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Coach Randy Bennett and team after his 500th win at Saint Mary's.

Photos SMC Athletics/Tod Fierner

SMC celebrates Randy Bennett's 500th win and big Gonzaga victory

By Jon Kingdon

Saint Mary's and Coach Randy Bennett had a very successful week, starting Feb. 2 when the Gaels defeated the University of San Francisco for Coach Bennett's 500th career victory at Saint Mary's. Two days later, Saint Mary's defeated the 12th ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs 78-70 in overtime for his 501st win in front of a deafeningly loud sellout crowd at University Credit Union Pavilion.

After the Gonzaga game, Bennett was asked which victory he would remember the longest. Bennett didn't hesitate. "501 for sure," Bennett said. "We've won a lot of big games, but I don't know if I've been a part of a game that was more special than tonight with the atmosphere, the environment and quality of

the two teams. It was fun to be part of."

Bennett, while reflecting on the Gonzaga win, then took the long-term perspective in ranking this win. "It's up there at the top because of the magnitude of the game. Gonzaga's having a great year and we are having a really good year and when you put that crowd on top of that, it was just an incredible basketball game because Gonzaga is Gonzaga."

This was a far from an easy victory for the Gaels, who trailed for almost the entire game. Saint Mary's was fortunate to be only trailing 32-24 at the half having connected on only 34% (11-32) of their shots, while Gonzaga was hitting 48% (12-25) of their shots.

At one point in the second half, Saint Mary's starting guards Logan Johnson (2-12) and Aidan Mahaney (1-10) shot a combined 3 for 32. Johnson would

eventually finish with 12 points before fouling out with 4:51 left in the second half. After scoring only two points in the first half, Mahaney finished the game with 18 points and late in the game he was responsible for 19 of Saint Mary's 21 points, either scoring or being credited with assists.

Despite the lack of offensive output in the first half, Bennett credited the other strengths of the team in keeping the score manageable. "We were bad offensively in the first half," Bennett said. "Our defense and rebounding kept us in the game. We rarely turned the ball over and did a good job in not allowing them to transition from defense to offense."

It's a style that Bennett uses all the time, not just against Gonzaga. "It's just how we play," Bennett said.

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LPIE launches transformational \$12M endowment campaign



Danielle Silvani Gallagher on stage with Bret and Karen Taylor and Tom and Karen Mulvaney Photo Jeff Heyman

By Jennifer Wake

Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) – which for more than four decades has provided critical funding to Lafayette's six public schools – welcomed students,

family, friends and dignitaries Feb. 10 to Lafayette Plaza Park for a celebration that included food trucks, live music, games and activities and featured a special announcement regarding its groundbreaking endowment campaign, which seeks

to invest in a stable, secure, and self-sustaining source of funding that will benefit generations of students.

LPIE's Executive Director Elizabeth Horpedahl said, "Our public schools need a long-term solution to the incon-

sistent funding provided by the state. The endowment will serve as a permanent fund to enhance and stabilize the long-term growth of LPIE's annual contribution to the Lafayette School District and Acalanes High School. This is our generation's chance to make a lasting impact and to be an example of innovation and sustainability for community education foundations."

"This is a historic moment for Lafayette," said Lafayette School District Superintendent Brent Stephens. "A transformational endowment ensures that LPIE's impact continues to allow us to nurture every student, in all grades and in all stages of their educational experiences."

Through tremendous early philanthropic support, LPIE has secured \$8.7 million toward its \$12 million goal. LPIE thanked the more than 40 donor families representing current parents, alumni families, community members, future parents, and individuals across generations who have laid this inspiring foundation, with special thanks to Bret and

Karen Taylor and Tom and Karen Mulvaney, who have committed extraordinary cornerstone gifts of \$5 million and \$1 million, respectively, demonstrating their belief in public education and local schools. "Karen and I are so excited to support this endowment and close the funding gap to get students the education they deserve," Bret Taylor said.

Citing no true safety net, with the unreliability and inconsistency of state funding, Tom Mulvaney said there needs to be a more permanent solution.

Thanking all the generous donors, Danielle Silvani Gallagher, current parent, alumni, and Campaign Co-Chair with Tom Mulvaney, said, "There is still much to be done and we hope others will be inspired to join the effort. This is about more than the dollars raised, it is about coming together to put our names behind this lasting legacy!"

To learn more about LPIE and the endowment, email Horpedahl at elizabeth@lpie.org or (925) 299-1644 or visit LPIE.org/endowment.

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Best houseplants to bring the outdoors inside - Page D1





See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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History comes alive through downtown utility box art



Photo J. Wake

Wrapped utility boxes in downtown Lafayette highlight city's history.

By Lou Fancher

Adorned with artistic wraps, seven utility boxes along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in downtown Lafayette will display panoramic, visual stories and pay tribute to the history and cultural heritage of the city. The artwork was created as part of Lafayette's 175+ Years Anniversary celebrations and produced through a collaborative partnership by the Lafayette Historical Society (LHS), the City's Public Art Committee, and graphic designer Danielle

Gogo-Gallagher.

Each history-wrapped box combines a collage of photo-realistic, archival images related to a specific topic, city feature or time period and has a QR code that can be scanned using a smartphone to access educational information compiled by the Lafayette Historical Society. The boxes are located along Mt. Diablo Boulevard between First Street and Dolores Drive and include "Saklan People," at Lafayette Circle; "Early Downtown," at Moraga Road; "Pioneer & Farm Life," at Dolores Drive; "Mt. Diablo Boulevard," at Oak Hill

Road; "Early School Days," at Happy Valley Road; "Leisure Pastimes," at First Street; and "Tunnels, Roads & Rails," at Dewing Avenue.

"These fascinating wraps show dramatically how our city has evolved," Mayor Carl Anduri said. "I encourage everyone to get out of their cars and spend part of a sunny morning or afternoon walking along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, learning more about Lafayette -- and enjoying our shops and restaurants along the way."

Selecting from the many highlights presented by the project, the storylines reveal everything from the resourcefulness and respect for nature of Indigenous people in the area to the sagas of Elam Brown traveling to and establishing the agriculture-based city to delightful facts about community dances and insight on a maverick, horse-riding school teacher.

With a click on the QR code on the box at Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle, we discover the Saklan people were part of central California's Bay Miwok tribe. Admirable tattoos on their bodies not only portrayed animals recognized for their noble qualities or spiritual symbolism, but might also have displayed the person's ancestral lineage. Oak trees were of utmost importance, providing acorns the Saklan used as a staple food that were especially vital during winter months when native plants and hunting opportunities came and went according to seasonal conditions.

Another utility box tale describes the times and lifestyles of 1848 and circumstances surrounding the arrival in the area of Midwest

farmer Elam Brown and his family. Having traveled west in a wagon train with 14 other families and forced by drought to move beyond their original destination, Oregon, Brown eventually purchased Rancho Acalanes from William Leidesdorff, a San Francisco land speculator. Valencia who had purchased the 3,300-acre area from Candalerio Valencia, a Mexican sergeant, who had received it from the Mexican government for his service in the Mexican War of Independence in 1821. The long chain of transfers resulted in Brown's Lafayette: a summer cottage location that with the opening of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937 became a largely suburban community but maintained for decades a primarily agricultural base with its orchards, farms, and ranch lands.

Fun facts pop up in a number of the histories: Community dances were held at the Lafayette Hotel and in local barns. In later years, when the Town Hall opened in 1914, bargain-priced parties at the venue featured a dance and meal for a single dollar. The Park Theatre's opening in 1941 featured Abbott and Costello's "Hold That Ghost." And the wild and woolly story of Lafayette's signature reservoir project that began in 1927 holds spectacular construction drama. Designed at the west end of town to control flooding and provide water, the project came to a three year halt when in September 1928 (when it was about 80% complete), the dam sank significantly over a 10-day period, causing enor-

mous cracks to appear. Re-designed with a shorter, wider profile, construction was completed in 1933. Shifting to schools and education, today's young people and adults who attended or have children in local schools may well be fascinated to learn about pioneer teacher Jennie Bickerstaff and her horse, Topsy. The Historical Society's photo shows Bickerstaff on her mount en route to her first job at Moraga School in the area that is now Orinda. Notes on the LHS webpage say, "Because of the long skirts that women wore, she rode her horse sidesaddle. Passing through the fields of local farmers, it was necessary to dismount and remount several times to open and close gates, no doubt a difficult task in a long skirt."

Anduri gave special thanks to Andree Hurst and Mary McCosker of the Lafayette Historical Society for bringing the idea to the City's Public Art Committee and to Erling Horn, Yukie Fujimoto, Christy Mack, Janice Peacock and Jenny Rosen of the PAC for working with Andree, Mary and graphic designer Danielle Gogo-Gallagher to bring the idea to fruition. "Their teamwork was exemplary, and we all benefit from it," he said.

In addition to the new utility box art project, special community events, monthly City Council presentations throughout the year, and copies of "Images of America: Lafayette" circulated through Lafayette's Little Free Libraries will extend the scope and scale of the anniversary.

For more information, visit these websites:
City of Lafayette webpage:
www.lovelafayette.org/why-lafayette/175plus
Lafayette Historical Society webpage:
lafayettehistory.org/celebrating-175-years

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It's Village. Of Course.

Lafayette challenges more locals to go green



A big Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge point-winner (2,740 impact points) is adding green electricity, such as solar panels, to your home.

By Lou Fancher

Some Lafayette residents may not be incentivized to reduce their carbon footprint by the promise of free yard mulch or gift cards to local businesses or eco-conscious prizes such as reusable straws and worm and compost bins. But throw in a healthy, planet-saving bit of competition with people in Orinda and Moraga? Or remind them to look around at the green spaces, parks and trails nearby and think about their children and grandchildren enjoying the same landscape 10 or 20 or more years from now? That's a different story.

The city of Lafayette through its Environmental Task Force and a collaboration with Sustainable Contra Costa is signed up for the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. Issuing a call for residents to step up and join the efforts at home by conserving water, reducing overall energy profile, limiting carbon emissions and other actions, Mayor Carl Anduri at the Dec. 12 city council meeting in 2022 encouraged Lafayette residents to drive at or below the speed limit, but rush to participate in the challenge Sustainable Contra Costa says has in the past saved over 700 tons of carbon dioxide.

The Challenge is a partnership between Sustainable Contra Costa and Contra Costa County and has grown to include nine participating cities. Sustainable Contra Costa also partners with Contra Costa Water District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District in the program that invited individuals, teams and entire communities to share mutual benefits—addressing the climate crisis and preserving precious natural and regenerative resources.

Anduri in an early January 2023 interview with this paper about his goals as mayor on the council for the coming year, said, "The Environmental Task Force have a legislative agenda for EV charging for multifamily buildings, the Vision Zero plan and other initiatives related to climate change. And we're becoming a partner with Sustainable Contra Costa in the CCC Challenge. We're going to issue a specific challenge directly to the communities in Lafayette, to Orinda and Moraga. There is a platform dashboard on the SCC and the Cleaner Contra Costa websites that shows how much each city has converted into points. Moraga has a big lead right now, maybe at about one million, Orinda has about 500,000, and Lafayette has 300,000, so we want to get the word out, catch up, and surpass them."

The steps to participate are simple. Creating an energy profile is easy and establishes a baseline for carbon emissions from which progress can be tracked. The profile includes the number of rooms in your house, the fuel used in your primary heater and water heater, the electric or gas appliances used, and data from 12 months of energy service and its source (100% green electricity through a utility company or other). Questions about transportation, food and waste are added into the mix out of which comes your profile.

The second step is to decide if you will join the challenge as an individual, small team or neighborhood or community group. People are allowed to join one team and one community group. Action pages suggest ways to receive points and encourage people to set deadlines to accomplish a self-imposed goal.

... continued on Page A10

Stanley principal on leave during investigation

By Jennifer Wake

Stanley Middle School principal Nikki Chaplan was placed on leave while the Lafayette School District conducts an investigation into what took place during her time as assistant principal in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District when a teacher was prosecuted for alleged sexual abuse against two minors.

According to a Jan. 28 statement from LafSD Superintendent Brent Stephens, the District's investigation will focus on this time, review source documents and, as much as possible, determine whether investigations were conducted adequately, whether reporting requirements were fulfilled, and whether investigations records were properly created and maintained.

"This is a challenging and sensitive moment for our school community," Stephens wrote. "Ms. Chaplan is new to us, has already contributed thoughtfully to the Stanley community, feedback about her leadership has been positive, and our decision to look into this matter objectively should not be construed by anyone that wrongdoing has occurred. Speculation about her role based only on media reports is not helpful in our community. Instead, this is a moment to respect privacy, to adhere to sound investigative practices, and ground our thinking in evidence."

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to the superintendent's office for an update on the investigation, but did not hear back before press time.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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MORAGA

Town Council: Special meeting Wednesday, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.

Regular meeting Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Moraga School District Board Meetings:

Tuesday, March 14, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

See public meetings schedule on this page and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Do you have a person or couple in mind to be honored as the 2023 Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year?

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Cannot be a current elected member or paid staff of the Town Council, the Town or any other local public agency (e.g., School District or Fire District);
- Must have a Moraga mailing address;
- Nominees should be persons who: (1) have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop; and (2) bring the community together and make us proud to be residents of Moraga.

Please email your nomination to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or mail it to Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations, Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road Suite C # 202, Moraga CA 94556. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Thursday, March 9. A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, April 28, in the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga to honor the winner.



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Former President Gerald R. Ford once taught at SMC's Pre-Flight School during WWII



Commemorative medallion presented to President Gerald R. Ford Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

During World War II, the United States Navy chose Saint Mary's College as one of the government's four Pre-Flight schools that served to train pilots between 1942-1946. In that period, almost the entire campus included thousands of Navy men who were housed in temporary barracks.

Thirty years before becoming the 38th President of the United States, Lieutenant Gerald R. Ford, fresh from a tour on the U.S.S. Monterey in the South Pacific, was reassigned to SMC as an instructor in late 1944. His prior experience at another Navy Pre-Flight School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina involved teaching elementary seamanship, ordinance, gunnery, first aid, and military drills.

Besides serving as a pre-flight instructor, Ford taught cadets in the school's football division where, according to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, "aggressiveness, coordination, and alertness" would "help these future pilots become

tougher physically than all enemies."

In April 1945, the Navy assigned Ford to Naval Reserve Training Command in Glenview, Ill. While that marked the end of his short career at SMC, the school, as well as the town of Moraga, chose to honor his service here 31 years later, during Ford's visit to the city of Walnut Creek in order to dedicate a replica of the Liberty Bell as a war memorial. The bell is located in present-day Liberty Bell Plaza.

Although Moraga did extend an official invitation to Ford to revisit the town during that May 1976 Contra Costa County trip, his office politely declined due to Ford's busy schedule, suggesting that he might return to California later in the fall.

This did not deter the Moraga Town Council or SMC from presenting a commemorative medallion to Ford during Walnut Creek's celebration. In an unattributed newspaper source, then mayor Merle Gilliland said, "I received a call Friday and was

invited to sit on the platform" with Ford. Other local mayors and county supervisors received such an invitation.

"This commemorative medallion was a gift to President Gerald R. Ford from Councilman Merle D. Gilliland and T. Mel Anderson, President of St. Mary's College of California," states the Ford Museum. "The oval-shaped, bronze disc is adorned with a crest in relief on the front and 'Moraga Family Crest Presented to President Gerald R. Ford May 25, 1976 by Town of Moraga & St. Mary's College, Moraga, California' inscribed on back. It measures 3.5" W x 4.5" L." The medallion was made by SMC's metal arts instructor Victor Ries.

Shortly thereafter, both Gilliland and Anderson received identical letters from Ford stating, "It was a real pleasure to visit California. The Moraga Family Crest presented jointly will serve as a lasting remembrance."

The communication between Ford and SMC did not end there. In 1993, Anderson and then Regent Gerry Fitzpatrick visited Ford at his Rancho Mirage, Calif. home to personally deliver a plaque and confer the title of Honorary Alumnus on the former instructor. According to a 2007 article by John Grennan of SMC's Office of College Communications, Anderson was quoted as saying about the visit, "He remembered living in Orinda and driving over to the campus each morning. He really enjoyed his time here."

Ford later wrote to Anderson, "I have wonderful memories of my limited service at St. Mary's."

Special thanks to Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry and Archivist Bonnie Krames.

Parks and Rec's Teddy Bear Tea reaches whole new level of fun



Designers craft their teddy bears' T-shirts

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Set under a graceful white tent surrounding the entire patio of the Hacienda de las Flores, the Teddy Bear Tea was a magical event for young children and their families. Not even the on-again-off-again rain could dampen the glow of the beautifully lit surroundings and the delicate sounds of the water fountain that accompanied the background music of Disney jazz tunes on the sound system.

The Feb. 5 party, put on by Moraga's Parks and Recreation Department, cost \$40 per person, and each child was able to take home a sizable teddy bear as a souvenir of the day's theme. Guests were en-

couraged to dress in party attire which added to the festive occasion's ambiance.

The town's Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson, Recreation Coordinator Donald Scully, Part-Time Administrative Assistant Mellissa Church, and members of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee kept the event running smoothly for the 59 attendees (more than half of which were children) that also included a few dads and brothers.

Round tables were set with springtime-green colored table cloths, silverware, white plates, paper napkins decorated with a teddy bear, and black tea or herbal tea bags tucked into white, crockery-style mugs. Pastel-hued crock-

ery tea pots full of hot water were brought to the table for a parental serve-yourself experience. Apple juice was also served.

The crown jewel of any tea party is always the three-tiered plate stand as center piece, containing delectable finger foods. On the menu were a wide array of tea sandwiches consisting of: cream cheese and cucumber, egg salad with sweet red pepper, ham and cheese, pinwheels containing either turkey, roast beef or ham, and vanilla cream cheese with strawberry jam on sweet potato biscuits. Additional offerings were: miniature Quiche Lorraine or Quiche Florentine, assorted cheeses, fresh strawberries, and grapes.

As if that wasn't enough, a wide assortment of small desserts dazzled the eyes and taste buds of the "pinkies up" crowd: mini-cupcakes, brownies, and shortbread cookies, along with madeleines, miniature blueberry or chocolate chip muffins.

Once guests had their fill, the children scampered off into the Fireside Room in order to decorate a small white T-shirt for either their white or brown stuffed teddy bear to wear. The craft table was loaded with multi-colored felt pens, sticker gems, ribbons and more. Most of the kids wasted no time in naming their new members of the family. Kenna, 5, named her bear Diamond and drew pink hearts onto the shirt with the additional touch of a pink diamond sticker gem (ergo the name). Maria, 5, decorated her bear's shirt with blue marker designs that would put Versace to shame. Her bear, Mia, is now quite the fashion plate.

The Parks and Recreation Department's 2023 Spring Activity Guide is just around the corner. Be sure to check out all of the upcoming new activities along with old favorites.

Ristorante Amoroma opens new tap room/lounge at Rheem location



Ristorante Amoroma adds new tap room/lounge Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Rheem Valley Shopping Center's Ristorante Amoroma (360 Park St., Moraga) turned the restaurant's former retail space that once sold domestic wines, pastas, and glassware into a tap room/lounge.

During the summer of 2022, owner Hafiz Haidari decided to add a community engagement atmosphere to his establishment. After revamping the patio dining area, Haidari decided to sell his re-

tail stock in order to make room for his new endeavor, which had a successful Jan. 24 soft opening. "Bringing in the Saint Mary's College kids and casually-minded people is our goal," stated his son and Floor Manager Hasib.

While nothing has changed in the restaurant itself, the taproom next door contains plenty of wooden chairs, tables, stools, and three flat-screen televisions to give the place a completely different vibe from the quiet bistro a few steps away. You can't have

a taproom without beer on tap, and Amoroma offers craft beer from local brewers such as Ghost Town Brewing and Side Gate Brewery. They also serve wine by the glass or customers can purchase a bottle to have with their meal from dozens of choices displayed on the shelves.

While enjoying beverages and TV in the new tap room, patrons can order off the restaurant menu. Eventually, an additional tap room menu will feature finger foods borrowing from Amoroma's appetizer menu and more traditional bar food offerings.

"I sit in both sides," said Steve, an Amoroma regular. "It was Chez Maurice before they moved in. It's looking nice. It looks like it's going to be a nice addition to the place. It's nice to come and watch a game on TV, and you can't beat the food," he replied while enjoying a hearty bowl of soup.

The hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily. Walk-ins are welcome in the tap room. For more information call (925) 377-7662.

"We also re-did our private room," added Hasib, "and the patio will be opening soon. Come on down!"

500th win for SMC basketball coach

... continued from Page A1

"Gonzaga wants to play up and down and it's to their advantage to push hard but we're a good transition D team and we work on it a lot. We try and slow down everybody we play. You're just not going to get easy baskets on us and it's the best way for us to win at Saint Mary's."

At the half, Bennett did not make many adjustments. "We were pretty calm because I thought we were doing a good job," Bennett said. "We just weren't scoring, and our shot selection wasn't good. I just said, 'Hey, let's make this happen. I think things will turn our way if we just clean up our shots.'"

Clean up they did with Saint Mary's connecting on 17 of 29 shots after the first half.

Even with a poor shooting first half, Mahaney never changed his mindset. "I just trusted myself and trusted the work I've put in," Mahaney said. "I figured the ball would eventually go in if I just keep trusting it. It's about confidence and my confidence isn't fake because I put in the work."

After hitting a key 3-point uncalled bank shot, Mahaney accepted the basket philosophically. "I felt I was due for one," Mahaney said. "I had a couple of ins and outs in the first half so I'll just call it the law of percentages and it just evened out the right way."

Based on that week's performance, Mahaney was again named the WCC freshman of the week for the sixth straight week and the ninth time out of 13 weeks.

Bennett shared the confidence that Mahaney had for his game. "I think Aidan just has it," Bennett said. "A lot of guys would fold, hanging their heads and finishing the game like that, but that's where Aidan is special. He's a really good competitor and he plays to win and has a great belief in himself."

The front court of center Mitchell Saxen (who was just named WCC player of the week) and forwards Alex Ducas and Kyle Bowen controlled the boards with 27 of Saint Mary's 37 rebounds, and only allowed Gonzaga to get two offensive rebounds. Saxen with 15 points and 11 rebounds had his third straight double-double and he put the game into overtime with a layup in the last five seconds of regulation.

"Mitchell had a sneaky good game against Gonzaga's big men," Bennett said. "He was able to control the boards and was able to help out on (Gonzaga's All-American forward Drew) Timme. That adjustment made us better defensively and we were able to take

the lead and win the game. By the end, they were tired of chasing us around and we were tired of chasing them around but eventually defenses will break after that long. That's what happened and Aidan hit some shots."

Despite an off night shooting from the outside, Mahaney was particularly effective driving to the basket and scoring with either hand, something he had not been successful with at the beginning of the season. "I was going to the basket early in the season, but I just wasn't making the shots," Mahaney said. "I trust my work. (Grad assistant) Cory Lazarz is out there with me every day. I'm here exactly two hours and five minutes before every single game to try to get my shots up. Everything I do is to try and get better. I've been able to finish my legs recently, using my left hand and right hand, trying to be unstoppable, finishing it on either side."

After outscoring Gonzaga 17-9 in the overtime period, the players were pleased that the fans did not storm the court. "We are making this a thing now where we want to be able to rival with Gonzaga every time," said Mahaney who was playing his first game against the Bulldogs. "This wasn't an upset or anything like that. We're not just going to talk about it, we're going to put in the work."

Having just played Gonzaga for the 61st time, Bennett had a different perspective. "I wish they would have rushed the court," Bennett said. "Dog-gone it, we should have waved them out. The kids want to have fun, let them have fun. Some may say that we were supposed to beat them, but to me, the reality is, it was a heck-uva win. Gonzaga is good and no one's run a program better in the last 15 years. So, when you win a game like that, storm the court and celebrate the victory!"

The intensity of the crowd brought Bennett back to an NIT game in 2009 when Saint Mary's defeated Davidson 80-68 despite Stephen Curry scoring 26 points. "That's the only game where a crowd compared with tonight's crowd."

When the fans stormed the court after that game, Davidson Coach Bob McKillop was awed with the support given to the Gaels: "It just blows my mind that they have this kind of crowd. This is very similar to [Duke's] Cameron [Indoor Stadium] in terms of the noise level, the heat, the intensity, the passion. Saint Mary's deserves credit for that."

Besides leading the West Coast Conference by two games, the Gaels are now ranked 15th in the Associated

Press Poll and 14th in the USA Today Coaches Poll, moving ahead of Gonzaga who are now ranked 16th.

After the win over San Francisco, Bennett took the time to reflect on his 22 seasons at Saint Mary's and what it took to win 500 games at one institution, sharing the credit all around: "First, I work in a great place, and it doesn't happen unless you want to keep your job. Two, have great players and coaches which help you keep your job and then three, work at a place that supports you and gives you the opportunities, the resources, and values men's Division I college basketball. I know the deal. I'm very, very blessed and very appreciative of the opportunity I've been given and I've just been lucky to have a lot of good people along the way so I totally see it as a good thing."

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COMPASS

Orinda recognizes Black History Month

By Sora O'Doherty

At its Feb. 7 City Council meeting, Orinda adopted a proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month. Read into the record by Mayor Inga Miller, the proclamation acknowledges Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, as an annual celebration and recognition of the tremendous achievements by Black Americans in all aspects of American life and a time for acknowledging their important role in U.S. history.

The proclamation states that the Orinda City Council feels it is important to communicate its support for inclusivity and respect in the city, and that the council en-

courages all members of the community to remember and celebrate the contributions that African Americans have made to the nation as well as the importance of diversity and inclusion in our community, concluding that racial equality must always be a cornerstone of democracy.

In 1926, Carter Goodwin Wilson, a Black historian, established a week to recognize the accomplishments of Black American citizens, which has become one of the cultural landmarks of contemporary America. The second week of February was chosen for the event because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12 and of Frederick Douglass on Feb. 14.

The proclamation noted

that the Orinda Library is proud to celebrate Black History Month with all the Contra Costa libraries, and has partnered with local authors, artists, historians, activists, and regular folks doing extraordinary things to bring some important programs to the community, with live and virtual events that include art exhibits, conversations with poets, and workshops where Black History is taught and shared by those who are experiencing it.

Library Manager Michael Beller, who attended the Zoom meeting, agreed that the Library collection offers several resources describing Black experiences, and if residents seek further information regarding what to read, view, or

listen to, as they recognize Black History Month, the Orinda library staff is happy to provide many reading and listening options. Beller added that he is always happy to answer any questions from the public.

The proclamation spoke to the joint resolution adopted by the city and the school district to adopt a resolution supporting Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in the community. As part of those efforts, the Orinda Union School District has developed a curriculum to celebrate Black History Month highlighting the myriad ways Black Americans have contributed to the fabric of our country, with a focus on different themes and activities for each grade level.

In-person meetings to return next month

By Sora O'Doherty

Following an announcement by California Gov. Gavin Newsom that the COVID-19 state of emergency will end on Feb. 28, the Orinda City Council has concluded that it needs to return to in-person meetings beginning in March. At its meeting on Jan. 17, the city council discussed the possibility of continuing to allow members of the community to attend the meetings via the Zoom conference application. City Attorney Osa Wolff explained the prior rules before COVID and the new rules that might be in effect for future meetings. City Clerk Sheri Smith explained some of the difficulties about hosting hybrid meetings that would have the city council meet in person but allow the public to participate via Zoom.

The state-wide state of emergency that allowed public meetings to be held on Zoom was put in place on Oct. 5, 2021. Since that time, as required by state law, the City Council has determined that they desire to continue remote public meetings and make the necessary findings at least every 30 days.

The staff report noted that, while there are some constraints and obstacles to overcome regarding hybrid meetings, recent changes to the Brown Act have made it easier to utilize a teleconferencing option on an ongoing

basis if certain conditions are met. Many residents and other attendees at City Council meetings may wish to be able to continue to participate remotely as well. Some cities, such as Foster City, have adopted a hybrid meeting policy where council meetings are held in person but participants can attend via Zoom.

Vice Mayor Darlene Gee expressed interest in exploring a hybrid scenario. She also asked, in the event that the council went back to in-person meetings, if streaming on the YouTube platform would be less "clunky" than the previous method of streaming used by the city. Smith said that would be possible, and agreed that it would be a simpler streaming method. She added that two-way participation via Zoom is definitively possible, but may be more difficult and expensive.

The city clerk and the council discussed various possible venues for hybrid meetings. The difficulty, the clerk explained, was the staff time and effort required to set up and take down equipment for a Zoom meeting where the library auditorium is used for many events. The Sarge Littlehale Community Room would be easier, but it is smaller. Mayor Inga Miller suggested that there might be benefits to using the community center at Wilder, but noted that there have been problems with acoustics in the

past, and that the location might present an obstacle to staff going back and forth to the City Hall. Smith noted, "Anything is possible with the right resources and people."

In a discussion of the rules that would govern remote attendance for council members via Zoom, Gee noted that, although she travels for business, during COVID she missed only one meeting because it was possible for her to attend via Zoom. Wolff explained that the new rules would allow remote participation in certain circumstances, such as illness of the council member or a family member, but exclude business travel. In all circumstances, a majority of the council members will have to be present in person, meaning that at most two members could appear remotely, according to City Manager David Biggs.

While city staff considers that logistical considerations of returning to in-person meetings on any basis other than the prior traditional format, might prevent the city from offering a hybrid option, they agreed to explore offering a teleconference option in addition to the in-person meetings given council interest in that possibility. The matter will return to the city council at a later meeting, when staff will present options, including associated costs, including both one-time technology needs and any ongoing costs.



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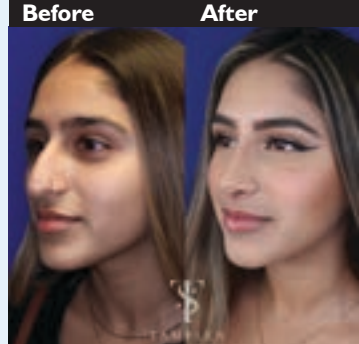
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Council postpones adopting State Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance

By Sora O'Doherty

Although city staff recommended adopting a number of minor changes to the city's municipal code dealing with landscaping in order to bring the code into compliance with new state law, the city council on Feb. 7 decided to postpone taking any action pending clarification of a number of concerns expressed by council members.

The most prominent concerns of the council were whether the proposed changes would conflict with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Code, whether sports fields and golf courses would be affected, and whether there would be clear guidance on acceptable plants that would meet the new requirements. Council Member Latika Malkani also had specific questions about climate adaptive plants, and focused on the competing needs of drought conditions and slope stabilization during heavy winter storms. Mayor Inga Miller suggested that perhaps these issues could be examined in a joint meeting with the MOFD, and City Manager David Biggs said that he had reached out to the fire chief to discuss the issues of

acceptable plants and mulches.

The new law, the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act (SB 1383), according to the staff report, requires municipalities to adopt a local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) of their own or adopt the State's Model Ordinance to be implemented locally.

Staff suggested a number of minor changes that need to be made to Chapter 17.17 Landscaping of the Municipal Code that would bring the code into compliance with the new state requirements for water efficient landscaping. The Planning Commission, after holding a Public Hearing, also recommended the proposed amendments to the city council.

According to the staff report, the WELO requirements would apply to a number of projects, including new construction projects with a landscape area greater than 500 square feet and rehabilitated landscape projects with a landscape area greater than 2,500 square feet that requires a building permit, landscape permit, plan check, or design review. In addition, the requirements would apply to some extent to existing landscapes in-

stalled prior to December 2015, that are greater than 1 acre in size, to new cemeteries and existing cemeteries with water meters.

Although Richard Smeaton, a consulting planner who was presenting the staff report because Planning Director Drummond Buckley was ill, said that there was a "carve out for sports fields and golf courses," the council was concerned about whether or not the requirements would apply to city parks and to golf courses.

Another area of concern is a requirement for residential areas that requires climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water to be installed for 75% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee wondered whether a state law requirement regarding the application of mulch would conflict with local fire code requirements.

Upon receiving advice from city attorney Osa Wolff about how best to proceed, the council decided to take no action at the time, but to renounce the item when it is ready to come back to the council, perhaps in April.



City Council

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Comm.: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
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Another Artify project beautifies Orinda



Photo provided

Artist George Ehrenhaft stands by his watercolor painting entitled "Diablo Autumn" which was recently installed near

Peet's Coffee in downtown Orinda as part of the "Artify Orinda" project. To date, there are 30 paintings installed and

organizer Maggie Boscoe plans to add more. Most of the paintings and their location can be seen at artify@lamorindaarts.org. - S. O'Doherty

Orinda Community Foundation awards annual grants

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Community Foundation recently released a list of 21 organizations selected this year for grants. Many of the grants are for arts and performances, including the annual Fourth of July Celebration, Lamorinda Idol, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Art in Public Places, Live at Orinda at the Orinda Theatre, Park and Rec Concerts and Movies in the

Park, the Lamorinda Film Festival and the newly inaugurated Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Other grants are for volunteer services, including Seniors around Town and Meals on Wheels. In addition, grants went to The Joaquin Moraga Adobe, The Orinda News, The Tabor Sister City Foundation, Miramonte Writing Contest, The Lamorinda Village, Women's Garden Club, Historical Society, Mindful Littles, Park and Rec Teen Events and Park and Rec Seniors.

Please join Moraga Native Jon Wood in supporting the Campolindo Girls Basketball Program Soles 4 Souls shoe drive!



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Orinda gets winter storm damage update after county qualifies for FEMA assistance



Damaged homes on Cedar Lane in Orinda Photo courtesy city of Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Individual Assistance for residents of Contra Costa County for damages to private property that were incurred during the recent storms. In terms of damage to public property, the city of Orinda approved a resolution on Feb. 7 extending its declaration of emergency in order to allow it to forgo normal contracting procedures to speed up repairs to public facilities.

Scott Christie, Director of Public Works, told the Orinda City Council that the resolution

is necessary to be exempt from bidding over \$60,000, and some of the damage Orinda has sustained could be over \$60,000. He noted that the landslide at Cedar Lane is an important situation. "So far the road appears to be in acceptable condition," he said. "In the worst case, the city might need to add a stabilizing retaining wall," adding, "and such a retaining wall could be quite expensive. We don't know what the future condition will be."

Also, he said that the damage on Tarry Lane, could exceed \$60,000 and might need to be addressed quickly. Without the emergency declaration, the bidding process

could take up to 4 or 5 weeks. The emergency declaration is also necessary to qualify for potential funding from other agencies. Christie added that staff "did not include facilities like Orinda Oak Parks because we don't think the situation is so critical that it can't be handled under normal procedures."

The damage currently known about Orinda public property includes a sinkhole at the bike lane fronting 190 Moraga Way (interim repairs completed), shoulder/road edge failure near 57 Tarry Ln. (lane closure in effect and repair options being evaluated), a sinkhole/48-inch storm drain pipe failure in city easement at 7 North Ln. (repair options being evaluated) and a damaged 72-inch storm drain pipe under Miner Road south of Camino Don Miguel. Orinda City Hall and Community Center suffered water intrusion and the landslide at Cedar Lane, although primarily

causing damage to two private homes, may also cause damage to the public road, although it hasn't yet.

It is estimated that to date, the cost for cleanup and repair activities for all of the public facilities is approximately \$160,000. This includes contractors, consultants and overtime for city staff. However, the total cost estimate for Orinda public properties, for complete repairs is roughly estimated to be \$ 1.5 million. The extent of funding through reimbursement programs (Office of Emergency Services or FEMA) is not known at this time. Furthermore, the timing of when complete repairs are necessary has not been determined, and would be affected by available funding sources.

Residents who have sustained property and business damage from the Dec. 31 2022 - Jan. 30 2023 series of winter storms can seek assistance directly from FEMA. Residents should apply online at

www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800- 621-3362. It should be noted that applying does not guarantee that assistance will be awarded and FEMA assistance cannot aid with losses already covered by insurance. The disaster designation is: California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4683-CA).

Residents seeking disaster assistance must use either the website or phone number to start the application process. At this time, there is no local avenue for Individual Assistance applications. Residents must go through FEMA to apply for assistance. Once residents have registered, there will be information on the next steps and available programs. The website has many languages to choose from if English is not your primary language. There is also information available on the Quick Links portion of the website.

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Letters to the editor

In support of electrification

Switching out fossil fuel appliances (such as a water heater, dryer, furnace, and stove) for highly-efficient electric alternatives is an excellent way to reduce one's carbon footprint, but it can be daunting. Fortunately, there are many resources to help along the way. PG&E is extremely supportive of this transition to all-electric buildings, and even hosts on-demand and live webinars open to the public at PGE.com/EnergyClasses. Register for an account, and then explore the many free courses available! Whether you want to learn how to use induction woks to stir-fry (even translated into Mandarin!), or learn the multiple ways of swapping out a gas furnace with a heat pump, PG&E has you covered. A great hands-on way to learn more about highly-efficient electric induction cooking is to experiment with it yourself! PG&E loans out portable induction cooktops for free to PG&E customers. Learn how you can borrow a cooktop and compatible pan by visiting and registering here:

<https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/>

City Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok's shares his inspiring journey towards decarbonizing his entire own home. Read part one of his journey here:

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home-and-going-all-electric

I can't wait for all the Inflation Reduction Act rebates and discounts that are coming down the line! We check for updates at RewiringAmerica.org. We recently swapped out our gas water heater for a highly efficient heat pump water heater, which we love. Next, we are planning to switch out our gas cooktop with induction, which is more powerful, more easily controlled, and way easier to keep clean!

Nancy Hu DDS Lafayette

Vote Yes on Measure Z

The reason my husband and I first moved to Orinda, 43 years ago, is the same reason new parents still move here today. The first-class schools in Orinda are the envy of the East Bay and beyond.

However, the fact that Orinda schools receive among the lowest per-student funding in the state means that our schools and students may no longer be able to keep up without local community support. I will be voting Yes on Z because I personally experienced the benefits good schools provided my own children, and I want the next generation to have the same opportunities.

I also know that supporting quality education is a wise investment that protects our quality of life and our local

property values.

Additionally, any senior who feels the cost of Measure Z (about a dollar a day) will be a financial burden can apply for an exemption from the cost of the measure. This ensures Measure Z is not a burden to those on fixed incomes.

When our children were in school, most of the teachers lived right here. Now teachers can't afford to live here, and most commute from a distance. We need to keep our salaries competitive to attract the best teachers. Measure Z is what we need to do that.

Please join me in supporting Orinda's next generation and voting Yes on Measure Z by March 7.

Linda Landau 43-Year Orinda Resident and former OUSD Board Member

Measure Z includes important oversight

As a member of OUSD's Parcel Tax Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee for the past 6 years, I can attest that past local school funding has been spent as promised, on local students. That is why I will be supporting Measure Z, because it includes the same important oversight requirement as previous

measures.

The district has been extremely transparent in every audit I have been a part of. The new measure also includes an independent citizens' oversight and annual audits that will ensure Measure Z funds are spent as promised. Additionally, all funds must stay only in Orinda's elementary schools and the intermediate school! By law no funds can be taken by the state or used for administrator salaries or pensions.

Join me in voting to provide OUSD with critical funding needed to keep great teachers in our schools and vote Yes on Z by March 7.

Daniel Pier OUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee President

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

EQ preparedness top of mind after devastating earthquakes



The devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria should serve as a stark reminder for Bay Area residents to be prepared for future temblors that could erupt here in California. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website, Ready.gov, in addition to practicing to drop, cover and hold on, residents should create a family emergency communication plan that has an out-of-state contact, plan where to meet if you get separated and make a supply kit

that includes enough food and water for several days, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher and a whistle.

The site also suggests securing heavy items in your home, like bookcases and TVs, and storing heavy and breakable objects on lower shelves. If you cannot find shelter, cover your head and neck, and stay bent over to protect vital organs. If you are trapped, send a text or bang on a pipe or a wall. For more suggestions, visit Ready.gov/earthquakes - J. Wake

Public Safety
Emergency response:
 Emergency: 24 Hours 911
 Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
 Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
 Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
 Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
 Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Jan. 22 - Feb. 4
 Alarms 58
 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 30
 Traffic 68
 Suspicious Circumstances 5
 Suspicious Subject 25
 Suspicious Vehicle 9
 Service to Citizen 43
 Patrol Req./Security Check 46
 Public/School Assembly Check 12
 Supplemental Report 21
 Vacation House Check 3

Welfare Check 9
 Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
 Auto Burglary 1000 Block Carol Ln. (4)
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 3600 Block Bickerstaff St
 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
 Reckless Driving Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
 Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.
 Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
 Happy Valley Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.
 St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
 School St/Moraga Rd.
 Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
 Tc - Property Damage Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
 Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)
 3500 Block E View Dr.
Other criminal activity
 Commercial Burglary Not Available (3)
 Fraud False Pretenses 200 Block Lafayette Cir.
 4100 Block Canyon Rd.
 Grand Theft 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 500 Block Silverado Dr.
 Identity Theft Police Department 4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.
 700 Block Tanglewood Dr.
 1100 Block Camino Vallecito
 3300 Block Sweet Dr.
 1500 Block Sunset Lp
 Panhandling Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
 Petty Theft 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 10 Block Lois Ln.
 Petty Theft From Veh 3500 Block Boyer Cir.

Residential Burglary 3100 Block Plymouth Rd.
 Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)
 Vehicle Theft 800 Block Las Trampas Rd.
 3200 Block Marlene Dr.
 Warrant Service 1900 Block Bonifacio St. Con
Nuisance to the Community
 Disturbance-domestic 3300 Block Betty Ln.
 3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
 3200 Block Withers Ave.
 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
 Disturbing The Peace 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 Loud Music 3500 Block Golden Gate Way
 300 Block Shire Oaks Ct.
 Public Nuisance 10 Block Townsend Pl
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Vandalism 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 3600 Block Bickerstaff St. (3)
 3300 Block Betty Ln.
Other
 K9 Outside Assist Request 200 Block Laurelglen Ct., Dan
 Threats 300 Block E Lowell Ln.
 Unwanted Guest 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
 Violation Restraining Ord 4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Jan. 15 - Feb. 4
 Alarms 51
 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 13
 Traffic 216
 Suspicious Circumstances 9
 Suspicious Subject 7
 Suspicious Vehicle 13
 Service to Citizen 81
 Patrol Req./Security Check 71
 Public/School Assembly Check 1
 Supplemental Report 44
 Vacation House Check 0
 Welfare Check 7
 Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations
 Accident Property Brookside Rd./Moraga Way
 Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
 Moraga Way/Monte Veda Dr.
 Police Department
 Auto Burglary Fd Ori Station 45 Moraga Orinda Fire
 10 Block Bates Blvd.
 DUI Misd 400 Block El Toyonal
 10 Block Wanda Ln.
 Reckless Driving Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.
 Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
 Claremont Ave./Camino Pablo
 Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.
 Rheem Blvd./Calvin Dr.
 Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
Other criminal activity
 Commercial Burglary Orinda Way
 10 Block Orinda Way
 Fraud False Pretenses 10 Block Las Palomas
 Identity Theft 50 Block Donna Maria Way
 Petty Theft 30 Block Big Rock Rd.
 10 Block Fiddleneck Way

Orinda Way 80 Block Camino Encinas
 Orinda Way
 Petty Theft From Veh El Camino Moraga
 Residential Burglary 200 Block Longview Terrace
 50 Block E Altarinda Dr.
 50 Block Southwood Dr.
 200 Block Overhill Rd.
 10 Block Bel Air Dr.
 Shoplift Orinda Way
 Vehicle Embezzlement Dalewood Nbrhood
 Vehicle Theft Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo
 Eb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr.
 Warrant Arrest Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
 Warrant Service 70 Block Brookwood Rd.
Nuisance to the Community
 Loud Music 10 Block Estates Dr.
 Loud Noise 10 Block El Patio
 Loud Party 100 Block Brookwood Rd.
 90 Block Brookwood Rd.
 Vandalism Brookside Rd.
 100 Block Camino Sobrante
Other
 Dependent Adult Abuse Altarinda Rd.
 Failure To Obey Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
 Mentally Ill Commit Old Tunnel Rd./Fish Ranch Rd.
 Ivy Dr.
 Revocation Of Probation Camino Sobrante
 Threats 80 Block Meadow View Rd.
 Violation Custody Order 200 Block Overhill Rd.

Vote YES on Z: GREAT TEACHERS, GREAT ORINDA SCHOOLS



Student achievement in Orinda schools ranks in the top 1% in California. However, out of over 1,000 school districts in California, Orinda Union School District consistently ranks in the bottom ten in per student funding. Orinda teachers are among the lowest paid in our area and Orinda increasingly loses qualified and experienced teachers to San Ramon and other school districts that offer more competitive compensation.

Measure Z will keep great teachers in Orinda classrooms and protect quality education for Orinda students.

Yes on Z will:



Attract and retain qualified and experienced teachers



Support quality academic programs in science, technology, engineering, reading, writing, arts and music



Keep class sizes small

Mandatory Accountability and Local Control

- All funds must stay local and cannot be taken away by the State
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits ensure funds are spent as promised
- By law, no funds can be used for administrator salaries
- Measure Z automatically expires in seven years and cannot be renewed without voter approval
- Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption

WE ALL AGREE: VOTE YES ON Z!

Organizations

Orinda Educators' Association
Orinda Network for Education (ONE)
Del Rey Parents' Club
Glorietta Parents' Club
Miramonte Parents' Club
Orinda Intermediate School Parents' Club
Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club
Wagner Ranch Parents' Club
AUHSD Governing Board
Christina Linezo Real Estate

Elected Officials

Steve Glazer, CA State Senator & Former Mayor of Orinda
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, CA State Assemblymember
Don Perata, Former CA State Senate President Pro Tem
Sarah Butler, Member, Contra Costa County Board of Education & Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Inga Miller, Mayor of Orinda
Darlene Gee, Vice Mayor of Orinda
Brandyn Iverson, Council Member, Orinda
Latika Malkani, Council Member, Orinda
Janet Riley, Council Member, Orinda
Laura Abrams, Former Mayor of Orinda
Dennis Fay, Former Mayor of Orinda
Joyce Hawkins, Former Mayor of Orinda
Bill Judge, Former Mayor of Orinda
Tom McCormick, Former Mayor of Orinda
Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda & Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Victoria Smith, Former Mayor of Orinda
Amy Worth, Former Mayor of Orinda
Nick Kosla, Former Council Member, Orinda
Hillary Weiner, President, OUSD Board of Trustees
Cara Hoxie, Vice President, OUSD Board of Trustees
Edda Collins Coleman, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Eve Phillips, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Katie Shogan, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Carol Brown, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Liz Daoust, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Nancy Kaible, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Jason Kaune, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Linda Landau, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Julie Rossiter, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Pat Rudebusch, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Riki Sorenson, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Clark Wallace, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees & Orinda Citizen of the Year 1969
Christopher Severson, Member, AUHSD Governing Board
Vanessa Crews, Former Member, AUHSD Governing Board

Susie Epstein, Former Member, AUHSD Governing Board
Alex Evans, Former Chair, Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Community Leaders

Scott M. Adams
Belinda Adams-Walker
Rahul Aggarwal
Joanna Allen
Andy & Carole Amstutz
Andrew Anagnost
Sandy & Dave Anderson
Sarah Anderson
Ashley Appel
Kristin Avicoll
DeEtte Baise
Deepa Bangalore
Scott & Stephanie Barmmer
Sandy Barnett
A.R. Bassa
Todd & Amy Berryhill
Renee Bertenthal
Patrice Bilello
Allison Bingham
Diane Bode
Wendy & Herman Bond
Sean Brennan
Olivia Brown
Annie Burgess
Dianna Burns
Robert Burt
Natalie Lacuesta Byrum
Catherine Campbell
Elisa Carpenter
Mindy Carrington
Amanda Catanesi
Patricia Cetrone
Molly Chapman
Shoshana Chazan
Laurel Chee
Sara Cherry
Gretchen Chevalier
Anil K. Chopra
Gene & Lisa Chow
Tim Christianson
Todd & Nina Clark
Kate Clarke
Shannon & Jon Conner

Niall Conway
Jill M. Cooper
Bill Cosden
Vanessa & Jesse Crews
Lindsay & Zach Crittendon
Cathy Cutler & Abe Mintz
Karolyn Cutler
Erica Damianakes
Steven Danziger
Mark Daoust
Susheel Daswani
Clay Deanhardt
Vince Dell'Aquila
Lorraine DeMello
Emily Desai
Jennifer Dodd
Alicia Doyle
Carolyn Druger
Corrine Dugan
Lauren Dunlap
Diane Dwyer & Tim Sharp
Akiva Elias
Nancy English
Emily Estrada
Katie & Mike Fagundes
Natalie Fay
Christopher & Stephanie Gade
Dennis Gee
Gary Geng
Xin Geng
Gayle & Steve Goldman
Kathryn Golueke
Tanuka Gordon
Wesley Gosnell
M'Liss Greenlee
Jess Greer
Chunyan Gu
Rahul Gupta
Kitty Guptill
Cherise Gutierrez
Lowell Haky
Alex Hall
Julia Hall
Jud Hammon
Lori Hardy
Steve & Tish Harwood
Chris & Lisa Haskell

Pete & Helen Hasselman
Liz Headley
Charles & Eva Heath
Matt Helder
Stephanie Helder
Jodi L. Helffenstein
Duke & Jill Herrero
Kristin Hilty
Vickie Hilty
Kendra Hoffman
Christina Holling
Stuart House
Stacy Howard
Shelley & Bob Hubner
Jill Hughes
Mark Hurst
Landon Hyles
Marc Jacuzzi
Nathan Jaskowiak
Elisabeth Jewell
Jane Ji
Debra Jockisch
Debbie & Glenn Johansen
Elaina Jones
Joey Judge
Michelle Kalafatis
Mark & Jennifer Kamal
Alicia Keenan
Ron Keller
Jennifer Kelly
Mukesh Khali
Joan Kiekhaefer
Julia King
Suzy Kisch
Paul & Maria Barrie Kivel
Anthony Koester
Larissa Kosla
Meredithe Kreis
Stephanie Kreutzer
Anny Lackey
Tabitha Langman
Craig Larsen
Ashley Lee
Yasaman & Young Lee
Jan & Barry Levin
Melanie Light
Hana Lindberg
Christina Linezo
Dr. Nicola Longmuir
Lisa Lyon
Jessica MacDiarmid
Carlie Magill
The Mains Family
Srilakshmi Makkena
Myla Manese

Rodney Mangus
Shasta Mathey & Matt Talmadge
Patricia McAteer
Christina Flores McCormick
Jen McKenzie
Michelle Meyers
Hadley Mickel
Adam Miller
Glenn Millstone
Leslie Millstone
George Minowada & Paradi Mirmirani
Abe Mintz
Jennifer Morgan
Kelly Morgan
Anne & Jeff Nash
Jennifer & Petar Nedyalkov
Heather O'Brien
Dayle Okamitsu
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Maureen O'Neil
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Nancy & Ned Pike
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Wayne Phillips
Jennifer Plumley
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Will Prinzi
Shawna Puljiz
Jyotsna Puranik
Gary Rafferty
Kelly Rafferty
Stefanie Randelman
Betsy & Dana Ream
Barbara & David Reeves
Kacy & David Richardson
Pam Rhodes
& Robert Andrews
Janet Robinson
Davina Roche
Jacob Roden-Lowe
Nita Roethe
Brian Rogers
Taylor Rosa
Dylan Rosenberg
Juliane Rossiter
Lisa Rudolph

Gabriel Sable
Sarah Sable
Amy Sabol
Marshall Sachs
Stephanie Sado
Abby Sanchez
Elizabeth Sarica
Joel Schaffer
Terry Schrittwieser
Tracee Schultz
Natalie Schutzman
Lisa & Steve Sernett
Charles Shannon
Howard & Joyce Shao
Joel Sheiman
Kathy & Dave Simon
Kirsten Slawson
John Smith
Wick Smith
Andy Sorenson
Nathaniel Sponsler
Vy Spoto
Caitlin Stahle
Keara Starnes
Amy Stefanitsis
Karleen Stern
Michelle Stieler
Heather Swedeen
Jack Sweitzer
Jennifer & Eric Tejada
Bridgette Thomas
Heather Tiraschi
Kristan Torres
Kelly Trestrail
Michelle Trosclair
Kelsey Tu
Mark & Marcie Tuttle
Ted & Lida Urban
Karen Ursino
Haavar Valeur
Natalie Valeur
Alison Waterman
Susan B. Wecht
Dana Wentworth
Janai West
Richard Westin
Richard Winefield
Deanna Wood
Tom Worth
Shauna Yeager
Ellen Zapalac & Tony Foster

*Partial list.
Titles for identification purposes only.*

There are usually two sides to every argument, but check your ballot book... **There is no argument against Measure Z.**

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Z WAS SUBMITTED



**By March 7, Vote Yes on Z:
KEEP GREAT TEACHERS IN ORINDA SCHOOLS**



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2101550

Going Green in Lafayette just got more competitive

... continued from Page A3

A big point-winner (2,740 impact points) is choosing green electricity, perhaps adding solar panels or switching appliances and heating sources from gas to electric.

The Cleaner Contra Costa website offers a full menu of other actions to explore. Under Energy Smart, line drying clothes, installing insulating drapes, pivoting to smart thermostats and lighting are immediate ideas to implement. Replacing single-pane windows with double-windows, insulating walls and attics, and getting rid of that extra freezer that sits empty for most of the year while needlessly drawing energy from the grid are likely to

have a larger impact.

Shifting Your Ride could mean buying or leasing a hybrid or electric vehicle, but also taking BART, reducing air travel, telecommuting when possible and walking, biking, carpooling, and if you must drive, keeping a keen eye on your speed.

Most people in California need few reminders that water is precious, even during years when the drought is less immediately apparent. Which means that taking shorter showers and replacing grass with vegetation suitable for dry climates and installing low flow plumbing in bathrooms are no-brainers. Even so, there are fresh ideas: installing weather based irrigation controls, catching rain-

fall, installing greywater systems, and other water-wise actions on the website.

A fascinating Eat Green and Waste Less page outlines foods with lower impact and suggestions about ways to reuse, share, store, recycle or go without items to reach your goals to reduce food and other waste.



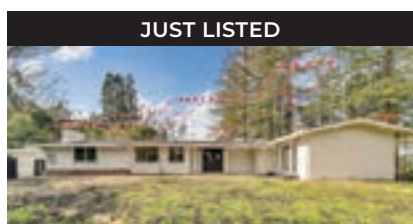
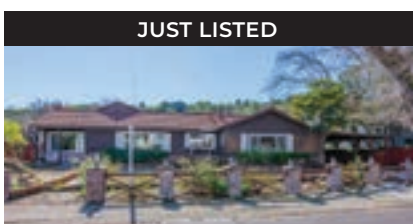

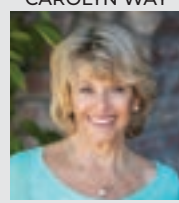
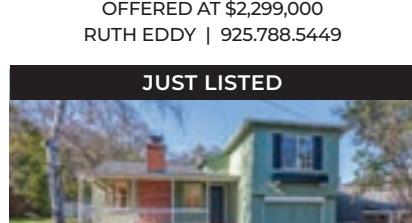
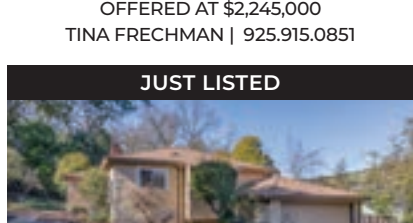
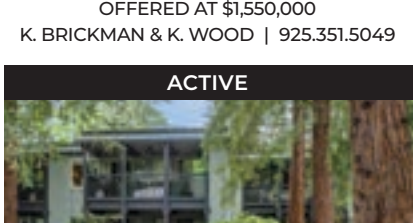


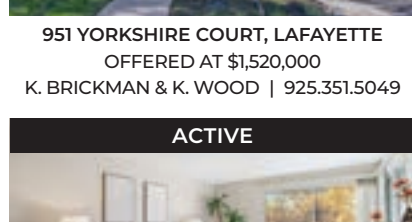
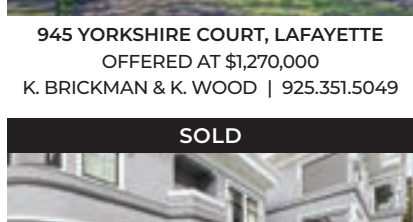
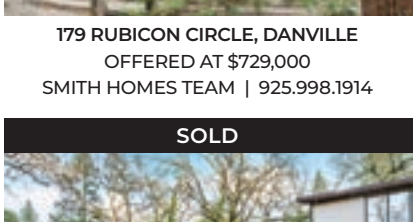


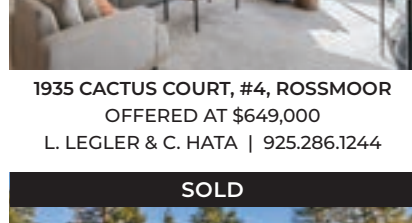
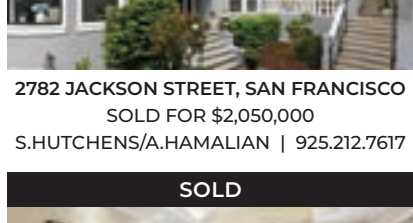


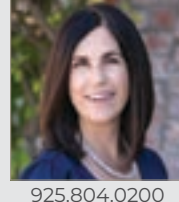
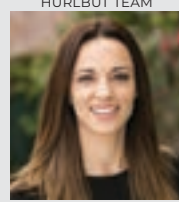
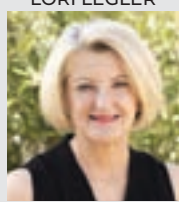

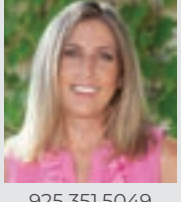

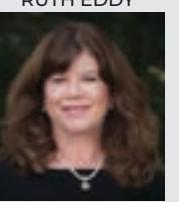



With everything to gain – and only carbon emissions and planet-destroying habits to lose – there's good reason for everyone in Lafayette to join the challenge. If altruism and humanitarianism aren't enough, there's always that (secret and not-so-secret) urge to one-up the neighbors. Isn't it remarkable that in this challenge, even the "losers" win?

For information, visit www.cleanercontracosta.org

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<p>ADAM HAMALIAN  925.708.5630 DRE# 01917597</p>	<p>COMING SOON  4 EL VERANO, ORINDA OFFERED AT \$2,299,000 RUTH EDDY 925.788.5449</p>	<p>JUST LISTED  61 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA OFFERED AT \$2,245,000 TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851</p>	<p>JUST LISTED  3369 N. LUCILLE LANE, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1,550,000 K. BRICKMAN & K. WOOD 925.351.5049</p>	<p>BRYAN HURLBUT  925.383.5500 DRE# 01347508</p>
<p>CAROLYN WAY  925.890.4115 DRE# 00947460</p>	<p>JUST LISTED  951 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1,520,000 K. BRICKMAN & K. WOOD 925.351.5049</p>	<p>JUST LISTED  945 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1,270,000 K. BRICKMAN & K. WOOD 925.351.5049</p>	<p>ACTIVE  179 RUBICON CIRCLE, DANVILLE OFFERED AT \$729,000 SMITH HOMES TEAM 925.998.1914</p>	<p>CHERYL HATA  510.912.5882 DRE# 013859346</p>
<p>CHRISTINE WRIGHT  925.285.5336 DRE# 01896147</p>	<p>ACTIVE  1935 CACTUS COURT, #4, ROSSMOOR OFFERED AT \$649,000 L. LEGLER & C. HATA 925.286.1244</p>	<p>SOLD  2782 JACKSON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO SOLD FOR \$2,050,000 S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN 925.212.7617</p>	<p>SOLD  964 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE SOLD FOR \$1,860,000 LAUREN DEAL 925.876.4671</p>	<p>JANE & DAVE SMITH  925.998.1914 DRE# 01476506/02105225</p>
<p>JOY WIEHN  415.377.1884 DRE# 02047712</p>	<p>SOLD  25 OCHOS RIOS PLACE, DANVILLE SOLD FOR \$1,800,000 COLOMBANA GROUP 925.878.8047</p>	<p>SOLD  996 HAWTHORN DRIVE, LAFAYETTE SOLD FOR \$1,250,000 L. LEGLER & C. HATA 925.286.1244</p>	<p>SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER  9 CANNING COURT, MORAGA SOLD FOR \$1,586,000 COLOMBANA GROUP 925.878.8047</p>	<p>JULIE DEL SANTO BROKER/OWNER  925.818.5500 DRE# 01290985</p>
<p>JILL BALAZS  925.804.0200 DRE# 02038791</p>	<p>LAUREN DEAL HURLBUT TEAM  925.876.4671 DRE# 02060294</p>	<p>LORI LEGLER  925.286.1244 DRE# 00805732</p>	<p>MATT MCLEOD  925.464.6500 DRE# 01310057</p>	<p>KAAREN BRICKMAN  925.351.5049 DRE# 01932119</p>
<p>RACHEL DREYER  415.990.1672 DRE# 01994561</p>	<p>RUTH EDDY  925.788.5449 DRE# 01313819</p>	<p>SHELLEY RUHMAN  510.506.1351 DRE# 01180260</p>	<p>SHERRY HUTCHENS  925.212.7617 DRE# 01320608</p>	<p>TINA FRECHMAN  925.915.0851 DRE# 01970768</p>

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

The rhythm of balance – LES’s Mr. Moe finds rhythm inside and outside the classroom



Lafayette Elementary School teacher Scott Moe Photo Hien Clayton

By Sharon K. Sobotta

There is a rhythm to reaching and teaching fifth graders that Lafayette Elementary School teacher Scott Moe finds to be magical – so much so that he’s been in the classroom for the past 27 years. These days, when Moe is not in front of his 28 students keeping the rhythm for all of the different learning styles and unique personalities in his classroom, he can often be found on the back of a stage or rehearsing in a garage, keeping the rhythm for his band, Take Five.

Moe was around the same age as the children in his class when he became intrigued with drumming. “I remember sitting on the curb and watching the marching drum go by and doing everything I could not to blink, because I found it to be so fascinating,” Moe says. “When it was time to choose band instruments, I knew right away that I wanted an instrument like drums or (as backup) the trombone – an instrument that had

movement and noise.”

On the day Moe and about nine other budding percussionists went to pick up their instruments, instead of the shiny silver drum kits they were expecting, they got tiny drum pads. “It was disappointing but I stuck with it,” Moe recalls with a smile. Then the summer between seventh and eighth grades, his parents conditionally agreed to get him the drumming kit he always wanted as a birthday and Christmas present from them and many other relatives. “I had to promise to practice. I got the drum kit and they had to beg me to stop. I put on my headphones and played along with Led Zeppelin and the Beatles or whoever came on the radio. Then, the summer before ninth grade, I joined my first band.”

The now 53-year-old Moe, who is the father of two teenagers, has been in multiple bands along his journey and connected with the members of Take Five during the pandemic. Like Moe, each of his bandmates have rich lives and bal-

ance daytime jobs and responsibilities, significant others and children. Moe and his bandmates rehearse weekly in a garage and have a performance gig each month. Like teaching, drumming in a band is both hard work and heart work for Moe.

“Sometimes when I’m breaking down the drums at 2 a.m. and getting ready to drive home, that I don’t always enjoy. But, playing in front of people for hours at a time gives me such a great amount of joy. I live for that feeling,” Moe says with a wide grin. “It’s like teaching. Do I love report cards? No. But I love being with the kids and being a positive influence on them. And I love when they come back from Stanley Middle School or high school or after college and tell me that I made a difference or that fifth grade was their favorite. That is priceless.”

In the classroom, it’s the art of keeping the 28 students in his class engaged and excited about learning that keeps him on his toes and has even at times earned him a reputation as a stand-up comedian. “This is my stand-up improv (gig). The lesson and the content are set, but I’ve got a cast of 28 characters and I never quite know what any of them are going to throw out at me,” Moe says. “Teaching is a job where you’ve got to be quick on your feet and it’s probably a lot like improv comedy.”

Something that Moe particularly loves about fifth graders is their creativity and their innovation. “There’s the saying that if you give kids an inch, they’ll take a mile. It’s true for my fifth graders in the best possible way,” Moe beams. “I can give them some basic instructions and the foundations

for a lesson and they can take it and run with it.”

Moe’s students might say that their admiration for him has something to do with the way he shows up for them every day. “Mr. Moe makes everything more fun. Math is really hard for many people, but Mr. Moe finds ways to make it fun and interesting. He knows how to go with the flow,” his student Hazel says. “I think it’s so cool that my teacher has a hobby that he loves so much that he turned it into a job and I also feel lucky that he’s my teacher.” Another student, Kaylee, says she loves that her teacher is role modeling and that it is possible to do two things at once. “I think it’s cool to have a teacher who is also a drummer.”

Rose Suarez, the parent of

Moe’s student Antonio, thinks it’s no coincidence that many students in Moe’s class like math, even if they’ve traditionally found it hard, while also appreciating subjects like art and music.

“I’m almost emotional when I talk about him. He brings so much perspective and is really able to understand the kids with so many different needs and personalities and he’s right there with them,” Suarez says. “We hear all these reports about how music helps the brain and you see that when he’s on stage. A lot of times he’s got his eyes closed. He’s totally in the moment and in the music. It’s so good for kids and they’re growing brains to know that life is more than just academics, that music can be important too.”



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Time is the secret ingredient in this French Onion Soup



French Onion Soup with Gruyere Croutons

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Last week, when temps dipped across the country, and ice storms persisted, I decided there was no place like home, and no better time for French Onion Soup! There is nothing like a steaming bowl of hot soup to warm a winter's day, and classic French Onion Soup is a universal favorite. It's so comforting with a toasty slice of French bread smothered in bubbly, melted Gruyere cheese. And, if you've never made French Onion Soup, you'll be surprised at how easy it is to make! It just takes a bit of time to caramelize the large quantity of onions. Time is the secret ingredient to making this soup. It takes about 40 minutes (and sometimes a bit longer), for the sugars in the onions to properly caramelize. You can add extra sugar to speed up

the process, but we find that makes our soup too sweet, and prefer to let them caramelize in their own sweet time. But, after that, it's a snap.

So, have a little bit of patience, slice the onions very thin, and start cooking them over low heat in a little butter and olive oil, stirring occasionally. Take your time to get them nice and golden brown, not burned. I learned a little trick recently, which is if the onions look like they are beginning to dry out during the caramelizing process, simply add a little bit of water to the pan to keep them nice and moist. This saves on adding too much butter or oil, and it works like a charm.

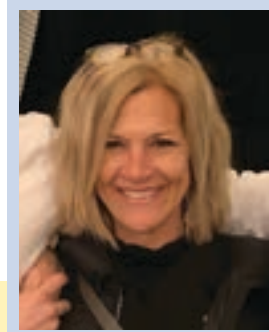
I usually use sherry as the wine in my soup to deglaze the pan once the onions are thoroughly caramelized, but this time I actually used Calvados (an apple brandy) and it was deli-

cious. Calvados is a fun French apple brandy from the Normandy region and it's so good.

We use a combination of beef broth and chicken broth for our French Onion soup, but you can use all beef broth if you prefer. I think it does need at least some beef broth. Because I'm usually in a hurry and want to eat the soup sooner rather than later, I use packaged broth, but if you have the time, you can definitely make a homemade broth or stock with bones and meat and a mirepoix of carrots, onions, celery, seasonings

and herbs.

Another great thing about this soup is that you can make it in advance and refrigerate or freeze it for a later time. Enough chit chat ... it's time to get started on making this tantalizing recipe!



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>

French Onion Soup

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

6 large yellow onions, peeled, cut in half and very thinly sliced
2 tbsp. butter
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black or white pepper
1 large clove garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. dried thyme (or 1 tbsp. fresh thyme leaves)
4 cups beef broth (or stock)
4 cups chicken broth (or stock)
1/4 cup dry sherry or Calvados
Salt and Pepper to taste
4 thick slices of French bread
2 cups grated Gruyere cheese

DIRECTIONS

Melt butter with olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add onions, cover and cook over low heat, just until wilted and translucent. Remove cover and continue to cook over low heat for about 40 minutes, or until the onions are beautifully browned and caramelized. Stir occasionally and add a few tablespoons of water at a time, as needed, to keep the onions moist.

Once the onions are caramelized, add the sherry and scrape the bottom of the pan with a spoon or spatula to pick up any bits of onion stuck to the bottom. Stir in the minced garlic, salt, pepper and thyme, and continue to cook for a minute or so. Stir in both broths and simmer over medium-low heat, uncovered, for about 30 minutes.

Preheat the broiler to high. Toast the French bread slices. Set aside.

Place your bowls or ramekins on a baking sheet. Spoon hot soup into the individual ramekins, being sure to get plenty of the onions in each bowl. Lay one piece of toast over the top and sprinkle grated Gruyere evenly over the toast and soup. Broil until the cheese is melted and bubbly and beginning to brown.

Serve while it's hot!

Deferred? Now what?

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

When the pandemic first hit, many worried that applications for admission would decrease in much the same way as enrollment numbers dropped. However, the opposite occurred and this past early cycle results show applications are up, in some cases dramatically so. Due to this increase in demand, many otherwise qualified students found themselves deferred to regular admissions cycle.

Why has this occurred? One expert suggests that most of the early action/early decision deferrals can be contributed to the deluge of digital recruitment strategies, including virtual information sessions, tours, and student panels. One college advisor calls colleges 'marketing machines' whose efforts to connect with students on social media re-

sulted in unparalleled awareness of schools that students otherwise would not have thought were within their reach – in turn this stimulated greater numbers of applications.

I would amend the social media hypothesis to add that digital strategies increased the perception of college access rather than actual access and led many students and their families to overestimate their chances of admission. If schools were needier, many reasonably figured that they would be more likely to admit qualified, or even somewhat less qualified students. This assumption was most in error.

Added to this thinking was the tendency to believe that the increase in chances of admission applied across the board, even to the most selective schools. Thus, the biggest rises in applications were directly proportional to the selectivity of the colleges, and so

were the deferral (and denial) rates. It seems that the most selective schools, often among the wealthiest, had the greatest resources to weather the pandemic storm, while maintaining their high standards for admission.

What should a deferred student do who still hopes to be considered during the regular admission cycle? First, remember that being deferred means the college is still interested enough in you to consider your application. If you've been working hard academically and maintained your extracurricular involvement, I recommend writing a Letter of Continued Interest. Here are some tips:

1) Keep your letter short, upbeat, and polite.
2) Focus on relevant updates to your application. Highlight specific achievements like improved test scores, better grades, or a recent award. If you applied as a finance major

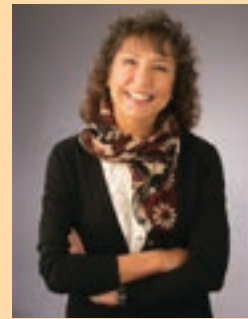
and you transformed a B in calculus to an A, tell them, since it is relevant to the school and your proposed major.

3) Send supplemental materials that support your updates only if the school accepts them.
4) Follow their rules. If they originally asked for two letters of recommendation, do not

send them a third.

My recommended word limit for your letter is 300. By comparison, this article is 461 words. It is too long for a Letter of Continued Interest. Colleges have your application, so avoid repetition. Get your point across and be done!

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Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.



'Anything Goes' SF production taps local talent



Submitted by Jonathan White

Renee DeWeese Moran, the executive director and founder of Performing Academy in Lafayette, will be playing "Angel/Ensemble" in 42nd Street Moon's upcoming production of the Tony Award winning "Anything Goes," which launches the company's 2023 Mainstage Season. This perennial favorite, first produced on Broadway in 1934, has twice

won the Tony Award for "Best Revival of a Musical" (1987 and 2011) and features music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

"Anything Goes" is one of the greatest romantic farce musicals, with star-crossed lovers, mistaken identities, lots of tap-dancing, and one of the greatest collections of Cole Porter songs found in any one show," said Executive Artistic Director Daniel Thomas. "We're fortunate to have a group of artists who can tell

this story with today's sensibilities while keeping the fast-paced 1930s comedy style. 'Anything goes' is lightness, laughter, and love, and a fantastic way to kick off 2023."

Farcical hijinks abound in this theatrical romp across the Atlantic, in which a young ocean-liner stowaway, Billy Crocker, sets out to win the affections of Hope Harcourt, with plenty of elaborate disguises, tap-dancing sailors, and good old-fashioned blackmail

along the way. A hilarious, heart-warming romantic comedy, featuring such classics as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," and "It's De-Lovely," this offers an evening of "sheer escape" into a world of side-splitting laughter, toe-tapping music, and plenty of heart.

"Anything Goes" runs from Feb. 23 to March 12 and will perform at San Francisco's Gateway Theatre. Tickets: 42ndstmoon.org/anything-goes/

Renee DeWeese Moran Photo provided



Robins get to work as spring season is right around the corner

The robins don't seem to realize that it is still winter for five more weeks. With flowers and fruit trees budding earlier and earlier, colorful robins have invaded our Lamorinda gardens. Flocks, like these seen here enjoying young apricot blossoms in an Orinda yard, have been stripping trees of their freshly

sprouted fruit. Perhaps drunk on all that fruit, the robins seem to think spring has sprung. Sure, it may still be winter technically, but from the sound of bird-song in our gardens and the neighborhood invasion of robins, spring in Lamorinda is right around the corner. – Jeff Heyman

Photo Jeff Heyman

Annual bookmark contest opens for entrants

Submitted by Katherine Pekrul

Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center is looking for K-8 students to create an original bookmark illustrating a favorite book. Entry forms are available in Lafayette school libraries, the Lafayette Library and Friends Corner Book Shop. The contest began Feb. 10 and all entries are due

March 3. Winners will be recognized at the library on April 27 during an award ceremony. The beautiful printed bookmarks will be available for all library and book shop patrons to use and enjoy. The winning bookmarks will be framed by Anthony's Custom Picture Framers and displayed in the library and book shop. For more information, contact Kay Pekrul, kae865@hotmail.com

Campo girls basketball team takes the season of giving to a whole new level



Photo provided

Submitted by Jon Wood

This basketball season, Moraga is proud to support Campolindo girls basketball and its efforts to support Soles4Souls shoe drive. It demonstrates the character of these young women and the integrity of the program beyond the court.

Soles4Souls aims to turn unwanted shoes into opportunities, by keeping shoes from going to waste and putting them to good use – providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

“Research shows that with good shoes, kids are more healthy, attend school more often, and are more confident. Having a good pair of shoes that fit right and look good not only boosts a child’s confidence, it also removes one of the most visible signs of poverty,” says Bill Flitter, head coach, Campolindo Girls Basketball.

Soles4Souls creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distrib-

ution of shoes and clothing around the world.

Coach Flitter adds, “Most of us can’t imagine what it’s like not to have something as basic as a pair of shoes, but millions of people around the world face this every day. Last year we collected 1,500 shoes, this year we are aiming for 2,000!”

Soles4Souls partners with women’s shelters, veterans’ organizations, children’s programs, and schools to get shoes and clothing to those who need it most.

Please join this incredible group of women and bring the shoes you no longer wear. The greatest ‘feet’ you can do today is give new life to those lonely shoes in your closet.

Drop shoes off from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 25, at Campolindo High School Multipurpose Room, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga.

For more information visit: Campogirlsbasketball.com

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda’s dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Longtime Orinda resident turns 100



Nancy Dupuis Photo provided

Submitted by Louise Diracles


Nancy Dupuis, who has lived in Orinda for 70 years, just turned 100 years old and still can navigate the internet like a pro. She was honored by her sisters in the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for turning 100 and being a member for 40 years. Dupuis’ mother and daughter were also members of the chapter. When Nancy was asked what kind of work do you do? This amazing woman replied that she was a “professional volunteer.” Some of her many community jobs included: Cub Scout/Boy Scout Den Mother, Brownie/Girl Scout Leader, Sleepy Hollow Parents’ Club member, Orinda Junior Women’s Club member (raising money for the first

Orinda Library), St. Stephens Sunday School Teacher, AAUW member (housing foreign students), counselor to high school girls at King’s Daughters Home in Oakland, taught needlepoint and Mah Jong, and Parliamentarian for the Lamorinda Republican Women.

In Memory

Elsie Anna Rossetto Gallo

Aug. 11, 1916 – Dec. 11, 2022



Elsie Anna Rossetto Gallo was born and raised in Weed, Calif. (Siskiyou County). After graduating from Weed High School, she attended UC Berkeley and graduated in 1939. She worked part time at Cal and managed to graduate in four years.

She earned three teaching certificates – General Elementary, General Secondary (High School and first two years of college) and Learning Disabilities. She had experience teaching in all three credentials. She almost pursued a career in singing. A college singing professor was amazed at the wonderful voice she had and told her to pursue a career in singing instead of teaching. She was known as the girl who was always singing. She disappointed many friends

for not pursuing a singing career.

Her teaching career started when she was a sophomore in high school. She was asked to take over her church choir and that meant teaching songs for Sunday mass and playing the organ. Also, when she was in high school, she had her own singing group and taught them not only songs in English, but also songs in Spanish and Italian. Her Spanish teacher was so proud of her that she brought her singing group to back to school night and had her group sing songs in Spanish.

She was a popular teacher among students. Her high school students use to tease her and call her a slave driver. They used to say “Boy, you sure can’t get away with anything with her.” Even with her back turned she knew who was paying attention and who wasn’t. “You had to be dumb not to get an ‘A’ or a ‘B’ in her class the way she hammered the material in your head.” She was also known to go behind the scenes of struggling students who were flunking. She was able to correct and find out what the problems were and helped them. Some problems were simple, some were complex, but she managed to correct them. She was also a popular teacher among African American students. She was told that she was the only teacher who knew how to relate to them. The African American students even surprised her with a big party to honor her. The janitors were fond of her as well. She was told that she was the only teacher who treated them with respect even though they were janitors.

She enjoyed and loved her teaching career. Some of her students made it through college due to her extra help. She was a resident of Moraga since December of 1954. She met her future husband, Victor Gallo, through a mutual friend while still living in Berkeley, Calif. They married in the Catholic Church in Berkeley.

Elsie and Victor bought a house in Moraga, Calif. and raised one daughter and one son. Elsie stayed home to take care of her children. When the children were older and on their own, Elsie went to get her teaching certificate for the educationally handicapped. She taught at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga for the last 30 years. She then retired from teaching.

Elsie is survived by her to children, Christina Gallo and Tom Gallo. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Sean, Christopher, and Aaron Mallory. She is also survived by her nieces, Vicki and Susan Crawford, Marla Brendel, and her nephews Bart, Eric and Alex Brendel.


Elsie also enjoyed her kitties and being with her grandsons. She will be missed by all of her family.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances
If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include “Celebrations and Remembrances” in the subject line.

In Memory

Kevin Barker

Jan. 10, 1982 – Dec. 23, 2022



Kevin Barker passed away unexpectedly and too soon on Dec. 23, 2022 at 40 years old, after complications from a recent surgery.

The youngest of seven siblings, he was the final child of Patti and Bud Barker of Orinda, Calif., and was born on Jan. 10, 1982 shortly after Joe Montana connected with Dwight Clark in what’s forever known as “The Catch” in 49er lore. Patti went into labor during the historic game, but kept it quiet until the 49ers were victorious and then made it to the hospital just in time for her doctor to make the next big catch of the day.

Kevin graduated from Miramonte High School (2000) and UC Santa Barbara (2005). He spent his final decade in Atlantic Beach, Fla., enjoying life and work, while being closer to his oldest brother, Bryan (former Jacksonville Jaguars Pro Bowl punter).

Kevin loved music, sports and the outdoors, especially BMX racing, mountain biking, snowboarding, golf, camping, being on the water and, of course, his Oakland A’s. He was happiest gathering with friends and family while listening to great tunes and sharing cold ones and his latest hot sauce.

Kevin is preceded in Heaven by his late father, Bud Barker (2008). He is survived by his mother, Patti Barker and siblings Bryan, Laura, Jeff, Steve (Sara), Kristen (JD) and Brendan.

His Celebration of Life will be held March 18 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Lafayette Public House. Those whose lives he touched are invited to attend. Please RSVP at: <http://evite.me/jbvPjRqtuj>

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Not to be missed

Music

Orinda native Juliana

Athayde, daughter of former Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde, returns to the Bay Area to perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with the Diablo Symphony Orchestra on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26, at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Beginning at 2 p.m. the program will be conducted by music director and conductor Matilda Hofman as well as "conduct the orchestra" auction winners Kathryn Crandell and Bill Rudiak. Advance tickets are available at the Leshner Center for the Arts box office (925) 943-7469 or by visiting www.diablosymphony.org/. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$10 for youth 13-17. Children 12 and under are free but need a ticket, and a discounted ticket price of \$30 is available for groups of 10 or more seniors ages 62 and up. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra presents Local Orchestra Spotlights Award-Winning Bay Area Composer (Orinda) on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephens Drive, Orinda as part of its enchanting 'Discoveries and Revivals' program. Cost: Adults: \$20, Seniors: \$15, Students, \$7. For more info see www.contracostachamberorchestra.org or call (415) 794-1269 or email info@contracostachamberorchestra.org.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert Cello Extravaganza on Saturday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m., Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning March 21. Single tickets \$15-45; Online: www.gccpmusic.com, by phone: (925) 283-3728. Pamela Freund-Striplen, (925) 283-3728

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents A Marais Sampler on Friday, Feb. 17, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Saint Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley. Music of the great Marin Marais (including the iconic 'Labyrinthe') played by virtuosi Lynn Tetenbaum, viola da gamba, and John Lenti, theorbo. Cost: \$20. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call (510) 220-1195 or email info@barefootchamberconcerts.com.

St. Paul's Concert Series is excited to present Classical Guitarist, Aaron Haas, in a spectacular performance on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. From Los Angeles, Aaron Haas is a prominent rising star! In his performance at St. Paul's, Haas

presents classical pieces such as Three Schubert Lieder (Schubert), La Catedral (Mangore) and Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Minor (Bach), and other beloved pieces, after opening with a piece of his own composition. St. Paul's Concert Series is pleased to invite its audience in-person for this event, and we will also broadcast this performance simultaneously online. To register visit St. Paul's at stpaulswc.org/concert-series. 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Donations graciously accepted at the door (avg. \$20/\$10 Students) and in our online registration. All are welcome regardless of donation.

Theatre

Town Hall Theatre Company presents: "The Shape of Things" Written by Neil LaBute, Directed by Salim Razawi. March 4-25, tickets: \$25-40, March 24 is the Pay-What-You-Can performance. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette

Literature

The February Sweet Thursday Author Series is hosting a Zoom only discussion with C.W. Gortner, author of "The American Adventuress" on Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. To register go to tinyurl.com/sweet-feb23.

Orinda Books Thursday, March 2 at 11 a.m. Pat's Book Club will read and discuss "The Paris Bookseller" by Kerri Maher. This gripping novel is the dramatic story of how a humble bookseller fought against incredible odds to bring one of the most important books of the 20th century to the world. All are welcome. Note: This title had been scheduled for February but was postponed due to the book's temporary unavailability. 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606, www.orindabooks.com, info@orindabooks.com

Other

Scottish Country Dancing Classes. Adult Beginner's Thursday night 7 to 8:30 p.m. lessons are \$8 each. Experienced Dancers continue until 9:30 p.m. All Lessons are with the Lafayette class of the San Francisco Branch located at The Danville Grange 743 Diablo Road, Danville. Come and enjoy the music, and friendly people. Please wear comfortable clothes and soft shoes. No partner required. (Proof of Covid-Vaccination required.) For more information, please call: Kathleen - (925) 934-6148 or Monica (925)575-7637.

Measure X: Living Up to the Promise? Voters passed Measure X, a new countywide sales tax to support health and

human services for our neighbors and families, in November 2020. Learn whether it's living up to what was promised to voters in a Zoom discussion on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. How is the Board of Supervisors providing accountability to the public about the impact of the tax monies? What did we learn from this first year of sales tax allocations? What does this mean for the future? A panel of experts will discuss what was funded by Measure X and what gaps remain. Register for the Zoom webinar with your email at <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/63bee7030748ed360061b9ab>

Campolindo High School DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) committee is hosting a showing of the Not In Our Town documentary, "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life." It is a film that follows the aftermath of the mass shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue. It is directed by Patrice O'Neill who will hold a Q&A session after the film. March 9 at 7-9 p.m., Del Valle Theater, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte and UCLA alum Drew Bennett reflects on time in NFL



Drew Bennett scores a touchdown against the Raiders.

By Jon Kingdon

There is no greater annual sporting event that captures the attention of the country than Super Bowl Sunday. In the buildup to the game, there is as much analysis done as there is for a presidential election.

For Drew Bennett, following his graduation from Miramonte and UCLA, the term long shot would not have been misapplied prior to his eight-year career as a wide receiver for six years with the Tennessee Titans and two years with the St. Louis

Rams that could clearly be called successful, having caught 307 passes and 28 touchdowns.

Bennett was a multi-sport athlete at Miramonte prior to the beginning of year-round club sport teams. "Back then you would play one sport after the other," Bennett said. "There would be about a week break between the football, basketball and baseball seasons and over the summer, you played all the sports."

It was more than sports for Bennett growing up in Orinda. "There is something very unique about Lamorinda that

promotes lifetime connections," Bennett said. "People are always surprised at how many friends I keep in contact with that go back as far as elementary school."

As a quarterback his senior year, Bennett was a first-team All-League and second-team All-Bay Area honors, averaged 17 points/game in basketball and batted .430, earning first-team All-League honors in baseball.

"I remained close to my basketball coach Tom Blackwood until he passed away and I still talk with my football coach Floyd Burnsed (now at Acalanes) on a regular basis," Bennett said. "Both were pillars of the Miramonte sports world for decades."

Burnsed still remembers Bennett's play in the 1995 NCS playoffs: "We played Vintage High School in Napa stadium and late in the game, Drew made a great pass down the field and on the 10-yard line, he ran a bootleg play for a touchdown to win the game. I believe he may have been the best athlete that ever came out of Miramonte."

Yet Bennett was more than just an athlete to Burnsed. "As a person, Drew was a great kid," Burnsed said. "He was very well liked and a hard worker that did whatever it took to be successful. He had all the good things that you wanted in a player and a young man."

Bennett was heavily recruited by Princeton (his mother Barbara's first choice), but on his recruiting trip it was 9 degrees and Bennett didn't get along with his host. His next visit was to UCLA where it was 77 degrees and sunny. He then told his mother, "I'm sorry, Mom. I'm not going to

Princeton."

As a walk-on at UCLA in 1996, Bennett soon learned that he was no longer playing for Miramonte but things soon broke his way. "When I got to UCLA, I was the seventh quarterback on the depth chart," Bennett said. "We then had QB's quit, fail physicals and transfer and I became the 3rd string, dressing for all of the games,

Bennett said.

After graduating with a degree in political science, Bennett was anticipating going to law school. "My dad, Richard, is an attorney and when I was asked my career choice at UCLA, I suggested that I would be an attorney so they directed me to political science," Bennett said.

With such limited playing time, Bennett finished his col-



Photos provided

Drew Bennett after beating Charles Woodson for a touchdown.

and was the backup QB to Cade McNown after another player's injury."

After being awarded his scholarship in 1997, UCLA utilized Bennett's athleticism as a quarterback and a receiver and he was the starting quarterback for three of the first four games in 1999. "I was not playing as well as I had been and was then demoted and then moved to wide receiver my senior year,"

lege career having completed 56 out of 102 passes for 773 yards with 7 touchdowns, 4 interceptions and 8 receptions for 167 yards, numbers that did not bring NFL teams running in his direction. "At my pro day, when I was asked for my medical records by the NFL teams, I told them I didn't have any because I didn't play very much so there was no damage yet," Bennett said. ... continued on Page C2



Men's Rugby continues to prove successful for the 22-23 season and displays skill and athleticism on the field. The team just returned from a tour to England and Ireland which showcased their strength against Cambridge University, Oxford University, and Trinity College.

Upcoming games will solidify the team ranking and we invite you to attend a match at Saint Mary's College. Saint Mary's Stadium is located in Moraga on 1928 Saint Mary's Road. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for 17 - 11-year-olds, and 10 and under are free.

Visit our website for game times, stadium policies and recruiting information. www.gaelrugby.com

Photo Credit: Sandi Allan

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- 11 CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY | 12:00 PM
- 11 SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY | 2:00 PM
- 25 GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY | 1:00 PM

MARCH

- 04 BYU | 1:00 PM
- 25 UC BERKELEY | 1:00 PM



Miramonte and UCLA alum Drew Bennett reflects on time in NFL

... continued from Page C1

After an excellent workout that day, the 6'5" Bennett was signed to a free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans, a team that was on the cusp of being a top team in the NFL.

At Tennessee, Bennett was once again starting at the bottom, actually below the bottom. "When I walked into the receivers meeting room, there was an X and Z (WR positions) on the board with six names under each and there was a line underneath those names and my name was underneath that line in the middle.

When I asked Coach (Steve) Walters why I was below that line, he said that they were considering bringing in another defensive back for this camp and if we do, we're going to cut you."

Instead of flying to Nashville, Bennett had driven straight to Tennessee and used that to plead his case to Walters. "I said, Coach, I just drove here from Los Angeles, can you at least let me get a pair of shorts and let me get sweaty once and not have to tuck my tail between my legs and have to drive back home?" Bennett asked. "I was given the number 19 when receivers had to wear numbers in the '80s and my first thought was 'This isn't good.'"

And yet, with luck and circumstances, Bennett made the

team as their seventh wide receiver. "My roommate at training camp was Chris Sanders, the team's fourth string quarterback, and he had less of a chance to make the team than I did," Bennett said. "We became friends and he told me, 'If we ever get into a game together, I don't care what happens, I'm going to throw you every ball.' Chris was true to his word and threw me every single ball and I caught about eight passes in the game."

In the NFL, there's an expression, "The more you can do," which can be a key in making the team. Prior to a preseason game, a drafted rookie receiver, Eddie Berlin, said he would not return punts in that game. "The special teams coach then asked me if I could return punts and even though I had never returned a punt in my life, I told him of course, and I was the second team punt returner for that game and after that, I was moved ahead of Berlin on the depth charts," Bennett said.

On cutdown day, the team was required to let the league and the players know who was being released. Bennett had not been cut at that point and called his mother who said how sorry she was that he had been cut, saying how she had seen his name on the cut list on the Titans website.

Once again, fate was on Bennett's side. Floyd Reese, the

team's general manager explained to Drew how they almost cut him. "Prior to my being cut, Floyd took a call from the Washington Redskins who said they were going to sign me if the Titans were going to cut me," Bennett said. "Floyd then changed his mind and the Titans kept me on the active roster."

Coach Sanders once again did not build up Bennett's confidence. "He told me that I shouldn't buy a car because I would probably be the first player they would cut if they needed a roster spot," Bennett said.

In Bennett's first three seasons with the Titans, he caught 24, 33 and 32 passes and then had a breakout year in 2004 catching 80 passes for 1,247 yards and 15 touchdowns though the team's record was 5-11. "We had several injuries that year and the team wasn't very good," Bennett said. "We were always trailing and I really clicked with our new quarterback, Billy Volek, and he was passing to me a dozen times a game so it was really fun despite our record."

After six seasons with the Titans, Bennett signed a free agent contract with the St. Louis Rams and in his two years there, the team had a combined 5 and 27 record, contributing to Bennett's decision to retire.

"It was life changing to get

my second contract with the Rams but it was not the way that I had wanted to finish my career," Bennett said "At that point, I had lost some of my love for football by that experience, and along with some knee injuries, I decided it was time to move on and see what was next in my life."

Still, when the playoffs begin each year, Bennett does not look away. "When I watch the playoff games each year, it's the only time I ever miss football," Bennett said. "When we prepared to play those games, there was something so special in the locker room, in the buses, on the flights and in the crowd for playoff football knowing there was a chance to play in the Super Bowl."

Playing in the AFC championship game in Oakland against the Raiders was all the more special for Bennett. "I purchased 67 tickets for friends and family for that game and that didn't count my parents who were sitting in a box," Bennett said. "I just remember how intense and exciting everything was."

It was a close game with Oakland ahead 27-24 before the Raiders scored two late touchdowns to win the game 41-24.

"I caught three passes that day and beat Charles Woodson for a touchdown which is something I will always remember and to have all of my

family and friends at the game was really awesome," Bennett said.

Since retiring in February 2009, Bennett and his wife, Heather, moved to New York City for a year as he commuted three days a week to Bristol, Conn., to do a morning show on ESPN2. "It was the first time in my life that I had no meetings to get to, no weight or strength to maintain, and I was able to just relax and do some TV work and explore New York City," Bennett said.

After Heather got pregnant, the Bennetts moved back to the Bay Area. "I coached at Miramonte for four years under Coach Jack Schram and I really enjoyed that. We had some good teams and won a Division II NCS playoff title," Bennett said. "I was then offered a job with a financial firm, Union Bank of Switzerland, that I was already a client of, eight years ago and I'm still with them."

Football is still a family game for the Bennetts. "Our two daughters (Dylan and Blaine) are now 10 and 7 and both are athletes. Our oldest daughter is playing on an all-girls flag football team in an all-boys league and their record is 2-2 and we're looking forward to the high schools beginning flag football teams for girls."

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 26 Wednesday, February 15, 2023



Irrigation system tips

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Full house



Spathiphyllum, the peace lily or sail plant, boasts white flowers that resemble a boat sail.

By Cynthia Brian

"Having plants in your house is a natural way to continuously clear yourself!" ~ Doreen Virtue

With another four weeks to go before the start of spring, turning our yearnings for gardening chores to our indoor spaces is ripe with opportunities. For many years we relied on the debunked 1989 NASA report that claimed that houseplants cleaned up to 87% of dangerous VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in our interior air. We thought if we filled our homes with a jungle of plants, we'd breathe easier and even prevent colds. Many scientists still agree that plants do remove pollutants through a process called absorption, although how much is debatable. Recent studies indicate that while a few plants won't do much purification, a full wall of plants will.

The living walls that we witness at airports and fancy hotels are scenic and inspiring as they freshen the air for the numerous clientele that transit. Creating a living wall of plants and flowers in our homes is not feasible



Photos Cynthia Brian

For a bang of color and texture, plant croton and snake plants together.

for most of us. Yet, there are other benefits to including plants in our interior designs.

Benefits of Plants Indoors

Aesthetic Appeal: Plants add beauty to any room. Plants create a natural feeling, making the atmosphere more inviting and pleasant.

Elevate Moods: Being around plants helps to reduce stress, improve moods, and boost cognitive function. Plants make people happy.

Increased Oxygen Levels: Through the process of photosynthesis, plants convert carbon dioxide into oxygen.

Therapeutic Benefits: Tending to plants, whether outdoors or indoors, is calming and meditative. We create a healthier environment that is pleasing to the senses.

Enhanced Productivity and Creativity: Studies have shown that plants in a workplace or study area enrich concentration, sharpen attention, and reduce both physiological and psychological stress.

Healing Properties: Looking at greenery when recovering from an illness or surgery helps speed recuperation.

... continued on Page D12



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,110,000	\$1,700,000
MORAGA	5	\$410,000	\$1,873,000
ORINDA	8	\$1,000,000	\$2,900,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 3176 Bradena Lane, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2517 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-28-22
- 1210 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 1607 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-29-22, Previous Sale: \$899,000, 02-28-06
- 766 Glenside Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2490 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 01-05-23, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 06-20-16
- 996 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 12-30-22, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 06-25-19
- 1062 Oak Hill Road, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 1137 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 01-06-23, Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 06-23-22

MORAGA

- 144 Ascot Court #3, \$467,000, 2 Bdrms, 945 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-28-22, Previous Sale: \$125,500, 08-01-89
- 2051 Ascot Drive #101, \$410,000, 1 Bdrms, 780 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 01-06-23, Previous Sale: \$95,500, 06-01-89
- 1519 Camino Peral #A, \$577,000, 2 Bdrms, 1272 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 12-30-22, Previous Sale: \$290,000, 09-11-01
- 28 Corte Mateo, \$1,873,000, 5 Bdrms, 2708 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 12-30-22
- 1229 Larch Avenue, \$1,715,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 01-06-23

ORINDA

- 19 Bates Boulevard, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1891 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-29-22
- 96 Camino Encinas, \$1,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 4091 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 12-30-22
- 30 Crescent Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1918 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 01-04-23
- 20 El Gavilan Road, \$2,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 3268 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-28-22, Previous Sale: \$1,808,000, 08-11-04
- 34 Moraga Viax, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1641 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-28-22, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 03-25-22
- 81 Muth Drive, \$1,643,500, 4 Bdrms, 2088 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 01-05-23, Previous Sale: \$920,000, 02-24-15
- 120 Ravenhill Road, \$1,730,000, 3 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 12-29-22, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 06-01-21
- 5 Sleepy Hollow Court, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2857 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-06-23, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-16-98



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Simple tips to handle irrigation line drips



Photo Jim Hurley

By Jim Hurley

“She could see the valley barbecues; From her window sill; See the blue pools in the squinting sun; Hear the hissing of summer lawns.” ~ Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell’s amazing lyrics invoke a compelling image from the sound of sprinklers, as she sings about life in a suburban home. The title track of her album “Hissing of Summer Lawns” (1975) elevates the mundane irrigation system to represent “the good life.”

Even as we Californians recover from what one meteorologist called a “Conga Line of atmospheric rivers” that just blew across our state, it is now time to think about your irrigation system and the hissing of your summer lawn.

Automated irrigation systems (we used to call them sprinklers) need routine maintenance to keep the system running as intended. If you have a gardening service, do not assume they are handling this task for

you. Ask them if they are doing this maintenance. If not, you might ask them how much to include it or hire a new service that does. If you have a couple of hours to spare a couple times per year and enjoy working in your garden, you could do this task yourself.

Modern irrigation systems consist of programmable timers (clocks) which automatically run valves that supply water to dripper and sprayer nozzles. Doing your own maintenance means understanding each of these components. You must know how to operate and program your clock, know how to cycle and test your valves, and know how to inspect and discover malfunctioning lines and emitter heads. Bottom line: Learning this now will help immensely when problems do occur.

I usually start by checking the irrigation valves. Is your water bill high? One of the valves may not be shutting off completely. How will you know? One sure indication is at your water meter. Somewhere in front of your house is a box in the ground that says “water” on it. The water meter resides in there. You may need to move some accumulated dirt out of the way and there may also be a flap covering the meter that you must flip open. Once you can see the meter dial, you will see a gear or wheel that spins when water is flowing. Turn on your garden hose and watch the wheel spin like crazy. Shut off all the water at your house main and make sure the wheel completely stops spinning. If you have separate shutoffs for the house and the irrigation valves, turn off the house and turn on the irrigation system. Check the wheel again, if the irrigation valves are off and the wheel is turning, one of the valves is leaking.

Next, locate your irrigation clock (or clocks) and learn how to operate it. Some clocks are in the garage. Some are outside on a wall near the valves. Run each valve (station) manually and note which sprayers or drippers are running. Make sure each valve shuts off completely. Just like hissing lawns, valves make noises. When you turn one on, it goes “whoosh” and sometimes you can hear the water running through the pipe. When you shut it off, it goes “slurp – clunk” as the valve diaphragm drops back

into place. These sounds are good. Sometimes, if it is not shutting completely off, you’ll hear a slight hissing or humming as water continues to run through the valve. Drip irrigation lines operate under pressure, so be patient and let the back pressure dissipate before you decide the drip line valve is not working.

When you’ve determined that a valve is not behaving, you have a couple of options. Sometimes the leak is caused by tiny bits of debris caught in the diaphragm of the valve. First option, take the valve apart, clean it, and reassemble it to fix this problem. If you are good at mechanical repairs, you might try this. Be careful not to lose any screws or the spring inside the valve, and note which side is up for the diaphragm. Unfortunately, older valves are cranky and tend not to come apart or go back together, so you may need a new valve.

Option two is replacing the valve. Many systems have the valves above ground, and they are pretty easy to replace. Some are in valve boxes below the ground and will require some digging to replace. Make a note of the size of the pipe connecting the valve. On homes, it is typically ¾ inch or 1 inch. You will need to get a new valve and fittings at the hardware store or irrigation supply. Take a couple of very clear photos from different angles with you.

With routine maintenance your system should continue to run smoothly for many years. You can relax and enjoy the beauty of your garden and the hissing of summer lawns.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25 years of experience in residential repairs. Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.





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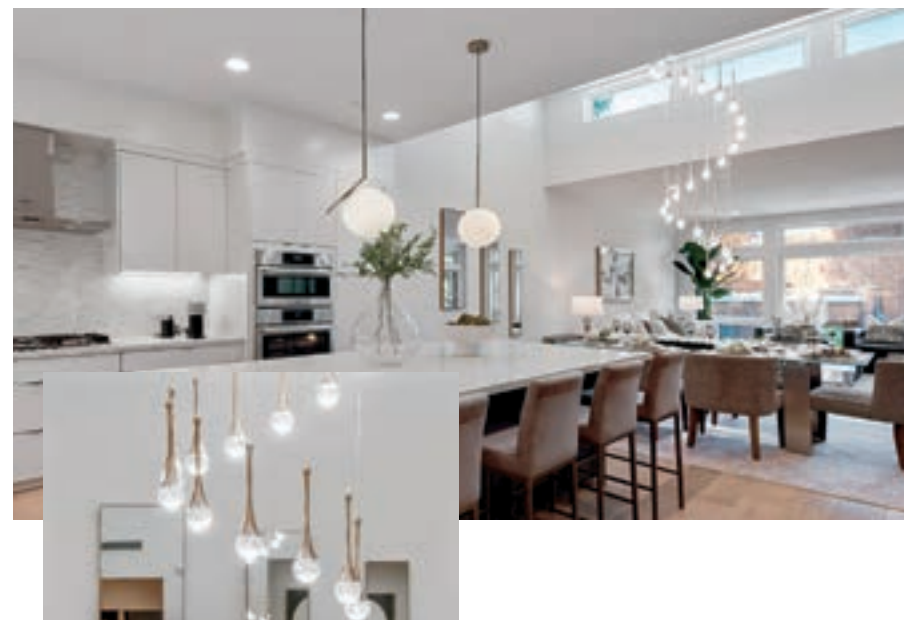


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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Full house**



Pothos is one of the easiest indoor vining plants to grow in any indoor condition.



A parlor palm brings a tropical flair to the library.



This fifteen-foot-tall fiddle leaf fig is over 30 years old and still thriving.

... continued from Page D1

Research has focused on patients in hospitals, not in homes, but my personal experience demonstrates that transporting nature to the sickbed speeds the healing process.

Before you bring plants into your home, make sure to choose varieties that are safe for children and pets. For a list of toxic plants, connect with the resources of the ASPCA and the National Poison Control Center. Some plants could be toxic if ingested, and others may cause skin reactions.

ASPCA website:

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/a>

National Poison Control website:

<https://www.poison.org/articles/plant>

This phalaenopsis, the moth orchid reblooms throughout the year in normal house temperatures.



Photos Cynthia Brian

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Goddess Gardener Recommended House Plants

Sadly, two of my favorite indoor plants that are easy to grow, attractive, and flourish for years are on the poisonous list: Peace Lily (known to be an air cleaner) and pothos (a great climber or trailer). Below I'm listing houseplant suggestions that I grow. I leave it to you to double-check for toxicity that would affect your family or animals.

Orchid: I've never met an orchid that I didn't love. The bad rap that orchids receive as being fussy is a myth. Basically, read the plant tag for best results, provide a few drops of water weekly, and ignore them. Mine are continuously reblooming.

Bromeliad: Super simple to grow, long-lasting, low maintenance, and minimal watering needs. Before the flower dies, the plant will produce offsets, called pups, around the base.

Snake Plant: Referred to as "Mother-in-Law's Tongue" tolerates low light and minimal moisture. This plant is almost impossible to kill.

Spider Plant: Known as the "Airplane Plant," this plant is perfect for beginners. It's easy to care for, produces long, cascading stems, and is great for hanging baskets or trained to a trellis.

Philodendron: Foliage comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Prefers moist soil and vines to eight feet or more.

Parlor Palm: Add a bit of the tropics to your office. Great in dim light. Only prune dead fronds. Don't overwater.

Fiddle Leaf Fig: Slow growing to 15 feet or more. This plant prefers east-facing windows. Water only when the top inch of the soil is dry and never feed during the winter months.

Aloe: Every home needs an aloe plant for medicinal purposes. If you get a burn or a cut, snip a piece of aloe to soothe the area. Aloes prefer to be root-bound in sandy soil and require very little water.

Croton: Growing in warm, humid climates outdoors, crotons may reach 8 feet, but indoors, they offer an explosion of color in a small pot when ideal temperatures above 60 degrees are maintained. Place pebbles with water under the pot to increase humidity.

These favorites are all relatively low maintenance and will thrive in a variety of environments. They are terrific choices for beginner indoor gardeners as well as those with more experience. As always, when you make a purchase, carefully read the plant instructions tag and follow directions. The number one cause of house plants failing to succeed is overwatering.

No matter what your lifestyle, add a touch of hassle-free greenery to your home and enjoy a full house of indoor nature to keep you happy, healthy, and gardening rain or shine.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



These are the pups and their flower of a variegated bromeliad.



Take cuttings of spider plants to make more pots of plants.



Aloe is a must-have succulent in every household.

Photos Cynthia Brian

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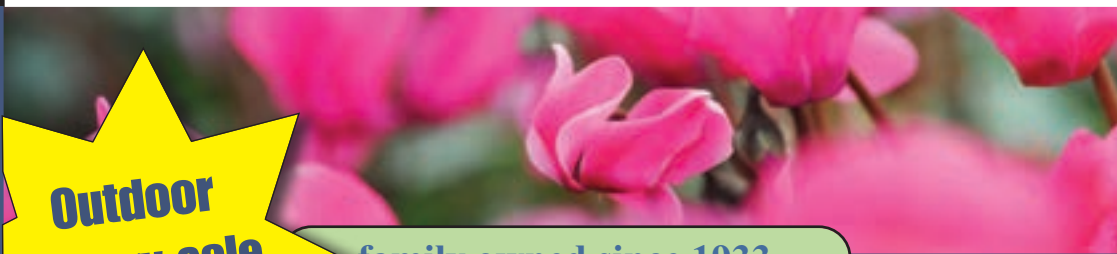
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Camellias are in full bloom at Cynthia Brian's home.

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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ORINDA



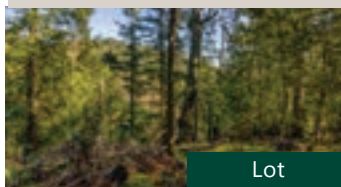
2 Orchard Court
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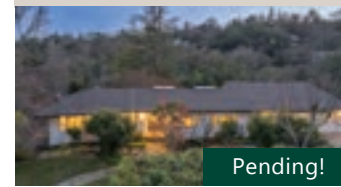
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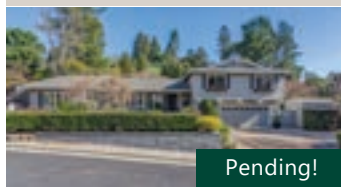
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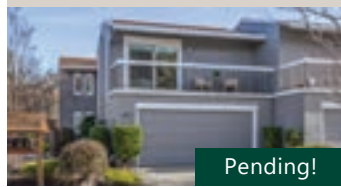
3015 Bradbury Drive
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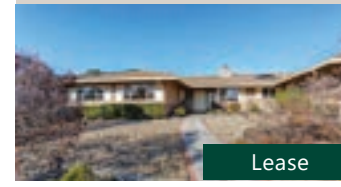
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MORAGA



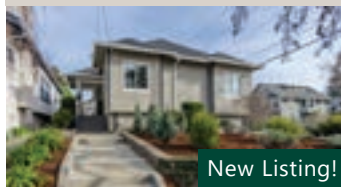
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\$1,775,000

OAKLAND



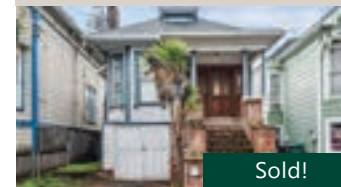
3802 Randolph Avenue
Beautifully updated home providing all level living w/ 3 bd/ 2 ba, an open floor plan, & a peek of San Francisco!
\$1,098,000

OAKLAND



6061 Westover Drive
Stellar Bay views from this spacious 4 bd/3 ba home in the lovely Piedmont Pines neighborhood!
\$5,950/mo.

ALAMEDA



2114 Bueno Vista
Permitted duplex in Central Alameda! Unit A: 2bd/ 1 ba, w/ formal dining room. Unit B: 1 bd/ 1 ba, w/ lg living space!
\$850,000

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich
Emily Estrada

Joan Evans
Linda Friedman
Liz Gallagher
Claudia Gohler

Gillian Judge Hogan

Dexter Honens II

Christina Linezo

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Margaret Zucker

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