



Photo Jeff Heyman

Acalanes seniors enjoy spirited car rally prior to graduation

By Jeff Heyman

Hundreds of cheering supporters of the Acalanes High School Class of 2023, many with air horns, balloons and colorful signs, lined Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette on May 19 as a car parade of graduates slowly made its way through the city's downtown.

Dozens of elaborately decorated vehicles participated in the hour-long parade, which ran from 5 to 6 p.m., and has become a new annual tradition in Lafayette. Making their way behind a Lafayette Police and Con Fire firetruck escort, proud moms, dads and grads, some standing and waving to the exuberant crowd through car sunroofs, drove slowly up and down the boulevard.

One particularly lively crowd of onlookers could be found in front of the Roundup Saloon, the watering hole that is often Lafayette's unofficial community center. There, generations of relatives and friends of all ages whooped, screamed, waved streamers, balloons and signs and let off ear-splitting air horns as each car full of graduates passed. There could be found in the crowd a range of cowbells to add to the joyous cacophony.

In return, the vehicles, many displaying the names of the grad and the university that they will attend in the fall, honked their horns as the beaming grads whooped and screamed back at the crowd, letting off their own air horns. All in all, it was a very festive, very noisy celebration along Lafayette's main thoroughfare in honor of Acalanes's Class of 2023. (See the list of graduates from Acalanes, Miramonte and Campolindo on Pages A9 and A10.)

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Lamorinda Weekly writer, photographer win CNPA awards

The California News Publishers Association (CNPA) recently announced winners of its 2022 California Journalism Awards, which included a first-place award for Lamorinda Weekly reporter Jon Kingdon's story, "Donna de Varona Olympic gold medalist and Title IX crusader," and a second-place award for the photo essay by photographer Jeff Heyman, entitled "Season filled with small town charm." Congratulations to our team!

EBMUD presents council with update on Lafayette Reservoir Tower

By Lou Fancher

The city council on May 8 heard an update on the Lafayette Reservoir Tower Seismic Retrofit Project. Presented by a team of directors and engineers from East Bay Municipal Utility District, director John A. Coleman said feedback received from the council and members of the public in response to the report given in January was appreciated. He and his department agreed with many points concerning the tower's aesthetics and said the design team's new ideas had drawn inspiration from the community and had led to implementing some of them in the updated designs.

Coleman emphasized that while retrofitting the tower in such a way that it fit into the aesthetics of the environment was vital, upgrades and changes at the dam must always be enacted without compromising safety.

EBMUD Engineering Manager Elizabeth Bialek followed, reviewing the functions and important features of the tower. The overall facility has a "fair"

rating from the state's Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), largely due to the tower that functions as a vital spillway at the dam. However, studies conducted in 2005 revealed the tower's extended, above-water height, if left unaddressed and subject to forces from a large earthquake, could suffer damage or complete structural failure. If damaged extensively, the tower would not be able to operate as a spillway or outlet for the reservoir, especially during heavy rainfalls.

Alterations to the tower proposed in 2017 included some measures not approved by DSOD and one, shortening the tower, that did meet industry safety standards. The designs for the shortened tower received significant push-back from the council and the community, mostly due to the possible loss of the iconic "house" that had long stood as an emblem for the city. Lafayette resident Matt Bertics, a structural engineer who specializes in seismic design, said in written public comment that he supports EBMUD's decision to remove

the seismically deficient portion of the tower, but believes a tall but light-weight steel replacement tower that honors the original iconic tower can be designed.

Bialek emphasized that the mandated retrofit will ensure the dam and the tower will remain viable in the event of all situations, including a major earthquake. She reviewed the current seismic deficiencies: modeling and comparative studies indicate a large earthquake would bend and fracture rebar in the tower and render it inoperable. A comprehensive study using state-of-the-art finite element analysis showed that reducing the height of the tower to an elevation of 460 feet would move the tower from a level of risk that is presently "marginal" to a level where failure was not a primary concern.

Additionally, a conduit retrofit she described will provide improved safety underneath the tower, with new steel liners added to a 150 foot expanse of the conduit downstream of the tower.

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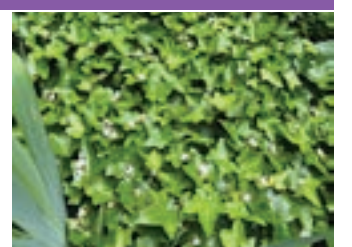
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See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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'Detail' design review of Pleasant Hill Road Pathway Project to move forward

By Lou Fancher

During the May 8 Lafayette City Council meeting, Engineering Services Manager Matt Luttrupp gave an update regarding the Pleasant Hill Road Center Median Pathway and requested authorization for staff to complete the design with the preservation of the dedicated right turn lane and drop-off area, per the city's commitment to Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan who helped secure a grant for the project.

The purpose of approving the design completion is not to move into the construction phase, Luttrupp said, but work toward having plans shovel ready to be in the best position possible to compete for future grants. If the Terraces development proceeds, additional opportunities may present themselves for extending the expanded pathway through the Terraces property and separately, to downtown Lafayette and the BART station.

In 2022, the city received an earmark grant of \$238,000 from the state of California to fund a technical study and design work for the project. Lut-

trupp noted that Lafayette has spent approximately \$85,000 on pathway consulting fees to date. If a reallocation of the funds is requested, the city may have to absorb that \$85,000.

According to Luttrupp's staff report, the concept for the pathway would eliminate gaps and pressure points in the transportation network in Lafayette, allow pedestrians and cyclists the ability to avoid conflicts at the SR-24 on- and off-ramps connecting to Pleasant Hill Road, while providing a direct connection to the Class I Pathway along Pleasant Hill Road south of Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

Two virtual public meetings were held by staff in July 2022 and in March 2023, where the revised traffic study and the two technically viable pathway configuration options were reviewed and discussed. Option 2, is the staff recommended design alternative, included a 10-foot-wide pathway with 2-foot-wide shoulders and staged pedestrian crossings, and suggested a design involving widening Pleasant Hill Road to the west, preserving the dedicated right turn lane from

northbound Pleasant Hill Road.

A summary of the details in the staff report available online cover impacts on traffic, street parking, bike lanes, sidewalk widths, and a center median pathway, the latter of which was not supported by the majority of the public.

While acknowledging the project is controversial and altering existing road configurations and traffic patterns involves change and resistance is high, Luttrupp said staff believes the concerns have been mitigated by design alterations. Furthermore, the project conforms to the City Council's Vision Zero policy and provides a viable pathway extension that eliminates a gap in the pedestrian and bicycle network. While receiving a number of additional suggestions from the public, he said staff believes that further study is unlikely to produce meaningful alternatives other than those that have already been provided.

Questions from council first concentrated on the center median design and its safety features. Luttrupp suggested improvements could be made to the design and additional discussions held with Kittelson

& Associates concerning safety elements. He said other options suggested by the public or council had been thoroughly examined, but all had negatives, not the least of which was for a tunnel proposed that he said would be "breathtakingly expensive."

Public comment at the meeting came primarily from residents who did not support the project, citing potential traffic delays, a lack of understanding if students would even use the path, the extensive cost of the project, and potential environmental issues. Approximately 90 written comments were submitted from community members. Most people spoke about the complex congestion issues in the targeted area and said that ultimately, the pathway plan as it stands would not solve the safety issues.

Community member Eric Law, who presented the concept for the pathway project to the Transportation and Circulation Commission in August 2020, appeared and said his project at the beginning represented to him an engineering challenge that he did not anticipate would become political.

He said public input served to make projects better and encouraged the council to persist while listening to the public and working to improve Lafayette.

Council discussion focused on design features of the latest detail plan, the ramifications of pausing the project or not pausing and conducting additional studies, and the process involved in re-appropriating the funds. After extensive dialogue with Luttrupp, three council members supported staff's recommendation to continue the study process, incorporate more of the public input, and work with Kittelson consultants and the council to improve the safety of downtown Lafayette and the surrounding streets and neighborhoods. In a 3-1 vote, with Council Member Susan Candell voting no, (Mayor Carl Anduri was absent), the council authorized the staff to complete the design, with the understanding that improvements will be considered in future design plans.

The full staff report and written public comments can be viewed on the city website, www.lovelafayette.org, in the May 8 agenda packet link.

EBMUD presents council with Lafayette Reservoir Tower update

... continued from Page A1

The liners will ensure sheering occurring from the force of a major earthquake will not render the conduit entirely dysfunctional. Also, because the conduit is 100 years old, an entire section of the underground structure will be remediated. "We want to make it last another 100 years, if not more," she said.

Fortunately, the work can

be done onsite at the foot of the tower. Bialek said EBMUD has sought this and other highly suitable safety upgrades throughout the retrofit project because, "you know, people's lives are at stake here."

The tower retrofit itself has involved consideration of a large range of designs and approaches, according to Bialek. Outreach efforts she said resulted in useful design input and the department has taken steps to address the feedback.

Parapet design options she introduced included a light, aluminum metal structure that has graphic options—arches, grasses, fish—and an altered profile that was re-designed to limit the visibility of cranes and other operational materials stored in the "house" atop the tower. A sliver, gray, low-reflect aluminum material was suggested for this part of the tower because it mimics the previous buffed-sheen concrete aesthetics of the house while providing

a modernized profile that meets weight and other specifications.

Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok asked about what the public will see when they visit the reservoir. Bialek said target elevation is set at 440 feet as per standards mandated, but might vary according to season and the amount of rainfall. Council Member Susan Candell asked if the retrofit to the conduit would extend the project's timeline. Bialek said it would not.

Public input and council

questions revolved around preserving the tower's original aesthetics, as well as discussion of the safety features, the option to use steel instead of aluminum for the tower house, the retrofit's overall timeline, and the breadth of outreach keeping the public apprised of the project and its progress. The EBMUD team will gather additional input and return at a future meeting.

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Lafayette's 2nd Annual Community Day right around the corner

Following last year's successful Lafayette Community Day – where hundreds of community members volunteered their time on projects and activities involving human services, youth development and education, town beautification and more – the Community Foundation, the city, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce will once again partner for the second annual Community Day to be held Saturday, June 3. The day will start at 8:30 a.m. with a light breakfast and kickoff rally at Plaza Park and after volun-

teering, everyone returns at 11:30 a.m. to the park for lunch, a word from the mayor about the 175th Celebration, a small nonprofit fair, music, and recognition. For information and about volunteer positions and to sign up, go to: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fa5ac2eabfccf8-signup1# Participants must sign a waiver before signing up. Volunteers for work projects need to be at least 12 years of age and individuals under the age of 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. www.lafayettecommunityday.org – J. Wake

Community members offer counter protest outside Lafayette Elementary School



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Those who traveled down Moraga Road on May 19 to fetch their children from Lafayette Elementary School were greeted with bouquets of rainbow-colored balloons, rainbow pride flags and more than a dozen people offering affirmative messages of support for students of all gender identities and LGBTQ+ youth. Since the Lafayette School District displayed the Transgender Flag for Transgender Day of Visibility in late March, a small group has shown up every Friday afternoon in opposition of the District's handling of transgender inclusive practices.

Justine Parmelee is a mother of a cisgender boy in the community, but says she sees it as her job to stand up for other youth in the community who may feel targeted. "We're here because we care about LGBTQIA students and we want to protect trans youth," Parmelee says she wants to challenge the narrative that cisgendered boys and girls are no longer safe if transgender rights are acknowledged or celebrated. "My cisgendered son celebrates diversity and really does care about all kids at school."

Robbie Peacock, a straight white man, wore a shirt emblazoned with the word 'HUMAN' in rainbow colors, while waving a flag and walking his

4- and 8-year-old sons home from school. "(We wanted to counter the) small handful of people that have very hateful messages and show the community that we actually care. (We want to tell LGBTQ+ youth that) we see you, we know you are here. And we are always going to be here to support you," Peacock says. "(The message for those who hold signs of opposition) comes from a bumper sticker I saw. Acknowledging someone else's rights doesn't take away from yours. It's not pie."

Pam Dawkins is a member of the local PFLAG chapter – the largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. Dawkins' reason for showing up is simple. "Everybody needs to be involved," Dawkins says. "You can't just sort of walk by and think someone else will take care of it. It's like the anti-trans work we do in our community. You can't be complacent. You have to be active."

Dawkins says there will be community-wide opportunities specific to LGBTQ+ allyship during the second annual Lafayette Community Day on June 3. The city will raise the Pride Flag in front of Sideboard restaurant at 8:30 a.m. and the PFLAG group and volunteers will be focusing on the parking lot across from LES, the site of the weekly demonstrations.



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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

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

Design Review

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>



MORAGA

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www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council:
Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:
Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.,

Town Council agrees to a Biennial Budget

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council unanimously agreed to adopt a resolution directing the town manager to prepare a proposed Biennial Budget on a recurring basis. The 4-0 vote (Mayor Renata Sos was absent) during its May 10 council meeting will ensure that this budget will become effective with Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25. Moraga's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

According to a staff report by Administrative Services Director Annie To, "Preparation of the annual fiscal year budget is an involved, time-consuming, and costly process. Over the past few decades, several California cities have converted from a one-year budget preparation process to

a two-year preparation process in order to reduce staff time and cost, and to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and efficacy with respect to implementing governing board direction. This two-year budget format is more commonly referred to as a 'biennial budget' which consists of two annual one-year budgets which are prepared by staff and reviewed and approved by the governing board every two years."

This new format is encouraged by the Government Finance Officers Association (GGFOA) of the United States and Canada, as well as the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO).

By switching to a biennial budget, staff will only have to prepare one budget document for two separate fiscal years.

Additionally, staff will produce a "mid-cycle budget review" for the town council's attention which will contain a summary of the estimated first fiscal year results, along with recommended budget adjustments for the second fiscal year. None of this will affect the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which will continue on an annual basis.

The obvious benefit to the new biennial budget is a savings of staff's time with regards to an annual preparation process. "As experienced in other local governments that have made this conversion, the Town Council will be enabled to focus more on long-range strategic and fiscal planning, and relieved of the minutia of the annual budget process," To stated in her staff report.

"This format promotes conservative revenue estimates and more realistic appropriation requests," added To. "This, in turn, provides the operating departments with greater responsibility to account for budget variances and allows for unused funds to be carried over to the second fiscal year, subject to Town Council review and approval."

The Mid-Cycle Review would provide the council with a glimpse of future expenditures to allow for any budgetary changes due to emergencies and the like.

Any fiscal impact would most likely show a cost savings for the town in that staff will spend less time on budget preparation. Additional savings are expected with regards to printing and distributing a biennial budget report.

Senior Program Roundtable Discussion
June 13 @ 10am
RSVP to recdesk@moraga.ca.us

Next Move program helps people reach their goals



Maura Wolf and Shari Simon

Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Two Moraga women, a Saint Mary's College professor and a former high-tech executive, created the company Next Move in 2018 – an active social-impact company whose mission is to support people to reach their goals through social support and accountability. Week after week the two met up, checked in about life, and proceeded to map out ways they believed they could support people, especially young adults or folks with marginal identities, to move forward on their goals.

Maura Wolf and Shari Simon were both at a pivotal moment of their lives and were both seeking answers beyond pre-scripted scenarios. Simon had quit her executive position in marketing, sales and management at Oracle for family reasons but still wanted

to impact society in a profound way; Wolf was teaching leadership at Saint Mary's College, had published several books including "What Matters Most: Everyday Leadership at Work, at Home, and in the World" and was also desiring to broaden her impact.

The academic process they use is called Action-Inquiry. Simon and Wolf tracked apps and tech-based solutions developing with similar goals. They dove into academic research that grounded their practice-based findings. They designed and ran pilots, each time gathering data from participants about how to improve the process. Simon adds that it is during this first phase that it became clear to them that doing this with a small group, or even just one other person, was essential to sustaining the process. She believes that connection and support built that way will al-

ways bear more fruit than what any app could do.

The Next Move process is designed to help people to tune in and really take note of what matters in their life, then move on to design small actions, or what Next Move refers to as micro-moves, in the direction of a goal.

This summer, Next Move and Saint Mary's College of California, are offering a new program, a certificate in Impactful Leadership. It is supported by a local donor who wants to keep it affordable for all. The program is designed for anyone looking to have more structure and support for a goal that matters to them. The goal may be career-oriented, like finding a new job, or wellness oriented, like bouncing back from COVID life to set in place new health routines. The program is individualized, as each person focuses on their own area of growth and development and moves through cycles of action and reflection, with small group support along the way.

Programs to date have been held at several colleges and the company has started training coaches and facilitators to bring the program to a variety of different settings and regional areas.

The summer program will be offered online from June 6 to July 11 on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with optional live gatherings at Saint Mary's College. For more details, visit www.nextmovenetwork.com/virtualevents

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Summer Bike Challenge – Good for you, good for the air

By Vera Kochan



Image provided

Although the Summer Bike Challenge may sound like a new activity, it has been around since 2015, when it first began in Pleasant Hill as a youth bike challenge. Over the years it has evolved into an activity that can include the whole family.

Launched by 511 Contra

Costa, this year's challenge still has the same theme in mind, to "get you outside and on the move." According to its website, "511 Contra Costa is a county-wide program that strives to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by providing the public with information, resources, and tools that promote mobility options beyond driving alone. ... continued on Page A5

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Council Member Woehleke's furniture-making skills take the word 'hobby' to a whole new level



Photos Vera Kochan

Steve Woehleke stands in front of his crafted built-in (floor-to-ceiling) closet and drawers made from alderwood.

By Vera Kochan

Thanks to a 2010 house fire that damaged the attic above his garage, Moraga Town Council Member Steve Woehleke could consider it a fortuitous accident because during the rebuild he extended the space 10 feet, giving him extra room for a furniture-making workshop.

Woehleke's skills as a carpenter first took root during his high school wood shop days and became more serious after college. He estimates that he's been turning out pieces for 40 years. His furniture is all done in straight lines. "I'm an engineer, and we're prone to doing things like that — straight lines."

His early examples were bookshelves and things that he calls "simple pieces." Other than learning the rudimentary skills in high school, Woehleke is self-taught. He has gone on to create an entry table for his foyer, a built-in (floor-to-ceiling) closet with drawers and mirrors for his daughter's room, a hope chest, several bookcases, a coffee table, a TV entertainment cabinet, an indoor accent chair, and so much more. While he typically makes his furniture for per-

sonal/family use, Woehleke has donated pieces for charitable silent auctions.

Several of Woehleke's pieces are made from repurposed redwood, once part of a backyard deck, as is evidenced by the nail holes strategically incorporated into his works to become part of the design. "I favor reusing redwood because it can be recycled, which is good for the environment, and it's a soft wood. It's also rot-resistant and termite-resistant." He has also worked with cherrywood, alderwood, and white oak, to name a few, adding, "I like to get my wood from MacBeath Hardwood in Berkeley. They're a good supplier for hardwood. The best hardwoods come east of the Mississippi."

"I do things on an opportunistic basis," Woehleke stated when talking about design. "I plan and execute."

Asked if there was anything on his bucket list that he'd like to make, Woehleke replied, "My intent is to broaden my woodworking to include curved wood. It's very difficult, because you have to bend the wood by getting it wet and steaming it."

Each of Woehleke's pieces are crafted with attention to detail. They are not only utilitarian, they are attractive and made to stand the test of time.



Foyer entry table (Shaker style) cherrywood



Coffee table made from repurposed redwood and trimmed with cherrywood

Property owners reminded to meet exterior hazard and fuel break requirements

By Jennifer Wake

The official start of fire season begins June 1, and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District is reminding property owners about the need to adhere to Moraga-Orinda Ordinances 23.03 and 23.04 by focusing on fire abatement strategies in the three zones surrounding homes.

Zone 0 extends from 0 to 5 feet from any structure, attached deck, or outbuilding on the parcel and requires the

most stringent wildfire fuel reduction. Zone 1, referred to as the Lean, Clean, and Green Zone, extends from 5 feet to 30 feet from any structure or attached deck, or from 5 feet from the structure or attached deck to the property line, whichever is closer. And Zone 2, the Reduced Fuel Zone, extends from 30 feet to 100 feet from any structure or attached deck, or from 30 feet from the structure or attached deck to the property line, whichever is closer.

Requirements include re-

moving all combustible ground cover such as mulch and bark within 2 feet of all structures; creating 1-foot vertical clearance from foliage to ground for any plants within 2 feet of the structure; removing all dead or dying trees, hazardous vegetation, and/or rubbish; removing or cutting grasses to height less than 3 inches; removing any Monterey pine or Eucalyptus located within 5 feet of a structure or attached decks; and removing all tree branches that are within 6 vertical feet of the roof, and more.

For a complete list of abatement requirements, visit www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/annual-abatement-requirements

Summer Bike Challenge

... continued from Page A4

The challenge is funded by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The Challenge is free to all who register and also offers prizes such as gift cards and an iPad Grand Prize. Go to: 511contracosta.org/sbc to register, and follow the instructions. Participating cities and towns will list several Challenge Square Destinations such as Moraga's Saint Mary's College, the Farmers' Market and Campolindo High School, to name a few. Some of Orinda's Destinations include Theatre Square, the Community Center, and the BART Station. On the list for Lafayette are the Lafayette Reservoir, any grocery store, and the Lafayette Library.

Every game has rules, as does the Summer Bike Challenge. Take a selfie of you and your bike at your favorite Challenge Square Destination making sure that the destination is clearly visible in the photo. Email the selfie to: sbc@511cc.org. Include in the

email the photo's location, your hometown, the cyclist's name, age and school (optional). If you're playing the challenge as a couple or family you must include information about each person pictured. Participation is not limited to just bikes. Anyone can also play while using a scooter or an e-bike. If for any reason a participant cannot bike to certain squares, a substitute can be submitted. Just follow the same submission rules. Each cyclist can earn one e-gift card for the summer (either \$10 Starbucks, \$10 Jamba Juice, or \$10 Amazon).

The Challenge begins June 1 and runs through Aug. 31. There are three specific dates in Moraga when additional prizes for pedaling cyclists are offered. On June 14, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., bike to the Moraga Commons Park for a free ice cream gift card. On June 28, between 2 and 4 p.m., at the Hacienda de Las Flores, earn a free Starbucks gift card, and on July 12, between 2 and 4 p.m., at the Moraga Library earn another free Starbucks gift card. Just look for the "511CC" table.

Participants are reminded by 511 Contra Costa to practice bicycle safety at all times — not just during the Challenge. Ring your bell or call out before passing, use hand signals when turning, obey signals and signs, ride on the right side of the road, and always wear a helmet.

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COMPASS

Orinda Council is interested in inclusionary housing ordinance, but not yet there

By Sora O'Doherty

After lengthy discussion, Orinda decided that it is not yet ready to join neighbors Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek in adopting an inclusionary ordinance but does want to look at the matter further. Inclusionary housing programs are policies adopted by cities and counties in California to stimulate affordable housing production whenever new market-rate housing development occurs, according to the California Coalition for Rural Housing. An action item in the recently approved Housing Element said that the city would research acceptable methods of providing affordable housing.

The staff report on an in-

clusionary housing ordinance (IO) was introduced to the council by City Manager David Biggs. He explained that when redevelopment agencies went away between 2008 to 2011, California cities started adopting inclusionary ordinances. Currently, about half of California's cities have inclusionary ordinances.

In the past, Biggs said, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) had worried that IOs would dampen development. If an IO is too aggressive, for example, more than 15%, it would require review by HCD, and the state agency would look at it again later to determine if it was having a dampening effect on housing development.

During the wide-ranging discussions, Council Member Latika Malkani said she had mixed feelings. She wondered if Orinda has competitiveness to offer affordable housing, but didn't want the city to be an outlier, without an IO. She suggested forming an ad hoc committee to look into the issue.

Council Member Brandyn Iverson said that while she used to think that IOs were a good idea, she has changed her mind. She reviewed the history of housing development in Orinda since incorporation and expressed her belief that the city has had a

healthy mix of affordable and market-rate development. "I'd like to see some actual projects come forward," she said, "before we add that constraint."

In public comment, frequent contributor Nick Waranoff said in a letter to the council that he has been urging adoption of an IO for a long time, and that he believed such an ordinance should apply both to properties that are developed for sale and for rent. He also said that an IO should be applicable regardless of whether or not a development invoked state density law. "My principal reason for this position is that the density bonus law is skewed towards the lowest income levels; i.e. developers get a disproportionately larger bonus for a small number of very low income units. As a result, many projects invoking the density bonus law do not include moderate income housing. Yet adding moderate income housing is important if we want to attract teachers, for example, as well as young families."

Council Member Darlene Gee agreed to further exploration. "I don't want us to stand out for the wrong reasons," she said, adding that she is very eager to learn more about the ordinances. Council Member Janet Riley said that she had been told by

a developer that an inclusionary ordinance will not hurt the city. She suggested the city adopt an IO while retaining as much discretion as possible, adding that she is pro development: "That has to happen."

The council members expressed concerns that low-income housing would not support the city's desire to see increased retail activity. Gee agreed and also wondered if there is a way to discourage developers from building only small apartments to meet any affordability criteria. Biggs suggested that the city could offer incentives to developers, including a city density bonus and perhaps reduced parking requirements. However, while Mayor Inga Miller said that in lieu fees make sense, she wants to try not to create second class citizens by, for example, having housing without parking.

In addressing the issue of the availability of land for development, Miller said that recently one of the downtown property owners had reached out to her, which she found encouraging.

It was agreed that staff would work further to develop an IO, and would bring suggestions to the Downtown subcommittee, and later bring the matter back to the full council in late summer.

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LARIG members complete tower spring cleaning



Members of Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group completed their spring clean up of the tower on April 29 where their repeater is housed. From left, standing: Scott Anderson, Matthew Vireo, Jeff Peacock and Kent Long; front row, Marry Solon, Al Archangel and Dan Lamey. Ray Breslau and Sora O'Doherty were also present but not included in this photograph. - S. O'Doherty
 Photo provided



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2023 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest winners announced

By Sora O'Doherty

The Friends of the Orinda Library has announced the winners of the 2023 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, which was open to all students who reside or attend high school in Orinda. The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and longtime Orinda resident.

From dozens of outstanding entries, winners were selected in the following categories: Science Fiction/Fantasy, Poetry and Essay. The winners are: Olivia Falk, 10th grade, College Prep

High School, for her poem entitled "The Memory Box," Emma Wong, 10th grade Miramonte High School, for her poem "Breaking Up with Beautiful," Tatiana Gupta, 10th grade Miramonte, for her short story "Box," and Nina Segall, 9th grade Miramonte, for her essay "Intertwined Fingers." Each will receive a \$500 award from The Friends of the Orinda Library. Wong was also the winner of two awards in the contest last year.

Five Honorable Mentions were awarded to Liesel Yun, 9th grade, Miramonte for "The Shared String Phone," Antong Cao, 11th grade, Mira-

monte for "Seven Minutes," Mathew Bakonyvari, 11th grade, Miramonte for "Rip Van Winkle Returns," Kaia Bonham, 9th grade, Miramonte for "Blood Red Love Red," and Josslyn Grover, 10th grade, Bentley School, for "Trail Mix."

The Friends of the Orinda Library congratulated the winners and all the talented entrants and offered thanks to this year's judges, who donated their time and literary expertise. The judges included this reporter; Susan Williams, librarian at Miramonte High School; and Anne Lowell, librarian at Glorietta Elementary School.

Correction: In the May 10 story about the 50th anniversary of Orindawoods, the final developers of Orindawoods were R T Nahas & Company and Great Western Savings & Loan, not Great Western Homes. In addition, George Winnacker is the uncle of MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, not his father.



City Council Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m.

Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.

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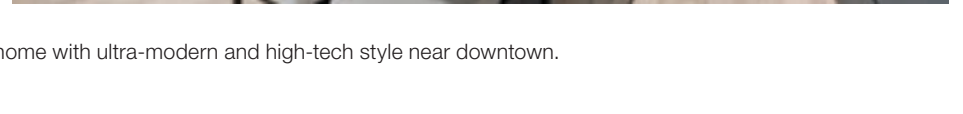
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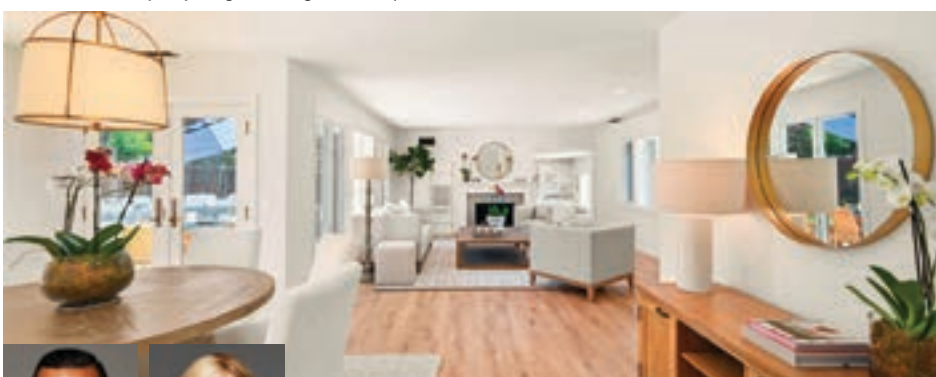
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Realtor paints curbs to help first responders find homes faster



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Local realtor Kristina McCann of Chroma Realty is offering a public service of painting fresh house numbers on curbs as part of a

campaign to make homes easier for first responders to find in the event of an emergency, be that fire, medical, or a crime in progress. McCann had a booth at the City of Orinda Wildfire Prevention and Safety Fair in Community Park on April 22, which was Earth Day. McCann is personally doing the work, and has done about a dozen homes thus far. Some of the painting was delayed by late spring rains, but curbs and gutters are now drying out and making it possible for her to apply the paint. She is painting a white background on the curb, followed by the house numbers, stenciled in black for maximum visibility. McCann believes in doing public outreach, which also promotes her work as a realtor. Lamorinda residents who would like McCann to paint their house numbers on their curbs can sign up at <https://chromarealty.com/curbpainting> -S. O'Doherty



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Letters to the editor

Inclusion should include all opinions

A headline in the May 10, 2023 Lamorinda Weekly exposes the hypocrisy of DEI: "As Lafayette School District works to amplify inclusion efforts, outside community members stage weekly protests." It is not completely clear what "outside community members" means. What does "outside" mean: "outside" of what? And what is the "community": is it just Lafayette? Lamorinda?

The headline implies that people outside the community are staging protests and are not welcome. One of the saddest lessons I have learned over the last 6-12 months is that our "community" is not just very woke, but also very closed-minded. We saw complaints about "outsiders" during the Lafayette school board election last fall, even though all of the candidates were required to live, and did in fact live, in the district.

I do not understand how anyone can claim Lamorinda supports "inclusion" when in fact only certain viewpoints are included, and now outsiders (who live in Lamorinda but perhaps not Lafayette) are also not included.

Two letters published in the May 10 issue also criticize the lack of inclusion. One letter writer observes the hostility towards her because she supports the notion that only biological girls should play in girls' sports and enter girls' locker rooms. Another letter writer asks the local districts to adhere to their own policy 6144, which requires presentation of diverse

viewpoints on controversial issues. It provides, "When a guest speaker is invited to make a presentation related to a controversial issue, the Superintendent or designee shall notify him/her of this policy and the expectations and goals regarding the instruction. If the guest speaker is presenting only one point of view on an issue, the teacher shall be responsible for ensuring that students also receive information on opposing viewpoints." The local school districts have no excuse for disregarding their own policies.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

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



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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 30 - May 13
Alarms 44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 22
Traffic 79
Suspicious Circumstances 5
Suspicious Subject 13
Suspicious Vehicle 11
Service to Citizen 31
Patrol Req./Security Check 19
Public/School Assembly Check 3
Supplemental Report 17
Vacation House Check 52
Welfare Check 17
Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations
AAuto Burglary
900 Block Oak Hill Rd.
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.
1200 Block El Curtola Blvd.
Dui Misd
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
50 Block Bacon Ct.
3400 Block La Caminita
Reckless Driving
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Tc - Property Damage

900 Block Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Condit Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Vehicle Theft
1700 Block Springbrook Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Forgery
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
3200 Block Andreasen Dr
Police Department
Grand Theft
30 Block Lafayette Cir.
Grand Theft From Veh
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Grand Theft Other
1100 Block Glen Rd.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Identity Theft
500 Block Merriewood Dr.
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Police Department (2)
10 Block Dianne Ct.
1000 Block Dolores Dr. (2)
Petty Theft
Rose Ln/Happy Valley Rd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Residential Burglary
3600 Block Brook St.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1000 Block 2Nd St.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Disturbing The Peace
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3500 Block Old Mountain View Dr
1800 Block Del Rey St.
Loud Music
3200 Block Alta Ln.
Loud Noise
3300 Block N Lucille Ln.
700 Block Solana Dr.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
40 Block Bacon Ct.
Loud Party
700 Block Block Silver Crest Ct.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Public Nuisance
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24
200 Block Lafayette Cir.
Dewing Ave./Walnut St.
3500 Block Golden Gate Way
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Vandalism
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Other
Checks Non Suff Funds
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Fire/Ems Response Info
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Harassment
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
Phone Harass
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd
Unwanted Guest
700 Block Solana Dr.
Verbal Dispute
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
800 Block Relief Station Rd.
Violation Restraining Ord
2Nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 2 - May 15
Alarms 6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14
Traffic 64
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 6
Suspicious Vehicle 5
Service to Citizen 43
Patrol Req./Security Check 13
Public/School Assembly Check 5
Supplemental Report 14
Vacation House Check 1
Welfare Check 6
Ordinance Violation 3
Vehicle violations
Dui Misd
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3)
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
St Marys Rd./Bollinger Cyn Rd.
Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.
Moraga Rd./Hansen Ct.
Moraga Way/School St. (4)
Tj Maxx
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr. (4)
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori
600 Block Moraga Way, Ori
Canyon Rd./Constance Pl.
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
700 Block Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
St Andrews Ct/Country Club
Library
Reckless Driving
Nations



St Marys Rd./St Marys College (2)
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
400 Block Moraga Rd.
Camino Pablo/Shuey Dr.
10 Block Louise Ct.
Other criminal activity
Burglary
Campolindo Dr./Woodford Dr.
Moraga Rd./Kendall Cir.
300 Block Moraga Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.
Grand Theft
1500 Block Canyon Rd
Tj Maxx
Grand Theft Veh Parts
400 Block Kingsford Dr.
Identity Theft
Pd Mor Police Department
Petty Theft
100 Block Hardie Dr.
100 Block Natalie Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Loud Noise
Moraga Country Club
Public Nuisance
200 Block Scofield Dr.
Other
Fire/Ems Response Info
200 Block Claudia Ct.
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block Oxford Dr.
1000 Block Larch Ave.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

April 30 - May 13
Alarms 29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
Traffic 124
Suspicious Circumstance 5
Suspicious Subject 7
Suspicious Vehicle 8
Service to Citizen 48
Patrol Req./Security Check 29
Public/School Assembly Check 0
Supplemental Report 17
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 3
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.
Accident Property
70 Block Moraga Way

Dui Misd
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Reckless Driving
Theatre Square
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
Moraga Way/Orchard Ct.
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal
Camino Sobrante
Wilder Sports Fields
Glorietta Blvd./Meadow View Rd.
Other criminal activity
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon
Orinda Way
Auto Burglary
70 Block Brookwood Rd.
Battery-felony
20 Block Acacia Dr.
Grand Theft
Orinda Way
Identity Theft
70 Block Van Ripper Ln.
200 Block La Espiral
10 Block Orinda Way
10 Block Meadow Park Ct.
10 Block Martha Rd.
Petty Theft
80 Block Via Floreado
Residential Burglary
20 Block Lavina Ct.
Shoplift
Camino Sobrante
Warrant Arrest
10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Camino Sobrante
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
Warrant Service
200 Block Lomas Cantadas
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Wilder Sports Fields
Loud Party
200 Block Orchard Rd.
200 Block Longview Terrace
Vandalism
70 Block Brookwood Rd.
10 Block Bates Blvd.
Other
Conspiracy
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo
Failure To Obey
Camino Sobrante
Moraga Way
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block Moraga Way
Terrorist Threats
10 Block La Plaza Dr.
Trespass
10 Block Bates Blvd.
Trespass W/ Vehicle
Wildcat Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo

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Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

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Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

Campolindo class of 2023



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Orinda Aquatics Class of 2023

Congratulations

We continue our remarkable history of developing the finest student-athletes in the country at a rate that is truly extraordinary for a team of 150 swimmers. These 15 graduates have demonstrated a commitment to academics, athletics, and leadership that is rare and would rival any program in the country. We could not be more proud of their achievements, and more significantly, of who they have become as young adults.

Orinda Aquatics 2023 graduating seniors will matriculate at:

Boston University	Kenyon College*	UC Berkeley*
Cal Poly*	Loyola Marymount*	UC Davis
Chapman University*	Pomona College*	UC Irvine
Drexel University*	Wellesley College*	York University
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Plaza Park June 3, 2023 9 AM-2 PM

BBQ lunch, music and activities following volunteer projects!



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Bringing Back the Natives Tour features gardens in Orinda, Moraga



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Guests of the 2023 Bringing Back the Natives Tour explored native plants in the Moraga garden of Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine, where they also received information on achieving a green home.

By Sora O'Doherty

Barbara and Phil Leitner's garden in the Glorietta neighborhood of Orinda and the green home of Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine in the Cam-polindo area of Moraga were featured in this year's Bringing Back the Natives Tour. The 2023 tour featured 55 gardens across Alameda and Contra Costa counties designed to show that native gardens are beautiful, can be designed on budget, and are critical in supporting biodiversity.

Since 2005, the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, together with

passionate native plant gardeners located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has set the standard for sustainable landscaping in Northern California. Since the tour's inception in 2005, more than 200,000 garden visits have been made. The gardens on the Tour contain at least 70% native plants, are pesticide-free, water-conserving, and provide habitat for wildlife.

The Leitner's garden was designed by David Bigham and installed by Barbara Leitner. This garden was featured in the virtual tour on April 16 as well as the in-person tour on May 7. All the plants in

this garden are native to the San Pablo Creek watershed; most were grown from seed or cuttings originating locally. Leitner recommends sourcing local native plants at the Native Here Nursery in Tilden Park. Information about California natives is available from the California Native Plant Society.

During the tour, Leitner gave a talk about the garden and the connection between native plants and

wildlife. From plants to insects to birds, she points out, there is a circle of life. Local native plants have adapted and evolved with local insects and birds, which creates a natural balance.

The Leitners have lived on their Orinda property for 29 years. When they moved in, there was a Blue Spruce, a magnolia, a lot of juniper and a beautiful lawn. The Blue Spruce died, and the Leitners took out the magnolia and junipers in 1998. Little native oak seedlings appeared in their garden, and they allowed three to grow. They never watered them, but they have adapted to the area and grown into beautiful trees. The rest of the native garden was installed in 2012. Another tree on the property is the daughter of Orinda's Hospice Tree of Lights.

Barbara Leitner, who holds a botany degree from UC Berkeley and a master's in ecology from UC Davis has worked as a consultant to the City of Orinda Creek Protection. She makes the case for using local natives, arguing that using local natives is better than non-natives, but using any natives is better than non-natives. She suggests that you use

plants that are beautiful to you, and perhaps have a scent that reminds you of something pleasant, a place you have enjoyed or a hike you have taken. Leitner also spends hundreds of hours each year volunteering on the stinkwort weed abatement project, removed the very invasive weed that causes a rash if contacted.

In Moraga, Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine, who have attended the Bringing Back the Natives Tour since its inception, hired Michael Thilgen of Four Dimensions Landscape to design their garden. They removed a swimming pool, lawn and Monterey pines to create more space for edibles, 30 varieties of fruit trees and local California native plants. The couple's green home features an electric range with an induction cooktop, Tesla solar roof tiles and two lithium Tesla PowerWall batteries, an electric whole house fan and LED lighting throughout.

During the tour on May 7, the property also hosted a talk on induction ranges and why they should be replacing gas stoves. Recycle Smart had a table on the property during the tour to educate visitors about the benefits of making and using compost to grow healthy plants, reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and protect the environment.

More information on the tour and native plants can be found here:

www.bringingbackthenatives.net/
www.bringingbackthenatives.net/barbara-leitner%E2%80%99s-garden
www.bringingbackthenatives.net/anne-chambers-and-ed-mcalpine%E2%80%99s-garden
www.cnps.org/
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Fun and flavorful twist on classic quesadillas



Tequila-Lime Chicken Thigh Quesadillas

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This is a fun and spicy recipe for quesadillas! Loaded with a trifecta of fresh and roasted chili peppers, diced grilled chicken thighs, grilled onions, Chipotle Ranch dressing, and mixed Mexican cheese, it's a flavorful proposition, for sure. My son Joel came up with this delicious recipe and we've been tweaking it ever since. This version is where we've landed lately. We really love having both fresh and roasted peppers in this dish for flavor and crunch. You can also add grilled corn if you have some extra from the last time you barbecued corn, and the grilled red onions really make the flavors come to life. (This was a last-minute addition, after we'd taken the photos.) These quesadillas are pretty filling, so we just eat one per person, but if you're

feeling super hungry, count on one and a half to two per person. This recipe makes four quesadillas.

The secret sauce is the chipotle ranch dressing, which adds great flavor, but also binds the chicken and veggies together before making the quesadillas. Most markets carry some brand of chipotle ranch, (Marie's, Wishbone, Farmhouse, Hidden Valley, Walden Farms, to name a few), but if your store does not, you can either use plain ranch dressing or make your own by adding diced chipotle peppers or chipotle powder to the ranch dressing. If we make our own, we like to use Bolthouse Farms Classic Ranch as our base. We really like their yogurt-based dressings ... super creamy, tasty and lower fat than most. Oh, and don't forget the guacamole. In my book, it's a

must with Mexican food!

You can get most of the ingredients for this dish ready a day or two ahead of time. Marinate the chicken thighs for one to two hours before grilling them. Once they are cooked, cut them up and store them in the refrigerator until you're ready to assemble the filling. Grill the peppers and onions when you grill the chicken and you can also cut up the fresh peppers well ahead of time. Just before you are ready to serve dinner, heat up the skillet and make the quesadillas. We like to make them on cast iron skillets on the burner, but you could also make them on a griddle, or a baking sheet in the oven, or even on cast iron on the barbecue. Since the weather is finally getting nicer, it's fun to do your cooking outdoors!



INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)

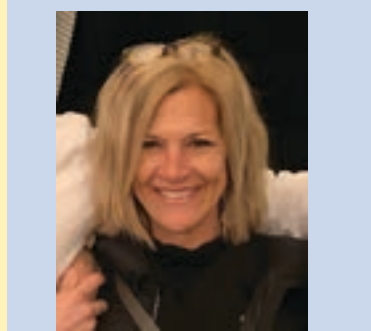
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 recipe marinade (below)
- 8 flour tortillas
- 1 red onion, cut into 8 wedges
- 2 poblano peppers, seeded and stem removed
- 2 jalapeño peppers, seeded and stem removed
- 2 Ortega chilies, seeded and stem removed
- 1 1/2 cup grated mixed Mexican cheese
- 3/4 cup Chipotle Ranch dressing (split - 1/2 cup for filling, 1/4 cup for garnish)

Marinade:

- 2 oz. tequila
- 2 oz. fresh squeezed lime juice
- 2 tbsp. of your favorite hot sauce
- 2 tbsp. of your favorite salsa
- 1/2 tsp. chili lime seasoning (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Mix up the marinade and pour over chicken about one to two hours ahead of grilling. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Meanwhile prepare the peppers. Cut off the stem and cut the peppers in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and pith. Leave two halves of each kind of pepper intact, and finely dice the remaining peppers. Preheat the grill to medium-high heat. (Every grill is slightly different, so you may have to adjust cooking times and temps.) Place the pepper halves (cut side up) and the red onion wedges in an aluminum tray or on heavy duty foil, and drizzle with a little bit of olive oil. Sprinkle lemon pepper, (or just salt and pepper) over the tops. Place the veggies on the upper rack and grill for about 15-20 minutes, or until blistered and slightly blackened, but not charred. Cook the chicken for 5 minutes per side right on the grill, or until cooked through. Remove everything from the grill and cool enough to handle. Once, cooled, dice the chicken, peppers and onions and place into a mixing bowl. Add raw veggies and 1/2 cup of the dressing. Mix well. Preheat 2 cast iron skillets or a griddle over medium heat on the stove (can use regular frying pans, too), and brush with olive oil. Working in batches, place the bottom tortillas on the skillet and sprinkle enough cheese to lightly cover the tortilla. Cook over medium heat until cheese is beginning to melt. Spoon 1/4 of the filling mixture over the melted cheese. Sprinkle more cheese on top and place the top tortilla over the cheese. Continue to cook for another minute or two before flipping the quesadilla to brown the other side. Once the cheese is golden and melted and the tortillas are golden-brown, remove from skillet and start the next batch. If you want to keep them warm, place the finished quesadillas on a baking sheet in the oven, on low, to keep warm until all of the quesadillas are done. Serve with guacamole, salsa and extra chipotle ranch. Garnish with fresh cilantro sprigs.



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>

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Cal Shakes announces lineup for 'At the Bruns'

Submitted by Kevin Kopjak

California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) recently announced the lineup of programming for "At the Bruns," a new series showcasing music, comedy and theater, as well as a season opening picnic. Presented by Cal Shakes, "At the Bruns" is produced by outside community arts and culture organizations performing at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater May through October 2023. "We're excited to bring this new summer performing arts series to our families, friends, and neighbors" says -

Clive Worsley, Executive Director of Cal Shakes. "At the Bruns' is an extension, not a replacement, of our Shakespearean roots. This year we'll have great music on the mainstage, a site-integrated theater production, stand-up comedy, classical music and more. It's an exciting lineup that is guaranteed to be a fun time. We hope you'll join us back in the eucalyptus groves." Doors will open May 28 at 1 p.m. for the Season Opening Picnic, which will feature an afternoon of music featuring musical guest Brightshine - a California-based quartet that redefines improvisational rock by focusing on strong

songs and arrangements, creating an irresistible style that is syncoated, ethereal and rocking - as well as food, drinks and, reconnecting with each other, and the turkeys in the Sesta Hills. The first performance begins at 2 p.m., followed by a 4 p.m. performance. Some of the other organizations planning on joining the celebration include Cancer Support Community, The Mosaic Project, We Players, Young People's Symphony Orchestra, and Cal Shakes Conservatory Instructors. Face painting and balloon critters will also be available. There will be food and drink available at the café.

Tickets are free, but reservations are required go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nojXtCLC3Z-TbzGEeUYoL3xDcoT7y1qODILPAxyXhhw> to reserve your spot. For more information about additional shows, visit <https://calshakes.org/atthebruns/>

Ekphrasis exhibit: Improv jazz for artists and authors



Photo courtesy Kathy Molloy

The visual artwork and the author's writings were displayed in pairs in the Ekphrasis Collaborative Exhibit hosted by three arts organizations.

Submitted by **Elana O'Loskey**

Curator and Board Member Bill Carmel of the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC), past president and V.P. Linda Hartmann

of the California Writers Club Mt. Diablo Branch (CWC) and President Donna Arganbright and V.P. of Exhibitions Ruth Stanton of Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) collaborated for two years to bring the

Ekphrasis exhibit to the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library on May 6. The event was standing room only, with approximately 250 people filling the Library auditorium.

LAC President Sue Farmer introduced Mayor Inga Miller who opened the event in the Library Auditorium. Initiator Artists' spoke about their work which was projected on a big screen. Responding Authors then recited their writings. An audience Q&A followed each of the six presenters. LAC curator Bill Carmel said, "Ekphrasis is like improvisational jazz because authors and artists inspire each other to create new works of written and visual art. Fifty artists and 50 authors worked anonymously as names are not revealed until the exhibit opens."

All artwork available for sale can be purchased at <https://lamorindaarts.org/product-category/ekphrasis/>. For more information, visit Lamorinda Arts Council (<http://lamorindaarts.org/ekphrasis/>); California Writers Club Mt. Diablo Branch (<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/ekphrasis/>) and Lamorinda Arts Alliance (<https://laa4art.org/calls-for-artists/>).

Hybrid work is here to stay: How to maximize productivity when working at home



Photos Shutterstock

By **Jennifer Raftis, CPO**

The pandemic taught us many things about ourselves, our world, and our priorities. During the lockdown, people slowed down, families were playing with their kids on the street in the middle of the day and big bonus – there were hardly any cars on the road.

We realized that there were options available for us to do many things in a different way. One of those things is how and where we work. We quickly discovered that the need to work from home was essential and doable. I'm still amazed at the speed at which we adapted to the new workplace, aka our homes.

After we figured out how to use Zoom and share our space with all of our family members and bewildered pets, we were up and running. Now, fast forward to 2023, many businesses and their employees have discovered that we don't really need to be in the office full time. Hybrid work is here to stay.

Turns out that a large percentage of both businesses and workers prefer the hybrid model. Sounds great, right? Roll out of bed and you're already at work! Very quickly, we realized that working from home has its own set of challenges. Here are some tips that I give my clients for a better chance of long-term success when working part-time or full-time from home:

1) Follow a daily routine and set a work schedule. Even though you do have a great deal of flexibility when you work from home it is important to set up your work hours for the same time every day. End on time and start on time, every workday.

2) Establish clear boundaries with other family members. I find that for myself, when I am working on projects for my clients, I am very focused and do not want to be interrupted. Put a "Do Not Disturb" sign on your door or desk. Asking others to respect your work time does not mean you are being hurtful or selfish; you are working. Starting and stopping your train of thought with interruptions is not productive or efficient.

3) Create a designated space for work in your



home. Make the space a place that you enjoy going to work. Set it up so all the items you need – computer, notepad, earbuds, pens – are nearby. Buy plants for your home office, because they make us happy! Face a window; I promise, it's a mood changer for the better!

4) Invest in a quality ergonomic chair and headset. It is never ideal to work from an uncomfortable chair (or your bed or couch) for obvious reasons – posture problems leading to back pain. Using earbuds or headphones as a headset will allow you to work handsfree and provide a clearer connection than relying on your computer's microphone.

5) Set up your home office for success. Many of my clients are more efficient when they have two monitors instead of just one. Make sure you have high speed internet with a strong signal in your workspace.

6) Do not eat at your desk. It is important to take breaks from your work space for snacks or lunches.

7) Take Zoom breaks. If possible, do not schedule back-to-back meetings. Take time to regroup between meetings and absorb the information you just heard, take notes, and prepare for the next meeting or project. This is an ideal time to step outside, take a

short walk, and refresh. Zoom fatigue is real.

8) Eliminate distractions. For obvious reasons, this is often more difficult to achieve when working from home. This is where boundary setting becomes critical. Pets, kitchens, and phones can be distracting (TVs too). Turn off your email notifications and check your email at a scheduled time throughout the day instead of reading each one as it comes in. It goes without saying, social media equals rabbit hole, just don't look during work time.

9. Make time to wind down after work. Even though we might have complained about our commute, it gave us time to clearly mark the end of the work day and wind down before we began our evening activities with family. After your workday is finished, take a little time to refresh and shake off the workday before you head into the family room, go to the gym, or start dinner.

Coming soon: Efficiency Matters Q&A. I will be starting a question and answer section at the end of my article. You can describe your organizing challenge or ask a question, and I pick one or two and will respond in my next article. Send your questions to: Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com with Lamorinda Weekly in the subject line.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Every Friday, 7 – 8:15 a.m. Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
OR Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

June 2023 Weekly Speakers

June 2 – David Behring – The Amazing Wheelchair Foundation
June 9 – Parker Downing – 500 Pounds for 300 Miles by Drone
June 16 – George Maroulis – What Signature Bank Got Right
June 23 – Sophie Gil – True Digital Nomad
June 30 – James Patterson – Want To Know Everything About Your Knees?

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Not to be missed

Art

Wednesday, June 7 new exhibit, "Moments in Time," at the Moraga Art Gallery, 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. Featuring the work of two popular local artists: Judy Miller, a sculptor who captures figures at particular moments in their lives, both ordinary and unique, and acrylic painter Debby Koonce, whose forte is colorful and appealing images of outdoor places both near (Mt. Diablo) and far (other lands). A free reception will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. The gallery, is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Valley Art Gallery announces new exhibition: "Paint what you love!" New works by featured artist Samantha McNally. Also, East Bay Open Studios McNally exhibition May 13 through June 24. East Bay open Studios May 13/14 and May 20/21. Free, open to the public, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311

Music

The Rotary Club of Orinda and the City of Orinda, with Festival Opera, proudly present their 13th Annual Opera in the Park on Thursday, June 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Park. Bring the entire family, a blanket, a chair or two and enjoy a picnic from home or delicious food truck offerings. This is an evening of best-loved opera pieces and musical theater favorites performed by first-rate professional musicians. Free admis-

sion - BART and handicapped-accessible - Free parking. Rock the Plaza Concert Series: Friday evenings June 2, 9, 16 and 23. Free live music in

Lafayette Plaza Park, 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 2: Sausalito; Friday, June 9: The 925 Band; Friday, June 16: Hot Dog Chicken; and Friday, June 23: Lamorinda Arts Council's Lamorinda Idol Contestants. Plan your picnic in the park by ordering takeout from Lafayette's restaurant row. Lawn chairs, blankets, and air guitars are welcome! Stop by vendor row for kids' activities, to meet local nonprofits, and see and buy local art! Learn more at <https://lafayettechamber.org/rock>.

Theatre

2727 California Street Gallery presents Rupurr's Cat Drag Queen Art Show! on Saturday, June 10, from 5 to 10 p.m., at 2727 California Street Gallery, 2727 California Street, Berkeley. This is an art show about paintings of cats in drag, painted by Colin Hurley, curated by Christine Thompson, and manifested by a cat named Rupurr! Cost: \$5 Suggested donation. For more info see www.rupurr.com or call (510) 295-9079 or email theainterofcats@gmail.com.

Hurricane Diane at Aurora Theatre Company on June 16 - July 17: Tues-Wed 7 p.m.; Thurs-Sat 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m., at Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley. Carol wants her house to have a garden that will be the envy of her neighbors. The Greek God Dionysus returns in the guise of a butch gardener, Diane. Cost: \$20-70. For more info see <https://auroratheatre.org/hurricanediane> or call (510) 843-4042 or email info@auroratheatre.org.

Literature

The Magic, Mystery and Mastery of Vermeer – Tuesday, May 30, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Lafayette Library. Join art lecturer Avril Angevine as she helps us celebrate the once-in-a-lifetime Vermeer exhibit at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. View 28 of Vermeer's 37 known works — more than ever before seen together. Free; no reservation necessary, just show up.

"The Sweet Thursday Author Series is on June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Author John Shea will discuss his book "24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid." This is free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. Registration is required at tinyurl.com/sweet-june23.

Other

Lafayette's 2nd Annual Community Day—Saturday, June 3. Lafayette's three Cs—Community Foundation, City and Chamber of Commerce will once again partner for the second annual Lafayette Community Day. This special day of volunteerism and celebration will include an opportunity for attendees to sign up for day-of volunteer opportunities in the categories of youth development and education, seniors, arts and culture, diversity and kindness and town beautification. www.lafayettecommunity-day.org

Please join us for a Memorial Day Vigil on Monday, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. The vigil will take place at the Lafayette Hillside Memorial, across from BART in Lafayette. It will include

short speeches, poetry, music and reflection. The land may be sold soon, so this may be our last vigil. Also, please join a community work party to tidy the site on Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. www.lafayettehillside-memorial.org

Mocktails & Cocktails: Sunday, May 28, 3 to 5 p.m. at The Coop. Join friends of the Lamorinda Arts Council for artsy talk about the creative life. Please bring whatever art, digital art, music, writing, etc. you are working on as a prompt to start the conversation. We want to know what is stirring up (or blocking) your creative juices. Look for our knockoff Picassoesque poster of Dora Maar (Picasso's muse and model) — that's us! No Host Bar – just show up. Questions? Email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call (925) 359-9940.

Lafayette Hillside Memorial annual Memorial Day vigil will be held Monday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m. and is open to all. There will be music, poetry and remarks by selected area representatives. Please park in the Lafayette BART parking lot across the street and use the crosswalk. For more information, visit www.lafayettehillside-memorial.org

Be the Star You Are! charity SHOE DRIVE: Clean out your closets of shoes you no longer want or need to support families in poverty in developing countries. Shoes may be dropped off at Moraga schools through June 1 and through June 30 at <https://5a-space.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or www.TeamHoogs.com, 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit

www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive

The 32nd edition of Bay Area KidFest, one of the Bay Area's longest-running family events, is on the May 27-29 Memorial Day Weekend featuring three days of jam-packed entertainment and attractions, activities, food, KidFest Marketplace, rides and fun in Downtown Concord. KidFest is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Memorial Day Monday at Mt. Diablo High School, 2450 Grant St. in downtown Concord just off Highway 242. Admission is just \$8 with a donation of canned food to the Monument Crisis Center or \$9 without a can donation.

Garden

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, June 12 at the Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., in Walnut Creek. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting, social time and educational program. The program "Trees, Parks and Volunteers" will be presented by Roger Ravenstad. Roger will share lessons he's learned in his 25 years designing and managing the growth of a premier public park system in Fremont. We welcome the public to visit our meetings and to become a part of the Walnut Creek Garden Club. For more information, please visit: www.walnutcreekgardenclub.org.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org

Sunday 10am in person worship

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

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Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

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Lamorinda Weekly

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storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Sport events/stories/pictures:

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National Charity League, Acalanes Chapter celebrates graduating 2023 seniors



Photo Juleen Lapporte

Back row, from left: Lucy Gellman, Kristin Parker, Reagan Kaelle, Tess Gundacker, Hailey Hiatt, Haley Rurka, Samantha Brouhard, Phoebe Hughes, Ava Jacuzzi, Sophia Awad, Kathryn Ishizu, Fiona Hughes; middle row: Emma Verprauskus, Ava Spiegel, Courtney Mercer, Charis Woo, Sophie Westen, Siena Espopa, Kelsey Severson; front row: Emily Floyd, Claire Wood, Gabriela Benveniste, Alexandra Yu, Gracyn Roake, Ella Robinson

Submitted by Lynn Spiegel

During the Senior Recognition ceremony on March 4 at Contra Costa Country Club, the 26 girls of the Acalanes Chapter of the National Charity League's Senior Class were celebrated for their philanthropy work over the past six years. The Ticktockers, as they are referred to, were dressed in formal white gowns and presented their experiences to their families and loved ones. Following the formal dinner, the group enjoyed a high-energy dance party, complete with a DJ, candy bar, and balloons. Despite the inclement weather, all attendees had a great time.

The Acalanes chapter, which consists of members from Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga, recruits girls in

seventh grade and assigns them to volunteer at various organizations throughout the area, including the Contra Costa Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, Lamorinda Village, Shelter Inc., Bay Area Rescue Mission, Operation Dignity, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Oakland Zoo, Special Olympics NorCal, and many others. The NCL Acalanes Chapter has accumulated over 9,182 hours of service.

For their Senior Project, the class completely revamped and furnished several rooms in Grateful Gatherings, which helps parents and their children transition from homelessness into housing, promoting family unity. These young women will carry their leadership skills, community involvement, and cultural experiences with them as they embark on their college journeys.

Three New Eagle Scouts for Troop 224G



Photo provided

Submitted by James Crinnion

Troop 224G in Lafayette introduced its three newest Eagle Scouts: Caitlin Crinnion, Dakota Goyert and Hazel Krozek. All three joined Troop 224G on Feb. 1, 2019, the first day girls could officially join Scouts BSA. They became the fourth, fifth and sixth girls to eagle from Troop 224G.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn 21 Merit badges, including 14 required Merit badges. They must demonstrate leadership skills, scout spirit and they must develop, plan and execute a community service project while leading other scouts.

Crinnion, a junior at Acalanes, led a group of scouts to repair and reroof

the school bus stop that serves the Oak Springs neighborhood of Orinda. The bus stop was originally constructed in the 1920s and was in desperate need of repairs and a new roof. Over two days Crinnion led a group of scouts as they erected scaffolding, replaced rotten wood and put a new fire resistant roof on top of the bus stop.

Goyert, also a junior at Acalanes, led scouts in painting a mural at Jelly's Place. Jelly's Place is a nonprofit animal shelter in San Pablo. They rescue cats and dogs from all over the world in hopes of giving them a better life. Goyert decided to use her creativity and paint a colorful set of murals. Over the course of a few weeks, Goyert created stencils, primed walls, sourced supplies and painted a set of murals. Thanks to the help of fellow scouts, Goyert was able to brighten up Jelly's Place.

Krozek, a junior at Campolindo High School, saw a need in her neighborhood during COVID and did something about it. She led fellow scouts to build two mini book libraries for her neighborhood. They built them by hand, painted them and set them on posts in two separate locations in the Silver Springs neighborhood. When it was time to fill them, Hazel and her amazing neighbors filled them with books so everyone had something to read during those long days.

Troop 224G is the sister troop to Troop 224B and both currently meet in a hut behind Happy Valley Elementary. Later this year both troops will be moving to their new permanent home on Camino Diablo Road across from the Lafayette Tennis Club.

Lafayette piano students perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England



Photo provided

Submitted by Darja Koehler

Seven piano students (Adelaide Chan, Antoine Luong, Audrey Luong, Gustav Singel, Lance Molina, Leo Chen, and Zoe Hao-Teplinsky) performed at the

British Suzuki Gala on April 9. The concert was held at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London, UK, and featured over 1,300 young musicians from 30 countries. Darja Koehler, their piano teacher, offered her students the opportunity to share their skills on an international scale, and successfully prepared them for both audition and performance. With the Suzuki Method, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki sought to create a better and more peaceful world through the love of music instilled in children at an early age. His wish was fulfilled by the exceptional musicians at the second ever British Suzuki Gala as they performed and shared their artistic abilities with the audience. The magnitude and impact of the event will remain unforgettable for both musicians and audience alike.

Campo junior wins prestigious award for musical performance



Screen shot of Mina Lim

Campolindo High School junior Mina Lim won the Presidential Award for her music performance of "Rise Up" by A. Day as part of the 2023 Bay Area Creative Foundation Competition. The Bay Area Creative Foundation was established "to celebrate the importance of creativity in all our lives." BACF

seeks to encourage and support young artists by providing awards programs that promote and honor their creativity. The Presidential Award is BACF's highest honor. "After COVID, we were hearing a lot of stories of attacks on Asian Americans, especially around the Bay Area. My Grandparents were both in their 80's and I was really worried that they would be targets, and at the same time scared yet wanting to do something to try to stop these attacks," Lim said in her BACF Artist Statement. Lim decided to create

her video to show people that we are all humans living together and surviving together.

To watch her video performance, visit www.bayareacreativefoundation.org/2023/rise-up-by-a-day-mina-l - J. Wake

Troop 402 honors two new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Submitted by Kevin Strohmeyer

Scouts BSA Troop 402 of Lafayette and Moraga recently announced that two young women earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Helen O'Neil and Molly Strohmeyer will be the sixth and seventh female Eagle Scouts to receive the award from Troop 402, formed upon the inclusion of girls into the Scouts BSA in 2019.

Troop 402, one of the largest all-

girl troops in the country, celebrated these scouts at an Eagle Court of Honor held on May 10 where Scoutmaster Heather Tzortzis presented the awards for the highest rank in scouting, earned by less than 2% of all members.

As a graduating Senior at Acalanes High School, O'Neil led the troop as Senior Patrol Leader during the lockdown days of COVID designing online meetings to keep isolated scouts engaged and part of a community. Her Eagle service project raised funds and art supplies for the nonprofit Voices of Children, an organization focused on children's mental health in war-torn Ukraine.

O'Neil will attend UC San Diego this fall to study global health.

Strohmeyer, a graduating senior at Campolindo High School, led the troop as Senior Patrol Leader in 2021-22, working with adult leadership to bring scouting's outdoor activities back to life with high demand. Strohmeyer's Eagle Service Project produced a sustainable plant identification signage project at the Rheem School Garden in Moraga. Strohmeyer will attend the University of Wisconsin in the fall, studying anthropology.

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.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Submit sports stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Success for Lamorinda track teams at NCS Tri-Valley Area Championship and Meet of Champions



Campolindo's Ellie Buckley and Shea Volkmer finishing 1-2 in 1600 meter

By Jon Kingdon

In the NCS Tri-Valley Championship on May 13, Lamorinda schools were well represented and a good many of them qualified for the Meet of Champions. In doing so, there were a number of personal records, team records and meet records set by the various athletes from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte.

At the Tri-Valley, the Campolindo girls finished in first, Acalanes eighth and Miramonte 12th. For the boys' teams, Campolindo finished in sixth, Acalanes seventh and Miramonte 19th.

At the Meet of Champions, Campo girls finished first, Acalanes 17th, and Miramonte 40th. For the boys' teams, Acalanes finished 6th, Campolindo 22nd and Miramonte 41st.

Campolindo

Campolindo had its main success in the running events.

The Campolindo girls were led by Mari Testa who competed in the maximum allowed four events, winning the girls' 100 meters, 100-meter hurdles, 200 meters and finished in sixth on the teams 4X100 relay team.

"It was a great performance by Mari," assistant coach Andy Lindquist said. "She set the school record in her individual events and helped our 4x100 relay team (Testa, Charlotte Arnsward, Meagan Kennedy and Sarah Graves) advance on to the next week as well."

The girls' team also did well in the distance events. Ellie Buckley and Shea Volkmer finished in first and second place, respectively, in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races under trying conditions with the temperatures reaching into the high 80s. Kate Kabenina also qualified to run the next week by finishing sixth in the 3,200 meters.

With a sixth-place finish in the 400 meters, Meagan Kennedy also made it to the Meet of Champions.

"Ellie and Shea have been on a tear the past couple of weeks so it wasn't a surprise that they would go out and finish 1-2 in both races along with Kate, running under difficult conditions which definitely helped our team to finish in first place, ahead of second place Monte Vista by 10 points."

Pinkie Schnayer finished second and sixth in the shot put and discus throw, and Anna Stubbington finished in fourth in the shot put for the Cougars. "Pinkie and Anna had great weekends and had a lot to be pleased and happy about with their performance," Lindquist said.

Garrett Nelson led the boys with a first-place finish in the 100 meters and finished in fourth in the 200 meters. Josh Myers also advanced with a sixth-place finish in the 100 meters. This was the third time that the 100-meter record at Campolindo was broken this year. "Earlier in the year, Garrett broke the school record and then three minutes later, Josh broke that record and Garrett's 10.69-time last Saturday once again set the school record. Garrett also broke the school 200-meter record (21.78), so it was definitely a very good day for him," Lindquist said.

Quinn Ahearn finished in fifth in the 300-meter hurdles. "Quinn has been improving each week and has gotten cleaner navigating the barriers," Lindquist said.

In the boys 1,600 meters, Alexander Lodewick finished in fifth with a time of 4:20.70 and Connor McGhee and Alex Thomasson also hit their qualifying marks as did the 4x100 relay team (Josh Myers, Garrett Nelson, Kyle Fossen and Brendan Comerford).



Photos Jon Kingdon

Acalanes's Paul Kuhner finishing the 4x100 record setting relay

Bryce McLaverty qualified in both the shot (45'0") and discus (124'03"). "Bryce has really been coming on strong the last four weeks of the season and this was a big step up for him and the first time he has advanced this far and has come a long way this past year," Lindquist said.

"With both of our varsity teams winning the league title, it was the first time since 2010 that we won both titles in the same year," Lindquist said. "It's been a great year so far with all of the school records that have been broken and how high our athletes have been placing in their events."

Acalanes

It was also a day of superlative performances for the Acalanes boys, girls, and unified team. Leading the way was the boys 4x100 team (Ethan Torres, Trevor Rogers, Kyle Bielawski, Paul Kuhner) with a time of 41.28 that set a school record, a meet record and the ninth best time ever run in NCS history.

Kuhner ran the anchor leg and also won the 200 meters with a time of 21.5 which was also a school and meet record. Besides the 4x100, Rogers also advanced to the Meet of Champions with a time of 22.45 in the 200 meters and finished in second place with a long jump of 22'1.75. The 4x400 relay team of Jacob Boselli, Rogers, Tyler Hunt and Kuhner qualified

with a time of 3:28.67. Hunt finished in seventh place in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:47.35 to also advance.

Two members of the girls' basketball team were standouts for the Dons, sophomores Sophie Chinn finishing second in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.08 and Dulci Vail finishing in first with a high jump of 5'5". Haley Chelemados finished in fourth place with a jump of 5'0" and Megan Yee also advanced with a time of 5:16.91 in the 1,600-meter race.

"Sophie has been up there all season and is still learning how to hurdle which is even more impressive and now has the sixth fastest hurdler time in the history of Acalanes," head coach Joe Escobar said. "Dulci's jump is the second-best mark in school history."

Also advancing in the field events were Natalie Lyons with a long jump of 16'8.5" to finish in third place and Carly Young Harriman who finished in fifth place with a triple jump of 33'1.5".

This is the second year in a row where Acalanes closed their season with a strong finish. "Trevor, Paul and Haley all missed most of the year with injuries and they were all ready to go yesterday," Escobar said. "The end of this season has turned out as good as last year despite having to deal with a lot of injuries and weather prob-

lems in the middle of the year and everyone has battled back and come through when it mattered the most."

The Acalanes Unified Team, where general ed and special ed students can compete together, also performed well for the Dons. Brody Lim, Samuel Hamalian, Miles Clark, and Marcus McGadney all earned points in the boys 100 meters as did Charlotte Sutherland, Elena Russo, Ainsley Dodge and Alvia DeCredico in the girls 100 meters. Apollonia Walton and Alyvia DeCredico both placed in the girls' long jump.

Escobar was congratulatory to all of the members of the Unified team but made special mention of the performance of Hamalian: "In addition to being an integral part of our Unified Program, Sammy also competed as a varsity athlete. On senior night Sammy went out and won the varsity boys 3200-meter race against Las Lomas and Miramonte."

Miramonte

With a relatively young team, Head Coach Andrew Lewis was pleased with their performance. "We're happy with how the season has worked out," Lewis said. "We had some great performances at our DAL championships, and we took a good amount of people to the Tri-Valley Championship."

Sophomore Tori Chatter ran the 200- and 400-meter races but will focus on the 200-meter race at the Meet of Champions. Chatter's time of 25.01 in the 200 meters set a new school record.

Asher Patel finished in sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.22 and 4th in the 1600 with a time of 4:19.52 but will only compete in the 1600, hoping to qualify for the state meet. Grace Bell will compete in 3200 meter in the Meet of Champions after finishing in ninth with a time of 12:02.01.

Addison Braitberg finished in second place with a high jump of 5'0" and Jessica Youn finished in third place with a pole vault of 9'11".

"Addison improved by two inches over her previous mark and showed up big," Lewis said. "Jessica continued her great season after winning the DAL and we're happy to have her come out to the Meet of Champions."

These top finishers will head to the state tournament

School	Event	Athlete	Results	Place
Acalanes	Girls High Jump	Dulci Vail	5'6"	2Nd
Acalanes	Boys Long Jump	Trevor Rogers	23 - 1/2	2Nd
Acalanes	Boys 4X100 Relay	Torres, Bielawski Rogers, Kuhner	41.46	1St
Acalanes	Boys 200 Meter	Paul Kuhner	22.08	3Rd
Campolindo	Girls Shot Put	Pinkie Schnayer	39 - 7 3/4	1St
Campolindo	Girls 1600	Ellie Buckley	4:56.2	3Rd
Campolindo	Girls 100 Meter Hurdles	Mari Testa	14.28	1St
Campolindo	Girls 100 Meter	Mari Testa	11.94	1St
Campolindo	Boys 100 Meter	Josh Myers	10.74	3Rd
Campolindo	Girls 200 Meter	Mari Testa	25.02	1St
Campolindo	Girls 1200 Meter	Ellie Buckley	10:45.0	2Nd

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Talent and character highlight inductions into the Campolindo Football Hall of Fame



Photo Jon Kingdon

From left: Andrew Zolintakis, Sterling Strother, Luke Crossley, Coach Kevin Macy, and Alex Baldwin

By Jon Kingdon

The Campolindo football program on May 15 held its 15th Hall of Fame induction ceremony. It was an event that celebrated the program, the staff, the history and four players, Luke Crossley (2006-2008), Andrew Zolintakis (2011-2013), Sterling Strother (2013-2015) and J.V. (John-Vincent) Baldwin (2013-2014).

The evening began with a short film about Baldwin who passed away this past year from cancer, titled "A Life Well Lived" which presented a young man of character from the very beginning. The comments by his friends and teammates in the film bespoke of the influence he had with them: "Unchallenged leader," "Everything that's good about Campo," "Best teammate any of us every had," "A friend to everybody on the team."

Representing J.V. Baldwin at the ceremony was his brother, Alex. "J.V. was always 100% in, never missing a practice or a game," Alex said. "He would come in early and stay late and would talk with every coach."

Coach Macy was witness to the growth Baldwin made in his commitment to be the best player that he could be. "At one point, J.V. went into the weight room and reinvented himself, where he made himself a man. He was always the first one in and the last one out of the weight room."

In Baldwin's two seasons as a linebacker, Campolindo won the state championship and had a combined record of 27-1. But he was far more than that for Macy. "J.V. was with me every day assisting in any way that he could. Everyone saw him as our captain because of everything he did," Macy said.

"J.V. went on to the University of Arizona because he wanted to be involved with a big football program in any way that he could, and by his senior year, he had earned a full scholarship," Alex said.

After graduation, Baldwin went on to be a wildland firefighter and following his passing, his fellow firemen established the JV "Bubby" Baldwin Service & Conservation Foundation, whose mission is to honor and celebrate Baldwin, supporting organizations that Baldwin cared deeply about, advancing pediatric cancer research, assisting the nation's veterans and first responders, and supporting youth athletics and education.

For Coach Macy, the possessor of many awards and photos, there is one that he values most, the photo taken after the 2013 championship game: "After our championship, we wanted to get a group picture, but we had no plan for it, so we were scrambling to get everyone together on the field. After I saw the picture, right next to me kneeling in front of me was

J.V., the one person that I was closest to in my coaching career and that's the most cherished picture I have in one of the most cherished moments of my life. Thank God J.V. was the one smart enough to know to be right by my side and that's the gift that he gave me."

Luke Crossley

To everyone who coached or played with Luke Crossley, he was a talented player, and in the end, a real character. Upon learning of his induction into the Hall of Fame, Crossley's first reaction was: "Why? There were so many other players on my team that deserved it more than me. I was only good because of what the coaches told me to do."

Prior to college, Crossley always found places to work in many service industries working at the Moraga Tennis and Swim club, caddying, bussing in restaurants, working as a landscaper and bartending at the American Kitchen in Lafayette. "Luke was one of those guys that when the wind blew, he just went that way," Macy said.

As a player, Crossley brought the same number of varied skills but was singularly focused on the team. "Luke was a great player," Macy said. "He did it all as a running back, wide receiver and defensive. He was a mister do-it-all. When he came up as a sophomore in a rough year, he established himself quickly on the varsity."

Crossley made it a point to thank his family and the Campolindo football team. "'You get born with two lottery tickets in life: where you're raised and who raised you and I won both of those lottery tickets – and I won a few others with my coaches and my team.'"

At Cal State Chico, Crossley vastly expanded his horizons by majoring in International Relations and Affairs and spent a year abroad studying at the Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. "I was lucky enough to be a captain at Campo and that really helped me to gain that confidence to do things like live in a foreign country for a year," Crossley said.

"After college, I had some 'grown up' jobs and that wasn't really for me, so I went back to serving in restaurants and that really was my niche." And for Crossley it all came back to Moraga. To the amusement of the audience, Crossley shared how he felt he was perceived: "A lot of my friends said, 'Luke, you're not going to amount to much' and look at me now. I'm a bartender and assistant general manager at Moraga's finest establishment, The Canyon Club Brewery."

Crossley also shared how he was a bone marrow donor and encouraged others ages 18-40 to sign up through Be the Match Foundation. "Please, please, please do. At the end of the day, you can save a life."

Sterling Strother

Upon hearing Luke Crossley's story about donating bone marrow, Sterling Strother shared a similar story: "I wasn't expecting his story about Be the Match and I also was able to donate bone marrow as a senior in college. It's truly a life changing opportunity for anyone able to donate and a life extending opportunity for the recipients."

Strother had unparalleled success on the field and in the classroom. In his three years as the right tackle on the varsity, he was all state, won a state championship (2014) and his teams had a combined 41-3 record. He was also a top basketball player whose teams went 87-36 in his four years, along with being named an NCS scholar-athlete four straight years. Strother went on to Yale where he was a four-year starter, playing tackle and center and was named all-IVY his last three years.

Though he weighed 315 pounds when he played at Yale, Strother showed up at a relatively svelte 240 pounds and spoke of his reaction when he heard he was to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. "It really floored me and I'm extremely grateful," Strother said. It's really a reflection of our whole class because there are 13 of us that have been inducted that were on the state championship team and none of us would have been successful without one of those 12 guys. It's more a reflection of them than any one person by a long shot."

Strother is currently working for The McChrystal Group in Alexandria. "I work in management and leadership consulting with McChrystal. We work with clients and executive teams on organizational improvement and all through the lens of leadership and the impact that leaders have on their teams and standard operations strategy communications work. It's a lot of fun."

Strother then shared with

the current team what he hoped they would take away from playing for Coach Macy: "You don't need to love the x's and o's or lighting up an opponent. The only thing you need to love is the guy on your left and your right and the relationships that you're going to hold onto for the rest of your life, so it doesn't matter how much you love football in and of itself, love all the things that come with it, and you'll never regret a day playing for Campo."

Andrew Zolintakis

Andrew Zolintakis was another two-sport player for Campolindo. A three-year letterman and two-year starter at quarterback, the 2011-2012-2013 teams had a combined record of 35-4. Over that period, Zolintakis threw 51

touchdowns and only 11 interceptions. In his two years on the varsity basketball team, their combined record was 45-17.

The induction to the Hall of Fame really struck home for Zolintakis. "I'm just really happy and honored to be named to the Hall of Fame," Zolintakis said. "The group of guys that I'm being inducted with are people that I've looked up to for a long time and it means the world to me."

Zolintakis had his own take on how it was to play for Kevin Macy. "The unique thing about Coach Macy is that he knows how to get the best out of each player, and he knows how to bring the team along so that you're peaking at the end of the season," Zolintakis said.

... continued on Page C3

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February's Selection: Rainy Leaf by R. Thompson

First Orinda-Miramonte photography challenge winners named

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council at its May 9 meeting was treated to the photographs selected for the months of January, February, March, and April for its photographic challenge to the students of Miramonte High School.

The competition was designed to help the city build its social media and photography library. Instrumental to the program's success, according to a presentation to the council, were Miramonte students, faculty and leadership class, assisted by Mrs. Churchill, photography and digital design; Ms. Porter, science and leadership; and Ms. Vanover, photography and digital design sub. The Miramonte Environmental Commission (Hadley Peterson, Eva Crinks, Ava Dhaliwal and Leo Wampler) was also recognized as important participant in the challenge.

James Duff, the city's community outreach coordinator, gave the presentation and introduced the winners, who received an award from the city council. Each month for four months the students were provided with prompts giving details of what the city

would like that month's photographs to illustrate about Orinda.

In January, the prompt was "Iconic Orinda," and the photograph selected was "Colorful" by Max Langa, depicting a sunrise over Orinda's foggy hills, with bright foliage in the foreground. In response to February's prompt, "infrastructure," winning photographer Reeve Thompson offered "Rainy Leaf," with a vivid red leaf floating on clear water pooling beneath a downspout. March's prompt, "wildfire visual dictionary," was illustrated by Jessica Hui with a photograph entitled "Fire Fuels Mitigation," showing the Orinda chipper at work in the hills of Orinda. Amelie Lo submitted a photograph in response to the April prompt of "lively city," entitled "Veggie Shopping," focusing on people enjoying the Orinda Farmers' Market.

Duff explained that the challenge ran for four months. Although only one outstanding photograph was selected for each of those months, the students had submitted multiple pictures, resulting in a very large cache of photographs for the city to use. Duff says that the city hopes to run another challenge sometime next year.

Talent and character highlight inductions into the Campolindo Football Hall of Fame

... continued from Page C2

"I don't know how he knew how to do it, but he was always able to get everyone in the position at the end of the year to be able to play their best."

It was not just Zolintakis' athletic skills but the respect he engendered from the team that Macy spoke about. "Andrew was a top leader with high character," Macy said. "He was so clean it was hard to find a way to make fun of him in tonight's video. He had a strong arm and threw a very

catchable ball with great touch and knew how to make his receivers look good."

Zolintakis was accepted to the University of Southern California but was initially told that due to a lack of space, he would not be able to enter until the second semester. It was here that Macy interceded on his behalf: "When the scouts came up to see Tyler Petite (an inductee last year), I asked them to take a look at Andrew. When they saw him play, they liked him enough to invite him to come in as a walk-on and he

was able to start his college career in the fall."

Zolintakis went on to graduate from USC with a BS in Computer Science Business Administration and then earned his MS in Business Intelligence and Data Analytics from Carnegie Mellon University.

He is living in San Francisco and employed as a data engineer for Meta, working on one of the virtual realities metaverse apps and fills the metrics so the product team can understand how people

are using the metaverse.

Also in attendance were four players that Kevin Macy and his staff coached at Oakland Tech in 1989 and 1990: QB Steve Parham, WR Jamal Waters, WR Mark Collins and WR/DB Kendall Harris. "When we got there, Tech had not won a game in four years or a league game in six years," Macy said. "Our second year, we lost a playoff game to McClymonds that came down to our missing a 2-point conversion at the end."

Parham, a recently retired

Alameda County sheriff who calls Macy every Father's Day, remembers vividly what Macy brought to Oakland Tech:

"They changed the way that we looked at football. It was like we were now prepared to go into a battle, and it slowed the game down for me. The biggest thing we learned was to always keep going. You will have bad days but there are always a lot more good days and that's what I most remember about Coach Macy."

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 7 Wednesday, May 24, 2023



Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Plant this. Don't plant that!

Photos Cynthia Brian



Sweet-smelling jasmine climbs the arbor.

By Cynthia Brian

"Kings and cabbages go back to compost, but good deeds stay green forever."

~ Rick De Marinis

Have you ever thought good deeds may be planted? So many of the flowers, bushes, trees, and vines that we use in our gardens can be both good and bad. Some plants that are excellent in one yard are a disaster in someone else's landscape. Most of these plants are sold at nurseries and garden centers. The key is knowing what will be best for your garden.

In this article, I will share what has worked for me and what has not. I call my hypothesis,



Ivy continues to proliferate through the fence.

"Plant this, but don't plant that!"

Jasmine

As I open my living room doors, the sweet fragrance of jasmine fills the room. If you want a fast-growing vine to cover an arbor, pergola, or fence, jasmine fills the bill. Every spring, the pink-tinged white clusters of delicious smelling blossoms will perfume your yard. Taking cuttings for bouquets will perfume your bathrooms and other areas without the use of any chemical sprays. As much as I love jasmine, I must also caution you that it can be an aggressive grower if not managed. Jasmine climbs trees and can also suffocate other plants. I am forever pulling strands from boxwoods and cutting vines that have climbed over azaleas.



Does anything say spring more than the luxurious lilac?

However, for me, the beauty, blooms, and heady scent throughout my garden pushes the positive check marks. Should you plant jasmine? My verdict: Only you can decide.

Ivy

Three decades ago, a new neighbor wanted an instant green, easy-maintenance ground cover. Against my ardent appeals to not plant an invasive species, they chose ivy. Those neighbors are long gone, yet 30 years later, I am still battling that ivy that crawled under and over fences. I'm sure other neighbors are also attempting to eradicate it. Ivy boasts glossy-green leaves, creates beautiful topiaries, and in many parts of the country, ivy is welcome, even coveted. Yet here in California, this rapidly growing species harbors rats, strangles trees, damages structures, and is almost impossible to completely contain. My verdict: DON'T PLANT IVY!

Lilac

When lilacs bloom, spring has arrived. Lilacs are known for their beautiful, fragrant flowers in colors of white, pink, lavender, purple, and blue, which add an attractive touch to any landscape. ... continued on Page D10

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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	3	\$1,748,000	\$4,250,000
MORAGA	4	\$2,005,000	\$2,950,000
ORINDA	2	\$1,500,000	\$2,450,000

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

210 Lafayette Circle #203, \$1,748,000, 2 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt,

2021 YrBlt, 04-21-23

1547 Rancho View Drive, \$4,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4312 SqFt,

2016 YrBlt, 04-17-23, Previous Sale: \$675,000, 03-21-07

1281 Summit Road, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 3438 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-19-23,

Previous Sale: \$3,800,000, 05-26-22

MORAGA

427 Donald Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2663 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-17-23

205 Fernwood Drive, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2609 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-20-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 03-25-08

3 Hastings Court, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3743 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-18-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 04-03-14

29 Sullivan Drive, \$2,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1856 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-20-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,940,000, 07-09-21

ORINDA

27 Dos Posos, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2405 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 04-17-23

237 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 3013 SqFt,

1948 YrBlt, 04-18-23

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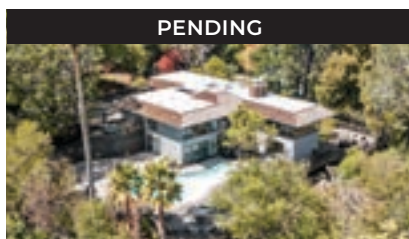
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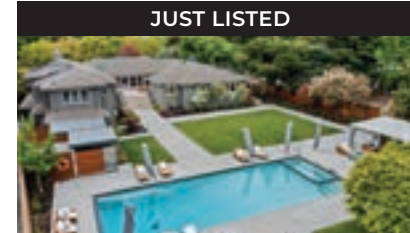
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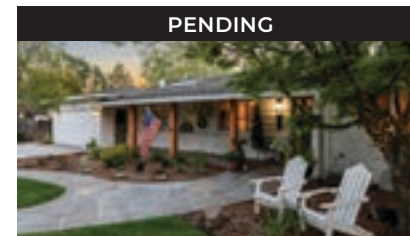
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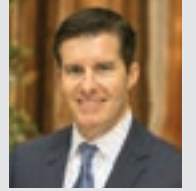


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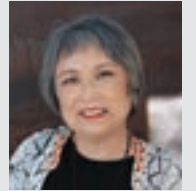
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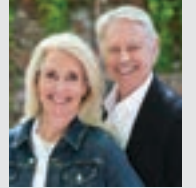
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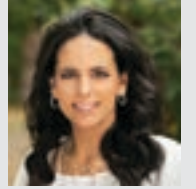
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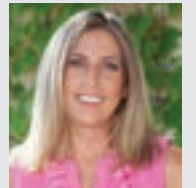
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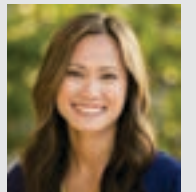
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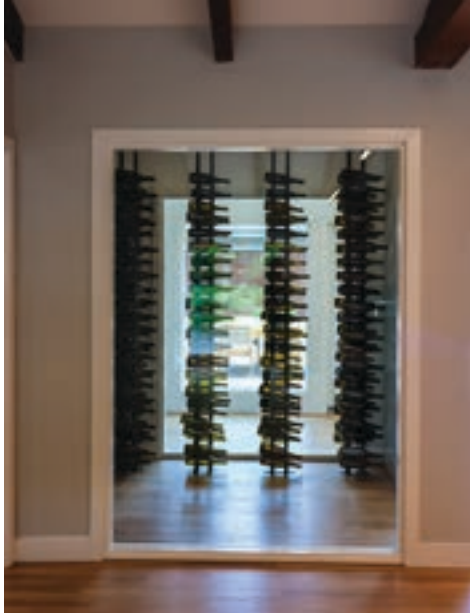


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Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour showcased incredible remodels

The Lafayette Juniors' Lifestyle Tour was its most successful yet, allowing the Juniors to distribute over \$80,000 among their beneficiaries.



This Happy Valley estate in Lafayette (pictured left) is the pinnacle of luxury entertaining and year-round family interaction. The home pays tribute to California modernism and boasts an incredible indoor-outdoor flow, with countless full-length windows that showcase the homeowner's crown jewel: a beautiful backyard filled with greenery and foliage. Here, the wine storage features the same floor to ceiling glass, allowing an uninterrupted view from any angle.

Sports Courts (lower left):
This backyard in Happy Valley



was designed by landscape architect Randy Thueme. The 1.5-acre estate features a large pool, accompanied by a pool bath, shower and shaded fire pit area. Play areas include the sports court, bocce court, and a large expansive lawn for soccer and football. The grounds also house a large vegetable garden and a detached guest house and studio.

Outdoor Oasis (upper right):

This Old Jonas Road home is owned by the founder of the Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour. The exterior landscape was recently reimagined and designed by the homeowners with Ecliptic Landscapes and Aqua Pool. The family finds themselves increasingly drawn to dining in the all-season loggia and enjoying wine around their fire pit. Custom swim jet pool provides the family with a



Photos Sora O'Doherty

swim-in-place option when a rigorous workout at home is desired.

Outdoor dining (lower right):

This Gloria Terrace home in Lafayette was built in 2021 by Reliez Valley Builders and boasts a sprawling 1.1 acre terraced lot. The kitchen opens seamlessly to the natural beauty of the backyard, where an outdoor kitchen is perfect for entertaining. A variety of materials are used to filter water through the permeable areas, including compacted decomposed granite, pebbles and gravel. The result is a patio that is able to keep generally free of debris, and is also varied and provides a minimalistic foundation for the surrounding garden and terraces. -S. O'Doherty



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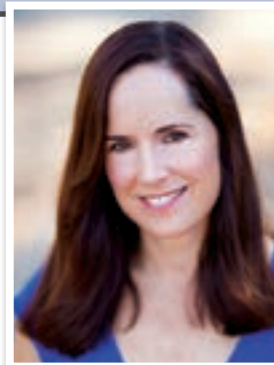
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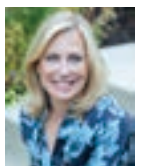
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant this. Don't plant that!



The petals of euphorbia are intricate and fascinating, but don't be fooled!

... continued from Page D1

My mother grew the most spectacular lilacs and I am continuing the tradition. Lilacs are low-maintenance plants that thrive in a variety of soil conditions and climates, making them a versatile choice for gardeners. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, lilacs provide valuable ecosystem services. Bees and hummingbirds are attracted to the delicious and substantial nectar produced by lilacs. Some studies suggest that the scent of lilacs may have a calming effect on the human nervous system, making them a great choice for creating a relaxing outdoor environment. My verdict: Plant this.

Euphorbia

While euphorbia may be a beautiful and eye-catching addition to a garden because of the chartreuse-colored blooms, it is important to exercise caution when considering planting this species. Euphorbia contains a toxic sap that can cause skin irritation, and in some cases, severe allergic reactions. In addition, euphorbia self-



Mock orange attracts bees and smells delightful.

seeds and spread quickly, making it difficult to control and invasive. Seeds from euphorbia blew into my garden from the surrounding hillside. At first, I was thrilled because I had seen this specimen in the nursery and thought the color was so unique. A single plant multiplied the following year to hundreds, then thousands, suffocating and killing most of my other plants as the roots strangled other roots. For the past five years, I have been pulling plants by hand and discarding them into the garbage bin. Despite my earnest efforts, euphorbia still invades my orchard and attempts to creep into my garden beds. My verdict: DON'T PLANT EUPHORBIA.

Mock Orange

The mock orange tree, also known as Philadelphia, is a beautiful flowering shrub that produces fragrant, white, or cream-colored blooms that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. This shrub is relatively low-maintenance and easy to grow, making it an ideal choice for novice gardeners. It is often used as a natural screen or hedge, providing privacy, and adding



Photos Cynthia Brian

The crimson streaks on the stalks of poison hemlock make it easy to identify.

aesthetic value to your outdoor space. I planted my two trees next to a brick stairway to enjoy the soothing and relaxing fragrance as I passed. Prune and shape the way you wish. My verdict: Plant this.

Poisonous Hemlock

Despite being highly toxic to humans and animals, poisonous hemlock was introduced to the United States from Europe as a decorative plant in the 1800s. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It contains a toxin called coniine, which can cause respiratory failure, paralysis, convulsions, and ultimately death if ingested in large amounts. (Remember Socrates?) Poison hemlock is a member of the carrot family and resembles Queen Anne's lace. Hemlock is easy to identify by the crimson streaks on the stems. The leaves are fern-like and the white flowers delicate, but beware, this invasive plant grows to 12 feet or more and is very difficult to eradicate with its long tap roots. Wear protective clothing when pulling or mowing. Do not put the plant in the compost pile. Dispose of the entire plant in the garbage and make sure that the seeds have not spread. Like euphorbia, poison hemlock seeds blew in from the adjacent open space and began to take over my hillside. Euphorbia and hemlock often grow in tandem. Both are extremely difficult to control. Every year I get a bit closer to extermination, but plants still find their way to grow. My verdict: DON'T PLANT HEMLOCK!

... continued on next Page

... continued from Page D10

Roses

Many people believe that roses are challenging to grow and not worth the effort. The thorns are also a major turn-off. Despite my many scratches, I find roses to be one of the most rewarding plants in my garden with a blooming time that lasts nine or 10 months. Although I'll plant a rose from any breeder that captures my fancy, most of my roses are David Austin English roses which were hybridized to combine the characteristics of old-fashioned roses with the repeat flowering of modern roses, resulting in a stunning range of colors, shapes, and sizes. They are also highly fragrant, producing a delightful scent that fills the air and lifts my spirits. I grow climbing, rambling, tea, shrub, and more. Deadhead as flowers fade to encourage continuous blooms. My verdict: Plant this.

As you probably deciphered, I adore plants that supply flowers, fragrance, pollinator benefits, and beauty to my garden. I'm willing to do a bit of extra work to experience the specimens on my "plant this" list, but I do not recommend any of the "do not plant" groups.



This mauve rose is fragrant and makes excellent bouquets.

We will all return to compost one day but meanwhile, what good deeds will stay green in your garden?

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

PS: Don't forget the Be the Star You Are!® Shoe Drive. Shoes may be dropped off at Moraga schools through May 25 and through June 30 at <https://5aspace.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or www.TeamHoogs.com, 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>



Sassy Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian with succulents.

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 <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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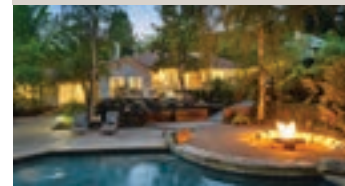


78 Estates Drive

Located in the beloved Glorietta neighborhood, this expansive 5 bd/ 4.5 ba home features seamless flow for indoor & outdoor living!

\$3,325,000

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367 Dalewood Drive

Fabulous single level home w/ large chef's kitchen & formal living room w/ doors out to incredible backyard!

\$2,995,000

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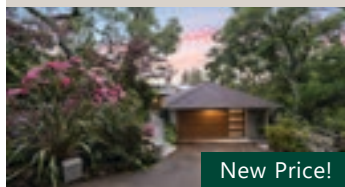


224 Camino Sobrante

Classic 5 bd/3 ba home sits on a .53-acre rare waterfront lot just right for strolls around Lake Cascade & OCC!

\$2,395,000

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710 Miner Road

Peaceful 1.15 acre knoll setting w/ sunset views! 5 bd/ 3 ba, 3088 sqft home w/ spacious open floor plan & exceptional separation of space!

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ORINDA



New Listing!

73 Brookwood Road, #29

Delightful 1 bd/ 1 ba residence offers a cozy & serene living space, ideal for those seeking comfort & tranquility!

\$495,000

ORINDA



Leased!

70 Rheem Blvd

Located in the heart of Orinda on a fabulous .50 acre creekside lot, sits this remodeled beauty with 4 bd/ 3 ba & wonderful interior spaces!

\$6,000/mo.

LAFAYETTE



3243 Ameno Drive

Spacious 4 bd/ 3 ba home offers spectacular view of light & clouds, with panoramic views of Mt. Diablo!

\$1,725,000

LAFAYETTE



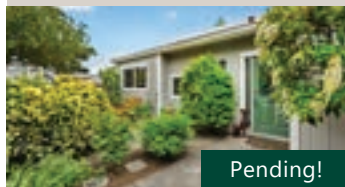
New Listing!

3158 Withers Avenue

Charming ranch style 4 bd/ 2 ba home on wonderful private lot ready for pool, gardens, play yard, or ADU!

\$1,288,000

MORAGA



Pending!

30 Ascot Place

This single level 3 bd/ 2 ba home features vaulted ceilings and top of the hill location allowing ample natural light & wonderful views!

\$1,095,000

MORAGA



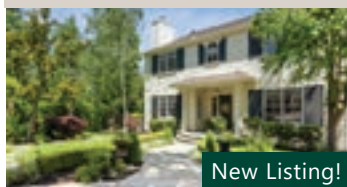
New Listing!

2129 Ascot Drive, #11

This sweet 2 bd/ 1.5 ba two-story condo has an eat-in kitchen, dining room/living room combo w/ hrdwd floors & a private deck!

\$615,000

ALAMO



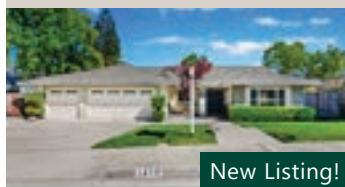
New Listing!

954 Forest Lane

Beautiful custom-built Estate located in the highly coveted West Alamo neighborhood features 5 bd/ 5.5 ba & luxurious backyard!

\$5,500,000

PLEASANT HILL



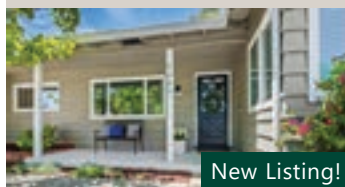
New Listing!

1416 Stonehedge Drive

Lovely 4 bd/ 2 ba single-story home features updated kitchen, lg living room w/ soaring ceilings & spacious backyard!

\$1,399,000

CONCORD



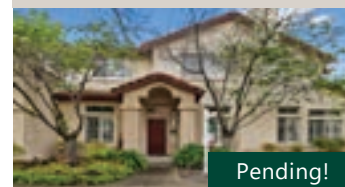
New Listing!

4649 Benbow Court

A complete turn-key home in the heart of the Bishop Park neighborhood! Updated & light filled w/ beautiful finishes throughout!

\$875,000

PLEASANTON



Pending!

3024 Bolero Court

Updated 3 bd/ 2.5 ba end-unit townhome less than .5 miles from top-rated schools, downtown & more!

\$1,190,000

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