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Firefighters from across the Bay Area joined for a training exercise June 17 at Painted Rock in Moraga.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

Wildfire preparation plans in full swing for fire season

By Sora O'Doherty

If you are a very early riser, on Memorial Day morning you might have seen Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein and volunteer Charles McNulty driving around in a little all terrain vehicle with a 14-foot pole strapped to it. They were mapping all of the places where trees were overhanging evacuation routes.

MOFD is laser focused on evacuation routes, because, as Rein said at the June monthly meeting of the Lamorinda Citizen's Emergency Response Team, "We don't have a fire season anymore, we have fire danger all year round." Like so many, MOFD exists in a world where a single stopped vehicle can cause others to perish, as they did in the fires at Paradise, and, 31 years ago, in the Oakland Hills fire, just over the hill from Orinda.

Firefighters from all over the Bay Area including from MOFD, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, East Bay Regional Parks, San Mateo Central County Fire, San Francisco Fire, and the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department joined together at a

training exercise June 17 at Painted Rock in Moraga. Other actions being taken now include the prescribed burns of the meadow at Wagner Ranch, lower Wildcat, Bear Ridge, and ridgetop fuel breaks around Sleepy Hollow in Orinda.

There will be a Lamorinda virtual community evacuation exercise on Saturday, Sept. 3, starting at 7:30 a.m. Residents can expect to begin receiving alerts about 8 a.m. Police, fire, and Office of Emergency Services personnel will meet at a fire station to conduct this test of the community warning system.

Rein also talked about a proposal scheduled to come before the MOFD board to establish the purchase of fire mesh which would be provided at no cost to residents. He explained that while 1/16-inch mesh is more effective at preventing embers from entering attic spaces, it also requires more maintenance to allow air flow; 1/8-inch mesh is a little less effective at preventing embers but provides better air flow to the attic.

While MOFD is focused on what they can do in the event of fires, what Chief Dave Winnacker really wants to communicate is what residents can do to

help themselves. As Rein explained, there are three factors that affect the behavior of wildfires: fuel, weather, and topography. The only one that we can control is fuel, it is the one component we have some ability to deal with. To that end, Winnacker has been urging residents to cut grass to a maximum of 3 inches in height, to break up non-irrigated shrubs and bushes so that they do not form a continuous fuel bed, to trim and limb tree branches to provide a minimum of 5 feet of clearance from the ground, to remove dead or dying trees, and to maintain roadside clearances 15 feet vertically and 3 feet horizontally from the asphalt roadway.

Under the Fire Adapted Community Ambassadors program, volunteers from the community will, upon request, come to your home to evaluate your property for fire code compliance, with tips on how to make your home safer, Rein explained. This involves no enforcement, and is only an educational program. With 14,000 parcels in the MOFD area, it is not possible for MOFD to get to each parcel, so this volunteer program helps.

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Orinda 4th of July Parade

Monday, July 4 at 10 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Fun Run at 8 a.m.

www.orindaassociation.org

Lamorinda Fourth of July festivities will finish with a bang



By Vera Kochan

Get ready to celebrate the Fourth of July in a big way as Moraga and Orinda plan on keeping residents and visitors alike busy throughout the en-

tire day.

Orinda starts the day's festivities with an "Orinda Keep On Truckin'" theme. Show up hungry between 7:30 to 10 a.m. for the pancake breakfast at the Library Plaza, but don't miss the flag raising at 7:55 a.m. Stretch

those calf muscles for the 8 a.m. Fun Run For A Reason (more info at www.sudc.org/wesley), or help exercise your brain with a 9 a.m. visit to the Library Book Sale. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on the Theatre side, followed by Music In The Park at 11:30 a.m. (bring your own picnic or order ahead from local restaurants). For more info and a map of the parade route visit: www.orindaassociation.org.

Moraga continues the July 4th celebration with a one-stop party at the Moraga Commons Park located at the corner of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. The Dog Parade at 11 a.m. gets the day off to a howling good start (registration at the bandshell). Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. folks can visit the many community

booths, and kids can hop-'til-they-drop on the inflatable jumpies. Food, wine and beer booths will be on hand to serve hungry and thirsty revelers between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., and everyone can take part in the family activities (throughout the park) between noon and 3 p.m.

As evening starts to settle in, the entertainment begins at 6:45 p.m. when the National Anthem and mayor's welcome take place at the bandshell followed with a 7 p.m. concert by House Rockers. No Fourth of July celebration would be complete without fireworks, so end the evening with a bang as the night sky lights up with the rockets' red glare at approximately 9:30 p.m. For more info or to help Buy-A-Rocket visit: www.moragarec.com.

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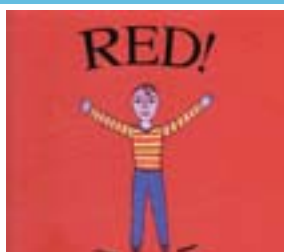
Lafayette's School Safety initiatives to start over summer - Page A4

Public Safety

ConFire receives \$3M Fuel Break Grant - Page A8

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Orinda children's book author brings whimsical fantasy to life - Page B1



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Megan Reid's serpentine path to professional soccer - Page C1



Our Homes D1-D16

Growing water-wise with drought-resistant plants - Page D1





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Wildfire prevention and preparedness tops Lafayette's budget items list

By Lou Fancher

Lafayette Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson in presenting to the council the Fiscal Year 2022-23 proposed budget and work plan addressed four goals set this year by the council she described as "very ambitious." Wildfire prevention and preparedness topped the list that included improving pedestrian and traffic safety and mobility, creating a downtown and Mt. Diablo Corridor Specific Plan, and developing short- and long-term fiscal sustainability plans.

Robinson said the budget proposal also included full year funding for newly authorized staffing positions and for additional office space that will be necessary as the staff expands.

The cost for additional staff is approximately \$675,000 per year; the expense for additional space comes from the General Fund. At the end of the fiscal 2021-22 period on June 30, the General Fund Reserve is projected to be at an estimated

86% due to the council's careful fiscal management, according to Robinson. She said the city remains in "good and robust financial health" in part because of adjustments to the timing of ongoing and planned programs.

Revenue trends beginning in 2019 and mapped annually through 2022 show the city is making a faster than expected recovery, but is behind the growth that would have happened had the pandemic not occurred. Special revenue the city did receive includes the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act that has been allocated, with a second tranche expected in July. The total of the two disbursements is \$3.18 million and money coming in from the second tranche will be reserved in a sinking fund and released as approved.

A second source of city revenue is the Palos Colorados settlement of \$2.25 million. This money has been allocated to the Vision Zero capital projects and safety improvements around schools (see related story on Page A3).

New staffing and the resulting additional office space Robinson showed are projected to put the city in a deficit situation in roughly three years. In fiscal year 2023 the reserve dips and by 2025 would fall below the 60% threshold.

Unfunded requests under consideration included improvements to the Community Center, allocations to Lamorinda Village, money for an economic development manager contract, pre-engineering for the School Street Project and others. The total added up to just over \$1 million. Projecting forward with continuing structural deficits and increased inflation impacts, Robinson said the net effect will force the city to reduce the number of projects planned. ARPA money, she reiterated, could fund the requests and cover shortfalls, but cautioned the one-time money is a short-term fix.

When Vice Mayor Carl Anduri asked for clarification about the fiscal surplus of \$1.8 million in 2021 included in Robinson's report and whether

it represented an amount over the 60% reserve, not actual cash, Robinson reiterated that tranche 2 of the ARPA funds is not a part of those budget figures.

Anduri asked about funds for wildfire weed abatement and tree maintenance and if that is a stable figure or one that increases year-to-year. Robinson replied that the expenditures for those purposes do not necessarily increase, unless allocations from a general fund that are directed to maintain streets and trees is specifically designated for wildfire safety.

During public comments, Suzy Pak, a volunteer for Lamorinda Village, advocated for continued support and funding allocation for the nonprofit. Robert Lavoie suggested the city not apply ARPA funds for additional office space and instead save the funds for other use by having new staff members work remotely.

Robinson responded to Lavoie, explaining that only \$135,000 of the \$650,000 budget

item for additional staff and space would go to office space and would not relieve "the bulk" of that deficit. Issues the council she suggested would have to consider in regard to remote workers are lost efficiency, the impact on workers' home lives, jobs that require in-office consultations and other concerns. "It might, over time, cause problems," she said.

Council discussion relating to actions recommended by Robinson and staff regarding unfunded requests included possible delays or denials of approvals for unfunded items and the timing for approvals or further fact gathering by staff. Using tranche 1 ARPA funds to pay for items was determined to be the best solution for the necessary items needing funding.

Ultimately, the council directed Robinson on next steps related to the base budget, unfunded requests, use of ARPA funds, and confirmed the council at the June 27 meeting will select members of the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee.

Inaugural Lafayette Community Day brings folks together to give back



Photos provided

Nearly 200 volunteers rolled up their sleeves June 4 to work on various projects throughout Lafayette to benefit local nonprofits as part of the first annual Lafayette Community Day – the brainchild of the Lafayette Community Foundation, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce as a way to give back and serve others in the community.

Volunteers picked up trash along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, painted the gazebo at Gazebo Park, installed fencing at the community center, cleaned up the creekside at Leigh Creekside Park, and collected and sorted food for the White Pony Express Ukraine Food Drive.

The community donated approximately 350 cans of shelf stable food to be sent to Ukraine and approximately 20 volunteers came out to help, according to White Pony Express General Store Director Steve Harrell, who described the energy of the event as "upbeat and joyful thanks to our wonderful WPE volunteers."



Since the war began, White Pony Express has shipped 33 pallets of needed medical supplies, hygiene kits, blankets, and food to refugees in Poland and Ukraine. Twelve more pallets of food will be shipped shortly as hunger is rampant, according to WPE Development Associate Maisie Carney. WPE is working with nonprofit and business partners to ship items to trusted organizations in Ukraine and neighboring countries to ensure the supplies reach those most in need.

Volunteers gathered at Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette after work was complete to enjoy music by the Traveling Wilburys Review and participate in community art projects.

The event was sponsored by Republic Services and Martin Homes, as well as these in-kind sponsors: Amy Dryer Designs, Peet's Coffee, Evergood Sausage, Lafayette Social, Minuteman Press – Lafayette, Noah's Bagels, and Andrée Hurst Communications. - J. Wake

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School Safety initiatives to start over the summer



Image staff report

By Lou Fancher

School safety is a top priority for the city of Lafayette. According to a report presented by the Safe Routes to Acalanes High School team three cyclists and two pedestrians were struck and killed in Lafayette between 2014 and 2021, and there were 15 bicycle and 10 pedestrian collisions between 2014 and 2020. At its June 13 meeting the city council received a second tranche of recommendations for improving safety near four additional Lafayette schools – Happy Valley Elementary, Burton Valley Elementary, the Meher Schools, and Acalanes High School.

Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran along with Toole Design Group (TDG) Senior Planner Drew Parker presented an overview of the projects, an update on one element the council at its April 11 meeting had requested involving the intersection at Pleasant Hill Road and Quant Road near Springhill Elementary, and a summary of TDG, staff and the Transportation and Circulation Commission recommendations and next steps.

Parker showed images from the Pleasant Hill Road intersection demonstrating how adding K-rail barriers, flex-posts, curb markings and object marker signs would make the island stand out visually and would improve the “pork chop”-shaped island’s safety.

Happy Valley Elementary School recommendations centered on traffic control, according to Parker, where speed and sightline problems would be solved by improving the visibility of crosswalks and adding lane delineators at the front of the school and a second crosswalk at the west driveway.

At Burton Valley Elementary School, traffic calming was again a focus. Recommended measures showed that heightened crosswalk visibility would immediately improve pedestrian safety and with minor modifications the school could be better connected to the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. With a community-generated pilot study ongoing, Parker said TDG limited their recommendations to simple steps, such as removing trail bollards and increasing marker visibility at the trail outlet near Sandalwood Court.

... continued on Page A8

Passing the Baton – Kim departs as LES principal, Barclay steps in



Ann Kim Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Ann Kim departs her role as the Lafayette Elementary School principal this month, she’ll leave behind both a depth and a breadth of experiences in the district. Kim arrived in the Lafayette School District in 2006. In her 16-year tenure in the district, she spent three years at Stanley, two years at Burton Valley and four years at Happy Valley where she served as a special ed teacher and a reading specialist. After getting an administrative credential, she took on a position as assistant principal at Burton Valley, and finally landed the position of the Lafayette Elementary School principal. The one school in the district Kim didn’t work at, Springhill, is the one Kim’s sons attended, which Kim points out means that the Kims’ have been at every school in the district.

Even as Kim has been teaching and leading students and teachers over the years, she has never stopped learning or even going to school, for that matter. Kim began a Human Resources certification course through the Association of California School Administrators months before the pandemic in fall of 2020 and then finished the program last spring. Her long-term goal was to work in the district for at least the duration of time her children were students here. “I am continually honing my skills,” Kim says. Although Kim wasn’t in a particular rush to leave, the serendipitous alignment of timing made now seem like the right time to transition. “When the Director of Human Resources job (opened up) in the Dublin School District, I was eager to apply and I’m excited about this new adventure.”

While Kim says her decision to transition at this time has everything to do with her excitement to put her new certification to use and transition to her next professional adventure and nothing to do with the pandemic, she admits that the pandemic was a trying time. “Running a school during the pandemic has undoubtedly been the most challenging part of my time as a principal. We were flying the plane as it was being built, and we were often asked to change direction while in mid-air,” Kim says.

... continued on Page A10



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 27, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 5, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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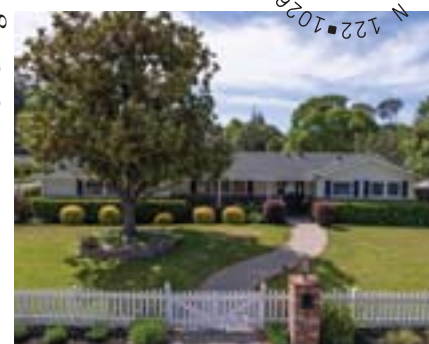
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Town Council: Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:
TBA

Moraga School District Board Meetings:
TBA

Town council briefed on Local Roadway Safety Plan analysis results



Photo provided

One safety countermeasure is to install flashing beacons at or in advance of intersections.

By Vera Kochan

Moraga could soon have safer streets thanks to the Local Roadway Safety Plan. The State of California is federally required to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan aimed at reducing traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on its public roads. To that end,

on Feb. 23, the town council unanimously approved the hiring of Pleasanton-based TJKM Transportation Consultants to develop the LRSP.

TJKM President Nayam Amin, Principal Ruta Jariwala and Transportation Planner Divya Gandhi gave a June 8 presentation to the council that included analysis results garnered through meetings with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Moraga Police Department, Moraga School District, Acalanes Union High School District and Moraga's Public Works Department. Additional feedback was received from 128 residents who completed a survey through the town's website.

Funding for the safety improvements is available through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) as well as One Bay Area Grants (OBAG) Cycle 3. According to the staff report by Public Works Director/Town

Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain, "HSIP funds can be used to complete work on any public road or publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail that improves the safety for its users."

The report went on to add, "HSIP funding also requires that a specific safety problem be identified based on existing validated accident data, and the proposed countermeasure(s) must substantially address the condition. All proposed projects must lead to and complete the construction of safety improvements."

Results of TJKM's analysis, based on a five-year, pre-COVID report from MPD, identified 11 high injury intersections and eight high injury roadway segments that need additional safety measures.

... continued on Page A5

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MPD welcomes new lieutenant

By Vera Kochan

Although he's new to the Moraga Police Department, Lt. Steve Borbely comes to the town with over 27 years of



MPD Lt. Steve Borbely

Photo Vera Kochan

law enforcement experience.

Borbely was all set to retire from his position as a captain with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff in March, "I was ready for a change," he stated, but then he heard about the lieutenant position opening up in Moraga. Acquainted with MPD's outgoing Lt. Brian South, Borbely took a quick tour of the area with Chief Jon King and decided to start the application process with the realization that he wasn't "ready to hang up the gun belt."

Serving his country in one form or another began when Borbely enlisted in the United States Army in June 1990, and headed to Fort Benning, Georgia for the infantry. He also attended Jump School (paratrooper training) and was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division in Germany. Within 30 days he was deployed to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf War where he served "just shy of six months." His last transfer was to Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Borbely wore many hats with the county before coming to Moraga. From working as a patrol officer with the Deputy Sheriff, he later moved to Oakley's newly formed police department under contract with the sheriff's office, where he became the first lieutenant in charge of the Traffic Investigations Division. Known as a problem solver he worked in the Dispatch Center as a detective

while also running Volunteer Services and Training. After duties as an investigator he moved to the Delta Patrol Station to become the house commander and was eventually promoted to captain overseeing the Special Operations Division for Danville, Lafayette, Orinda, AC Transit and a hospital contract. As if that wasn't enough, he later moved to Technical Services.

Commuting from Brentwood, Borbely has three children (two daughters age 22 and 20, and a son who is 13). So far he feels that his first month with MPD "has gone swimmingly. I like the pace, and I like the people [town staff]. The community has been very supportive." To date there have been no on-the-job surprises while working in Moraga, "at least nothing that would scare me."

Currently Borbely's duties with MPD are "as assigned," and he also supervises reports, is involved with Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), oversees fleet maintenance and serves as MPD's community liaison officer.

Borbely believes that his past training experience might add a new dimension to MPD, otherwise "I think that things are working fine. I just want to continue the mission established by Chief King by bringing the community together and foster the relationships that he's built."

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LINDA EHRIICH



Moraga Chamber's new executive director works to get businesses back on track

By Vera Kochan

After nearly a year without anyone in the executive director's position at the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Katie Bidstrup has agreed to take the reigns following a trial period when her title was preceded by the word "interim."

"There was a lot to consider when taking on the role," replied Bidstrup. "It is a part-time position, and I didn't know that I had the time it was going to need to bring it up to speed, nor the time to get everything done in a part-time capacity." During the interim period she donated her time with the expectation that the chamber board would hire someone else permanently.

Having been a small business owner for several years herself, Bidstrup was aware of the struggles involved. Originally working in the field of marketing and public relations for 15 years, she purchased Lango Kids (a program that teaches Spanish, French and Mandarin to kids ages 18 months - 12 years). The classes were held in schools, community centers or privately, which allowed her to remain home with her young son. The business was a success and allowed her the opportunity to purchase a second business, Gym-boree Play & Music. She acquired three locations which she owned and operated for five years: Oakland, El Cerrito and one in her hometown of Lafayette.

Bidstrup was a chamber member in Lafayette and appreciated the services that were provided to small businesses. When she heard that

Moraga was looking for an executive director she thought it would be a great opportunity to give back.

One of the first improvements Bidstrup made was to have a phone line installed. "It's silly, but it's one of the most important things," she said. "While the board had created a new email address, there was not an alternative method for anyone to contact the Chamber." She's also thrilled about new changes coming to the website. There are plans to include a job board, an updated directory, and a calendar of events that will not only contain Chamber business, but public as well.

It has not been an easy return to business as usual for the Chamber. "Since it was in the middle of COVID, and a new director was not on-hand, there was not a formal hand-off from director to director," recalled Bidstrup. "Information was dispersed to and handled by the board for nearly a year. Duties, access, accounts were split amongst board members. Collecting and organizing that information has taken time and is still occurring as things come up. Some access and information has unfortunately been lost, so recreating those have been challenging."

Collecting Chamber dues was one of the first orders of business in trying to get things back to normal. Several businesses didn't feel supported through the pandemic and were reluctant to pay their dues. Without the full accounting of dues to support Chamber operations, services and event financing, the all-volunteer board of directors began to discuss the feasibility of con-

tinuing within Moraga.

Additional hurdles included "addressing taxes and filing; upgrading our CRM system; advocating for ARPA funds at the town council; getting to know the business owners and their needs; learning in what events the Chamber participates; and sorting which person or organization handles which item," Bidstrup added. As if all of that wasn't enough, in February the Chamber office was burglarized and suffered the loss of a laptop and check-books.

The Chamber is striving to become involved in liaison meetings and community programs, but is still in the process of maneuvering its way through its "to-do list." The pandemic was the catalyst for so many difficulties the Chamber has had to deal with. Besides losing a longtime executive director, seven of 12 board members left. There's been an outreach effort to fill the vacated positions on the board. "We would love to have additional representation from doctor offices, professional services, marketing, technology, the service industry, etc.," stated Bidstrup. In the meantime, it is hoped that Moraga's businesses, whether Chamber members or not, reach out for help.

"I love meeting the business owners," Bidstrup said. "I love hearing their stories and finding ways we can help. It's not easy out there at any time to own a business, pandemic or no."

... continued on Page A10

Town council briefed on Local Roadway Safety Plan

... continued from Page A4

The high injury intersections are: Moraga Road/Lucas Drive; Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Lane; Moraga Road/Campolindo Drive; Moraga Road/St. Mary's Road; Moraga Road/Alta Mesa; Camino Pablo/Sanders Ranch Road; Moraga Road/Ascot Drive; Moraga Road/Donald Drive; Rheem Boulevard/St. Mary's Road; Moraga Way/School Street; and Moraga Road/Corliss Drive.

Intersection collisions were the most common with regards to high injuries at 73%, with three out of five in the fatal or serious category. Additional analysis revealed that 31% of the collisions were broadside (turning movements), 47% involved pedestrians or cyclists and 42% took place on Moraga Road. Of any nighttime collisions, 38% involved alcohol; 27% were improper turning violations; and 36% involved a pedestrian or bike.

The eight high injury roadway segments involve: Moraga Way (Town Limit to Moraga Road); Canyon Road (300 feet east of Valle Vista Staging Area to Town Limit - east); Moraga Road/Canyon Road (Larch Avenue to Town Limit - north); Rheem Boulevard (La Salle Drive to Moraga Road); Corliss Drive/Sullivan Drive (Hardie Drive to Moraga Road); Country Club Drive (Vader Drive to 875 feet east of Southard Court); Larch Avenue (Canyon Road to Baitx Av-

enue); and St. Mary's Road (500 feet east of Stafford Road to Town Limit).

TJKM has created five project plans involving all of the problem intersections and segments. Each project entails different forms of safety countermeasures. TJKM is under contract with the town to develop two of the projects and recommended to the council that Moraga proceed with Project 1: Non-signalized intersections (install/upgrade larger stop signs or other intersection regulatory warning signs, flashing beacon as advance warning, and install rectangular rapid flashing beacon); and Project 2: Pedestrian set aside application (install/upgrade pedestrian crossing - with enhanced safety features and install/upgrade pedestrian crossing at uncontrolled locations - with enhanced safety features).

While the purpose of this second presentation to the council was for members to provide feedback to staff on the recommended priority emphasis areas, countermeasure toolbox and proposed safety projects, they relied on Knapp's final input confirming that projects 1 and 2 were a good first step to take.

The town is still interested in public feedback and urges residents to complete the Local Roadway Safety Plan survey at: <https://www.moraga.ca.us/localroadwaysafetyplan>. Scroll down and click onto: Moraga LRSP Information and Feedback.

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11:00 am - 5:00 pm
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11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Food, Wine, & Beer Booths
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Family Activities (Throughout the park)

ON STAGE AT THE BANDSHELL
6:45 pm
National Anthem & Mayor's Welcome
7:00 pm
House Rockers (Concert)
9:30 pm
FIREWORKS (Start time is estimated)

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Rare Orinda city council split leaves Orindawoods private road maintenance intact



Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

At the June 7 city council meeting the council split 3-2 and as a result declined to cancel its agreement with the Orindawoods development to maintain certain private streets. Mayor Dennis Fay and council members Darlene Gee and Nick Kosla were opposed to the proposed immediate termination of the city's maintenance agreement for Orindawoods. Although Vice Mayor Inga Miller and Council Member Amy Worth were in favor, it was not enough to carry the action. Since no affirmative action was taken to cancel the agreement, it was automatically renewed for an additional five years, under the terms of the agreement. Fay suggested that during that time the city explore ways to adopt these streets as public streets.

During the past decade, the city of Orinda has been under pressure from some residents who live on private roads to find a way to deal with the situation under which private road residents

pay the same taxes, including the assessments for road damage by garbage trucks, but receive no help in the maintenance of their roads. Private roads advocate Steve Cohn last November pointed out to the council that its agreement with Orindawoods means that "the city can provide maintenance for roads built on private property as they provide a public benefit."

That arrangement dates back to June of 1992, when the city of Orinda entered into an agreement with Orindawoods under which portions of the private streets in Orindawoods would be opened for public use and the city agreed to maintain those streets, namely, Village Gate Road, Ridge Gate Road and Watchwood Circle. At the same time the city agreed to accept responsibility for the maintenance of the paved surface areas of those streets, including curbs and gutters but excluding drainage, lighting, sidewalks and landscaping.

In the beginning, there was a lot of opposition to the Orindawoods development, that began in the 1970s. According to Dick Marchick, a longtime resident and former board member of the Orindawoods Homeowners Association, members of the public felt that the development, which is a mix of attached townhomes, small lot garden homes, and regular single family residences, would be alien to the predominantly single family residence milieu of Orinda. However, the Orindawoods Tennis Club, which is open to residents without charge beyond their monthly HOA fees, and to non-residents for a fee, has proved extremely popular, both with residents and non-residents. Although some of

the residences have very little land, the overall development features many acres of open land.

During council discussion, Worth argued that terminating the agreement with Orindawoods would be fair to other private road residents. "We have such limited resources to even pave public roads," she said, "and it is important to be consistent." Fay pointed out that Orinda has been maintaining the roads under the agreement for 30 years. He said that he does not think that Orinda should be creating any new private roads, and offered a compromise to accept as public roads Village Road and Watchwood Road down to the point where it becomes Watchwood Court.

Kosla said he wasn't ready now to look into the issue that deeply, but suggested that by renewing the agreement now, the city would have five years to see what they can work out before the next time the agreement comes up for renewal. Gee agreed, stating that she does not support the city's current policy on private roads, which she feels is a very divisive issue in the community. "I still don't see doing this as an act that will save the city a lot of money," she added, "but it would increase divisiveness."

Miller said that the 30-year continuance of the road maintenance agreement with Orindawoods "appears to be an oversight." Worth said that she was not willing to consider taking on the roads, and found it interesting that the council had not received any feedback for the Orindawoods HOA.

Without action by the council, the agreement will renew automatically at the end of June and remain in place for the next five years.

Draft safety element available for public review

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda has made available for public review its

draft Safety Element and Vulnerability Assessment Report. The draft, which was reviewed by the planning commission on June 14, will be reviewed by the city council at its July 5 meeting. The planning commission's views will be presented to the city council at that meeting.

The purpose of a Safety Element is to include safety considerations in the planning and decision-making process by establishing policies related to future development. Part of the general plan, the safety element identifies natural and man-made hazards that may result in personal injury, loss of life, property damage, or environmental damage. All local jurisdictions are required by state law to update their safety elements every eight years. Orinda's safety element up-

date will occur concurrently with the housing element update.

Orinda's current safety element provides a brief discussion of risks (including seismic activity, landslides, flood hazard, fire protection, hazardous materials and evacuation routes) and identifies guiding and implementing policies. It has not been substantially updated since the city's general plan was adopted in 1987, but was last amended in 2011 to incorporate policies related to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Components of the safety element address risks such as wildland and urban fires, climate change adaptation and resilience, flooding, earthquakes. The draft is available for review at: www.planorinda.com/safety-element

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City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, July 5, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.
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Orinda Theatre finds surprise solution to serious problem

By Sora O'Doherty

Just when Orinda Theatre owner Derek Zemrak thought things were going great, with the theatre showing "Top Gun: Maverick," he was suddenly forced to close the theatre June 11, when the 80-year-old circuit breaker panel died. The circuit breaker, a Westinghouse BJ3200, is no longer manufactured, and Zemrak put out a plea on GoFundMe. After the struggle to keep going through the pandemic, Zemrak seemed

despondent. But, amazingly, the very next day, he was able to locate a refurbished circuit breaker panel in San Jose.

As it happened, after trying three circuit breaker panels, one from Burlingame worked. "Believe it or not," Zemrak reported, "it was a brand new one that had been sitting on a shelf for over 30 years. It has found its forever home at the Orinda Theatre." The theatre was able to reopen on June 14.

Zemrak thanked theatre supporters for their assistance in researching online and

reaching out to the broader community. "The outpouring of support is truly amazing and to all of you who donated without being asked directly, your generosity is beyond belief. You have all been there and continue to be there for the theatre. What a community. Thank you," he wrote.

In other theatre news, Zemrak updated the status of a new sound system (heavily discounted to see the theater continue) from the world renowned Meyers Sound. The speakers are still being manu-

factured in Berkeley but the speaker wires have been delivered. The wires will be run through the attics soon. "We are very excited about the new sound system which will greatly improve the audio quality plus extend the life of the historic Orinda Theatre. We listened to the constant concerns and comments on the sound and beat the pavement until Meyers Sound stepped up to help support our beautiful space," he noted.

With all the craziness of that weekend, Zemrak added

that he had forgotten to mention that new carpet has been installed in the ladies' parlor area and the men's restroom entry. "It looks amazing!" he enthused. "The carpet has not been replaced since 1986. We decided to replace it, it was way overdue and we were tired of waiting for the landlord to make any improvements. We hope you like it."

Program details and show-times can be found on the theatre's website, www.orindamovies.com

Orinda agrees to expand red-flag day parking bans

By Sora O'Doherty

Following the successful and well received red-flag day parking ban in the El Toyonal/Loma Vista area in North Orinda, residents of other parts of the city have been asking that their neighborhoods also get a parking ban to allow easier transit on red-flag days. The purpose of the red-flag day parking ban is to ensure that residents will be able to evacuate in the event of a wildfire, and that fire trucks will be able to access and fight fires.

On June 7, the city council acted to move forward on adopting additional red-flag day parking restrictions on evacuation routes in the very high fire severity zone. All of the additional areas targeted for parking restrictions are located in North Orinda and include portions of Lomas Cantadas, Claremont Avenue, Monte Vista Road, Manzanita Drive, Miner Road, Vista Del Mar, Sleepy Hollow Lane, Dalewood Drive, Sundown Terrace, Tappan Lane, and Honey Hill Road.

The council considered a number of options, but elected to move forward on this option because it could be most quickly and effectively implemented and owing to the significance of evacuation in the event of wildfires. Council Member Darlene Gee, who is a transportation engineer and a member of the 2 x 2 committee with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, spoke first on the proposal. "I do think this is a really important issue, and I personally am very supportive of tackling the evacuation routes," she said. "We can only do so much at a time and the evacuation routes are important enough for us to act on." Gee agreed with Mayor Dennis Fay that further red-flag day parking restrictions constitute a very legitimate use of Measure R dollars. As she has before, Gee raised the specter of the 25 people who lost their lives in the Oakland Hills fire because they couldn't get out. "This is the right application of our precious tax dollars," she concluded.

The matter was before the council so that Orinda staff could get directions on how to proceed. Following the unanimous approval of the first option presented to the council, it will be necessary for staff to conduct a study and prepare a traffic order for council approval. The council urged staff to act as quickly as possible, as fire season has started. Staff estimates that the cost of setting up signs in the expanded area will be between \$50,000 to \$70,000.

The program includes two types of signs. The first signs alert drivers and residents that the area is subject to parking restrictions on red-flag days. The second signs can be flipped down to indicate that a red-flag day is currently in place and that parking restrictions apply. These signs must be manually opened, and staff time to perform this task has been an issue. At times, Assistant Engineer Kevin McCourt personally came and flipped the signs open.

Another issue considered

was parking enforcement. Orinda only has two part-time parking officers, and one just left to go to the Marines. While seeking to hire another, City Manager David Biggs noted that the city may require more staff for parking enforcement. Although the Orinda Police Department is willing to help, how much time they can dedicate to parking enforcement depends on the other demands upon them. He noted that other cities that have red-flag day restrictions have enforcement staff 24/7, and that large juris-

dictions like Los Angeles have hundreds of enforcement staff.

Public Works Director Scott Christie discussed the process of placing the signs, and reviewed what it was like dealing with homeowner concerns regarding the placement of signs, the potential loss of on-street parking and the use of staff time to determine which existing parking areas would continue to be available on red-flag days.

In public comments Melanie Light speaking as current chair of the Firewise

Council and member of Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee, thanked the council for considering the expansion of red-flag day parking restrictions, which she categorized as "an important program for the safety of our citizens." Gene Gottfried commented that the El Toyonal program has worked well, and expressed his support for expansion.

The city council noted that time is of the essence and urged staff to come back to the council with whatever is required as soon as possible.

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Con Fire receives \$3M Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break Grant from Cal Fire



Contra Costa County Fire Protection District on June 3 announced receipt of a \$3 million California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The grant is for creation of a shaded fuel break across southern Lafayette and Walnut Creek, that will, when completed in 2024, afford significant protection from wildfires for residents in the communities of Rossmoor and southern Lafayette.

The project area will encompass 194 acres along some 11 miles of open space in the East Bay, and work is expected to start in approximately 120 days. The grant directly supports Con Fire's efforts to quickly suppress fires in densely-populated wildland-urban interface and hard-to-access grassland areas before they are able to threaten homes, businesses and other property.

"We're pleased to announce receipt of this grant, which will contribute immensely to our ability to protect commu-

nities we serve," said Con Fire Chief Lewis Broschard. "The construction of this fire break across southern Contra Costa County will allow us to immediately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in Rossmoor and Lafayette communities such as we have seen around the state in recent years."

The LWCSFB will significantly reduce the threat by reducing fuels – understory vegetation, dead and dying trees, and highly combustible brush – critical to the spread of a wildfire. The tree canopy formed by healthy mature trees will remain largely intact to reduce the future growth of brush and understory vegetation to include invasive non-native plant species. The desired result is to restore fuel loading to more natural levels that can be maintained by the periodic introduction of prescribed fires. According to Con Fire, this fuel break will provide essential opportunities for firefighting success by providing areas of lower fire intensity and enhanced fire lines. - J. Wake

Wildfire preparation plans in full swing for fire season

... continued from Page A1

Also, residents can request help from the chipper program. Residents can create large piles of trimmed and pruned vegetation, preferably together with their neighbors, and call for an appointment for the chipper to come and dispose of the material, thereby reducing the fuel available to a fire.

By the end of June, residents in Lamorinda will receive a revised version of the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation. Rein mentioned that community.zonehaven.com is

an excellent resource that shows by area what the status of a particular evacuation is. You can enter your address and find your zone and the website will tell you the status of an evacuation in your zone.

Another interesting resource are the wildfire alert cameras around Lamorinda. On the Fourth of July, MOFD will tile the nearly one dozen camera displays to provide a virtual fire watch that the public will be able to join. The cameras can pan, tilt and zoom. However, Rein did note that the usefulness of the cameras could be negatively impacted

by smoke from fires in other places in the state.

Residents are urged to sign up for the Contra Costa County Community Warning System at <https://alerts5.athoc.com/Self-Service/CCCWWS/Register> It is also recommended that you adjust your "do not disturb" setting on your cellphone to allow exceptions to prevent emergency warnings from being silenced at night. For instructions on how to do that, see www.lamorindacert.org/resources/cell-phone-do-not-disturb/

In the event of an actual evacuation, residents are

urged, if there is time and if it is safe, to go to one neighbor on each side of their homes to make sure they know about the evacuation.

The links referenced in this story and other links are avail-

able on the CERT resources page at

www.lamorindacert.org/resource/. The link for the Alert cameras is

<https://www.alertwildfire.org>.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
 Wednesday, July 20, 6 p.m.
 For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
 Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 1 p.m.
 For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org
 (http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)



School Safety initiatives to start over the summer

... continued from Page A3

The key issues at the Meher Schools were the downhill grade and tight curves on Leland Drive that have potential to cause drivers to exceed the speed limits and reduce visibility at curves. The solutions, Parker said, are to install speed humps, refresh striping, and add vertical delineators to create more protection, especially on curves in the road.

At Acalanes High School, the streets are designed for speed, access and parking, and not designed for maximum pedestrian and bicycle safety, according to TDG. Missing sidewalks on the south side of Stanley Boulevard and the lack of

pedestrian crossings on Stanley Boulevard between Pleasant Hill Road and Camino Diablo had TDG recommending adding two crosswalks, parking lots, and other improvements.

During the discussion period Vice Mayor Carl Anduri asked about a previous recommendation that had been made by the Transportation and Circulation Commission to lower the speed limit near Acalanes High School from 30 to 25 miles per hour. Anduri asked why it was no longer in the report. Moran said speed reductions on city streets throughout Lafayette had become a city-wide focus and the issue would therefore be packaged with other speed mitigation recom-

mendations in a separate report geared to address areas beyond and still including school safety zones.

Council Member Susan Candell asked about the RFP at Acalanes. Moran said the connection to an informal dirt path trail and a 130-foot gap in a sidewalk would be corrected by the recommendations and solve the problems of students crossing "everywhere" along Stanley Boulevard. The idea, he said, is to provide safe, mid-block crossing alternatives. Moran said, "Right now, they're just walking between cars wherever they want to cross."

Written public comment received during the TransCirc process included, among oth-

ers, a letter from four individuals representing the Burton Valley Safe Streets and 400 Burton Valley residents. The residents encouraged the council to not "force unneeded changes on neighborhoods" or "ignore the rights of senior and people with disabilities." The strongly worded protest advised the council make "a course correction" in response to residents' disapproval. Lafayette resident Stella Wotherspoon participated during the online meeting and spoke in support of the council's actions, expressing appreciation for the work and solutions offered by TransCirc, TDG and the council.

Council unanimously approved directing staff to com-

plete quick-build plans and solicit contractor costs to complete work for the four schools and to authorize release of \$1.3 million from the Palos Col-orados impact fees to fund the safety improvements near schools. (The total includes \$612,000 already authorized by the city council on April 11 for work at Lafayette and Springhill elementary schools and Stanley Middle School.)

Work on high-priority items presented to the council will begin over the summer.

Community members can view the proposed work in the agenda packet at https://lafayette.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=6236&meta_id=152374

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 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
 925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
 94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues
 94549Traffic@gmail.com

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

Orinda Police Department:
 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
 Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
 925-254-6820
 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
 May 29 - June 11

Alarms	55
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	62
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	27
Vacation House Check	8
Welfare Check	8
Ordinance Violation	4
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
Police Department	
Auto Burglary	
10 Block Moss Ln.	
1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)	
Springbrook Pool	
3300 Block Springhill Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Sweet Dr.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.	
Reckless Driving	
St Marys Rd./Solana Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.	
Topper Ct./School St.	
St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	

St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
 Woodview Dr./Sweet Dr.
 Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
 1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Moraga Rd./Brook St.

Tc - Minor Injuries
 Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.
 Tc - Property Damage
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.

Other criminal activity
 Commercial Burglary
 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

Fraud Credit Card
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Fraud False Pretenses
 3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way

Identity Theft
 4000 Block Fiora Pl.
 3200 Block Burton Ct.

Panhandling
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Petty Theft
 1100 Block Pleasant Hill Cir.
 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 1000 Block Woodbury Rd.

Residential Burglary
 3300 Block S Lucille Ln.
 Shoplift
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
 10 Block Eleven

Vehicle Theft
 1100 Block Pleasant Hill Cir.
 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3500 Block Terrace Way

Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbance-domestic
 10 Block Spruce Ln.
 3400 Block Springhill Ct.

Loud Music
 800 Block Moraga Rd.
 900 Block Oak St.

Loud Party
 500 Block McBride Dr. (2)
 Lucas Dr./Lucas Ranch Rd.
 Via Roble/Via Oneg

Public Nuisance
 Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
 El Curtola Blvd./Wb Sr 24
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism
 1000 Block Carol Ln.
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 80 Block Lafayette Cir.
 10 Block Northridge Ln. (2)

Other
 Checks Non Suff Funds
 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 K9 Outside Assist Request
 2100 Block Tice Valley Blvd., Wcr

Unwanted Guest
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3700 Block West Rd.
 Violation Custody Order
 3600 Block Walnut St.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
 May 31 - June 13

Alarms 7
 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
 Traffic 62
 Suspicious Circumstances 3
 Suspicious Subject 3
 Suspicious Vehicle 12
 Service to Citizen 34
 Patrol Req./Security Check 28
 Supplemental Report 9
 Vacation House Check 0
 Welfare Check 5
 Public/School Assembly Check 8
 Ordinance Violation 0

Vehicle violations
 Auto Burglary
 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
 1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.

Excessive Speed
 Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3)
 Parking Lot
 Moraga Way/Villa Ln.
 Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)
 700 Block Parking Lot
 Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa
 Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.
 Moraga Rd./Moraga Commons (2)
 Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.
 Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
 Sanders Dr.
 Country Club Dr./St. Andrews Dr. (3)
 St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
 St Andrews Dr./Cypress Point Way (2)
 Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
 Seven Eleven

Reckless Driving
 Devon Jco/Moraga Rd.
 Rheem Blvd./Center St.
 Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
 St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
 Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
 Hansen Ct./Moraga Rd.

Other criminal activity
 Burglary
 Safeway
 Commercial Burglary
 1100 Block Moraga Way
 Fraud False Pretenses
 600 Block Augusta Dr.

Grand Theft
 Safeway
 Identity Theft
 100 Block Cypress Point Way

Not Available
 Petty Theft From Veh
 Police Department
 Residential Burglary
 1800 Block Joseph Dr.
 Warrant Arrest
 Moraga Way/School St.

Nuisance to the Community
 Loud Music
 Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
 Hacienda
 Not Available
 10 Block Kendall Cir.
 Loud Noise
 100 Block Blk Ascot Ct.
 10 Block Kendall Cir.

Loud Party
 100 Block Block Ascot Ct.
 800 Block Augusta Dr. (2)
 Public Nuisance
 Safeway
 N Sandringham/Country Club Dr.

Other
 Failure To Obey
 Seven Eleven
 Terrorist Threats
 500 Block Moraga Rd.
 Trespass
 600 Block Moraga Rd.
 Violation Custody Order
 Not Available

Reckless Driving
 Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
 Moraga Way/Oak Dr.
 Camino Pablo Rd./School St., Mor
 Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
 Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
 Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.

Other criminal activity
 Burglary
 Windy Creek Way/Wilder Rd.
 Camino Pablo
 Orinda Way
 Commercial Burglary
 Camino Pablo
 Fraud Credit Card
 60 Block Northwood Dr.
 100 Block El Toyonal
 Fraud False Pretenses
 200 Block Crescent Dr. (2)
 10 Block Whitehall Dr.
 Grand Theft Veh Parts
 70 Block Brookwood Rd.
 Misc Burglary
 10 Block Mira Monte Rd.
 Petty Theft
 60 Block Moraga Way
 Vehicle Theft
 10 Block El Dorado Ln.

Warrant Arrest
 Orinda Way
 Moraga Way
 Eb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
 Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way
 Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way

Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbance-domestic
 70 Block Brookwood Rd.
 Disturbing The Peace
 1-00 Block Ardilla Rd.
 Wilder Rd./Big Leaf Rd.

Loud Music
 Scenic Dr./Orchard Rd.

Loud Noise
 10 Block Risa Ct.

Loud Party
 40 Block Oakwood Rd.
 Van Tassel Ln./Lombardy Ln.
 Van Tassel Ln./Van Ripper Ln.
 300 Block Camino Sobrante

Public Nuisance
 Orinda Community Center
 80 Block Underhill Rd.
 10 Block Orinda Way

Vandalism
 10 Block Orinda Field Lane

Other
 Failure To Obey
 Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd. (2)
 Harassment
 100 Block Casa Vieja Pl.
 Mentally Ill Commit
 70 Block Brookwood Rd.
 20 Block Orinda Way
 Unwanted Guest
 20 Block Valley Way
 60 Block Valley Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
 May 31 - June 13

Alarms 47
 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
 Traffic 53
 Suspicious Circumstances 5
 Suspicious Subject 5
 Suspicious Vehicle 5
 Service to Citizen 60
 Patrol Req./Security Check 19
 Supplemental Report 20
 Vacation House Check 0
 Welfare Check 5
 Public/School Assembly Check 2
 Ordinance Violation 3

Vehicle violations
 Accident Property
 10 Block Heather Ln.
 Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
 Camino Pablo
 Carjacking
 Unknown Location
 Dui Misd
 100 Block Las Vegas Rd.
 Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.



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Letters to the editor

Antiracism IS racism

A letter published June 8th asserted that “Antiracism is not racism” and “the recent mass murder of black people in Buffalo by a racist white man [is] part of an enduring legacy of whites killing blacks.” Neither statement is accurate.

Kendi popularized the term “antiracism” in “How to be an Antiracist.” On page 19, he writes “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.” He calls for more racism in the form of racial discrimination. Discrimination based on race is racism. Opposing racism is good. Working to combat racism is better. But antiracism is just more racism. And although its performative aspects target whites, its real victims are usually Asians, as admissions data from colleges and from selective high schools such as Lowell demonstrate.

Regarding Buffalo and an alleged “enduring legacy of whites killing Blacks,” the data shows the opposite. Per black professor Wilfred Reilly, “The narrative that America today is crawling with white supremacists ... is not supported by the facts. Annual Bureau of Justice Sta-

tistics reports show all inter-race violent crime involving whites and blacks typically makes up only about three per cent of serious crime against a person or property. Furthermore, this smallish category of criminal offending is not dominated by whites. In 2018, there were 59,778 white-on-black violent crimes, compared with 547,948 black-on-white violent crimes, out of roughly 20 million total crimes. This category of crime, broken down along racial lines, is just over 90 per cent black-on-white. Those figures are not entirely typical, but the black-white ratio has been at least 75:25 in every postwar year I have ever examined.”

www.spiked-online.com/2022/05/27/buffalo-and-the-myth-of-americas-race-war/
See also Reilly's book “Taboo” and “Race and crime in the United States” at Wikipedia, which states, “The per-capita [homicide] offending rate for African-Americans was roughly eight times higher than that of whites, and their victim rate was similar.”

The resolution proposed by Mr Berti does not prevent teaching actual history, only assigning guilt for historical acts to current students based on their race.

Robert Lavoie
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 and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Passing the Baton – LES principal

... continued from Page A3

Kim and her teaching staff conducted the majority of the 2020-21 academic year virtually, while orchestrating weekly homework pickups and drop-offs and then returning to school for partial days in April. “Balancing the needs and desires of all stakeholders with the ultimate goal of student and staff safety has been quite an adventure.”

As Kim bids LES and the district farewell, she is leaving with a sense of pride and taking many lessons with her. In addition to the students she has supported, Kim is proud of the team that she helped put in place to ensure that the education at LES remains outstanding. “During my tenure at LES, we had many, many retirements of beloved, long-term staff,” Kim says. “I am most proud of the new staff that I have hired over the past several years and their dedication to our students.”

One of the most important lessons Kim has learned in her years as principal is to simply meet people where they are. “When you are able to sit down and have a conversation, you are able to uncover what is the crux of the problem and work together to find a solution.”

As the mother of a rising

fifth- and a rising second-grader at LES and a parent volunteer Jennifer McCarthy has worked closely with Kim over the years. McCarthy became acquainted with Kim and her style when her eldest child was in kindergarten and required a student study team, and says she observed many magical, transformative moments in McCarthy's presence when working in her role as a volunteer lunch helper. “It always made me smile to hear Mrs. Kim's ‘quiet’ voice come over the multipurpose room mic – the chaos immediately calmed and the kids suddenly were on best behavior – because they wanted Mrs. Kim to see them at their best Leopard selves,” McCarthy says. “Hearing and seeing not just my own but so many other kids' interactions with her on campus, it is obvious they feel seen and known.”

When asked what it is she's going to miss most about Mrs. Kim, it comes down to one simple thing for McCarthy. “How real she is,” McCarthy says. “Whether it's a lunch vendor ‘emergency,’ a smoke day, distance learning, hybrid learning, a tricky student situation, once she says ‘it's going to be ok; we'll make it work,’ you knew you could count on that to be true.”

In that same spirit, Kim is

confident that things will continue to work out fine at Lafayette Elementary school even as she passes her baton to the next principal, Melissa Barclay. While Barclay will be new to this particular role, she's not new to the district. Barclay served as the district's curriculum and instruction administrator and Springhill Elementary's assistant principal for the past three years, and before that, she was a reading specialist and third-grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School. Barclay lives in Lafayette with her husband and children and she says she's thrilled to be back at LES.

“As a teacher at Lafayette for five years, I know the dedication of the staff in academics but also in creating a caring and welcoming school culture and environment.”

Editor's Note: The Lafayette School District governing board recently appointed Dr. Brent Stephens as its next superintendent, announced that Betsy Balmat, the current principal of Stanley Middle School, will be joining the District Office on July 1 as the new assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and Nicole “Nikki” Chaplan has been selected as the new principal of Stanley Middle School. Profiles of these individuals will be included in upcoming issues of Lamorinda Weekly.

Moraga Chamber's new executive director

... continued from Page A5

All of the weight of owning a business rests on the owner's shoulders, from staffing to financing to insurance and safety. A business owner works seven days a week, on site or in their head. I really want them to know that not only me, but the Chamber sees them and wants to help.”

Bidstrup's future game plan is to follow her credo “A Strong Community makes for Strong Business” by getting both groups involved with each other through social media, website, job board, calendar and business directory. She's also hoping to increase foot traffic through a Moraga gift card program; getting Saint Mary's College students and faculty involved in the business

community; approach the town council for more ARPA funding; create an ArtWalk event; and bring back the Community Faire.

“While things are improving for some, many many of your local businesses are facing new and lingering challenges with increased costs, staffing shortages and back-due bills and rent,” reminded Bidstrup. “We invite the public to let your town council know how important it is to increase and prioritize support for local businesses. Let's keep our Moraga businesses in Moraga and let's support them in order to do that!”

To contact the Moraga Chamber of Commerce email: themoragachamber925@gmail.com or phone: (925) 235-0708.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Orinda author brings whimsical fantasy to life in 'Parasol Adventures'



Photo Lisa Spencer

"Parasol Adventures" illustrator, Sue Jensen (left) and author Lindy Novak sign copies of their whimsical children's book.

By Diane Claytor

Three adorable sisters each carry a colorful parasol wherever she goes. One day, a hefty spring breeze lifts the parasols from their hooks and off they go on a lively and fun-filled excursion. "A craving for adventure, a longing to explore. ... Who

gets what they wish for? These three did, and more!"

This is the story of "Parasol Adventures," the second children's book written by Orinda resident Lindy Novak. The high-quality book, written in rhyme with beautiful, brightly colored illustrations by Sue Jensen, an Orinda native, is a whimsical tale sure to enchant 3- to

7-year-olds.

Novak's first book, "Red," is equally delightful. "I love red so much! Oh, what a color. All of the rest are just so much duller!" says the little boy who wants everything to be painted in his favorite color. Again featuring vivid drawings, "Red" was illustrated by Novak's then 11-year-old niece, Poppy Novak.

Admitting to once having had dreams of becoming a full-time children's author, Novak has learned just how hard the process is. "Red" and "Parasol Adventures" took approximately eight years from initial concept to publication with a local book printer, Edition One Books.

Novak has binders filled with ideas for future children's books, some almost completely written. She also has files of illustrations she likes and says she has done "rudimentary rough sketches" to go along with some of her plots. Her ideas come from a variety of sources. "Red" came to her simply because it's her favorite color. "Parasol Adventures" began from a retail clothing/home decor catalog which featured a beautiful photo of parasols floating upside down in water.

Neither Novak nor Jensen have children, but both admit to loving children's books and having their own collections. "The world of imagination is such a fun one," Novak proclaims. "There's something about transcending our everyday life and going someplace exciting and unexpected." Her affinity for rhymes "probably comes from my love of Dr. Seuss' clever style," she says.

Additionally, her mother was known for writing poems for family and friends' celebrations and Novak proudly states that she is happy to carry on that tradition.

Her desire to write children's books came about years ago when she was involved in Read Aloud, a program started by a former neighbor. Novak volunteered to read to first-graders in Richmond. "It was often hard to keep the kids' attention," she recalls, so, being both an avid reader and writer herself, "I thought perhaps I could write something that would keep them interested and engaged." Working in her family's Napa Valley wine business, Spottswoode Estate Vineyard and Winery, left her little time to pursue this on a full-time basis. So she filled binders with her ideas.

Novak and Jensen were sorority sisters at UCLA. Novak transferred to UC Berkeley and she and Jensen lost touch. As luck would have it, they reconnected at a sorority reunion many years later and discovered they had much in common, including an interest in writing and in kids books. Jensen, a talented artist, had, at one point, taught art to preschoolers. She had also been working on her own children's book. "So, we decided to jump off the cliff together," Jensen laughingly declares, and elected to collaborate on "Parasol Adventures," with Jensen creating whimsical, colorful watercolors to accompany Novak's clever rhyming verses.

Novak creates the stories and often provides Jensen with

some very rough sketches or magazine clippings of what she envisions the images should be. Jensen then runs with it, doing her own research. "I always want the illustrations to be just right," she states. "We knew the book had to have bright, compelling illustrations and be a fun story where kids wanted to turn the pages to learn what happens next," states Novak.

Neither women had prior experience writing, illustrating or publishing a book. They took classes, attended seminars and conferences and did their due diligence. "But," as Jensen acknowledges, "we were both flying by the seat of our pants at times, learning as we worked." It was a long process but, both agree, definitely a labor of love.

A paperback version of "Red" may be purchased on Amazon. A limited edition of hardbound copies of "Parasol Adventures," may be purchased for \$30 (no dust jacket) and \$35 (with dust jacket) by emailing parasoladventures@gmail.com.



Local libraries host summer reading programs



Photo Casey Scheiner

Laura Bruggink (center) reads to Lana and Luca Morgan.

By Casey Scheiner

As the calendar turns to June, children turn away from the classroom to the green grass, blue sky, and freedom that summer brings. Nonetheless, though school may be out, student reading interest and participation remains high in large part due to efforts from Lamorinda libraries, namely with their summer reading programs.

"My daughter Annabelle reads about 20 minutes a day during the summer. She loves the stories and learning how to read," Ana Ramirez, a local parent, said. "The library has been a great resource for us because it has a lot of books at her level in both English and Spanish."

The library offers a number of programs to push local children to read as much as they can over the summer. The most notable is the Summer Reading Passport, in which kids can receive free books and enter drawings for larger prizes by denoting on their reading passport that they read and did outdoor activities that fit with the year's

theme of "Read Beyond The Beaten Path," such as going for a hike or drawing a picture of nature.

Additionally, the libraries typically host in-person events such as Storytimes and Paws To Read, a program where kids can read to a dog, though such events were canceled for this June due to COVID-19 concerns. Plus, the Contra Costa libraries provide many online resources on their website, from a free subscription to National Geographic Kids to reading lists tailored to specific age groups.

Some of the child reading lists seek to highlight diverse cultures, with collections of books that pay homage to the LGBTQ+ community or celebrate Asian-American/Pacific Islander month. Indeed, the importance of such programs cannot be overstated. A study from Scholastic found that in a phenomenon known as the "summer slide," students lose an average of 20% of their school-year gains in reading from June to August. So, to mitigate the negative effects that summer break can have on learning, Contra Costa libraries push students to read

during the summer.

"The library is getting kids to read 20 to 40 minutes per day, which is very important since some of them are reading less than they used to and gravitating more towards [devices]," Joshua Tong, a volunteer at the Orinda Library explained. "It's also fun for the kids because they get to read cool books and potentially win prizes."

What draws students to the library is not the "educational benefits" that psychology studies and education leaders tout, but the sheer fun of reading. A poll from the National Literacy Trust corroborated that approximately 6 of 10 children said they enjoyed reading "quite a bit" or "a lot."

"I love reading, especially flipping to the next page to find out what happens next because many of my favorite books have cliffhangers," Shay D, a rising fourth-grader summarized. "At the library I've checked out many books from my favorite authors."

This summer, kids around Lamorinda are not just soaking up the sun, but the magic of books, as local libraries continue to feed their intellectual curiosity.

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Homemade salsa the perfect color palate for Fourth of July festivities



Independence Day Salsa

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I was trying to make a gluten-free chocolate cake, which would be great to share for Fourth of July gatherings, but it just wasn't coming together as planned. Sometimes this happens, and even though it can be

frustrating, it opens the door for other ideas. So, at the very last minute, I came up with this festive Independence Day Salsa! Made with garden fresh tomatoes, Kalamata olives, and feta cheese, it's super easy and so delicious. Simply chop cherry tomatoes or a couple of large tomatoes, cut up the

olives and crumble the feta over the top. Drizzle a little olive oil and red wine vinegar over it, and season with salt and pepper. Serve it with tortilla or pita chips — something sturdy for scooping. It's the perfect color scheme for Independence Day and it's also really, really delish. If you are so inclined, add some chopped

onions or shallots and a little bit of fresh basil. This salsa has plenty of zest with the olives, tangy feta and vinegar, but shallots and basil also add a nice flavor profile.

The nice thing about this recipe is that you can also use it as a salad, or as a topping over cream cheese or goat cheese, or a topper over grilled meats,

eggplant or fish. Oh the possibilities! But the simplicity of this as a salsa is so nice. I hope you all have a wonderful Fourth of July.

*Look for the chocolate cake in a future issue. I'm still working on it and hope to deliver a great gluten-free chocolate cake to you soon!

INGREDIENTS

2 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped, or 2 cups of chopped cherry tomatoes
1 cup Kalamata olives, coarsely chopped
1 cup crumbled feta cheese
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
Dash of salt and pepper
Pita or tortilla chips
Optional:
1 small red onion, chopped (or shallot)
1 tbsp. minced fresh basil

DIRECTIONS

Mix all ingredients and serve with chips (easy peasy). Keep refrigerated until ready to serve. If you do use onion or shallots, you can opt to add them raw or caramelized. It just depends if you're a raw onion fan or not. I always like to caramelize or roast them before adding them, since I'm one who can't handle raw onions.

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



Garden Club event underscores impact of butterflies in a community



From left: Julie Stagg, Mayor Steve Woehleke and Bobbie Preston



Photos Linda U Foley

Submitted by
Linda U Foley

The eagerly awaited June 5 Monarch Garden Celebration dawned inhospitably to drizzle and rain. Undeterred, Bobbie Preston and Julie Stagg at the helm – co-founders of the “Moraga for Monarchs” project – fluttered about with last-minute decorations and instructions at Rancho Laguna Park.

The Garden was completed during the height of the pandemic and brought the town,

merchants, schools, scouts, and philanthropists together.

“But, where are the butterflies?” asked one little girl. Her mother, Breyana, wisely replied, “They are taking shelter from the rain, that’s why you don’t see them.”

The Garden is now in full resplendent display and several fragile tenants have been sighted already this season. Nonetheless, there were wings and butterflies everywhere: attached to little girls and adults, laminated cutouts swinging from branches, stenciled on

shirts, stamped on cheeks and visible in distinctive jewelry.

Andy Boggeri, president of the Moraga Lions that provided the food good-naturedly brandished man-sized wings. Police officers flanking Chief Jon King and Mayor Steve Woehleke were also into the swing with their wings. Firefighters, sans wings, enjoyed seeing everyone else’s.

Preston and Stagg practically floated in their gossamer attire. The uncontested star of the show was WINGS, the graceful Monarch butterfly sculpted by Patrick E and gifted to the

Monarch Habitat by Norman and Janet Pease, in honor of their family.

Bookending WINGS and stretching a red ribbon between themselves, Preston and Stagg addressed the audience and gave deserved kudos with flourish. Mayor Woehleke accepted the Garden from the Garden Club and cut the red ribbon. Then followed a small but chatty butterfly parade which circled the park including Bozley the dog who displayed a large butterfly on his curly back. Benches and tables filled

with folks including many town officials. Barbecuing aromas, music, vibrant conversations and laughter buoyed on the air.

Thanks to the herculean efforts by Preston and Stagg – in conjunction with artists and numerous unnamed supporters – the town is collectively privy to enjoy countless hours in a magical setting.

The Monarch Habitat is an ongoing project. To learn more about it, how to contribute, participate or join the Garden Club, go to: www.moragagardenclub.com.

Cal Shakes hosts summer performances at The Bruns



“Paper Moon” at The Bruns

Photo Susan J. Weiland

Submitted by
Kevin Kopjak

California Shakespeare Theater will host a series of outdoor

performances this summer: AlterTheater’s “Pure Native” by Vickie Ramirez (July 15–24); the return of Jackie Keliiaa’s “Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” (July 16); and Paper

Moon Presents’ second annual “Measure for Measure Music Series” (July 29–31).

AlterTheater’s “Pure Native” and Jackie Keliiaa’s “Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” are part of California Shakespeare Theater’s Shared Light Initiative, which was created in response to systemic issues that Cal Shakes identified over the past several years as they evolve institutional priorities towards right relationships with the community.

In “Pure Native,” when a prodigal son returns to the reservation, his business proposal to bottle the tribe’s water sparks a heated debate in the community with his childhood sweetheart leading the opposition. Premiered by Native Voices at the Autry, the nation’s premiere Native American theater company, “Pure Native” received developmental support from Oregon Shakespeare Festi-

val’s Brown Swan Lab and from New York’s Eagle Project.

“Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” is a one-night-only event featuring top Native American stand-up comedians. Keliiaa began producing “Good Medicine” virtually in May 2020 as a way to showcase Native comedians and fundraise for tribes impacted by COVID-19, raising over \$11,000 for charitable causes. Last summer sold out in just a couple weeks. For more information, visit calshakes.org/good-medicine/.

The “Measure For Measure Music Series” brings three nights of concerts back to the Bruns Amphitheater. Paper Moon Presents features Asian-American MC Lyrics Born, with support from singer Destani Wol on Friday, July 29 at 7 p.m.; folk/pop singer and songwriter Brett Dennen, with support from singer/songwriter Megan Jacobs on Satur-

day, July 30 at 7 p.m.; and an afternoon of bluegrass, folk, and other great string-band music, including Sam Bush, AJ Lee & Blue Summit, Tony Furtado, and Nat Keefe on Sunday, July 31 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit papermoonpresents.live/.

All performances will take place on the grounds at the Bruns (100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda). Tickets for “Good Medicine” are available now by visiting calshakes.org or by calling (510) 548-9666 (Tuesday to Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.). For tickets to “Pure Native,” visit altertheater.org/purenative or call (415) 454-2787. For more information on Cal Shakes’ Shared Light Initiative, visit: calshakes.org/shared-light-initiative/.

For information on Cal Shakes’ COVID safety policies, visit calshakes.org/cal-shakes-2021-covid-19-safety-precautions/

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Misinformation – What is the real story?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

Misinformation seems to be everywhere. These three frequent issues are just a few of the questions families bring to Professional Geriatric Care Managers who are also called "Aging Life Care Experts."

Medicare does not pay for long-term care in the home. Many individuals think that Medicare will cover their support after an illness or hospitalization for as long as they might need it. It is true that Medicare pays for some in-home rehab care. However, once the individual plateaus or refuses to participate Medicare discontinues services. This is true for long-term care rehab and there is often a limit to how many sessions or treatments a patient can receive depending on the diagnosis. Medicare does pay for Hospice and Palliative care but that does not cover caregivers. Many older adults need supportive care to stay safely at home and this is private pay or paid for with Long Term Care Insurance.

Does my mother really need to spend all her money to qualify for Medi-Cal paying for her nursing care? The current as-

set limit is \$2,000. However, it is expected that around July 1, 2022 California will raise that asset limit to \$130,000. This will be a big help to low income individuals who are hanging on with substandard assistance because they have too much money currently to qualify. You also need to meet the "meet" requirements. In this case, she is diabetic, blind and starting to have memory issues. To qualify for skilled nursing you have to meet the "care" needs requirement – which it sounds like she does. For couples that upper limit is to be raised to \$195,000. If you were going to make a move to skilled nursing this year – hold on until you know this is in effect. An Elder Law attorney who specializes in Med-Cal or Medicaid planning might be a good resource. For an update this change check out

www.canhr.org/factsheets/medi-cal

Is there a simple checklist to know what type of housing a parent or spouse might need? My answer is more complex than a checklist would reveal. If a family member has serious health issues needing constant nursing oversight the only solutions are a very expensive home care plan with registered nurses around the clock or

a skilled nursing center. When it comes to Assisted Living, Continuing Care, Memory Care or small Board and Care then it will depend on what is affordable, what are the values and interest of the resident, how far from family and friends, and projected level of care needed now and in the future. The second step will be checking with professional (Aging Life Care Experts, Medical Experts) as well as with the licensing agencies for reputation and history in the community.

I do have an evaluation checklist for use when touring different retirement communities. If you would like the checklist let me know.

If you are starting this journey with a family member or concerned about you and your spouse it is a good time to reach out to someone who can give you an unbiased plan for the future. Aging Life Care Experts (Geriatric Care Managers) www.AgingLifeCare.org

My next free Zoom class will be on July 8 at 11 a.m., "Dementia: How to prevent Burn Out when caring for someone with Memory challenges". Email me at LindaFJ620@outlook.com to register.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989. Eldercare Services is now a division of Home Care Assistance and continues to provide Bay Area families with care management, advocacy, counseling, support groups and education.

CP brings life to Senior Community Center in Oakland

Submitted by Cathy Chang

The Camino Pablo Elementary School PTA Community Services Committee on May 22 was joined by six families and 16 volunteers to cook and serve lunch at St Mary's Center in Oakland. St Mary's Center is a volunteer-led community center dedicated to improve the well-being of seniors and preschool families in West Oakland by meeting basic needs for food, housing and social connection. Seniors would come to the community center for a meal and a game of dominoes. Through participating in the center's social and nutritional programs, seniors improve their physical and mental health.

Although the center opens Monday through Friday during the week, it is open on Sundays to serve lunch and dinner to make sure that seniors in the low-income community will not go hungry on weekends. Camino Pablo Elementary

School's volunteers brought fresh produce to the center and prepared 35 lunch boxes in the center's industrial kitchen. The team of 16 worked seamlessly at each kitchen station, cooking egg rolls, marinating and frying Taiwanese chicken cutlets, sautéing mixed vegetables, making refreshing lemonade with lemons from a volunteer's backyard, baking cupcakes and interacting with the seniors during the service.

The seniors were smiling from ear to ear and chatting with volunteers to learn about the school and today's lunch menu. The center's Volunteer Coordinator, Beverly Hop, said, "The seniors loved all the effort you put into making their time with your group so enjoyable. They loved the food, the cupcakes and the poster. Camino Pablo Rocks! Your group brought the center to life!" - Many seniors asked for seconds and thirds during the lunch service.

After making sure that all the se-



Photo provided

Families cook and serve lunch at St Mary's Center in Oakland on May 22.

niors and the center's staff were served, the volunteers sat down to enjoy lunch with the seniors. "The service project is a wonderful way to get kids involved in helping the community while having a fun family bonding experience," said the Almeida family. The group is consisted of students from K-fifth grade. A seventh-grade middle school student, Brian Harrison, from local Joaquin Moraga Intermediate also joined his fifth-grade sibling to serve.

Camino Pablo Elementary School used to serve meals at St Mary's Center at least twice a year until the center was closed due to the pandemic. The PTA's Community Services Committee was excited to sign up and bring students and families back to the center to serve the seniors as soon as the center was reopened for Sunday lunch in April 2022. The seniors look forward to more happy visits from Camino Pablo families.

Utility boxes get spruced up as part of Artify Orinda



The utility boxes in downtown Orinda are getting "artified," as professional artists work their wondrous with paint. This utility box in front of Rite Aid was painted by Tim Hancock. Five more utility boxes and three big belly trash and recycling cans are scheduled to be painted this summer, adding to the six paintings on the Theater side. The Artify Orinda project was started by Maggie Boscoe from the Lamorinda Arts Council. Look for these paintings as you walk or drive around Orinda.

- S. O'Doherty

Photo provided

Chef's Table event benefits Park Theater renovation fund



Photo Susan Goldie

Laura Magu and Chef Paul Lecugy-Magu of Lafayette's local, Michelin-acclaimed, REVE Bistro hosted an intimate, sold-out Chef's Table event, "Meet me in Paris ... No Flight Required," in the REVE garden on Sunday, May 15. The themed-event featured an exquisitely prepared tasting menu with wines especially selected by RÈVE master sommelier, Rebecca Fineman. All food and wine were generously donated by RÈVE Bistro, along with the service by their excellent wait staff. Laura and Chef Paul were also very generous with

their time in the planning and organization of this event, which quickly sold out and raised over \$30,000 for the Park Theater renovation capital campaign.

"Thanks to REVE very generously donating their staff and lovely garden, champagne for the pre-dinner reception, all the wine (which was hand-picked to accompany the meal by their sommelier), and the fantastic, truly exceptional six-course meal, we raised almost \$33,000 toward the \$5 million goal," said Tracey Karsten Farrell, Park Theater Trust board member.

Peter Hartlaub, culture critic for the San Francisco Chronicle, and operators-to-be, Adam Bergeron and Jaimi Holker of CinemaSF, were panelists in a conversation that focused on the role of the Park within the greater East Bay community, and the importance of independent cinema in general, Farrell said. The French jazz duo, Duo Gadjo, provided the live music.

The evening was made even more memorable by the elegant garden design donated by Randall Barnes, and gift bags of goodies from Wine Thieves, La Châtaine, Susan Goldie Art, and Cinema SF. The event co-chairs were Susan Goldie and Courtney Anderson.

"It is generous partnerships like these that make such a difference in our community," TPTT board members Farrell and Kathy Bowles said, "and will have such impact on efforts like the restoration of our historic and much-loved Park Theater." - J. Wake

In Memory

Maureen Hession

June 6, 1931 – June 8, 2022



Maureen Hession passed away peacefully at home on June 8. A resident of Lafayette since 1978, she grew up in Cappamore, County Limerick, Ireland. Born on June 6, 1931, to Anne and William Ryan, she was the oldest of her siblings Nellie, Nan, Michael and Phyllis.

As a young woman, Maureen moved to Hastings, England to study nursing at St. Helen's hospital. There, she formed close, lifelong friendships with her fellow nurses.

At a dance, she met the love of her life, John Hession, who also worked at the hospital. They married on February 8, 1956, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Hastings. That June, Maureen and John set out on a great adventure,

crossing the Atlantic Ocean onboard the Queen Mary, to a new life in America.

Settling in San Jose, they started their family with the birth of their first son, Kevin, followed one year later with Michael, three years later with Eileen and three years later with Nancy.

In 1967, a career opportunity for John prompted a move to Brussels, Belgium, where their youngest son Chris was born. The family enjoyed holidays and vacations with relatives who lived throughout England and Ireland.

Living in Europe introduced their children to various cultures and countries. While John traveled extensively throughout the world for work, Maureen kept everything running smoothly at home.

In 1978, the family moved back to the United States to live in Lafayette. Maureen loved being around family including grandchildren Kathryn, Peter, Lauren, Nicole, Daniel, Conor, Claire and Sarah. She and her sisters kept close ties through correspondence and phone calls.

One of Maureen's proudest moments was becoming a United States citizen. She adored animals, especially her devoted tabby Ollie. An avid gardener, she enjoyed puttering among the flowers and watching hummingbirds and other birds visit the backyard feeders.

Parishioners for more than 40 years at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, it became the center of their spiritual life for John and Maureen, who attended mass together and became greatly involved in the church community.

Maureen is survived by her husband John; son Kevin and his wife Stephanie; son Michael and his wife Kristin; daughter Eileen (Dufau) and her husband Dave; daughter Nancy (Monaco) and her husband Kevin; son Chris and his wife Jamie; grandchildren Kathryn, Peter, Lauren, Nicole, Daniel, Conor, Claire and Sarah; sisters Nellie Daly, Phyllis Bell, cousins including John O'Connell and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, July 1 in the chapel at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. A private burial with the family will follow.

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Literature

Thursday, July 7, 11 a.m. at Orinda Books. Pat's Book Club will read and discuss "The Netanyahu" by Joshua Cohen. Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Literature, "The Netanyahu" is a fictionalized account of Harold Bloom's encounter with the Netanyahu family while studying at Yale. Mixing fiction with nonfiction, "The Netanyahu" is a wildly inventive, genre-bending comedy of identity and politics. Everyone is welcome; just email info@orindabooks.com to let us know you're coming.

Dave Iverson will introduce his memoir, "Winter Stars," at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 9 at Orinda Books. Iverson was a busy broadcast journalist recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease when he decided to do something he'd never quite imagined: He moved in to take care of his 95-year-old mom. Winter Stars is the moving story of their 10-year caregiving journey. This is a free event. Register at: www.eventbrite.com/e/dave-iverson-author-of-winter-stars-tickets-361207861437

Other

Sunday Strong! Free summer fitness classes at Moraga Commons. Presented by MCF, with the sponsorship of the Town of Moraga Department of Parks and Recreation. This program is free and will be held every Sunday in July at 8 a.m. on the grassy area near the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. Schedule: Mat Pilates; July 3 Bootcamp; July 10 Flow Yoga; July 17 Mat Pilates; July 24 Bootcamp. See Moraga-communityfoundation.org to register and see our amazing instructor's bios.

ART

Art show at Orinda Books. June features the paintings of the Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) – a local collection of painters who have been working and showing together for 15 years. The exhibit is titled "Going to the Dogs," and you will meet the BASA artists' favorite canine friends and a couple of cats who appear a little leery about the company they find themselves in. The BASA artists include Suzun Almquist, Jeanette Baird, Lassie Colebourn, Ellen Reintjes, Ruth Stanton, Joanne Taeuffer, Sharon Tama, and Marcy Wheeler. Visit the Artist of the Month at <https://www.orindabooks.com>. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

"Creative Contrasts" at the Moraga Art Gallery's New Show. Featuring the eye-catching work of two member artists: ceramicist Mary Leigh Miller and acrylic

painter Angelica Samame. Running from June 22 to Aug. 28, the show also contains paintings, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, glassware, etchings, woodwork, photographs, monotypes, and a great deal more by the gallery's core of 18 member artists and two guests. Free reception on Saturday, July 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. Open from noon until 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. For more information, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407

Music

Free Lafayette downtown concerts! Rock the Plaza Concert Series: Friday evening, June 24, 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 10: Juke Joint is an experienced 6-piece horn band playing Classic Soul, R&B and Blues music. Juke Joint has been entertaining Bay Area audiences to rave reviews since 2001. June 17: A tribute to the Woodstock Generation Keep On Truckin' per-

forms Rock, Blues, Funk and R&B, faithfully recreating the musical experience of one of the greatest events in music history. June 24: Now in its 17th year, Lamorinda Idol, a program of the Lamorinda Arts Council, is an annual singing competition open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Lafayette's Plaza Park is located in Lafayette at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road.

Paper Moon Presents offers Brett Dennen at the beautiful Bruns in the Berkeley hills on Saturday, July 30, from 5 to 11 p.m., at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Come out and enjoy a night of sweet songs and good vibes with Brett Dennen and Megan Jacobs at a spectacular setting in the Berkeley hills. Cost: \$40. Lyrics Born and Destani Wolf at the beautiful Bruns - Berkeley hills on Friday, July 29, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come join us for

an amazing night of great local artists. It is going to be a best night ever with great food and great music in a perfect setting. Cost: \$35.00. For more info see www.papermoonpresents.live or call (510) 517-2010 or email info@papermoonpresents.com.

Theatre

Orinda Starlight Village Players – "Towards Zero" now open. Fridays and Saturdays through July 2, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 26 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, June 30 at 8 p.m. Regular admission: \$20, Senior/Children: \$10. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Aurora Theatre Company presents Wives on June 24 - July 24: Tuesday through Wednesday at 7 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Streaming July 19 - July 24, at Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Megan Reid's serpentine path to professional soccer



Megan Reid

Photo Angel City FC

By Jon Kingdon

Growing up in Lamorinda, there's been no shortage of sports to play, beginning at an early age. For many people, it's a matter of picking one sport and playing it exclusively, not just for their school but also playing that sport for a club team once the schools' season has completed.

For Orinda native Megan Reid, one sport or two sports or three sports wasn't going to do it. She would compete for two years on the Miramonte track team (100, 200, 400, threw the shot and pole vaulted - all-conference), two years on the water polo team (all-conference) and four years of soccer (all-conference and two times Diablo Foothills Conference player of the year) and basketball (all-conference) along with playing club soccer whenever the school soccer season was completed.

The basketball team in Reid's four years had a combined won-lost record of 111-14 and she was all-conference in basketball. Reid played two years at Miramonte with WNBA star Sabrina Ionescu. "I knew Sab since she was tiny before she hit her growth spurt," Reid said. "I assume she's similar to the way she was in high school - an extremely humble and kind human being who was eager to learn and just perform for her team. I'm really proud to say that I got to play with her."

"I really enjoyed growing up in Orinda," Reid said. "I feel really lucky to have lived in such a safe place with great schools and great sports. There were a lot of great teachers that I will occasionally have contact with like Ms. (Cynthia) Boyko and some other teachers that I see when I'm home. I'm still in contact with my basketball coach, Kelly Sopak, and my soccer coach Mohammed Mohammed along with a lot of people from Miramonte. My brother Danny played baseball for Vince Dell'Aquila and is still in the area and my sister Katie who played basketball for

Darrell Hiroshima is out in Colorado."

Time management became an essential tool for Reid between practices and games while maintaining a top-grade point average. "I would always take six periods which gave me an extra 45 minutes to an hour so I could go home, grab some food, and then come back for practice(s). That could go on from 3:45 to 8 or 9 o'clock. I would eat dinner around 9:30 and then study from 10 to 12:30 just to fit everything in the day and then repeat the process. I didn't get much sleep in my high school years."

Reid played offense for the soccer team at Miramonte but was moved to defense soon after she began attending the University of Virginia. "I loved being a forward but when I got to the University of Virginia, I was playing behind a lot of very skilled players," Reid said. "My coach, Steve Swanson, was known for converting players to different positions, particularly converting forwards into outside backs because they already had this attacking urge and he would then have a type of two-in-one player. I played outside right and left back and in my last two years, I played a lot of center-back and outside back. It was a difficult transition with a big learning curve but at the end of the day, my mindset was to do whatever the team needed in the end, I loved it."

Leaving high school for college, as a rule, is more difficult academically and athletically. For Reid, it was easier. "Way easier," she said. "In high school, with four hours of sports and eight hours in school, I would have to start my homework at lunch. In college classes were 2-3 hours of class each day and soccer practices that would last from one to two hours and then you were gone."

Reid was a foreign affairs major and had considered applying to the Air Force Academy for a career in military intelligence. Having lost her mother at an

early age, working for the military was something that Reid's family did not get behind. "My family was not thrilled about my going into the military and my dad (George) encouraged me to do something that would keep me closer to him and my siblings."

When her father unexpectedly passed away in her junior year at Virginia, it hit Reid particularly hard. "It was a really difficult time emotionally for me and when you have a rough time emotionally, it translates to your physical abilities," Reid said. "Sports was what my dad and I shared. Every weekend it was us going to some tournament in L.A. or Oregon or wherever. So, when I lost him, my love for the sport dwindled and it was just a constant reminder of him. Still, I had made a commitment to the team that I wanted to finish."

Coach Swanson had always been more than just a coach to Reid and at this trying time in her life, he provided great support for her. "Steve has been a very important figure in my life," Reid said. "He was big time even before I lost my dad. After he passed away, Steve helped me find my way and was extremely positive. He cared about me and my teammates not just as players but as people. At that point, I thought I just needed to move on to new things to make me happy and allow me to start making new memories."

That new thing was preparing for a career as a firefighter and studying to be an emergency medical technician (EMT), something her father recommended in lieu of a military career because he felt it had the qualities and encompassed what a military career offered. "Going into my senior year at UVA, I started volunteering at a fire station and also began studying to become an EMT. I was just looking for something to make me happy and I remembered my father's words about firefighting. The people at the station were like a mini-family which helped get me through a really difficult time and that's why I came love it so much."

Reid received her firefighter one certification right after graduating from Virginia. When Reid returned to California she began working as an emergency department technician in San Francisco before moving on to John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek, earning her EMT paramedic license from the state of California in August 2021. "With 80% of all calls for firefighters being medical, I decided to get my paramedic certification after I found out that having this skill helps to elevate one's status and gets you higher up in the recruitment process of being a firefighter," Reid said.

The skills Reid learned on the soccer field in working together, transferred over to her work in medicine: "Working as a paramedic in a crew, you knew what people's responsibilities are without asking and the longer we worked together, the more we operated like a well-oiled machine."

Ironically, it was when Reid was working as an intern at a fire station in Sonoma that she rediscovered her love of soccer. "Our fire captain loved playing soccer," Reid said. "We would clear out the fire trucks and ambulances and set up two foam rollers and we would play 2-on-2 and I had a blast playing the game. I was able to separate

sports from the loss of my dad and realized how much I loved the sport of soccer despite not having really touched the ball in years."

After playing for the Lamorinda Soccer team and in Denmark for a short time, Reid heard from Swanson who let her know that he had gotten her on the discover list and a tryout for the San Diego Wave of the National Women's Soccer League. Reid had time to get back in playing shape and even flew back to Virginia to train with Swanson before reporting to San Diego. After a month, Reid was released by San Diego and the first call she made was to Swanson who was then able to get Reid a tryout with the Angel City FC and she reported immediately to Chula Vista with the team.

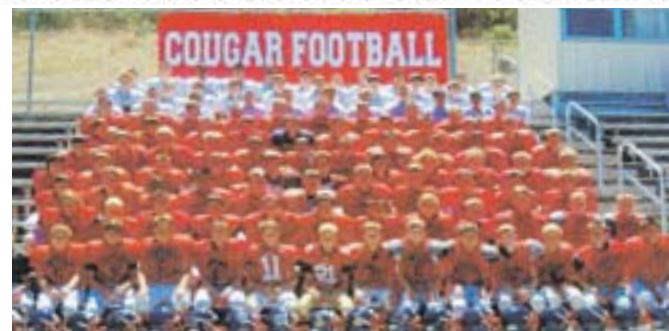
Though she did not make the team when they broke training camp, Head Coach Freya Coombe suggested to Reid that she return to Los Angeles and continue training with the team. After 2 1/2 weeks, Reid was offered a contract and officially became a professional soccer player.

Not only did Reid make the team, but she stepped in immediately as a defensive starter. "There were many injuries in preseason to our defenders, so I got a chance to start," Reid said. "It's been challenging but a lot of fun and I've been loving it."

For Reid, playing at a major Division I college was similar to playing with Angel City with the main differences being the speed of play and the quality of the players, though on another level she was still having some problems seeing herself as a professional. "At Virginia, Coach Swanson demanded attitude and effort from everyone every day and that's similar to what we have to bring with Angel City. The weirdest thing is for me to see this is a job. In my mind, I'm just playing a sport like I always have and the idea that I'm at work is still one that I don't fully grasp. It seems odd to have grown adults asking for photos and autographs and they are so invested in the team and it's been a little surreal."

When her soccer career concludes, something Reid is not anticipating happening too soon, she already has a tentative plan: "I know when I'm done with soccer, I'll be going back to a fire station and also working as an EMT but not until I am finished playing. At the end of the day, you have to be careful because right now my body is my livelihood and being able to play is important. Looking at the longevity of your body is important. Soccer has just become fun for me. I'm going to stick with it for as long as I love it, or until my body breaks down - one of the two."

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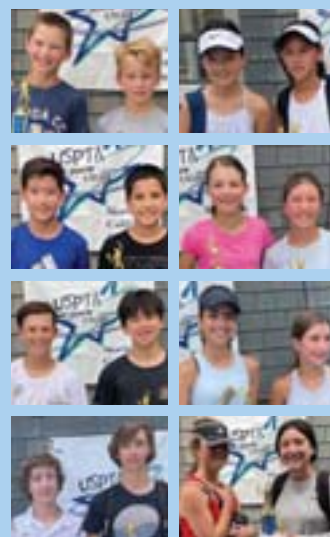
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- G12s Champion: **Leah Homsy**
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- B14s Champion: **Greydon Ting**
Finalist: **Curtis Sanders**
- G14s Champion: **Sophia Bitton**
Finalist: **Isabella Cerejo**
- B16s Champion: **Alain Uzelac**
Finalist: **Cole Azevedo**
- G16s Champion: **Amber Wright**
Finalist: **Shae Donahue**

USPTA Jr. Circuit - Serving the East Bay



Hennessy named new athletic director at Miramonte



Photo provided

The Hennessy family - Shannon, Aimee, Allison, Sean, Tyler and Kacie

By Jon Kingdon

When James Lathrop, the long-time teacher, coach and Miramonte's athletic director since 2018, opted to move on to become an assistant water polo coach at Stanford, Principal Ben Campopiano did not have to look far for a suitable replacement. Sean Hennessy, who has been teaching at Miramonte for six years, the physical education department chair and most recently the school's baseball coach, seemed like a natural fit for the athletic director's position.

"Ben and I go back quite a ways because of baseball," Hennessy said. "Once he heard that

James was leaving, we had a conversation as to whether I would be interested in the position and if I had the bandwidth to do it. My passion is in coaching and as an athletic director, being able to connect with the school community as a coach and athletic director is important to me. It's where I feel comfortable and where I can make the biggest difference. Because of circumstances and how my career has panned out, I am ready for the position."

With the summer break, Hennessy is already preparing for the upcoming fall season: "I've been lucky that James has given me a good library of information I'm going through that has been allowing me to get up

to speed. I'm also taking time to recharge as I want to do a good job in this new position so it's a good balance between the two."

Hennessy grew up in Vallejo, graduating from Hogan High School (closed in 2012) where he played baseball. He would go on to play baseball at Napa Junior College and Cal State Hayward (now Cal State East Bay), getting his teaching credential and then his master's degree at Concordia University (Irvine).

Hennessy's teaching career began in Vallejo, moving on to Las Lomas for a number of years before coming to Miramonte six years ago. He and his wife Allison, a Miramonte graduate herself, have four children, Shannon, an Arizona State graduate, Kacie, who just graduated from Cal Poly SLO, Aimee, a freshman at Diablo Valley College and Tyler who will be a sophomore at Miramonte this year.

Ironically, Hennessy feels that his role as a baseball coach better prepared him for the athletic director's position. "The Department Chair for Physical Education is more curriculum based and the athletic director's position is much more relationship based. As the athletic director, it's making sure that procedures are in place, paying strong attention to detail, so coaches get cleared and that is where coaching baseball has prepared me for that role."

Hennessy will continue to teach, though his load has been reduced, and also plans to continue coaching baseball. "As a spring sport, it's a little bit easier to be a coach because at that point in the year, I'll have the time to do both, having already being able to get dialed in about what's needed along with the ebb and flow of how the school

year is working," Hennessy said. "I'm excited in that I can add some value to the athletic department and the school as a whole."

Much of that excitement came from the baseball team's final game of the season as the lowest seed in the NCS baseball tournament losing to top seeded Cardinal Newman by a score of 2-1. "We played our best game of the year and Nolan O'Brien pitched the game of his life," Hennessy said. "Cardinal Newman scored 10 runs against each of the next two opponents and won the championship game 8-2. I was just proud of how our players played really hard."

Hennessy's goal is very simple - to have the student-athletes to find enjoyment and success in their individual pursuits. "At Miramonte there are so many kids that are involved in so many different activities, you want it to be a positive experience for all of them," Hennessy said. "You do that by having coaches that share the same values about competition, the experience and communication. You do want to win and make the playoffs. Those are opportunities to shine as a school and as an athletic department. You want to put your teams in the best possible position to compete at the highest level possible. All the teams are not going to be able to do that, so you want to make sure the coaches are staying positive and trying to develop talent and see that it's a good fit for everyone involved."

For Hennessy, the balance between academics and athletics is understood: "For any high school student, time management is super important for them to succeed and there has to be a balance between the acade-

tics and whatever they're passionate about. We have a very driven student body and there are grade requirements they have to maintain. Miramonte takes its academics very seriously as well as its athletic teams. The balance happens naturally."

Hennessy appreciates the quality of the other athletic directors in the area. "I know Ray Meadows (Campolindo), Randy Takahashi (Acalanes) and Ray Krueger (Las Lomas) because I've worked here for so long," Hennessy said. "They all do a great job with their athletic programs. Being new, if I have a question, I'm going to reach out to these people whose schools are similar in academic and athletic expectations. I would be doing myself a disservice if I did not communicate with those athletic directors."

As the baseball coach, Hennessy welcomed the input from his players and will try and continue that policy as the athletic director. "I want students in my class and the players that I coach to be able to talk to me," Hennessy said. "There are many groups that have a stake in our athletic program - the players, the coaches, the parents, the community, and administrators. If there is a way to improve things or an issue that needs to be addressed within the athletic department, I would hope that the players would communicate with their coaches and if there is something that they want to bring forward, I will certainly talk with them. We have really good coaches and there will be continued growth of students that want to participate and students that see a good program which they want to be associated with."

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OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 9 Wednesday, June 22, 2022



Easy air travel

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Growing water-wise

Photos Cynthia Brian



Spanish lavender is excellent as a water-wise and pollinator plant.



Plant geraniums in containers for instant beauty.



Agastache and zinnias grow together with minimal water.

By Cynthia Brian

"Water is the driving force of all nature." ~ Leonardo Da Vinci

Welcome to summer! It's going to be a hot one. If the newest studies reviewing tree rings are correct, we are currently in the worst drought since 800 A.D. The first three months of this year registered the least rain and snow on record. While we plunge into pools to cool off, our gardens will struggle to survive. Conserving water is top of mind as our climate becomes warmer. It's time for all of us to plan to grow water-wise.

I recently attended a seminar sponsored by Monrovia and came away with increased awareness of how to maintain healthy

landscapes during the dry seasons. There are numerous plants besides cacti and succulents that have low water requirements. When we re-think drought-tolerant landscapes, we may continue to enjoy our gardens with colorful and interesting trees, grasses, shrubs and flowers.

Drought-tolerant perennial contenders include:

Salvia	Penstemon	Geranium
Blanket flower,	Verbena	Spanish lavender
Catmint	Mallow	African daisy
Agastache	Coreopsis	Lantana
Guara	Red hot poker	Yarrow
Milkweed	Kangaroo paw	... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	18	\$1,230,000	\$4,450,000
MORAGA	14	\$679,000	\$2,700,000
ORINDA	16	\$1,315,000	\$3,750,000

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

- 4139 Coralee Lane, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2991 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-04-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 03-18-22
- 2 Diablo Oaks Way, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3890 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 02-17-96
- 3595 Echo Springs Road, \$3,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 3674 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-04-22,
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 08-11-03
- 655 Glenside Drive, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2921 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 05-10-22,
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 01-01-90
- 3298 Gloria Terrace, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-07-21
- 3222 Gold Court, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1644 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-06-22,
Previous Sale: \$137,000, 06-01-78
- 3840 Happy Valley Road, \$4,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 3866 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 05-09-22
- 1074 Laurel Drive, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1699 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-06-22
- 4067 Los Arabis Drive, \$4,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 3332 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-11-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 03-05-15
- 1312 Masterson Lane, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1869 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-05-22
- 3827 Quail Ridge Road, \$3,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-10-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,240,000, 06-25-15
- 11 Redwood Circle, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 3707 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 05-09-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 12-15-00
- 1070 Sierra Vista Way, \$1,857,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$920,000, 12-09-19
- 30 Tiana Terrace, \$3,380,000, 5 Bdrms, 4534 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 05-10-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,180,000, 07-19-16
- 1166 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3595 SqFt,
1964 YrBlt, 05-13-22, Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 05-12-16
- 1214 Warner Court, \$1,230,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-10-22
- 9 Westminster Place, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-13-22
- 944 Yorkshire Court, \$2,077,000, 3 Bdrms, 1868 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 05-05-22

MORAGA

- 102 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,680,500, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-13-22
- 1472 Camino Peral #A, \$679,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 05-12-22,
Previous Sale: \$587,000, 01-23-20
- 90 Devin Drive, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 4207 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-06-22
- 2121 Donald Drive #1, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1513 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-03-22,
Previous Sale: \$309,000, 07-14-11
- 192 Draeger Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2458 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-13-22,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 11-28-00
- 66 Hardie Drive, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 3140 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-06-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,230,500, 07-23-13
- 1835 Joseph Drive, \$2,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 2428 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-09-22
- 1884 Joseph Drive, \$2,455,000, 4 Bdrms, 2606 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 02-06-02
- 9 Kendall Circle, \$1,615,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 05-09-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 02-23-22

... continued on Page D13

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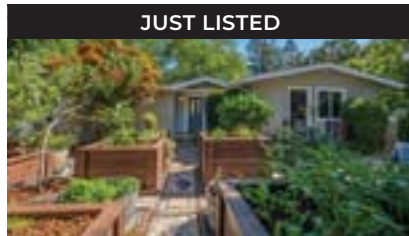
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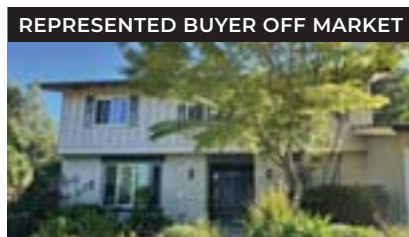
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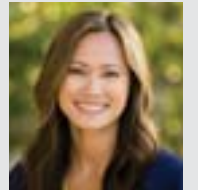
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Easy air travel tips for simplifying your trip



By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

I'm so happy that we are all able to travel once again. I recently traveled across the country to my annual organizing conference and decided to add a couple of fun stops along the way. My objective was to not have to check luggage. I personally do not have confidence that my luggage will arrive at my destination when there are plane changes involved. I have trust issues ... is it just me?

How was I able to pack for three different cities, one of which was a business trip and the other two for pleasure with only one carry on? Here are some of my favorite packing tips:

Tip: Pack using a capsule wardrobe – a limited selection of interchangeable clothing pieces that coordinate with each other. Pack more tops than bottoms so you can mix and match. You should be able to wear every item in 2-3 different combinations. Try on your outfits before you travel – this removes the “what do I wear” factor. Make sure to include several accessories (scarves and jewelry) to change up the look.

Tip: Pick a neutral color pallet so you only need a few pairs of shoes – a pair of heels, flats and tennis shoes. If I bring boots, I typically wear them on the airplane because they take up so much room in the suitcase.

Tip: Roll your clothes when packing. If you



Photos Shutterstock

roll your clothes when packing your suitcase, they take up less room and it will help reduce wrinkles. There are numerous YouTube videos for reference. To roll a T-shirt, lay it out, making sure it's flat. Fold it vertically, so the two sleeves match. Then fold the sleeves over so you have a long rectangle. Now roll. When folding a dress shirt, fold the sleeves over on the back and then fold the shirt in half to form a rectangle. Roll from bottom to top. This is a simple roll that will help eliminate wrinkles, and will save space. To roll pants, lay them on a flat surface. Fold the pants placing one leg over the other, through the middle near the crotch, to fold them in half. Then, start rolling from the waist, smoothing out the fabric as you roll. If you're rolling jeans, fold one pant leg over the other and roll from the ankle to the waistline.

Tip: Use packing cubes. Packing your clothes in packing cubes can be a game changer for keeping your clothes neat and organized without overstuffing your bag. I suggest packing the cubes by categories – it also helps you pare down what you pack. Note: You can also use dry-cleaning bags to separate your items if you don't have packing cubes.

Tip: Buy a few key pieces for your wardrobe that are designed for travel. Did you know they now make travel clothes that are comfortable, packable and don't wrinkle? Who knew? There are many options for both men and women. Wrinkle-free fabric such as nylon, polyester, knits and lycra make good travel clothes – these can also be quick-drying.

Tip: Pack lightly. Travelers tend to overpack and take far more than they need (you know who you are...). By thinking through your activities (day at the beach, dinner on the town, hiking, lollygagging, etc.) you can pack efficiently.

Tip: Check in early for your flight. Boarding early will give you better odds at getting an overhead bin for your carry-on. Checking in early also ensures that you are prepared with your boarding pass ready to go. These days you can have the boarding pass on your smartphone.

... continued on Page D10



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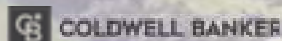
Picture-perfect remodel with an excellent central location in the Moraga Place neighborhood. Wonderful floor plan, serene setting and top schools. Five bedrooms and three bathrooms, with 3,030 square feet. Gorgeous kitchen with quartzite countertops, custom cabinetry, Miele appliances and attention to every detail. Updated spa-like bathrooms with top-of-the line finishes. Plus a beautiful yard with outdoor kitchen, firepit, pergola and flat lawn.

Details at: www.22WilliamsDrive.com.

www.holcenberg.com

Michelle Holcenberg
CB Top 100 East/North Bay Region

michelle@holcenberg.com
925-324-0405
BRE #01373412



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Stylish and sweet IN SARANAP



2397 Warren Road, Walnut Creek

Nestled down a private driveway, this recently built home welcomes you with a fabulously designed floor plan. It sprawls with 5 spacious bedrooms, one on the entry level main floor and 4 additional upstairs, 3 full baths, eat-in kitchen that opens to the family room and adjacent to the formal living room and dining room. Crafted by Branagh Development, the beautiful hardwood floors, 10-ft ceilings, and bevy of windows, all on .50 acres, is a wonderful place to call home. The home offers exquisite finishes in an exceptional quiet & peaceful creek-side setting. Set in the spectacular Saranap neighborhood, enjoy the nearby conveniences of downtown Walnut Creek, the fabulous schools, close-in commute location yet tucked in your own corner of the world.

5 <i>Bed</i>	3 <i>Bath</i>	.50 <i>Acre</i>
±2,758 <i>Sq. ft</i>	1 <i>Creekside</i>	100% <i>Location!</i>

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Central Contra Costa Market is Shifting – May 2022!

The Real Estate News is peppered with articles about the RE Market declining or decelerating. Reviewing these articles, the term “deceleration” means a slowing of value increases. Another article that discussed a “decline” in the market was referring to a reduction in the number of multiple offers. In other words, home prices are not rising as fast, and the number of competitive bids is less crazy. However, as of May 31, the YTD average sale price increase compared to 2021 was 18 plus percent. To see each city’s YTD comparison, go to www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com.

Nationally and locally, the real estate market is shifting. This is a result of escalating Mortgage Rates and severe inflation. The number of closed transactions remains static from April through May. The average Days on Market (DOM) has increased from 7.82 days in April to 9.45 days in May for closed transactions. Pending sales in May increased to 10.73 DOM. The most affordable cities in central county are still Concord and Martinez with average sale prices of \$952K and \$970K, respectively. The number of competitive bids has been dropping in April and May with few transactions realizing multiple offers. Also, inventory is creeping up.

What does this data imply? It’s still a strong market for sellers and I see prices continuing to rise, albeit at a slower pace. To get top dollar, your house really needs to shine. Sellers should perform inspections (roof, termite, home, and for homes built before 1960, sewer lateral inspections). Address deferred maintenance. Consider new interior paint using contemporary colors. Buyers prefer light colored, painted kitchen cabinets versus stained ones. Most importantly, hire an Experienced REALTOR to guide you through this process to get top dollar.

You can read additional blogs that I’ve written at www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com.



**Cary Amo,
REALTOR**

DRE #01104264

C: 925.818.0880

971 Dewing Ave.

Lafayette

cary@caryamo.com

www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com



Easy air travel tips for simplifying your trip

... continued from Page D4

Here are some ways to get through security faster: Do not wear jewelry. You can pack it in your carry-on and put it on later. Do not wear any clothing with sparkles or glitter (obviously). Empty your purse before you leave the house to remove the possibility of any metal items or other no-no’s that might have fallen in there (bottles with liquid, large binder clips, knives of any kind, screwdriver, measuring tape, etc.) I’m a professional organizer and always carry knives and tools in my bag, so it’s critical that I empty it before traveling. Dress to undress, need I say more? Wear slip-on shoes (wear socks, because ewwww!), have nothing in your pockets and avoid wearing anything that requires a belt on traveling day. Purchase the clear, small bottles and fill them with your own shampoo, conditioner and lotion. TSA has

strict guidelines about liquids that you can carry on so be sure to check the rules. Better yet, avoid all the hassle and apply for TSA PreCheck® at tsa.gov. It’s good for a few years and the line is faster.

During the flight, whether you are flying across the country or only for a few hours, you want to be as relaxed and comfortable as possible. Bring a scarf or shawl because airplanes are cold and it can serve as a blanket and make sure you bring your earbuds in case you do not want to chat with your seatmate the entire way. It’s a universal way of saying, “don’t talk to me” (in the kindest way). Lastly, bring snack bars because ... delays, delays, delays.

In conclusion, as always, being organized can make a huge difference, especially when you are traveling. The good news is that we can “move about the cabin” once again and I am grateful for the privilege of travel.

Happy trails! Stay safe!

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



Want to work with a realtor who is used to winning a challenge? Want to have fun in the process?

Tom guided us well through the entire process from listing to closing and treated us throughout as if we were his only client.

~Tim & Robin, Lafayette

Not only is Tom Stack the real estate professional of your dreams, but he has heart.

~Mei Sun Lafayette

Tom helped us sell our house for a price that greatly exceeded our expectations.

~Sarah & Derick, Pleasant Hill



We can enthusiastically recommend Tom as a Real Estate Agent extraordinaire.

~Fernando and Adelina, Lafayette

Tom took the time to get to know us and really understand what we were looking for.

~Stephanie & Dave, Moraga to Orinda

Tom was in my corner every step of the way making smart decisions that maximized my gain.

~Barry, Lafayette to Rossmore



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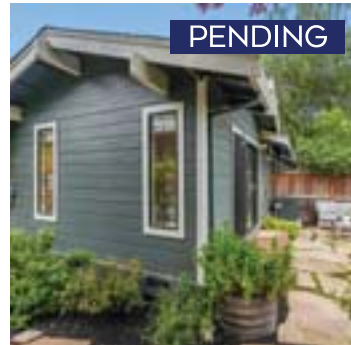


LAMORINDA LISTINGS



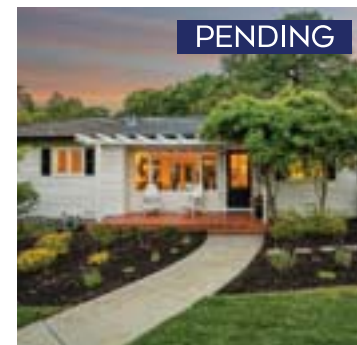
NEW LISTING

48 Via Floreado, Orinda | \$2,495,000
48viafloreado.com



PENDING

3 Josefa Place, Moraga | \$789,000
3josefa.com



PENDING

3357 Springhill Road, Lafayette | \$2,495,000
3357springhill.com



Terri Bates Walker
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TerriBatesWalker@gmail.com
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Growing water-wise

... continued from Page D1

Drought-tolerant perennial contenders include:

Statice
Everlasting sweet pea



Everlasting sweet pea is a welcome perennial.

Echinacea
Sage
Sea holly
Rose
Feverfew

Shrubs with minimal water needs are:

Ceanothus,
Bottlebrush
Pride of Madeira
Heavenly bamboo
Pittosporum
Smoke tree
Cotoneaster
Butterfly bush

Hydrangeas that are three to four years old will do fine. Younger specimens will require more water.

Vines that I recommend are:

Bougainvillea
Honeysuckle
Jasmine
Climbing and rambling roses.

Annuals don't have roots that go as deep as perennials. They focus energy on flowering which requires increased moisture.

These annuals usually require only weekly watering to one inch as opposed to daily drinks:

Zinnia
Marigold
Cleome
Portulaca
California poppy
Globe amaranth
Vinca
Chamomile



Chamomile reseeds itself without any irrigation.

Cosmos
Sunflower
Wax begonia

To minimize water waste, prioritize planting drought-tolerant perennials, shrubs and trees, and augment with color spots of annuals. Established plants do better in a drought than in a newly planted landscape. A plant is considered established when its roots have taken hold and spread in the soil. Perennials take a year to be established plants. A shrub could take two to three years, and most trees need three or more years. For this reason, it is always recommended to plant a garden in spring and fall when the weather is milder.

In a drought, paying attention to our trees is critical. Give established trees a deep soak every three to four weeks to keep roots from rising to the surface. Trees will experience leaf drop in the heat, but the tree will survive. If your trees are two years old or younger, an easy way to give them a good drink is to drill holes in a five-gallon bucket to allow water to slowly trickle to the roots. When you use a soaker wand, make sure to position it six feet or more from the trunk of the tree or at the end of the canopy as that is where the roots are. Roots are not at the base.

A sampling of California native trees that will be beautiful and survive in a drought include:

Olive
Pomegranate
Fig
Marina strawberry
Desert willow
Pistache
Mimosa
Manzanita
Crape myrtle
Redbud

... continued on Page D14



Pomegranate trees have bright green leaves, orange flowers, and red fruit.



Barbecue rosemary grows in dry conditions and attractors bees.
Photos Cynthia Brian

Lamorinda home sales recorded ... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

- 446 Millfield Place, \$2,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2386 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-11-22,
Previous Sale: \$839,000, 08-15-02
- 156 Miramonte Drive, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-10-22,
Previous Sale: \$855,000, 04-02-19
- 478 Rheem Boulevard, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-11-22,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 04-19-18
- 5 Roberts Court, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-06-22
- 424 Woodminster Drive, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-13-22,
Previous Sale: \$700,500, 08-18-15

ORINDA

- 9 Broadview Terrace, \$3,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-13-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,850,000, 09-08-14
- 58 Brookwood Road, \$1,315,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-03-22,
Previous Sale: \$706,500, 05-15-18
- 21 Camino Del Diablo, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3457 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,765,000, 03-25-21
- 372 Camino Sobrante, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-09-22
- 435 Dalewood Drive, \$3,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 3056 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-09-22
- 18 Easton Court, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2039 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-13-22,
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 07-01-87
- 115 El Toyonal, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1594 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 05-14-19
- 11 La Cuesta Road, \$3,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3872 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-10-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 07-27-00
- 9 La Noria, \$1,910,000, 3 Bdrms, 3034 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 05-12-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 03-12-19
- 21 Lavina Court, \$2,022,000, 3 Bdrms, 1586 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-13-22,
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 02-15-11
- 20 Los Cerros, \$3,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 4011 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,870,000, 07-02-08
- 412 Moraga Way, \$1,915,000, 3 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 05-11-22
- 7 Oak Arbor Road, \$3,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 6967 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 05-02-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 03-04-98
- 38 Parklane Drive, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2454 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 05-12-22,
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 09-27-04
- 25 Southwood Drive, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 4011 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 05-12-22,
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 05-15-13
- 85 Tarry Lane, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 01-04-00

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Growing water-wise



Drought-tolerant kangaroo paw adds texture and interest to any garden.

... continued from Page D12

Keep an eye on your oak trees. They tend to topple over without any wind when they either have too much moisture or not enough.

As much as we love our vegetable gardens, this season only grow what you will eat or share with family and friends. Because of the lack of water, it is not prudent to overplant. Herbs are mostly drought-tolerant, especially rosemary.

To grow in water-wise knowledge, we need to embrace varied techniques for watering.

1. Water early in the day before the temperature warms.
2. Test your soil to determine its dryness. Only water when the soil is dry two to four inches down.
3. Even on the hottest days, don't be tempted to give your plants an extra drink.
4. Group plants with similar watering needs in one area.
5. Check irrigation systems for leaks.
6. Inspect drip systems to make sure the hoses are not strangling plants.



Feverfew grows from seed and has medicinal uses. Photos Cynthia Brian

7. Watering deeply twice a week will keep your plants alive.
8. Mulch, mulch, mulch with layers of at least three inches.
9. When adding to your garden in the summer, do so on a cool or cloudy day.
10. Include water-conserving measures indoors by taking shorter showers. Keep a bucket in your showers and sinks to use for containers or outside.

In the water restriction days during the extreme drought of the 1970s, the slogan was "If its brown flush it down. If it's yellow, let it mellow," as each flush wasted seven gallons. June 20- 26 is designated as pollinator week. Bees, butterflies, birds, bats, beetles, wasps, and moths as well as smaller mammals transport pollen to various species to make our gardens grow. Without our pollinators, we would have no food. Honor these hard-working garden helpers by making your garden pollinator friendly.

Take the plunge and grow water-wise this summer. Have a safe and healthy Independence Day!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Butterfly-like flowers of guara. Photo Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian encourages growing roses.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your summer garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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