holds and how it has shaped our beautiful community.

From the remnants of the Moraga Railroad stop to the historic Moraga Adobe, and even to Acalanes High School, built as part of FDR's New Deal project, history surrounds us every day in Lamorinda. Meeting John Hill is like stepping back in time; his presence and story serve as a poignant reminder of the rich history embedded in our community.

At 101 years old, John Hill is a captivating and astute gentleman who generously shared excerpts of his life story with me. As I walked into his home, I caught a glimpse into Mr. Hill's life. The flags of over twenty countries filled one wall. The room was adorned with images from his life, showcasing his wedding, travels, friends, and family. Countless books, ranging from history to Charles Dickens, were scattered around his room and on shelves. Throughout the next hour I spent with Mr. Hill, I learned about pivotal moments of his life.

Mr. Hill grew up in the Bay Area with his parents and two brothers, George and James. His father, George Hill Senior, completed only a third-grade education and worked as a truck driver for a local coffee shop. Mr. Hill attended Polytechnic High School followed by San Francisco Junior College.

He was 17 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He recalls the exact moment when he learned about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and described sitting in the car with his friends as the radio broadcast projected Roosevelt's voice. "Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941, the empire of Japan..." John recited Roosevelt's words when announcing the bombing. He said Roosevelt was an amazing speaker and he can still hear his voice in his head today. When recounting the discussion with his family at the time he said, "We thought we would probably end the war in six months."

Following the US entering the war in 1941, John completed his Associates Arts Degree at San Francisco Junior College before he enlisted in June 1942. Mr. Hill enlisted in the Navy before being drafted due to his strong patriotism. He expressed little hesitation for himself, his brothers, and his peers when it came to serving for the United States in the war. Mr. Hill became a medic in the Navy and was deployed to New Guinea and Sydney, Australia. Following the war, John was accepted at Stanford University through the GI Bill and graduated in 1949 at the top of his class with a Cum Laude Degree. At Stanford, John stud-

ied history and wrote his thesis: Russian as Seen by American Magazines, 1917 - 1920. He also got his teaching degree, which he would use following his graduation.

Apart from Mr. Hill's professional life, he shared with me some memories of his personal life. John met his wife, Margery, in a church program and married her just a few years later. Although neither of them are French, Mr. Hill married his wife at the French Church of San Francisco as a romantic gesture. He spoke to me about their travels each summer, over which they visited more than twenty countries together. His favorite of these countries is Ireland.

After getting married, Mr. and Mrs. Hill lived in Oakland. Wanting to find a larger home for their children, Mr. and Mrs. Hill went looking for a new house nearby, exploring areas around Walnut Creek and Danville. It wasn't until Mr. Hill saw a newspaper image of Moraga that he decided to move there. He described the image as being all blank except for Saint Mary's College. Due to his love for Saint Mary's College and its sports, Mr. and Mrs. Hill moved to the newly developing Moraga in 1954. He has been living in Moraga ever since.

Seasonal trends

... continued from Page 5

The first feature-length documentary on Lempicka, Rubio's film captures the essence of the artist's journey, highlighting her creative genius and her struggles as a woman in a male-dominated world.

The film includes never-before-seen 8mm home movies, interviews with Lempicka's great-granddaughter Marisa de Lempicka, and actress Eden

Espinosa. Additionally, Rubio's film will have its world premiere at the 2024 Mill Valley Film Festival on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., with a repeat screening Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. For tickets visit: www.mvff.com/early-bird. "Tamara is truly getting the recognition she deserves," says Rubio, "and we are honored to be part of this historic moment, contributing to her enduring legacy." Don't miss a chance to see Lempicka's work as well as Rubio's

film (two powerhouse women) at the de Young Museum, Oct. 12 to Feb. 9, 2025.

Finally, BART is getting fashionable with an upcoming runway show titled Project Doneway: A Farewell to BART Paper Tickets. Students from four local Bay Area universities have been invited to design clothing from paper BART tickets, and they will show their creations at the Rockridge Station in Oakland on Saturday, Sept. 14 from

1 to 3 p.m. For more information visit: www.bart.gov/news/articles/2024/news20240828.

Embrace the trends and go forth in style.

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

Stuffed butternut squash

By Susie Iventosch



Photos Susie Iventosch

ternut squash is, but the one I bought would be enough for four or even six side dishes and anywhere between two and four main dishes. I ate an entire half by myself and didn't really need quite that much, but it was so good that I couldn't stop!



Fall is just around the corner, and it seems like the perfect time to do a colorful "harvesty" recipe. This one has a cornucopia of delicious ingredients! I usually buy acorn squash, but the other day a butternut

squash caught my eye, and I decided to stuff that instead!

As with most stuffings, you can create your own out of whatever you might have in your refrigerator, but for this one I purposefully used dried cranberries and arugula for the color, which are so pretty with the roasted butternut squash. The rest of this stuffing includes sautéed onions, toasted walnuts, pecans, and turkey sausage for a little protein. You can make this as a vegetarian dish, too ... just leave out the turkey sausage.

The ingredients call for red jalapeño jelly, which gives it a little kick, but if you don't have that no worries; just make it without.

It all depends upon how big or small the but-



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

Baked Stuffed Butternut Squash

(Serves 4 as a side and 2 as a main dish)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large butternut squash, cut in half lengthwise and seeds removed
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 6 turkey sausage breakfast links (or patties) chopped
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces, toasted
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces, toasted
- 2 cups arugula leaves, loosely packed
- 3 oz. feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tsp. lemon pepper seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. dried sage
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground pepper
- 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp. Jalapeno red pepper jelly

DIRECTIONS

Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 425 F.

Cut squash in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and brush the cut sides and the cavity with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Place face down on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for about 45-50 minutes or until you can easily insert a knife into the flesh of the squash and the cut side is nicely browned. Remove from oven and cool.

Once cool, use a spoon or knife to cut out the flesh of the squash, leaving about 1/2-inch all the way around on the remaining shell of the squash. Leave the squash shells, hollow side up on the baking sheet. Cut the squash meat into bite-sized pieces. Set aside.

Meanwhile, heat 2 tbsp. olive oil in a large skillet and sauté onions until translucent and beginning to brown. Stir in lemon pepper, sage, salt, and pepper. Add sausage and continue to brown. Once the sausage is browned, add the nuts, cranberries, and half of the arugula, and sauté for just a few more minutes, until arugula begins to wilt. Remove from heat and add the remaining arugula, the squash pieces, and feta cheese. Toss all together and then fill the squash cavities with this mixture. Drizzle balsamic vinegar over the filling and edges of the squash. If you are adding the jalapeño jelly, then just distribute it a little here and a little bit there. It will melt into the filling as it bakes.

Preheat oven to 400 F and bake for another 30 minutes or so at 400 F, until heated through and the feta cheese is beginning to brown slightly. Serve hot.



'Close Your Eyes' - a unique and melancholic film from Spain, opens in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini

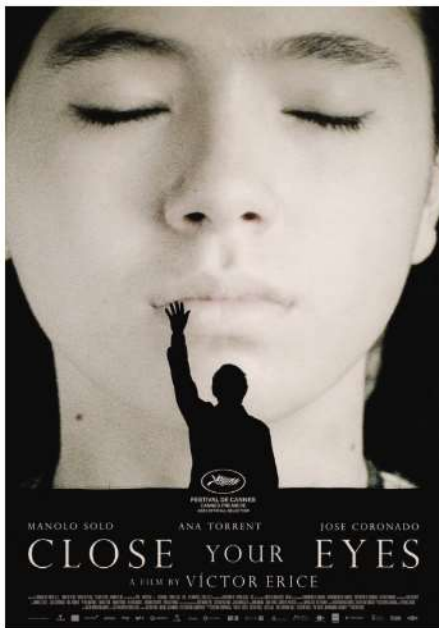


Image provided

find his daughter who has disappeared in Shanghai, taken away by her Chinese mother who has changed her name. As he approaches death, Levy feels that only his daughter could see him one last time for who he really is. We are in the middle of a romantic tale, the detective is about to leave for a mysterious land, it feels like the beginning of an old adventure movie with characters bigger than life.

And it turns out that this was an illusion inside an illusion. When the scene cuts, we understand that we were the witnesses to the filming of a movie that was never finished because Julio Arenas, the famous Spanish actor who played the detec-

tive, disappeared before the end of the filming. His body was never found and the police concluded it was an accident.

We are now 22 years later. A live TV show that aims at solving cold cases takes on the old mystery and interviews Arenas' best friend and director of the movie, Miguel Garay. Garay, whose life seems to have been put on pause by what happened, has to return to Madrid and is taken back to his past with its unresolved questions. He could have stayed locked in his recollections, but a note from someone who saw the TV show sends him into a wild goose chase.

The different periods and the different stories are intertwined

and interact around the concepts of loss, identity, and memory. It is like an origami that slowly unfolds to reveal a palimpsest where several lives have been imprinted and erased.

This film was directed by legendary Spanish filmmaker Victor Erice. Within the span of 50 years Erice made four movies, and this one is his latest creation. In an interview with the film magazine Little White Lies published in April of 2024, he said that "What this new film talks about is an(...) unfinished film as well as the whole idea of "unfinishedness" and what that means in art and life." The revered director explained that cinema is for him existential and a form of

destiny. His movies question the relationship between the real world and cinema. Can it have an impact on reality? "Close Your Eyes," asks the question but does not answer it, leaving each spectator to find their own answer.

The movie opens at the Orinda Theater on Sept. 13. For more information and tickets go to www.orindamovies.com/

*The International Film Showcase is a Lafayette non-profit that selects acclaimed international films that have not been distributed locally and negotiates projection in several independent Bay Area cinemas. It can be found at internationalshowcase.org

The movie brought to Orinda this month by the International Film Showcase* is a piece of cinematic art of a quality that people do not often get to see. It is not a thriller, even if there is an enigma. It is a long and poetic voyage, about memory, oblivion, and cinema itself. Playing wonderfully with what is real and what is imagined, with a film inside the film, with reality TV

inside the film, with the past and the present, this absolutely unique movie is a melancholic masterpiece, worthy of the seventh art. It opens in Orinda on Sept. 13, and will play for at least a week.

The movie opens in 1947, in the castle of Triste-le-Roi, in France. An old man, frail and rich, named Levy, has summoned a private detective. He wants him to

100th birthday celebration



Leslie Thor Schreiner celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on August 24 at Rancho Laguna Park. Submitted by Tim Thor

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Not to be missed

Art

Art Gallery at Wilder: "Whiskers and Zen" Paintings by Joy Chew. The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view featured artist Joy Chew's digital paintings of cats and capybara ("Whiskers and Zen") from Sept. 9 to Oct. 6. Meet the artist on Sunday, Sept. 15 at a reception in her honor from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served in the Art Gallery at Wilder, 20 Orinda Fields Way, Orinda. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/> to learn more. If you plan on attending, please download the directions.

Kids Art Table at Lafayette Art and Wine Festival – Call for Volunteers. The Lamorinda Arts Council needs face painting volunteers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 21 and 22 in Booth #924, in Local Artists Alley. No experience necessary - we provide safe materials and a binder of stencil templates for kids to choose from. Put some smiles on their faces – it's fun! Sign up here: <https://lamorindaarts.org/volunteer/>.

Call for Writers and Artists: The Lamorinda Arts Council's Oct. 26 Art Embraces Words program invites writers and artists who are in sync with its Halloween Theme to apply to read and show their work. A short Q&A follows each presentation. Featured sci fi writer Marlene Dotterer kicks off the day. All are invited to appear as their favorite literary or artistic character to compete for prizes awarded by theater costume judges. A reception in the adjacent vine covered courtyard follows. Apply at <https://lamorindaarts.org/>

art-embraces-words, email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call (925) 359.9940 with questions.

The Second Annual East Bay Gallery Tour has added 6 Benicia Art Galleries to the Tour this year, bringing the total to 13 Art Galleries for you to visit during the month of October. You have the whole month to visit them and get your Gallery Tour postcard stamped for a chance to win a prize worth \$300! This event is free and open to anyone who'd like to participate. Visit any of the galleries listed on the website at the end of September or in October to pick up your postcard with a map and addresses of all the Art Galleries. The galleries will start stamping postcards on Oct. 1. Visit www.mainstreetarts.net/east-bay-gallery-tour-2024.html for more information.

A new exhibit, "Expressions," opened on Aug. 21 at the Moraga Art Gallery and highlights works by two Lamorinda artists: Dalia Alekna, a painter of strikingly-colorful acrylic abstractions, and Mary Leigh Miller, a compelling Raku ceramicist. Alys Briggs will join Alekna and Miller as the featured guest artist. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. A free opening reception for art lovers of all ages will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Come to view the collection, meet the artists, listen to live music, and enjoy wine and refreshments. The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information visit: www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925)376-5407.

Las Juntas East Bay Artists Guild Fine Art reception on Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. An-

drew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. Bring your friends, enjoy refreshments, meet the artists, see a variety of art mediums. www.eastbayartistsguild.org

Art show at Orinda Books in Sept. features the paintings of Sussana Griswold and the woodturnings of Steve Griswold. Sussana's award-winning oil and pastel work focuses on portraits, both human and animal, which are her favorite subjects. For Steve, wood has always been a source of wonder: "Within the ordinary trees we walk by every day, there are miracles waiting to be discovered, and through turning wood on a lathe, I try to reveal those miracles." For a preview, visit www.orindabooks.com. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda.

Music

Front Porch Music Presents Stellar Local Talent at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m., with lobby entertainment by folk troubadour Steve Smulian, starting at 6 p.m. Six local acts will be featured during the Oct. 4 performance. TICKETS: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door www.townhalltheatre.com/front-porch

Classical Pianist Mark Valenti Performs on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Online broadcast: visit stpaulswc.org/concert-series/ for the concert link and program. All are welcome regardless of donation! Contact: Deborah Webster, Tel.: (925) 934-2324, Email: concertseries@stpaulswc.org

Not to be missed

Theatre

The Orinda Starlight Village Players present: Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 at 8:30 p.m., Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. and Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. adults-\$20/seniors & children \$10 tickets available at the box office, Orinda Community Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way- Orinda, (located behind the community center, in the park) www.Orsvp.Org

Bay Area Comics is back with a bang, bringing an electrifying stand-up comedy show to the Lafayette Town Hall Theatre. Featuring: Jeremy Curry, Shea Suga, Jose Contreras, Xavier Bronson, and Trent Babb. Hosting this unforgettable night is the charismatic Ryan Rodriguez of Bay Area Comics. Friday Sept. 27, 7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 Scholl St., Lafayette. www.townhalltheatre.com

Literature

Join the Sweet Thursday Author Series on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin Concert Hall at the Lafayette Library to hear author John King discuss his book, "Portal." This is a free event, but registration is required at Tinyurl.com/sweet-Sept2024. The doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and treats.

The giant fall book sale sponsored by Friends of the Moraga Library will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moraga Library. Books, CDs and DVDs will be sold at prices ranging from \$.25 to \$3.00. Beginning at 1 p.m. a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it can hold. 100% of the proceeds support the Moraga Library children and adult programs,

books and library upgrades.

Other

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission & Parking: Free! Music: Free! Kid Zones: Cost varies per ride/activity. Glasses (wine/beer) and Drink Tickets are sold throughout the festival. Look for ticket booths. Combination packages available with big discounts. Only 2024 glasses and tickets are accepted. You MUST BE 21 years of age to purchase glasses, drink tickets and be served! <https://lafayettefestival.com/>

Healthier Eating with Good Nutrition Instructor: Emma Bishopp in partnership with Lamorinda Village. Looking to eat healthier and still enjoy flavorful food? This class will cover the science behind the current wisdom on nutrition. Holistic Nutritional Consultant Emma Bishopp will share information on nutrition protocols to support health and wellness and some of her favorite healthy recipes to try at home. You must register ahead of time for this class and space is limited to 12 people. Thursday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Free

Mocktails & Cocktails Sunday Sept. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Tutu's Lafayette. Join those who love art, literature, music and everything in between at Tutu's, 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Questions? Email Lamorinda Arts Council at literary@lamorindaarts.org or call (925) 359.9940.

2nd Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Fair, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Fun for the kids, treats and information for everyone! Police drones and vehicles, Fire truck, Search and Rescue, Ham Radio Operators and MORE! Free to the public. St. Anselm's Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette.

AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation service in Contra Costa County. Tax-Aide needs individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. While prior tax preparation experience is beneficial, it is not a requirement. The program provides comprehensive training and ongoing support to ensure all volunteers feel confident and capable in their roles. Volunteer positions include Tax Counselors, who are trained by Tax-

Aide and certified by the IRS, and Client Facilitators, who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. To learn more and apply online, visit www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer or call (925) 726-3199 for additional information.

15th Annual Senior Symposium: Empowering Seniors and Caregivers on Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m. - Noon at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. The Lamorinda Spirit Van is providing free transportation to and from the event from the following Lafayette locations: Belle Terre, 3428 Mt. Diablo Blvd.; Merrill Gardens, 1010 Second St.; Chateau Lafayette, 3512 Moraga Blvd. If you are interested in a ride, please call the Spirit Van at (925) 283-3534 to make a reservation. Seating is limited and will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to reserve a spot is Sept. 23. If you have questions, please email info@lafayetteecf.org. Register for the FREE event at <https://bit.ly/ss24lafayette>


Saint Mary's College Guide Fellowship & Fun Benefiting SMC Scholarship Fund. Saturday, Oct. 12, 5:30 p.m. No-Host Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner: Appetizer, Caesar Salad, Pasta, Bread, Chicken, & dessert to follow. Soda Center, SMC Campus \$35 per person for dinner. shook-s1223@gmail.com or Call (925) 285-9466

KNIT SOME LOVE is a group of knitters who are participating in a community service project knitting hats and scarves for at-risk children and adults. These will be distributed in October by White Pony Express Boutique which provides food to 93 local food pantries and living necessities to low income and unhoused individuals. If you want to participate, please leave completed new items at a member's house in Orinda or another member's house in Moraga through the end of October. Please email for the addresses. kathydown@comcast.net. Or call with questions 925-997-0734.

September 28 Be the Star You Are! celebrates being the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year and its 25th Anniversary with activities at 10 am in the Moraga parade, 11 am booth at Pear and Wine Festival, 1 pm honor at the bandstand, 2 pm ribbon cutting and party. Lots of free family fun! Come play! www.bethestaryouare.org/events-1/2024-pear-and-wine-festival

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Football players and students in Africa this summer with the International Vision Volunteers

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Yanjean Hwang

David Roman, Carson Blair, Leo Wampler, Charlie Hwang, Faye O'Neill, Grant Jedlicka, Katie Barmmer, and Charlie Metherd, visiting Victoria Falls (one of the Seven Wonders of the World)

The International Vision Volunteers is a nonprofit that was founded thirty years ago by Dr. James "Bud" Tysinger, an ophthalmologist whose goal was to bring sight and eye care to the underserved in the world. Tysinger is a retired partner in Orinda resident, Ivan Hwang's, practice and for the past ten years, Ivan and his wife Yenjean, a doctor of infectious diseases, have been taking their four sons to Zambia to work with the Vision Volunteers as often as three times a year.

"Bud saw how a simple cataract surgery can prevent blindness and make such a big difference in people's lives in Africa, so in 1995, he began raising funds to build a freestanding eye clinic in Zimba, Zambia with a modern operating room next to the Zimba Mission Hospital, which was completed in 2001." Yenjean said. "Zambia was chosen because it has always been a peaceful country with no wars and it's primary language is English, though there are 72

tribal dialects."

The Hwang's youngest son, Charlie, is a running back on the Miramonte football team. Prior to this summer, his teammate David Roman and his sister had made the trip to Zambia with the Hwangs. This year, Roman, Grant Jedlicka, Kate Barmer, Faye O'Neal and Grant's mother Kore McGinnis, a neonatal ICU nurse, had already planned on making the trip.

"I was speaking about how it was a great experience and opportunity going to Africa and getting a background doing work and helping people in the field of ophthalmology," Charlie said. "My other teammates Carson Blair, Leo Wampler, and Charlie Methard said that it sounded like something they would like to do so my mom got in touch with their parents and made the final arrangements, along with getting their shots for yellow fever, malaria and hepatitis."

Yenjean handles the administrative aspects of

running the clinic and seeing that supplies are in order and bills are paid in compliance with Zambian law. "Making the trip takes a lot of planning as we bring over 22 bags of medical supplies, each weighing 70 pounds," Yenjean said. "The flights took about 40 hours, leaving San Francisco and flying 11 hours to London with a five-hour layover and then an 11-hour flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, with another four-hour layover and then a two-hour flight to Livingstone, Zambia, and then an hour drive to Zimba."

Life is not very easy for the citizens of Zambia, as the country is trying to restructure their debt along with unemployment problems and drought conditions. There can be blackouts in the country, but the clinic runs on solar power that was funded through the Orinda Rotary and other local rotary clubs, so there is no problem seeing patients, but away from the hospital, power could be out for 12-13 hours at a time.

Yenjean also set the schedules for the volunteers, splitting them up in teams with one group going to the schools and doing vision screening to see who needed glasses, and then bringing them back to the clinic for a full medical examination. Others would help in the clinic, being runners in the operating room, sterilizing the instruments, helping to move the patients, and bandaging them up after surgery.

"I was very proud of all of them because we were doing so many surgeries and they always got things ready for the next surgery which really sped things up, and we would rotate all of the students to work in each area," Yenjean said. "We would do over 70 surgeries a week and see 60 patients a day, and our kids screened about 300 children. This year we also brought a dentist with us, and she did screenings of the kids at a soccer tournament."

"Maybe the best experience was a social one - meeting new people and being able to help the people of Zambia that were coming from a far less privileged community and helping to make their lives better," Charlie said. "We got to know the Zambians outside of the clinic, playing soccer with them. We also brought footballs to throw around which was new to them, but they were very enthusiastic."

The students also got the opportunity to see the country away from the clinic. "Zambia is a beautiful country, and all the kids got out for a weekend," Yenjean said. "We went on an overnight safari in Botswana at the Chobe National Park, seeing

lots of animals and then hiking down to the bottom of Victoria Falls and then back up."

The group made it a point not to let anything go to waste. "We also converted our shipping containers into little libraries for the community and stocked them with books that we brought as well, since access to books is limited over there," Yenjean said. "The various trips have already inspired one volunteer to major in biomedical research and three others are planning on going to medical school after college."

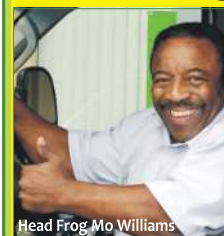


Leo Wampler removing dressings from patients the day after their eye surgeries



From left: Korrie McGinnis (NICU nurse at UCSF and Grant's mother), Grant Jedlicka, Tobias Chibenga (Zimba Nursing School Faculty), Charlie Metherd, and Charlie Hwang, delivering donated nursing textbooks to the nursing school

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Talent and potential in Lamorinda football

... continued from Page 1

So far, the key addition has been at quarterback with sophomore Tyler Winkles, who played on the freshman team last year. "Tyler is very smart and is able to see the whole field," Burnsed said. "He anticipates routes, throws on time, and does not lock on to one player. He reminds me of (former NFL QB) Ken Dorsey who I coached at Miramonte."

Backing up Winkles is Wyatt Zawadski and WR David Gonzales. The running backs are set with Austin Wampler and the multi-talented Deonte Littlejohn, who ran for 68 and 55 yards respectively in the opening win over Lowell.

At WR, Nico White is the leader from last season (51-748) and set the tone for the first win over Lovel by returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown. Gonzalez, Tyler Kim, and sophomore Finn Rivera, who also starts in the secondary, gives the team good depth on the outside. Junior Josh Everts is the starting tight end with JB Frolich currently out with an injury.

The offensive line continues to be a strength for the Dons with Joey Martin, up from JV at center, Andrew Tresser returning at right guard, Jack Manful at left guard, Santiago Chenelo at right tackle and Drew McKenzie the left tackle, and the only lineman that also plays on defense.

At 6'2" and 220 pounds, Deonte Littlejohn was dominant in the opener with five tackles for loss and one sack. A key addition on the line has been DT Bethel Imasuen at 6'4" 255 who was a rugby player in England. "Bethel is just learning how to play and is really enjoying the game," Burnsed said.

Despite losing their starting linebackers to graduation, seniors Brady Wall, Jake Hawkins, and Wyatt Cooper still bring experience to the position. "They all had good playing time last season so we're not starting from scratch," Burnsed said. The corners are River Lockwood and Ilias Kaplanes-Jones. Birdsong, Jonah Rivera, and LB Marco Giorgiani all had interceptions in the first game.

"I like our team," Burnsed, "We've got a lot of players that are going to be exciting to watch play."

MIRAMONTE

The Nick Safir regime has started very successfully, defeating Oakland Tech 42-6 and Alhambra 44-0. "We've got a really resilient group of guys without a ton of numbers," Safir said. "These kids really want to be good, and they have really bought in, and I couldn't be happier with them. The players have learned I want to get the best out of them and know that I'm a player's coach."

Along with quarter-

back Carson Blair, the Matadors will be running a spread offense with three wide receivers, an H-back, and a single running back. "We're really going to stress running the football and be more balanced than we were last year," Safir said. "Carson is a great quarterback and we're going to put a lot of things in his hands because we're really confident with him leading our offense with Charlie Methard as his backup."

Miramonte ran for 256 yards in their opener vs. Oakland Tech led by Charlie Hwang, Derek Youn, and Blair. "This offense has been a lot of fun so far," Hwang said. "For Derek and me to get 19 carries was more than we had been used to and Carson has the option to run off the pass plays."

The receivers are led by Andrew Bjornson and Jack Quinild, and H-backs in Mitch Reichenbach and Justin Jalowiec. "They are the pistons to Blair's role as the team's engine," Safir said.

The offensive line is led Leo Wampler, sophomore Jack White, Andrew Davenport, and Hugo Shen. "Andrew is a dominant player on offense and defense and if he stays healthy, he's going to have a monster season."

With a 4-2-5 defense, the line is set with Davenport playing on the inside and outside. Bjornson has moved to DE along with 6'5" Tanner Gunn; Harry Smith lines

up on the nose and Preston Hawthorn at defensive tackle. "Bjornson gives us length and a great pass rush and Gunn just needs to play meaner. Smith has been really hard to block, and Hawthorn brings a great motor," Safir said.

Luke Milmore and Jalowiec are the starting linebackers. "Luke is the heartbeat of the defense and he and Justin both play mean," Safir said. The defensive backfield is being led by sophomore George Gilbert, who is being counted on to direct the players.

"There's going to be some growing pains for him but he's the guy that is going to be make a lot of the calls," said Safir. "Safir is very confident in this team: "We just need to play within ourselves, not forcing things and running the game plan. On defense we need to make the tackles and not get beat deep."

CAMPOLINDO

With only eight seniors on the Campolindo roster, Coach Kevin Macy is relying on an uncharacteristic number of underclassmen to carry this year's team. Compounding this issue has been an unfortunate number of offseason knee injuries that has led to depth issues on the roster.

"We have so many young people," Macy said. "We're not deep in experience right now and we've seen the need to get the players more focused. It's good that we have caught it early and

we're addressing it and moving forward."

The Cougars started slowly in their opening game loss, but did adjust and outscored Vanden in the second half. "The team focused and grew up after the first half and we're going to have to continue to grow from week to week."

Junior QB Reid Habas showed well in the first game, splitting time with Max Robeson, and should be getting the majority of the playing time.

Junior Micah Parker (133-863) who led the team in rushing last year, Mack Fisher (35-258), and Zach Tabbian are the leading running backs. "The big thing for us is getting Blaise Clancy up to speed, coming off a torn ACL last summer and he is going to be the biggest key to us moving forward," Macy said. "He can do a lot of things for us but we're being a little cautious, he and will be looked upon to be the true leader on the team, having led his class since his freshman year."

Joe Revelos (29-481) is coming off a good junior season and is the leading receiver on the team this year. Junior Everett Zellmer caught a touchdown pass in the first game. "Everett is going to be solid," Macy said. "He's going to be that guy that just keeps making plays for us."

Crosby Kelly, who had a solid sophomore season at tight end, has been bothered by nag-

ging injuries all summer. Last year, Campolindo had the benefit of having five senior starters on the offensive line, but has made their year's line a work in progress.

Standing out among the group has been Elliott Frick, who is a first-time center, and junior Caleb Blete at right guard. "Caleb worked very hard in the off-season. He has become durable and shown a lot of improvement and made himself into a starter," Macy said.

Depth is also a question on defense and Macy is again looking forward to being able to use Blaise Clancy and Crosby Kelly more often. "Not having Crosby hurts because he's a fighter and the one that's out in front of everyone," Macy said. "We're also hoping to see Blaise step in at linebacker because he has the instincts to play there, and he plays with real desire." Mac Fisher, as an outside linebacker, also brings some experience.

Matthew Sugiyama is now being used exclusively in the defensive backfield and Luke Bonardi has moved from safety to corner because of his ability to tackle and stop the third down conversions.

"This is a year we're going to have to grow on the run," Macy concluded, and they have already started the process defeating Northgate 31-23.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 18

Issue 15

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page OH2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Prescription to Plant

By Cynthia Brian



A purple crape myrtle is full of flowing flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian

"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow"
Audrey Hepburn

Only two weeks until autumn officially arrives. With the intense heat of this past summer, a cooler fall offers a welcome prescription to plant. The summer sun fried the leaves on many plants. On the hottest days, I installed umbrellas to shade my gardenias, heucheras, geums, and penstemons. Since July when temperatures were blazing, I have positioned 30 containers of Proven Winners reblooming azaleas snuggled under the canopy of my camellia tree awaiting optimal weather for final siting. Because all newly planted specimens need ample water and mild warmth



Chinese lanterns, *Abutilon 'nabob'*, attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

to acclimate to their new environs, I anticipate getting these shrubs in the ground in late September, or maybe even early October.

Now is the time to plan for planting. I am busy helping clients prepare for the coming season. For a prescription that yields healthy results, fall is the perfect time to plant everything.

Why is autumn an excellent time to start digging deep?

Cooler Temperatures: Because the sun's angle is lower in the sky in fall, its rays strike the earth at a more oblique angle, reducing the intensity of the heat compared to summer days.

Newly planted specimens endure less sun stress, allowing them to establish stronger roots.

Milder Sunlight: Fall days are shorter, and nights are cooler. The milder sunlight combined with the cooler temperatures creates a comfortable environment for gardeners to plant. Without the extreme heat of summer, plants can establish themselves before the next blooming season.

... continued on Page OH8

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	11	\$725,000	\$4,225,000
MORAGA	6	\$1,035,000	\$2,904,000
ORINDA	14	\$1,198,000	\$3,425,000

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

1185 Glen Road, \$3,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3092 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 08-09-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,431,000, 08-09-18

1015 Juanita Drive, \$1,425,000, 2 Bdrms, 1673 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 08-09-24

3224 Judith Lane, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-07-24

1280 Panorama Drive, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-05-24

3854 Palo Altoa Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2498 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-29-24

110 Peaceful Lane, \$1,780,000, 4 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-29-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,860,000, 08-30-23

1603 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2406 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 08-05-24

873 Solana Drive, \$4,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2671 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-09-24

3161 Stanwood Lane, \$2,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1980 SqFt, 1920 YrBlt, 08-02-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 03-21-06

1190 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$3,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1598 SqFt,
1976 YrBlt, 07-29-24, Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 07-03-21

3368 Vaughn Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 08-02-24

MORAGA

28 Merrill Circle, \$2,904,000, 5 Bdrms, 4808 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 08-09-24,
Previous Sale: \$2,489,000, 03-11-21

140 Miramonte Drive, \$1,035,000, 2 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-07-24,
Previous Sale: \$387,500, 12-23-20

62 Sanders Ranch Road, \$2,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 3513 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-02-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,270,000, 06-02-10

16 Via Barcelona, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2114 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-07-24,
Previous Sale: \$968,000, 03-19-19

118 Wallace Circle, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-09-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,213,500, 03-05-21

236 Willowbrook Lane, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2963 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 08-06-24,
Previous Sale: \$2,201,000, 10-02-17

... continued on Page OH4

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page OH2

ORINDA

- 124 Amber Valley Drive, \$3,425,000, 2 Bdrms, 3499 SqFt,
1972 YrBlt, 08-07-24
- 144 Ardith Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 1657 SqFt,
1960 YrBlt, 08-06-24, Previous Sale: \$195,000, 06-01-85
- 41 Bobolink Road, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2602 SqFt,
1954 YrBlt, 08-09-24
- 135 Camino Pablo, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2511 SqFt,
1946 YrBlt, 08-02-24, Previous Sale: \$1,286,000, 04-15-21
- 8 Frogs Leap Way, \$3,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3406 SqFt,
2014 YrBlt, 07-31-24, Previous Sale: \$2,450,000, 01-06-21
- 7 Los Conejos, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1973 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-06-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,415,000, 03-13-15
- 24 Miner Road, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2278 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-05-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,895,000, 09-01-23
- 534 Miner Road, \$2,570,000, 5 Bdrms, 2758 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 07-30-24
- 62 Muth Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2081 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 08-06-24,
Previous Sale: \$729,000, 04-25-02
- 33 Oak Road, \$1,198,000, 3 Bdrms, 1215 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 08-05-24,
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 07-07-08
- 3 Poppy Lane, \$1,655,000, 4 Bdrms, 3232 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-06-24
- 132 Ravenhill Road, \$1,535,000, 3 Bdrms, 2674 SqFt,
1974 YrBlt, 07-29-24, Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 01-29-24
- 160 Ravenhill Road, \$1,600,000, 2 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt,
1983 YrBlt, 08-01-24, Previous Sale: \$755,000, 06-17-09
- 5 Shadow Creek Lane, \$2,230,000, 5 Bdrms, 3812 SqFt,
1976 YrBlt, 07-29-24

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Saturday, September 21, 2024

- ▶ 11:30am – 1:30pm **Bay Bridge Beat**
- ▶ 2:15pm – 4:15pm **Freestone Peaches**
- ▶ 5:00pm – 7:00pm **East Bay Mudd**

BANK STAGE

Sunday, September 22, 2024

- ▶ 11:00am – 12:30pm **Steve Snyder Big Band**
- ▶ 1:15pm – 3:15pm **ZEBOP!**
- ▶ 4:00pm – 6:00pm **The Sun Kings**



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Prescription to Plant



Cabernet Sauvignon in Cynthia Brian's family vineyard awaits harvesting.



Acer Palmatum-Crimson Cut Leaf Japanese Maple shines brightly.

... continued from Page OH1

Moisture: In autumn, we may be fortunate to get a bit of rainfall. With such a hot, dry season, our summer water bills were off the charts this year. Cooler weather combined with some precipitation will build strong roots and ease financial anxiety.

Root Development: Speaking of roots, with the soil still warm from sum-



A multi-trunk watermelon-hued crape myrtle tree.

Photos Cynthia Brian

mer, plants can focus on building a strong root system as they spread more effectively. Flowers get a head start on growing that will ensure a spring with robust, vibrant blooms.

Minimal Weed Competition: When autumn rolls around, most gardeners have eradicated most weeds from the landscape. Weeds compete with plants for nutrients, water, and space. Before fall planting, take a serious stroll through the garden to investigate the conditions. Pull any remaining stragglers. Clean up the garden by clearing away old plant materials to prevent pests from overwintering.

Bulbs are a mainstay of my garden. Every autumn, I plant more bulbs to surprise me with their blooms. In the next few months, you can cultivate bulbs of tulips, daffodils, crocus, fritillaria, hyacinths, muscari, Dutch iris, alliums, and more. Tulip bulbs need to be chilled for six to ten weeks before planting, so plan accordingly.

If some of your daffodils didn't bloom last spring, it could mean that the mother bulb is getting strangled by the bulblets. Dig out the bulb, remove the bulblets to plant elsewhere, and then replant the mother. Although muscari normally blooms from March through May, I have patches of muscari blooming now. Over the years, I have planted thousands of bulbs. Sometimes when I'm transplanting, I inadvertently dig up several bulbs of various species. When that happens, I dust them off and plant them in other areas, regardless of the time of year. Because of this routine, I often have blooms when blooms of these plants aren't normal. Isn't nature marvelous?

For an interesting conversation starter, grow Brugmansia, commonly known as angel's trumpet. This tropical pollinator and hummingbird-friendly plant originally from South America enjoys six to eight hours of sun daily and it's not picky about the soil. The species boasts distinctive, drooping, scented trumpet-shaped flowers. At full height, it can grow to 20 feet or more, although if kept in a container it will grow to about 12 feet if it is pruned. The downsides are that Brugmansia is a thirsty hog, and all parts are highly poisonous to humans and pets.

... continued on Page OH10



Azaleas from Spring Meadow's Proven Winner waiting to be planted in fall.

Angel trumpet flower,
Brugmansia aurea, in yellow.

Photos Cynthia Brian



27 EDMONT CIRCLE | WALNUT CREEK



MID CENTURY MODERN WITH SPECTACULAR MT. DIABLO VIEWS!

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,195 Sq. Ft. | Offered at \$1,795,000

A truly special gem of a home, 27 Edgemont Circle combines exquisite mid-century form and functionality with modern updates in a secluded and serene setting offering breathtaking Mt. Diablo and Sugarloaf open space views. The open floorplan and expansive windows allow for abundant natural light and provides seamless flow to the indoor and outdoor spaces while making the spectacular views the focal point. Newly updated kitchen, bathrooms, and floors accentuate the great flow of this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom, 2,195 sq. ft. home while period accents such as gleaming redwood siding, egg shaped entry lights, tar and gravel roof, and multiple skylights create a magical mid-century vibe and serenity to the home.

Cherished by a single family since its construction in 1966 and conveniently sited in a coveted South Walnut Creek neighborhood known for its easy access to Hwy 680/24, Sugarloaf Open Space, biking and hiking trails, downtown Walnut Creek and top rated schools.

A home that checks all the boxes!!

- MID CENTURY MODERN ✓
- MT DIABLO VIEWS ✓
- MOVE IN READY ✓
- SIMPLY MAGICAL ✓

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Prescription to Plant**

... continued from Page OH8

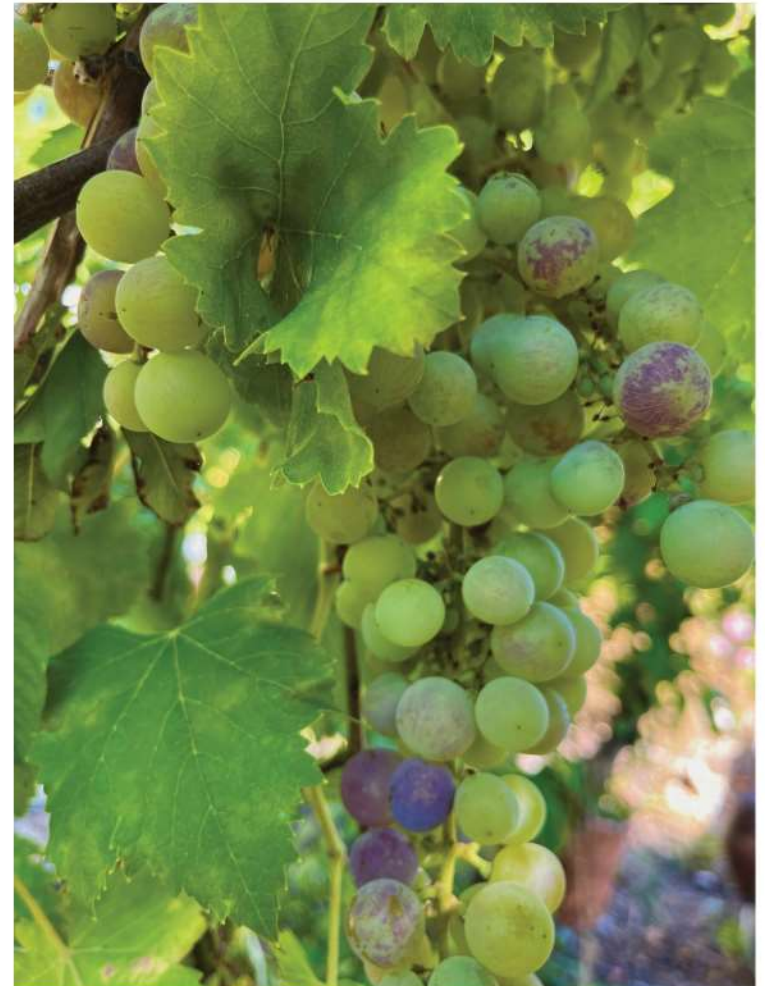
What's happening in my garden? My Naked Ladies are fading, but still showstoppers. I have been creating glorious arrangements with them and adding various foliage, including stems from crocosmia, fern, guava, and palm. The crape myrtles were especially gorgeous this year, especially my watermelon pink and purple varieties. I'm betting that their autumn leaves will be spectacularly colorful as well. (For more information on the benefits of growing Naked Ladies and crape myrtles, read the Aug. 28 column.)

Grapes are ripening and vining into my crabapple tree. The Cabernet Sauvignon will be harvested soon in our family Napa vineyards. My red abutilon, *Callianthe picta* 'Nabob', known as Chinese lantern, has reached new heights since I've been carefully cutting its canopy. It is a member of the mallow family, which also includes hollyhock and hibiscus. The red pendent, bell-shaped flowers attract bees and butterflies, while hummingbirds reach between the sepals and petals to seek out the nectar. The flowers are heralded as edible, although I have never eaten one. A big plus of planting this perennial is that it loves a sunny location and requires very little water, preferring dry soil.

If you'd like to pick up free seeds and potpourri, visit me at the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year's Be the Star You Are!® booth on Sept. 28 at the Pear



Purple muscari blooming in September.



Sweetwater table grapes ripening in Cynthia Brian's Garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

and Wine Festival.

Do your homework and make a list of what you'd like to grow. Prepare and loosen your soil, add organic matter, and smooth the soil surface. Wait until the weather is cooler and then implement your prescription to plant. Goddess Gardener orders! Believe in tomorrow!



Cynthia Brian sits on the hill with her favorite Naked Ladies.

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 which was just honored as the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Books in the Barnyard: Oh Deer!, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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24 La Campana Road, Orinda
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188 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
5 Bd | 4 Ba | 3948 Sqft | \$3,495,000

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108 Oak Road, Orinda
4 Bd | 3 Ba | 3377 Sqft | \$2,995,000

Built in 2000 & nestled in one of Orinda's close to town neighborhoods, this bright spacious home has everything you are looking for!



New Listing!
11 Idyll Court, Orinda
6+ Bd | 4.5 Ba | 4020 Sqft | \$2,795,000

Located at the end of a cul-de-sac on a generous .67 acre, this home enjoys over 4000 sqft of living w/ a pool & sports court!



43 Bear Rodge Road, Orinda
5 Bd | 3.5 Ba | 3571 Sqft | \$2,250,000

Nestled in the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, this spectacular property includes a 4 bd/ 2.5 Ba main home + a 1 bd/ 1 ba cottage.



152 Ravenhill Road, Orinda
3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2546 Sqft | \$1,550,000

Located in the prestigious Orindawoods development this modern light-filled townhome is stunningly updated & has it all!



76 La Cuesta Road, Orinda
3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1762 Sqft | \$1,495,000

Va-Va-Views! This stylishly updated Orinda home is immersed in nature & a peaceful escape, yet right in town.



3930 Quail Ridge Road, Lafayette
4 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 3771 Sqft | \$3,085,000

Stylish retreat in Happy Valley hills w/ views from every room! 3771 sq ft, 4 bd + office, pool, wine room & greenhouse on 1+ acre!



1087 Rahara Drive, Lafayette
3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2685 Sqft | \$2,595,000

This expansive 3 bd/ 3 ba home spans 2,685 sf on a generous 0.56-acre lot in the coveted Happy Valley neighborhood.



3580 Boyer Circle, Lafayette
3 Bd | 2 Ba | 2158 Sqft | \$1,795,000

Fall in love w/ this beautifully updated, 4 bd/ 3 ba, single-level home w/ an ideal layout!



New Listing!
1996 Ascot Drive Unit D, Moraga
2 Bd | 2 Ba | 1066 Sqft | \$579,000

This sought-after location, an upper-level 1066 SF condo in picturesque Moraga, has everything you're looking for!



New Lease!
716 Augusta Drive, Moraga
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2714 Jones Road, Walnut Creek
4 Units | 3986 Total Sqft | \$1,895,000

Built in 1970 this 4 unit complex is conveniently located off the I-680 freeway, is fully rented & ready to produce a profit!



New Listing!
357 Tracy Way, Alamo
4 Bd + Office | 2.5 Ba | 3279 Sqft | \$1,995,000

A rare opportunity for country club living in this expansive home within walking distance of the prestigious Round Hill Country Club!



6915 Ridgewood Drive, Oakland
3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1464 Sqft | \$1,495,000

On a private lot, set within a verdant garden oasis, this Montclair gem offers modern luxury & tranquility!



New Listing!
6681 Charing Cross Road, Oakland
3 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2199 Sqft | \$1,295,000

This sleek Hiller Highlands townhome seamlessly combines comfort & style w/ its functional split-level design.



1167 Kaski Lane, Concord
4 Bd | 3 Ba | 2237 Sqft | \$1,199,000

Fall in love with this beautifully updated, 4 bd/ 3 ba, single-level home w/ an ideal layout!

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