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Photos courtesy Town of Moraga, Public Works Department

Corrugated metal pipe deterioration of invert near Donald Drive and Moraga Road.

State of some Moraga storm drains cause alarm

By Vera Kochan

As the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” and the condition of some of the town’s storm drains speak volumes.

There are “21 miles of publicly maintained storm drain infrastructure consisting of underground pipes, culverts at roadway under crossings, improved and unimproved ditches, and natural creeks within the Town’s Right of Way easements,” according to a Nov. 9 staff report by Public Works

Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Farah Khorashadi. “The remaining 8 miles of the storm drain system are within private property, and maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner.”

A Storm Drain Master Plan was developed in 2015, with an eye toward creating a Capital Improvement Program in order to get a jump on any potential issues in the making. The Master Plan included video inspections of pipelines, field investigations of creek culverts and drainage features (in-

cluding manholes and catch basins). This allowed for recommendations and repairs to the areas that needed immediate attention first.

Measure K funds were directed to the repairing of failing streets, storm drains and other related infrastructural needs. The storm drain repairs are a necessity in order to help maintain the roadways above them. Repairs through the years have included removal and replacement of pipes, lining, and point repairs.

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Orinda takes an early lead on evacuation planning under new law

By Sora O’Doherty

Although not required by law to address the issue of evacuation planning until the update of the local hazard mitigation plan in a few years, Orinda decided to get an early start on the issue which has been mandated by Assembly Bill 747. The matter was brought to the City Council on Nov. 15, and the council received a presentation by city consultants, PlaceWorks.

When it comes to evacuation, Orinda is affected by evacuations of other local jurisdictions. City Manager David Biggs responded to a question about this, saying that like Orinda, Lafayette has also decided to get started on its AB 747 evacuation planning but Moraga has not yet moved in that direction. The evacuation plan will be an appendix to the Orinda Safety Element, which will come back to the city council in January.

PlaceWorks Assistant Project Manager Jacqueline Protsman and Evacuation Study Lead Allison Giffin gave the presentation and answered questions during the ensuing discussion. A considerable portion of the presentation focused on the methodology used to identify different scenarios that might require evacuation of residents in various areas of Orinda. The methodology involved is not pre-

scribed and is still somewhat new, according to PlaceWorks.

The council discussed the three scenarios in the presentation, wondering why there was not a scenario that would resemble the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire, which moved from the west toward the east. PlaceWorks suggested that the scenario that focuses on Briones Regional Park could be broadened to include a fire threat from a more westerly direction, but the council did not wish to take the focus off the substantial threat from Briones. Both Council Member Nick Kosla and Vice Mayor Inga Miller talked of their memories of the devastating 1991 fire, and expressed concerns that Orinda residents have appropriate evacuation routes in the event that another such fire should ever occur.

Another topic that came up for much discussion, including public comments from Gene Gottfried and Lynne Trowbridge, was the issue of locked gates on Emergency Vehicular Access roads throughout the city. Trowbridge stated that she almost lost a loved one during the Tubbs Fire when such a gate was not opened by the fire department, even though the fire truck was within sight of the gate, but was instructed to go somewhere else. Council Member Amy Worth asked if a car could drive through such a gate, even when locked, and City Manager David Biggs suggested that it would be

a good area to study in the future.

The evacuation plan is limited to wildfire events and landslides, as earthquakes and floods do not usually result in widespread evacuation. The presentation contained recommendations for both wildfires and landslides.

The recommendations arising from the wildfire analysis included employing red flag day parking restrictions and/or contra-flow land policies for certain roadway segments; having active preferred signal timing for signalized intersections along evacuation routes in direction of evacuation travel; facilitating the evacuation of vulnerable populations and residential facilities and reducing vehicle counts during an evacuation. Worth noted that staff has been working on a grant application to allow the upgrading of traffic signals to have more flexibility, especially in the event of an emergency. Mayor Dennis Fay also raised the issue of the crucial nature of the Camino Pablo interchange with the freeway and potential capital improvements to enable faster access to Highway 24.

In regard to landslides, it was recommended that Orinda staff maintain a database of evacuation route segments that are susceptible to landslide and use the database to track geotechnical studies and possible associated capital improvements.

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City moves forward with potential purchase of downtown properties



Campana property on Moraga Road

Photo J. Wake

By Lou Fancher

Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson at the Nov. 14 city council meeting discussed progress made on the city's plan to purchase two downtown properties located at 990 Moraga Road, best known as the Campana property, and at 3533 Plaza Way, also called the McNeil property, which Robinson said will allow the city to "achieve the vision of the Plaza Way overlay," created to increase the supply of off-street parking within the Plaza Way block. The purchases would provide additional public parking to the businesses

such as The New Park Theater that are entering that location, along with opportunities for other civic uses. Two agreements resulting from negotiations during recent months place the purchase prices at \$3.5 million for the Campana property, and \$3.4 million for the McNeil property. Staff recommended the money, a combined total purchase of \$6.9 million, be in part borrowed by the General Fund's City Office Fund and combined with other money in the General Fund to complete the purchase. Robinson said the uses and other terms will be considered in future council discussions,

but the unusual availability of both parcels at the same time suggested immediate action be taken to secure the properties. Depending on the uses assigned, Robinson said conversations about long-term financing will be studied extensively. The refinancing options include whether or not to pay back the City Offices Fund, finance the purchase with bonds, or pay for the property purchase through the sales of other city properties. She asked the council to approve the purchase price, which would allow staff to move forward and conduct the due diligence phase to ensure the properties meet CEQA compliance guidelines. When that process is completed, escrows can be finalized. In public comments, David Clark said the purchase "is terrific." Owning the properties outright if money can be found is an action he applauded and welcomed. He encouraged the council to consider adding pathways that might augment existing public pathways in the downtown area. Grace Dixon said it was a "small miracle" that the city had obtained the option to obtain the two properties and she

supported including civic elements that involve walking and biking. Max Henninger asked if borrowing money from the City Offices Fund meant no longer prioritizing purchasing a city hall. "It would seem like a challenge," he said. He emphasized providing ample opportunity for the community to have input into the council's intentions when it came to usage. He supported considering adding housing and a future city hall at the site, but questioned using \$5 million of city money to support simply more parking and retail businesses. Stella Wotherspoon agreed it was a wonderful opportunity to build community and provide more public space. She suggested the Plaza Way overlay be revisited as to whether or not the plans portray "current thinking" about the best use of the space. Libby Henry asked if the property on Moraga Road was a historical landmark and how that might impact what she anticipated as tear down construction projects. City Manager Niroop Srivatsa said the McNeil building was not landmarked as a building of local significance but has a plaque calling out its historical impor-

ance. The Campana building, according to city records, she said is not landmarked as a historical property, but fact checking will be done by staff in consultation with the Lafayette Historical Society. Robinson noted that the Campana building is vacant and no businesses are being asked to relocate as a term of the purchase. Existing leases in the McNeil property will be assumed by the city and continued. After determination of the uses are agreed upon, the city has the ability and legally can relocate businesses. Robinson emphasized that any funds borrowed from the City Offices Fund, would be "a loan" and if no city offices are placed on the properties, methods for paying back the loan to the City Offices Fund will be discussed. The council welcomed the public's input as the council moves into discussions about uses of the properties. Completion of the purchases after all CEQA and other compliance guidelines are met was approved unanimously by the council. Staff will move into the due diligence phase before bringing the matter back to the council and completing the purchase.

City Council revisits housing plan without BART parking lot property inclusion

By Jennifer Wake

After countless hours of deliberations on housing opportunity sites in the 6th Cycle Housing Element for Lafayette, which requires planning for an additional 2,114 units as part of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation assigned by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), opportunity

sites planned at the BART parking lot seemed a done deal. A shift in concern regarding increased housing planned in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by California Attorney General Rob Bonta and substantial required actions the city would need to take to be considered for development on BART property within the 8-year Housing Element cycle re-

quired the city to rethink where to find 882 potential opportunity sites outside of BART. At the Nov. 14 city council meeting, Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff, Housing Consultant Diana Elrod and Senior Planner Renata Robles outlined the situation and presented council members with options, without including the BART lots, that would meet the RHNA numbers, would not affect the Environmental Impact Report, and would allow the city to reach the required Jan. 31, 2023 deadline for adoption of the Housing Element. Option 1 kept the current inventory plan, including BART, and would involve additional analysis and resource commitments. Option 2 would remove BART from consideration and concentrate the opportunity sites and RHNA units in the



BART parking lot

Photo J. Wake

downtown. This option would also not include DeSilva South, which is in a state-mapped Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and thus would be consistent with the AG guidance to avoid placing significant new housing in an area susceptible to fire. Option 3 replaces BART with DeSilva South, which still requires additional density in

other areas to accommodate RHNA with an adequate buffer for the lower income categories. This option increases density to 50 dwelling units per acre in the downtown areas (Areas 1-6), DeSilva South to 35 du/acre, and maintains Area 13 at 35 du/acre. At this density, DeSilva South offers about 300 units towards RHNA. ... continued on Page A3

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LafSD and AUHSD school board elections favor incumbents

By Jennifer Wake

Following a contentious election season, with barbs and accusations flying over social media, school board incumbents for the Lafayette School District and Acalanes Union High School District look poised to win re-election as of the Nov. 18 Contra Costa County Clerk Recorders office (contracostavote.gov).

While election results are not yet final and certified, the results of these races with 71.57% reporting for Lafayette School District show a strong result for board incumbents Rob Sturm, with 26.17% of the vote (9,915), Dave Smith with 25.31% of the vote (9,588), and Katy Foreman with 24.90% (9,434 votes). Challengers Sarah Lind, Robb McSorley, and Neils

Larsen as of days end on Nov. 18 sat at 8.65% (3,277), 7.81% (2,958) and 7.16% (2,714) respectively.

Acalanes Union High School District board incumbents at 69.14% reporting achieved two of the top three slots with Christopher Severson taking 23.70% of the vote with 31,420 votes, and Nancy Kendzierski at 23.41% with 31,038 votes. Jennifer Chen received the Lion's share of votes at 27.22% with 36,085, with 69.58% reporting. Challengers Mark Woolway, Rene Nowac, Gabe Ledeen and Clayton Gardner received 8.26% (10,889 votes), 7.76% (10,237), 7.23% (9,533) and 2.42% (3,187) respectively.

Final election results are slated to be certified by the Secretary of State on Dec. 16.

Input still needed for Lafayette Local Roadway Safety Plan

The City of Lafayette is hosting a community workshop online via Zoom at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 which will include a public discussion of traffic safety as part of the City's Local Roadway Safety Plan development. There will be a short presentation on what a Local Roadway Safety Plan is, a summary of Lafayette's current road safety data, and a summary of public input received to date. Afterwards, the community will be invited to breakout rooms to give feedback on roadway safety and help to identify safety risk factors, locations of concerns,

and strategize on how we can reduce hazards on our roadways for everyone. In addition, the deadline to share your feedback through the City's online Street-Safety Mapping Activity has been extended to early December.

For more information and to access the Zoom meeting, or to access the online map to share feedback, visit www.love-lafayette.org/roadsafetyplan or contact Patrick Golier, Transportation & Circulation Program Manager at PGolier@ci.lafayette.ca.us. - J. Wake

BART parking lot

... continued from Page A2

Option 4 involves increased density and height north of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. During its review of the Housing Element, the Planning Commission proposed a sites inventory that included BART, excluded DeSilva South, and split Planning Areas 1, 3, and 5 into northern and southern portions of each. The inventory included sites in northern portions of Planning Areas 1, 3, and 5 at 50 du/acre. This arrangement was intended to accommodate additional height massed to the north where the background topography is higher, thus reducing visual impacts. This option would maintain 35 du/acre along Mt. Diablo Boulevard and the rest of downtown.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce expressed concerns about over development of the downtown core and the potential impact on local businesses.

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri said he was against proceeding with the BART option, and would prefer Option 4 with a reduced buffer and less density. "Twenty years from now, they'll think we were crazy to not put

housing at BART," he said, but he added that he sees very little likelihood that HCD is going to approve BART sites and he'd prefer to focus on BART development in the next Housing Element cycle.

Mayor Teresa Geringer agreed, saying, "I just feel going down the BART opportunity site will be an uphill battle. I have strong concerns about the timeline and risk of the builder's remedy (where local control is relinquished)."

Council Member Gina Dawson said that as much as BART makes sense, "we're between a rock and a hard place. Our residents are saying they want to make sure they are safe. With the AG's recommendation, I would defer DeSilva to the next cycle. I like the mixed No. 4 option. I think if we can come up with the numbers, that would be great."

Wolff said staff had what they needed to bring back opportunity site scenarios to the Nov. 28 council meeting, and to provide a couple of mixes which address the 75/50/35 du/acre issue, incorporate the Chamber's recommendations and not including BART or DeSilva.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Town Council: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Special Town Council Meeting:
 Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Interim Town Manager approved by council

By Vera Kochan

The Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Mayor Steve Woehleke and Vice Mayor Renata Sos, wasted no time in searching for an interim town manager to temporarily fill current Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg's position beginning in January 2023.

Battenberg issued an Oct. 4 written notice to the town council announcing her plans to resign in December; and on Oct. 26 the council members approved a Professional Services Agreement with Bob Murray & Associates (a recruitment firm) to begin searching for her replacement.

The recruitment process is expected to last at least into the early months of 2023, and the council did not find it prudent to leave the town offices without managerial leadership until then.

Five candidates applied for the position, and after screening them based on their resumes, the Ad Hoc Committee narrowed the field down to three contenders. On Nov. 4, the entire Moraga Town Council conducted interviews

with those remaining candidates in a closed session meeting. Basing their decision on candidate materials, recommendations, interviews and subsequent discussion, the council unanimously selected Moraga resident Brian Dolan as their choice for the interim town manager position.

Dolan has lived in town for over 20 years and has children who went through the local school system, making him very familiar with the community. That wasn't his only qualification for the job. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and received a Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture; followed by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Regional Planning degree in City and Regional Planning. With over 35 years of experience working for local government as a public employee and consultant, he's also had 22 years of city management experience throughout the Bay Area.

As an assistant city manager for Pleasanton, Dolan had direct responsibility for departments such as Finance, Public Works and Planning (where he oversaw the imple-

mentation of five housing elements). Currently retired, he is described as having a calm, respectful and warm demeanor; and his desire to serve as the interim town manager comes from his deep affection for the community.

"I am accustomed to working for communities that demand a high level of transparency in their decision-making process," Dolan stated in his resume. "The Cities of Pleasanton and Palo Alto are two good examples of communities where I have worked that are similar to Moraga in that regard. As a 21-year resident of Moraga, I am also familiar with the particular customer service expectations of fellow residents."

The Interim Town Manager position, according to the Ad Hoc Committee's Nov. 16 staff report, "will be compensated at the rate of \$127.09 per hour and, in accordance with CalPERS regulation, shall not receive any benefits, incentives, compensation in lieu of benefits, or any other forms of compensation in addition to the hourly rate."

Dolan will begin his services as the interim town manager on Jan. 3, 2023.

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Some new faces join town council table come January

By Vera Kochan

There were three slots to fill in the Nov. 8 town council election race – two four-year terms and one two-year term (also referred to as a short term).

With only two candidates vying for the four-year term, incumbent Steve Woehleke and Kerry Hillis ended up running unopposed. As of Nov. 18, Woehleke had captured 51.38% of the votes (5,176); and Hillis garnered the other 48.62% of votes (4,898).

David Shapiro was one of two candidates competing for the short-term seat with the town council. As of Nov. 18 reporting, Shapiro's 72.37% of the votes (4,778) helped him to handily defeat his opponent Kendall Langan who came up with 27.63% of votes (1,824).

"I look forward to continuing to serve all citizens of Moraga, I welcome Kerry Hillis

and David Shapiro joining the Council and thank Mike McCluer and Sona Makker for their service," said Woehleke, in a written statement. "That only Kerry Hillis and I ran for the two open four-year seats concerns me. Moraga's Town Council has less than two years to attract a robust slate of candidates when three seats open in 2024. Handling the wide range of town issues entails applying good and balanced decision making skills. Valuing organizational capability and having some applicable experience are important, and representing diversity is valuable. I get great satisfaction from having a positive impact on Moraga's citizens."

Hillis came close to being on the town council in October 2021, when a seesaw appointment process nearly gave him the edge to fill the seat resigned by former council

member David Stromberg. "Thank you for your support, Moraga," the newly elected Hillis stated. "I'm honored that I will be representing you on the Town Council, and I am looking forward to getting to work."

"I look forward to working with fellow council members on the Town's business, including the new housing element, the budget, and planning for potential increases in traffic," wrote Shapiro. "I also would like to find ways to make participation in Town government more efficient, so that more younger residents, with busy lives, volunteer for Council positions."

Votes are still being tallied. County election officials must report final official results to the Secretary of State by Dec. 9. The Secretary of State will certify the results on Dec. 16.

Moraga School District to seat two new board members and one incumbent

By Vera Kochan

Election results for the Nov. 8 Moraga School District race, while not yet certified, have named Larry Jacobs, Martha White and Kristin Kraetsch as the winners as of Nov. 18. Candidate Hen King came in fourth in the three-seat contest.

Garnering the highest number of votes was appointed incumbent Larry Jacobs with 32.66% (5,315). "I am ecstatic to be continuing on the Moraga School Board and excited to be working with Superintendent Parks, the district leaders, teachers, and employees to provide a top-notch educational experience for our community's students," stated

Jacobs. "I give a big thank you to all who voted and not just that voted for me. Moraga was very fortunate to have four candidates running for the board that all seemed genuine in their interests, honest in their approach, and dedicated to maintaining our district's strong standing in the community. I look forward to serving with our new board members and for an exciting and productive new team."

The second highest vote getter, White, accounted for 28.12% (4,577). "I am looking forward to working with the current and new school board members," she said. "I am humbled by this opportunity and the community's trust in my leadership. Thank you again to all those that voted!"

Next, with 22.22% (3,617) votes, was Kraetsch. "I am extremely honored to have been selected by the voters to represent our community on the governing board for the Moraga School District, and thank the voters and other candidates for their engagement," she stated. "It is a great responsibility to serve as an advocate for Moraga's TK-8 students. I look forward to working closely and collaboratively with the other board members, the superintendent, District staff and the wider community to continue to provide an inclusive and high quality academic and social-emotional education for all of our students."

Candidate King received 16.98% (2,750) votes.



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Holiday Tree Lighting

Moraga Commons Park

December 1

6:30-7:30pm



Town hires new Parks and Rec director



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga's new Parks and Rec Director Mackenzie Brady

By Vera Kochan

Just in time for the busy holiday season of community activities, Moraga's new Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady is happy to keep the town's traditions alive.

Brady's first day on the job was Oct. 17, and she's already come to appreciate the town's atmosphere: "It's peaceful and relaxing."

Earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and American Studies from Salem College in North Carolina; a Mas-

ter of Education in Outdoor Education Administration from Georgia College and State University in Georgia; and a Doctor of Philosophy – Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership from William and Mary in Virginia, Brady has had experience in project management; program facilitation; contract negotiations; grant/writing management; operational efficiency; and logistics management.

During her last position as Recreation Director for the City of Millbrae since 2018, Brady spearheaded the build-

ing of a newly completed recreation center, managing to help raise the \$30 million in funds and get the project done in time for summer camp season. "My name is listed on the building," she stated with pride. "I feel like I had accomplished something."

The Nebraska native also had a career in outdoor recreation for colleges, organizing backpacking and camping expeditions. "I always want to provide more recreational opportunities."

Brady, who lives in Oakland with her wife Emily (a Navy veteran) and their 17-month-old son August (Auggie), became tired of the commute to and from Millbrae and decided to check for other job options through CalOpps, which is what brought her to Moraga. "Right now, I'm getting used to the budget and how things work over here. The main thing is to get myself oriented. I just want to continue to maintain what staff is currently working on."

As far as future plans for the Parks and Rec Department, Brady intends to send out a community survey to see what types of activities residents would like. She'd also like to develop an adult sports program. "I love how the residents are so involved. I want to be connected and involved in the community personally, as well. I'm just really happy to be here – it's been wonderful so far."

State of some Moraga storm drains cause alarm



Photos courtesy Town of Moraga Public Works Department

... continued from Page A1

"After heavy rainfall in 2016, the Town experienced repeated failed storm drain infrastructure, which caused major sinkholes and triggered maintenance work to unclog pipes filled with debris and sediment," according to the staff report. "As there wasn't significant flooding caused by undersized pipes, the focus was shifted to addressing the existing condition of the pipelines, not capacity issues."

The town council awarded a \$30,125 annual contract to 360 Pipeline in 2020 for small scale cleaning and Close-Circuit Television Videoing with the intent of troubleshooting the town's storm drain issues. It was during one of these inspections that severe issues were discovered in three pipe segments resulting in the Moraga Road & Hacienda Drainage Project (CIP 21-206) which was repaired this past fall.

In 2021, a one-time funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of \$2,071,000

provided a much-needed influx of cash that was directed to projects such as the storm drains; and this past spring the town council approved a \$334,573 engineering design services agreement with Harris & Associates for the 2021-23 Annual Storm Drain Repairs Project.

Harris' duties included: updating the Geographic Information System; inspecting 30,000 linear feet of storm drain while looking for defects, obstructions or potential failures on all pipes; documenting the condition of the pipes and prioritizing repairs; providing repair recommendations and cost estimates; and developing Plans, Specifications & Estimates based on a \$1.3 million construction budget.

In July 2022, Harris' sub-consultant, Presidio, began the inspection of approximately 30,000 linear feet of storm drain pipes and graded the defects from 1-5 (with 1 being the least severe and 5 being high priority). Some of the recommended improve-

ments involve point repairs; invert paving; heavy cleaning followed by a pipe re-inspection; rehabilitation by grouting the invert; cleaning and rehabilitating with Geopolymer liner; installing a Cured-in-Place-Pipe liner; and removing and replacing pipe.

The \$1.3 million construction budget is more than enough to repair all of the pipes with a Grade 4 and 5 first, and even allowing for repairs to several Grade 3 pipes. While Harris completes the 65% and 100% design drawings for the construction project, staff anticipates bringing the contract award to council for approval during an April 2023 meeting in the hopes that construction will begin during the summer.



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Women candidates sweep Orinda City Council, school board, while adding diversity

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council will start its next iteration with five women at the helm of the city. Incumbents Inga Miller and Darlene Gee will be joined by Latika Malkani from the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee, Brandyn Iverson from the Planning Commission and longtime Orinda volunteer, Janet Riley. The election results are not yet final and certified, but the results of these races are not particularly close. This article is based upon the results as reported as of close of business on Friday, Nov. 18 and interviews with some of the newly elected officials.

All three winning candidates for the Orinda City Council expressed their ex-

citement at serving on an all-woman city council. Malkani said, "It's fabulous to know that this is the first time we have had an entirely female city council." Iverson said, "Piedmont has an all-female city council; I thought it was a kind of neat thing to see, a very encouraging trend." She added that the new city council is not a homogenous group, with more diversity, even though four of the five are attorneys.

Attorney Malkani noted that she hopes to accomplish what in large part motivated her initial 2020 council bid: to govern from her lived experience "which has given me a liking for results that are good and just, for acknowledging bias and looking for bias interrupters, for caring for today's children and tomorrow's environment." Malkani appears to be the top vote-getter in the 2022 race.

Coming from the Planning Commission, Iverson is excited to continue working on the development of Orinda's downtown. "It will

only be successful," she says, "if buildings actually get built." Iverson served two terms on the planning commission.

Riley noted that it was the fourth time she had been asked to run for the council and the first time that she chose to do so. An attorney specializing in tax and business, she gave up an active practice to serve in many volunteer positions as her children were growing up, mainly connected to the schools and also to local and national garden clubs.

Final county election results will be adopted by the city on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. when the newly elected council members will be sworn in and the mayor and vice-mayor will be chosen and sworn in. In addition, the 2022 Mayor's Awards of Excellence will be presented.

The meeting will be broadcast over the Zoom teleconference program, and will be followed by an in-person reception honoring outgoing council members and welcoming newly elected

council members. The reception will be held at the Founders Auditorium Courtyard at 28 Orinda Way immediately after the meeting. The outgoing council members are mayor Dennis Fay and council members Amy Worth and Nick Kosla.

Orinda Union School District also had three vacant seats to fill in the 2022 election, and, like the city council, voters chose all women to fill them. The race was reasonably tight, but the top-vote getter was Edda Coleman, followed by former Orinda city council member and mayor Eve Phillips and Katie Shogan. The newly elected members will replace outgoing school board members Carol Brown, Jason Kaune and Liz Daoust. The incoming OUSD board members will take the oath of office on Dec. 12.

The Orinda City Council reorganization meeting can be viewed by Zoom Teleconference: at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92493195201>

It's final: Wilder developer is in default, but still working with city to complete the project

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council on Nov. 15 officially held that the developer of Wilder, OGLLC, is in default of the development agreement. The council has so held on a number of recent occasions, but this time, the council chose to not continue the matter for discussion at a later date. The council has also held that the transfer of LLC interest allegedly completed in 2020 was not properly completed.

This does not mean that the matter is concluded. Far from it. OGLLC representative Bruce Yamamoto appeared at the meeting, and stated that the developer is

continuing to work with the city to finalize the outstanding issues. He said that the weekly meetings with Orinda staff have been particularly helpful.

Staff presented a report to the council with specific updates. Among them, a certificate of insurance has been provided, but with a lower limit than required, and is being evaluated. A \$20,000 payment has been received toward the developers' reimbursement obligations, with a commitment to make \$10,000 payments monthly, with the second payment having been received on Nov. 8. OGLLC is delinquent on property taxes for all the parcels remaining to be conveyed to the city, the Geological Hazard Abatement District (GHAD), East Bay Municipal District (EBMUD) and East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD).

OGLLC's proposal to eliminate the Red Tail Hawk Staging Area is being reviewed by the city and the park district. OGLLC's proposed modification to the required grazing plan and improvements are also being evaluated, and may be possibly secured by a bond held by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Work is continuing on a

number of different fronts to tie up loose ends on the development. Some are being negotiated with other agencies, including, EBMUD, EBRPD and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Council Member Nick Kosla asked specifically about resident concerns, that included a "drum of something" and some vegetation piled up near the front of the development. Yamamoto responded that the drum, as well as other drums, were illegally dumped on the property. He noted that the developer has spent some \$30,000 disposing of illegally dumped materials, including a load of concrete. Illegal dumping has been a concern to Orinda, in and around Wilder as well as along Highway 24.

Yamamoto also mentioned that there is an endowment currently valued at approximately \$5.7 million, while it is estimated that the purposes for which the endowment was established will only require about \$3.26 million. He wondered if the endowment might be restructured to provide funds for other projects to complete the development agreement. Discussions will begin on that topic with Fish & Wildlife.

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City Council
Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only
Special Meeting:
 Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only

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Reception planned to honor Council Member Amy Worth, Dec. 4



A reception to honor retiring Orinda council member Amy Worth will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 on the Upper Library Plaza, at 26 Orinda Way. Worth is retiring from the Orinda City Council after 24 years of dedicated service, including five terms as Orinda's mayor, in addition to serving on multiple re-

Photo Sora O'Doherty

gional boards. The city of Orinda asks the community to join them in thanking and honoring Worth. Refreshments will be served.

For further information, contact: City Clerk Sheri Smith; ssmith@city-of-orinda.org; 925-253-4221. - S. O'Doherty

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Orinda takes an early lead on evacuation planning under new law

... continued from Page A1

It was also recommended that the city implement proposed General Plan Safety Element Policies S-19, S-20, S-21 and S-23 related to requirements for geotechnical studies and resulting capital improvements, like grading and retaining walls, to fortify these particularly vulnerable and critical segments against landslide risk.

No action was required, as the evacuation plan will be incorporated with the Safety

Element and will return to the council for further action early next year, after review by the Planning Commission. Biggs and Planning Director Drummond Buckley and Associate Planner Winnie Mui who attended the meeting and will follow up on the matters discussed. Biggs reiterated that Orinda's general advice regarding evacuation is: go soon, get to Highway 24 via your usual route if possible, and then go east or west as directed.

Bright Ideas Film Festival returns to Orinda Theatre, Dec. 2



Photo provided

Student filmmakers on stage at last year's festival at the Orinda Theatre.

Created to give student filmmakers a place to celebrate their hard work with family, friends, and others who appreciate the art of filmmaking, the 7th Annual Bright Ideas Film Festival will once again be screening a showcase of short films, as well as a Q&A with the filmmakers, from 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Orinda Theatre. The festival showcases student films from col-

leges around the Bay Area. Trophies will be presented to the winners of several categories, including: Best in Festival, Audience Choice Award, Best Comedic Performance, and Best Dramatic Performance. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at the Orinda Theatre website www.orindamovies.com or at the door. - J. Wake



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Majority of union supported candidates for MOFD board poised to lose to challengers

By Sora O'Doherty

Two of the three candidates for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board who were supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 Political Activity Committee appear to have been defeated in the general election. While the results have yet to be certified by Contra Costa County Elections, Michael Donner is poised to lose his seat to challenger Michael Roemer in District 4, but is within striking distance (161 votes as of Nov. 18). In District 1, where incumbent Gregory Baitx did not run for reelection, it appears that Gregory Hasler has defeated Christopher Young, who ran on the union supported slate with Michael Donner and Steven Danziger. Danziger defeated challenger Vince

Dell'Aquila to retain his seat. Hasler, Roemer and Dell'Aquila, were largely funded by Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire, although Hasler also made large donations to his own campaign. Two Board members were not up for election as their terms do not expire until 2024, John Jex in District 2 and Craig Jorgens in District 5. In 2020 then incumbent Jex defeated a challenge from Nathan Smith, a firefighter-paramedic with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. In 2016 Jorgens defeated former Orinda mayor Victoria Smith, and in 2020 defeated an unusual challenge from Sharon Girdlestone, who appeared to be indecisive about whether she was actually running for election.

Interviewed after the election, Roemer pointed out

that Donner and Young had been widely endorsed by the Democratic Party and local representatives. Roemer and Hasler each had many endorsements, including Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay, State Senator Steve Glazer, and Melanie Light of the Orinda Firewise Council. Roemer was endorsed by the all of the Orinda City Council members and Hasler was endorsed by the current and past mayors of Moraga. In addition, both were endorsed by the two remaining board members, Jex and Jorgens.

Roemer said that he had attempted to knock on every voter's door in his campaign. Hasler also knocked on many doors while campaigning. Roemer was quick to note that not being supported by the union was not indicative of the existence of any anti-union feelings.

In 3-2 vote, MOFD board moves to increase minimum staffing of firefighter paramedics by 2

By Jennifer Wake

By the end of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board's special meeting on Nov. 16, it seemed that the issue of increasing minimum staffing of safety personnel/firefighter paramedics from 17 to 19 had once again been postponed after Directors Craig Jorgens and John Jex requested more information before moving forward.

But in a surprising turn of events during the regular session, three board directors, Michael Donner, Steven Danziger and Gregory Baitx, voted to direct staff to engage in negotiations with United Professional Fire Fighters of Contra Costa County, IAFF Local 1230 to modify the Memorandum of Understanding July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 to increase the minimum staffing from 17 to 19 safety personnel/firefighter paramedics, foregoing further discussion.

The issue of increased staffing has been a sticking point for years. From 2007 to 2013, staffing had been increased from 17 to 19, with a dedicated ambulance service at Fire Station 45, but in 2013 the district reverted to the current cross-staffing model, under which the crew of Engine 45 staffs the ambulance when responding to emergency medical service (EMS) calls.

According to Local 1230 president Vince Wells, who spoke during the Public Comment portions of the meetings,

prior to the economic downturn MOFD had two permanently staffed ambulances at Station 45 and reducing them to cross-staff ambulances "was a degradation of service." Wells said the district now has the funds to restore that ambulance. "It's an enhancement of service and it's affordable. North Orinda has the highest fire risk. Adding staff will save lives and property."

For years, questions have swirled around revenue, pension liability, future costs and potential losses, and the concern over a recurring \$1.5 million for the addition of two firefighter paramedics per shift, equating to six new personnel.

Director Danziger noted the board has been "discussing this for three and a half years now. Staffing more at 45 is safer for our firefighters and safer for our residents. Whichever model you want to talk about, this is a better model for our community."

Director Jex explained that the board cut two positions before "because we couldn't afford it. In eight or nine years, we've dropped our reserves to an unacceptable level." He went on to express concerns that in the next five years there is a high probability of a reduction of reserves. "Pension liability goes from \$25 million to \$60 million, so incurring another \$1.5 million in costs - we can't afford it."

Director Jorgens asked for more discussion. "I would

agree with others saying there appears to be lack of economic data which was the sticking point." President Donner noted that the board would still be receiving reports from South San Francisco and Berkeley to review. "We're authorizing [staff] to discuss increasing [safety personnel/firefighter paramedics]," he said.

Jex expressed his dismay that they would be in this position at this time, "to ignore all the risks and ignoring everything we've talked about."

Director Baitx responded that it was negligent "that in the last four years, we have said we need more information; we're broke - next year there'll be another study. At some time we need to make a decision."

With a motion from Baitx and a second from Donner, the final 3-2 vote (with Jorgens and Jex voting no) directs staff to enter negotiations with the union to increase the minimum staffing from 17 to 19 safety personnel/firefighter paramedics and seek a qualified law firm or individual who has expertise and substantial experience in public sector employment and labor relations matters, including negotiations with labor groups, particularly public safety labor groups, to negotiate this modification to the MOU.

To watch the full discussion, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjpPl9hcDI&t=11560s



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Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 30 - Nov. 12

Alarms	48
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	91
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	18
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	30
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
Public/School Assembly Check	6
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	25
Welfare Check	21
Ordinance Violation	2



Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
Mt Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.

Reckless Driving
500 Blk St. Mary's Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way

Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Minor Injuries
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.
Wb Sr 24 At El Nido Ranch Rd.
Mt Diablo Blvd./S Thompson Rd.
Reliez Station Rd./Beechwood Dr.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.

Other criminal activity

Financial Abuse
800 Block Moraga Rd.

Fraud Credit Card
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.

Grand Theft From Veh
1000 Block Windsor Dr.

Identity Theft
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3400 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)

Misc Burglary
900 Block Hough Ave.

Panhandling
3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
3500 Block Wildwood Ln
3100 Block Camino Colorados
3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift
3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
1000 Block Hoedel Ct.
90 Block Carolyn Ct.
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
3100 Block Indian Way

Loud Music
900 Block Dewing Ave.
3400 Block Shangri La Rd.

Loud Noise
Brown Ave./Mt Diablo Blvd.

Loud Party
1200 Block Quandt Ct.

Public Nuisance
3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)

Vandalism
500 Block Silverado Dr.

Other

Checks Non Suff Funds
Police Department

Drunk In Public
3400 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.

Extortion
3900 Block Happy Valley Rd.

K9 Outside Assist Request
1400 Block Creekside Dr., Wcr

Loitering
3200 Block Mt Diablo Ct.


Trespass
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

4100 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.

Unwanted Guest
3400 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Police Department (2)

Violation Restraining Order
1100 Block Sunset Ln.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 30 - Nov. 12

Alarms	41
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	126
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Public/School Assembly Check	14
Service to Citizen	46
Patrol Req./Security Check	31
Supplemental Report	16
Welfare Check	8

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury
400 Block Moraga Way

Accident Property
Moraga Way/Sanborn Rd.
10 Block El Verano
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24

Auto Burglary
Moraga Way

Dui Misd
100 Block Moraga Way

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
50 Block Moraga Way

Reckless Driving
20 Block Camino Sobrante
Sunnyside Ln./Sunnyside Ct.
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way

Revoked License
Camino Pablo/North Ln.
San Pablo Reservoir Rec Area, Eso

Tc - Property Damage
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
Fish Ranch/Twd HWay24

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary
90 Block Brookwood Rd.

Fraud Credit Card
400 Block Camino Sobrante

Identity Theft
10 Block Valley Ct. (2)

Shoplift
Moraga Way

Warrant Arrest
Bart Orinda Station
Orinda Way
El Nido/St Stevens
Camino Sobrante

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Theatre Sq 106

Loud Party
100 Block Brookwood Rd.

Public Nuisance
Theatre Square
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Orinda Theater

Vandalism
30 Block Moraga Way

Other criminal activity

Battery Domestic Misd
Wilder Sports Fields

Child Abuse
No Location

Failure To Obey
Eb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr.

Mentally Ill Commit
Camino Sobrante
50 Block La Espiral

Transient Contact
Orinda Community Center

Trespass
500 Block Miner Rd.
90 Block Hillcrest Dr.

Unauthorized Possession
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.

Lamorinda's historical societies join forces with a Caldecott Tunnel/Orinda blast-from-the-past event



"Images of America" authors from left, Susan K. Skilton, Alison Burns, Mary Solon and Mary McCosker

By Vera Kochan

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda's historical societies put their collective heads together and produced an event that drew an overflow crowd of history buffs from the Lamorinda area. Expecting an audience of around 30, thanks to final RSVP tallies, the Nov. 6 event ended up with 91 curious attendees at the Orinda

Community Center.

On the agenda were slide presentations by both Lafayette Historical Society President Mary McCosker and Mary Solon highlighting their book titled "Images of America: Building the Caldecott Tunnel," and Orinda Historical Society President Alison Burns' presentation featuring excerpts of her newly published "Images of America:

Orinda."

McCosker and Solon's presentation began with facts from the late 19th century and pre-Caldecott Tunnel days when dirt trails and roads connected Alameda County over the Berkeley Hills to Contra Costa County. Many paths and trails traversed along streams and creek beds, one of which became known as Fish Ranch Road, thanks to the Oakland Trout Company, which catered to travelers on horseback or by carriage. These roads became quite busy due to farmers and other merchants conducting business between the two counties.

In 1903, a tunnel was built above the present location of the Caldecott and was dedicated as the "Inter-County Tunnel" (later called the Kennedy Tunnel). The dirt road tunnel was so narrow and arched that two tall buggies could not pass each other. "Drivers" had to light fires onto newspapers in order to control the visibility of the one-way traffic.

Realizing that this tunnel was inadequate, the two counties agreed to construct a

new tunnel through the Berkeley Hills. Finished in 1937, the three-year project became the first two bores of what would eventually turn into the Caldecott Tunnel. Originally known as the Broadway Low Level Tunnel (or Broadway Tunnel), this endeavor was completed the same year that the Bay Bridge was finished.

In 1960, the tunnel was officially renamed the Caldecott Tunnel, after Thomas E. Caldecott who was mayor of Berkeley in the early 1930s. As Highway 24 received an upgrading, plans for a third bore began to materialize. Opening in 1964, at a cost of \$25 million, the "middle bore," complete with 5-acres of sea foam green-colored tiles, was used to reverse the flow of traffic according to commute hours.

Tragedy struck in 1982, when a collision involving a gasoline tanker truck turned the third bore into a chimney sending smoke and flames throughout the tunnel. Tunnel temperature was estimated at 1,800 degrees, killing seven people. If there can be any saving grace to the catastrophe, the accident happened

after midnight when there were few cars on the road.

The fourth bore was completed in 2013, at a cost of \$420 million. Containing 3.5 million tons of reinforcing rebar, the Caldecott Tunnel currently contains two eastbound tunnels and two westbound tunnels, thereby ending the tedious commute-switching reversal of traffic that the third bore was subjected to.

Burns began her "history lesson" with an explanation as to why a Brit is the president of Orinda's historical society, let alone to go on to write a book about the city's past. She explained that she and her family have traveled the world, and in doing so have learned about various cultures which gives her a certain objectivity. She did add that she is now an Orinda resident.

Choosing from various photos in her book, Burns gave brief descriptions relating to each while building a historic timeline of Orinda's more interesting events. The cover of Burns' book is a photo taken in the 1940s depicting an Orinda Fire Protection District vehicle.

... continued on Page A10

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Lamorinda's historical societies join forces with a Caldecott Tunnel/Orinda blast-from-the-past event

... continued from Page A9

A 19th century photo of Alice Marsh explains that while married to William Camron, they purchased a Mexican land grant in 1876, and named the new subdivision Orinda Park after her favorite poet Katherine Fowler Philips (aka Matchless Orinda).

A late 1800s photo depicts four women in long white dresses walking down a dirt road. They are members of the James Miner family, who later inherited his property which today is known as Orinda's Sleepy Hollow.

Orinda Village was the dream of one man, E.I de Laveaga, who in 1921 began to create a community that included a general store, garage, riding stables, a swimming lake and country club. When the Depression hit, his fortune all but vanished, yet he managed to repay all of his debts more than 10 years later.

A train running on a trestle over Miner Road is depicted in an 1890s photo. It eventually crossed over what is now the 18th fairway of the Orinda Country Club. The train continued past Orinda Village toward Bryant's Corner dropping off picnickers.

One photo from 1937, shows an early Orinda library building surrounded by a sizable amount of snow on the ground; and a 1939 Orinda Union School class photo of first and second graders was taken amidst the rubble of a deteriorating building.

The late 1800s brought the drilling-for-oil fever to Orinda; the 1940s saw the movie craze come to town with the opening of the Orinda Theatre; and the 1960s saw the Cold War hysteria hit new heights with the building of bomb shelters.

To quote from Burns' Introduction page: "While landmarks and plaques may tell one story about a city, it is the people contained in

these pages – in the photographic journey that charts Orinda's unfolding evolution – who have the final word."

To purchase "Images of America: Building the Caldecott Tunnel" by Mary Solon and Mary McCosker, or "Images of America: Lafayette" by Mary McCosker and Mary Solon, visit: Lafayettehistory.org. To purchase "Images of America: Orinda" by Alison Burns, visit: Orindahistory.org. To purchase "Images of America: Moraga" by Susan K. Skilton, visit: Moragahistory.org.



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local bee expert writes enticing children's book



Photo provided

Local author and bee expert Melissa Edwards at a recent celebration of animals at the UC Botanical Garden, working with bees from the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association

By Diane Claytor

You won't find beehives, hive stands, honey extractors, veils or any beekeeper accessory in Melissa Edwards' Lafayette backyard. That's because Edwards, a talented landscape architect and self-taught bee expert, does not raise bees. But she is passionate about them and protecting them from extinction.

"People don't realize how important bees are in our daily lives," Edwards declares. "Without bees, we wouldn't have fruits or vegetables; there'd be no pumpkins, no cotton, no nuts." As she explains, bees pollinate flowers, bringing pollen from one flower to another. That, in turn, produces nuts or seeds that then grow into fruits and vegetables. "Literally," she continues, "if we didn't have bees we wouldn't have peaches or pears. We wouldn't have chocolate because the cacao bean is pollinated by bees."

Edwards hasn't always been a bee aficionado, although she has always been a nature lover and prides herself on being knowledgeable on what nature provides. Her desire to learn more about bees came 15 years ago when, as a landscape architect and mom

with two boys at Lafayette's Springhill Elementary School, she became deeply involved in developing and designing the school's outdoor classroom, which, she proudly says, really engages kids. "Studies have shown that when children are outside, they actually focus better," Edwards reports. While working on this project, she began researching all the elements of outdoor classrooms, including bees and their significance to so many things we don't even think about.

She learned so much that she, like most people, didn't know: there are over 20,000 native bee species in the world, 4,000 in the U.S., 1,600 in California and 79 whose native habitat is the East Bay; she also came to understand that the majority of people have a difficult time differentiating most bees from other flying insects.

As she was discovering new facts about bees and working on the outdoor classroom, Edwards created an interactive game geared to children: "Am I a Bee?" which had pictures of different insects and kids would be asked to decide which insect was actually one of the many species of bees. "The kids really loved it," Edwards recalls. She then had the idea of writing a children's

book, carrying over that fun learning experience.

Unfortunately, the book was put on hold as Edwards and her family relocated to Korea and then Singapore for her husband's job. Once back in Lafayette, she was able to return to her writing, resulting in "Can You See If I'm a Bee?" published last year.

Written in rhyme with colorful drawings by wildlife illustrator, Jonathan Woodward, the book describes what bees do and why they are important. Reviewers have said it's "beautifully written and illustrated," "a wonderful book for teaching kids about native bees," and "Ms. Edwards manages to make bee science fun while also being informative."

"What is a bee? Let's find out why they are so important to you and me!" the engaging book begins. "Pollen sticks to their hairy legs. Or sometimes their bellies – and even their heads," Edwards writes. She goes on to rhythmically describe a variety of bees, including the honeybee, bumblebee, mason bee and green sweat bee. "I'm a green sweat bee – what a strange name! I'm smaller than a honeybee and I'm also quite tame."

The book ends with a detailed appendix, geared to parents and teachers who can then share more information about the insects they have been reading about.

Edwards moved to Asia before Springhill's outdoor classroom was constructed. Her design included different elements and areas for kids, including a vegetable and herb garden, greenhouse, worm bins and, of course, plants that attract bees. She was extremely pleased when she visited recently and saw that most of her design and layout had been implemented. She's been told that the garden has been wonderful for the students.

Edwards still works as a landscape architect, doing mostly consultations for resi-

dential gardens. She lives half-time in Lafayette and the other half in Florida and has clients in both locations. She admits to encouraging her clients to install native plants, particularly in California because of our drought conditions. She also promotes building more outdoor classrooms and always encourages installing bee-friendly plants.

She continues to write children's books, all in rhyme but still in draft form, with en-

ting titles such as "The Little Bird Who Never Said a Word," "What Could It Be Under the Sea?" "What If the Sun Were Made of Pizza?" and "The Crabby Tabby." Her hope is to get these books published soon.

"Can You See If I'm a Bee?" is available on both Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites, as well as through Edwards' own site, melissagedwards.com.

Saint Mary's College music program features three festive concerts in December

Submitted by Ben Enos

The Saint Mary's College Music Program will wrap up the fall semester with several days of concerts from Dec. 1-4. Performances begin on Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. with the "One True Joy" Choir Concert in the SMC Chapel. This concert will feature Glee, Chamber and Jazz Singers and will share beloved classics by Lassus, Byrd, and Dello Joio and lesser known but fabulous pieces by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Carlos Chavéz, Buddy Johnson, Billie Holiday, André Thomas, and Zanaida Robles.

The not-to-be missed concert will also showcase Zoe McCray's new arrangement of Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts," holiday carol-singing, and soul-stirring jazz and sacred works by Bay Area composer, Greg Murai. Admission is free, but contributions are welcome to support the Choir.

On Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., the Chamber Players and

Concert Ensemble feature Ennio Marricone's "The Good the Bad and the Ugly," Astor Piazzola's "Oblivion," and original compositions and arrangements by Saint Mary's Music Faculty member Sam Reider at LeFevre Theatre. Ticket information is available via the SMC Performing Arts website (www.stmarys-ca.edu/music-concerts-Dec22).

Finally, on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. the Jazz Band will share its holiday spirit with a concert in LeFevre Theatre. It will feature a selection of jazz classics and then beloved holiday music by Bobby Timmons, José Feliciano, Irving Berlin, Billy Strayhorn, Mariah Carey and more. Ticket information for the show is also available via the SMC Performing Arts website.

Tickets: \$15 General Admission, \$8 for SMC Students, \$12 Staff/Faculty/ Non-SMC Students. Online sales only. For help with order or for more info, please contact Tara Sundy at (925) 631-4670 or tms8@stmarys-ca.edu.

Get ready for cookie season with these over-the-top Oreo Krispie Treats



Brown Butter Oreo Rice Krispies Treats

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Cookie season is coming and I have to admit, there's almost nothing better than a good old fashioned Rice Krispies Treat! This one, made with brown butter and Oreo cookie crumbs, is the perfect addition to your holiday cookie ex-

change. Rice Krispie Treats are super easy and quick to make and they store well, too, as long as you wrap them up in plastic wrap and place them in an airtight container.

This recipe can also be made with plain melted butter, but if you haven't used brown butter before, you will be to-

tally sold. The nutty taste and aroma of the butter is so indescribably delicious. While you are browning the butter, you might as well brown an extra stick of butter to have on hand for later. It's wonderful in cakes, sauces, over pasta, or on potatoes. I once made an entire wedding cake using brown butter! Once you brown the

butter, simply store any extra in a covered container in the refrigerator until you're ready to use it again. I've stored brown butter for a couple of months in the fridge.

If you don't care about the look of having a layer of Oreos in the middle and on top of the Rice Krispies Treats, you can simply chop the Oreo cookies

more coarsely and toss them right in with the melted butter, marshmallows and Rice Krispies when you make them. Then, just spread the whole batch out in your prepared pan. You can also just use broken up Oreos instead of finely ground in the middle and on top. There are so many options!

Brown Butter Oreo Rice Krispies Treats

INGREDIENTS

36 Oreo cookies (plus extra for garnish)
16 oz. mini marshmallows
6 cups Rice Krispies
4 oz. butter (8 tbsp. or 1 stick)
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS

Grease or spray an 8-inch square pan.

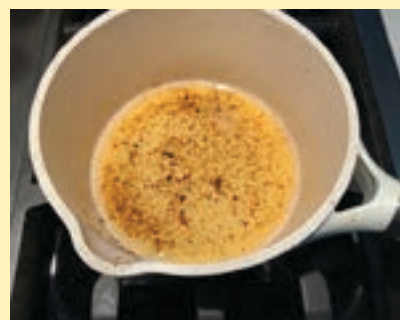
Place butter in a saucepan, preferably one with a light colored bottom so you can see the butter as it browns. Heat over medium-low for about 10 minutes, or until it begins to foam. It will slowly turn golden brown and you will see little crystals starting to form. Once perfectly browned, it will take on a rich, nutty smell. This will take anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes, but keep your eye on it, because you don't want to burn it. Using a light-colored pan will allow you to see when the color is just right. Divide the brown butter in half for the Oreo cookie filling and half for the cereal part of the cookie.

Using a food processor, process the Oreos until chunky or crumbly – your choice. Add half of the brown butter and the salt and mix to coat the crumbs well with the butter. Set aside.

Place the remaining brown butter in the bottom of a large pot and melt again if it's solidified since you browned it. Add the vanilla and marshmallows and cook over low heat, stirring all the while, until marshmallows are completely melted. Add Rice Krispies and toss until well-coated.

Working quickly so the mixture doesn't get too sticky, spread half of the Rice Krispies mixture into the bottom of the prepared pan. Press down with a greased off-set spatula or waxed paper to even it off. (You have to spray or grease the spatula or it will stick to the cookie mixture.)

Then, spread half of the Oreo cookie crumbs over the first layer of the marshmallow-cereal mixture and again press down firmly with the spatula. Repeat the process ending with the cookie crumbs on top. Garnish with one more Oreo cookie if you are so inclined!



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>



Looking Good in Lamorinda

Sprucing up for the holidays



Ear Curation by Lemonade.

Photo provided

By Moya Stone

Body Piercing is fast becoming a fashionable must have. Florence Pugh, who starred in Greta Gerwig's hit film "Little Women," was recently on the cover of Harper's Bazaar sporting a nose ring. Actors such as Zoë Kravitz and Demi Lovato regularly show off their latest looks on Instagram. Now piercing has come to Lafayette.

In November 2020 Becky Dill and Pablo Perelmuter opened Lemonade, a specialty piercing and fine jewelry boutique located in The Forge on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The married couple chose Lafayette for their first bricks and mortar venture because of its charm and location. "We love that Lafayette is both a quiet and accessible place in the Bay Area," says Dill. Dill and Perelmuter are piercing professionals

with over 20 years of experience. In addition to the couple's expertise, what sets Lemonade apart from other piercing businesses is their high-end jewelry offerings. "We love products made right here in California – not mass-produced overseas," says Dill. They carry only genuine stones set in gold, platinum, or implant grade titanium by fashionable brands such as Body Vision Los Angeles. Also, for those who may be hesitant about piercing it's good to know that Lemonade is Single-Use. "Single-Use means that along with not reusing needles we're also not reusing clamps, pins, or other tools to accomplish the piercing," Dill explains. "This not only makes the procedure safer for the consumer and ourselves, but it is much better for the environment." Lemonade is one of the few piercing studios that disposes of their tools in medical waste recycling.

Customers come to Lemonade from around the Bay Area and the most popular request is for Ear Curation, which is multiple piercings around the ear that create a certain look. "Ear curation appointments are not about receiving a bunch of piercings all at once," explains Dill. "They're more about helping the client build goals and create a path forward so that they can achieve the style of their dreams!"

Piercings are popular among youth and "mature" customers alike and Dill says that it's the unique self-expression that people desire. "People want to feel good, feel beautiful, and be empowered." She says that the reasons for piercing vary "but the days of piercing being exclusively for the punks or counter-culture has passed."

Lemonade offers "piercing parties" for groups of family and friends. Check the website www.lemonadepiercing.com or call the shop for more information and appointments, (925) 385-7117.

To show off ear curations or to go glam for the holidays, how about an updo? Orinda Beauty Supplies and Beauty Supplies Plus in Lafayette both have a selection of barrettes, combs, headbands, and other hair accessories to add a bit of sparkle to any holiday hair-

style.

Did you know that November is Picture Book Month? Books make great holiday gifts. Katja Spitzer's new illustrated book, "Hair: From Moptops to Mohicans, Afros to Cornrows" (Prestel Press) is the most delightful read for kids and adults too. Hair is complicated, but Ms. Spitzer has approached the subject head on, discussing the history of hair and hairstyles from various cultures. The text is straight forward, aimed at young readers 5-7, and the fun color-saturated illustrations are appealing to all ages. I truly enjoyed this book for the information, the illustrations, and the celebration of all hair types and styles.

Winter temps have arrived, and Lafayette fashion stylist Francie Low says that wide leg pants in patterns, such as plaid or herringbone, are a hot choice for both warmth and style. "Pair with a fitted turtleneck sweater for a classic slimming look," she advises. Fair Isle sweaters are all the rage as are the Western boot. "Don't be afraid to wear black denim with ivory booties," she says. "It's a cool contrasting look." We are really going wild for the holidays this year. Low says it's all about sequin tops and bottoms, adorned with ostrich feathers. Looking for something more conservative? Choose a velvet blazer in green, maroon, or black. For more fashion advice follow Low on IG. #ohsofancyfrancie.

Stay warm and go forth in holiday style! Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.



"Hair" by Katja Spitzer, Prestel Publishing.

Lamorinda holiday events to add sparkle to the season



Santa's visit to Lafayette's Plaza Park in 2021

Photo J. Wake

By Sora O'Doherty and Jennifer Wake

With Thanksgiving soon to be a distant memory, holiday festivities are just around the corner for Lamorinda residents looking to mingle.

The popular holiday event, "It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" holiday celebration will return on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Lafayette Plaza Park. Designed as a time to share holiday cheer, this free, fun, family-friendly celebration, presented by the Lafayette Chamber and sponsored by Branagh Development and the Dana Green Team, includes Santa sightings, free train rides on the Lafayette Express, official holiday tree lighting ceremony, one-of-a-kind

photo ops, live musical entertainment, kid's crafts, holiday treats and more! Santa arrives on Lafayette's first fire truck, Old Betsy, thanks to the Lafayette Historical Society and helpers at approximately 5 p.m. He will parade along Golden Gate Way from the Lafayette Library to Lafayette Plaza Park. For more information, visit lafayettechamber.org

Residents can also gather for the annual tree lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 at Moraga Commons Park. The tree is scheduled to be lit at 7 p.m., and the event will include a visit from Santa, cookies and cocoa as well as holiday music.

If your holiday tradition includes magical nutcrackers and swirling white swans, the Orinda Ballet Academy will once again present "A Sweet Dream Nutcracker" this year. Celebrate the joy of the season with family and friends with this treasured holiday ballet. The ballet will feature professional guest artists Michael Wells and Julia Meister and the students of Orinda Ballet Academy. There will be evening performances at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, with matinees on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th at 1:30 p.m.

The show will take place in the Orinda Library Auditorium at 26 Orinda Way. Tickets are required for all ages (2+); masks are optional. Advance ticket prices are \$23 for children 2-12 and \$25 for 13 to adults. Tickets may also be available at the door for \$25 for both children and adults.

Online tickets are available through Eventbrite.com. Day of Show Ticket Sales will be available until 45 minutes prior to show time. Sales at the door are limited to cash & checks only. For more infor-

mation: www.orindaballetacademy.com/2022-nutcracker.html

The city of Orinda is also planning its free Inaugural Holiday Tree Lighting Event on Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Orinda Community Center Park, located at 28 Orinda Way. This event is held in conjunction with the community's inaugural Gingerbread House Making Contest, created and sponsored by the Tabor Sister City Foundation. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include: announcements and viewing of Gingerbread House Contest winners, performance by the Orinda Intermediate School Choir, Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony, refreshments, Orinda PD "Stuff a Cruiser" Toy Drive, kids' activities, photo opportunities and more.

Questions? Contact Orinda Parks and Rec at OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org or call (925) 254-2445.

Finally, the annual lighting of the Hospice Tree of Lights in Orinda will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m. The tree is located in Village Square at 31 Orinda Way. Moraga's Tree of Lights is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive. The events will be in person, but also live-streamed via Zoom.

These ceremonies set aside time for family and friends to honor their loved ones through the symbolism of light and the reading of names. To ensure that your loved one's name is read, Hospice requests that you sign up at least seven days in advance if mailed or two days in advance via online or telephone.

For further information, see <https://hospice.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/2022TreeofLights/tabid/1269429/Default.aspx>

Lions and Leo Club support Moraga Education Foundation



Photo provided

From left: Principal Pete Alvarez, Teacher/Advisor Kathrine Guy, Leo president Thomas Colpo, Leo treasurer Ava Jacuzzi, vice president Grant Roesch

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

The Campolindo Leo Club participated in several fundraisers jointly with the Moraga Lions Club this school year which resulted in a donation of \$500 to the Moraga Education Foundation. Leo

Club President Thomas Colpo, together with Leo Club officers Ava Jacuzzi and Grant Roesch presented a check for \$500 on Nov. 2 to Campolindo Principal Pete Alvarez in the classroom of teacher/advisor Katherine Guy. This is the 16th year that the Leo Club has made a substantial donation to MEF.

Kiwanis See's Candy fundraiser offers sweet way to support the community



Photo Chris McGuffin

Moraga Mayor Steve Woehleke, Moraga Chamber of Commerce Board Member Larry Tessler, Kiwanis Club President Gloria Eive, Moraga Park Foundation President Clay Serrahn, County District 2 Field Representative Jill Ray, Moraga Police Chief Jon King, and Kiwanis Club Vice President Graig Crossley celebrated the store opening Nov. 18 at the Rheem Shopping Center.

Submitted by Stan Holcenberg

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley has been selling See's candy during the holiday season every year since 2010, and their fundraiser store opened again on Nov. 18 in the Rheem Shopping Center near CVS.

Kiwanis is all about charities, youth organizations and families in need, and what better way to support the community, give a helping hand to those in need, and to spread the cheer of See's candy than by shopping at their store.

The store will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 23. The store offers the same delicious and premium assortment of See's candies

at See's retail prices, with 100% of the net proceeds going to worthy local charities and organizations that benefit the community. There is easy parking, wrapping, and delivery options, and credit cards are accepted.

Thanks to the generous support of the community members, over the past three years the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley has donated over \$170,000 to local organizations. Please join Kiwanis once again, to both give to our community and to share the magic of See's candies during the holidays. What could be sweeter.

For more information about the See's store, who Kiwanis serves, and an option to order candy online through Dec. 2, visit www.moragavalleykiwanis.org

'Holiday Giving Tree' fundraiser helps cats get much-needed care

Submitted by Billie Cummings

Community Concern for Cats, which serves Lamorinda residents, is hosting its annual "Holiday Giving Tree" fundraiser through Dec. 31 at its upscale thrift store, Rescued Treasures, 1270 Newell Ave. in Walnut Creek in the San Miguel Shopping Center. All the proceeds will go toward life-saving medical procedures, including spay and neuter, for homeless and abandoned cats and kittens in local neighborhoods, and adoption services.

This is the eighth year that CC4C has held its successful "Holiday Giving Tree." In 2017 CC4C was able to set up its own hospital in Clayton to help even more cats and last year CC4C moved into its own adoption site in Walnut Creek to adopt out kittens safely. Last year they adopted out 916 kittens and cats to loving homes.

How does the "Holiday Giving Tree" work? Buy an ornament from the little tree on the CC4C checkout counter, add your name or your pet's name to the ornament, then hang it on the big tree in the window.

You can also donate online at communityconcernforcats.org or send a check directly to the organization (PO Box 3795, W.C. 94598). "But the most enjoyable way to show your compassion for homeless cats is to go into our Rescued Treasures thrift store, buy an ornament, and do some shopping! We have many one-of-a-kind items that you will surely love and will make great hol-



Photo provided

Jill Ching, from Orinda helps Skylar to wake up in the recovery room at Community Concern for Cats Clayton hospital.

iday gifts," says President Gemma Boyd.

The donations will go toward vaccinations, microchipping, deworming, healing antibiotics and other medicines, flea protection, leukemia/FIV tests, doctor care, surgeries for spay and neuter, and other major medical surgeries and all the diagnostic testing leading up to these procedures. CC4C spayed and neutered 1,864 cats last year, 2021 and treated 630 cats with major illness or injury.

Rescued Treasures thrift store hours: Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays noon to 4 p.m. For information call: (925) 937-3201.

Season of Giving

Lamorinda Weekly offers free charitable giving announcements for local nonprofits

As we approach Thanksgiving, we should all be grateful for one of the best things about Lamorinda – its strong volunteer base within local nonprofit organizations that raise much needed funds to benefit the community. Lamorinda Weekly each year offers an opportunity for these nonprofits to promote their charitable giving opportunities. If your nonprofit is seeking donations, send a brief 100-word summary of your organization and charitable drive to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com (include "Season of Giving" in the subject line). Season of Giving announcements will begin on Dec. 7 and continue through Dec. 21 (deadline for submissions is Nov. 30).

In Memory

Leonard Oliver Walde, Jr.

May 13, 1931 – Nov. 13, 2022



Leonard Oliver Walde, Jr., born May 13, 1931, the beloved husband of Mary Jane Walde, passed away peacefully in his home in Rancho Mirage, California Nov. 13, 2022. He was the loving father of his only son, Mark Leonard Walde, and his granddaughters Amanda Kaye Anderson and Alyssa Ann Walde, and his great grandchildren, Thatcher Milton and Mac Leonard Anderson with their father Todd, and daughter In Law Debbie Ann Walde.

Leonard was born in New Berlin New York and was the only son along with his three sisters of his father Leonard Oliver Walde Sr., and Mother Laura Walde. He joins his parents and sisters Efe and Jacquelin in heaven. His youngest sister Sue resides in Culebra, Puerto Rico.

Leonard was honorably discharged from the Army after serving with the Kryptonics Unit in Germany during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. He attended University of Rhode Island in 1950 and graduated with a BS in Industrial Engineering in 1955 after his service while meeting his wife Mary Jane whom he married in 1956. Leonard received his MBA from Saint Mary's College in Moraga in the 1970's and served as a Professor of Creative Problem Solving at John F. Kennedy University, in Orinda.

Leonard was an environmentalist, forming his company Sigma Energy Enterprises, after his time at Safeway in Oakland. During his later years, he was an avid gardener, growing champion roses and vegetables on his hillside garden in Orinda. He was also a serious health advocate, striving to avoid pharmaceuticals while pursuing natural remedies whenever possible.

Leonard was proud of Orinda, residing in the home they built on Spring Road for over 60 years. He was a loving family man, mentor and friend to many in the East Bay Area. He will be greatly missed by all.

Leonard's Military Honors Service will be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 1 at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, California.

In Memory

Stephen Soulé Arnon

Oct. 14, 1946 – Aug. 17, 2022



Dr. Stephen Soulé Arnon of Orinda died peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 17, at age 75, while on a hiking trip with longtime friends in Wyoming. A brilliant scientist and pioneer in infectious disease research, he spent his entire 45-year career as head of the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program at the California Department of Public Health, now in Richmond. His work has saved the lives of thousands of babies in California and around the world.

Steve was born in Oakland on Oct. 14, 1946, the third of five children. His father Daniel I. Arnon was an eminent professor in what is now the Plant & Microbial Biology Department at UC Berkeley, and his mother was a librarian and homemaker. After finishing high school in Berkeley and Carmel, Steve's adventurous spirit led him eastwards to Harvard, where he received his AB (1968), his MPH (1972), and his MD (1973).

In 1976, Steve and his colleagues identified a rare new form of botulism which occurs only in babies under one year of age, now called "infant botulism," caused when the spores of the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* are accidentally swallowed by an infant, germinate, and produce botulinum toxin in the intestine. The illness can be severe, leading to paralysis, long stays in the ICU, and sometimes death.

Steve devoted his entire career to studying all aspects of infant botulism, working with his team to create the world's only licensed medicine for this disease, a not-for-profit drug that he named BabyBIG®. Treatment with BabyBIG® shortens the average patient's hospital stay by almost one month; since first introduction in 1992, in total more than a century of hospital stay has been avoided through its use.

Steve possessed an abiding love of the wilderness and the mountains and was an ardent conservationist. In the 1990s, he helped save 110 acres in Orinda which became the Orinda Oaks Open Space Preserve. An avid mountaineer, he climbed all the 14,000-foot peaks in California and several in the Western United States. One ascent he was most proud of was Mount St. Elias, the second-highest peak in both Canada and the United States. Not every climb went without a hitch, however—he once got trapped with four others by a blizzard on New Zealand's Mt. Cook/Aoraki. The group was forced to bivouac in an icy crevasse for a week and was rescued by helicopter.

Steve is survived by his wife Joyce of 37 years and his children Eric and Christina. They, along with innumerable relatives, friends, and medical and scientific colleagues, will miss him greatly.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Nature Conservancy.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

Art

Art show at Orinda Books. November features the paintings of Lisa Gunn. Lisa has long had a prominent artistic presence in Orinda. Her style is a "California Impressionism" involving plain air, landscapes, and abstracts. She notes "I am hoping that people will connect with my painting and find some attachment that speaks to them whether it be through color, composition or some thread of energy transmitting from one human to another." Visit the Artist of the Month at www.orindabooks.com/events.

Annual 57th Artful Giving exhibition at Valley Art Gallery, which continues to Dec. 31, includes a wide variety of beautifully crafted ceramics, wood and glass pieces, original designer jewelry, fiber arts, small paintings, and many other unique, one-of-a-kind gift items all handcrafted by our talented East Bay artisans. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

Music

Get ready for some holiday music! "Bells and Noels" will

help you ring in the holiday season with good cheer! Join us on either Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek, to purchase advance tickets go to diablowomenschorale.org.

The Saint Mary's College Music Program will wrap up the fall semester with several days of concerts from Dec. 1 - 4. All shows are open to the public, and ticket information is available by visiting www.stmarys-ca.edu/music-concerts-Dec22. LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$8 for SMC students, \$12 staff/faculty/ non-SMC students. Online sales only.

Diablo Women's Chorale holiday concerts: Dec. 10, 3 p.m. or Dec. 11, 3 p.m. at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave. in Walnut Creek. Pre-concert tickets are at a discounted price of \$28 online. Ticket prices at the door on the day of the concert are \$33 for adults and \$18 for students. www.diablowomenschorale.org.

Cantare's annual holiday concert Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30

p.m. Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek. Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, 2619 Broadway, Oakland. Cantare, an Oakland-based nonprofit community choral organization, presents its annual December Holiday Concert. Featuring the adult Chorale and Chamber Ensemble and student singers of Nova and Youth Honor Choirs, accompanied by full orchestra and organ; directed by David Morales and Julie Haydon. General admission: \$40, seniors: \$30, students: \$10. www.cantareconvivo.org.

Theatre

Town Hall Theatre Company presents: "Cinderella: A Fairytale" directed by Sequoia Schirmer, written by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck. Dec. 3-18. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$25-\$40. Dec. 17 is Pay-What-You-Can.

Literature

Orinda Books Pat's Book Club will read and discuss on Thursday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. "Matrix" by Lauren Groff. All are welcome. Orinda Books 276 Village Square, Orinda.

www.orindabooks.com, (925) 254-7606

Other

Hospice East Bay is proud to be celebrating its 36th annual Tree of Lights. Tree of Lights ceremonies will begin Nov. 6 and run through Dec. 11. Orinda, Saturday, Dec. 3, 4:30 p.m. at 31 Orinda Way; Moraga, Sunday, Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m. at Moraga Country Club.

Mocktails & Cocktails, Sunday, Nov. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. Join those who love art, literature, music and everything in between at The Coop, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, from 3 to 5 p.m. Time for some conversation about your creative journey with friends of the Lamorinda Arts Council. Look for our framed Picasso-esque poster of a crazy art lady - that's us! No host bar. Just show up. Questions? Email literary@lamorindaarts.org.

The 7th annual Bright Ideas Film Festival will be on Friday, Dec. 2, 7-10 p.m. at the Orinda Theater. We are excited to host a showcase of short films accompanied by a Q&A with the filmmakers. Bright Ideas was created to give students and filmmakers a place to show-

case their hard work with family, friends, and others who appreciate the art of filmmaking. Tickets: \$10, www.orindamovies.com or at the door.

Saint Mary's Business School is inviting the community to listen to speaker Matt Rogers, who served as the Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of Energy. He will be discussing Realistic Pathways to Net Zero, a timely discussion as we enter this new realities of climate change in our world. Dec. 7, 6-7 p.m., De La Salle Hall, Saint Mary's College, Moraga.

Confronting Antisemitism, Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Temple Isaiah Social Hall. Anti-Defamation League Regional Director Seth Brysk will tackle the current moment in antisemitism from high profile incidents to what is happening more locally in our community. He will also discuss tools we can all use to confront antisemitism as we encounter it in our own lives. This event is free and open to the public. 945 Risa Road, Lafayette.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Correction: In the Nov. 9 "Moraga Garden Club spreads blooms" story, Susan Sperry listed in the caption should have been listed as S. Sperry. We apologize for the error.


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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte and Campolindo make it to NorCal Tournament



Charlie Eng



Jackson Cherry



Patrick Stice

Photos Ann Murphy, taken while playing St Francis

By Jon Kingdon

Concluding their season with a 16-12 record, the Miramonte boys water polo team had a lot to hang their hats on. Following a 16-11 record last season which concluded with the Matadors falling to Sacred Heart Prep in the NorCal finals, history repeated itself, to a degree, with Miramonte losing to Sacred Heart Prep again though this time in the semifinals by a score of 12-8.

Miramonte earned a 4th seed in the NorCal tournament after making to the finals of the North Coast Sectional tournament but coming up short against De La Salle 12-8. Coach Lincoln Haley was disappointed in the loss but acknowledged the play of De La Salle. "It was good to make it to the NCS final but for us, we always have the same goal which is to win the NCS," Haley said. "De La Salle is an incredible team with a great staff so we knew going in it was going to be a battle and it was tough the entire game."

Just three days later, Miramonte took on St. Francis in their opening NorCal match and won the match 12-9. "There was no hangover from the De La Salle loss and we were even

down a couple of players," said Coach John Nash. "We called upon a lot of our freshmen, Tristan Tucker, Jackson Cherry and Brock Bliss, and even asked seniors Luke Lewis and Matteo Petty to play bigger minutes."

It was an offense that was in sync and performing well. "When we're playing at our best, we're sharing the ball," Nash said. "We don't have one guy that will score most of our goals so we are really team oriented with the guys setting up each other."

The defense was led by senior goalie Addison Owensby who was dominant against De La Salle and St. Francis. "Addison really stepped up and played one of his best games of the year against St. Francis with 11 saves," Nash said. "He really saw the ball and communicated well and really anchored the defense."

It was a team effort all season on defense for Miramonte. "We had three shutdown defenders with Petty, Oliver Sherwood and Grant Kurtz," Nash said. "Others who were great at communicating were Charlie Eng and Brian Edelen. We really evolved into an outstanding defensive team."

The success of the team was

set early by traveling down to Southern California and playing against some of their top teams.

"We returned a much better team and it gave us a lot of confidence playing twice against a team like Newport Harbor who is the No. 1 ranked team in the nation, losing the second time 12-6," Nash said. "The experience made us a better team for sure."

Campolindo

Despite a 9-14 record in the regular season, Campolindo received the 5th seed in the NCS tournament, defeating Northridge in the first round 9-5 before losing to De La Salle in the semifinals 16-8.

Once again, the NorCal committee took into account the number of games that the Cougars played in Southern California and also their 7-2 division record with both of the losses coming against Miramonte so they were given the No. 2 seed in Division II.

"We front loaded a lot of our tournaments and were not as prepared for some of those games as well as we could have been and in many of those games we had leads in the fourth quarter but weren't together enough to close out games that were winnable,"

Coach Darren Schroeder said. "We would like to have competed in the Division I level since we had beaten some Division I teams during the season," Schroeder said. "The upside is that in playing in Division 2 with a high seed, we had the opportunity to play three games."

It ended at two games with Campolindo defeating Del Oro in the first round 12-6 and coming up painfully short against the third seeded San Ramon Valley 9-8 in the second round.

Campolindo, like so many of the teams actually would take more satisfaction in winning the NCS over the NorCal tournament. "The NCS tournament is like the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) where everyone gets fired up to compete there," Schroeder said. "NorCal is like the County swimming tournament which follows the OMPA and for many it just extends your season unless you truly have an opportunity to play three games and come out on top."

With five senior starters graduating this year, there are going to be a number of opportunities for people to step into next season. "We're going to miss those players because they

have been an integral part of the team this season," Schroeder said. "Like Grant Roesch, who has committed to Santa Clara, Thomas Colpo and Reid Thorson who has been a monster in the center."

Sophomores Hayden O'Hare, Garrett Chivers and Dylan King were also big contributors.

Led by junior goalie Joey Cecchin, the defense was a key in the team's success. "We focused most of our season on defense and it really served us well," Schroeder said. "We got better and better as our defense evolved and our players learned our schemes and systems which included our counter attack defense. Where we had been giving up counter-attack goals early in the year, we did not give up a single counter-attack goal in the second half of the season. Our offense came from our defense and they evolved as well."

Schroeder is counting on the younger players on the team to step up next year. "We pulled up three of our JV players for the post season - Lincoln Sovikk, Jack Elder and Sam Storrs," Schroeder said. "We're very excited about how they will contribute to the team next season."

Miramonte concludes second undefeated season with NorCal victory



Miramonte players, coaches and parents

Photo Ann Murphy

By Jon Kingdon

Miramonte girls water polo extended two streaks, their second consecutive NorCal championship along with their second straight North Coast Sectional

tournament a week earlier. The Matadors have now won 67 straight matches (56 under coach John Roemer).

Miramonte's championship game against the second seeded Soquel High School was un-

characteristically close at the half with Miramonte leading 6-5, the closest halftime score Miramonte had seen all season.

"We were a little hyped up in the first half which took us a bit out of our rhythm," Roemer

said. "I just told them to do what we're supposed to, and we let our foundational movement and offense to take over the game."

Miramonte, led by Meghan McAninch's five goals in the game, outscored Soquel 5-0 in the third period and by 5-3 in the fourth to make the final score 16-8. As it has been all season, movement was the key for Roemer's offense.

"We don't run a typical center-based offense but one where we continually move which generates more ejections by the other team and when we ran that offense this season, it was the best I've ever seen it run," Roemer said. "Today we had the most ejections by our opponent in any game this season."

There were four seniors (Lucy Berkman-Harvard, Dania Innis-UCLA, Allie Lurie-Princeton, and McAninch-USC) who lettered all four years for the Matadors, battling through the pandemic to conclude their careers with championships

and a career won loss record of 87-6.

"Having a shortened COVID season made me appreciate all of the traditions at Miramonte," Lurie said. "Even with some new players every year, we were always a family. This is the most unselfish team I've ever been a part of and the way we played for each other just brought so much fun and life to the game."

Innis spoke about how many of them started playing together when they were 12 and how special the victory today was to her. "The second championship is a little different because we're seniors," Innis said. "It's amazing to be able to carry this tradition of winning at Miramonte. Coach Roemer brought this offense which really showcased all of our skills as a team and has helped us grow as individuals and players."

Roemer was quick to share the credit for the team's success to the character of his players.

... continued on Page C2

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Girls water polo

... continued from Page C1

"These girls are extremely motivated in the pool and in their academics," Roemer said. "They have really high self-esteem and have not had any behavioral issues or drama. It's the chemistry that is phenomenal. The tradition that was here prior to my arrival was having fun and keeping the players motivated."

In the end, Roemer knew not to take for granted the talent of this team and the seniors who led the way. "Their legacy is going to last a long time," Roemer said. "I don't think there's going to be a team like this, with this much talent at one time for quite a while."

The Lamorinda girls water polo teams do not lack for respect from the powers that be. In the seedings for the Open Division North Coast Section championships, the top seed in order were Miramonte (1), Campolindo (2) and Acalanes (3) and with all qualifying for the NorCal Tournament, the respective rankings were 1-3-5.

Campolindo

With a 17-10 record, Campolindo coach Kim Everist had a lot to celebrate. "I feel good about our season," Everist said. "An outsider might look at our final record and not be overly impressed but of our 10 losses, five games against the undefeated No. 1 team (Miramonte), one to the No. 2 team (Soquel), two to the No. 4 team, along with two wins (Acalanes) and two to the No. 7 team along with two wins (Sacred Heart Prep). We also won the Acalanes tournament and finished third at Arroyo Grande and in the NorCal tournament."

After a road victory over Sacred Heart Prep, the Cougars faced Miramonte in the NorCal semi-finals and matched them for a time early in the game,

eventually losing 18-9. "Playing a team with such a storied program, we made the best of a tough situation, and our girls had a great time," Everist said. "We started well but you just can't make mistakes against them, and the second quarter got away from us, but we had a lot of fun in the second half. After the game, the whole team and their parents met at the Canyon Club and spirits were really high."

Campolindo is losing four seniors to graduation, goalie Shayne Clancy, Kaia Levenfeld, Ava Jacuzzi, and Lauren Lacour, all of whom were named captains.

"They are a very special senior class," Everist said. "Each brought a different strength to the team, and they worked together cohesively, leaving a great legacy behind and making it very special for the girls who are returning. Shayne, who shared time with freshman Sydney Kring in the goal, really supported her. She brought an incredible heart and got something out of everyone which will be something for Sydney to aspire to."

Everist is already optimistic about next year's team. "I'm looking forward to seeing how our seniors (Grace Gafni, Ana Pieper, and London Menard) grow, develop, and conquer lots of things over the next nine months in preparation for 2023. "We have a lot of young players on the team that have a great time training and playing and really like each other and that seals the whole thing. Our future is going to be very bright."

Everist coached a number of the girls on the Miramonte team and acknowledged the seniors on that team. "I'm so proud of the Miramonte team as most of their girls are kids that we coached at Lamorinda,"

Everist said. "This senior group put their minds to it when they were about 12 and saw it all the way through high school and it was fun to watch them from the outside."

Acalanes

For Acalanes coach Misha Buchel, this year's 21-8 season was "Absolutely a successful season. At the start of the season, we did not know how good we would be and how we would grow through the season, and I'll take finishing in the top three any time."

With so many standouts having graduated last year, this team had its own unique character. "What I really liked about our team was that we were so much more balanced and how it redeveloped itself with some internal growth and with the new arrivals fitting in perfectly," Buchel said. "That's what I found most satisfying about the team. Even with (freshman) Ella Del Rosario our leading scorer (85 goals), the whole focus of the team was not

around her, it was more team play and everyone felt more involved and feeling like they were contributing."

Despite having to play in such a competitive league, Buchel acknowledges how unique this area is. "It really is amazing that our little community of Lamorinda and our half of the league is, on a pretty consistent basis, consistently three of the top teams in the entire northern region," Buchel said.

With a core of graduating seniors that saw the varsity go undefeated their freshman season, it was important to Buchel that they not bear the burden of someone else's success. "They began their careers with a team that was the best, to being on a team that was in the mix without any type of frustration," Buchel said. "We made it clear to the girls that they had to chart their own path and make sure that they were playing for themselves and their teammates as hard as they could and

they always played with joy, passion, and fight. They were a great group to coach, and I will really miss them. They let our underclassman know that this is not a three-month season, and they have to put in the work like swimming with the high school team and playing outside to improve their game."

If there is one question that Buchel needs to answer, it's who will be replacing all-star goalie Audrey Cox. "That is what the next nine months are going to bring," Buchel said. "Whether someone falls from the sky or someone chooses to pursue that position. The number one rule of playing goalie is that you have to want to play goalie and that is our number one goal to sort out for next year."

With Del Rosario, Wendy Heffelfinger, Brooklyn Pomp, Sophie Hendrickson and Levand Koopah, Buchel will approach next season with great optimism.

MOL 7th grade 2022 Super Bowl champions



Submitted by Melissa O'Brien

The 7th grade Stampedeers marched to victory defeating the first-place Jets 26-14 in the MOL Super Bowl. Led by Blake Frechman, the Stampedeers running game proved unstoppable. The running game opened up the passing attack with scores from Alec Schwarz and Oliver Ruotsi-Falk. The defense had key stops by Jake O'Brien, Cade Winter, and Kirin Kester.

Photo provided

First row, from left: Alec Schwarz, Jake O'Brien, Rocco Ottobre, Cade Winter, Austin Whitney, Blake Frechman; second row: coach Steve O'Brien, Oliver Ruotsi-Falk, Kirin Kester, Tomas Gavidia, Niko "Lucky Charms" Drury, coach Carl Bergez; not pictured: Dylan Hamilton

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 20 Wednesday, November 23, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

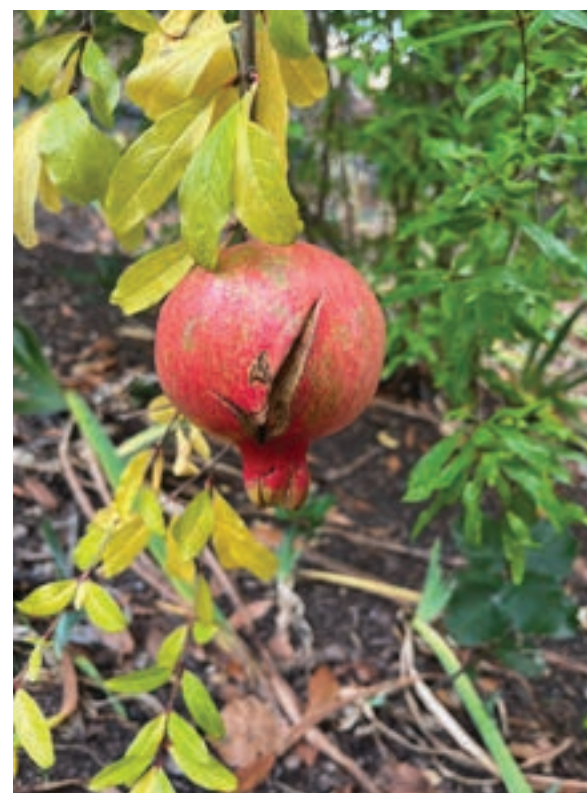
Planting peace



Photos Cynthia Brian
A glut of gaga gourds and petite pumpkins.



Pretty Pistache trees light up fall at local parks.



Harvest red or pomegranates that are splitting to enjoy for the holidays.

By Cynthia Brian

“Landscapes move us in a manner more analogous to the action of music than to anything else. Gradually and silently the charm carries over us: the beauty has entered our souls we know not exactly when and how.” ~ Frederick Law Olmstead

It was in the 1860s that America’s pioneer landscape architect brought calming, pastoral public areas to urban dwellers with

his design of New York’s Central Park. Throughout his life, Frederick Law Olmstead, designed 100 public parks and recreation grounds and his successor firm has seen the development of over 1,090 parkway systems over the last 100 years. With all his parks, he planted peace and tranquility for posterity.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, it is finally feeling like autumn with cooler and crisper air, turning leaves, and stressless strolls through bucolic parks. Our climate is changing and as gardeners we struggle to

keep pace.

November is the best time to begin planting spring-blooming bulbs. I picked my first bouquet of narcissi of the season on Nov. 1 before I had even begun planting any other bulbs. Once the ground chills to about 55 degrees, start the process of planting naturalizing narcissi as well as other bulbs in well-drained sandy loam where they’ll receive at least six hours of sunlight daily.

... continued on Page D12



Happy Thanksgiving

COOK LIKE A CHEF & ENTERTAIN LIKE A QUEEN

Orinda | 7 Evans Place | 3BD | 2.5BA | \$2,275,000

One look at the architectural detailing and gorgeous amenities from custom Italian cabinetry and imported ceramic tile to walnut hardwood floors and walls of windows will leave you breathless at this spectacular single-level home tucked in the hills of Orinda.

The expanded gourmet kitchen design leaves little to be desired. It features a soaring vaulted ceiling with a trio of skylights and a double-wide Andersen sliding glass door that opens to create a seamless flow to an outdoor dining venue and gas firepit. The kitchen also features custom Scavolini Italian cabinetry with LED underlighting and extra deep drawers, Italian ceramic flooring, three and a half-inch thick counters, dual oven

Wolf range, Wolf hood with warming lights, a SubZero built-in refrigerator with two freezer drawers, two Meile stainless steel lined dishwashers, and two SubZero under-counter refrigerator drawers.

Enjoy California's quintessential indoor/outdoor lifestyle and slide open walls of windows to fabulous outdoor spaces primed to create the ultimate outdoor entertaining mecca and backyard sanctuary on its generous .65-acre corner lot.



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	12	\$835,000	\$5,600,000
MORAGA	9	\$595,000	\$3,050,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,400,000	\$2,700,000

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

- 21 Beaumont Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 3455 Freeman Road, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 4107 Happy Valley Road, \$5,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 5692 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-14-22, Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 01-09-02
- 12 Hidden Valley Road, \$2,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2926 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 10-11-22
- 1038 Leland Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1228 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$905,000, 07-05-17
- 3350 South Lucille Lane, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 1607 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-03-22, Previous Sale: \$897,000, 07-05-06
- 660 Moraga Road, \$835,000, 5 Bdrms, 2474 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-06-22
- 3279 Mt Diablo Court #16, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$840,000, 04-01-21
- 1561 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-06-22
- 1842 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,880,000, 4 Bdrms, 1691 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-12-22, Previous Sale: \$349,000, 11-18-98
- 3420 Shangri La Road, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 3342 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-07-22
- 3338 Sweet Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1556 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-07-22, Previous Sale: \$719,000, 07-01-08

MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #C, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-11-22, Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-13-17
- 1472 Camino Peral #A, \$620,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-11-22, Previous Sale: \$679,000, 05-10-22
- 12 Corte La Rado, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2954 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 11-04-19
- 8 Corte Pinto, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-03-22
- 2121 Donald Drive #8, \$615,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-04-22, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 04-12-16
- 343 Fernwood Drive, \$1,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 2447 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-07-22
- 1 Hastings Court, \$3,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3620 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-05-22, Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 11-18-21
- 280 Scofield Drive, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1623 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-04-22
- 13 Williams Drive, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 10-06-22, Previous Sale: \$895,000, 07-05-02

ORINDA

- 30 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$1,168,000, 03-09-05
- 40 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-04-22, Previous Sale: \$625,000, 03-20-12
- 224 La Espiral, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-03-22, Previous Sale: \$1,508,000, 08-10-15
- 1 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1469 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-14-22
- 107 Moraga Way, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-13-22, Previous Sale: \$710,000, 06-24-13

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Learning to tap into the wonder of the natural world

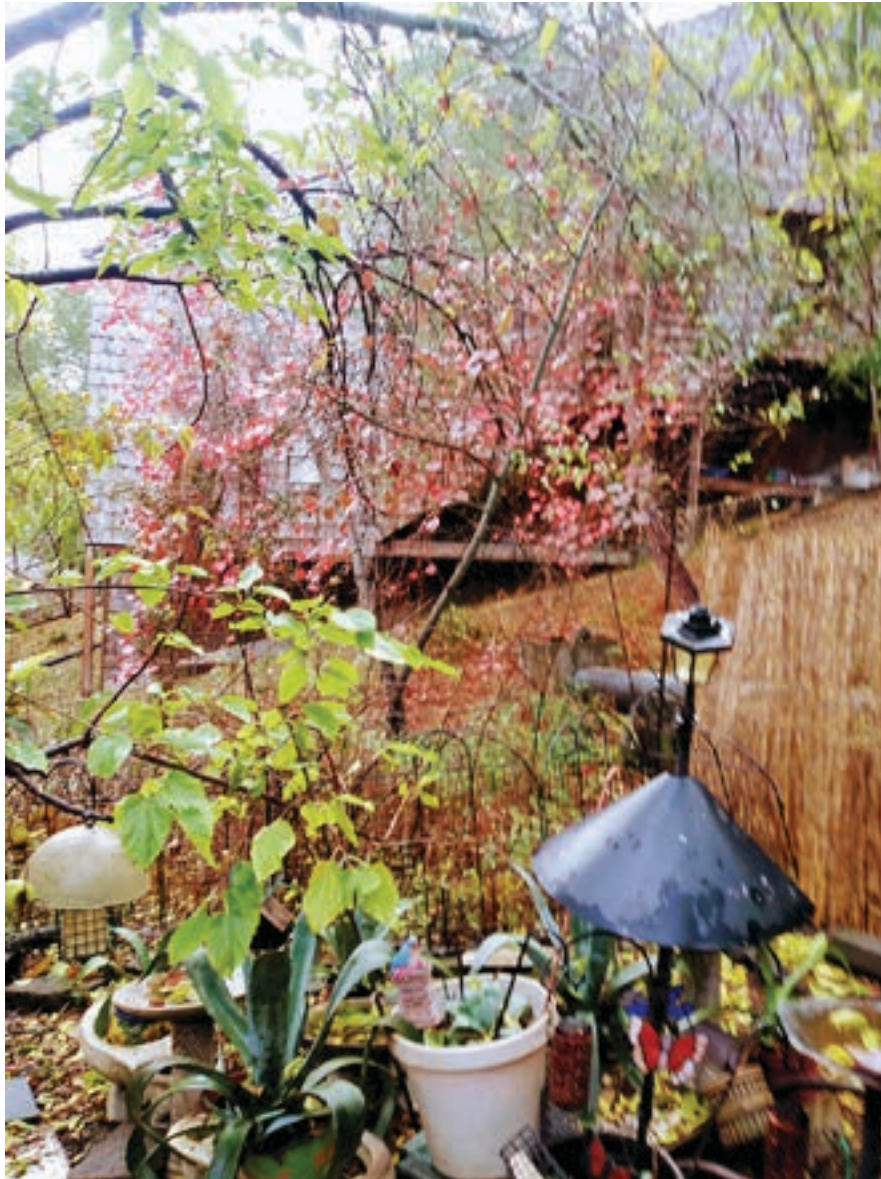


Photo Toris Jaeger

By Toris Jaeger

The Indigenous people of the Earth have learned to live in harmony with nature. This means following nature's lead. They developed technologies for finding plants and animals to benefit their lives but always made sure there was plenty for the future.

They lived in nature and nature provided all.

Other cultures viewed nature differently. It was seen as something to use and change to meet their demands. They cut down the forests filled in the wetlands and sucked up the water to plant crops.

This was the beginning of Climate Change.

From a very early age I valued being outside in nature. I made the birds, insects, mice, rats and rattle snakes my friends. I have always found it difficult to express this connection in words.

Recently, two high school students gave me the book, "The Invention of Nature, Alexander Von Humboldt's New World," by Andrea Wulf. Humboldt was born in 1769 and died in 1859.

Humboldt and his contemporaries – Goethe, Thomas Jefferson, Darwin, Thoreau, March, Haeckel and Muir – and those who were inspired by him and his books, "A Personal Narrative" and his final work, "Cosmos," were some that went on to create great works themselves. They viewed nature as very powerful and connected everything that is a part of nature.

My humble summary of Humboldt's works is that he spoke the language of nature, which speaks through all that is in nature. Humboldt spoke against the poor treatment of the Indigenous people and spoke against slavery of any people. He traveled to all the continents and climbed all the Earth's mountains in his lifetime. He discovered more connections than differences.

These naturalists have much to teach us about how to live in harmony with nature.

While we may not have time or resources to travel the Earth to climb each mountain top, we can step into the natural world just outside our door, and revel in all its wonder.

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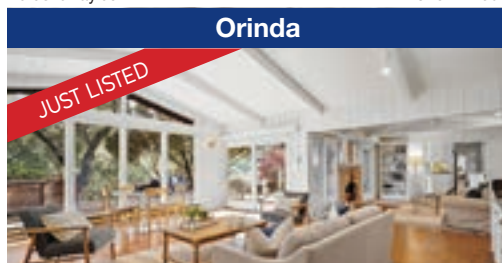
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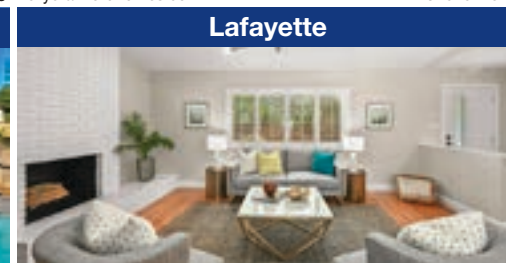
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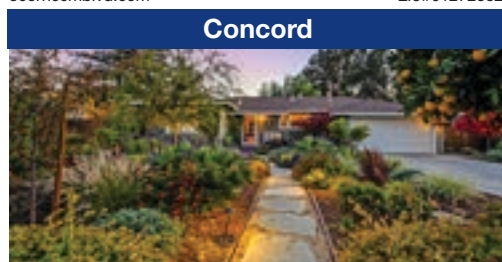
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23 La Fond \$3,995,000 Listed
11 La Cuesta Rd \$3,600,000
91 Lombardy Ln \$3,225,000
11 Valley View Dr \$2,320,000
32 Dos Posos \$2,300,000
11 Los Altos Rd \$2,295,000 Pending
3 La Cuesta \$1,900,000
102 Ravenhill Rd \$1,850,000
130 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$1,850,000

LAFAYETTE

65 Silverwood Dr \$2,390,000

MORAGA

828 Crossbrook Ct \$2,875,000
178 Corliss Dr \$2,685,000
1850 School St \$2,515,000
192 Draeger Dr \$2,000,000
38 Sullivan Dr \$1,875,000

ALAMO

241 Likely Dr \$2,750,000

WALNUT CREEK

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241 Masters Ct 1 \$520,000

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this year.**

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684 Fox Run, Orinda
85 Tarry Lane, Orinda
38 Parklane Dr., Orinda
1919 Ascot Dr., Moraga
50 Meadow View Rd, Orinda
461 Ridgeview Dr., Pleasant Hill
30 Parklane Dr., Orinda
27 Woodland Rd., Orinda
21 Monte Veda Dr., Orinda
92 Coral Dr., Orinda
65 Meadow View Rd., Orinda
44 Ivy Dr., Orinda
30 E. Altarinda Dr., Orinda
9 Bel Air Dr., Orinda
50 Woodbury Highlands, Lafayette
20 El Gavilan Road, Orinda
589 Tahos Road, Orinda
52 Via Floreado, Orinda

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Gratitude

[gra-ti-tude] noun

The positive state of being grateful; an overwhelming feeling of appreciation and thankfulness, and the desire to return kindness to others.

For 20 years “each” we’ve been fortunate to meet and represent incredible people moving to and from our Lamorinda community. This is something neither of us take for granted.

These towns offer both a tangible and intangible beauty we are so lucky to be a part of and we are thankful to call HOME.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Lisa & Kristi

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HOW HAVE I FELT THIS YEAR? "Great-ful"

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29sullivan.com



46 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
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46caminosobrante.com



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19 Candlestick Road, Orinda
Sold at \$1,835,000 • 19Candlestick.com



25 Rustic Way, Orinda
\$5,750,000 • 25RusticWay.com



308 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga
\$1,795,000 • 308RheemBlvd.com



407 El Toyonal, Orinda
Sold at \$1,305,000 • 407ElToyonal.com



40 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda
Sold at \$1,800,000 • 40CaminoDonMiguel.com



5 La Noria, Orinda
Sold at \$3,200,000 • 5LaNoria.com



1 Madera Lane, Orinda
Sold at \$1,775,000 • 1MaderaLn.com



5 Brookbank Road, Orinda
Sold at \$3,300,000 • Represented Buyer



9 La Noria, Orinda
Sold at \$1,910,000 • 9LaNoria.com



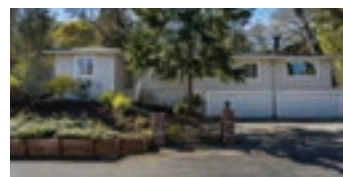
37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda
Sold at \$1,800,000 • 37VallecitoLane.com



2 Bien Venida, Orinda
Sold at \$2,940,000 • 2BeinVenida.com



67 Brookwood Rd # 6, Orinda
Sold at \$515,000



75 Stanton, Orinda
Sold at \$1,650,000 • 75Stanton.com



31 Nottingham Place, Clayton
Sold at \$1,520,000 • 31NottinghamPl.com



105 Ardith Drive, Orinda
Sold at \$2,100,000 • Represented Buyer

407 El Toyonal, Orinda

"I inherited a family home and I don't live in the area so Laura made all the arrangements to have the house fixed up at a reasonable cost. She went above and beyond to organize people and the projects that needed to get accomplished. She always kept me apprised of what was happening and the time table to completion. Because of Laura's knowledge of the community she was often one step ahead of any problems and as a result no delays occurred. She answered all my questions promptly. She explained the process perfectly and was able to present the home beautifully. As a result of her hard work we received substantially more money for the house than I could have hoped for."

9 La Noria, Orinda

"Glad that I found Laura, she is like no other agent that I have worked with in the past. She was so detailed about preparing the home. Makes selling the house an easy and FUN experience. Will definitely recommend her for anyone looking to sell or buy a home."

19 Candlestick, Orinda

"Laura moved the sale of our home to a very successful conclusion in a changing market. We were very pleased with her attention to detail, being always available & answering all of our inquiries with straight forthright responses. She also held the house open every weekend, which was instrumental in the sale of our home. She recommended several trades people to

improve our property and followed their progress to our satisfaction. We could not be more happy with her efforts."

2 Bien Venida, Orinda

"We were lucky as we called Laura after seeing an advertisement. We had interviewed other agents but Laura was the only agent who was positive about selling our home. She supervised all the market preparation and the staging was wonderful. We were successful selling our home and we couldn't have been happier with the transaction. We kept thinking what if we had not called Laura. We don't think any other agent could have made our home so inviting. We are very grateful."

37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda

"The sell and buy transaction with Laura was very smooth. I bought a home in Rossmoor and sold one in Orinda. It took a year to find the perfect Rossmoor home and she worked with me every step of the way. Laura was very competent, knowledgeable, and responsive. I was extremely happy with the outcome, as I know the buyers on my home were too."

1 Madera Lane, Orinda

"Laura is the hardest working agent we have ever met. She went above and beyond. Her tenacity is remarkable. This deal never would have come together without her. We can't recommend her highly enough. Plus all dogs love her and that made it easier!"



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com

510.697.3225

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planting peace



Add pumpkins and scarecrows to your outdoor Thanksgiving display.

... continued from Page D1

With our dense, nutrition-lacking clay soil, we need to amend it with sand, peat moss, and compost before digging the holes. All flower bulbs require neutral pH soil around 7.0 to develop a strong root system that supports flowers. Mother Nature is busy spreading her wild seeds via the wind, birds, animal fur, and even our stocking feet. Most flowers need the next few colder months to rest and germinate. Before the geese head south, walk around your yard to ponder what you'll want to improve, include, edit, or change for the spring. Our year of outdoor work is winding down as our celebration of gratitude approaches. After your big slice of pumpkin pie, work off the calories with garden chores in preparation for a respite in winter. Head to the park to unwind, encounter stillness, and appreciate beauty.

PROTECT plant roots by mulching your garden.

GRIND fallen leaves with a mower to reduce particle size and increase decomposition time.

TURN the soil in your vegetable garden, pull out any unwanted growers such as mint, add buckets of compost, and plant a nitrogen-rich cover crop like fava beans or clover. Blanket the ground with straw and continue mulching until planting time in spring.

SUPPRESS weeds while enriching the soil by laying newspaper (three or four sheets) on your bare earth. The newspaper will biodegrade and the zinc in the ink adds nutrients to the mulch. Cover with straw, leaves, or wood chips to continue adding nutrients.

DIG up bulbets of mother bulbs with numerous offshoots. Separate and replant in other areas.

SOAK ranunculus and anemone tubers in tepid water overnight or



Cover frost-tender plants with burlap or sheets.

for at least three or four hours before planting three inches deep and six inches apart in well-draining soil in full sunlight.

PLANT spring bulbs beginning this month. Make sure you have refrigerated your tulips and crocus for at least four weeks before being dug. The best bulbs to plant for spring radiance include:

Daffodil: Hardy in cold or warm climates. Daffodils grow great in pots, too!

Tulip: Also great in containers. Group like colors together for the greatest impact.

Freesia: Magnificently scented in a rainbow of colors.

Ranunculus: Cottage-style flowers with peony-like blooms.

Hyacinth: Tough, fragrant, growing in sun or shade.

Iris: Purple, blue, white, yellow, and mauve Dutch iris make great cut flowers.

Anemone: Single or double colorful tubers prefer light shade.

Crocus: Only a few inches high, you'll know winter is waning when they sprout.

FORCE hardy flower bulbs of amaryllis, freesias, and paperwhites for Christmas blooming by potting them in sterile, neutral pH potting soil in an area where they will enjoy a temperature of 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit with good air circulation and low humidity. Give them a big drink of warm water, tamp down the soil, and do not water again until green sprouts. Amaryllis will sprout spectacular shows within eight weeks.

CUT stalks of peonies to ground level and discard the cuttings as they are not good for compost. If your peonies didn't bloom, they may be planted too deep. Dig them up this month, rework the soil, and replant ½ inch higher than the soil level.

... continued on Page D14

How to protect your home and valuables this holiday travel season

(StatePoint) Whether you're visiting your in-laws or taking a tropical vacation over the holidays, you'll likely be leaving your house and the majority of your belongings unattended while you're gone. Recent research suggests that if you're like many Americans, you may not be doing enough to protect your assets when you hit the road.

According to a study conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of Selective Insurance, 59% of U.S. homeowners have a home security system or device, yet less than half (49%) use one to protect their unoccupied homes when they are on vacation.

However, most homeowners do take some safety measures before departing for extended periods. For instance, 68% lock all their windows when they leave town. Additional precautions include having someone check their home (61%), setting lights on a timer (39%), shutting off water (21%), and hiring a house sitter (13%).

Nevertheless, risk experts say you're best off with a system that monitors for break-ins and other mishaps, including fire and flooding from storms or leaky pipes.

"Vacations are a great time to create new memories, but they are quickly forgotten if you return to a damaged or burglarized home. Taking sensible home safety preparations before leaving is as important as packing the right items in your suitcase," says Allen Anderson, senior vice president of Personal Lines at Selective Insurance. "Our research shows that home security systems and devices are widely under-used across the country, but they are powerful tools to mitigate against unoccupied home theft, fire and water leaks."

According to Anderson, here are some steps you can take this holiday travel season for greater peace of mind:

- Install and use a smart home security system or device. Doing so provides a vital line of defense and could save you money. Many insurers, including Selective Insurance, will provide a homeowners policy discount to policyholders with a professionally monitored security system.
- Lock your garage and all of your doors and windows – and double-check them.
- Install outdoor lights. Use an automatic timer to set your interior and exterior lights and give your home the appearance of occupancy.
- Stop your mail, package and news deliveries.
- Stow away your valuables.
- Consider waiting until you return from your trip to share vacation photos to social media, or use privacy settings to control who sees your posts.
- Unplug all unnecessary electronics.
- Bring all house keys with you, or leave one with a trusted friend to check up on your home while you're gone.
- Turn off your water! Some of the most frequent and costly homeowners' claims are due to water damage.

For more home protection tips, visit selective.com.

As you make your holiday travel arrangements, think beyond airline tickets and hotel bookings. Be sure that your plans also include home protection in your absence.

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planting peace

Photos
Cynthia Brian



Plant deep pink freesia bulbs for an explosion of spring color.



Narcissi is already in bloom, but you can plant additional bulbs now.



Pick Fuyu persimmons while green if squirrels and birds are a problem.

... continued from Page D12

TURN OFF sprinkler systems. Water by hand when necessary.

LOWER mower height as lawn growth slows. If you didn't fertilize in October or earlier in November, fertilize now with an organic fall blend.

GUARD against an unexpected frost by watering deeply and covering susceptible shrubs with burlap, fabric, or blankets the afternoon before the cold arrives.

REDUCE your garden work out by seeking out plants that are identified as "compact." Look for tags that say dwarf, patio, knee-high, tiny, or baby in the variety name. If a plant tag says "perfect for cut flowers" it will

grow to be too large for a small space.

PICK pomegranates as they ripen or split. Harvest persimmons on trees that are being ravaged by birds and squirrels even before they are ripe. Leave on the countertop to ripen as needed.

DECORATE for Thanksgiving with pumpkins, Indian corn, and gourds.

COOK a pan of cubed winter squash with rosemary for a healthy and satisfying Thanksgiving side.

VISIT our local parks to inhale autumn aromas and savor the sensational fall foliage.

This year marks the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmstead. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we can add his legacy to our thankfulness list for introducing America to

the beauty, tranquility, and necessity of experiencing nature through the development of idyllic parks in towns and cities.

Let us also give our thanks to the hard-working volunteers of local garden clubs who have planted a multitude of bulbs that will blanket our roadways and hillsides with glorious blooms come spring!

My gratitude to you for being part of my Digging Deep family. Plant peace this Thanksgiving with friends and family and celebrate the melodic beauty of our rural landscapes.

Happy gardening and happy growing.
Happy Thanksgiving!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Saturday, Dec. 10 is Santa Day at 5A in collaboration with Be the Star You Are!® charity. Come get your photo taken with Santa and his elf plus book signing of the children’s book, “No Barnyard Bullies,” the perfect holiday gift delivering kindness. Thanks to Mark Hoogs of State Farm Insurance (www.TeamHoogs.com) for sponsoring BTSYA. Info: www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events



Cynthia Brian enjoys the colors of fall.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia’s StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children’s picture book, “No Barnyard Bullies,” from the series, Stella Bella’s Barnyard Adventures is available now at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and exclusive experiences, buy StarStyle® NFTs at https://StarStyleCommunity.com Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com https://www.GoddessGardener.com

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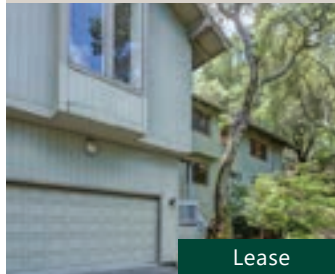


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