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5k race begins

Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

## Lafayette Res Run invigorates and delights

By Elaine Borden Chandler

On the chilly but sunny morning of Sunday, Oct. 20, 2000 people ran, sprinted, and walked down Mount Diablo Boulevard as a part of the Lafayette Res Run. Crowds of spectators waited on the sidelines in thick sweaters and puffer jackets, cheering and clapping for both the participants they knew and strangers.

The Lafayette Res Run for Education is an annual event presented by the Lafayette Chamber and the City of Lafayette to raise money for local schools. It benefits all the public schools of Lafayette, as well

as Miramonte and Campolindo. There were three runs on the day of the Res Run — the two timed races, the 5k flat race, and the 10k race that loops around the Lafayette Reservoir, as well as the 2 Miles Run/Walk for Fun. There was also a Reservoir Challenge, a 2.7-mile virtual race that participants could complete anywhere they wanted from Oct. 12 to 19.

Before the races began, the runners and walkers jumped and stretched to limber up their muscles in

the cold. Caleb Worcester and his father Matt Worcester were running the 5k race together for Stanley Middle School. Caleb, who previously participated in the Res Run when he was five years old and again at six years old, was nervous but said that he was looking forward to beating his old time. Matt Worcester said, "I'm looking forward to the downhill."

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## Democratic ideals fuel those working the polls Nov. 5

By David Scholz



As another election looms, those serving in the trenches at polling stations have seen changes that continue to make the voting process more efficient for the voters and poll workers alike.

It figures to be another long day for James Taylor, Russ Taft, Sora O'Doherty, and their peers who make up the approximately 1,200 clerks and inspectors who will again staff poll stations countywide on Nov. 5.

They will rise well before dawn to be at their assigned polling station to greet their teams, who report by 6 a.m. to set up the polls ahead of the official

opening at 7 a.m. Then, they say goodbye to their teams as late as 9 p.m., depending on how quickly they can wrap up operations after the polls close at 8 p.m.

"It is hard work," said O'Doherty. "They need us."

Taylor, of Lafayette, who has served in six elections since the 2020 presidential primary, first served as a clerk at St Stevens Episcopal Church in Orinda. Since then, he has been assigned as an Inspector at Holy Names Lutheran Church in Orinda.

"I was involved in the design and construction of the building that we use at the church and personally have an attachment," said Taylor.

Such opportunities to get involved in more civic activities were further increased after his wife passed away as time was freed up.

"I enjoy the challenge of running a smooth and efficient program and tak-

ing care of my clerks," he said, who have made the experience even more worthwhile. "We have fun in spite of the 14 hours."

Taft, of Orinda, who has been active in the polls on and off during the past five years, is marking his third election at St. Stephens Church in Orinda in an inspector role after initially serving as a clerk at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. He asked to be transferred to that site as he's a member of the congregation.

"What got me involved was just to give back to the community, and be a part of the process," he said.

Like others who start working in the polls, Taft also took on the mantle of inspector when someone else was unavailable — illness in his case — and he brought a bit of experience to the role. Ever since then the title has stuck.

"The elections have been interesting, for sure. I am a people person,

and [enjoy] meeting the people who both vote and work the polls, and helping them with their civic duties is my goal," he said.

O'Doherty, a reporter for the Lamorinda Weekly, brought her experience running County Service Area elections in Napa to the Contra Costa County Elections starting in 2016.

... continued on Page A6

## Election 2024

### Upcoming voter deadlines

Oct. 29	Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballot
Nov. 5	Election Day

www.contracostavote.gov/election

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Orinda set aside the Environmental Impact Report — Page A6

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The Great ShakeOut, an annual safety event — Page A7

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Is Moraga's Hacienda haunted? — Page B1



### Sports

Boys water polo teams — Page B4



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Mums bloom in shades of cream, yellow, purple, burgundy, and pink — Page OH1





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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council: Regular Meeting: Monday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Planning Commission: Monday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Design Review: Monday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Candidates for the Acalanes Union High School District Board

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Stacey Schwepp



Peter Catalano



Paul Chopra



Wendy Reicher



Sibyl Minighini

For the Nov. 5 election, five candidates are running for two seats on the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Board. These candidates are Sibyl Minighini, Wendy Reicher, Paul Chopra, Peter Catalano, and Stacey Schwepp. Andrew Fontan is listed on the ballot but has informed Lamorinda Weekly that he has dropped out of the election due to a personal matter.

Sibyl Minighini is a school psychologist and financial literacy coach. She feels that her experience combined with her passion for exceptional

education and a safe learning environment for all students allows her to provide the knowledge and expertise to understand students', families', and teachers' needs and how to lead students to academic success.

Minighini is interested in helping students negotiate pressures and bullying. Her other goals are improving academic achievement for students from all backgrounds, supporting and retaining teachers, budgeting responsibly, engaging with the community, and increasing special needs support and school safety. Wendy Reicher

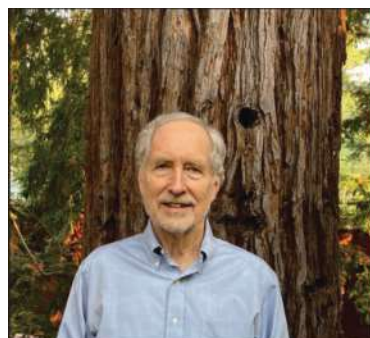
serves on the AUHSD Board and is the mother of two Campolindo graduates and one current student. She previously worked as a college and career advisor in AUHSD and currently works as a college coach to high school students. She feels this gives her in-depth experience to make sure students and staff feel valued and can succeed.

Reicher intends to continue her work closing opportunity and achievement gaps in diverse students, adding diversity to staff, and encouraging parent participation. Her other goals are enhancing school culture, fiscal plan-

ning, and developing broad curricula that speak to the current world.

Paul Chopra feels that his years as an accountant, on the Lafayette Partners in Education Board, and on the Lafayette School District Budget Advisory Committee provide him with the necessary skills and insight to help AUHSD maintain fiscal responsibility. He states that he is the only candidate who will have children as students in AUHSD for the entire term.

... continued on Page A8



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Strengthen our sense of inclusivity and community

Make Lafayette more green and sustainable

Adopt and implement our Age-Friendly Action Plan

Pass Measure H — continue Lafayette's tradition of sound financial management

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Mark DeSaunier, Our U.S. Congressman
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Anne Grodin, Former Mayor
Erling Horn, Former Mayor
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Avon Wilson, Former Mayor
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Katy Foreman, Member, Lafayette School Board
Meredith Meade, Member, Lafayette School Board
Suzy Pak, Member, Lafayette School Board
Dave Smith, Member, Lafayette School Board
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Tom Mulvaney, Former Member, Acalanes UHSD Board
Richard Whitmore, Former Member, Acalanes UHSD Board and Former Superintendent, Lafayette School District
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Rick Humann, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Will Lovitt, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Karen Maggio, Former Chair, Planning Commission
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Christy Mack, Former Member, Public Art Committee
Carol Reif, Former Member, Public Art Committee
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Jim Cervantes, Member, General Plan Advisory Committee
Matt Pease, Member, General Plan Advisory Committee
Beth Neel, Former Member, General Plan Advisory Committee

Rupy Krishnan, Board Member, Lafayette Library & Learning Ctr. Found.
Jeremy Levine, Co-Founder, Inclusive Lafayette
Ruth McCahan, Founder, Lamorinda Village, and Senior Services Comm.
Kathy Merchant, Local business organization leader
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Lisa Spiegler, Board Member, Lafayette Library & Learning Ctr. Found.
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\* Partial list. Titles are for identification purposes only. The endorsement is from the individual, not from the organization.

- Lafayette City Council: Councilmember, 2002-2012, 2020-present; Mayor, 2005, 2011 and 2023
Lafayette Planning Commission: Commissioner, 1997-2002; Chair, 2001, 2002
Served on numerous Lafayette task forces and committees, including the Hillside Task Force, Open Space Task Force, Environmental Task Force (Co-Chair), Senior Housing Task Force (Co-Chair), Park Theater Task Force and Roads Task Force (Co-Chair)

"There is a reason people who served with and worked with Carl are supporting him—they know his experience and leadership will make Lafayette a better place to live for all of us."

- Teresa Gerringer, Former Mayor, Lafayette



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# LHC Candidates' Night reveals accords and divisions in City Council candidates

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

From left: Bill Bucher (at podium), Carl Anduri, Gina Dawson, Lauren Herpich, John McCormick, Mario DiPrisco, and Jim Cervantes at Candidates' Night.

On the mild evening of Oct. 9, a steady stream of people walked into the Lafayette Library's Don Tatzin Community Hall. They were going to attend the Lafayette Homeowners Council Candidates' Night, the only live event scheduled where all of the candidates for the Lafayette City Council would speak to the public and answer their questions.

The candidates — Carl Anduri, Gina Dawson, Lauren McCabe Herpich, John McCormick, Mario DiPrisco, and Jim Cervantes — stood on stage and chatted with each other while the auditorium slowly filled up. Note cards were handed out so the audience could submit questions and extra chairs were hustled out so everyone would have a place to sit.

Bill Bucher, the president of the Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) and the MC for the evening, officially started the event with an introduction of the LHC and how the event would work. For the first portion, all the candidates left the room and came back one by one to give a statement on themselves and present their opinion on Measure H, the proposed 1/2 cent sales tax measure.

The candidates all gave speeches that generally matched what they had previously publicly stated. Dawson, Anduri, Cervantes, and McCormick said they fully supported it, DiPrisco said he reluctantly supported it, and Herpich said that she opposed it.

The mood among the candidates seemed to be one of general camaraderie during this first section of the evening. Laughter and conversation poured out of the back door every time one of the candidates entered. However, that changed during the second section of Candidates' Night.

As they answered a series of questions that had been submitted beforehand by the public and at the beginning of the evening by the audience, the candidates quickly divided into two unofficial camps. Cervantes, McCormick, Dawson, and Anduri were the more financially liberal group and supported the Council's past actions. Herpich and DiPrisco were the more financially conser-

vative group and were critical of the Council's past actions.

Each of these groups, while having some differing opinions among members, tended to share many opinions and support each other through the evening. As the questions progressed and more detailed information came out about each candidates' opinions and plans, other candidates would subtly nod, smile, wince, and even raise their eyes in exasperation depending on how they felt about expressed ideas.

For the question on dealing with traffic congestion, Mayor Dawson stated that money would be needed to deal with the problem and if Measure H passed an administrative analyst could be hired to look for grants. Herpich responded that the City had already hired a public affairs consultant for \$57,000 per year who wasn't doing their job, exemplified in part by how Lafayette does not receive any sales tax from online sales to Amazon.

McCormick replied that Lafayette's public affairs consultant, Townsend Public Affairs, was "phenomenal" and not only ensured that local Lafayette businesses received money during the pandemic, but also provided the expertise for Lafayette to know which California legislation to propose and support.

He noted Lafayette needs to use consultants with its small staff of 51, saying, "There's more people that work at Diablo Foods or Tutus than work for the City of Lafayette."

DiPrisco said that he wanted to have more bussing for the schools to reduce traffic but mostly focused on how Lafayette had been in a structural deficit for three years and had used "one-offs" like money from the Recovery Act and a settlement received from a Moraga developer to cover the budget. "No household would ever budget this way," he said.

Cervantes responded to Herpich's comments, stating that efforts by Senator Glazer to change the online tax shopping allocation had been stymied and that all cities in California the size of Lafayette or larger had a public affairs consultant. He then responded to DiPrisco

saying that the remaining money from the Recovery Act was used to cover the budget so that voters could vote on Measure H to decide what the City should do.

Anduri ended the exchange by first answering the question by saying that Lafayette needed money to carry out the recommendations of previous studies by the City to reduce traffic. He replied to DiPrisco, stating that the Moraga settlement was the Palos Colorados settlement and it had been used to improve traffic safety around schools. He then replied to Herpich, stating that online sales tax goes to the cities who have distribution centers and that these cities would argue that the sales tax paid for the difficulties that having these centers create.

These exchanges continued throughout the evening, some more obvious and some more subtle. The candidates' larger political opinions came out indirectly during the question on the vitriol in the community with demonstrations for the Israel-Hamas war, gender affirming care for minors, and presidential political candidates. During the question on term limits, Dawson, Cervantes, and McCormick stated their support for Anduri, DiPrisco said that he didn't have a hard rule but thought new voices were a good idea, while Herpich stated she thought there should be term limits for all elected officials.

The questions covered the range of topics from accommodating mandated housing, wildfire safety plans, making the City commissions and task forces more efficient, local control of Housing decisions, getting the General Plan Advisory Committee back on track, increasing affordable housing, and rising fire insurance costs.

After the questions were finished, each candidate gave a closing summary during which the candidates reiterated their views and expressed their gratitude to the remaining audience for lasting for the entire event.

After two hours and 40 minutes, the Candidates' Night ended. As they stood up and stretched, many members of the audience commented that one of the most valuable aspects of the evening was being able to see each of the candidate's personalities.

To watch a video of the Candidates' Night, go to the recording titled "LHC candidates night meeting 20241009" at the Lafayette Homeowners' Council Youtube channel, LHC Lafayette Homeowners Council.

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# Moraga School District Board has three candidates vying for two open positions

By Vera Kochan



**Stephanie Dickerson**



**Lee Hays**



**Gian Panetta**

Photos courtesy Moraga Citizens Network

On Oct. 10, The Moraga Citizens Network (MCN) held their tenth Candidates Night. This year, the event was held at Saint Mary's College, and was moderated by the school's provost, Dr. Corey Cook. The crowd size was relatively good despite the constant humorous references pointing out the event's competition for viewership with the San Francisco 49ers football game that evening.

First on the agenda was an introduction of Moraga's three, newly-appointed town council members, Brian Dolan, Lisa Maglio, and Graham Thiel, who then answered questions posed by Cook. An article entailing that portion of the event will appear in a future Lamorinda Weekly issue.

After a brief inter-

mission, the three candidates running to fill two available seats on the Moraga School District Board were introduced to the attendees: Stephanie Dickerson, Gian Panetta, and Lee Hays. Each candidate responded to the same six questions previously submitted to MCN by Moraga residents.

Dickerson, a 14-year Moraga resident with two children in the school system, believes that "MSD has an obligation to ensure that a quality education is provided to every student. This extends to maintaining school safety, fostering healthy learning environments, thoughtfully appropriating funds, and ensuring a strong curriculum."

Panetta grew up in Moraga and experienced first-hand the benefits of

an education via the MSD's Learning Center Program. "I understand the challenges faced by students with learning disabilities in Moraga's education system. I am committed to addressing these challenges. A board that comprehends these issues is crucial to ensure that no child is left behind."

Hays is a 25-year resident whose three children grew up in Moraga and attended the local schools. "I'm committed to preserving and enhancing the high-quality education that makes Moraga a top choice for families. My goal is to work collaboratively with fellow board members, educators, parents, and the community to address challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and maintain the standard of excellence that

defines Moraga's schools."

The first question of the evening was: What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a school board member, and what would you do to be an effective trustee?

Hays feels that it's important to retain outstanding teachers and oversee the superintendent. He spoke of upcoming financial budget shortfalls as being a challenge, but with his construction background, he feels he has the skills to guide the MSD through the recent Bond Measure D's capital improvement projects.

Panetta addressed the reading curriculum in that it's important to ensure that goals established at the beginning of the year are being met, with any necessary adjustments made along the way.

Agreeing with her opponents' responses, Dickerson added the importance of handling the schools and community in the best way possible, while being a collaborative board member. She values her abilities as a good listener when coming to the table to make constructive decisions.

The second question was: Identify one or two important issues facing the Moraga School District, and explain how

you would like the district to address them?

Phones in schools are a problem, stated Panetta. He believes that cyber-bullying through social media is a big cause of mental health issues, especially for girls. Curtailling the use of phones in schools would be a step in the right direction. He also stated that it's important to continue to find funding for the schools, which is difficult when you live in an affluent area.

Dickerson's concerns are with the budgetary issues facing the MSD and where best to put the resources. The schools need upgrading, and Measure D funds must be spent wisely.

Agreeing with both Panetta and Dickerson, Hays also feels strongly about the budget and its importance in retaining the best teachers possible – they are a big reason why the schools are successful in luring families to Moraga. He's also concerned about the schools' aging infrastructure and the need for repairs, and hopes the Measure D funds will be put to careful use.

Question number three asked: School safety is a topic of increased concern nationally.

... continued on Page A5

# Rheem Elementary kicks off its first California Crunch Day

By Vera Kochan

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers sponsored its ninth Annual California Crunch at noon on Oct. 10. The statewide event encouraged schools to "take one big collective bite of locally-grown fruits and vegetables to celebrate local farms and healthy eating." One such school to participate for the first time was Donald L. Rheem Elementary.

The event was also a celebration of Farm-to-School Month. Last year's statewide effort included over 50 school districts that reached over 650,000 students.

According to Food and Nutrition Services Coordinator for the Moraga School District Selma Mirante, "We will feature rainbow carrots, corn on the cob, and cauliflower for our students

to crunch." Other items in the cafeteria's salad bar included cucumbers, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, grapes, unpeeled bananas, and packaged applesauce.

In 2022, California became the first state to enact the Universal Meals Program, whereby the elementary schools provide students with not only a free breakfast, but free lunch as well. "The state had a 'kit fund' grant that provided schools with ovens, warmers, freezers, and refrigerators," explained Mirante. "We don't have a stove. Most schools in Lamorinda do not. We learned as we were going along, and a lot of the food we serve is made from scratch, like today's pasta and sauces. We also have a contract with Sodexo US."



Rheem students enjoy the salad bar. Photo Vera Kochan

Rheem's menu changes regularly to give the kids variety, and popular dishes will see a return. "We make certain that the kids eat a fruit or vegetable, and they can go to the salad bar as often as they want," Mirante said. "The California Department of Education Universal Meals Program is what we participate in, and there are rules for compliant meals."

Operations Manager Rezika Begriche explained, "We put out whatever the harvest of the month is. We've also included romaine lettuce and last time was watermelon." She monitors the salad bar and tries to encourage the kids to go for the not-so-popular choices like carrots and cauliflower.

At Rheem, the students enter the cafeteria in timed shifts. Grades K - 1 are first; then 2 - 3; followed by 4 - 5; and finally the TKs come last. Principal Brian Sullivan explained that any of the foods not eaten are composted in order to help reduce waste. The kids do a decent job of sorting what refuse goes into specific bins, and RecycleSmart keeps an eye on the collection contents for accuracy. Sullivan was the

Master of Ceremonies when it came time to have the students simultaneously take a bite out of a carrot. Before the big event, he gave the kids some facts about the three crunchy vegetables on the menu for the day. The afternoon's cauliflower came from Salinas, California and is a relative to broccoli and cabbage. The corn was grown in Brentwood, California and is classified as a fruit. The mention of corn tortillas was a big hit with the crowd. The rainbow carrots (either orange, yellow, or purple) came from Bakerville and help to promote healthy eyesight, heart, and lungs.

Containers of the multi-colored carrots were placed on all tables, and the students were encouraged to grab one in preparation for the countdown from ten to one, at which point Sullivan described it as the "Crunch of the Century." The previously untouched carrots from the salad bar suddenly became part of a lunchtime game as the kids happily crunched away and finished their entire carrot. Note to parents: if playing a game is all that it takes to get your kids to eat certain vegetables – let the games begin.

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# Town Council changed Mayor/Vice Mayor selection policy again

In a 3:2 vote the town council adopted a new draft policy provided by staff on how to select the town's mayor during the Oct. 9 meeting. The change came after Town Council member David Shapiro had requested during an early September meeting that the matter should become an agenda item before the new council takes over.

Back in September Council member Renata Sos felt strongly that the new policy adopted last year in September was good enough. "First of all, I don't think anything needs to be changed." Sos explained,

"Because the Council still under the current protocol can use its best judgment to do what it wants and to pick whatever mayor they want regardless of whatever the voting history is."

Pointing out that there has been some conflict in electing the mayor in the past, Shapiro explained: "The voters don't elect the mayor. Some of the people think that the voters elect the mayor that's not right." He believes that the new protocol will help avoid conflict in situations when the traditional selection by received votes does not apply, like this year

when all three new council members were appointed without an election.

Town manager Scott Mitnick ended the presentation of the staff report with: "For the record to make it very clear to the Council members and people who are watching, this is not a staff driven agenda item. We did not recommend this to be put on the agenda, but we were asked to review it, do some homework and come back with a recommendation. We fatefully implement whatever direction you provide us."

California law requires the council to ac-

cept the outcome of an election and to select a mayor and vice mayor. The law does not provide a protocol on how to elect the officers.

Moraga's protocol – which states in the past to elect the mayor based on received votes and rotate after one year – had been altered last year

and now accommodates appointed council members who did not receive any votes in an election.

The new protocol passed by Council members Shapiro, Kerry, and Onoda will allow the council to elect the mayor and vice mayor by the following policy: "All Council members

may vote for mayor and vice mayor and may consider seniority, experience, leadership, willingness to collaborate, efficiency, the number of votes received when elected or any other relevant and legal factor." Mitnick stated. – A. Schreck

# Moraga School District Board

... continued from Page A4

What steps do you propose to help Moraga K - 8 schools be better prepared to protect our students?

Dickerson has been on school safety committees, and in 2018, they were able to acquire school safety experts to examine Moraga's schools and file a report detailing all of the issues facing schools. Keeping schools safe is her priority.

Hays feels that collaboration with first responders when it comes to school safety is important, and hopes that parents become involved. Mental and emotional wellness should also be included in the safety category.

Having experienced a lock-down while a student at Los Perales Elementary School, Panetta would like to see schools become more involved with the Moraga Police Department and Moraga-Orinda Fire District with regards to a game plan. He would also like MSD to become better organized in case of emergencies.

Question four: Recent legislation encourages school districts to create homework policies that among other things align with the developmental needs of students, emphasize meaningful assignments over busy-work, and prioritize students' mental and physical health. What are your thoughts on how this law will impact instruction in the MSD?

Hays feels that the district's teachers are currently giving the right amount of homework, and that they are attuned to each child's needs. He believes there are other ways to educate kids without excessive homework and the district is successful thus far.

Panetta wants to make certain that this situation doesn't overload the teachers.

Dickerson feels that the schools are already doing a great job with dispensing the right amount of homework.

The fifth question: What is motivating you to become a member of the Moraga School District governing board?

Having gone through the Moraga school system, Panetta feels that he can bring a lot of experience to the table. He also wants to make sure that no kid falls behind.

Dickerson explained that it's a natural progression to what she's already been doing, and that it feels like a calling – she wants kids to be safe in school. Another priority is the lack of funding.

A strong belief in Moraga's schools and the community are what motivate Hays. He feels that with his background in finance and construction he will be an asset when it comes to Measure D decisions.

The last question of the evening: If you find yourself in the minority position on a vote, how will you manage the situation both internally and externally?

All candidates were in agreement when it came to the importance of collaboration in order to get a job done and move forward towards the greater good.

To view the candidates night on youtube visit: <https://youtu.be/SiLsJ2F0yw4>

**Town Council Meetings:**  
Wed., Oct. 23, 5:30 p.m.  
Wed., Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:**  
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m.  
**Parks and Recreation Commission:**  
Mon., Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.

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Orinda Library Auditorium

**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Orinda Library Auditorium

**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

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# Orinda City Council acts upon Writ of Mandate

By Sora O'Doherty

Public comments on the issues raised by a recent Writ of Mandate issued by Contra Costa Superior Court highlighted once again the conflict between the drive by the State of California to force more housing units on localities and the concerns of residents that more density will worsen the already frightening danger of not being able to evacuate from deadly wildfires.

On Oct. 9 the Orinda City Council voted unanimously to set aside the Jan. 31, 2023 certification of the Plan Orinda Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and certain related approvals, including the Downtown Precise Plan. The council held a special public meeting on the action.

Several public speakers addressed the council. Frequent public commenter Nick Warranoff took the opportunity to complain about Mayor Darlene Gee and Vice Mayor Latika Malkani, asserting that they had prejudged the issues before hearing the evidence. "It's tantamount to a contempt of court," he charged.

He continued to say that the two members of the city council do not care about what the EIR

will show, how long it will take residents to evacuate, or how residents feel about the daily traffic backups on Moraga Way that will be caused by the Downtown Precise Plan.

Michele Jacobson, the only known member of the group that sued Orinda, Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation (OSEE), is a former Orinda resident who now lives in Lafayette. She urged the city to hire a firm of traffic engineers to do an update of the evacuation analysis. Jacobson has previously been elected to the board of the Orinda Association when it was, she said, "the de facto city council" of Orinda prior to its incorporation in 1985.

Orinda resident Carolyn Mills also spoke about the EIR. She told the council that since 1971 she served as chair of the Rental Association Planning Commission for many years, and was a planning commissioner before the city incorporated and sat on the Design Review Board for seven years. She said she had also prepared EIRs for cities, provinces, and special districts. She mentioned that allegedly disregarding the comments of the chief of the

Moraga Orinda Fire District was uncalled for.

Kathleen Jenkins, an Orinda resident, spoke about having her own home insurance not renewed, and how frightening the threat of fire in Orinda is. She recommended that the city not readopt the Downtown Precise Plan (DPP) which, she suggested, is not required for the current Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) in the Housing Element.

Rusty Snow submitted written comments on behalf of Orinda Watch, urging the city to not readopt the DPP, which, he wrote, "creates too many housing units that Orinda Watch believe the majority of Orinda residents do not want."

Following public comments, Planning Director Lashun Cross gave a detailed presentation about the work done by the planning department on Orinda's 6th cycle Housing Element, which was adopted prior to her appointment. She also summarized many new laws and their effect on localities in terms of discretion, or lack thereof, to approve new housing units.

Orinda was one of the first California localities to have its 6th cycle

HE approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), but was sued shortly thereafter by Orindans for Safe Emergency Evacuation.

The staff report, presented by City Manager David Biggs at his final Orinda city council meeting before his retirement, said that "It is important to note that the Judge left the City's Housing Element in place and acknowledged that the City has no choice but to meet the State mandate for adding opportunities for housing development in Orinda. In addition, the Safety Element also remains in place."

As a result of the Judge's rulings, the city was required to set aside its certification of the Plan Orinda EIR and the Statement of Overriding Considerations. Orinda was required to rescind the DPP during the EIR revision process. Following the action by the council on Oct. 9, staff will revise certain portions of the EIR for review and certification. The matter will return to the city council for further action, and there will be opportunities for further public comment.

# Working the polls Nov. 5

... continued from Page A1

After training as an election inspector, O'Doherty stepped in to help solve the chaos at the first early voting site in Walnut Creek and later she was assigned to be the inspector for the polling station at The Rock Church in Danville. Now, she is looking forward to having her fabulous crew back together next month.

As a journalist, she knows keeping her preferences under wraps is expected, and elections are non-partisan. Election fraud is particular a topic that has interested her, and serving at the polls enables her to see the legitimacy of the elections and why.

The three inspectors cited various improvements in the voting process that have come along and helped to simplify the process. But one they all had in common

was the introduction of Apple poll pads a couple of election cycles back that was seen as a notable game changer.

"The addition of the Poll Pad greatly lowered the stress in checking voters in and eliminated all the manual paperwork which slowed everything down," said Taylor.

Taft wholeheartedly concurred. "We used to have to keep a paper trail in both the signed roster, and the master list," he said. "Very tedious."

O'Doherty also cited the value of the poll pads to quickly check in voters and identify the proper ballot for everyone who walks into the polling stations.

She also voiced good riddance to the giant black boxy machine that the voters once had to wait to see their ballots scanned in. Then, after the polls closed, it was opened up and all those

scanned ballots staring up at poll workers from the bottom of the machine had to be moved to yet another box.

For all the changes and improvements, it still makes for a long day. Nonetheless, these poll warriors are happy to do it and hope others might be inspired to join their ranks when they come to vote or drop off their vote by mail ballots next month.

Taylor noted it's quite an experience of meeting all the voters and making sure their votes are accounted for properly. While new clerks come in with great apprehensions, he and his returning clerks have them settled into it in no time.

"I am a believer in volunteerism," said O'Doherty. "You are helping the elections to be everything you want it to be and don't have to wonder about it."

But in the current climate where some voters have questions about the electoral process and safety of their votes, an important asset each of the trio possesses is a calm demeanor essential for diffusing potential situations.

Taylor noted there seems to be one jerk per election cycle that needs to be dealt with. But he has managed to handle such situations, including one occasion when the assigned rover visited polling stations during the day happened to observe the encounter and laud his handling of the matter.

"It's our way or the door's over there," Taylor said.

O'Doherty in fact welcomes the input from those who see where things are amiss. She recalled one irate individual who called out the absence of polling place signage at the Danville site.

"You are 100 percent correct that we need to have a big sign identifying us as a polling place," she responded, and she knew exactly where one was to right this wrong.

Is Taft worried with the election just around the corner? No.

"I cannot worry about things I have no control over," he said. "I just want to make sure that my little piece of the puzzle is done well and done right."

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## The Great ShakeOut fell on 35th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Julie Sparks

through the process of writing a situation report or an incident status summary. What worked well included communication sharing between the Comms Team and the Situation Unit, using colored dry erase markers and post it notes on a large laminated area map, and having two scribes, one to track all responses and the other to develop incident reports. Working together at an exercise to learn each other's capabilities, strengths, and vulnerabilities was also considered beneficial.

What could have been improved included having a backup for net control in case the primary loses their voice, GMRS radio users should identify themselves using their GMRS call sign phonetically, messages should be numbered and logged, and potentially have a priority listing for the FEMA ICS 213 form. Only one of the three antennas at the Sarge Littlehale room was functional.

Based on the exercise, it was recommended that there be further emergency training for Orinda city staff, testing whether or not running the generator would impact communications in the Sarge Littlehale room, and looking into the possibility of setting up WinLink, a digital messaging system that does not require internet.

International ShakeOut Day is every third Thursday of October. This annual date was selected back in 2009, when most schools agreed this was the best time. This year, nearly twenty million participants registered for the event around the world, which included over ten million in California, where ShakeOut began.

*Al Archangel, President of LARIG, and Julie Sparks of MOFD contributed to this report.*

35 years after the Loma Prieta earthquake, which caused numerous deaths and injuries and severe damage in Northern California, Lamorinda took part in The Great ShakeOut, an annual safety event observed around the world. On Oct. 17, the City of Orinda joined with the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Communications Support Team, the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG), and Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) for the exercise.

The objectives of the exercise include practicing personal preparedness, checking on communications equipment, establishing coordination and information sharing between the community, comms team, and the Orinda Emergency Operations Center.

At 9 a.m. a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio station was set up in the Sarge Littlehale Room in Orinda City Hall. Radio equipment and incident command system supplies from the city were used in conjunction with personal handheld radios. The three Lamorinda radio GMRS radio repeaters were linked to extend signal strength.

In previous years, the objective of the exercise was to have people radio in reports to net control. This year, the exercise was expanded,

and now included communicating these reports to the city.

An announcement of a major earthquake was sent automatically through GMRS from a previously recorded digital message. It instructed participants to drop, cover, and hold on. Net control then asked for reports from participants. In addition to GMRS, Lamorinda HAM 440 frequencies were also monitored.

Net control, Jason Matthews, who also handled IT, received information and passed it on to the Orinda EOC Unit overseen by James Duff, Orinda's Wildfire Education and Outreach Coordinator. Carol Bergren and Michael Brown served as scribes, writing down the information received by radio. Wesley Ayers served as a runner.

Location information was mapped by Al Archangel and Daniel Lin. They also monitored HAM traffic. Julie Sparks of MOFD served as support and MOFD Deputy Chief Lucas Lambert, Battalion Chief Jon Bensley, and the crew of MOFD station 45 observed. MOFD Board Director Mike Roemer also observed the exercise.

Orinda Police Chief Anthony Rossi, with some OPD officers and new City Manager Linda Smith, were also in attendance.

Following the exercise, Bruce Macler walked the volunteers

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# Candidates for the Acalanes Union High School District Board

... continued from Page A2

Chopra also feels that his personal experience as an Indian American allows him to ensure that AUHSD supports diversity and creates a sense of belonging and support for all students. In addition to fiscal responsibility and a safe and inclusive environment, he prioritizes high academic standards.

Peter Catalano has been a substitute teacher for five years, worked on a school board, and worked on several condo boards. He thinks that these experiences make him familiar with how schools and budgets function, capital spending plans, and governing documents. He wants to work collaboratively with others and draft solutions to make AUHSD even better.

Catalano's goals are academic excellence and practical skills, streamlining finances and fostering fiscal responsibility, resisting the infantilization of students and encouraging responsibility in them, and prioritizing social learning. He is also interested in reducing bureaucracy and looking into how AI can help learning.

Stacey Schweppe wants to enact positive change, especially by creating policies to support students and teachers. She is an executive board member for the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs and a

member of the AUHSD's Citizens Oversight Committee for the parcel tax Measures A and G. Her two children are Las Lomas graduates and she is a Campo graduate.

Schweppe particularly emphasized all students and teachers feeling welcomed and supported at school as a main goal. Her other goals include providing students with mental health services, bridging achievement gaps, raising AUHSD's academic standards even higher, advocating for students, staff, and parents, and providing understanding of AUHSD's budget challenges.

These candidates have given Lamorinda Weekly responses to written questions about their plans if they become an AUHSD Board member.

**Book banning and religion:** All candidates definitively stated that schools should not ban books except Reicher who said that students "deserve the opportunity to have a wide variety of literature available to them." All candidates agree that schools should remain secular, non-religious institutions but should teach about religion in history, politics, and culture except Reicher, who did not respond to the question.

**Finances:** Schweppe wants to take "a balanced and conservative approach" to maintain educational excellence using her familiarity of AUHSD's budget.

Minighini wants to maintain fiscal responsibility and identify areas for improvement in budget allocation to maximize student success. Reicher says that, through her knowledge of AUHSD's budget, she will strategically analyze and manage the schools' budgets. Chopra wants to be a diligent custodian to AUHSD's public resources and create a financially effective and sustainable future. Catalano wants to streamline the budget to deal with the deficit.

**Teacher treatment, support, and pay:** Catalano is interested in collaborating with the teacher's union to provide non-monetary initiatives to make AUHSD a more inviting employer. Schweppe believes in committing to providing ongoing professional development, equity training, and inclusive environments to maintain teachers during California's teacher shortage. Minighini intends to advocate for competitive salaries, ongoing professional development, adequate resources, and a respectful environment to retain teachers. Reicher states she has worked with the unions and supported mentorship, collaborative time, continuing education, competitive pay and benefits for AUHSD teachers. Chopra wants to provide teachers with professional development and adequate support to attract and retain them at AUHSD.

**Supporting high needs, vulnerable, and non-traditional students:** Chopra is focused on making sure all students feel they belong and using data to address opportunity gaps. Catalano would defer to the District as it is progressive on these matters. Schweppe says AUHSD should continue addressing the achievement gap for students with disabilities, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students. Minighini advocates for all students to receive the necessary support and resources, including individualized education programs and specialized staff when necessary. Reicher says the Board and District are partners in supporting their most vulnerable students through equity programming, wellness intervention, and Acalanes Center for Independent Study opportunities.

**Mental health:** Reicher states that

she has fought to destigmatize mental health and to provide collaborative intervention with counselors at schools. Chopra wants student mental health to remain central to the Board and to use data to identify and address opportunity gaps. Catalano would defer to school administrations as he feels that they are progressive on student mental health. Schweppe thinks effective policies are key to reducing stress, such as later start times to provide time for sleep and regulating homework. Minighini would work to increase access to school counselors, start prevention and intervention programs, and foster a supportive school climate.

**LGBTQIA+ issues:** Minighini supports an inclusive environment and Title IX, and states she believes in protecting female spaces while respecting LGBTQIA+ students. Reicher states the District supports LGBTQIA+ students through an inclusive environment in all areas and strives to reduce achievement gaps. Chopra states all students should feel respected and data should be used to address opportunity gaps and give access to resources. Catalano is an LGBTQIA+ ally and a member of the Gay Rights Alliance and would, once again, defer to progressive school administrations. Schweppe states that she supports curricula reflecting the diversity of the world and "the implementation of thorough policies to evaluate the texts used in classrooms."

**Assembly Bill 3216, aka the Phone-Free School Act:** Schweppe feels that prohibiting cell phones in classrooms is necessary due to the mental health problems they cause. Minighini says she understands the intent but would work to develop a balanced approach that doesn't hinder educational opportunities or communication. Reicher states that she has advocated for reduced classroom technology and that placing cell phones in caddies has had measurable positive impacts. Chopra states that AUHSD must follow the law while developing a policy that manages technology with everyone involved to assess potential impacts.

For more on Stacey Schweppe, visit <https://www.schweppe4auhsd.com>.  
For more on Peter Catalano, visit <https://petercatalano.site>.  
For more on Paul Chopra, visit <https://www.paulchopra.org>.  
For more on Wendy Reicher, visit <https://www.wendyreicher.com>.  
For more on Sibyl Minighini, visit <https://electsibyl.com>.

## In Memory

### George Thomas Hill, Jr.

July 28, 1932 - May 21, 2024



Tom was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1932. While in High School, his family moved to Poland, Ohio where he met his future wife, Sandra (Hegg). The two became close friends. He graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and then entered the Army. Following his discharge, he enrolled in the Wharton School and received an MBA in 1958. With encouragement from Sandra, he struck out for San Francisco and she followed a few months later. They began dating, and the rest as they say, "is history." After some time in Burlingame and Long Beach, they settled in Orinda, California. Tom was involved in the sale of packaging machinery nearly all of his professional career. In 1967, he purchased King Sales & Engineering Co., headquartered in San Francisco. The company was the exclusive sales representative in California for several of the leading manufactures of packaging machinery. Tom served as President of the Western Packaging Association, Chairman of the Board of Sponsors for the Western Packaging Show, and on the Advisory Board of the Packaging Program at San Jose State University. He was an active member at the Orinda Community Church teaching the senior high class, Chairing the Open and Affirming Task Force, and organizing the church's annual retreat in Yosemite. Tom was an avid sailor, woodworker, and all around putterer. He enjoyed mysteries and was a member of The Scowrers and Molly Maguires. He will be remembered by his family and friends for his quick wit, ridiculous puns, and infectious smile. In 2007, Tom and Sandra relocated to Willamette View in Portland, Oregon to be closer to family.

Tom is survived by his children David (Vicki) Hill of Oberlin, Ohio and Jennifer (Greg) Thorne of Gresham, Oregon, grandchildren Benjamin Bisbee, Elizabeth Pulaski, Nathan Thorne, Nicholas Thorne, and great grandchildren, Alexander, Adeline, and Evelyn. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Martha, and his beloved wife of 62 years Sandra.

A committal service will be held at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

## In Memory

### Sandra Hegg Hill

October 31, 1934 - August 19, 2023



Sandy was born in Lakewood, Ohio in 1934. When she was five, her family settled in Poland, Ohio. She met her future husband, Tom, when her father sold his parents a house in Poland.

After majoring in piano at Ohio Wesleyan University, Sandy returned home to join her father at his real estate business. Having already encouraged Tom to head out to San Francisco, she followed a few months later, they began dating and were married in 1961. In 1967 they settled in Orinda, California where they raised their children, David and Jennifer. Sandy was active in her husband's company, King Sales & Engineering Co. and an avid volunteer in the community.

She started a volunteer aid program at her children's grade school (Sleepy Hollow Elementary) and introduced two third grade classes to the musical wonders of the recorder. Other community involvement included the Jr. Leadership program in North Richmond, the California Native Plant Society of the East Bay, and the Lindsay Wildlife Museum. She was particularly proud of the drought free garden she created on the hillslope around her home. Sandy was an active member at Orinda Community Church and enjoyed participating in the Joyful Noise, a talented group of singers and guitar players. She never considered herself a "housewife" but was a dedicated homemaker for her family. She will be remembered by her family and friends for her determination, commitment to those she loved, and her willingness to play along with her husband's droll sense of humor. In 2007, she and Tom relocated to Willamette View in Portland, Oregon to be closer to family.

Sandy is survived by her husband Tom, children David (Vicki) Hill of Oberlin, Ohio and Jennifer (Greg) Thorne of Gresham, Oregon, grandchildren Benjamin Bisbee, Elizabeth Pulaski, Nathan Thorne, Nicholas Thorne, and great grandchildren, Alexander, Adeline, and Evelyn. She was preceded in death by her parents, Warren and Bea Hegg, and her brother Chap.

A committal service will be held at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

### 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

### Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or [www.nixle.com](http://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, Anthony Rossi  
Cell 925-532-6908, Desk 925-253-423  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

**Loud Noise**  
3400 Block Monroe Ave.  
Bacon Ct./Bacon Way  
80 Block Lafayette Cir.  
Wilkinson Ln./Moraga Rd.  
1000 Block Willow Dr.  
Solana Dr./Hamlin Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Loud Party**  
900 Block Janet Ln.  
**Public Nuisance**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
03 Block Greenvalley Dr.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Vandalism**  
900 Block Leland Dr.  
300 Block Hermosa Ct.  
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

2100 Block Ascot Dr.  
**Loud Noise**  
Rancho Laguna Park  
**Loud Party**  
Not Available (2)  
Haicienda  
60 Block Warfield Dr.  
School St./Country Club Dr.  
**Public Nuisance**  
Russell Dr./San Pablo Ct.  
**Vandalism**  
Ascot Dr./Ascot Ct.  
**Other**  
Litter  
St. Mary's Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
Unwanted Guest  
Union 76  
1900 Block Ascot Dr.

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 29 - Oct. 12

Alarms	42
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	139
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Public/School Assembly Check	10
Supplemental Report	25
Vacation House Check	26
Welfare Check	21
Ordinance Violation	3
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Dui Misd	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Wildwood Ln.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
Mountain View Dr./Brook St.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1st St/Wb Sr 24	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
1500 Block Springbrook Rd.	
2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Rowe Pl.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
1200 Block Sunset Lp.	
800 Block Mountain View Dr.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud Credit Card	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
900 Block Colina Ct.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3500 Block Herman Dr.	
Grand Theft	
20 Block Toledo Dr.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Cerro Encantado	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Petty Theft	
No House Number	
1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
Acalanes Ave./Pleasant Hill Cir.	

**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Brandishing Weapon  
Not Available  
Fireworks  
N Lucille Ln./Peacock Blvd.  
Harassment  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
Health & Safety Violation  
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.  
Unwanted Guest  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
3500 Block Brook St. (2)

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 1 - Oct. 14

Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	23
Public/School Assembly Check	12
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	8
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Moraga Rd./at Commons (2)	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (2)	
1900 Block St. Marys Rd.	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
St. Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. (2)	
Devin Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
1000 Block Block Larch Ave.	
Moraga Way/School St. (2)	
Moraga Way/Theatre Sq. Ori	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.	
Taco Bell	
700 Block Augusta Dr.	
Tamper With Vin	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Ifo The Post Office	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Burglary	
30 Block Ross Dr.	
Petty Theft	
Safeway	
Petty Theft From Veh	
Police Department	
Shoplift	
400 Block Center St.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-fight	
100 Block Donald Dr.	
Drunk In Public	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Loud Music	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 1 - Oct. 14

Alarms	36
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	107
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	10
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	59
Patrol Req./Security Check	33
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
20 Block Crest View Dr.	
Auto Burglary	
20 Block Brookside Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
100 Block El Toyonal	
10 Block Northwood Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	
Camino Pablo/Via Corte	
Moraga Way/Oak Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
10 Block Camino Sobrante	
Vehicle Theft	
40 Block Via Farallon	
Theatre Square	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Burglary	
100 Block Tara Rd.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
60 Block La Espiral	
Police Department	
Grand Theft	
10 Block Carisbrook Dr.	
Orinda Country Club	
Identity Theft	
50 Block Van Tassel Ln.	
Petty Theft	
Bevmo (2)	
Shoplift	
Safeway (2)	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
10 Block E Altairinda Dr.	
Loud Music	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
40 Block Ivy Dr.	
Loud Party	
300 Block El Toyonal (2)	
Public Nuisance	
Bart Orinda Station	
<b>Other</b>	
Battery	
20 Block Bryant Way	
Corporal Injury Spouse	
10 Block Estates Dr.	
Resist Delay Or Obstruct	
40 Block Bates Blvd.	
Revocation Of Probation	
Cvs	
Threats	
Miramonte High School	
Trespass	
Safeway	



# Lafayette continues efforts to acknowledge Native Americans

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Image courtesy City of Lafayette

**Corrina Gould (Lisjan Ohlone) gives a presentation on Sogorea Te' Land Trust to the Lafayette City Council.**

Lafayette recently celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day, a three-day holiday that celebrates Native American peoples and their cultures.

Lafayette has taken steps over the years to try to collaborate with the Native American people of the East Bay and acknowledge their histories, most recently by arranging a presentation on the Sogorea Te'

Land Trust.

Since time immemorial, the Saklan tribe of the Bay Miwok community, as well as the Ohlone tribe, lived in what is today the city of Lafayette. Saklan territory covered not only most of Lafayette but also Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek, and Briones Regional Park. Starting with the first forced migration of the

Bay Miwok to Mission San Francisco in 1794, the Saklan people's land was taken from them.

However, the Saklan people resisted colonization then and now, and many live in the East Bay to this day. According to Louis Trevino (Rumsen Ohlone), today the Saklan are officially part of the Ohlone tribe and have been together with the Ohlone since before Mission times due to their extensive intermarriage and trade. Many are engaged in efforts such as Chochenyo language revitalization and the Land Back movement.

In 2020, the City of Lafayette stopped referring to the federal holiday in October as Columbus Day and started to officially call it Indigenous Peoples' Day. Three years later, the City Council accepted the recommendation of a specially formed task force that Lafayette adopt a land acknowledgement to the Bay Miwok developed in consultation with Marge Grow-

Eppard (Calaveras Miwok/Tuolumne Me-Wuk) and Corrina Gould (Lisjan Ohlone).

The Land Acknowledgement Task Force also recommended six additional actions, one of which was to invite someone to speak on Indigenous land management and history at a City Council meeting. Corrina Gould spoke in her capacity as Director of Sogorea Te' Land Trust and tribal spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan at the Sept. 9 meeting.

The Sogorea Te' Land Trust is a nonprofit led by Indigenous women living in the Bay Area, particularly Ohlone women, that seeks to return stewardship, rights, or ownership of land to Indigenous people. "There was no place that we had, that we owned collectively or even singly," said Gould in her presentation. "We had become virtually homeless in our own homelands." She described to the

Council how other cities and organizations have collaborated with Sogorea Te'. The nonprofit Planting Justice donated a quarter acre of land in East Oakland, Oakland gave four acres of land in the Oakland Hills, Richmond created Ookwe Park where Indigenous people have exclusive rights to grow and gather plants, Berkeley altered its signs to include that it is Ohlone territory, and Alameda started to pay shuumi, a voluntary land tax.

After the presentation, the City Council Members thanked Gould for her presentation. None of the Council Members committed to any specific actions like those she described from other cities. However, Council Member Kwok and Mayor Dawson said they looked forward to future conversations and continuing to work together.

Maryjo Cass of the Creeks Committee also stood up for a comment and, while emphasizing that she was only speak-

ing for herself and not the Creeks Committee, stated, "I hope that we can collaborate with you more in the future."

Other potential future actions by the City of Lafayette include a historical marker about the battle between the Saklan and Spanish military in Lafayette in 1797, which has been proposed by Robert Fellows, as well as a public mural depicting Indigenous culture and educational signage on Bay Miwok, which proposed by the Land Acknowledgement Committee and accepted by the Council.

To learn more about the Muwekma Ohlone tribe, visit their website at <http://muwekma.org/index.html>. To see the Sogorea Te' Land Trust presentation by Corrina Gould to the Lafayette City Council, go to the "Lafayette City Council Meeting, September 9, 2024" video the City of Lafayette Youtube channel.

## Letters to the editor

### Lafayette City Council election

Lafayette Council members should represent the entire community, especially since viewpoints and ideologies run the gamut among their constituents. Neutrality is essential and underscored by these being non-partisan positions. While some prefer to see City Council issue resolutions that align with partisan politics, some prefer the exact opposite. A balanced budget and improved Lafayette living is not secular. Fiscal accountability, effective communication, managing infrastructure, advocating for realistic goals, supporting city commerce, and measuring accomplishments are what matter. Identity politics just sow division. Don't be distracted by the identity politics game under the guise of inclusion. The long-standing incumbents running for re-election have fallen short of their duties and now are asking for a bailout from the taxpayers. Leading the charge on this bailout effort is a former councilmember who quit and moved out of state and a school board member who is giving up her seat while another deficit looms. Yet, frivolous spending prevails with nearly \$10k of taxpayer money spent to campaign for Measure H. We need new leadership and fresh minds on the council. The long-standing members running for re-election do not represent Lafayette responsibly. Lauren Herpich most assuredly will. Visit [Laurenforlafayette.org](http://Laurenforlafayette.org); Vote Lauren for Lafayette. Sarah Lind Lafayette

### East Bay Regional Park Board election

Summer 2024 was Earth's hottest on record. It's October. Still hot. Heed Mark Gongloff's warning, "Global warming has arrived and we're not ready."

All around us, our East Bay Regional Parks are under threat from wildfires, disease, drought, sea level rise, recklessness, and growing pains. With more than 100,000 acres of public land to protect, we need Lynda Deschambault's depth of knowledge, tenacity and experience to respond to the climate urgency of now.

Lynda will provide solid direction on Day 1. Lynda is the ONLY candidate with a 37-year career as an environmental scientist, 19-years at the U.S.EPA, 5+ years as Parks Commissioner, experience managing multi-million dollar budgets and programs, and crafting sound environmental policy. We need a trusted resource, tireless advocate and respected partner among local climate leaders, park staff, tribes and underserved communities.

Elect Lynda Deschambault for East Bay Regional Park Board. Renee Zeimer Moraga

### Support for Jim Cervantes

I would like to voice my wholehearted support Jim Cervantes for Lafayette City Council and urge Lafayette residents to vote for him on Nov. 5. I first met Jim as a concerned resident worried about fire safety in my neighborhood when Lafayette suffered the Tennis Club fire in 2019. As I'm sure you're aware, fire safety is one of Lafayette's critical issues. Jim's vast experience and knowledge in this area were instrumental in looping my street and surrounding neighborhoods into his fire prevention efforts. Jim had already organized a Firewise community on his street in the Springhill Valley, which means neighbors voluntarily engage with Contra Costa Fire Protection District staff to improve fire safety around homes. Jim organized multiple visits by Con

Fire inspectors and a brush removal project. Jim has worked tirelessly to expand the original Firewise community as fire safety goes beyond an individual street. As a result, our Springhill Valley West Firewise neighborhood now includes 88 homes on multiple streets. Under his leadership, we developed a three-year action plan and are organizing additional visits by Con Fire inspectors to educate homeowners on how to better protect their homes in the event of a wildfire. He is organized, tenacious, and a joy to work with.

I believe it will be crucial to have someone on the City Council with hands-on experience with fire safety. Jim will bring that perspective and can help Lafayette increase its efforts in addressing our wildfire risks. He has a long history of volunteering in our community, and brings with him a vast knowledge of the needs of Lamorinda residents. Sincerely, Laura O. Bergman Lafayette

### Endorsement of Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

Fellow Lafayette Citizens, please join me in the re-election of Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council.

Carl has served the citizens of Lafayette for many years, be it on various City Task Forces, Planning Commission, Council Member, and Mayor. His thoughtful insights have helped lead Lafayette in preserving open space, a World-Class library, and maintaining a strong fiscal standing. His historical insight has helped guide Lafayette through the maze of both State and Federal mandates on housing, while balancing the wants and needs of both our residents and business communities. Carl's ability to intently listen to all concerned

parties and provide unbiased feedback in his decision-making process has been one of his best assets to the City of Lafayette. These skills in addition to his historical perspective of Lafayette and his ability to work with City Staff, have served our citizens well.

Now, more than ever, we need Carl's skill set to face the ever-changing landscape of land use, fire safety, and fiscal challenges which lay ahead.

Please vote Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council. Larry Blodgett, lifelong business owner & resident of Lafayette


... continued on next Page

# STACEY SCHWEPPE

FOR

## Acalanes Union High School District Board

- ★ Endorsed by former AUHSD Board members Kathy Coppersmith, Tom Mulvaney & Susan Epstein
- ★ Endorsed by Moraga Town Council members Renata Sos, Kerry Hillis & Steve Wohleke
- ★ Endorsed by former Orinda Mayors Amy Worth & Sue Severson



Paid for Stacey Schweppe Political Campaign Fund

# ★ PAUL ★

# CHOPRA

for

## Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board

- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ Safe & Inclusive Schools



**The Clear Choice for AUHSD Board**



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PAUL CHOPRA-AUHSD

## ★ VOTE FOR ★

# STEPHANIE DICKERSON

- Support comprehensive school safety measures
- Encourage strong, evidence-based curriculum
- Engage legislators regarding inadequate school funding
- Ensure Measure D resources are spent thoughtfully



- Doctorate in Physical Therapy, Duke University
- Adjunct Professor, Samuel Merritt University
- Served on MEF, LP PTA Boards, MSD Safety Committee
- Small business owner
- Children being served by the local schools

★ MORAGA SCHOOL BOARD ★

Paid for by the Campaign for Stephanie Dickerson

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

# Letters to the editor ... continued

## Measure H

During my 11 years on the Lafayette City Council, I was privileged to serve as Mayor in 2009-10 and 2014-15. My fellow council members and I worked with our excellent city staff to maintain the best possible city services for our residents with limited funding. I know I am not alone in wanting our city to remain safe and strong. Lafayette city services are crucial to all our residents and the best way to keep those services in place is voting "YES" on Measure H.

Measure H increases the local sales tax rate by only half a percent, but that is enough to allow the city to continue fixing our streets, maintaining police services, preserving our parks, public spaces, and open space, and sustaining our wildfire preparedness efforts. As Mayor and Councilmember, I have witnessed firsthand how the people of Lafayette care for one another. Supporting Measure H helps us continue the level of care that makes us "Love Lafayette". Safe neighborhoods, safe students and schools, safe pedestrians and bikers, and safe senior citizens.

Please vote YES on Measure H. Sincerely, Brandt Andersson Walnut Creek

## Stacey Schweppe for AUHSD Board

We urge Lamorinda voters to join us in voting for Stacey Schweppe for the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Governing Board. Stacey has the experience and temperament to be an effective and collegial board member who is committed to educational excellence and the well-being of all AUHSD students. Stacey is a Campolindo alum, lives in Walnut Creek, and her children are graduates of Las Lomas High School. She has spent over a decade serving our public schools, including as a PTA President at Las Lomas, Las Trampas Creek Council board member, and citizen representative to the local parcel tax oversight committee. She is fluent in public finance and budgeting, has deep knowledge of every school in AUHSD, and, because she has firsthand familiarity with Las Lomas High

School, will bring an important perspective to the Board. Moreover, Stacey is a person of impeccable integrity, and her record bespeaks a steadfast devotion to exemplary public education for all. We're voting for Stacey Schweppe on Nov. 5 and ask that you do, too. Amy Worth, Former Mayor of Orinda Renata Sos, Moraga Town Council Member Matt Francois, Walnut Creek City Council Member

## John McCormick, Carl Anduri and Jim Cervantes for City Council

Our family moved to Lafayette over 30 years ago. Our daughters attended local schools and have put their education to excellent use.

In the years since Lafayette has been through good times, uncertain times and what some would call dark times, yet those here still find it a wonderful place to live. They've pitched in, helped each other, and volunteered.

Let's keep it that way. John McCormick richly deserves election to a permanent seat. Incumbents Carl Anduri, who has served this City for years, and Gina Dawson, do too.

There are important issues to be dealt with, fiscal uncertainty, budgets and doing it all while preserving the core values that unite us. These candidates will get the job done.

Kate A Ruby Lafayette

## Re-elect Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council

I strongly support re-electing Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council. Gina Dawson is an excellent City Council member. Her calm manner invites civil discussion. She listens attentively and hears residents' concerns. Her alertness to potential unintended consequences is impressive. Gina Dawson balances the needs and wants of residents with an awareness of legal regulations and the inescapable fiscal realities.

One example of her dedication to fact-based action was her response to homeowner complaints of PG&E's in-

tention to remove hundreds of Lafayette trees. She co-founded Save Lafayette Trees to learn about pipeline safety. She brought this knowledge back to negotiations with PG&E. Considering environmental impacts but always with an eye for community safety, her work saved many trees that help keep our sidewalks and streets cooler and our community semi-rural.

Your ballot is in the mail. I urge you to join me and vote for Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council. Carol Murota Lafayette

## Gina Dawson & John McCormick for City Council

I enthusiastically support John and Gina for City Council, adding to my previous endorsement of Carl Anduri, three visionary, trusted leaders.

John McCormick brings a full package of skills essential to the work of City Council. His intelligence, ability to listen and encourage multiple perspectives, and deep understanding of finance have been recognized in multiple roles, most recently as interim City Council member. As co-owner with his wife Colleen of Lamorinda Music, John understands the challenges and needs of our small business community. He was elected to two consecutive terms as President of the Chamber of Commerce and selected 2020 Business Person of the Year. An advocate for environmental sustainability, he sits on the boards of Recycle Smart and Marin Clean Energy. John's broad range of volunteer service include Planning Commission and multiple city commissions, and nonprofits such as LPIE, Park Theater Trust, Food Bank, & Blood Bank. His breadth of experience will continue to be invaluable to City Council.

As current Mayor, Gina Dawson has managed public discussions of challenging topics with fairness, openness, and intelligence. In her four years on Council, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues fundamental to effective city management. Prior to Council service, she used her natural leadership skills to form the Gas Safety Task Force, taking PG&E to task for dangerous ne-

glect of our aging gas lines. Gina successfully founded Save Lafayette Trees to stop PG&E's threat to cut down dozens of trees not impacting the pipes.

Her many years of serving Lafayette include being a founder of LPIE. City Council needs a leader with her record of community involvement. Elect Gina, John and Carl to continue guiding this community. Kathy Merchant 25 years Lafayette/current Orinda

## Gian Panetta for the Moraga School Board

As a long-time resident of Moraga, I have been continually impressed by the academic environment that our Town provides to its students. There is little reason to stop now.

I strongly support the candidacy of Gian Panetta for a position on the Moraga School Board. Gian was educated in Moraga, K-12, and well understands the value of that education, his teachers as well as the resources made available to him throughout his schooling.

Over the last decade, Gian has excelled in making and sustaining relationships that have advanced agendas as a congressional intern, President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, co-Chair of the Lafayette Young Professionals, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and current committee member of the Moraga Local Sales Tax and Oversight Committee, Measure K.

Gian possesses a clear determination to serve our Town and its students. He has a commitment to, not only academic success but also ensuring that students are welcomed and supported by schools - all within the financial guardrails that apply. His drive and persistence toward these goals is only outweighed by his dedication to our community.

I encourage all of Moraga to support his candidacy and to safe keep our tradition of academic excellence. John Panetta Moraga

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Dear Neighbors,

As I've shared with many of you while campaigning over the past couple of months, **service runs deep in my family.** My father, the son of immigrants, earned his wings with the Army Air Corps as one of a handful of Mexican-American pilots late in World War II. Recalled to duty as a pilot for the Korean Conflict, he continued with the Air Force, serving in the Viet Nam War. His legacy of integrity, honor, and

service to our country resonates deeply with me.

My father's example greatly shaped who I am. Out of an interest in working with communities, I pursued a career in Public Finance after earning my MBA at Stanford, creating financing programs for cities and other public agencies. **Through my 34-year career, I became deeply acquainted with city finances in California and how good government functions.** I believe I can apply these skills to ensure Lafayette's long-term fiscal health and support sound public policy.

When I retired in 2020, I sought out ways to serve our community. As **Vice-Chair and Chair of Lafayette's General Plan Advisory Committee**, I made community outreach a priority as we worked through updates to our housing and safety plans. I listened to many perspectives and worked to make sure all voices were heard. Out of concern about wildfire preparedness, I organized a Firewise community in my neighborhood. I am also active with Lafayette Rotary and St. Perpetua Church.

In addition to my local volunteer work, **I served on a County advisory board recommending funding of County services.** More recently, I was appointed by the Governor as **Board Chair of the California Housing Finance Agency**, focusing on financing affordable housing solutions across the State.

Lafayette is navigating critical issues. In addition to financial sustainability and fire safety, we need to improve traffic management, complete the rezoning process, implement the Housing Element, support our schools, and ensure government transparency. **As your City Council representative, I will actively engage with the community, listen to diverse viewpoints, and work collaboratively with fellow Council members and City staff.** My commitment to you is to use my best judgment to move Lafayette forward.

I look forward to earning your vote.

— Jim Cervantes

Learn More: [www.JimForLafayette.com](http://www.JimForLafayette.com)



# Elect JIM CERVANTES

## LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL

**Integrity. Finance Experience. Service.**

**Endorsed by Elected, Appointed, and Community Leaders**

### CURRENT AND FORMER ELECTED LEADERS

- State Senator Steve Glazer
- Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Supervisor Candace Andersen, Contra Costa County
- Mayor Gina Dawson
- Carl Anduri, Former Mayor and Council Member
- Wei-Tai Kwock, Vice Mayor
- John McCormick, Council Member
- Brandt Andersson, Former Mayor
- Mike Anderson, Former Mayor
- Steven Bliss, Former Council Member
- Teresa Gerringier, Former Mayor
- Erling Horn, Former Mayor
- Don Tatzin, Former Mayor
- Meredith Meade, President, Lafayette School District Governing Board
- Suzu Pak, Lafayette School District Governing Board
- Mayor Darlene Gee, City of Orinda
- Luz Gómez, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Ward 2
- Former Mayor Amy Worth, City of Orinda

### LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Alison Hill, Community Leader
- Sarah Blumenfeld, Vice Chair, General Plan Advisory Comm.
- Tracy Brog, Community Leader
- David Clark, Lafayette Creeks Committee
- Jamie Harris, Former member, Lafayette Planning Commission
- Namratha Kasalanati, Former Youth Commissioner
- Inclusive Lafayette
- Jay Lifson, Community Leader, 2012 Business Person of the Year
- Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Matt Pease, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board/General Plan Advisory Committee
- Anna Radonich, Vice Chair, Lafayette Planning Commission
- Terry Ring, 2019 Business Person of the Year
- Meredith Meade, President, Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission
- Janet Thomas, 2021 Lafayette Citizen of the Year
- Richard Whitmore, Former Superintendent, Lafayette School District
- Stella Wotherspoon, Chair, General Plan Advisory Committee/Lafayette Transportation and Circulation Commission
- Greg Young, Acalanes Football
- Jody Young, Community Leader

"I strongly support Jim Cervantes for City Council. I've watched him work with the General Plan Advisory Committee and board service with the County and the State. Jim has been effective and dedicated to improving our community. He offers a background in municipal finance, outstanding personal integrity, and a deep commitment to service. Please join me in voting for Jim."  
— Don Tatzin, Former Mayor

# Letters to the editor ... continued

## GINA DAWSON for Lafayette City Council -

As mayor, Gina has provided effective leadership on the challenging issues facing our city, including:

- Passed local pedestrian and vehicle safety programs near schools and in neighborhoods to help make our community safer.
- Co-founded Save Lafayette Trees that brought important pipeline safety improvements while preserving many trees along trails and in neighborhoods.
- Helped pass the housing element for our city, which was a complicated rezoning effort to balance the state controlled mandate for housing, while maintaining the attractive character of our downtown.
- Championed better utility wildfire safety by making it a priority in our city's Safety Element.

I have worked on projects with Gina, and appreciate her researched based decisions reflecting priorities of safety, community good, and fiscal stability.

I have learned the value of both genders being represented, reflecting diverse perspectives and better informed decisions.

More on her accomplishments, during her four year term here: <https://www.ginadawson2024.com/about-me>

The other two incumbents, Carl Anduri, and John McCormick's have demonstrated the value of their professional experience and history, and are worthy of reelection. Jim Cervantes is running for the two-year term, and has demonstrated his leadership on the General Plan Advisory Board. His professional experience in financial planning will benefit our city. Please join me in voting for these four selfless volunteers..

Papa John Kiefer, Former member, Parks, Trails, and Recreation commission. Lafayette

### Lafayette City Council election

In surveys in 2008 and again in 2021, Lafayette residents resoundingly confirmed that their highest priorities were preserving the small-town character of Lafayette and to avoid its urban-

ization. In February 2022, the City Council adopted a General Plan Mission Statement "to make Lafayette a highly desirable small-town community with a semi-rural ambiance," which essentially repeated the directive in the previous General Plan. Despite those statements, while Danville preserves its character, Lafayette's has been visibly disappearing for years as the result of inexcusable failures by the City Council and staff that repeatedly ignore the objectives of those Mission Statements.

At the Oct. 9, 2024, Candidate's Night, only Lauren Herpich and, to a lesser extent Mario DePrisco, indicated preserving Lafayette's character would be their priority as a councilmember. Most candidates never mentioned it. Indeed, Jim Cervantes, as part of the General Plan Advisory Group, opposed adoption of the current Mission Statement. Mr. Cervantes, Gina Dawson, Carl Anduri and John McCormick have to date all refused to support a planned ballot initiative that would restore local planning control to Lafayette and other cities.

Lafayette needs a change in direction. Elect Lauren Herpich to keep Lafayette the town its residents love. Eliot Hudson Lafayette

### Endorsement of Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

I am writing to urge all Lafayette residents to vote for Carl Anduri for City Council. I have known Carl for many years and worked with him both when he was on the Planning Commission and as a fellow Council member. We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding candidate willing to serve our city. He is highly intelligent, always prepared, a good listener, thoughtful and collaborative.

I am confident he will continue to work toward making Lafayette an even better place to live and work than it is today.

Join me in casting your vote for Carl Anduri for another four year term. Carol Federighi, Former Mayor of Lafayette

### Support for Carl Anduri

I met Carl Anduri 20 years ago when

he, as a member of the city council, voted in favor of supporting the community's effort to raise funds to build a school in Afghanistan.

The funds were raised, a school was built, and Carl has contributed to helping Afghan children and families ever since. As mayor last year he started and spearheaded the effort to slow down traffic in Lafayette. Speed is the most critical factor that affects the severity of injuries. I've learned over the years that Carl is a highly regarded leader, innovative, thorough in his deliberations, puts in the hours and is readily accessible. We're fortunate that he's willing to serve another term. Budd MacKenzie Lafayette

### Vote for Lauren Herpich and Vote No on Measure H the Proposed Sales Tax Increase

On July 8, the Lafayette City Council approved a recommendation from City staff to put on the November ballot, a resolution to increase the sales tax 1/2 % for seven years and to establish an oversight committee to monitor the revenue and expenditures.

The City's VISTAS Newsletter explained next year's deficit and why a sales tax increase is needed. Others knew a deficit was impending at least six years ago. The City needs to provide accountability for the use of taxpayer money prior to asking for more taxes on already burdened citizens. The City has not shown what reductions in expenditures can be made to prevent the anticipated \$2 mill deficit.

City staff did not show/prove that they did their due diligence in trying to work within its means for the taxpayers, prior to presenting and recommending to the City Council that a tax increase was "needed". Any private company, in order to remain solvent has to provide a balanced budget and first provide what reductions in services/salaries might be proposed. The City needs to do that before an increase in taxes is proposed.

Of course everyone would like all the current services and no cuts. But the taxpayers should be given choices of what services could be cut and know what sacrifices the City has made. The City spent approximately \$110,000 on a

survey of merely 400 taxpayers to see how much of a tax increase the citizens would tolerate. An open discussion within the community is needed, not just among the few who are aware of what is going on. It is easy to spend other people's money if it keeps coming. Maybe asking for donations like the Park Theatre group has done, could bolster the City's budget instead. I do not support a tax increase without proper research and realistic justification. Vote for Lauren Herpich who is the only Council person running for City Council that opposes Measure H. Vote No on Measure H. Dawn Eames Budd MacKenzie Moraga

### Carl Anduri deserves your vote for re-election to the Lafayette City Council.

An active member of Lafayette since he moved here in 1980, Carl has served twice on the City Council — ten years from 2002-2012 and again since 2020. He has been a Planning Commissioner and served on many committees and task forces to help with our city's toughest issues. We need Carl's proven experience, judgment and vision on the Council for the next four years.

A graduate of Stanford and Yale law school, Carl's professional background is in business law. Those who appear before the Council know that he is a great listener and thoughtful in his judgment.

Carl has helped Lafayette navigate the state's demand for increased housing while maintaining city values of neighborhoods, downtown parks, pedestrian and bicycle safety, protection of hillsides, open spaces and supporting our downtown.

A three-time mayor, Carl has great concern for the issues of the day, especially the ever-increasing threat of wildfire. We need his expertise to move our city forward while maintaining our quality of life.

Please vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council Thank you, Anne Grodin Former Mayor of Lafayette

... continued on next Page

# VOTE FOR John McCormick Lafayette City Council 2024

**Trusted Leadership, Community Commitment**

### Civic & Community Experience

- 15 Year Local Business Owner (Lamorinda Music)
- 31 Year Lafayette Resident
- Lafayette City Council Member
- Lafayette Planning Commissioner
- 20 Year LPIE Volunteer (Supporting our schools)
- Lafayette Chamber Board (President for two years)
- Park Theater Trust Board Member
- Lafayette Businessperson of the Year
- Lafayette Land Acknowledgment Task Force Chair
- Author, "Chinese in Napa Valley" History Book (2023)
- Napa County Historical Society Board Member

### Values Brought to the City Council

- Collaborative & Inclusive:** Engaging all voices to make thoughtful decisions.
- Community Focused:** Always prioritizing what's best for our families, neighborhoods, businesses, and open spaces.
- Service Oriented:** Serving residents with respect & compassion.
- Pragmatic & Results Driven:** Focused on practical solutions.
- Integrity:** Honesty and transparency in every action.
- Financially Responsible:** Ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and effectively, support Measure H.
- Sustainability:** Championing policies that protect our environment.
- Dedicated:** Committed to putting in the work to do the job right.

### Endorsements from Elected and Community Leaders

<p><b>Regional Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebecca Bauer-Kahan</li> <li>Candace Andersen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current &amp; Former School Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ann Appert</li> <li>Roger Falcone</li> <li>Katy Forman</li> <li>Mary McCosker</li> <li>Meredith Meade</li> <li>Suzy Pak</li> <li>Dave Smith</li> <li>Rob Sturm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Former Acalanes Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Mulvaney</li> <li>Richard Whitmore</li> </ul>	<p>Brian Aiello** Bob Athayde Diane Barbera Karen Blodgett Larry Blodgett** Kathy Bowles* Nick Bozych Connie Collier* Pam Clarke Paul Chopra Michael Dawson Renee DeWeese Grace Dixon Leila Douglass** Tracey Farrell Dennis Garrison** Larry &amp; Diane Haydon</p>	<p>Mike Heller** Alison Hill Daniel Horowitz Andree Hurst Craig Issacs Anne Keyashian Mo Levich** Jay Lifson** Dick &amp; Kathy Marshall Yolanda Mendoza-Heller Kathy Merchant Brenden Moran Karen Mulvaney* Cheryl Noll Matt Pease Caesar Perales**</p>	<p>Ellen Reintjes Carol Singer Lisa Spiegler Tom Stack** Wendy Tamis** Janet Thomas* Bruce Whitten Stella Wotherspoon Mike &amp; Lynn Zampa</p>
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\*Citizen of the Year  
\*\*Businessperson of the year

Paid for by McCormick For Lafayette City Council 2024  
FPCC #1471060

Discover why John is the right choice for our community! Explore his positions on key issues at [McCormickforLafayette.com](http://McCormickforLafayette.com).

**Don't forget to VOTE**

Photo Credit: Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

# Letters to the editor ... continued

## Lafayette City Council election

I love Lafayette. I've lived here for 30 years – all my life. I've attended school here and now live and work in the City. I've seen a lot of change, which is good. Our city leaders have worked hard to retain the charm and small town feel of the city and at the same time allow new housing as they are required to do so. We need to prepare for change and invite and listen to new ideas. That's why I support Carl Anduri for City Council. As a current Council member, he listens to the concerns of the community and makes decisions based on the good of our town. He is fair, smart and thoughtful. He also supports the IDD community at Las Trampas, a community that is an integral part of our city. Please vote for Carl so he can continue to guide our city (and us) in the right direction. Frankie Tinley Lafayette

## Wendy Reicher, A Unique Lens

I'm endorsing WENDY REICHER for AUHSD Governing Board. Wendy is a smart, energizing member of our board who, as the incumbent candidate, already knows how our schools operate behind the scenes. Her experience working in and with so many facets of our schools provides her a certain acumen in regards to curriculum, programming and budget. On top of that, Wendy is a staunch supporter of our students themselves, their educational resources and their mental wellbeing. In addition to the myriad of school positions she has held over the last EIGHT CONSECUTIVE YEARS as a high school parent (see her extensive résumé at wendyreicher.com), Wendy has worked one-on-one with our teens, both as the Acalanes College and Career Counselor to 1200+ students, and as a private college counselor. Discussing essay after essay, Wendy has an understanding of our students' inner worlds that, frankly, most of us will never have... witnessing their biggest fears, proudest moments and greatest challenges as a trusted guide. This unique insight sets her apart as an invaluable resource on our board. Vote for Wendy to keep her seat at the table, for our kiddos and community. Sincerely, Beverly Jane Peatross Lafayette

## Endorse Candidates Who Support Housing for Teacher

Lafayette's teachers, business owners, police officers, fire fighters, and other important members of our community cannot afford to live here. Our quality of life is suffering because of our housing shortage: small businesses cannot find employees, long distance commuters clog our streets, our middle class is shrinking.

Anyone who cares about creating homes for our essential workers should vote for John McCormick, Gina Dawson, Carl Anduri and Jim Cervantes this election.

John, Gina, Carl, and Jim are the only candidates who support Lafayette's housing element, a plan for new homes that the city spent almost four years creating. Lafayette's housing element makes disappointingly incremental changes to enable new homes. But those incremental changes represent a huge amount of effort to find a compromise among many residents, a compromise that will create more housing for all parts of our community.

Lafayette needs local leaders who can navigate complex politics at the state, regional, and local levels to find solutions that create new homes while maintaining the things we all love about our town. John, Gina, Carl, and Jim have the experience and the approach our community needs for the coming years. Jeremy Levine and Alison Hill Lafayette

## Moraga School District Governing Board election

I have known Stephanie Dickerson for nearly a decade. She has been very active in our community and engaged the Town Council on a variety of Safety topics regarding children in a constructive and collaborative manner. She is the kind of person who sees an issue and takes it upon herself to roll up her sleeves, get involved, and get the job done. She has been a strong advocate for MSD School Safety for the past eight years. As a Moraga Rotarian, she participated in grant writing and co-chaired their major fundraiser, Night at the Races, in 2020 to bring tens of thousands of dollars to the MSD for School Safety upgrades, such as cameras, two way radios and medical kits. She has

also been deeply engaged in the local schools, serving on the MEF Board, LP PTA Board and MSD Safety Committee. She is the only candidate with children in our local schools at this time. She has the experience and a deep sense of commitment to the community of Moraga and has a service mindset. Please vote Stephanie Dickerson for MSD School Board! Thank you Teresa Onoda Moraga

## Paul Chopra for Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board

Paul Chopra is the clear choice for this important role. While he is an accountant by training, Paul's expertise extends far beyond financial matters. He possesses a genuine commitment to collaboration with fellow board members to achieve the goal of ensuring that every student feels a sense of belonging and can thrive academically. His unique perspective as an individual of Indian descent and American heritage enriches our board's diversity. Furthermore, his years of service as the Treasurer for Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) and as a member of the Lafayette School District Budget Advisory Committee—where he played a crucial role in identifying over \$2 million in cost savings and revenue opportunities—demonstrate his capability to address the pressing challenges of education funding and resource allocation. Paul will undoubtedly leverage his experience and insights to benefit our district in ways that no other candidate can. I wholeheartedly endorse Paul Chopra for AUHSD Governing Board. Cathy Chang, Moraga Citizen of the Year 2023, eSteam Youth Advisor, Former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate PTA DEI Committee Chair, Former Camino Pablo Elementary PTA Community Services Committee Chair Moraga

## 50 Year Moraga Tradition Eliminated by Town Council

On Oct. 9 the Moraga Town Council voted 3-2 to eliminate voting results as the primary focus for selection of a Mayor.

Council members Shapiro, Hillis and Onoda voted to pass this.

This tradition had served the Town of Moraga well as a quantitative focus for Mayor selection AND includes judgmental factors as consideration.

So if there is a better, more current process for Mayor selection, I'm for that but they didn't identify anything better.

Rather a completely subjective, judgmental process of experience, collaboration, leadership, seniority and "any other factor" all of which are part of the current process utilized in judgment.

Votes are mentioned as an optional item but removed as the primary focus, which can be ignored.

So where's the improvement? Why eliminate voters from being the primary focus?

Was this important topic communicated to residents for input?

No specific reference to changing the process of Mayor selection was highlighted in the Town Newsletter or any other specific public communication.

What changed?

The TC discussed this September, 2023 and decided to retain the current process and tradition.

A recent election occurred resulting in three candidates for three spots and thus no election. This exception to voting results could have been handled without changing a long term policy where elections occur.

Council Member Shapiro commented that voting results are "popularity contests" which is disparaging to our 9,000 voters who do read campaign statements, websites, position on key issues, watch debates to see who is most qualified to lead Moraga.

And why change now?

This council ends in two months so why eliminate a 50 year tradition on your way out the door? Why not let the next council discuss if they'd like?

Very disappointing as this action is disrespectful to the 9,000 residents who vote and the new judgmental process will be ripe for political back room agendas and deals to be mayor which doesn't serve our residents and community.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, was a very, very sad day for our wonderful town! Mike McCluer, Former Mayor of Moraga Moraga

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# Vote for Fresh Energy, Bold Ideas & Innovative Solutions.

# Mario

# DiPrisco

FOR A BRIGHTER LAFAYETTE

diprisco.org



**Mario DiPrisco**  
Financial Analyst/Father  
Candidate for Lafayette City Council



Paid for by Mario DiPrisco for Lafayette City Council 2024 FPPC #1470660

# Letters to the editor ... continued

### Gratitude for Carl Anduri - Lafayette City Council

I add my support to the many on these pages for Carl Anduri in his bid for Lafayette City Council. Simply, I believe Carl brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of Lafayette affairs that is invaluable in charting our best course forward. I attend many Council meetings and have observed that Carl keenly considers all public comments with objectivity, is exceptionally thoughtful in deliberations, and shows a true love for our community. We benefit from Carl Anduri's servant leadership and I support his re-election.

#### Support Jim Cervantes for Lafayette City Council

Jim Cervantes is an exceptional candidate for Lafayette City Council. I have served with Jim on the General Plan Advisory Committee since early 2021, during which he was a Vice-Chair and Chair. Jim led meetings with great care and consideration of the public and helped a large, diverse committee find a path to consensus. Jim has deep professional experience in municipal finance which is invaluable at present as Lafayette faces fiscal challenges. Jim is a thoughtful and caring person who will be a wonderful addition to our City Council. Stella Wotherspoon Lafayette

### Endorsement of Stephanie Dickerson for Moraga School District Governing Board

I want to share why I'm voting for Stephanie Dickerson in the upcoming Moraga School District Governing Board election.

As a fellow MSD Safety Committee member, I've witnessed Stephanie's unwavering commitment to our students' wellbeing and school safety. Since 2017, she has championed innovative ideas for both physical safety and students' mental/emotional wellbeing, and her many years of service on the Safety Committee have given her invaluable insights into how our school system works and our students' needs. Stephanie has attended countless MSD Safety Committee meetings and has been instrumental in ensuring student safety is prioritized in Measure D fund allocation.

Stephanie and I haven't always agreed on every issue. However, this is precisely why I believe she would be an excellent addition to our school board. Stephanie consistently demonstrates a respectful and thoughtful approach to differing viewpoints, and this open-minded and inclusive leadership style is exactly what our school district needs to navigate complex challenges and make decisions that benefit all stakeholders.

Stephanie would bring valuable experience, fresh perspective, and passionate advocacy for our children's safety and education, and I en-

courage all Moraga residents who care about our schools' future and inclusive leadership to support Stephanie in this election. Erin Beal Moraga

### Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council

I am writing to encourage your readers to vote to re-elect Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council.

I am a member of the Lafayette Creeks Committee and have been since 2017. Carl is currently our Council Liaison. He has actively participated in that role and has attended and participated in many of our meetings.

One of the projects the Creeks Committee pursued successfully with his assistance was codification of provisions included in the Downtown Creeks Preservation, Restoration and Development Plan, which was adopted in 2017.

Carl has been an ally of the Creeks Committee in terms of helping to secure creek and trail "friendly" conditions in development projects that have come before the City. He has been especially supportive of efforts to secure "springing" and other easements for public access.

Carl has been helpful both in addressing short-term concerns and in recognizing the long view. I look forward to continuing to work with him and urge your readers to vote for him. Respectfully submitted, David Clark Lafayette

### Mario DePrisco for Lafayette City Council

Mario DePrisco is running for Lafayette City Council this fall, and after attending one of his community discussions, I felt compelled to share my impressions. I asked him three questions, and he answered with intelligence, passion, and honesty.

First, I inquired about the traffic generated by new residential developments. Mario showed he had done his homework and emphasized the importance of alternative transportation options over personal vehicles.

Next, I raised concerns about community safety, especially with the rising crime rates affecting local businesses like Walgreens. His commitment to addressing crime was evident and reassuring.

Lastly, I asked about homeowners insurance challenges, particularly regarding tree removal regulations. He candidly admitted he was unaware of the specific ordinance but promised to investigate it. Following our discussion, he called me to discuss potential improvements, noting that increasing tree cover could pose greater fire risks.

Overall, I believe we're fortunate to have a candidate like Mario who

genuinely cares about the residents of Lafayette. His thoughtful approach to these issues makes him a strong choice for City Council. Christopher Peatross Lafayette

### Please Vote for Carl Anduri

As a long time Commissioner on Lafayette's Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, I support Carl Anduri for re-election to the Lafayette City Council.

Carl stands out among the candidates as by far the most knowledgeable and experienced candidate when it comes to our community's parks, trails, recreation and open space needs.

I support Carl not only for his knowledge and experience, but because he has the vision, temperament, collaborative spirit and character to put that knowledge and experience to work to get things done for the benefit of all of us.

Please join me in voting to re-elect Carl Anduri. Carol Singer, Commissioner, Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission Lafayette

### Do not Urbanize Lafayette: Vote NO on H and Yes for Lauren Herpich and Mario DiPrisco

Lafayette incorporated as a low fee, low services town but has strayed from its small town, semi-rural roots by spending more than its income, and spending 30% more than inflation from 2014-2023. The City Council and staff propose to increase their revenue through a local tax increase, disregarding good alternatives that will keep our sales tax at the low end of the county. Consider the following:

- Lafayette businesses have lost sales to online merchants. The city should lobby Sacramento to allow the \$1-2MM estimated lost sales tax income currently collected by online distribution hub cities. This tax would help offset infrastructure damage, especially roads from heavy trucks.
- The state mandates tasks to Lafayette without reimbursements. We must demand our constitutionally required funds, which are estimated annually at \$300-500K.
- The City must resist the 20-30% mandated housing increase under ONE SIZE FITS ALL state laws hoping to create affordable housing, but with no state funding for the homes or the resultant increased infrastructure costs. We have a single street downtown. We should join other groups and towns supporting the local control initiative "OurNeighborhoodVoices.com". Currently only Susan Candell is actively supporting this initiative.
- City staff claims we need a new administrative person to manage the 60 new programs mandated by the

current housing plan; yet in three years, if we have not met the impossible goals, California will eliminate remaining local control over housing. This will allow developers to dictate what they wish to build (6-8 story buildings could be built vs our historical 35' height limit).

- Actively seek new merchants to grow our tax base.
- Accept some of the 10% proposed cuts from city departments until on-line taxes are captured. Many of these cuts will not be noticed.
- Consider dipping into excess reserves for the short-term until finances stabilize.

ELECT NEW BLOOD to the City Council - Both Lauren Herpich and Mario DiPrisco offer fresh perspectives. Please join me and Lauren in opposing Measure H. Current council considering another tax initiative in a few years, as they wanted a 0.75%-1% increase for ten years, it didn't poll well.

Robert Lavoie CPA  
34 year Lafayette Resident

### More Support to Re-elect Carl Anduri, Lafayette City Council

Lafayette is a volunteer-driven community that relies on committed, thoughtful, and inclusive leaders to represent the diverse viewpoints of residents. During his service on behalf of Lafayette as a planning commissioner, council member and three-time mayor, Carl Anduri has shown that he is the leader Lafayette needs.

Lafayette residents deserve a City Council that can balance the demands of existing and new state and federal laws with the history and longstanding culture of our home and haven and provide the necessary civic services while maintaining the City's excellent financial oversight. Carl's experience and inquisitive and thorough approach to governing make him the right candidate to meet these expectations.

Carl is committed to working with the community and his colleagues on council to further Lafayette's goals in a transparent, and participatory manner. His ability to listen to all views, gather data, and develop solutions, while building consensus, are important leadership skills, particularly with the opportunities and challenges facing our community. Carl will continue to be a calm, strategic leader.

There is a reason people who served with and worked with Carl are supporting him, they know his experience and leadership will make Lafayette a better place to live for all. Vote Carl Anduri on Nov. 5! Teresa Geringer, Former Mayor, Council Member, and School Board Member Eastsound, WA

... continued on next Page

# Love Lafayette

## Secure our city's future - Vote YES on Measure H

**PRESERVE**  
Police Staffing

**MAINTAIN**  
Local Roads

**SUSTAIN**  
Senior Services

**CONTINUE**  
Wildfire Prep

**RETAIN**  
Traffic Safety Focus

**Election Day Nov. 5**  
Visit [ContraCostaVote.gov/Elections](http://ContraCostaVote.gov/Elections)  
for your local poll location.

**Ballot Drop Off Location**  
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(Outside Laf. School District Office)

Ad paid for by Residents of Love Lafayette - Yes on H 2024. FPPC # 1473097

# Letters to the editor ... continued

## Support for Lauren McCabe Herpich for Lafayette City Council

I'm writing to express my support for Lauren McCabe Herpich for Lafayette City Council. Last year Lauren demonstrated something that not most politicians at any level can do. She changed direction on an issue after hearing a more well rounded view of the project. The proposed Pleasant Hill Bike Lane Median Project on the surface looks like a win. Lauren was not only in favor of the project, but was one of the main supporters and organizers for fundraising. Once the details of the project came to light to the neighborhoods that would be most affected by the construction and changes to the PHR/Deerhill/Stanley intersection, Lauren listened, changed her mind, and removed herself from the com-

mittee supporting it. That project if approved and completed would make it less safe for residents of the Acalanes Avenue neighborhood to leave their homes on foot at anytime during the day and especially during heavy commute times. I applaud Lauren for this act of bravery and fully support her for Lafayette City Council! Michele Greer Lafayette

### Our upcoming city election

I have been a resident of Lafayette since 1969 and have attended a lot of City Council meetings during those years. I want to strongly recommend the following candidates: Carl Anduri, John McCormick, Gina Dawson, and John Cervantes for the two year opening. Our City has been so fortunate in

having such dedicated, thoughtful and fiscally responsible people running for these offices and who will support our much needed passage of Measure H. If we are going to remain fiscally strong for the years ahead, and meet all of the demands we put

on our city, this measure will sustain us and keep the programs we so dearly want and need. Thank you. Lynn MacMichael Howard Weamer Lafayette

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

## Upcoming voter deadlines

October 29, 2024 Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballot

November 5, 2024 Election Day

[www.contracostavote.gov/election](http://www.contracostavote.gov/election)

# Lafayette Res Run invigorates and delights



Yarumi Olivera

... continued from Page A1

It was Yarumi Olivera's first time running in the Res Run. She explained, "My daughter is in first grade, so I'm giving her something to look up to." Olivera ran for Campolindo because her daughter, while in first grade, was there as part of Campolindo Youth Cheer and was cheering ecstatically as Olivera crossed the line in her orange socks and tutu.

The race start times were staggered, with the 5k race starting two minutes early at 7:58, the 10k race starting at 8:14, and the 2 Mile Run starting at 8:45.

The MC was Tom Stack who, dressed in a tan SF 49ers sweatshirt, revved up the crowd, encouraged the runners, and bantered with Terry Ring, who counted down the beginning of each race.

"It's a microphone, Terry," boomed Stack over the runners waiting to start the 10k race.

"I don't need a microphone!" hollered back Ring, to a cheer of approval from the runners.

The crowd waited patiently, talking, taking photos, and exploring the



Lafayette Res Run - 10k race begins

Photos Elaine Borden Chandler

Healthy Lifestyles Health Fair on Lafayette Circle. When the first and fastest runners went through the green and black finish line arch, the crowd applauded and cheered en masse, but cheered even harder for friends and family.

Sophie Lu and Amelia Tucker of Seven Hills Schools ran the 5k race together and crossed the finish line holding hands, like they had promised. "It was so fun, but afterwards my legs felt like blocks of stone!" said Tucker.

When she finished her race, Dana Chery was greeted by her husband and their two children holding handmade signs. "It was incredible," she said with

her daughter tucked on her hip, "I love this opportunity to give back to the school system and stay in shape."

As the races ended and the temperature finally rose into the 60s, the smiles stayed faces and the race became a low-key festival. Runners, walkers, and spectators drifted through the car-free streets holding medals, coffee, and snacks, enjoying the good atmosphere and sense of accomplishment.

To see the results of the 5k and 10k races, go to <https://my.raceresult.com/311650/live>.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

# Is Moraga's Hacienda de las Flores haunted? You decide.

By Vera Kochan



Two orbs in front of Pavilion. One is upper left above doorway, and the other is "dead" center of photo Photo Vera Kochan

It's October. The month of Halloween. Could that be why things that go bump-in-the-night do so a bit louder than usual? Based on rumors of just such activities, this reporter paid an evening visit to the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga to see if the stories were true.

On a tip from Moraga Police Department Support Services Coordinator Cathy Ghiselli about unusual goings-on at the Hacienda, I arranged to meet with the Parks & Recreation Department's Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully for a ghost stake-out one evening.

Before exploring the house and grounds, Scully opened up about some unexplained events that have recently occurred. "About one or one-and-a-half years ago, a custodian allegedly quit over sounds he heard -- unex-

plained noises like doors slamming. I noticed that he started wearing earbuds and sang out loud, but now I guess that was to drown out the noises in the house."

Scully had noted that one of his own experiences occurred after this past June's Hacienda Nights event. "I was in La Sala wiping up the counter next to the sink. As I was about to leave, I swear I saw a wet handprint on the counter -- no one had been there but me!"

This past summer has seen some unexplained action going on in the Casita's restroom. "The bathroom door kept locking itself from the inside," Scully stated. "It happened enough times that we decided to change the lock."

Scully also recalled, "About two years ago, I had turned off the string of lights on the patio. On

the way to my car I saw that they had come back on. I know that I didn't forget, because it was the last thing I did before going to the parking lot."

Both Scully and I proceeded to walk throughout the darkened, upstairs portion of the Hacienda without using flashlights, in order for me to capture anything unusual on my camera. Three of the photos I took showed orbs floating around either up against a wall, on a closed door, or on both the floor and table inside a room. Downstairs in the Fireside Room an orb was spotted against the wall above a doorway leading to the restrooms.

As we walked outdoors, we took the path along the creek that begins between the Hacienda and La Sala. Scully informed me of a stone chess board that is

located off the path near the creek, and jokingly said that maybe the former owner, Donald L. Rheem, might be playing a game. The minute my camera's flash illuminated the area, I heard what sounded like a loud, rumbling growl which I attributed to having freaked-out an unsuspecting raccoon. However, within seconds, the same sound came back to us even louder, but in the area of the Hacienda building directly behind us.

We simultaneously exclaimed, "Did you hear that?" Which at the time I assumed that everyone in Canada had heard it.

Scully and I stood stock-still before I managed to blurt out, "Was that a mountain lion?". For what seemed like a full minute we stared with eyes wide open waiting for something to bound out of its hiding

place and attack us. We both corroborated that it was the second such sound, only louder, thereby confirming to me that he had heard the first one as well.

"It sounded like a horse to me," stated Scully. As I replayed the terrifying noise in my head I realized that he was correct. It wasn't the typical high-pitched neigh or whinny, but rather the sound a horse makes when it breathes out and its lips flap, almost like a sigh. "You know there used to be stables on the property," he added.

"I can do you one better," I replied, as I composed myself long enough to add, "There used to be a race track on the other side of the property."

Having collected our dignity somewhat, we proceeded to make our way just a couple of feet when Scully noted a plaque on a rock dedicated to Yvette Nance, Moraga's first town clerk, and her father William C. Provence. Suggesting that I take a picture of it, which I did, immediately all of the grounds' lights on the property turned on, illuminating trees, bushes, and flowers. While we deduced that the lights were on a timer, we did find it rather odd that they came on at 9:30-ish in the evening -- well into what was already nighttime, not to mention the coincidence of the timing. I leave that for the readers to decide.

Going down the stairs to the Pavilion and once inside the gate, I began to take more photos. Orbs appeared in various spots of the "grass", but the biggest surprise was the massive one at the entrance to the building and another floating at the upper left side of it. Additional ones also appeared inside the Pavilion building itself.

As anyone who reads the Lamorinda Weekly newspaper knows, every October I write about someplace in our tri-city area that is purported to be haunted, and every year I hope that the location in question provides me with some type of ample evidence to that affect. While I was somewhat doubtful that the proof would be this bountiful at the Hacienda, I must mention that it's a shame the newspaper can only devote a limited amount of space for photos. As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words," but those pictures would leave anyone speechless.

Scully would not be doing his recreation coordinator duties without reminding me to let everyone know of the Town's "(not so) Haunted Hacienda" event being held Oct. 25 between 5 and 8:30 p.m. For more information about the family-friendly gathering visit: MoragaRec.com.

## "Stories We Tell:" A creative journey unfolds at Lamorinda Arts Council artist reception

By Emma Wong



Photos Emma Wong

Ruth Stanton's "Conversation with Self" is pictured on the wall.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, a synthesis of art and writing was showcased at the "Stories We Tell" artist reception, hosted by the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) at the Orinda Library.

"Stories We Tell" drew inspiration from previous gallery exhibitions by a collaboration of the California Writers Club - Mt. Diablo Branch, the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, and the LAC. The exhibits, titled "Ekphrasis," paired an author's writing with an artist's work. Similarly, "Stories We Tell" opened a call for artists, who

then included a writing about their work after they were accepted.

LAC board members Elana O'Loskey and Bill Carmel were the main organizers of the reception. Carmel served as Curator for the exhibit. "All the artists who submitted found a place," Carmel said. "Most artists submitted three pieces, and I selected at least one."

"Bill has wanted to host 'Stories We Tell' for a long time—he's one of those people who loves storytelling and has always made art that tells a story," O'Loskey said.

O'Loskey is also on the Curation team for the art galleries at the Orinda Library and Wilder.

Carmel aimed to expand artistic diversity and encourage expression. "I am not a traditionalist, even though I work in traditional media," Carmel said. "I want to encourage all artists to exhibit in this phenomenal place, including young artists in high school and college."

Creative minds gathered in the library.

Artists milled about the room, chatting with visitors about their work. Lafayette cartoonist Betsy Streeter featured her comic series called "Sloth and Manatee," about the unlikely bond between two animals. "Sloth and Manatee" is all about friendship," Streeter said. "When the pandemic hit, I just kept drawing these two characters and gave them their own lives."

Another lockdown project became a passion for Orinda artist Joy Chew, who makes drawings of animals with foil. "I like to draw cat faces because each of them has their own personality," Chew said. "For this exhibit, I wrote a story of two of the cats I drew as if they were friends."

Other mediums included paintings, with styles ranging from acrylic to Chinese brush techniques. Shun-fei and Karina Hou, a husband-and-wife duo, created a watercolor brush painting titled "The Frog in

the Bottom of the Well," accompanied by calligraphy of a Chinese idiom. "Shun-fei did the Chinese writing while I did the English," Karina Hou said. "I think the words in the story are what I love most; they convey that when you think you know something, that's always just the beginning."

Ruth Stanton, Vice President of Exhibitions at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, presented an acrylic painting with two mirror images of her daughter. "I titled my piece 'Conversation with Self,'" Stanton said. "I thought that we all have conversations with ourselves in our heads. So, I wrote about [my daughter] speaking to her alter ego."

Music also found a

home in storytelling. Georgianna Krieger of Oakland presented scores from songs she wrote, accompanied by illustrations. "I believe melody is a story that's so in touch with our emotions," Krieger said. "You don't have to know a specific language to feel something when you listen."

"Stories We Tell" linked artists from across the Bay Area in a space where they could share the vibrance of their lives. "There are over 50 wonderful paintings and narratives here—and we need to learn about each other's stories," O'Loskey said.

The impact of artwork goes beyond a single event. "Sometimes, art affects somebody deeply a long time after

one sees it," O'Loskey said. "It's almost impossible to track its effect on people, but I'm absolutely sure that art builds community." As with the Ekphrasis Exhibitions, it is expected that some people will return to "Stories We Tell" multiple times to take in the many details and nuances.

"Stories We Tell" will be available for viewing to the public during regular Orinda Library hours through Nov. 1. Upcoming events at the Lamorinda Arts Council include Art Embraces Words (Oct. 26) at the Lafayette Library, along with Poetry for the Ages (Oct. 29) at the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. For more details, visit <https://lamorindaarts.org>.



Ruth Staton "Seeking Our Someday"

## Not to be missed

### Art

**The Moraga Art Gallery** will greet the holiday season on Oct. 30 with "Color Rhapsody," an exhibit featuring the work of two member artists: K. DeGroot and Ceramicist Ellen Sachtschale. At 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center, the gallery, ordinarily open from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday, will be open daily from Dec. 1 to 24. On Saturday, Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m., the public is cordially invited to a free reception to meet the artists, browse the collection, enjoy light snacks, wine, and live music befitting the gallery's festive holiday ambience. [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925)376-5407.

**Artshow during November** at the Orinda Books, Orinda. Lisa Gunn will be showing her oil paintings for the entire month of November. Reception at 3 p.m. on Nov. 22.

### Music

**Lafayette Christian Church** will be hosting a Recital featuring Sofia Llacer Chamberlain (violin) and John Wilson (piano) on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. The program includes Bach's Violin Sonata in G minor; Beethoven Violin and Piano Sonata no 5; Amy Beach Romance; and Stravinsky Divertimento. The recital admission is \$10 and will benefit Iaso Arts Foundation. The church is lo-

cated at 584 Glenside Drive in Lafayette.

**Stephen Hinerman and Fergus McNeill** will be playing contemporary, folk, pop, indie, country and American selections on Saturday, Nov 16 at 4 p.m. The concert will be held in the Sanctuary of Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Drive. Free.

**Annual Pride & Joy Concert** Thursday Nov. 7 at 6 p.m., Temple Hill Auditorium (Oakland Mormon Temple). Cantare's children's and youth choirs unite from across Oakland for their first concert of the year. Come sing along in this joyous celebration featuring the 275 singers of Nova, and Music Stars choirs of Cleveland, Franklin, La Escuelita, Laurel, Lincoln, Melrose Leadership Academy and Piedmont Ave Elementary Schools. Free.

**Holiday Concert Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.**, Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Oakland General: \$40, Senior: \$30, Student: \$10. Cantare's Chorale, Chamber Ensemble and Nova choirs, accompanied by full orchestra, present Cantare's annual December Holiday Concert. Always a holiday favorite, the program will include Poulenc's Gloria and seasonal favorites that reflect the sentiments from assorted sacred and secular traditions.

## Not to be missed

**Diablo Ballet's 31st season:** The Nutcracker Suite with added dances performing at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. 1601 Civic Drive. Performances are: Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Single tickets are on sale now (\$30 - \$58) with senior and youth pricing available. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.lesherarts-center.org](http://www.lesherarts-center.org) or [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

**Live At the Orinda - Argentinian triple-threat** Juan Pablo Di Pace (Netflix's Fuller House, Dancing With the Stars, Mamma Mia!) makes his Bay Area concert debut when he opens the Live at the Orinda 24-25 Concert Season at the historic Orinda Theatre. Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. Tix from \$60 - \$100 (VIP) [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com)

### Theatre

**Miramonte High School** Presents: Two British Pantomimes – Cinderella and Treasure Island. You're invited to watch the talented Miramonte Drama and Stagecraft students as they put their own hilarious and unpredictable twist on the beloved British pantomime tradition with wild and wacky adaptations of the classic stories of Cinderella and Treasure Island. Showtimes: Treasure Island: Thursday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.; Cinderella: Friday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.; Treasure Island: Saturday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.; Cin-

derella: Sunday, Oct. 27, 4 p.m. Purchase your tickets here: <https://cur8.com/16216/project/125985>

### Literature

**Join the Sweet Thursday Author Series** on Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin CH at the Lafayette Library to hear a discussion of Holiday books with Pat Rudebush, Orinda Books, and Catherine Davis. This is a free event, but registration is required at [Tinyurl.com/sweet-Nov2024](http://Tinyurl.com/sweet-Nov2024). The doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and treats. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library.

**Author Steve Garness-Holmes** will be reading from his book of poetry, "Unfolding Light" on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. This event will be held in the Sanctuary of Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Drive in Lafayette. Free.

**Join Nicholson Baker** at Orinda Books on Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. Nicholson Baker is author of 19 highly acclaimed books, including "Substitute" (2016), "A Box of Matches" (2004), "Human Smoke" (2008), "The Mezzanine" (1988), "Vox" (1992), and "Double Fold" (2001). His most recent book, "Finding a Likeness: How I Got Somewhat Better at Art," takes readers on his journey to teach himself how to draw and paint. Along the way, he comes to see the

## Not to be missed

power of art in our turbulent times. If you've ever wondered about the creative pursuit, you won't want to miss this special evening. Information at [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).

**Fall-themed poetry** reading on Oct. 29 at the Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St, Lafayette. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy complimentary coffee and cookies while mingling with fellow literary enthusiasts before the program begins at noon. Event is free. Email [jrosen@love-lafayette.org](mailto:jrosen@love-lafayette.org) to secure a seat and register for a chance to win a gift certificate from Reasonable Books! Presented by the Public Art Committee, Lamorinda Arts Council, and Town Hall Theatre.

### Other

**Flower Arranging Instructor:** Laura-Kate Rurka in partnership with Lamorinda Village. Learn to make gorgeous arrangements from supermarket flowers. Laura-Kate Rurka will show you how to put together inexpensive bunches into interesting and beautiful combinations made from common blooms found at your local grocery store. You must register ahead of time for this class. Limited to 12 people. Thursday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to noon in the Cedar Room. Materials Fee: \$25, payable to instructor at the class

**The City of Orinda & Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Blood Drive** at Orinda Community Center in the Founders Auditorium 28 Orinda Way Orinda. Friday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, please log on to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the sponsor Code: Orinda or call 1-800-

RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Appointments are required. Donors will receive a \$10 e-gift card and will automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000 gift card.

**Night at the Library** Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. A very special Night at the Library you won't want to miss. Food, fun and philanthropy! Tickets now on sale! <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/natl2024/>

**Personal Finance Pop-Up** for High Schoolers, an interactive workshop that brings personal finance concepts to life to help your teen manage money, avoid debt, and make better financial decisions, more important than ever in this Insta-Venmo-DoorDash world with soaring expenses. Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Lafayette Library, in the Oak Conference Room. Limited seating. \$25 per student. Register today at: <https://forms.gle/ebqagH-fwasjFZKKF7> or contact [FinLitZ.Cal@gmail.com](mailto:FinLitZ.Cal@gmail.com) 650-255-4017.

### Garden

**Our upcoming Lafayette Garden Club** monthly meeting begins on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 9:30 a.m. The program will feature member Kathrine Bergman presenting a "Holiday Floral Extravaganza." Back by popular demand, Kathrine will create an array of holiday floral arrangements. Admission is free and guests are welcomed. The club meets at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Please visit [www.lafayettegardenclub.com](http://www.lafayettegardenclub.com) for more information.

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

**ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212  
**Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am**  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
All are welcome  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

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682 Michael Lane, Lafayette

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**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
**Sunday 10am in person worship**

We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to [facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/](https://facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/)



WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on [facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/](https://facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/)  
Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

*"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"*

**Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.**  
**Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel**  
**Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel**



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## Lamorinda Weekly

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# Ruby Endive Salad with Arugula, Apples, Figs, Sugared Pecans, and Boursin Cheese

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

This salad says everything about the season! It's a harmonious blend of sweet, tangy, peppery, and creamy flavors with a lot of crunchy elements. Crisp, slightly bitter ruby endive and peppery arugula pair with the natural sweetness of juicy figs and tart apple slices. The Boursin cheese offers a rich, herby contrast as well as a great base for arranging the endive. The crowning touch is the sugared pecans, bringing

a satisfying crunch and a hint of caramelized sweetness to every bite. This salad is a perfect mix of textures and flavors, ideal for a light lunch or an elegant

starter that celebrates the best of autumn's produce. The Boursin cheese is delicious with this salad, but it also serves as the "glue" to keep the endive leaves in place so you can arrive at a beautiful salad, resembling a flower arrangement. I just pushed the base end of the endive leaves into the cheese to hold them in place. The same method keeps the very thin apple slices standing upright, too. Then, simply arrange the figs and sprinkle the pecan bites over the top before dressing with a light Dijon vinaigrette. You can make this salad on individual salad plates or one larger serving platter.

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



## INGREDIENTS

### Salad Fixings

- 2 cups arugula leaves
- 1-2 heads ruby endive
- 3-4 figs, cut into quarters or small pieces
- 1 crisp red apple (Honeycrisp or Fuji), very thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup Boursin Garlic & Fine Herbs cheese

### Sugared Pecans

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup pecan halves
- 2 tbsp. sugar (white or brown)
- 1/4 tsp. cardamom
- 1/8 tsp. salt

### Dijon Vinaigrette

Shake the following ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid

- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
- 1/4 cup wine vinegar (red or white)
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

### DIRECTIONS

Arrange a nest of arugula in the center of each salad plate, or a larger serving platter. Mound a scoop of Boursin cheese on top in the center of the arugula. Carefully stick the base of the endive leaves into the cheese, forming a sort of flower look. The Boursin serves as a way to keep the endive in place. Wedge the thinly sliced apples in between the endive leaves. Sprinkle the candied pecans evenly over the greens and place fig quarters on the plate. Drizzle the vinaigrette evenly over everything and season with freshly ground salt and pepper.

To make the sugared pecans, heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet and add the pecans. Cook over medium-low heat until the pecans become fragrant and begin to brown. Then, sprinkle the sugar over the pecans and continue to cook just until the sugar is melted. Remove from heat and toss the spices and salt over the sugared pecans; cool completely before adding to the salad. I normally cook the pecan halves and then break them into small pieces before serving.



# Local teens swim to raise awareness and funds to fight ovarian cancer when it hits too close to home

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

From left, Brody Suba, Asha Spitzer, Berit Holms Suba, and Cael Suba all wearing ovarian cancer awareness t-shirts.

Campolindo High School junior, Asha Spitzer (16) joined forces with Miramonte High School junior Brody Suba (16) and his freshman brother Cael (14) in helping to bring awareness to ovarian cancer after the boys' mother and aunt were both diagnosed in 2021.

According to Berit Holms Suba, the boys' mom, "Brody and Cael noticed the disparity be-

tween awareness campaigns around well-funded colon cancer and breast cancer research, but never saw or heard anything about ovarian cancer awareness. They also noticed their aunt and mom have been using breast cancer meds which aren't completely effective in the fight against ovarian cancer because of the lack of resources around ovarian

cancer. There are just not a lot of drug options for the patients."

All three teens have participated as swim teammates since 2013, so fundraising through swimming-related activities was an easy decision. Also high on their list was to bring attention to a disease that went misdiagnosed for both Berit (48) and her sister, Brigid Holms (52), who lives in Connecticut.

"My sister was vomiting for a year and tried to get help, but it was during COVID and tough to be seen by a doctor," explained Berit. "I experienced bloating and felt pain on my right side. I went into Urgent Care and was treated for a urinary tract infection. The x-ray showed a kidney stone, and they thought that was the problem. After still getting the pain, I had an ultra sound where an 18-centimeter tumor was discovered."

After a successful hysterectomy with

follow-up chemotherapy, Berit was pronounced cancer-free. However, it wasn't long before some tumors returned. Besides chemo, she has had radiation treatments and will soon go to Houston, Texas to participate in clinical trial treatments. Brigid is also still fighting the disease.

"I felt the injustice that a wonderful person like Berit has to battle this disease," stated Spitzer. "She was always a presence for helping at swim meets. I was 14 when she was diagnosed, and I felt helpless to fix the issue. It seemed natural to do something that was swimming-related."

Spitzer opened a GoFundMe account that raised approximately \$10,000 for the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) through her participation in the Escape from Alcatraz event. Over the last three years she swam with a kayak escort from the island in

the San Francisco Bay all the way to Aquatic Park. She plans to participate in other events in order to support Brody and Cael's fundraising efforts.

The Suba brothers took their lead from Berit's idea to create Ovarian Cancer Equity and established a website geared toward community support for patients, awareness campaigns through educational events, and research fundraising in order to "accelerate the development of alternative therapies due to the disease's resistance to standard treatments."

"It was scary," said Brody when the boys first learned of their mother's diagnosis. During the interview for this article, both boys were wearing teal-colored t-shirts bearing the words "I wear teal for Mom." Unlike the popular color of pink for breast cancer awareness, teal has not had the deserved expo-

sure for ovarian cancer awareness, something the boys would like to change.

Besides working on a letter-writing campaign to members of congress, Brody and Cael plan on "contacting famous people who have been struck with ovarian cancer for their support."

The teens held a 20-mile virtual walk/run/bike/swim in September (ovarian cancer awareness month) to raise funds. "Five people participated," Brody explained "We did the swim part, and the others did the rest. People could donate whatever they could, and we're keeping the competition open until Dec. 31." So far the fundraiser has taken in about \$2,000. For more information about their website visit: [www.ovarian-cancerequity.org](http://www.ovarian-cancerequity.org). For information about symptoms visit: [OvarianCancerProject.org](http://OvarianCancerProject.org).

# Monthly Cars & Coffee enlivens Lafayette Christian Church

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

A visitor admires two Ford Thunderbirds at the Burton Valley Cars & Coffee on Aug. 24.

The idea came from a book — though perhaps not the one that you're thinking of. About a year ago, the Lafayette Christian Church's study group read "Healing the Heart of Democracy" by Parker J. Palmer. They were struck by the statement that churches should develop a theology of hospitality that extends beyond their congregation and into their broader community.

Led by Stephanie Reilly, they started brainstorming and began to hold events for the

larger Lamorinda community. Among these were free coffee and doughnuts along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, concerts in the grove, and a book fair. One day, David Dell and Kyle Koegler suggested that they host a Cars and Coffee, an auto enthusiast tradition where people come together to display their cars, talk, drink coffee, and eat doughnuts. As car enthusiasts themselves, Dell and Koegler became the driving force behind the new Burton

Valley Cars & Coffee.

"They got the posters and banners done, everything," said Reilly. "The only thing I did was go down and get the doughnuts from Johnny's Donuts."

Despite a few sprinklings of rain, the Burton Valley Cars & Coffee was so popular that Reilly had to get a second round of doughnuts. In addition to those who specifically came to see the cars, many people walking by on the trail stopped to join in. Visitors chatted with the car owners, asking them about their cars, what kind of enhancements they had done, and why they had chosen that particular car.

Many of the cars had stories behind them, such as coming from family members or being a lifelong dream. They were a mix of classic, vintage, and modern cars such Thunderbirds, Mustangs, Audis, and Ford trucks. Some of owners brought cars that had been given a lot of restoration or enhancements including Koegler,

who brought a car that was much admired for how it had been painted and tricked out.

As the event came to an end, some of the car owners told the church organizers that the event had been so great that they wanted it to happen again. After a quick check that the parking lot was free, the congregation decided to have Cars & Coffee on the fourth Saturday of the month.

"My own son, who doesn't get too excited about much except cars, said, 'We got to do this again.' In fact, he keeps reminding me there's one this month. And I go, 'Yeah, I'm well aware of that,'" said Reilly.

At present, the Lafayette Christian Church is going to sponsor Cars & Coffee in October and November. They'll take a pause in December for the Christmas season and then decide in January if they want to make this a monthly event. They are hopeful that the events will be popular enough to make it part of their

2025 community outreach plan.

The next Burton Valley Cars & Coffee will be on Oct. 26, from 8 a.m to

11 a.m. at the Lafayette Community Church at 584 Glenside Drive. All types of cars and visitors are welcome.

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Boys water polo teams pointing to the playoffs

By Jon Kingdon



Campolindo's Hayden O'Hare



Campolindo goalie Drew DeFrancisci

### CAMPOLINDO

For Brodie Jasper, in his first year as the Cougars head coach, there was little need for a honeymoon period, having previously played at Campolindo (class of 1997), and having been an assistant coach at Campolindo (2012-2014), Acalanes, and Monte Vista. He has also coached with the USA Water Polo Olympic Development Program and is currently in his second year on the National Team staff.

Jasper has taken last year's 17-12 team to its current 14-7 record. "I've brought a different approach to the team, stressing discipline, taking accountability and responsibility as young adults that we're trying to shape them into, and instilling a certain type of work ethic," Jasper said. "They will see that if they abide by those ideals, good things are going to happen, and we are seeing positive results."

The Cougars are averaging 14 goals per game. "I definitely like to run through a traditional center, and a lot of weak side movement, and driving," Jasper said. "With a good center, you end up going up against a lot of zones, so we have been working hard on our perimeter movement, moving into open pockets, and creating shooting lanes, moving the ball quickly to beat the defenses."

The offense has been led by lefty Hayden O'Hara and sophomore attackers Ellis Culleton, Will Maguy, and

Cade O'Hare, who were all second team all-league last season. "Hayden really helps to institute our offense and when teams focus on him, he becomes a facilitator," Jasper said.

Senior Dylan King is the team's center. "Our team kind of goes as he goes," Jasper said. "He may not always be scoring goals but he's earning exclusions and that's creating kick outs. With a man up advantage, he is super active in the middle and when he's successful, he gives us scoring opportunities."

Jasper likes his team to be aggressive on defense, starting out in a full press, playing man to man between the passing lanes and putting pressure on the ball. "We have a really good center defense with 6'5" Sam Storrs who allows us to be able to use that type of defense, and we will switch from press to different types of zones to help try to funnel the ball we want to go. We're a complete team in that we understand our defensive philosophy and that helps to really fuel our offense."

Goalie Drew DeFrancisci has been very effective in the goal. "Drew has quick reactions and hands, and he has really solidified our defense," Jasper said. "One of his strengths is passing and we have a lot of speed, so we definitely try to fuel our counterattack with our defense."

Jasper credits the players for their conditioning and camaraderie: "We're in really good shape physically due to a rigorous pre-season and there is great team camaraderie with everyone being on the same page, playing for each other," Jasper said. "Meshing the seniors with the sophomores has had its challenges but they're learning on the fly, and we just need to keep improving throughout the season."

### MIRAMONTE

With the loss of twelve seniors to graduation and defensive stalwart Patrick Stice out with a hand injury, Miramonte has still managed to have a strong start to the season with a 12-9 record, including wins over nationally ranked Cathedral Catholic and Corona Del Mar in the South Coast Tournament.

"We're still a young team and finding our footing but we've come a long way over the course of last month," Co-Head Coach John Nash said. "Our sophomores Brady Hassett, Trent Smith, Riff McClear, Michael Robinson, Grayson Bloes, and Tyler Robinson are playing big minutes and doing a great job. We see ourselves as a very young team but we've seen massive improvements from the guys all year."

Juniors Brock Bliss and Tristan Tucker, and sophomore Grayson Bloes have led the offense. "Brock is a shooter and creator and Tristan, who spent time with the Cadet National team last summer, has

been an anchor for us at center. Grayson has been a great offensive threat for us," Co-Head Coach Lincoln Haley said.

With Stice out, Jackson Cherry and Ben Lucas have stepped up on the defense. "Jackson has been a real workhorse and Ben has been the guy we use against our opponent's best player," Haley said. "Team defense is still a big part of our identity."

Jackson Liu and Cooper Stern have been splitting time in the net. "At 6'5" Cooper has great size in the goal," Haley said. "Liu is really aggressive coming out of the goal, and does a good job of being our seventh defender. They're both good anchors and they both developing really quickly."

"We're really focused on defense and field blocking in particular," Nash said. "We know that come playoff time, we need to get the opposition below ten goals and so the defense has to improve in half court and transition."

### ACALANES

Last season, Acalanes Head Coach Nick Jordan spoke of the growth of the Dons' team and midway through the season, that growth has been showing fruition, having doubled their win total from last year. "The team has bonded and their hard work is starting to pay off in the pool," Jordan said. "We have a lot of contributors and it's starting to culminate into success and wins. The Dons have a

number of underclassmen, with the team as a whole being on the younger side. The team is led by seniors Justin Rosenblatt, Rocco Fraioli, and Sam Whipple, who have been on the team for a number of years. "We love them for that," Jordan said. "They've been doing a good job of being vocal leaders and holding guys accountable, and leading by example, doing the right things in and out of the pool."

There is a core of freshmen that came with club experience led by attackers Adrian Anderson, Charlie Holmes, Alexander Lavoie, Andre Owen, and Charlie Owens, and 2M Peter Endemann. "They are contributing at a high level for us and that's exciting," Jordan said. "They are competing hard and have earned their playing time. We have good depth, and our players are fighting for starting spots and getting quality playing time"

Junior Thomas Parrott is the team leader with 45 goals and scoring on 58.1% of his shots, and sophomore Isaac Topp with 26 goals and 26 assists. "Thomas has put in the work and it's paying off and putting him way ahead of everybody," Jordan said. "Isaac is doing a very good job for us as an attacker. It's good to see how he's continuing forward and continues to grow. We're attacking a lot of different things at the same time, trying to keep the defense on their toes, still using ba-

sic water polo principles - working our center, taking the outside shots and creating other looks as well, keeping things open so that if one thing fails, we've got something else to lean on."

Rosenblatt and junior Mason Schlehr have been the leaders on defense. "Justin continues to do a good job defensively and does a lot for us," Jordan said. "Mason brings that physicality and speed, communicating to our guys as to what they need to do and that's been huge."

Sophomore Fisher Bradford-Urban has been solid in the goal. "Fisher has taken a huge jump from last year and it's good to see him grow and keep getting better," Jordan said. "He's been doing well in one-on-one blocks and on counter attacks, and he's been helping our center defenders call the defense."

The defense has had a number of games where they have held their opponents in single digits, but a handful of games where they have given up a number of goals. "We're still working on just prioritizing and growing, and still being a young team, which comes with growing pains and we're still working through that, but it'll come around for sure. Our goal is to try and earn a playoff spot. We're close and hopefully it works out for us, and we get in," Jordan finished.

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# Lamorinda flag football still in the growth stage

By Jon Kingdon



Miramontes Chance Newby and Campolindo's Neta-Li Lustig Photos Mark Bell



Miramonte runner Jessica Chapman and Campolindo's defenders Lane Massa, left and Neta-Li Lustig (2)

There has been a great jump in the number of girls participating in the second year of flag football, though not so much in Lamorinda. With most schools having junior varsity teams this year for the first time, only Campolindo has been able to field such a team along with their varsity.

"We were on the edge as to whether or not we could have a JV team but I'm glad we did because those players are getting more experience," Coach Joe Waldo

said. "Soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse suck up a lot of bandwidth, so having a JV and varsity team at every school - it's not happening," Acalanes Co-Head Coach Mike Ivankovich said. "We should do our best to preserve the quality of the game and competition, and not confuse participation with what has been a truly great experience for the girls." **ACALANES**

After a very successful season last year, Acalanes lost 15 of the

18 girls on the roster to graduation. "We have a lot of girls that haven't played before but many of our underclassmen have stepped up and are playing great," Co-Head Coach Mike Ivankovich said. "We scheduled difficult teams in the beginning of the season and lost three close games, but we have been getting better every week and that's been our goal."

The Dons have gone from a team that was 80% seniors to a team that's almost 80% freshman. "For the freshmen, they had a lot to learn and they're going against 17- and 18-year-olds and they've done a great job," Co-Head Coach Mike Ivankovich said. "We have 18 girls on the roster and that's barely enough, but with so many new players, it's been great for them and great for us."

Senior quarterback Hana Chelemedos, junior Maya Shoenhair, and sophomores Sydney Clark, Ines Coyne, and Romi Avrahami have been key players on offense. "Hana has great poise, and she's making great decisions in running the offense," Ivankovich said. "Maya was all-league last year and has been great since we moved her to the slot position, and Ines has scored five touchdowns. It's a process teaching the players how to run and space our pass routes, come back to the football and we're still not there so we're struggling on offense."

The team's defense has been the strength of the team. "We spend a lot of time teaching flag pulling with different drills and a basic technique which is almost like a handshake grip with both hands but can change depending on the situation," Ivankovich said. "Ines and Leila Hamedi have been outstanding pulling the flag and Av-



Campolindo quarterback Isabelle Maher



Miramonte's Julia Quinn Ferguson

ery Dement has a lot of interceptions. Freshmen June Natal and Isabelle Agnost, and sophomore Malory DeCredico have been our main rushers and we've been working hard on our technique."

"We're excited about the rest of the season and the future if we can retain our girls for the seasons to come," Ivankovich said. "It's still fun every day and it's still quite different from tackle football where it can feel like a real grind at times. The girls really make it interesting because they're really smart and clever and are able to figure things out on their own."

**MIRAMONTE**

After only one-win last season, Miramonte has five wins midway through the season. Head Coach Jennifer Lezcano has a young team with nine freshmen and sophomores. "At sports night in the spring, we had a really good turnout of freshmen inquiring about flag football along with a lot of our returning players who encouraged others to come out for the team," Lezcano said. "We have a great group that really clicks and that's made a huge difference because they all really want to support one another and with Kevin Newby, we have a committed assistant coach whose extra guidance has been huge for everyone."

"For a number of our players, it's a whole new sport where football was a foreign concept," Newby said. "Winning some early games has really helped a lot. We have some rigor in our practices and the kids are learning the basic skills on running routes, pulling the flags, and understanding our different defenses. The players are having a lot of fun, though they can be hard on themselves, but they're sharing in their successes and supporting each other, particularly the freshmen, when they get down."

The offense is led by quarterback Penelope Hagan and Chance Newby, Lucy Daoust, Katelyn Soe, and Julie Quinn Ferguson. "Penelope has been a great player," Newby said. "She is very sharp and understands the game. Chance has great hands and is good over the middle and really reliable on third downs. Lucy has been great on the deep routes and Katelyn is getting more comfortable catching passes out of the backfield. Julie may be the best athlete on the team as a halfback and free safety, making a lot of catches and tackles."

The defense has shown improvement as the year has progressed. "We've added some defensive plays and have a variety of blitzes and that's part of the education that's been fun," Newby said. "Riyana Habarakada, Harriet Olson, and Anaia Singh have been very effective with their speed and quickness."

"Ultimately, our goal is to give the players reasons to come back by making it fun out there," Newby said. "We will run them hard, and they will sweat a lot, but they do enjoy coming to practice and enjoy the vibe of what the team has been built around. We

had nothing to lose from where we were last year so we're having fun surprising people."

**CAMPOLINDO**

With a 3-3 record in league play, Campolindo has shown improvement over last season. "Last year we were a heavy freshman team and this year we're a heavy sophomore team," assistant coach Joe Waldo said. "A number of the players returned from last season, and we've got some freshman that can really play. We started them on our JV team this season and we've been bringing them up here and there, getting experience on the varsity and we're seeing a lot more interest with the younger kids."

Second year QB, sophomore Isabelle Maher has completed 58.6% of her passes with 20 touchdowns. "Isabelle is seeing things better and has gotten stronger," Waldo said. "She is moving better on the field and maintaining her composure when under pressure."

The leading rushers besides Maher, are Lucy Ross (27-132), Jasia Hlanski (32-99), and Lane Massa (13-44). The leading receivers are Jeevan Dhaliwal (42-209-11TD's) and Avery Bruno (22-221-3 TD's). "Jeevan is playing really

well," Waldo said. "She is strong and very tough in the middle and Avery, who is new to the team, has learned quickly. Freshman Mia Durden has scored three touchdowns and is exciting to watch."

The defense --still a work in progress -- is led by Lucy Ross, Lane Massa, and Natalie Lustig. "Lucy is our main blitzer and really goes after it and has three sacks this year, and Lane is very tough in the middle, knowing where the ball is and adjusting to it, leading the team with 95 tackles (flag pulls) followed by Natalie with 44 tackles."

"Our defense has been solid and on offense our receivers have really improved," Head Coach Lisa Waldo said. "Their hands have gotten a lot softer when catching the ball and that's been exciting to see because last year, they struggled a lot catching the ball. On defense we've gotten a lot better at breaking down, squaring up and pulling the flag. As coaches we feel a lot more comfortable with the team and we knew where our weaknesses were. To correct that, we brought on staff to build on what we knew we had and we're stronger and in better shape."

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# Award-winning documentary wows audience at Lafayette Library

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**Kopila Valley Children's Home founder Maggie Doyno, center. Documentary film maker Jeremy Power Regimbal, left and Lafayette sponsor Karen Mulvaney, right, after the showing of the documentary, "Between the Mountain and the Sky".**

Although the film was cheerful and uplifting, several audience members who rose to make comments afterwards found themselves simply choked with tears. Such was the overwhelming response to "Between the Mountain and the Sky," a documentary that tells the true story of Maggie Doyno, who, right out of high school, founded what would become an amazing home for orphaned children in Nepal.

After graduating in New Jersey, Doyno took a gap year, during which she volunteered in India and met Tope Bahadur Malla, who later became her co-founder in Kopila Valley Children's Home. Tope had a very hard childhood in Nepal, where he was born into a very poor family and was soon orphaned. He met Doyno while she was

volunteering on a child welfare project in northern India just after the end of the civil war in Nepal. Together, they returned to Nepal and started the Kopila Valley Children's Home and School.

Doyno soon found herself as mother to 40 orphans, whom she sought to raise with love, compassion, and education. Soon the 40 became 53. Her efforts, alongside Malla, have been wildly successful, and she can now claim to have raised 80 children, many of whom have gone on to higher education and prestigious careers.

After a tragic accident at the home, Doyno returned to the US to recover from her shock and depression. During that time, she met musician and filmmaker Jeremy Power Regimbal. They fell in love, and Regimbal moved with

Doyno to Nepal. They married and now have their own children, who are part of the Kopila family.

Regimbal spent nine years collecting first-hand materials for the documentary film, "Between the Mountain and the Sky." He incorporated a great deal of material on Kopila Valley Children's Home that had been accumulated over the previous ten years of coverage by news agencies such as CNN, who in 2015 had named Doyno as a CNN Hero.

The film charts Doyno's progress with the home for over 19 years. Doyno was born in New Jersey in 1986. She began her home and school in Nepal in 2005, using \$5,000 she had earned babysitting in High School.

In Nepal she had met a six-year-old girl named Hima, who was barely surviving on the few rupees she earned by breaking stones in a dry riverbed and selling them. Doyno was convinced that there had to be a better, more compassionate way. Doyno helped Hima go to school, paying for her tuition, uniform, and books, and expanded her efforts to help more children. Later, she joined forces with Malla to found Kopila Valley Children's Home.

In 2007, Doyno founded the Blink Now Foundation, a non-profit organization that pro-

vides financial support and management oversight first to the Kopila Valley School and Children's Home, and to the later developed Women's Center, Health Clinic, Big Sisters' Home, and New Campus in Surkhet, Nepal. The Foundation is an official 501(c)(3) organization with a US-based board. It has headquarters located in the United States and Nepal.

In 2022 Doyno published "Between the Mountain and the Sky, A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, Healing and Hope" based on her experiences in Nepal. She has been awarded many honors, including the following: 2008 Cosmo Girl of the Year, 2009 Grand Prize Winner of the Do Something Awards, 2012 Speaker at Forbes 400 Summit on Philanthropy, 2013 Speaker at Forbes Women's Summit: Power Redefined, 2013 Forbes Excellence in Education Award, and 2014 Unsung Hero of Compassion, awarded by the Dalai Lama.

After the showing of "Between the Mountain and the Sky," one interesting question from the audience was, "how many homes do you have now?" And Doyno's answer was, "Just one." She explained, "We made the conscious decision to focus on our community. We took it slow and did it right." In a war torn country among natural

disasters, Kopila Valley Children's Home has had over 1,500 visitors from NGOs in just the last year.

"We are mentoring other community leaders," Doyno added, "we share everything we have. 15 organizations shadow us for a week each month." Doyno went on to talk about the 100 female farmers who provide the school lunch program.

Doyno chuckled as she said, "I might have the record for being the mother of the most children." She glowed with pride as she talked about her first children, who call themselves "the OGs," who have become nurses and engineers and filmmakers. Her advice to us? "Ask yourself, 'how can I love more?' If you live this way, you'll have the most beautiful life."

The documentary film was brought to Lafayette by the personal sponsorship of Karen and Tom Mulvaney. A long-time resident of Lafayette, Karen was on the library foundation for 18 years, and was instrumental in getting the Lafayette Library built. During her time on the foundation, she brought a broad range of interesting people to the library's speaker series. Karen became involved with Blink Now after reading an article about Maggie Doyno by Nicholas Kristof in the New York Times in 2010.

Karen was particularly interested because Maggie was the same age -22- as her daughter, Meg, now Meg Mulvaney Geistwint. Today both are 38, and Meg, after graduating from St. Mary's College and earning her Masters degree there, went to work for Maggie, teaching English in Nepal as a volunteer.

Karen is a champion of Maggie, and she and her husband helped fund Doyno's new high school. The Mulvaney's visited the Kopila Valley Children's Home in 2014, just before a large earthquake devastated Nepal. Doyno is now working on building earthquake safe structures. Blink Now provides all sorts of disaster services. Mulvaney explained, as they have learned how to deal with major events such as earthquakes and monsoons.

At this time, the documentary is making the rounds of film festivals, and winning many awards, but Mulvaney hopes that it will be available to the public in the future. Currently it is only available through private showings, such as in Lafayette. They would need a large distributor to take an interest in the film.

A trailer of the documentary is available on the school's website: [www.kopilavalley.school.edu.np](http://www.kopilavalley.school.edu.np)

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Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 18

Issue 18

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page OH6

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Mum is the Word!

By Cynthia Brian



The fear factor is real in this zombie garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

*"I go to visit the chrysanthemums. They are indeed, the most universal, the most diverse of flowers." Comte Maurice Maeterlinck, Nobel*

*Prize-Winning Belgian Author*

This Halloween while kids are prowling the neighborhoods as Wolverine, Deadpool,

Beetlejuice, Ghostbusters, Disney characters, or Taylor Swift, gardeners will be costuming their landscapes with the indomitable chrysanthemum. One of the most popular flowers in the world, "mums" as they are called, come in a wide variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. Blooming in fall when most of the garden is preparing for a long winter's nap, chrysanthemums are hardy, versatile, and vibrant.

Year after year, the mums in my garden bloom in shades of cream, yellow, purple, burgundy, and pink, attracting a plethora of pollinators. ... continued on Page OH6



Pink pompon mums in an arrangement with spoon yellow mums, rosemary, marigolds, and digitalis.

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	12	\$755,000	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	6	\$685,500	\$2,058,000
ORINDA	8	\$535,000	\$2,900,000

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

- 930 Acalanes Road, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 09-16-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,345,000, 09-03-14
- 4110 Happy Valley Road, \$4,500,000, 6 Bdrms, 5654 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 09-16-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-11-99
- 3261 Marlene Drive, \$755,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 09-20-24,  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 08-31-20
- 14 Nephi Court, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1984 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-16-24
- 2780 West Newell Avenue, \$3,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 3478 SqFt,  
2021 YrBlt, 09-18-24, Previous Sale: \$225,000, 03-29-18
- 3393 Orchard Valley Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1184 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 09-19-24
- 3161 Plymouth Road, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 1837 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-20-24
- 1857 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,735,000, 3 Bdrms, 2729 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 09-09-24
- 348 Shire Oaks Court, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1545 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-10-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 10-23-15
- 953 Stow Lane, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1506 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 09-09-24,  
Previous Sale: \$10,000, 08-01-85
- 4026 Tilden Lane, \$2,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 2616 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-13-24
- 95 Woodbury Highlands Court #17, \$1,498,000, 3 Bdrms, 1856 SqFt,  
2022 YrBlt, 09-18-24

### MORAGA

- 23 Arroyo Drive, \$1,642,000, 5 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-18-24
- 2135 Ascot Drive #7, \$685,500, 2 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 09-11-24,  
Previous Sale: \$290,000, 03-15-11
- 54 Miramonte Drive, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-16-24,  
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 06-13-05
- 237 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,660,000, 3 Bdrms, 2457 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 09-18-24,  
Previous Sale: \$272,000, 09-01-88
- 1152 Sanders Drive, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2045 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-12-24
- 26 Sea Pines Street, \$2,058,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 09-10-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,317,500, 09-13-17

### ORINDA

- 67 Brookwood Road #21, \$535,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-09-24
- 5 Cielo Court, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3117 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 09-09-24
- 32 Moraga Viax, \$2,230,000, 3 Bdrms, 3064 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 09-09-24
- 417 Moraga Way, \$1,615,000, 3 Bdrms, 2007 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 09-13-24,  
Previous Sale: \$80,000, 11-06-15
- 11 Overhill Court, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 3650 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 09-18-24
- 5 Poco Paseo, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 09-09-24,  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 09-27-23
- 9 Tarry Lane, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3183 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 09-11-24,  
Previous Sale: \$332,000, 12-01-85
- 23 Wildwood Road, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1617 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 09-20-24,  
Previous Sale: \$460,000, 05-22-12



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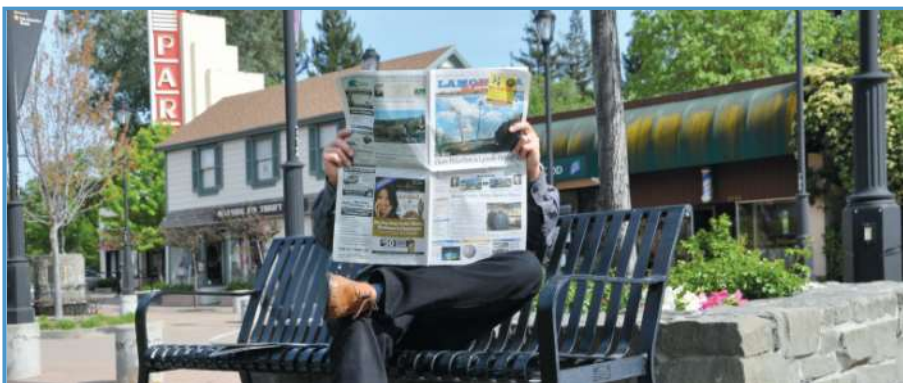
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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Mum is the Word!



**A bush of purple mums.** Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page OH1

The blooms are long-lasting, and the plants are low maintenance. Cutting mums for floral arrangements and bouquets assures that my house is always filled with spicy scents and sweet style.

Native to Asia, China was the first to cultivate chrysanthemums over 2500 years ago for their medicinal properties, though I'm not sure how they were used as medicine, as the entire plant is considered toxic to people and pets. Although mums have been a mainstay of funeral wreaths in the United States, globally they represent rich symbolism in many other cultures. Today in Asia, mums symbolize longevity, vitality, and immortality. It is thought that this resilient flower with its brilliant colors equates to the everlasting nature of life and honors our ancestors.

In Japan, the chrysanthemum is revered for its blooming beauty representing perfection and rejuvenation. The Kiku Matsuri or Chrysanthemum Festival honors this noble plant with the Imperial family using it as the respectful image of their lineage.



**A fountain decorated for fall with pumpkins, gourds, and squash.**

It was in the 17th century that mums were introduced into European culture, where they quickly enamored gardeners as cut flowers. Chrysanthemums became associated with romance, affection, sincerity, and love.

At this time of year, as Halloween approaches, chrysanthemums take on an added role. They bring positive energy and good luck to ward off the demons and negative energy of the ghosts, gremlins, and goblins.

Although the best time to plant mums is possibly spring, I prefer to buy small 4-inch pots of hardy blooming chrysanthemums now so that I can coordinate my garden color scheme with my outdoor décor. Nurseries and garden centers have many types to choose from, so choose the varieties that most interest you. You'll find pompons, anemones, spoons, and even newer series, each with different leaf and flower petals. Plant in a location that receives full sunlight, which is six to eight hours per day. Protect them from windy areas. Mums prefer slightly acidic soil enriched with organic matter that drains well. They don't like to be waterlogged, but they don't like being completely dry either. Keep the soil moist. Pinching the tips of young plants helps them grow bushier with increased buds. As our temperatures drop, mulch around the base of the plants to protect the roots.

Enjoy the blooms for eight to 12 weeks, sometimes more. When flowers fade as winter arrives, cut back the foliage to the ground. These perennials will resurrect next year, offering you another season of optimism. Their normal life cycle is four to five years, but you can increase your odds of growing eternal hardy mums by dividing the roots every three to four years or cultivating by stem cuttings in the spring. If you love the mums you are growing, doing this will get you identical copies.

... continued on next Page



**This garden boasts a variety of mums in the bud.**



A variety of colorful chrysanthemums with greens of mock orange make a fragrant floral display.



Cynthia Brian wishes you a Happy Halloween.

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](http://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](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

Mums look gorgeous in pots placed on the patio or porch. Flowers can be as tiny as a quarter or as large as a plate. They are great in borders and beds and can grow to three feet tall and two feet wide. You might need to stake your plants if they get too big. It is important to note that chrysanthemums that are bought in florist foil will be great for indoors or as a holiday gift, but most likely will not have the toughness to be transplanted in the garden. If you want mums for your landscape, buy them at a nursery.

With minimal care, your mums will thrive and be the stars of your fall garden, alongside the growing gourds, pumpkins, and of course the spooky skeletons, scarecrows, zombies, and Jack-o-Lanterns of a Halloween graveyard.

Visit your chrysanthemums and revel in a safe and scary Halloween! Mum is the word! Happy Gardening. Happy Growing! Happy Halloween

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This home is one of the most desirable in Orinda Grove due to its location, 10' ceilings, pristine condition & fab floor plan on one level.



**76 La Cuesta Road, Orinda**  
3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1762 Sqft | \$1,395,000

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 | \$2,850,000

Stylish retreat in Happy Valley hills offers a sparkling pool, wine room, greenhouse & views from every room all on 1+ acre!



**3235 Mt. Diablo Blvd #104, Lafayette**  
2 Bd + Office | 2 Ba | 2148 Sqft | \$1,895,000

Luxury single-level condo on a cul-de-sac features hardwood flooring, beamed ceilings, Anderson windows & so much more!



**655 Augusta Drive, Moraga**  
2 Bd | 3.5 Ba | 2352 Sqft | \$1,495,000

This lovely townhome situated in desirable MCC offers vaulted ceilings & French doors leading to a patio perfect for entertaining!



**New Listing!**

**3141 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek**  
4 Bd | 2 Ba | 1579 Sqft | \$1,195,000

Bright & cheery single level home on idyllic tree lined street. Gorgeous kitchen, hardwood floor, hot tub, firepit & so much more!



**Pending!**

**1860 Tice Creek #13443, Walnut Creek**  
2 Bd | 2 Ba | 1141 Sqft | \$775,000

This centrally located Waterford condo offers an open floorplan & the ideal blend of comfort and convenience!



**1600 Oakmont Drive #6, Walnut Creek**  
2 Bd | 1.5 Ba | 1058 Sqft | \$550,000

Enjoy this lovely, bright unit which fits laminate flooring, quartzite countertops & an open atrium patio!



**1200 Leisure Lane Unit 4, Walnut Creek**  
2 Bd | 1 Ba | 1262 Sqft | \$450,000

Bright, charming condo conveniently nestled within the vibrant & serene community of Rossmoor!



**Lease!**

**1937 Highridge Court, Walnut Creek**  
4 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2549 Sqft | \$4,800/mo.

This spacious townhome in Summit Ridge fits stainless steel appliances, spacious primary suite & large family room w/ sliding glass doors to a private fenced in yard!



**Lease!**

**4655 Harbord Drive, Oakland**  
4 Bd | 3 Ba | 2027 Sqft | \$7,500/mo.

This beautifully maintained home in the heart of Upper Rockridge boasts stunning Bay views, an abundance of natural light, & classic architectural details!



**2631 Danville Blvd, Alamo**  
4 Bd | 5.5 Ba | 4507 Sqft | \$1,995,000

This rare opportunity features an amazing .6 acre flat, gated lot backing to the Iron Horse Trail in prime westside Alamo!



**1167 Kaski Lane, Concord**  
4 Bd | 3 Ba | 2237 Sqft | \$1,149,000

Fall in love with this beautifully updated, single level home w/ an ideal layout!

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby • Shannon Conner • Meara Dunsmore • Linda Ehrich • Emily Estrada • Joan Evans • Linda Friedman • Liz Gallagher  
Claudia Gohler • Ari Hatton • Gillian Judge Hogan • Dexter Honens II • Christina Linezo • April Matthews • Hillary Murphy • Karen Murphy  
John Nash • Altie Schmitt • Ann Sharf • Amy Rose Smith • Molly Smith • Jeff Snell • Lynda Snell • Alexis Thompson • Clark Thompson  
Angie Evans Traxinger • Ignacio Vega • Ann Ward • Margaret Zucker

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