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Families find a cool spot to set up camp July 15 at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga.

Photo Jeff Heyman

Water fun at Family Camp Out helps beat the heat

By Jeff Heyman

The mercury stood at the century mark. But the scorching heat didn't dissuade 162 kids, parents and grandparents from attending the annual Moraga Family Camp Out, held this year on Saturday, July 15 at Rancho Laguna Park. And hot fun it was! Camp tents were erected in the shade and kids – plus no small number of toddler-toting adults – frolicked in the plentiful water features thoughtfully set up by the Town of Moraga's Parks and Recreation Department. Most popular for beating the heat was a gigantic green water slide and an almost cuddly – if it weren't

so slippery – water spouting aqua-colored hippo. To the merriment of families, there was no lack of activities to keep the campers entertained: arts and crafts tables, lawn games, and exceptionally popular rocket building and launching. The kid-made "rockets," colorful cardboard tubes with safe foam tips, hurtled through the air as children and parents alike scrambled to retrieve their precious payloads. A particularly well-launched projectile made a surprising splash landing in one of the blue kiddie pools set up on the park's main lawn, delighting kids throwing water sponges nearby.

As chicken, hamburger and hot dog smoke

wafted over the park, it became clear that it's never too hot for a good, old-fashioned family barbecue. This one was held under Rancho Laguna's towering redwoods and was followed by – what else? – a S'mores station for families to make their own version of the traditional camping delight. Before a "strictly enforced" quiet time set in at 10 p.m., families had an opportunity to stargaze through the telescopes of the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society. Moraga's Family Camp Out is sure to be remembered by all who attended it as the most fun day (and night) of what promises to be a long, hot summer.

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Orinda Planning Commission approves Chevron project with creek access



Rendering courtesy City of Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Planning Commission on Wednesday, July 12 approved a major development for downtown Orinda. In the works for some time, the renovation of the Chevron gas station on the corner of Orinda Way and Santa Maria Way, will see empty

service bays converted to an Extra Mile convenience store, the addition of an electric vehicle charging station, and a deck overlooking San Pablo Creek, with creek access along the side of the station.

There were two controversies concerning this development. City staff recommended that the city of Orinda not accept ownership of the land behind the station, which Chevron wishes to donate to the city. The planning staff had recommended that the city take only an easement over the property to avoid potential liability issues. However, Chevron said that they would not agree to such an arrangement and that if the city did not accept the dedication of the property, Chevron would not allow access to San Pablo Creek over its property.

Having heard public comment on the issue of liability, and in consideration of Chevron's stated position, the commission voted to approve the project including the dedication of the creek and trail portion of the property to the city.

... continued on Page A6

Moraga School District office experiences a '1st amendment audit'

By Sora O'Doherty

Moraga School District staff were working on June 28 during the summer break when a tall man, wearing a black mask, dark glasses and a hat came into the district office. The woman at the desk inquired if he needed anything, but he said he was "just going to take some pictures, grab a couple of forms." Identifying himself only as "Jay" he proceeded to engage with the staff, saying that he did not have children in the district but was just "driving through and decided to stop" at the district office. Later in his video, which appears on YouTube, he suggests that someone who had had a bad experience with the district has requested him to come.

This was the start of a "first amendment audit," a phenomenon that has been sweeping the country over the past few years. During such encounters, someone visits a public location,

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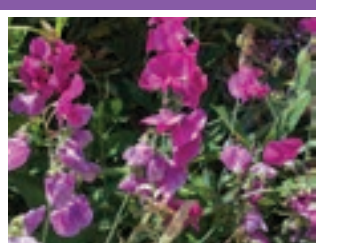
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See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Council considers options to address Housing Element concerns from HCD

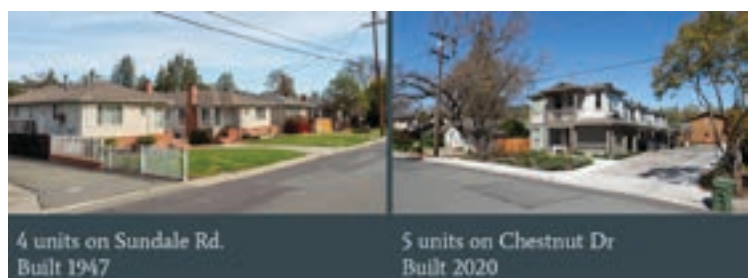


Image courtesy City of Lafayette

By Lou Fancher

City staff at the July 10 meeting sought direction from Lafayette City Council members on which programs to include in the revised Housing Element the council plans to bring to a State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) meeting for comments. The item, along with other updates, would then be brought back to the council on Aug. 28.

Adopted in January, the 6th Cycle Housing Element in March was received by and resulted in comments from HCD. While continuing to work on updates to the Housing Element in response to comments from the March 29 letter, Senior Planner Renata Robles, Housing Consultant Diana Elrod, and Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff presented steps taken and suggestions for completing the city's response and amendments before the full review in August.

Prior written comments from HCD included emphasis on the federally mandated "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (AFFH) requirement established by Assembly Bill 686. The measure stipulates local jurisdictions remove historic barriers to housing choice, mobility, and fair housing. In addition to the city providing an opportunity sites inventory that meets Lafayette's Regional

Housing Needs Allocation that was determined by the state and ABAG, the city must prepare a "...significant and robust suite of actions ... to promote housing mobility and increase housing choices and affordability throughout the City."

Robles said one example provided by HCD focused attention on lower-density neighborhoods and programs that target missing middle housing. These lower density residential buildings typically include fourplexes, townhouses, and small apartment buildings. Having reviewed AFFH programs from several other local jurisdictions certified by HCD, staff prepared additional draft programs for council's consideration.

Four programs and three "bonus" recommendations were highlighted in the staff presentation. Ultimately, staff's goal in researching and outlining the additions was to achieve a balance of program options that best address access and housing disparities. Robles emphasized in her comments that not all of the additional programs needed to be adopted by the council. A strategy that answers HCD's comments from multiple angles, she advised, is best. Importantly, staff sought no final decisions from council; instead, asking council to indicate which of seven total options could be presented to HCD for

interim response as to whether or not the measures would be favorably received and have an impact on approval of the city's Housing Element.

The staff's top four recommendations included allowing smaller lots and reduced setbacks in R-6 and R-10 zones that currently have a minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet. This program would reduce the minimum lot size requirement to 6,000 square feet and thereby increase the effective density per acre. Robles described two options for increasing density, the first affecting less areas of the city and neither option resulting in any change to building height limits, tree protection, or creek setbacks. The staff recommended council exclude areas in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, evacuation-constrained parcels, and properties within a protected ridge-line setback.

A second recommendation involved permitting additional Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) to owners agreeing to income-restrict that extra/second unit for periods up to 10 years. The local ADU ordinance currently permits only one JADU on a parcel. Although the exact parameters would need to be developed, the program has potential to provide upward mobility and affordable options for income groups with lower than moderate income.

Robles said Lafayette's unit sizes have historically been large and have limited the affordability and number of units built on each property. By promoting an "average" range of unit sizes and regulating unit size in moderate to large-scale multifamily housing developments, a mix of sizes that includes projects

with smaller units could better serve people with lower incomes or people with disabilities, according to Robles. Elrod explained how such an approach might change how a developer chooses to design a property, i.e., incorporating smaller bedrooms, to maintain the average range established.

The final program supported regulations aimed at prohibiting un-hosted short-term rentals. The staff report included that AirBnB and VRBO have indicated there are hundreds of houses and apartments offered for rent on a nightly basis in Lafayette.

Previous conversations about prohibiting short-term rentals raised concern that seniors and people in need of supplemental income would be negatively impacted by a wholesale ban. Among people who opposed a ban, support existed allowing hosted rentals. According to the report, "HCD also sees this type of policy as a means of addressing anti-displacement concerns."

The three additional programs staff asked council to consider included allowing churches and religious institutions to build eligible projects of up to 20 units per acre on their sites. Another option was to convert existing single-family dwellings into 2-4 units (du-, tri- and fourplexes) within one-quarter mile of the downtown.

When staff was asked by council about its rationale for promoting the highlighted programs, Robles spoke of an overall goal of lowering barriers to housing developments that are more accessible, affordable, and equitable. Council also sought to clarify timelines, HCD authority in determining the housing guidelines, the efficacy of AFFH measures

recommended in the report, changes to zoning requirements, and if adequate input from the public had occurred.

Public comments submitted in writing prior to the meeting mentioned concerns about the negative aesthetics, density and impact of additional housing and worries that adequate parking, ingress and egress of emergency vehicles, traffic safety, property values, among other issues, would be compromised. A limited number of people writing in favor of the staff's options to meet state requirements expressed support for facing the housing crisis in a timely manner and equitably serving people of all income levels.

Members of the public appearing at the meeting voiced appreciation for staff and council's effort involved in preparing the Housing Element portfolio of options, while primarily stating opposition to increasing housing density in areas R-6 and R-10 that are located primarily south of Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Council discussed which options to include in the "suite" of ideas for staff's upcoming meeting with HCD, with Mayor Carol Anduri reiterating that no final decisions were required at the council meeting. Council decided to withhold the first two options involving density and setbacks in R6 and R20 zones, and approved presenting options 2-7, with minor amendments and pending additional research and more public input from schools, churches, property owners and members of the community.

View the entire presentation at:
https://lafayette.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=6828&meta_id=170150

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Funding gap financing approved for Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane project

By Lou Fancher

Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff at the July 10 Lafayette City Council meeting gave a reminder of previous approvals granted to Miramar Capital's Lafayette Lane project. The project located on Mt. Diablo Boulevard consists of 128 market-rate, for-sale housing units and 38 below-market-rate, for-rent housing units for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sunflower Hill will develop and operate the 38-unit project with the assistance of Novin Development. Together, they have submitted a letter requesting the city contribute funds to close a projected \$1.5 million funding gap. The project is about to go out for funding bids, which Wolff predicted would be made more attractive with support from the city. To increase the project's scoring, city funding would increase the likelihood of funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development and other sources. The total development costs are projected at \$39 million, and the total funding sources are \$37.5 million.

Wolff emphasized that the city's commitment to multiple family affordable housing is a longstanding effort, with many policies and programs included in the General Plan. Lafayette in 1994 established a redevelopment agency with 20% of the tax increment (growth in property taxes over the base year) dedicated to funding affordable housing. Since that time and with supporting grants and other funding sources, the city has supported projects such as the 76-unit Chateau Lafayette for low-income seniors; loans and in-kind contributions to Town Center's 60 market rate and 15 below market rate units for households with very low income; and a \$3 million housing fund lent support for the Eden Housing's Belle Terre Project that offers 46 below market rate units restricted to very low-income senior households.

Wolff said the staff recommends the city contribute a long-term loan for up to \$1.5 million (from the successor agency housing fund) to support Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane. The loan would be structured and executed similarly to Eden's Belle Terre project so that the city's affordable housing fund coffers will gradually be refilled as the loan is repaid.

Iman Novin of Novin Development and Sunflower Hill Executive Director Jen Benson presented information about the organization and the project proposed for Lafayette. Benson said Sunflower Hill is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and continues its purpose to build housing and programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Their first development in Pleasanton opened two-and-a-half years ago and the community project they are looking to build in Lafayette will be similar.

The development will consist of 38 I/DD units, one of which will be for property management. The unit mix will consist of 28 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom units with rents restricted to 20-60% Area Median Income (AMI) and average costs are 39% of AMI. (AMI). "We're keeping it incredibly affordable" for folks with limited income, Benson said.

The partnership organizational chart includes managing and general partners. Accord-

ing to Benson, Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane will have different nonprofit residential and enrichment services on-site. Services to build life, fitness and social skills will be offered through classes, a multi-purpose community room, a teaching kitchen, a fitness center and rooftop terrace with a garden.

Novin said their 17 multi-family projects strive for "building value that matters" and social and environmental sustainability. Development projects are meant to exist "in harmony" with the communities they serve, he emphasized. Reviewing the financing plan, he said total hard costs will be \$20.4 million and the location is ideal due to close access to city resources such as the library.

"One thing we can't control is how much additional local funding may have been committed to other projects," compared to the Sunflower Hill development plan. Those figures come into play and are crucial as the project moves forward.

The staff supporting the project includes a full-time property manager, full-time activities coordinator, part-time program director and part-time residential services coordinator. This team will be supported by the leadership staff of Sunflower Hill and the Housing Consortium of the East Bay.

Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok asked why they had not asked for funding two years ago, but were now asking for funding support. Novin said interest rates and construction costs have gone up and the competitive landscape means no one knew in the early days what would be funded and what tie-breaker they need to be successful. He said a benchmark has now been established and informs the project terms this year. To maintain control of the budget, Novin emphasized the company's infrastructure and in-house departments will bring high value to the engineering and contingencies built into their underwriting will help them to avoid surprises due to unexpected inflation. He said multi-family affordable housing projects sometimes take "three to four bites at the apple" and support from the city will help the project to be successful.

Mayor Carl Anduri mentioned that if approved, the city would be using 75% of the city's affordable housing budget. Public comment on the item included one community member who said parents of children with disabilities have concern for how their children will be supported over a lifetime. Sunflower Hill, she suggested, will ensure adults with disabilities have strong community support and will serve as a model for other cities and towns. When asked about other projects tied to the Sunflower Hill project, Novin said there was a concerted effort to separate in the master development plan from any other projects such as underground parking.

Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane is estimated to be completed by early 2026. Council members collectively said the project aligns well with the city's goals for affordable housing and addressing opportunities to support resources for people with disabilities. The council voted unanimously (with one absence) to adopt the staff recommendation to prepare a long-term loan agreement for up to \$1.5M from the successor agency housing fund to support Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane.



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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, July 24, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
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Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Aug. 7, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Design Review

Wednesday, July 24, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Moraga hosts this month's Contra Costa Mayors Conference

By Vera Kochan

Established in 1951, for the purpose of being an educational forum for the county's elected officials, the Contra Costa Mayors Conference this month was hosted by the town of Moraga on the grounds of the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. Held on a monthly basis, the conference location rotates between the 19 municipalities within the county.

With the idea of exchanging ideas and networking, all

mayors, council members, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, and local legislative delegations are welcome to attend. The meetings are run much in the same manner as a regular council meeting. Items discussed included a call for nominations to fill an alternate member position on the Association of Bay Area Governments Board; conference appointee reports, chair announcements, mayors announcements, as well as state and federal legislative updates.

This month's presentation during the July 6 conference meeting was given by Housing Finance Authority Director Kate Hartley on the topic titled "Bay Area Housing Finance Alternatives." According to their website, "Established by the state Legislature in 2019, the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority's mandate is to create regional solutions that meet the Bay Area's affordable housing needs. BAHFA is the first regional housing finance authority in California, and works together with MTC [Metropolitan Transportation Commission] and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)." Currently, all 101 municipalities within the nine Bay Area counties are responsible for addressing their own housing issues. BAHFA encourages a group effort when it comes to solving the housing crisis on a larger scale.

During Hartley's presentation, she noted that "at least 36,810 people in the region experienced homelessness in 2022 and as of 2019, 575,000 were at risk of homelessness." She stated that between 2015-2020, the Bay Area has fallen short of meeting its housing needs by only building 25% of the necessary homes. Regionally, 180,334 more affordable homes should be built to meet the 2023-2031 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) mandates.

BAHFA is on track to raise \$10-\$20 billion through an upcoming 2024 ballot measure. It is projected that 80% of the funds raised will return to the county of origin. BAHFA's 20% regional funding will streamline and create innovative financing; make opportunities for regional coordination; and offer technical assistance. At this point, there are 22 total affordable housing projects in predevelopment within the county, along with 1,782 affordable homes in predevelopment.



Photo Vera Kochan

Housing Finance Authority Director Kate Hartley (standing, far right) holds the attention of Contra Costa Mayors Conference attendees.

In the Pilot Phase, BAHFA has created a Doorway Housing Portal which offers an online affordable housing platform that makes searching for affordable housing easier region-wide. They also offer an Affordable Housing Pipeline with a database that tracks the production and preservation of affordable homes. Through preservation, financing is available to help community-based organizations buy buildings, convert them to affordable housing and protect residents from displacement, while anti-displacement measures through coordination and best practices will support tenant protections. Homelessness prevention using coordinated support across jurisdictions will share best practices to keep people housed.

Hartley explained potential 2024 ballot measures. "An advocate-led statewide constitutional amendment to enable affordable housing general obligation bonds be approved by a majority of voters instead of the current two-thirds requirement. This would also allow bond proceeds to be used to protect tenants at affordable housing sites through rental assistance reserves, tenant services, and more." And, a "BAHFA General Obligation Bond to raise \$10-\$20 billion - which could provide between 35,000 and 80,000 new homes across the nine-county region." Significant funding to every community within Contra Costa County would take place in the event the measures pass. From the \$10 billion General Obligation Bond, the County would receive \$925 million. From the \$20 billion General Obligation Bond, the County would receive \$1.9 billion.

BAHFA's Regional Housing Measure timeline for fall-winter 2023 will include the business plan adoption (October); public information sessions; and early drafts of the

expenditure plan. Between winter and summer of 2024, BAHFA will conduct a final poll; finalize the expenditure plan and summary; have the advisory board recommend the measure in March; governing boards will approve the resolution between April-May; and in July have counties place the measure on the ballot. Fall 2024 will entail public information sharing.

Additional topics brought up during the public communication portion of the meeting included a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) spokesperson who discussed the upcoming rate increases that are expected to add \$26 million through 2025, that will go toward operating and capital budgets, funding train services, enhanced cleaning, additional police and new trains.

Proponents of a movement to exonerate the Port Chicago 50 encouraged the attendees to participate in the movement. On July 17, 1944, an explosion at the segregated Naval base at Port Chicago killed over 300 men. Of the survivors, 244 refused to go back to work until conditions were made safe. In the end, 50 were charged with mutiny and faced lengthy jail time and possible execution.

There was also a discussion of a toll hike legislation in the form of SB532 which would increase the cost to motorists traveling across any of the seven state-owned Bay Area bridges by \$1.50. The rate hike would continue through January 2029.

Following the meeting, attendees vacated the Hacienda's La Casita meeting room and walked over to the main building for a lavish buffet provided by Wedgewood Weddings where seating was arranged around the patio fountain.

Town to notify HCD of informational report acceptance

By Vera Kochan

The Town Council received and accepted an informational report regarding draft technical revisions pertaining to the 2023-31 Moraga Housing Element. This report summarizes changes made to a prior Housing Element report while striving to be in compliance with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

According to the July 12 staff report by Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Consultant Barry Miller, "The Town of Moraga is continuing to implement its Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative. The Initiative includes two phases. All components of Phase One have been completed, including the 6th Cycle (2023-2031) Housing Element, conforming amendments to the Moraga General Plan, adoption of an inclusionary zoning ordinance, rezoning of key sites and amendments to the zoning ordinance to meet required housing targets, rezoning of the Bollinger Canyon Special Study Area, objective development and design standards for Rheem Center, and a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above actions."

The report continues, "Phase Two is scheduled to begin in August 2023, and will include an evacuation study, additional zoning ordinance revisions, and an update of the remaining General Plan Elements."

The revisions that HCD requested, according to staff, are minor technical edits that serve to clarify information already given in the adopted Housing Element. With regards to Constraints Analysis, HCD requested staff to analyze specific development standards in the R-20 zoning district which might cause developmental constraints, as well as more analysis information with regards to the scenic corridor requirements in the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) area. With the passing of AB 2339, Moraga is required to demonstrate that it was able to provide emergency shelter based on the number of homeless in Moraga at the last point-in-time count. HCD also requested an analysis of Moraga's compliance with the Permit Streamlining Act as related to CEQA as well as a timeline for updating the Planned Development ordinance, and lastly, HCD stated that the Town's Park Impact Fee was high and asked for a reevaluation.

HCD did not need changes

to the Town's housing goals or policies, but changes to the housing programs were requested. HCD asked for clarification regarding the General Plan Update concerning more opportunities for "missing middle" housing in the form of townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, etc. HCD requested alterations regarding future zoning changes, minor edits that would make housing for Saint Mary's College students, faculty and staff beneficial to lower- and moderate-income households, and would like the Town's Wildfire Safety and Emergency Preparedness Planning program to acknowledge the potential to develop housing for firefighters and teachers in the event that Station 41 and the Moraga Unified School District corporation yard should modernize.

Additional edits include HCD requests to add more inclusionary zoning, step-up Accessory Dwelling Unit targets, increase housing opportunities in established low-density neighborhoods, and encourage shared housing in single-family neighborhoods as well as focus First-Time Homebuyer Programs on low- or moderate-income households within the MCSP and Rheem Center areas.

... continued on Page A5

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West Commons Park begins to look like an outdoor art gallery



By Buddy Brodwin: "LOL"



"Meter Maidens"



"Double Helix" Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Four new sculptures have recently begun to grace the town of Moraga. Three of them are whimsical, and one is meant to impart a thought-provoking message.

The Art in Public Spaces Committee, along with the Parks and Recreation Commission, have been busy acquiring these new pieces (all on loan) and installing them outdoors for residents and visitors alike to enjoy beginning this summer.

The Town Council agreed to accept the new pieces during its March 8 meeting, however due to installation issues, the sculptures didn't see the "light of day" until early July. Moraga now has a total 13 art sculptures placed around town.

In addition to the four new pieces, APSC is in the process of engaging residents to take a short survey letting committee members know what about Moraga they would like to see represented on a brand new mural space, located along the wall outside of the Public Works Corp Yard/Town Chambers at 335 Rheem Blvd.

The three new pieces installed inside of West Commons Park were done by artist Buddy Brodwin, who retired after 35 years in the dental field to pursue his true passion producing metal kinetic sculptures. Upon entering the Park from Moraga Road, the first sculpture is located just beyond the bridge. Titled "LOL," the piece is a yellow and silver aluminum kinetic sculpture on galvanized pipe, weighing 100 lbs. It measures 12 feet high with a 5-foot swing radius. The creation of "LOL" took a long and winding road for Brodwin. "During a visit a decade

ago to San Francisco, I stumbled on a George Rickey kinetic metal sculpture, gyrotory "L's blowing smoothly in the constant city breezes. That inspired me to take up welding and metal sculpture, both of which I studied at The Crucible in Oakland. Each piece is inspired by found materials available at the time."

Added Brodwin, "As for 'LOL,' I followed George Rickey's use of bearings embedded into the metal, in this case aluminum, to allow the wind to move it. I tend to see things from the humorous side, so I thought a kinetic sculpture spelling 'Laugh Out Loud' would be clever and went about creating this."

Brodwin's second piece is located not too far and across the path from "LOL." Tiara-wearing parking meters sporting red lips and earrings are called "Meter Maidens." The work comprises four parking meters placed on "pipe," weighing 100 pounds., standing 10 feet high by 3 feet wide. A friend of Brodwin's had asked him if he could make something out of decommissioned parking meters that came into her possession. "I said drop them by and I'd give it some thought. They looked like faces to me and as a group seemed to accent each other. Thus, using some pipe to support them, I created the grouping that became 'Meter Maidens.'"

Finding Brodwin's third piece, "Double Helix," requires a walk to the opposite side of the park as one passes last year's installation, "The Fisherman."

"Double Helix" is made of stainless steel, with 4-inch-wide strips spiraled around 3/4-inch Electrical Metallic Tubing (EMT) pipe. Weighing 30 pounds, it stands 10 feet high

by 3 feet wide. "Double Helix" was inspired by research on Pinterest, where I saw similar ideas and expanded on those for this kinetic piece made of stainless steel ribbons and a central pipe with bearings to allow movement," explained Brodwin. "Having studied biology in college, I loved how this really had the look of DNA, especially in motion. So, as you can see, the inspiration for my sculptures is serendipitous and impulsive, and I love it!"

The fourth piece, located in front of the Town Chambers, is on loan from the city of Orinda through its Art in Public Places Committee. "Measure of Man," by artist Keith Bush, is a steel structure representing three symbolic human beings, trapped in a giant measuring tool. The piece is plasma cut, welded and painted, weighing 650 pounds, with a height of 96 inches and a width of 36 inches.

Bush's career spans over 35 years with works made for indoor, outdoor, public and private spaces. He favors the bold use of geometric shapes and expresses himself through color, line, texture and scale. With regards to "Measure of Man," Bush states, "In this sculpture I have used an abstract micrometer (a precision measuring tool) as the symbol of the bureaucracies trying to impose perceived standards on individuals. The three figures are fighting off the process of being measured by someone else's standards or ideas."

Special thanks to APSC Chairperson Teresa Onoda and APSC Member Holly Hartz for the tour.

Moraga Library's upcoming 10-week closure

By Vera Kochan

Beginning July 29 through Oct. 9, the Moraga Library will be closed in order to commence the long-awaited carpet replacement process. The Town Council approved the project in April, but needed a go-ahead from the County Board of Supervisors

to officially sanction the library's closure.

According to full-time Library Assistant Emily Ferne, besides the current carpet's removal and replacement, shelving will be removed and relocated, along with furniture moving and a change in the front desk placement. The library is expected to reopen on Tuesday Oct. 10.

Town to notify HCD

... continued from Page A4

More edits involve CEQA exemption policies, fee deferral policies for affordable housing, the Town's Streamlined Review Process as pertains to the Planning Commission or Town Council, and Scenic Corridor Regulations in the MCSP area with regards to buildings directly facing the scenic road. HCD requests an amendment to the municipal code to allow residential uses in the Institutional zoning district (Saint Mary's College) and finally, the staff report states that HCD requests "that

the Town will aspire to allocate its capital improvement dollars equitably across the town and not favor one neighborhood over another."

Staff notified HCD on July 13 of the council's unanimous acceptance of the informational report. If any public comments were received during the seven-day public review period, HCD could require additional revisions. If none were received, HCD will be prepared to issue the formal certification letter. Once this letter is received, the Town can begin to implement the Housing Element.

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Town Council:
Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda:
www.cityoforinda.org
 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

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letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Orinda senior housing project wins 'Best on the Boards' award

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council on July 11 honored the Orinda Senior Housing Foundation in recognition of its receiving the Pacific Coast Conference 2023 Gold Nugget Award for the Vista Verde senior housing project. The Certificate of

Recognition proclaims that "this important project will provide sorely needed senior affordable housing." Former Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith accepted the award on behalf of the Orinda Senior Housing Foundation.

According to the Pacific Coast Conference, winners were chosen from a competitive field of 640 entries, that included some of the most creative and successful designers, planners and builders in the industry.

The Orinda project won the Best on the Boards award for projects that are planned but not yet built. Vista Verde was designed by DAHLIN Architecture/Planning/Interiors, with landscape design by Jett Landscape, and will be built by Oliver & Co., Inc.

The award may be viewed at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/273831113/28-29/#zoom=true> (If you hover over the smaller, street level photograph there is a video presentation.)

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Victoria Smith and the Vista Verde team accept Certificate of Recognition from the Orinda City Council.



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Orinda names Wilder Field 2 in honor of Otis McCain

By Sora O'Doherty

Wilder Field 2 has officially been named by the Orinda City Council as Otis McCain Field. McCain, affectionately known as Odie, was a science teacher at Miramonte High School from 1962 to 2008, and earned the 1992 Warren Eukel

Award for his acclaimed teaching, coaching, and mentoring. He was also named the North Coast Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1995 and was inducted into the Miramonte Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

As an accomplished coach at Miramonte, particularly with the women's track and

cross country teams, Miramonte dominated the league from the mid-1970s to the 1990s. McCain coached many Orindans throughout the years including current and past members of the Orinda City Council.

In response to inquiries regarding how to honor him, former Council Member Nick

Kosla in November 2022 requested a matter initiated on the council agenda which led to the council deciding to name a Wilder Field in McCain's honor, in accordance with an 2012 policy allowing the naming or memorializing of city facilities, parks, open spaces and trails.

Orinda Planning Commission approves Chevron project

... continued from Page A1

This position was enthusiastically supported by The Friends of Orinda Creeks.

Another controversial issue has been the type of food to be offered at the Extra Mile convenience store. Planning staff had wanted to specify that the offerings contained

"fresh and nutritious" food, but Chevron agreed to "fresh food" as an alternative, and offered evidence of the types of foods available at nearby Extra Mile shop in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Danville. Former Orinda mayor Laura Abrams opposed the project, both for reasons concerning the liability issue over the land dedication and the quality of the food that would be offered. In addition to written comments, Abrams appeared before the Commission and stated that she had not found the food offered in the Danville Extra Mile store to be fresh.

However, the public comments on the proposal were overwhelmingly positive. Speakers from The Friends of Orinda Creeks expressed their delight at the idea of making the creek more accessible to the public. The president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Roy Hodgkinson, spoke at the meeting in full support of the proposal, saying it would "provide benefits to the community, will bring in people, will help revitalize the downtown." Hodgkinson said that the design is nice, and he particularly welcomed the EV charging station, noting that his friends drive to Walnut Creek to charge their vehicles, and while there they dine with friends. Hodgkinson believes that the Chevron station and convenience store will bring increased sales tax revenues to Orinda. "Finally," he said, "we have the creek." Hodgkinson, who recently joined the board of the

Friends of Orinda Creeks concluded. "This is something that the community supports."

Bill Waterman, a board member of the Orinda Association, said that he was not speaking on behalf of the association, but noted that Chevron has supported Orinda events such as the car show and the Fourth of July parade. Waterman said that the Chevron service bays have been empty for over 20 years. "We have a ghost town," he proclaimed, and residents are frustrated because things aren't happening in Orinda. "The benefits far outweigh concerns about fresh food," he concluded. Jennifer Edmister, who described herself as a "recovering lawyer," said, "I'm not concerned about the quality of the food; I'm going to do my Thanksgiving shopping at the Farmers' Market." She lives close to the station and encouraged the commission to approve the proposal.

The liability issue was discussed at length. Planning Director Drummond Buckley explained the recommendation that the city refuse the transfer of ownership of the creek and trail property was based on staff's concerns about liability. "It's not just liability of the trail, it's liability of the creek itself, of the improvements that are in the creek," he said. "This particular parcel contains the outflow from where the creek goes underneath the freeway and the BART Station so there's a huge culvert that comes out right on this parcel, as well as concerns about lia-

bility from contaminants from the station itself leaking out onto the property. It's not just the trail issue; staff is concerned about the totality of the issues."

Commissioner Natalie Fay asked who has the liability for the creek now, and Buckley responded, Chevron. However, Commission Chair Willy Mautner opined that if Chevron dumped environmental contaminants, Chevron would be liable, and not the city. Public speakers also addressed the liability issue. Tom MacKinnon noted Orinda already owns a lot of land in the city and, in addition, he said that the city is already responsible for the channel itself. Brad McCullough agreed, asking, "Why shouldn't the city have liability for the public space?"

By a 5-1 vote, with Commissioner Ann Parnigoni voting no and Commissioner Lina Lee on an excused absence, the Commission adopted the proposal, eliminating the condition prohibiting transfer of ownership to the city, and agreeing to a simplified requirement that the convenience store have fresh food available. Any objectors to the Planning Commission action have 10 days to appeal to the city council.

The meeting, which was conducted in person and also on the Zoom meeting platform, was streamed to YouTube and may be viewed at www.youtube.com/live/6nqV_UDEPUQ?feature=share

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Host family sought for Czech visiting student

The Orinda Tabor Sister City Foundation is seeking a host family for the Czech visiting student this year. She will arrive in Orinda during the first week of August to attend Miramonte High School beginning on Aug. 15. Eliska will be one of over 20 students who have come from Tabor to Orinda. The Foundation can put you in contact with past host families, who can share their positive experiences hosting Czech students who lived in their homes for a semester. If interested, please contact Bobbie Landers at (925) 788-1279 or email bobbieanders@yahoo.com.



City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m.
Planning Comm.:
 Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
 Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.
 Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

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Helpful tips for beating the heat this summer

By Vera Kochan

Now that the United States is deep in the throws of another potentially scorching summer, it goes without saying that folks are looking for ways to keep cool both inside and out. Even our elected officials are making sure to get the word out when it comes to summer heat safety.

In her latest e-newsletter, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan issued an "Important Reminders before the Summer Heat Waves" bulletin for her constituents. It included recommendations for staying in air conditioned indoor locations as much as possible; staying hydrated by drinking lots of fluids; wearing sunscreen while outdoors; using battery-powered fans in the event of a power outage; scheduling any outdoor activities during cooler hours of the day; wearing loose/lightweight clothing; keeping curtains closed during the day to keep the sun out of the house; and making certain not to leave kids or pets in the car. Also noted was that all Contra Costa County libraries function as cooling centers in the event of a power outage. (Please note that the Moraga Library will be closed due to remodeling between July 29 – Oct. 10.)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants the public to know the warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses. Signs of a heat stroke include: high body temperature of 103 degrees or higher; hot, red, dry or damp skin; a fast, strong pulse; headache; dizziness; nausea; confusion; and losing consciousness. Quickly call 911 as it is considered a medical emergency; move the person to a cooler location; lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath; and do not give the person anything to drink.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include: heavy sweating; cold, pale and clammy skin; a fast, weak pulse; nausea or vomiting; muscle cramps; tiredness or weakness; dizziness; headache; and fainting. If you experience heat exhaustion, the CDC recommends moving to a cool place, loosening your clothes, putting cool, wet cloths on your body or taking a cool bath, and sipping water. If you are vomiting, your symptoms get worse, or they last longer than one hour, get medical attention

immediately.

Another heat-related illness is heat cramps. This involves heavy sweating during intense exercise combined with muscle pain or spasms. The CDC advises you to stop physical activity and move to a cool place, drink water or a sports drink, and wait for the cramps to go away before doing any more physical activity. Get medical help right away if your cramps last longer than one hour, if you're on a low-sodium diet, or if you have heart problems.

Sunburns can cause painful, red and warm skin. Extreme cases will produce blisters. CDC recommends staying out of the sun until the sunburn heals, putting cool cloths on the sunburned areas or taking a cool bath, putting moisturizing lotion on the affected areas, and avoid breaking the blisters.

Some people are prone to getting a heat rash which can look like red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin. This usually occurs on the neck, chest, groin or in elbow creases. Tips from the CDC include staying in a cool, dry place, keeping the rash dry, and using powder (like baby powder) to soothe the rash.

A big part of staying cool during a hot summer involves keeping the environment you live or work in cool. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. offers tips for beating the heat that are also cost-effective from Popular Science author Dan Seitz. While air conditioning is the go-to choice for cooling a room/house/office down, it's not good for the environment or the wallet.

Seitz notes that electric fans don't actually cool the air, they keep it moving, and this helps to clear the body's evaporated perspiration. If you have ceiling fans, make sure that they operate counterclockwise in order to pull colder air upward.

One of the biggest sources of unnecessary heat in the home comes from the kitchen. If possible, plan to serve meals that don't require using the oven. Seitz recommends using crock pots, microwave ovens or even serving a cool salad. Dishwashers also add heat to the kitchen. Either wash dishes by hand or turn the dishwasher on just before going to bed.

If all else fails, keep in mind that winter is only five months away.

National Night Out brings neighbors together, Aug. 1

National Night Out is a nationwide campaign designed to build neighborhood camaraderie, enhance police-community relationships and to bring back a true sense of community in our neighborhoods. The best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors and your surroundings.

National Night Out 2023 is on Tuesday, Aug. 1 and is the perfect opportunity for a neighborhood gathering. Many neighborhoods participate by having a block party, barbecue or other event. Moraga Police and Moraga-Orinda Fire Departments participate by visiting each gathering, getting to know residents and sharing safety information. Nearly 38 million people in America are expected to participate in National Night Out 2023, which is the 40th year in which the event has been held.

If you and your neighborhood are having a gathering and would like to participate, please contact the Moraga Police Department at 925-888-7055, ext. 0 or contact Chief King via email at king@moraga.ca.us so that we can be sure to join you and celebrate your neighborhood. For more information about National Night Out, visit www.natwv.org. – Moraga PD

Do You Know What to Do if a Major Earthquake or Wildfire Hits Lamorinda?

- Do you know your evacuation zone?

- Do you have a family plan?

- Do you have Go-Bags packed?

- Do you know how to operate a fire extinguisher or turn off the gas and water valves to your home?

- What is your source for updates?

- Do you know how to render disaster first aid should you or a family member need it and 911 is not available?

To answer these questions and many more, attend the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class series this Fall in Orinda.

Classes will be held in Orinda on Thursday nights from 9/14 – 11/9. For more information and to register go to: <https://classes.lamorindacert.org>

Now is the time to get prepared. As Snoopy would say "Ten minutes before the party is not the time to learn to dance"!



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Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

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

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

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report June 25 - July 8

Alarms	57
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	34
Traffic	75
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	33
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	28
Patrol Req./Security Check	13
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	23
Vacation House Check	27
Welfare Check	24
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.	
Auto Burglary	
3300 Block St Marys Rd.	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3300 Block Betty Ln.	
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Lucas Dr./Lucas Ranch Ct.	
4Th St./Moraga Blvd.	
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
Moraga Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.	

Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3300 Block Berta Ln.
Tc - Property Damage
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud
4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Grand Theft
900 Block Sunnyhill Rd.
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Identity Theft
Police Department
Petty Theft
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)

30 Block Lafayette Cir.
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Petty Theft From Veh
900 Block Dolores Dr.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (4)
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)
3200 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
4000 Block Marianne Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct.
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Disturbing The Peace
1000 Block Buchan Dr.
Drunk In Public
Mt Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.

3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Powell Dr./Old Jonas Hill Rd.

900 Block Hough Ave.
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
Loud Noise
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct.

900 Block Oak St.
Loud Party
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.
3600 Block Brook St.

Public Nuisance
Sundale Rd./Highland Rd.
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (3)
3400 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

200 Block Lafayette Cir.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
1100 Block Magnolia Ln.

Vandalism
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.
3300 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
Defraud Innkeeper
50 Block Lafayette Cir.

600 Block Huntleigh Dr.
3200 Block Fairholm Ct.
Solana Dr./Hamlin Rd.
3400 Block School St.

Illegal Entry
3300 Block Dyer Dr.
Loitering
Hawthorn Dr./Moraga Blvd.

Revocation Of Probation
3600 Block Chestnut St.
Trespass
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.

1000 Block Carol Ln.
Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)

200 Block Lafayette Cir.
Violation Custody Order
Police Department (2)

Violation Restraining Ord
1300 Block Masterson Ln.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report June 27 - July 10

Alarms 14
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 15
Traffic 78

Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 25

Patrol Req./Security Check 13
Public/School Assembly Check 4
Supplemental Report 6
Vacation House Check 9

Welfare Check 2
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
900 Block Augusta Dr.,
200 Block Sharp Dr.
20 Block Thune Ave.

Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara
Moraga Way/School St. (2)

Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. (3)
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.

St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

Plot of Moraga Country Club
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way (2)

Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
Seven Eleven
Moraga Rd.

Other criminal activity
Petty Theft
800 Block Augusta Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

Residential Burglary
800 Block Camino Ricardo
Nuisance to the Community
Drunk In Public

400 Block Center St.
Loud Music
10 Block Camelford Ct.
Loud Noise

Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way
Loud Party
Hacienda

Other
Brandishing Weapon
200 Block Willowbrook Ln.

Fireworks
1000 Block Country Club Dr.
Cedarwood Dr./Rimer Dr.
Camino Pablo/Dickenson Dr.

Tamper With Vehicle
100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report May 28 - June 10

Alarms 54
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 13
Traffic 86

Suspicious Circumstances 8
Suspicious Subject 5
Suspicious Vehicle 5

Service to Citizen 70
Patrol Req./Security Check 30
Public/School Assembly Check 1

Supplemental Report 11
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 6
Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Moraga Way/Hall Dr.

Accident Property
200 Block Lomas Cantadas
400 Block Moraga Way

El Nido Ranch Rd./E Altarinda Dr.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Dui Misd
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos

Vehicle Theft
200 Block El Toyonal
Wb Sr 24 At Fish Ranch Rd.

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
Identity Theft
30 Block Muth Dr.

Police Department
Petty Theft
20 Block Brookside Rd.

80 Block Via Floreado
Vianne Ct./Hillcrest Dr.
Petty Theft From Veh
Camino Sobrante

20 Block Camino Del Monte
Warrant Arrest
Camino Sobrante (2)

60 Block Moraga Way
Orinda Way
Eb 24 On/St Stevens

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Wanda Ln./Muth Dr.

Disturbing The Peace
500 Block Orindawoods Dr.
Loud Music
Theatre Square

50 Block La Campana Rd.
Gardiner Ct./Miner Rd.

Loud Noise
Cascade Ln./La Cuesta Rd.
70 Block Claremont Ave.
20 Block Coachwood Terrace

Loud Party
Ivy Dr.
Public Nuisance
Theatre Square

Miner Rd./Lombardy Ln.
Vandalism
Orinda Way
300 Block Tahos Rd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
10 Block Camino Sobrante

Fireworks
10 Block Dos Posos
St Stephens Dr./Via Floreado
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.

Wilder Sports Fields
H&S Violation
30 Block Via Floreado
Revocation Of Probation
Eb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo

Revoked License
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd. (2)
Transient Contact
200 Block Brookwood Rd.

Moraga School District office experiences a '1st amendment audit'

... continued from Page A1

often the public lobby of a governmental agency, to see if their first amendment right to videotape will be respected or abridged.

The Moraga staff were concerned about the presence of this man, and telephoned for assistance from the Moraga Police Department. Two officers came

to the office and asked the man to step outside to talk, but he declined, citing his first amendment right to be in the public office and to take videos. During the interaction, the police tried to explain the concerns of the district staff, and the visitor explained to the police that he has a right under the first amendment of the U.S. constitution to take photographs and videos in

the lobbies of public buildings.

After some time, the visitor noticed that Moraga Police Chief Jon King was standing outside the office and he then left the office to talk to King, who was there to meet with Moraga School District Superintendent Julie Parks on an unrelated matter. After some minutes of discussing the situation with King and Parks, the visitor returned to the district office, announcing that he would continue filming for up to an hour. Parks came and assured him that his first amendment rights would not be violated, and that he was free to film, provided that he did not go beyond the public lobby.

When he finished videoing the district office, he went to the Moraga Police Department, where he reported that he had "a very good conversation with the Chief of Police of Moraga." However he had harsh things to say about some of the MSD staff members present during his visit, including his opinion that at least one should be fired.

King, who spoke to the Lamorinda Weekly, agreed that he and the visitor had had "a fantastic conversation" and toured the city hall, where the police department is located. "We've turned this into an incredible learning opportunity," King said.

Discussing the incident at the school district, King said that the staff were shaken up and felt threatened when the visitor shut the door. King clarified that the officers who responded to the call asked the visitor to step outside to talk in order to hear both parties' stories outside the presence of each other.

King, who was responsible for getting police body-worn cameras deployed in Moraga, also clarified that police officers are required by state law to either wear their names on their

uniforms or their officer number of their badge. Both officers had both forms of identification and they were not required to verbally respond to questions about their names, although both did so. Nevertheless, King admitted that the interaction had not been perfect, adding that in his 40 years of police experience, he has yet to see a perfect interaction. In the aftermath of the incident, King said that there would be more training for police officers and for town staff.

"This is the people's building," King said of the city hall, but we need to balance the rights of the public with security needs. He referred to a publication of the League of California Cities published this May, "What to do When First Amendment Auditors Come to Town," as an excellent training manual for employees of cities and towns. The publication was presented to the 2023 City Attorneys Spring Conference in Monterey.

Parks responded to questions about the incident, saying, "the First Amendment Audit was a new experience for the Moraga School District." She added, "As a small district office, it is not typical for us to have outside visitors or visitors without specific business," but noted that the district has "learned a lot from this experience and have put steps into place to ensure that staff are appropriately trained and that our public space is clearly defined for visitors."

"We will not be closing our office," Parks said, "but instead ensuring that we are prepared to greet any member of the public and define public space from private offices utilized for confidential business. Overall, this has been a growth opportunity for us."

A similar incident at the Salinas City Education Depart-

ment (SCED) has prompted them to restrict visitors to their district office. According to Mary Duan, SCED Director of Communications and Community Outreach, visitors will no longer be allowed into the office without first making an appointment, checking in at the front desk and showing identification. Photography and voice recording will be prohibited beyond the front desk to protect the confidentiality of students and staff.

According to the League of Cities publication, first amendment audits can trace their origin back to the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles in 1991, when a citizen filmed four police officers beating King. "Today First Amendment auditing can be described as a form of citizen journalism or citizen activism that seeks to test and thereby protect certain constitutional rights, including the right to be physically present in a public space and the right to photograph or video record government officials on government property in action (or inaction)," the publication states.

Orinda City Clerk Sheri Smith told Lamorinda Weekly that there have been a couple of attempted audits of Orinda City Hall, but there was no difficulty. When first amendment auditors believe that a subject has "failed" the audit, the video is posted to social media. The long videos include numerous advertisements. Auditors seek subscribers and some sell merchandise. According to the League of Cities, "that auditors frequently seek to incite confrontation or aggression through harassing or argumentative behavior stems from another motivation besides the asserted protection of individual liberties: namely, to obtain popularity and money flowing from social media views."



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Letters to the editor

An issue of fire flow tax fairness

I write in response to Sora O'Doherty's July 5, 2023, article regarding the MOFD's continuing to charge the same fire flow tax to Moraga and Orinda residents. As it is a well-known fact that Orinda subsidizes Moraga for fire services, raising the fire flow tax for Moraga residents would have helped to equalize a small part of the inequality that currently exists. Property taxes support the MOFD; over the years, property values in Orinda have increased more than those in Moraga (currently \$9.38 billion vs \$5.55 billion). The result is that while Orinda and Moraga are served by the same number of firefighters per capita,

Orinda is paying \$2.43 million per firefighter while Moraga is paying 42% less, at only \$1.41 million.

The MOFD was formed in 1997 with the sole intent of using Orinda's fire service taxes in Orinda, but each year the amount of Orinda's subsidies to Moraga for fire services grows larger. For 2023-2024, Orindans will be overpaying \$4.3 million to subsidize Moraga's fire service: Orinda will be paying \$21.8 million to MOFD for fire service to Orinda that is costing the MOFD only \$17.5 million.

Rather than subsidizing Moraga, these funds should be used to reduce the very real problem of Orinda's excess vegetation that presents the city with a serious wildfire risk. I am disappointed that MOFD director Mike Roemer (from Orinda's district 4) claimed it is a matter of "fairness" not to raise Moraga's fire flow tax, which might reduce the inequality between the two cities just a bit. I am also disappointed that the Orinda district MOFD members (Roemer, Jorgens and Danziger) who represent over 11,000 Orindans continue to permit these subsidies. Director Roemer said in this paper's July 5th article that he has "an obligation to keep this community united," but directing \$4.3 million of Orinda's taxes to Moraga causes conflict and not unity. Kathleen Finch Orinda

MOFD Fire Flow Parcel Tax

The MOFD Fire Flow Parcel Tax is a "top up" tax used to supplement regular property taxes. MOFD Director Mike Roemer, elected to represent 7,300 Orinda residents, said that it is fair to tax Orindans and Moragans the same rate for this top up tax. He is wrong.

\$21.2 million of Orinda's property taxes go to MOFD.

That equates to \$2,925 per household. \$10.8 million of Moraga's property tax goes to MOFD. That equates to \$1,900 per family. The average revenue for the district as a whole is \$2,475 per household.

Orinda families already pay \$450 a year more than it costs MOFD to operate while Moraga families pay \$575 less than it costs to serve them. Orindans pay 50% more than Moragans for the same service.

Why is it fair that Orinda families pay any "top up" tax at all and why is it not fair that Moraga families pay the full \$575 shortfall?

Currently the average property owner in Moraga only pays \$82 in parcel tax. The MOFD Board could have increased that to \$410, an additional \$1 per day. It still would not cover the shortfall but would have come closer than what it is now.

How Roemer can tell the 7,300 residents he is representing in Orinda that charging them an additional \$80 on top of the \$450 a year they are already being overcharged is fair, is beyond me. Steve Cohn Orinda

Fire flow tax, continued

I too wrote to the MOFD Board saying that it is not fair to have Orinda residents pay ~150% of what Moraga residents pay for the same service, and that increasing Moraga's fire flow tax rate would help reduce the difference.

I think Steve Cohn is right. When I asked MOFD (long ago) to tell me how much they spend in Orinda vs Moraga they said we don't and can't do that. Based on what little data MOFD does make available it seems that the cost of service to both communities is about the same!

I also note that a Moraga fire station is being rebuilt. Charles Porges Orinda

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Miramonte student makes professional dance debut at Lesher



Avya Poddatoori

Photo provided

By Ashley Dong

Rising Miramonte High School junior and basketball player Avya Poddatoori, 15, has spent most of his summer in his living room. Since June, he and his dance teacher have rehearsed Bharatanatyam, a form of Indian classical dance, for five hours every day. This intense rehearsal schedule is to prepare Poddatoori for his arange-tram—his debut as a professional dancer. The show on July 29 at the Lesher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek is free and open to the public.

“I can’t wait to show everyone the dances I’ve been working on for the past year,” Poddatoori said.

Bharatanatyam is an art form used to portray Hindu gods and religious stories. Poddatoori described it as a “stronger version of hip-hop” but “more deep.” This style of dance is typically performed by women – male Bharatanatyam dancers are rare. The stigma around being a male dancer used to discourage Poddatoori. Eight years ago, when he first started dancing, Poddatoori would not have been excited to perform in front of hundreds of people.

“I was embarrassed,” Poddatoori said. “The first thing they see is the makeup and the outfit. I was always wondering what people would think about me. I wouldn’t tell anybody about [my dancing].”

But, as he’s matured as a person and a

dancer, his outlook has changed.

“Some part of me still likes to hide it from people. But now, I’m more practiced and knowledgeable about this type of dance, so I feel confident performing for anybody,” Poddatoori said.

Typically, Poddatoori takes his dance lessons over Zoom with his teacher, who is based in India, for two-hour lessons three times a week. But, to prepare for the arange-tram, his teachers Shyamjith Kiran and Viraja Kiran are visiting and staying with his family.

As a male Bharatanatyam dancer himself, Shyamjith understands the struggles of being a male dancer.

“People think the dance is meant for females, but we’ve always been taught that there is a feminine and masculine side to the body,” Shyamjith said. “When a male dancer needs to portray a female goddess, he will sink into that character and be what that character demands.”

Poddatoori’s hour-and-a-half-long show will consist of seven dances, each one with a unique story behind it. “The stories all have meaning. Even though I don’t believe in the gods, I believe in the stories and the morals they express and the values they entail a human should have,” Poddatoori said.

Poddatoori’s favorite character to portray is Shiva, the Hindu god who creates, protects and transforms the universe. To play him, the dance requires emphatic and aggressive movements. “It makes me feel powerful. In a way, it’s a little egotistical,” Poddatoori said.

Beyond giving him a chance to play a powerful deity, Bharatanatyam has played a crucial role in Poddatoori’s self-development. “I’ve learned to always pursue your dreams no matter what other people think. Number two, to always be happy. Number three, to always trust your family,” Poddatoori said.

Poddatoori has a strong family base of support. His siblings, two of whom are Indian classical musicians, helped him cultivate a love for the music, and his mother, Vineela Poddatoori, used to be a Bharatanatyam dancer herself.

“I am so proud of him. He has so much more talent than I ever did, and he’s a beautiful dancer. I hope that he loves it as much as I did,” Vineela Poddatoori said.

Although he only entered the Lamorinda schools two years ago, Poddatoori has made many close friends.

“Avya is a fun-loving guy,” said Caleb Elkind, Poddatoori’s close friend. “We’re so proud of Avya for the hard work he’s done, and we’re excited to support him on his show. I can’t wait for the amazing standing ovation I know he’ll get and I know he deserves.”

As of July 13, 563 people signed up to attend the event. RSVP here: <https://avya.org/>

ALO returns to the Bruns Amphitheater to headline two-day festival



Image provided

Submitted by Denise Lamott

Paper Moon Presents is thrilled to welcome the return of popular “jam-pop” band ALO (Animal Liberation Orchestra) to the beautiful and intimate Cal Shakes/Brunns Amphitheater for a two-day festival on Saturday, Aug. 5 (5 p.m.), and Sunday, Aug. 6 (1 p.m.) set amongst the scenic East Bay hills. Concertgoers will enjoy two full sets of ALO, plus the debut of Dead & Company - drummer Jay Lane & The Mayhem (Sunday only), pop-up performers throughout the festival grounds, craft vendors, and more.

ALO call their music “jam-pop,” and the description is apt – meticulously-crafted and accessibly-hooky compositions laced with improvisational departures, in which the band melds into a single organism in

voice and consciousness. They’re always exploring, but never wandering. There is always intention and momentum, with patience and confidence that can only be wrought from a quarter century of collaboration and water under the bridge.

The inaugural performance of Jay Lane & The Mayhem features legendary drummer Jay Lane fresh off the Dead & Company U.S. tour. Lane has been playing drums professionally for over 40 years. His longest run was with The Grateful Dead founding member Bob Weir’s American rock band RatDog, but he has also worked with Primus, Further, Charlie Hunter Trio, Alphabet Soup, and many more timeless talents. Lane’s versatility as a musician has put him in the mix with every genre from funk to ska, to rock-n-roll and has extended his roots deep

into the music industry.

“These live music shows at the Bruns are truly something special. It is the quintessential Northern California spot,” said Matt Lawsky of Paper Moon Presents. “Set amongst the redwoods and eucalyptus, there is no backdrop more magical and spectacular for an outdoor concert than this,” added Luna Oxenberg of Paper Moon Presents.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show on Saturday, Aug. 5. Doors open at 1 p.m. for the matinee 3 p.m. show on Sunday, Aug. 6. Tickets range from \$45 (General Admission) to \$75 (Limited Reserved Terrace) and are available now on etix.com. For further information, line-up announcements, event details, parking, and more, please visit Papermoonpresents.live.

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Super soft snickerdoodles hit the mark this summer



Brown Sugar Snickerdoodle Cookies

Photos Susie Iventosch

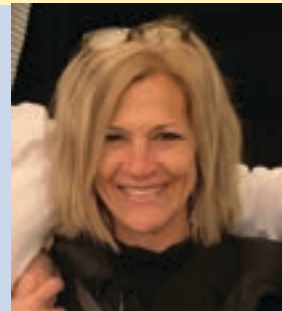


INGREDIENTS

Brown Sugar Snickerdoodle Cookies

1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 large eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
For rolling the dough balls:
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon

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>



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside. Mix the 1/3 cup granulated sugar and 2 tsp. cinnamon in a small bowl for rolling the cookie dough balls in. Set aside.

Place butter in a large mixing bowl or the bowl of your standing mixer. Beat butter until light and fluffy. Add both white and brown sugars and continue to beat until fully integrated and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla and beat well.

Add all dries (flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, cinnamon and salt), and using the slow speed on your mixer, beat until the dough is thoroughly incorporated.

Form the dough into balls using a cookie scoop (or your hands). The balls should be approximately 1 1/2 inches in diameter for 3-inch finished cookies. Roll the balls in the prepared cinnamon-sugar to generously coat the entire dough ball.

Place the sugared dough balls onto the prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart. Bake for 8 minutes and then check on them. They may need another minute or two, but you really don't want to over bake snickerdoodles! Remove from the oven and cool.

Note

These cookies store very well in a plastic container or a baggie for up to two weeks and still remain soft and chewy. You can also freeze the dough if you don't need or want all of your cookies baked at one time. Simply scoop the dough into balls and roll them in the cinnamon sugar. Then freeze the dough just like that in an air-tight container. When you're ready to bake them, take the dough out of the freezer about 15 minutes before baking and bake according to the directions above.

By Susie Iventosch

If you love snickerdoodles, I think you'll really love this brown sugar version. While snickerdoodles are similar to sugar cookies, they vary in taste and texture due to two key ingredients: cinnamon and cream of tartar. If you don't have cream of tartar in your spice drawer, you will want to add this to your shopping list. The signature tangy flavor of the cookies comes from this key ingredient and it also helps to maintain the soft texture. You'll want to have cream of tartar for the tang, baking soda for the leavening, and brown sugar for this version. In most Snickerdoodle recipes, the cookie dough is made with white sugar, but we just love that caramel taste of brown sugar, so I like to use a combination of brown and white sugar, and it works really well in this recipe.

Once you've made your dough

you're going to roll them in cinnamon sugar before baking. The key to making the perfect soft texture in this cookie recipe is to slightly underbake them. You just want to see the edges turn golden-brown and that's about all the heat it takes — maybe 8-10 minutes at 350 F. Also, by using a cookie scoop you can make perfectly round cookies. My nephew gave me one of these a couple of years ago, and I really love that gadget. Ours is about 1 1/2-inches in diameter and we find that it makes the perfect size cookies.

These cookies stay fresh longer than most. Two weeks after making them, they are still as soft as the day we baked them. Just store them in an airtight container. It's amazing, really. Usually, cookies dry out and get crumbly, but not these. On top of that, you can freeze the dough balls so they're ready to bake in case some unexpected guests pop in, or you just have a sudden hankering for snickerdoodle cookies!

Family Focus

Checking in with your family

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

We're encouraged to have yearly physical exams with our physicians, and of course we're also advised to check out any physical symptoms we may be experiencing. In addition, many people are seeing the importance of psychotherapy to help them with emotional concerns and well-being.

A concept that is sometimes overlooked is the idea of periodically checking in with our family members

to get feedback. There are various times when this pro-active approach can be very helpful. Here are some examples:

1) Tyler, age 10, had become increasingly defiant when his parents tried to regulate his screen time. He also didn't comply when it was time to get in the car to go to a sports practice or appointment. In other words, he was not being cooperative with his parents. Tyler had no problem in school listening well to his teacher, so his parents

knew that his behavior was more willful than unintentional.

Tyler's parents had tried both positive and negative reinforcement, encouragement, pleading, and expressing their frustration. They were willing to try an open-ended discussion with him, without blame or anger. The objective was to omit their own feelings and allow for Tyler to express his. Timing was important since it needed to be during a tranquil period when emotions weren't raging.

Of course, Tyler didn't want to cooperate and talk with his parents since this system was working well for him. And he was resentful that they kept nagging him. I encouraged his parents to let him know that they wanted to get along better and to find out what he thought would help. The appeal for Tyler was that suddenly his opinion and preferences mattered.

With Tyler's eventual participation, the family worked out ways to avoid ongoing conflict. Tyler wanted more uninterrupted time on his iPad to play Roblox, and they designated two times per week that this could happen. Tyler acknowledged that he needed to be ready when it was time to leave the house and stop causing everyone to be late. He asked that his mom let him know the schedule for the day each morning so he would have advance notice. Even though he had piano lessons on a certain day at a certain time each week, he said he needed a reminder.

The family agreed to keep meeting from time to time to allow for Tyler's input in a calm, conflict-free setting. He seemed to enjoy being treated in a more adult way and feeling like he had more control at this stage in his life.

2) Allison and her husband, Chris, had an ongoing problem with Allison's mother, Monica, who was divorced and lived close by. The couple had three young children and welcomed babysitting help from Monica from time to time. They wanted to spend time with her as well, but Monica's constant complaining and self-involved conversations were hard for them to tolerate. Although Monica provided help babysitting, they sometimes felt like they had a fourth child.

Since they didn't want to hurt her feelings or alienate Monica, they kept quiet and figured they needed to just accept the way she was. However, they had difficulty tolerating her behavior and therefore were reluctant to see her very often. This became a vicious cycle since Monica then felt excluded and complained more, and Allison felt guilty.

Allison and Chris knew that it would be helpful to communicate with Monica, but they were unsure how to do this effectively. We set up an initial session for just Allison and Monica,

since it might be too overwhelming for Monica if Chris participated as well. Allison knew that she needed to keep her message to her mother as positive and caring as possible so the conversation wouldn't degenerate.

Allison spent time letting her mom know how much she appreciated her help and support. She said she loved her and wanted to spend more time with her. Then she said how it was hard for her to hear about her mother's dissatisfactions and not be able to do much about them. And she also felt that she couldn't listen well enough to her mom when she was pulled between her family, her part-time job, and other compelling pressures. Allison said she wanted to hear about her mom up to a point, but hoped Monica could find someone to talk to more regularly.

Although Monica didn't like hearing anything that sounded at all critical, she was able to accept Allison's message and tried to limit her complaints from then on. Monica realized she needed to find other people in her life to confide in, and she ultimately joined a volunteer group at her church that provided her with more companionship.

Candid conversations in a non-threatening manner are hard to do sometimes. It's not easy to be able to talk openly with someone close, but after the initial discomfort there are usually benefits for the relationship. It is especially helpful for children, teens and young adults to be encouraged to express themselves with their parents. All too often, they may misjudge their parents as not being able or willing to have an open mind. They may be afraid of hurting their feelings or provoking anger or disapproval. If they see that their parents are receptive to what they're thinking and feeling, it can make a world of difference. Relationships can thrive when we make the effort to check in with our loved ones.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families, Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship, and Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating. They are available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com and from Orinda Books.

In Memory

Peter J Sheaff MD

05/11/1935 - 07/08/2023



A proud third generation Californian, Peter Joseph Sheaff was born in Berkeley, raised in San Leandro by his parents, Joseph L and Lucille Sheaff and moved to Orinda in 1948, when his father became superintendent of the Orinda Union School District. Peter attended Acalanes High School, matriculated into Santa Clara University (BS degree) and graduated from St. Louis University, where he obtained his medical degree in 1961. After completing an internship at Highland Hospital in Oakland, he spent his residency at Children's Hospital of the East Bay, Oakland, and opened his Pediatric practice in Orinda in 1964.

Except for two years serving as Chief of Pediatrics at Valley Forge General Army Hospital in Pennsylvania during the Vietnam War (1968-1970), his entire practice was in the Lamorinda area until his retirement in 2007.

At Children's Hospital in Oakland, while an attending staff member he held many positions including Chief of Medicine, Medical Staff President, Chairman of Continuing Post-Graduate Education Committee as well as member of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Sheaff was a member of the Alameda County Medical Association, the East Bay Pediatric Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

From 1964 to the present, Dr. Sheaff served as a consultant for California Children's Services where he orchestrated the care of infants, children and adolescents with Neuro-muscular disorders. Caring for these special children along with the many pediatric patients and their parents whom he served in his private practice over the years, allowed a unique professional and personal relationship with those upon whom he left his mark.

Dr. Sheaff's pastimes included leadership in Orinda's Boy Scout Troop #233, membership in the Orinda Roadrunners (completing 11 marathons), attending lifelong learning classes at the Fromm Institute at USF, enjoying extensive back-packing trips including Mt. Everest camp, soloing the John Muir Trail and crossing the Sierras on snowshoes in 1979. He and his wife Helen enjoyed extensive international travel including leading three medical educational exchanges on behalf of Children's Hospital to both China and Egypt. They also enjoyed opera and music. Family members and Roadrunners will long remember his trombone on birthdays, at Christmas and in Orinda's Fourth of July parades.

Dr. Sheaff's survivors include his wife Helen, and his children Kate Faust (John), Tom Sheaff (Valerie), Charles Sheaff (Anna) and their mother Carolyn. He is also survived by his stepdaughters Lindsay Trevino (Dave), Meg Larsen (Sean) and Davina Roche as well as 13 grandchildren, a great grandchild, and his brother Joseph L Sheaff, Jr.

At his request services for Dr. Sheaff will be private. Donations in his memory may be made to The J. F. Kapnek Trust serving children in Zimbabwe at 938 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette, CA 94549.



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Art

Art Embraces Words - Live Program July 23 – 2 to 3:30 p.m. Artists paint with colors, writers paint with words. Together they enrich our community. Missing your creative tribe? The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to return to its free live program at the Lafayette Library. Emerging writers read from their work surrounded by artwork from local artists Pam Stefl and Alvin Ziegler. In this way art literally “embraces” the spoken word. AEW program dates are July 23, and October 29 (Costume Program). We invite lovers of the spoken word and visual art, writers and visual artists to register online to participate. Programs run from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reception follows outdoors in the Library Courtyard. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/> for more information.

Exhibit at Valley Art Gallery: Arrivals and Departures paintings by Connie Ryan, through Aug. 5. Connie Ryan, born in Ireland, lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her paintings are rooted in remembered landscapes that she carries with her, and explore ideas about land, memory and belonging. Meet the Artist from 2 to 5 p.m. July 15 and Aug. 5. Free, open to the public, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. Valley Art Gallery: 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library – Paintings by Holly Bazley, Alexandra Saunders, Kendra

Stone & Photographs by Jeff presented by the Lamorinda Arts. The exhibition runs from July 29 to Aug. 31 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Meet the artists at a reception on Saturday Aug. 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. View their artwork at the reception or online with one click at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

Virtual Art Gallery at Wilder – “Nature in Abstraction”. The Lamorinda Arts Council features abstract artist David Lew of El Sobrante at his virtual Art Gallery at Wilder exhibit in August. View his artwork at <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/>.

LAA Summer Exhibit and Coffee Klatch at Papillon Cafe & Gallery! Lamorinda Arts Alliance is proud to present its “Summer” Show at the Papillon Cafe & Gallery in Lafayette. The exhibit runs through Sept. 12. Fifteen member artists will be showing a selection of paintings, collage, encaustic and prints. Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffee & Tea is located in La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.

The Lafayette Public Art Committee is pleased to announce the opening of “Freedom of Abstraction” by artist David Lew, whose work has been shown at the Bedford Gallery. This collection of vibrant abstract paintings and collages reflects the artist’s focus on freedom in life and through artistic medium. The visual effect of the paint’s fluid movement in these works invites the viewer into the process. The exhibit is on view through Aug. 3 at the Town

Hall Theatre, 3535 School St, and is open to the public for free during theatre hours. Lew will be giving the featured artist’s talk on Saturday, July 15, as part of the Lamorinda Arts Council’s Art Embraces Poetry event from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Theatre. Immediately following the program, the Public Art Committee will host a reception for the artist from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Music

California Symphony presents 4-part music education course for adults, “Fresh Look: The Symphony Exposed,” at the Don Tatzin Community Hall in Lafayette Library. Award-winning instructor Scott Foglesong takes you on a journey covering what a conductor does and how the orchestra came to take shape, through to Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and beyond. \$30 for all four classes, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., on July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Information and tickets at californiasymphony.org/FreshLook

ALO (Animal Liberation Orchestra) at The Bruns Amphitheater. A two-day music festival set amongst the stunning redwoods and eucalyptus in the East Bay hills. See story on Page B1

Theatre

Bharatanatyam Arangetram by Avya Poddatoori. Bharatanatyam Arangetram, graduating performance of a classical South Indian dance by Avya, a sophomore at Miramonte High School. Avya is a

disciple of Shyamjith Kiran and Viraja of Kalakshetra. The event is at 3:30 p.m. on July 29 at Hofmann Theatre, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The event is free to general public. Details: www.avya.org

We are proud to present the premiere of the play Yellow Wallpaper 2.0 2020, which was developed at Tao House by LA playwright Jennifer Maisel, one of our artist-in-residence fellows. Performances will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Danville. Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 20, 2 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in July. For more information about the festival, go to eugeneoneill.org

This year’s festival will be headlined by the production of Eugene O’Neill’s “Anna Christie” in the Old Barn at Tao House, Danville. Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 10, 2 p.m., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 17, 2 p.m., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets available in early July. For more information about the festival, go to eugeneoneill.org

Literature

Beginning July 15th, the Lafayette Community Garden & Outdoor Learning Center will host “Story Time in the Garden,” held on three consecutive Saturdays from 10-10:30 a.m., led by Jennifer Russell. Stories are intended for 3-6 year olds, but all ages, including adults, are welcome. 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

◆ **Not to be missed**

Other

Knit a cap or scarf for a child or adult undergoing chemotherapy, a debilitating illness, or experiencing homelessness! As part of Community Service Day, new knitted items will be distributed to patients at John Muir Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, Hospice of the East Bay, Warm Winter Nights and Safe Parking. Items knitted over the summer will be gathered in late September to distribute to the agencies. Any size, style, color ... let your imagination guide you! (Items for pediatric oncology patients need to be from a pet-free home...please label them as such; other children’s items do not need to be.) Contact Bobbie Preston at barbarampreston@comcast.net to arrange drop-off of your gifts in September.

The legendary Veranda Kids Club is taking movie magic to a whole new level this summer. Join us on July 21 to celebrate the release of the highly anticipated, “The Barbie Movie.” Families will enjoy character fun from 3-6 p.m. and first 100 kids will receive a themed swag bag (no movie ticket purchase required). See more info on our site: The Veranda :: July Fun: Kids Club Celebrates BARBIE Movie release (shoptheveranda.com)

Mocktails & Cocktails – Sunday July 24, 3 to 5 p.m. Join others who love art, literature, music and everything in between at The Coop, 32 Lafayette Circle from 3-5 p.m. Time for some artsy banter with Ani Breslin and Elana O’Loskey of the Lamorinda Arts Council. No host bar. Just show up. Questions? Email literary@lamorindaarts.org.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Lamorindans on NCAA Championship Teams this spring



Stanford women's championship team.

Photo Stanford Athletics



California men's water polo team.

Photo California Athletics

By Jon Kingdon

At the end of the spring semester, three of the teams that won a NCAA Division I National Championship, the Northwestern women's lacrosse team, the Stanford women's water polo team and the California men's water polo team, all had at one thing in common – they all had at least one player on their roster from Lamorinda.

Northwestern (Emerson Bohlig – Miramonte) defeated Boston College, Stanford (Jewel Roemer and Lexi Rowell – Acalanes, Katie Lyons – Miramonte, Maggie Hawkins – Acalanes) defeated USC and California (Jake Stone – Acalanes, Garrett Dunn – Campolindo, Brady and Blake Hoover – Miramonte) also defeated USC in their championship games.

The USC men's and women's team also had Lamorindans on their teams: USC Women – Christine Crum (Campolindo) and Grace Tehaney (Miramonte) and the USC men's team – Marcus Longton and Thomas McGuire (Campolindo).

What facilitated the recruiting process for Emerson Bohlig was her being named to the U.S. High school all-American team. Going to a winning program was a key for Bohlig in choosing to attend Northwestern, a school whose women's lacrosse team has won numerous national championships. "I felt getting to play for such a legendary team with a history of winning national championships would be fun and exciting," Bohlig said.

Besides the national championship this year, Northwestern made it to the NCAA semifinals Bohlig's freshman year. Adjusting to college is hard enough but playing on a highly-ranked team is another story. "In high school, some players would not go hard all the time whereas in college, there's no letup and you have to get used to that," Bohlig said. "The pace of the game was so much faster and there is never a point where I could just relax, and I had to get used to that. I thought that my team and coaches did a really good job of preparing us for that in the fall."

Bohlig's high school coach at Miramonte, Jackie Pelletier, a former Division I player at California, knew from experience the challenges that Bohlig was going to face her first year at Northwestern: "I told her to believe in herself. It's so easy when you're a top player and

coaches tell you that you're great but when you're younger and you lack some confidence, it's hard to believe in yourself. She was the type of player that woke up and wanted to play and wanted to shoot."

Pelletier was able to watch the championship game on ESPN. "It was very satisfying to watch her play in that game, score a goal and also to see how Emerson has continued to grow and improve as a player," Pelletier said. "Some of my fondest memories about Emerson were to witness her competitive drive to win, not just for herself, for her team. She had limited playing time as a freshman and then put in the work and the time to where she was part of the starting 16 this season for Northwestern."

Pelletier's advice was not lost on Bohlig. "I went in feeling a little nervous and intimidated when I showed up at Northwestern with so many great players on the team," Bohlig said. "At that point, I was trying to be helpful and not get in the way of the players, trying to adjust well to the team and that affected the way I played my freshman year."

As a freshman, Bohlig played in 15 games and in all 22 this season. "I did not play with a lot of confidence my freshman year and that affected how I played on the field and this past year I made it a point to play with a lot more confidence which is what I heard from my coaches," Bohlig said. "Once I took that approach, I became a better player and played more effectively and helped my teammates at the same time."

Bohlig, a communications studies major with a minor in entrepreneurship and the integrated marketing certificate through Medill (the school of journalism), is studying and traveling this summer in Granada, Spain.

Northwestern made it to the semifinal round Bohlig's freshman year and she saw the difference in the team that made them the winner this year. "It was really special to win the championship in front of my parents and sister, Sawyer, (a sophomore at Miramonte)," Bohlig said. "It had to do with how well we worked and communicated with each other. I had the opportunity as a midfielder to work really well with my teammate, Sam Smith (the only other Californian on the Northwestern roster), who I played with on my club team, and we were able to communicate on both ends of the field.

Overall, as the team clicked together, and everyone played to the best of their ability to make the team play better."

Bohlig has seen the growth of lacrosse in Lamorinda from when she started playing. "I began playing in the third grade and there was only one club team to try out for and now there are now a lot more club teams that have sprung up and it's become a real growth sport. I loved high school lacrosse at Miramonte because I had great teammates and coaches. Jackie was awesome. Even though I was starting as a freshman, I was lacking some confidence and Jackie was the first person that told me that if I improved my stick skills, I could play for a top Division I school. After that, I put a ton of time into that and I got better all over the field."

Bohlig is looking to be a starter this next season: "Next year, I am going to make sure that I am going to be in the best shape that I can so that I can play the hardest all over the field and play with the confidence that I had in high school and club. In terms of improving my game, I want to take more chances on the offensive and defensive end and initiating more drives and not being hesitant about it."

There were eight men and women on the Stanford and California water polo championship teams from Lamorinda which bespeaks to how the aquatics community has become so imbued in Lamorinda.

"You see this great athletic tradition in our area and that's a testament to all of these kids winning championships and being a part of championship cultures beyond high school and that's a pretty cool and unique thing," said James Lathrop, former Miramonte boys' water polo coach. "For a long time, we've had a tradition of aquatic excellence. When I grew up, I was coached by Olympians like Kirk Everist and Rick McNair. Our proximity to the universities and the people that come back to the area and want to give back to the community, is really a great thing."

Joe Roemer, the Miramonte girls head coach and his daughter Jewel Roemer, have been on dual hot streaks this past two years. Miramonte was undefeated the past two seasons (56-0) with two NCS Champions and Jewel's Stanford team had a combined record of 49-3 and two national championships.

Roemer gives much of credit for the success of the area teams and individuals to the

club teams. "We have the Diablo Water Polo Club, Lamorinda Club, 680 Club and CC United making us the heartbeat of Contra Costa County," Roemer said. "Kids are playing from a young age, and they are following through, getting solid coaching from the clubs and the high schools."

A sense of unity can develop among the players that also contributes to their success. "It's a matter of developing team chemistry and avoiding 'drama' on the team," Roemer said. "We have good leaders that were able to squash any of that drama. The girls are able to bond and it's what they do together away from the pool, and it's been the same at Stanford, according to Jewel."

Acalanes girls' head coach Misha Buchel took great pride in Stanford's victory in watching Jewel and Lexi Rowell compete for the Cardinal and saw a reason for their success. "It was immensely satisfying to watch them continue to excel," Buchel said. "It's the marriage of physical and athletic talent with that willingness to commit to work hard and be better. The Japanese have a term – Kaizen – which means continuous improvement. You'll get some athletes that don't have that work ethic component to always want to push and improve themselves, even if they have the superior ability. It's having the ability but also knowing that you have to work hard and make yourself better on a daily basis. Jewel and Lexi and the other girls fit into that category 100%. When your best players demonstrate that, you have the opportunity to have a special team."

Kim Everist, the Campolindo girls water polo coach also gloried in the success of the Lamorinda girls on the Stanford team. "Watching the championship shows how spoiled we are in Lamorinda," Everist said. "Prior to this year, we've had a number of water polo players that have won NCAA championships."

With Maggie Hawkins on the championship team, it played up how the traditions of the sport are constantly being passed down. "I've known Maggie Hawkins for a long time as she came up through the ranks," Everist said. "She had a big year with the women's national team, going to Peru and then to go to Stanford and have a great year, despite having had a concussion during the season and then played well when she returned. I coached her sisters



Photo Northwestern Athletics

Emerson Bohlig



Photo Stanford Athletics

Jewel Roemer scores the first goal in championship game.

Katherine, who just finished up at Indiana, and Kelly and it was epic to have three sisters come through the program."

There are very talented athletes but the ones that step out from the crowd have one consistent quality, according to Everist: "They are mentally tough and gritty – they're grinders. They set their sights on goals and no matter what the obstacle, they're going to find a way through. They make the most of failure and they hang in there battling through. They're just innately fighters and that is what separates them from everybody else. They're smart kids with top grades, and what they've learned from me, or their club coaches is learning decision making and awareness. They've become students of the game and they apply what they've been taught very quickly."

Intangibles are also a key factor, according to Lathrop: "The other piece to it is that these kids are really hard working, high achieving individuals. My experience with Brady and Blake Hoover is that besides their being individually high achieving, they just fit into a championship culture so well along with Garrett Dunn and Jake Stone.

... continued on Page C2

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Cardoni named Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at Campolindo

Submitted by Raymond Meadows

Doug Cardoni, who was named head varsity girls basketball coach at Campolindo High School in April, played college basketball for Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina and Erskine College, in Due West, South Carolina. After college, while working on Wall Street for two decades, Cardoni played and coached in a variety of high-level adult basketball leagues in New York City. Since moving to Lafayette in 2015, Cardoni has coached youth bas-

ketball teams in recreational leagues, high school programs and coached and played in the US Masters National Championships in Coral Springs, Florida (3-time 40-and-over Champions).

Cardoni was co-head coach of the Miramonte JV girls' team for three years, as well as being a varsity assistant at Miramonte during that time. For the past three years, he has been an assistant varsity coach at Carondelet High School, where he helped lead the team to the 2022 NorCal Open Division championship game.

When asked about taking

over the Campolindo G. Basketball program, he stated, "Campolindo is a high-level academic school as well as one that supports its sports programs wholeheartedly, and I'm excited to be able to work with such impressive student-athletes and a school with such a strong academic and athletic history. I'd like to thank Kelly Sopak and all of my co-coaches along the way who have helped build my coaching base and also give a special mention to Clay Kallam for his advice on girls' basketball throughout the years. I really just can't wait to get to work."

Team Lamorinda represents at 2023 Special Olympics NorCal Summer Games



Photo Lupi Gutierrez Beagle

From left: Kevin Bao, Andrew Beagle, Aimee Gee, Coach Juliet Gee, Justin Lo

Submitted by Lupi Gutierrez Beagle

Team Lamorinda, representing Contra Costa County, had a successful run at the Annual Special Olympics of Northern California Summer Games June 24-26 in Santa Clara. Over 30 Northern California counties were represented by almost 1,000 athletes and coaches coming together in the spirit of inclusion and competition.

In May, Special Olympics NorCal Track and Field Regionals were held in Pleasanton. The entire Lamorinda team consisting of 13 athletes, qualified for the Summer Games by winning gold in at least one of their events. However only four spots were allotted.

The 2023 squad also known as Lamorinda Avengers includes Miramonte High School Class of 2018's Aimee Gee, 22, of Orinda and Moraga's Kevin Bao, also 22. Andrew Beagle, the youngest at 14 is an incoming freshman at Miramonte and Oakland resident Justin Lo, 18, represented the team.

Gee, who qualified by winning gold in the long jump and turbo javelin at Regionals, once again placed first in the javelin and received silver in the shot put. She was disqualified in the running long jump which was contested, but denied.

In Pleasanton, Bao won

gold in the running long jump and silver in the 200 meter to qualify. He returned home from Santa Clara with a bronze in the 100 and placed fifth in the 200.

Beagle went three for three in the Regionals with gold medals in the 100 meter, running long jump and the turbo javelin. He returns home from his first Summer Games with a silver and two golds respectively.

Lo who also made his debut at the 2023 Summer Games placed first in the running long jump. He followed up with second in the turbo javelin and third in the 200 meter. Lo was very proud to walk around with a gold, a silver and a bronze around his neck.

The captain of this crew, coach Juliet Gee has been coaching Special Olympics for 20 years and has been to five Summer Games with the team she founded in 2017. The Avengers qualified for their first Summer Games in 2018 with a total of six athletes attending. All six won gold medals including one in the pentathlon. As for the 2023 team, Gee states, "We have a remarkable group of athletes. They all worked very hard to earn a spot in the Summer Games. They all exude the spirit of Olympians in competing while also cheering on fellow competitors."

The 2023 Summer Games Opening Ceremony was held Friday, June 23 at Stevens Stadium on the campus of Santa

Clara University, commencing with the Parade of Athletes and concluding with the region-wide Law Enforcement Torch Run. This year's keynote speaker was Pro Football Hall of Famer and celebrated 49er Bryant Young. The event was hosted by both Santa Clara and San Jose State Universities and Track and Field was held at Cupertino High School.

Follow Nor Cal Special Olympics on social media for more information on events throughout the year.

Lamorindans on NCAA Championship Teams

... continued from Page C1

They're all great kids that are really about winning and that comes with, not just contributing on the field, but being great teammates and students."

It's a tradition that shows no signs of stopping, according to Lathrop. "My daughter just attended a clinic which Olympian swimmer, Natalie Coughlin (Carondelet) put on for the local swim teams. It's just a really cool thing that just doesn't exist everywhere. The connection with the current athletes that are competing for the Olympics like Drew Holland

(Campolindo) and Maggie Stefens (Monte Vista) that come back and give back to the sports that they love is special. It affects this community where the kids get to see the idols in their sport and have been role models for them. So many of the local graduates have been inspired by others and when they're back in the community showing their gratitude for the opportunities they've been given to play in high school and ultimately move on top college programs and have the chance to compete for a national championship, that gets passed on to younger athletes."

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Map showing location near RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER and RHEEM BLVD.

All League - Spring Teams

... continued from last edition

Swimming - Boys,

Parker Etnyre, First Team, Acalanes
 Nate Levy, First Team, Campolindo
 Grant Roesch, Second Team, Campolindo
 Mike Chu, Second Team, Campolindo
 Parker Smith, Second Team, Campolindo
 Reid Lalli, Second Team, Campolindo
 Alex Knudsen, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Caleb Fleming, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Eason Feng, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Garrett Chivers, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Grant Kutz, Second Team, Miramonte
 Logan Gunn, Second Team, Miramonte
 Logan Haines, Second Team, Miramonte
 Oliver Sherwood, Second Team, Miramonte
 Patrick Stice, Second Team, Miramonte
 Ryan Kaelle, Second Team, Miramonte
 Brady Cannon, Second Team, Miramonte

Swimming - Girls,

Sophi Mackay, First Team, Acalanes
 Brooklyn Plomp, Second Team, Acalanes
 Sadie Suppiger, Second Team, Acalanes
 Sara Archer, Second Team, Acalanes
 Sarah Potter, Second Team, Acalanes
 Sophie Henderson, Second Team, Acalanes
 Audrey Cox, Honorable Mention, Acalanes
 Daylor Williams, Honorable Mention, Acalanes
 Liv Hoppe, Honorable Mention, Acalanes
 Taryn Veronda, Honorable Mention, Acalanes
 Adriana Smith, First Team, Campolindo
 Audrey Le Nguyen, First Team, Campolindo
 Avery Yasukochi, First Team, Campolindo
 Elise Gratton, First Team, Campolindo
 Emilia Barck, First Team, Campolindo
 Lucy Kan, First Team, Campolindo
 Maddie Blackwell, First Team, Campolindo
 Whitney Wilkalis, First Team, Campolindo
 Ariel Indrisano, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Emma Shane, Honorable Mention, Campolindo
 Ally Larsen, Honorable Mention, Miramonte
 Bea Hearey, Honorable Mention, Miramonte
 Petra Cherry, Honorable Mention, Miramonte
 Rosalie Hassett, Honorable Mention, Miramonte

Boys And Girls Diving,

Dakota Goyert, Second Team, Acalanes
 Liam Harju, First Team, Campolindo

Tennis,

Tyler Toni, First Team - Singles, Senior, Acalanes
 Nick Owens, First Team - Singles, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Tucker Brewer, Second Team - Singles, Junior, Acalanes
 Diego Ledezma, Honorable Mention, Junior, Acalanes
 Kaya Hoeberechts, Aaron Brown, First Team - Doubles, Sophomores, Senior, Acalanes
 Riley Bonner, James Cortez, Second Team - Doubles, Senior, Acalanes
 Will Lofting, Sammy Foster, Second Team - Doubles, Junior, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Kuimars Koopah, Second Team - Singles, Sophomore, Campolindo
 Edgar Alford, Second Team - Singles, Sophomore, Campolindo
 Jake Hammerman, Honorable Mention, Senior, Campolindo
 James Martin, Aditya Kapur, First Team Doubles, Junior, Junior, Campolindo
 Tyler Panos, Ivan Zemsky, First Team Doubles, Junior, Junior, Campolindo
 Viggo Wirstrom, Luke Yan, Second Team - Doubles, Junior, Junior, Campolindo
 Lucca Zamani, First Team - Singles, Freshman, Miramonte
 Aaron Lee, Second Team - Singles, Senior, Miramonte
 Will Stokes, Second Team - Singles, Senior, Miramonte
 Cameron Berg, Second Team - Singles, Junior, Miramonte
 Gavin Dille, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Miramonte

Boys Track & Field,

Ethan Torres, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Kyle Bielawski, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Paul Kuhner, First Team, Junior, Acalanes
 Trevor Rogers, First Team, Junior, Acalanes
 Jack Bayless, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
 River Lockwood, Second Team, Freshman, Acalanes
 Andrew Mac Kenzie, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Tyler Hunt, Honorable Mention, Senior, Acalanes
 Alexander Lodewick, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Bryce Mc Laverty, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Garrett Nelson, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Quinn Ahern, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Alex Thomasson, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Blake Webster, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Brendan Comerford, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Connor Mc Ghee, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Da Yue Ng Wu, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Josh Myers, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Kyle Fossen, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo

Max Marino, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Benjamin Axelrod, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Campolindo
 Asher Patel, First Team, Junior, Miramonte
 Ravi Sandhu, First Team, Junior, Miramonte
 Alexander Mc Manamon, Second Team, Sophomore, Miramonte

Girls Track & Field,

Dulcinea Vail, First Team, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Natalie Lyons, First Team, Junior, Acalanes
 Portia Seymour, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Sophia Chinn, First Team, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Vitoria Hiatt, First Team, Freshman, Acalanes
 Carly Young Harriman, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Haley Chelemedos, Honorable Mention, Sophomore, Acalanes
 Anneliese Mac Kenzie, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Ellie Buckley, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Mari Testa, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Meagan Kennedy, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Pinkie Schnayer, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Quinn Guthrie, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Shea Volkmer, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Anna Stubbington, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Charlotte Armswald, Second Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Sidney Ross, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Jessica Youn, First Team, Junior, Miramonte
 Victoria Chatter, Second Team, Sophomore, Miramonte
 Addison Breitberg, Honorable Mention, Junior, Miramonte
 Addison Byrne, Honorable Mention, Junior, Miramonte
 Inara Inesi, Honorable Mention, Freshman, Miramonte

Volleyball,

Joseph Castelli, First Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Liam Hill, Second Team, Senior, Acalanes
 Evan Svervak, Second Team, Junior, Acalanes
 Miles Thomas, Honorable Mention, Junior, Acalanes
 Andrew Pak, First Team, Senior, Campolindo
 Will Marusich, First Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Graham Volk, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Will Balassi, Second Team, Junior, Campolindo
 Diego Davilla, Honorable Mention, Senior, Campolindo
 Jon Marc Mosher, First Team, Senior, Miramonte
 Dorian Byrd, Second Team, Senior, Miramonte

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 19, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Joys of July gardening



Cezanne Clematis is a true painter's dream climbing vine.

By Cynthia Brian

"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas." ~ Elizabeth Murray

The verdant hills have turned golden as the peak of summertime splendor arrives in July. The sunsets are sensational while the wonders of nature captivate our senses. A girlfriend gifted me the book, "Color In and Out of the Garden" by Lorene Edwards Forkner, and I find myself swinging in my hammock under my magnificent magnolia perusing the brushstrokes and hues of the garden as I turn the pages.

Finally, my months of intense weeding are complete. My hands and fingers are still numb from the repeated motions, yet I am reaping the



A surprise bright pink bloom on this potted succulent.

glorious joy of nature's painted floral magic. My garden is indeed the lens through which I see the world.

The tapestry of color helps me learn to see with eyes wide open what the landscape produces this month. The compact Cezanne clematis boasts deep purple flowers that cover the vine. (I seem to have numerous famous artists in my garden collection including a rabbit named Monet and a bird named Rembrandt.) Fluorescent pink perennial sweet pea has covered parts of my hillside and crept into my carpet roses. Speaking of roses, they are flourishing providing continual bouquets of beauty and fragrance. Pink and purple appear to be my summer theme as purple trumpet vine and potato vine climb together in my rose garden where cerise-colored

Photos Cynthia Brian

Angel Face roses reign and pink knotweed blanket the soil. A new succulent growing in a container on my front porch burst into bloom in shades of luminous pink/purple. What a joyous, festive summer surprise!

Birds of Paradise, both the orange and blue varieties, are showstoppers in gardens. Their flowers do indeed resemble birds. They are easy to grow, easy to maintain, and a wonderful addition to a garden when you are seeking a more tropical feeling. Speaking of birds, hopefully you have included birdhouses, bird baths, and bird feeders in your garden design. Birds are one of our best pest control options. As a bonus, they serenade us with song and provide entertainment as they flit from limb to limb. Install a porch swing, bench, or hammock (my go-to) and enjoy the performance.

As an experiment, I planted tomatoes, thyme, peppers, and shallots in a large container outside my kitchen window so that I could grab and go. The plants are happy and thriving. I've already harvested shallots, peppers and thyme, and the cherry tomato vines may eventually cover my window!

... continued on Page D10



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	12	\$485,000	\$3,250,000
MORAGA	12	\$627,500	\$3,200,000
ORINDA	8	\$515,000	\$3,020,000

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

- 905 Acalanes Road, \$1,655,000, 3 Bdrms, 1897 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 06-09-23, Previous Sale: \$1,210,000, 11-16-16
- 3243 Ameno Drive, \$1,710,000, 4 Bdrms, 2449 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 06-02-23, Previous Sale: \$999,000, 04-05-07
- 667 Byrdee Way, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2263 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-01-23
- 210 Lafayette Circle #204, \$2,045,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 05-30-23
- 760 Las Trampas Road, \$2,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 1732 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-30-23, Previous Sale: \$750,000, 12-02-21
- 304 Lowell Lane, \$2,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-30-23
- 523 Mcbride Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2201 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-01-23
- 3368 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1605 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-31-23, Previous Sale: \$875,000, 03-05-09
- 827 Santa Maria Way, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3843 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-02-23, Previous Sale: \$1,632,000, 08-05-08
- 3326 Vaughn Road, \$947,000, 3 Bdrms, 1152 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 06-05-23, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 12-15-21
- 3553 Via Los Colorados, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3050 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-30-23, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 01-16-04

MORAGA

- 30 Ascot Place, \$1,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-31-23, Previous Sale: \$525,000, 04-22-04
- 119 Ascot Court #5, \$627,500, 2 Bdrms, 1140 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-02-23, Previous Sale: \$180,000, 06-14-00
- 289 Birchwood Drive, \$1,879,500, 4 Bdrms, 2177 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-02-23, Previous Sale: \$830,000, 04-22-02
- 368 Deerfield Drive, \$2,076,000, 4 Bdrms, 2201 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 06-07-23, Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 09-27-16
- 189 Fernwood Drive, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 2607 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-01-23
- 494 Fernwood Drive, \$2,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 2564 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 06-09-23
- 21 Hammond Place, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 1707 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-31-23, Previous Sale: \$655,000, 12-24-03
- 124 Hardie Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 06-07-23
- 9 Mayfield Place, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-05-23, Previous Sale: \$1,028,500, 06-13-16
- 651 Moraga Road #14, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-31-23, Previous Sale: \$500,000, 08-29-18
- 230 Sonora Road, \$3,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4714 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 06-09-23, Previous Sale: \$2,263,000, 04-15-20

ORINDA

- 19 Bates Boulevard, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1891 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 06-06-23, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 12-23-22
- 52 Bates Boulevard, \$3,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2677 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 06-01-23, Previous Sale: \$519,000, 08-27-98
- 73 Brookwood Road #29, \$515,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-30-23, Previous Sale: \$248,000, 07-23-03
- 16 Crestview Drive, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2460 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 06-05-23, Previous Sale: \$889,000, 08-21-03
- 167 Hall Drive, \$2,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 1980 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-30-23, Previous Sale: \$114,000, 09-01-77
- 711 Ironbark Court, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2826 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 05-31-23, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 11-01-91
- 16 Lind Court, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1411 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-01-23, Previous Sale: \$909,000, 06-01-15

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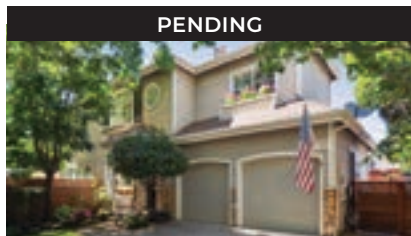
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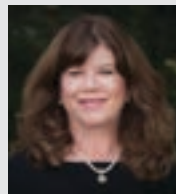
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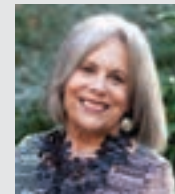
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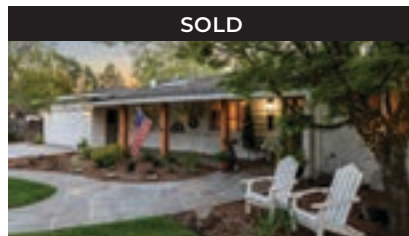
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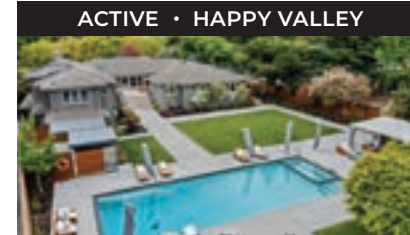
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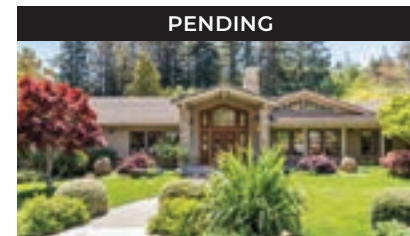
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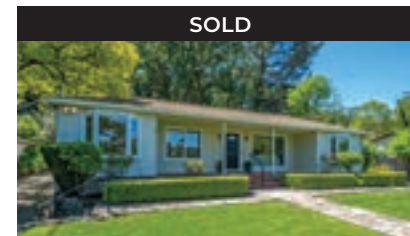
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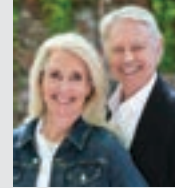
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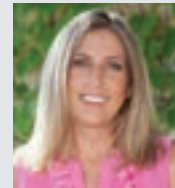
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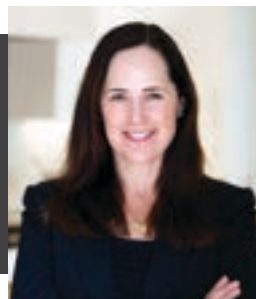
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1-4pm



Molly Smith

415.309.1085

molly@mollyslist.com

www.mollyslist.com / @mollyslist

DRE# 01498053



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NEW LISTING

**1382 Camino Peral, Moraga
Offered at \$869,000**

Trying to get back "Home Again" ~ Elton John



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EAST COAST STYLE

meets West Coast charm



120 Via Floreado, Orinda

This tastefully remodeled and decorated home has a fabulous floorplan for families of all stages & ages. The oversized entry hall invites the outdoors in as you see through the dining room to the beautifully lush backyard. Adjacent is the new, gorgeous eat-in chef's kitchen with state of the art stainless appliances, 2 dishwashers, and a generous center island. This is truly the heart of the home, as the kitchen opens to the family/great room with high ceilings, builtins and doors out to the new patio making for perfect indoor/outdoor flow for everyday living and entertaining. The hardwood floors, new windows, millwork, builtins, custom lighting and designer finishes are eye catching and breathtaking throughout.

Listed at \$3,195,000 | Visit 120ViaFloreado.com

5 <i>Bed</i>	4.5 <i>Bath</i>	1 <i>Bonus room</i>
±3,719 <i>Sq. ft</i>	1 <i>Chef Kitchen</i>	100% <i>Amazing!</i>

Amy Rose Smith
Partner/ Village Associates
925.212.3897
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CalDRE: #01855959



FINDING THE *Right* FIT



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Nature talks

Photos Cynthia Brian



Fresh garlic was harvested and will be dried for 30 days before consumption.



Cherry tomatoes growing in a container with thyme and peppers.



Purple trumpet vine and potato vine twine together.

... continued from Page D1

The garlic I planted last fall had green leaves in June, but this past week I harvested it. My recipe for success is to harvest garlic between July 4 and Aug. 1. When the leaves are about one-third golden, gently dig up the soil around the bulb to see if the garlic is large enough. If so, use a fork to dig, not pull, the garlic out of the ground, shake off the dirt, and don't wash. If you let the leaves go completely brown the garlic won't be tasty. I braid my leaves and hang them in a dark, dry place for at least 30 days before consuming them. A dark garage or shed is a perfect location. As with all home-grown produce, home-grown garlic is more flavorful. Also, a solution with garlic and water sprayed onto plants is a natural pest repellent! I also add a clove of garlic to the soil around my roses to deter bugs.

In my last article, (Summer blooms brighter: www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1710/Digging-Deep-with-Goddess-Gardener-Cynthia-Brian-Summer-blooms-brighter.html) I discussed the importance of composting. I fill five-gallon buckets with compost, then spread it around my roses, and dig it into the soil in my potager. Compost works miracles and it is so easy to make. Save everything

but meat and add to a closed container, pile or bin. Add scraps of soap if you want to keep the unwanted insects at bay.

It is time to start considering the bulbs you may want to plant in the fall. Peruse garden catalogs or ask your nursery expert for suggestions. With ample sunshine and warmer temperatures, we can enjoy a dazzling summer of garden parties and floral displays. Going beyond our backyards, check out community gardens throughout our area that unite neighbors and foster a sense of camaraderie. The joys of July gardening include ecologically friendly practices, promoting biodiversity, conserving water, and supporting the artistic heritage of our environment. The Monarch Butterfly Garden created by the Moraga Garden Club at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga is a favorite. Get inspired by the collective efforts of Lamorinda residents who have beautified each city by creating vibrant and sustainable green spaces.

Unleash your creativity and indulge in the art of cultivating colorful gardens and explore the wonders of nature in this glowing golden month.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy July!



A friend's daughter, Maria, created this hand-painted birdhouse from a gourd.

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Final Days: Shoe Drive for Be the Star You Are!® ends on July 30 with a goal of 2,500 pairs. Shoes may be dropped off 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>



Cynthia loves roses all year round!

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, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available for PRE-ORDERS 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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ORINDA



New Listing!

120 Via Floreado

Tastefully remodeled 5 bd/ 4.5 ba home w/ fabulous floor plan, chef's kitchen & beautifully lush backyard!

\$3,195,000

ORINDA



37 & 20 La Madronal

A private sanctuary in the Orinda Hills which features two detached residences & 11 separate parcels totaling approximately 4 acres!

\$2,995,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

24 La Cuesta Road

Fabulous 3 bd/ 2.5 ba OCC home features lovely gardens, lush lawns & walls of windows that bring the outdoor beauty in!

\$2,795,000

ORINDA



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!

\$2,188,000

ORINDA

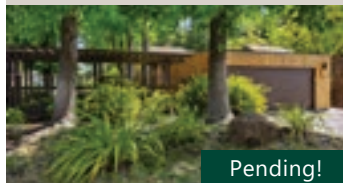


724 Ironbark Court

Orindawoods private & peaceful 5 bd/ 3.5 ba detached home with nature at your fingertips!

\$1,995,000

ORINDA



Pending!

404 Wovenwood

Simple and stylish living abound at this tastefully remodeled 3 bd/2 ba single level townhome in Orinda Woods!

\$1,850,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3445 Shangri-La Road

Desirable Reliez Valley neighborhood offers amazing privacy, stunning views, beautiful architecture on an almost 1 acre lot!

\$2,049,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

1987 Reliez Valley Road

Wonderful 3 bd/ 3 ba Reliez Valley home has been completely reconfigured, updated & enlarged!

\$1,848,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending!

1324 Martino Road

Charming Lafayette Vintage home on beautiful .50 acre flat lot w/ 3+ bd/3 ba + separate "carriage house" now a 490 sf office - maybe future ADU!

\$1,658,000

LAFAYETTE

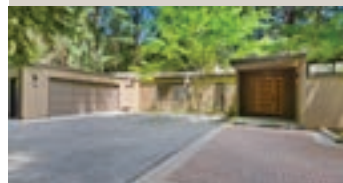


406 Castello Road

Single story, 3 bd/ 2 ba Burton Valley Charm with an A+ location!

\$1,295,000

LAFAYETTE



9 Redwood Circle

Situated down a private lane, surrounded by majestic redwood trees is this spectacular 5 bd/ 3 ba home!

\$12,000/mo.

MORAGA

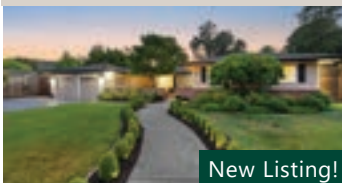


35 San Pablo Court

Beautiful 5 bd/ 3 ba traditional home w/ great views, large grassy backyard & sparkling pool!

\$2,249,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

1254 Larch Ave

Tucked in the beloved Camino Pablo neighborhood, this updated single story home has open floor plan w/ perfect bckyrd for entertaining!

\$1,995,000

WALNUT CREEK

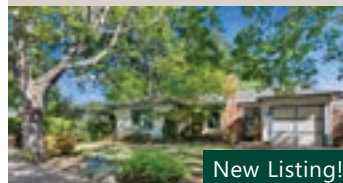


1919 Ygnacio Valley, #90

Single Story 3 Bedroom End-Unit Condo in the Coveted Ygnacio Gardens!

\$485,000

CONCORD



New Listing!

106 Cordova Way

Wonderful 3 bd/ 2 ba fixer-upper with tons of potential in an excellent Concord location!

\$559,000

MARTINEZ



628 D Street

Adorable 3 bd/ 1 ba cottage near the vibrant, revitalized downtown Martinez!

\$699,000

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