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Housing & Safety Concerns in Lafayette

Town Hall on ZOOM

Hosted by Lafayette Homeowners Council

Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m.

Guest speakers:

- Mayor Carl Anduri
- City Manager Niroop Srivatsa

Update and Q & A

We welcome all Lafayette residents to attend.

More info and zoom link at <https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>



Younger festival-goers don funnel hats at the Contra Costa County Clean Water Program booth during the Sept. 30 Pear and Wine Festival. Photo courtesy Moraga Public Works Dept.

Kid-friendly fun abounds at Moraga's Pear and Wine Festival

By Vera Kochan

This year the skies were gloomy, but the mood wasn't, for Moraga's annual Pear and Wine Festival. Held on Sept. 30 at the Moraga Commons Park, there were booths galore from both town organizations as well as craftspeople selling their wares. Live music filled all corners of the park from the Bartlett Pear Stage, while the smell of grilled hot dogs and

hamburgers had people lined up to satisfy their cravings. The pear pie booth sold out of their specialty as was evidenced by the sight of many festival-goers walking around with boxes of the coveted dessert for at-home consumption. With so much new playground equipment recently installed at the commons, Moraga Parks and Recreation Department's efforts were immensely enjoyed by the younger festival attendees. Added to that, were the bounce houses and ginormous inflat-

able slides. Thanks to the participation of the Moraga Lions Club, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Moraga Park Foundation, and Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, the Pear and Wine Festival drew residents from the Lamorinda area and beyond for a day of family fun and sense of community. Visit moragarec.com to check out the schedule of upcoming events.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Multiple agencies involved in Lamorinda virtual evacuation drill

By Sora O'Doherty



MOFD ran a virtual evacuation drill with the cooperation of local and county agencies on Sept. 30. Photo Sora O'Doherty

The virtual evacuation drill conducted Sept. 30 wasn't just for the benefit of residents, but was also intended to help the many local, county and state government agencies and volunteer groups practice essential skills for handling wildfire emergencies that have the potential to destroy parts of Lamorinda. At 7 a.m. representatives from the Police Departments of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda; the Moraga-Orinda and Contra Costa County Fire Protection districts, Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS), Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG) gathered in the parking lot of the Lafayette Reservoir. Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communications Center, Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Communications Center participated remotely. Among the purposes of the drill were the goals of practicing how to establish and operate a unified command with law, fire and cooperating agencies in a large-scale wildfire scenario. In addition to seeing how effectively the community warning system could perform, the drill sought to provide an opportunity for law enforcement to activate the Genasys Protect/EVAC application from the field. Local governments were involved as well. City and town staffs received a handout of the evacuation information from CWS, and were to practice updating evacuation details, such as arrival points, road closures, etc. Another goal of the exercise was to identify potential areas where communication can be improved between the field, CWS and the Genasys Protect/AWARE website.

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Public Safety			
Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School Project — Page A5			



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Gas Leaf Blower Ordinance passes first reading at Lafayette council meeting

By Lou Fancher



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Planning Technician Anna Tolle at the Sept. 26 city council meeting was joined during a presentation about the prohibition of gasoline powered leaf blower by two members of the city's Environmental Task Force (ETF). Along with Maria Gastelumendi and chairperson Nancy Hu, Tolle introduced Ordinance 688, which would eliminate the use of the blowers within city limits effective July 1, 2024.

"The three main hazards of gas powered leaf blowers are noise, dust, and exhaust emissions," Tolle said. "They pose health risks to both operators and bystanders and disrupt daily life for Lafayette residents."

City law under the noise ordinance in the municipal code currently prohibits use of leaf blowers between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., but Tolle noted that city staff, the ETF, and council members have received many requests from residents to further limit or prohibit the use of gas leaf blowers. In 2021, the state of California adopted AB 1346, which prohibits the sale

of new small off-road engines (SOREs), including lawn equipment and certain commercial and industrial vehicles. Tolle said the task force reviewed similar ordinances in other cities, conducted field research in Piedmont for a demonstration of electric leaf blowers, and during the last two years has worked with nearby city departments to prepare the report for the council.

More than 40 cities in the state have adopted gas leaf blower prohibition ordinances. The goal of California's AB 1346, which goes into effect in January 2024, is to move the state to zero-emission equipment by 2035. Adoption by the city would bring Lafayette into compliance with the state's goal and be an early step toward achieving zero-emission standards.

The task force report included fact-based information about the impacts of gas powered leaf blowers and similar equipment. As stated in the report: "The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has re-

ported that operating a gasoline powered two-stroke leaf blower for one hour emits the same amount of pollution as driving a 2016 Toyota Camry for 1,110 miles. A landscape professional operating a gas powered leaf blower may be exposed to noise levels exceeding OSHA standards."

Tolle said the task force and city staff would work together to create public education information and outreach related to rebates and other resources for homeowners and landscapers transitioning from gas to zero-emission equipment. The new ordinance would be enforced in ways similar to other code enforcement policies. The noise disturbance system is currently primarily complaint based, with residents reporting violations by phone, email, or anonymously online and the code enforcement officer conducting a site visit to verify the complaint before issuing a code violation order. She said staff expects the complaint numbers to rise after the ordinance goes into effect.

The new ordinance will also have a significant financial impact on small, commercial landscape maintenance businesses, Tolle noted. For those companies whose gas powered equipment is still operational when the ordinance goes into effect, the task force prepared an option for homeowners to sign a release form to allow a landscape company to use a gas powered leaf blower on their property. Gastelumendi said the task force's work will next be to make sure the community is aware of the new ordinance.

Council Member Susan Candell asked for information

about the landscape maintenance equipment currently used by the city's parks and recreation departments. Tolle said three battery powered leaf blowers are used and are identical to equipment available through a free lending program that allows residents to check out and test a handheld or backpack blower for two weeks. The Public Works Department has six gas powered leaf blowers in their inventory, but are phasing them out. They also have three battery powered blowers.

Hu said a webpage (lovelafayette.org/leaf-blower-lending) explaining the benefits of the commercial backpack leaf blowers and other equipment has been developed. She tested the backpack model herself and said it was fairly heavy, about 30 pounds, but it was extremely powerful. "What was nice about using the electric, even though it was 30 pounds," she said, "it was not vibrating and was completely silent." Alternatively, she compared gas blowers to being on a Disneyland amusement park ride that sets a person's entire body "rattling."

Public comments from Bill Bucher asked that the council not adopt the ordinance due to the state implementing a law prohibiting the equipment. His vision is that manufactures of the equipment will make improvements and offer cost reductions that allow more people to purchase the new, zero-emission leaf blowers. Other residents commenting online expressed mixed positions. Some spoke in protest, highlighting the negative impact the ordinance would have on small landscape maintenance companies, or disputing the

facts and emphasis of data about emissions and the environmental impact.

Other people supported the ordinance's passage, offering additional information about the environmental cost of gas powered leaf blowers and the life-cycles of leaf blower batteries, emphasizing that the state law restricts only the sale of new equipment and therefore would mean gas powered blowers already owned will continue to be used until they are no longer operable, and encouraging the council to therefore adopt the faster-acting city ordinance as soon as possible. Several people said they had concerns about neighbors reporting on other neighbors and the effect that would have on community sentiment.

When asked by Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok about the rebate programs, Tolle said funds previously available to property owners and commercial landscapers were exhausted after overwhelming demand depleted the programs.

Mayor Carl Anduri expressed concerns about the impact to staff hours because the ordinance places increased demands associated with code enforcement, as well as neighbors informing on each other. Hu said an energetic outreach effort must accompany any ordinance adopted.

The council unanimously accepted the ordinance as presented and amended and continued the matter to the Oct. 10 council meeting, which occurred after press time, for a second reading and adoption.

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Affordability Index	29%	28%	31%	32%	26%	19%	37%	17%
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Housing & Safety Concerns in Lafayette

Town Hall on ZOOM

Hosted by Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC)

Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m.

Guest speakers:

- Mayor Carl Anduri
 - City Manager Niroop Srivatsa
- Update and Q & A

LHC welcomes all Lafayette residents to attend our Annual Meeting.

More info and zoom link at <https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>



Discussion continues on Housing Element opportunity sites

By Lou Fancher

Name	Location	Total Acres	Useable Acres	2022 ADU	Total Units	Resident Units	REI/2022	SB 9
St. Ann's Episcopal	442 Michael Lane	2.12	0.29	30	25	25	30	30
Lafayette Christian	186 Glendale	1.90	0.60	30	6	6	30	30
Calvary Baptist Living Hope	130 Nancy Blvd	2.25	0.89	30	27	24	30	30
St. Peter's	1024 Haines Blvd	16.75	1.49	30	50	45	30	30
Lafayette Catholic Parish	47 East Drive	3.74	0.80	30	6	6	30	30
Our Saviour Lutheran	1015 Canal Lane	1.78	1.48	30	44	39	30	30
San Valley Bible Chapel	303 Laurel Drive	2.28	1.26	30	47	42	30	30
Temple South	145 East Road	10.15	1.24	30	37	33	30	30

City staff came to the council at the Sept. 26 meeting with an updated project timeline and revisions to the Housing Element made in response to Council direction from a prior discussion during the Aug. 28 city council meeting.

Housing Consultant Diana Elrod said the staff report included recommendations related to a revised Housing Element Opportunity Sites Inventory, along with other information and extensive public comments from the community. Elrod, Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff, and Senior Planner Renata Robles sought the council's direction on next steps and answers to two central questions: Should the inventory list include faith-based land or, alternatively, should the opportunities site list increase densities in the downtown area beyond what was approved by the council in meetings held in January 2023?

Based on guidance from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and additional input from consultants regarding opportunity site selection methods, Elrod said staff sought direction from Council on how to proceed after the report options were presented and discussed.

In Contra Costa County, only six out of 20 jurisdictions have received HCD approval so the process is "obviously taking a long time," Elrod said. Staff hopes to receive certification by the end of 2023, but at several times during the meeting, the difficulty of the constantly shifting process and changing laws and guidelines was acknowledged.

Elrod outlined the opportunity sites inventory alterations and research conducted in general terms, with special attention to SB 4, which applies to development on faith-based and higher educational institution lands. It contains a number of requirements related to affordable housing and will mean Lafayette must have its objective standards in place by Jan. 1, 2024.

Council Member Wei Tai Kwok asked about the definition and restrictions around the faith-based organizations included in the staff report. Elrod said staff looked for large sites with more than an acre. One organization in a high fire severity zone and another with no usable space were not included in the report.

Elrod said no new organizations had approached staff with interest in developing affordable housing on their land.

Any land rezoned as an opportunity site would retain those terms that apply to the land, not the organization. In the event a faith-based organization sold the land, a developer would retain upscale zoning guidelines. The council discussed other means, such as overlays, to establish control of the possibilities. Staff said there were limited means by which the city could control rezoned land and efforts had been made to eliminate any sites likely to fall outside of HCD's parameters that would fail to meet requirements for affordable housing.

Elrod provided her best estimate that the percentages and other information provided in the response to HCD were reasonable and realistic and therefore, more likely to receive approval.

Public comment included a first speaker who was "actually shocked" to see a revised packet that had "the goal posts moved." The four scenarios she said were confusing. Bill Bucher represented the Lafayette Homeowners Council and was encouraged by the revised ADU calculations and supported it as a positive step. The LHC was disappointed about the reduction to 88% of the opportunity sites inventory realistic development capacity and was concerned the faith-based definitions included in the housing element packet would fail to gain HCD's approval.

Other comments sought clarification of opportunity sites and called for more public outreach before decisions on the final draft are made by the council. A board member of the Inclusive Lafayette said the group strongly supported option D, which included upzoning the downtown to meet RHNA requirements with the Desco properties included, and did not include faith-based organization land.

One speaker asked, "Who's actually running this process?" He said greater efforts need to be made to inform the public and reduce confusion about the continual changes.

... continued on Page A9

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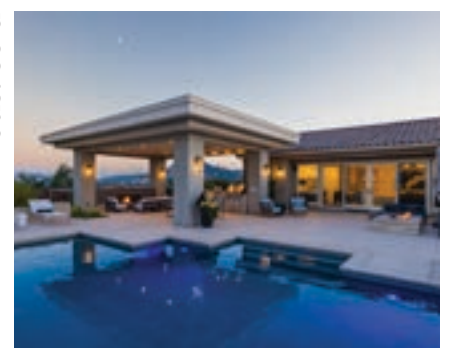


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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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MORAGA

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Town of Moraga:

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

Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission:
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.

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Moraga Road drainage improvements slowly on track for Rheem intersection

By Vera Kochan

Last winter's substantial rains created havoc on the town's roadways, but the Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard intersection always seems to pay a heavy price when it comes to flooding.

The street directly below what locals have dubbed Painted Rock, but is officially titled John Muir Land Trust Painted Rock Open Space, typically bears the brunt from inclement weather, and even the existing 9-inch Asphalt Concrete Berm, designed to keep runoff from pouring over into the Lafayette-bound lanes, has proven insufficient to hold back the flood waters from pooling onto the 500-foot stretch of Moraga Road between Dolores Street and Hansen Court.

The town awarded an engineering design services agreement to CSG Consultants, Inc. (Pleasanton) in February 2022, in the amount of \$57,500 to complete their agreement by the end of October 2022. In April, CSG's subconsultant, LSA Associates, Inc., determined that the area where the runoff was being trapped could potentially be wetlands. In July 2022, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) verified and agreed with the assessment, to which CSG began developing stormwater improvement concepts that would allow construction outside of the wetland area.

The project suffered delays due to analyzing multiple layouts for vehicle, bicycle, and storm drain improvement

concepts within the limited existing pavement width. During this time, the town's project manager departed, and replacement staff needed to be recruited and brought up to speed. This delay increased the engineering design hours.

Back on track again, staff has proposed two feasible project design options according to a Sept. 27 staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Associate Civil Engineer Edrienne Aguilar. The first option is to "collect and convey stormwater runoff to the existing drain inlet by constructing either a dirt or concrete swale [a low or hollow place] outside the existing pavement, potentially impacting the proposed wetlands area. For the town to construct within the dirt shoulder, either USACE will need to officially move or remove the proposed wetlands area, or the Project will need to provide mitigation measures per permitting agencies."

The second option is to "collect and convey stormwater runoff to the existing drain inlet by replacing the existing AC Berm with a taller concrete Berm intended to retain runoff from overtopping."

Moraga's staff has requested to be present during a second USACE site visitation to determine their next course of action as to whether the AC Berm can be eliminated or moved.

In the meantime, the town council



Photo courtesy Public Works Dept.

Flooding last winter at the end of the existing turnout along northbound Moraga Road.

has approved a \$17,490 increase to CSG's originally contracted \$57,500 for a new total amount not to exceed \$74,990 in order to complete the additional engineering design services.

Theme chosen for upcoming Moraga Mural

By Vera Kochan



Site of future Moraga Mural

Photo Vera Kochan

In an effort to bring more outdoor art to the Moraga community, the Art in Public Spaces Committee has set its sights on turning the empty wall space located at 335 Rheem Blvd. into a mural.

"The APSC wants to increase the frequency and visibility of art performances and artworks in Moraga," stated Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady in her Sept. 27 staff report. "To achieve

this goal, the APSC requested the Town Council allow them to explore the possibility of installing a mural on the wall outside of the Public Works Corp Yard/Town Council Chambers. At the March 8, 2023 meeting, the Town Council also approved APSC engaging the public in selecting a mural theme with keywords."

A survey was initiated asking the community to submit key words that generally

bring to mind life in Moraga. The survey was open for six weeks between June 19 to July 31 and received 221 responses, to which the APSC Mural Subcommittee analyzed and condensed the information from one of the questions asking: "In 2-3 words, what defines Moraga?"

APSC compiled the results and noted that the most often used words were: "nature, open space, hills, semi-rural, and beautiful." By combining those descriptions the theme of the mural is: "Natural Beauty of the Surrounding Hills."

The next most popular running theme was "peaceful," with residents using words such as: "peaceful community," "kind," and "calm."

The "small town" theme came through with some responses bordering on the negative such as: "boring," "commercial areas old and lack character," and "isolated." However, other responses were more uplifting, using "small town feel," "home," and "small town friendliness" to describe Moraga.

"Community" popped up often with descriptions like: "active community involvement," "community spirit," and "inclusive community," while another buzzword was "safe" as in: "safe and beautiful place to raise a family."

The word "quiet" was used with: "quiet family town," and

in the lengthiest description of the entire survey, "quiet oasis in the center tucked away but close to major metropolitan area of San Francisco and all the city has to offer!"

"Family" came through with descriptions such as: "family-centric," and "great for families." "Friendly" was described through "friendly people," and "friendly community." And "schools" offered high praise with "great schools," "excellent schools," and several mentions of "Saint Mary's College."

The town council approved the selected phrase of "Natural Beauty of the Surrounding Hills" during its Sept. 27 meeting, and it was noted that the phrase itself would not actually be written as part of the mural, but serve as the inspiration for it.

The next step for APSC is to issue a Request for Proposals to the public in order to have prospective applicants submit information and a rendering based on how they interpret the theme. The chosen artist's conceptual design, after APSC approval, would go to the town council for final review and authorization.

The artist will also be chosen for fitting into the project's budget. Estimated costs are approximately \$10,000 for the mural (\$4,500 from Fund 134 and an additional \$5,500 fundraised), plus maintenance based on the specific medium.

Correction : In the article, "Rancho Laguna Park to receive fitness equipment donation," published on Sept. 27, it stated that "the only cost to the town will be staff's installation of the equipment." The town of Moraga is not doing the installation of equipment. "The only cost of the town is minimal yearly maintenance," Bobbie Preston noted, "which consist mainly of touchup paint; the maintenance costs are paid for by the donor."

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Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School Project enters Phase 2

By Vera Kochan



Photo courtesy Moraga Public Works Department

Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School project corridor

Moraga residents were invited to attend a Sept. 26 webinar presentation concerning the Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School Project now entering Phase 2 – weighing the alternatives for a possible scenario. The format of the online meeting much like Phase 1, which was held in March 2022, centered around public comments and responses to a survey.

The main goal of the project is to improve access and safety in order that pedestrians, bicyclists, and Los Perales Elementary School students feel safer along the upper Corliss Drive/Sullivan Drive corridor (along the curve).

Once again, Fehr & Peers Senior Transportation Planner Susie Hufstader, Sandis Project Manager Nate Levine, and Moraga Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain were on hand to conduct the meeting and answer any questions from webinar attendees. It was noted that the Phase 1 Community Engagement virtual meeting had 16 participants and later garnered 397 website visitors where 202 responses to the survey were completed.

Public feedback from the Phase 1 engagement showed concern over pedestrian safety with the lack of a sidewalk, and a prioritization towards children's safety. Complaints about traffic involved poor visibility due to the sun or road curvature, drivers unaware of school zone and speed limits, the need for more controlled school drop-off/pick-up procedures, and long lines of cars.

With regards to the Phase 2 presentation, 24 participants tuned into the webinar where five alternatives to the project were presented, discussed and another survey was taken. Alternative 1: At-Grade Multi-Use Lane (Paint & Plastic), is considered low cost at \$150,000 or more in 2023 dollars. It would take a minimum of two years to secure grants and an additional minimum of two years to design/permit/construct. This alternative offers a high-visibility crosswalk, a parking lane, painted striping with plastic barriers, and a walking path.

Alternative 2: At-Grade Multi-Use Lane (With Asphalt Berm), is also considered low cost at \$190,000 or more in 2023 dollars. It would take a minimum of two years to secure grants and an additional two years to design/permit/construct. This alternative offers a high-visibility crosswalk, a parking lane, an asphalt berm, and a walking path.

Alternative 3: Raised Sidewalk, is considered high cost at \$1.3 million or more in 2023 dollars with a minimum of three years to secure grants and an additional minimum of three years to design/permit/construct. This alternative offers a high-visibility crosswalk, two ADA curb ramps at

opposite sides of the corridor's curve, two parking lanes on opposite sides of the street, and a raised sidewalk.

Alternative 3A: Raised Sidewalk and Buffered Bike Lane, also considered high cost at \$1.4 million or more in 2023 dollars with a minimum of three years to secure grants and an additional minimum of three years to design/permit/construct. This alternative nearly mirrors Alternative 3 except that the outer parking lane would instead become a bike lane.

Alternative 4: Separated Raised Multi-Use Path, is also high cost at \$1.750 million or more in 2023 dollars with a minimum of three years to secure grants and an additional minimum of three years to design/permit/construct. This option offers a high-visibility crosswalk, the same two ADA curb ramps, a vegetation buffer for the outer lane, an inner parking lane, and a raised multi-use pathway.

Alternative 5: One-Way Roadway with Two-Way Buffered Multi-Use Pathway, is a low cost option at \$145,000 or more in 2023 dollars, with a minimum of two years to secure grants and an additional two years to design/permit/construct. While it was presented during the webinar, a one-way road wasn't a popular option during the Phase 1 presentation. It's features include a high-visibility crosswalk, an inner parking lane and an outer two-way multi-use pathway. Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp explained that by implementing a one-way road "we would be concentrating on the upper curve of Corliss with turning restrictions such as right turns only. This would make traffic flow smoother with less congestion at intersections."

Various questions on the survey encompassed Alternatives 1-4, and wanted to know which alternatives attendees would feel safe and comfortable walking. An additional question asked how well each alternative addressed concerns with regards to pedestrian safety and comfort; bicycle safety and comfort; access to Los Perales Elementary School; maintaining existing traffic flow; maintaining existing parking; and maintaining existing landscape.

Another question asked, "Which is more important to you? Raised concrete pedestrian and/or bicyclist facilities, even if they take longer and more funding to build; roadway grade, pedestrian and/or bicyclist facilities, if they can be implemented faster; or neither."

"Would you support interim improvements that increase some level of pedestrian/bicycle safety until permanent improvements are in progress?" was also asked on the survey.

With a nod to Alternative

5, "Do you think a one-way conversion on the Sullivan/Corliss Corridor should be considered to provide wider pedestrian bicycle facilities?" and "Would you support no left turns in or out of the school at Wakefield Drive if it helped reduce congestion during pick-up and drop-off at Los Perales?"

The survey is still open. Visit: bit.ly/Corliss-SR2S. Please note that this address is case sensitive, or Google: Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School Project Web. Results of the survey will be presented to the Town Council at a future date. For more information contact Bret Swain at BSwain@moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7025.

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Orinda City Council tweaks accessible parking in Theatre District

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council took a look at existing accessible public parking in the Theatre District as a matter initiated on Oct. 3, and, as a result, decided to try to eliminate one accessible space on Bryant Way and attempt to add another on Moraga Way. The issue was brought to the council's attention on Sept. 5 by a

member of the public. The staff report was presented to the council by Scott Christie, Director of Public Works.

In the past, the Theatre District had a total of five accessible parking spaces. Accessible parking spaces are those that are designed to make parking easier under the Americans with Disabilities

Act, and have to meet certain requirements under the act. For example, accessible parking spaces must be at least 96 inches wide with a 60-inch-wide access aisle.

Some of Orinda's public accessible parking spaces did not meet all of the requirements. For example, there was an accessible space in front of the building that now houses Peet's Coffee and Nation's Hamburgers. But the space wasn't conforming because it did not have the required access aisle, so the city removed it, following a claim and settled litigation. Similar reasoning applied to the removal of another accessible parking space near 39 Moraga Way. Both spaces were re-

moved in 2016.

Currently, there is an accessible parking space on Bryant Way, along the north side of Theatre Square. It is a parallel parking space, and does not have an access aisle. Behind the space there is a driveway, which can be used for access but might present a dangerous conflict between use for access for a disabled person and vehicular access. For this reason, the city council decided that it would be better to convert this space to a regular parking space.

To avoid reducing the total number of public accessible parking spaces in the Theatre District, the council would like staff to try to find another place where a fully compliant

accessible parking space can be placed, understanding that to create an accessible parking space will mean taking up two parking spaces: one for the accessible parking space and another for the access aisle.

There are currently 584 off-street parking spaces in the Theatre District, of which 20 are accessible, representing 3% of the spaces. The minimum requirement under the ADA is 2%, which would be only 12 parking spaces.

As for on-street parking, there is a total of 97 spaces, three of which are accessible, representing 3%. Much of the accessible parking in the Theatre District is located in private parking lots, for which the city is not responsible.

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Litigation may be brewing over Patrick Lane lot split

By Sora O'Doherty

A complicated set of facts have led the Orinda City Council on Sept. 19 in closed session to consider whether the city will be sued if it authorizes a lot split under a state law known as SB 9. It appears that the city might also be sued if they refuse to grant the applicant's request for a lot split of lot 6 on Patrick Lane.

Ellis Raskin, an attorney representing the existing residents of Patrick Lane, submitted a letter to the city attorney dated Sept. 7, threatening litigation if the urban lot split is approved. Linda Klein, an attorney representing the applicant, submitted an email to the city attorney dated Sept. 13, threatening litigation if the urban lot split is not approved. This correspondence has been made available for public inspection.

SB 9 was adopted by California as a way of increasing housing in the state. The law provides for lot splits with only ministerial approval, meaning that cities and towns have little discretion in granting requests for lot split, provided the property meets certain basic requirements. The bill summary suggests that the following conditions could make a parcel unqualified for a lot split: examples of conditions that may

disqualify a project from using SB 9 include the presence of farmland, wetlands, fire hazard areas, earthquake hazard areas, flood risk areas, conservation areas, wildlife habitat areas, or conservation easements.

The complication in the Patrick Lane application is that some of the residents of the street allege that a scenic easement governs the lots and means that the lot cannot meet the basic requirements. However, the scenic easements were not actually recorded, and it is unknown if that is because of an oversight or because they were not accepted at the time of their creation. The other residents of Patrick Lane argue that lands subject to conservation easements are not eligible for SB 9 splits, and that the scenic easements are essentially conservation easements.

According to Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley, lot splits have two phases, the tentative parcel map and the (final) parcel map. For SB 9 lot splits, the tentative map is reviewed and, if compliant, approved ministerially by staff and the final map is reviewed and, if compliant, approved by the city council. For an SB 9 lot split, neither staff nor the city council have discretion to deny the

application if the map complies with all objective standards. The final map needs to be consistent with the tentative map. While the tentative parcel map for 6 Patrick Lane has been approved, the final parcel map has not been acted upon by the city council yet.

The property in question consists of 1.21 acres of undeveloped land at 6 Patrick Lane, sold in June 2021 for \$949,000. Owner Randy Miller, contacted by the Lamorinda Weekly, said that he is a real estate developer, and bought the land before SB 9 was passed.

His intention was to build a house for his family and an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). But in the two and half years since he bought, costs rose 20 to 25% he said, and interest rates effectively doubled. He has proposed the lot split to allow him to build a house for his family and another house to sell to another family.

Miller, who is currently renting a home in Orinda, believes that there is no scenic easement, and, even if there were, that the law exempts conservation easements but not scenic easements. "It's super unfortunate and uncomfortable," Miller concluded, "but I don't know what to do. We bought a really beautiful lot and I'd like to build a home for my family."

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Recycle Smart updates Orinda City Council on recent service issues

By Sora O'Doherty

Recycle Smart Executive Director David Kreuger addressed the Orinda City Council on Oct. 3, promising that new garbage trucks are ordered and on the way to address service issues that have occurred recently. Recycle Smart is a Joint Powers Authority whose contract with the city of Orinda is coming up for renewal. Kreuger said that Recycle

Smart has a staff of five people, and tries to make sure that everyone is in compliance with the many laws that govern solid waste disposal. They manage the service contracts with Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery and Republic Services, that actually performs the collection of trash and recycling.

... continued on Page A10

	City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Planning Comm.: Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.	Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way
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Temporary signs: perhaps not lovely, but mostly legal

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

On a matter initiated by Orinda Vice Mayor Darlene Gee, the Orinda City Council considered what feels like a proliferation of temporary, sandwich-style signs in the city, particularly in the Village. Although the issue has been discussed from time to time since 2011, Gee requested that staff look at it again.

The Planning Department conducted a survey of temporary signs in the downtown area on July 28 and July 31, finding a total of 62 temporary signs for 42 different businesses; 81% of the signs were A-frame, sandwich board signs. About a third of the signs were located on private property, and the rest were in the public right-of-way. Five signs were found to be obstructing the sidewalk and 15 were locked onto something like a post or a tree.

Signage in Orinda is regulated under Orinda municipal code 17.18, adopted in 2012, for various purposes, including reducing traffic and safety hazards, preventing uncontrolled sign competition, enhancing the appearance and economic value of

the signs, encouraging signs to be well designed and pleasing in appearance and constructed of high quality material.

Gee wanted to know if the city could prohibit signs posted by businesses that are not local. City Attorney Osa Wolff explained that the city could prohibit all off-site advertising, but had decided to allow it for all because of its use for real estate open-houses, lemonade stands, charity drives and so on.

Gee just plain doesn't like the signs, proclaiming that in her 33 years of living in Orinda, she has never gone into a business because of a sandwich board sign. "I don't think they look nice." Council Member Janet Riley agreed, asking why the the city had to have so many ugly signs. She would prefer more elegant signs. Planning Director Drummond Buckley explained that the city could require signs to be made of natural material, but that would have to apply to every sign, including realtors, garage sales, and others.

In the end, the council decided that it wouldn't amend the law, but would

seek out more creative means in the hopes of improving the sign environment. Mayor Inga Miller suggested that staff should work actively with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce to encourage better signs. Council Member Brandyn Iverson thought that a survey of other jurisdictions' treatment of temporary signs was a perfect example of something a summer intern could do, but not something with which the council wanted to burden the planning department.

In conclusion, Miller did ask for code enforcement for signs not in compliance with existing law, such as those chained to trees or other permanent fixtures.

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ONE starts a Miramonte High School Alumni Association

By Sora O'Doherty

Graduates from Miramonte High School in Orinda now have a new community in which to engage with other alumni and to support their alma mater. Emily Allen, executive director of the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) which coordinates fundraising activities for all Orinda schools, announced the new group on Sept. 25.

The Miramonte High School Alumni Association is a new digital community, which provides alumni and community members regular updates about school news and events, and includes a useful alumni directory. The site also features a blog and monthly email updates that will include news and information on a variety of subjects of interest to alumni of Orinda schools.

Allen said, "We are thrilled to announce this brand new digital community for our alumni, friends, and supporters to get more

plugged in to what's happening in our community," adding, "Through this brand new alumni association, we look forward to highlighting the achievements of alumni and welcoming alumni of all ages back to Orinda, whether it's as a supporter, volunteer, employer, or former staff."

The alumni community, powered by ONE, is available to any supporters, alumni, parents, staff, and friends of the district. The online directory is also available for all alumni to submit their own information and connect with other alumni.

The community will also help people find information about class reunions, and will be an avenue through which alumni, supporters and friends can receive news about district events, opportunities and initiatives.

The Miramonte High School Alumni Association can be found at <https://www.matsnation.org/>.

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Letters to the editor

Bring back our green hills

I love the green hills of Lafayette. We have lived here over 38 years and we never tire of the beauty of this place. The hills and trees are part of our City's logo. We even have a hillside ordinance to protect this wonderful landscape.

That is why I am in favor of taking down the crosses in front of the BART station. They served a purpose for a time. But they now look more like an eyesore. Let's bring back one of the more prominent hills of our city to be part of the natural landscape that is our town.
Bob Russell
Lafayette

For Lafayette's Housing Plan, there is a better way!

On Monday October 23rd, Lafayette City Council will consider plans for multiple tall buildings (over 6 stories) downtown to satisfy the State's "Regional Housing Needs Allocation" RHNA. Our bi-partisan group of Lafayette Citizens believes there are better ways. Please support these alternatives that will

meet state requirements while keeping Lafayette's charming, small-town ambiance.

PLAN A - Focus on the Downtown Core

Put added housing where it is most accessible to Lafayette's shopping district, transit hub, and other amenities. This option avoids up-zoning in residential neighborhoods and the downtown district, except for the area along Highway 24 between First Street (Whole Foods) and Risa Road (Lafayette Veterans Center).

Plan A uses actual yields from approved 2020-2023 Lafayette multi-family residential projects (which yield 120% of the zoned maximum housing units) to forecast housing production in the next 8-year cycle, versus the state's arbitrary, older, low-yield projects. The state housing authority (HCD) claims we cannot consider any project that uses legally available density bonuses (950 Hough Street recently approved with 20 units at 0.43 acres is 133% of the allowable density). Plan A also embraces state efforts to up-zone places of worship for

those near downtown and Mount Diablo Boulevard. PLAN B - Expanded Living on the West End

If the State forces Lafayette to use an 88% yield rate, the City can still preserve Mount Diablo Boulevard and the greater Downtown Zones by utilizing the 62-acre DeSilva South property (across from Oakwood) that the owner has expressed interest in developing. Amenities include proximity to Lafayette Reservoir, Oakwood, and easy freeway access, which is important amid wildfire concerns. Bart and shopping would be an easy walk. Zoning 35 units/acre on 15.7 acres of DeSilva South would allow an option for playfields and 40% wooded hillside open space. Also, this would include FBO housing as for Plan A.

Plans A and B are better solutions. Ask the City Council to preserve downtown at city-hall@lovelafayette.org Use this link to find links to an informational Housing Town Hall Saturday 10/14/23 at 4PM: <https://bit.ly/LafayetteHousing>
Robert Lavoie
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence — we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be a maximum of 350 words long and must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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Orinda Police Department:

22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820

Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan

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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Sept 3 - Sept. 16

Alarms	40
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	21
Traffic	92
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	26
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	22
Patrol Req./Security Check	32
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	25
Vacation House Check	33
Welfare Check	29
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Auto Burglary	1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	600 Block Los Palos Dr.
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.
Reckless Driving	Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
	Reliez Valley Rd./Shangri La Rd.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Av
	St Marys Rd./Woodview Dr.
	1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
	Moraga Rd./School St., Mor
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
	Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	1000 Block Blackwood Ln.
Tc - Property Damage	3300 Block Woodview Dr.
	2Nd St/Golden Gate Way
	Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft

	800 Block Birdhaven Ct.
	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	1000 Block Carol Ln.

Other criminal activity

Fraud Credit Card	1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.
Fraud False Pretenses	3200 Block Lucas Cir.
	Police Department
	600 Block St Marys Rd.

Identity Theft

	1000 Block Carol Ln.
	Police Department
	1000 Block Los Arabis Ln.
	3400 Block Sky Ln.
	Police Department

Panhandling

	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
--	---------------------------------

Petty Theft

	1000 Block 2Nd St.
	Petty Theft From Veh
	Withers Av/Del Mar Dr.

Residential Burglary

	800 Block Las Trampas Rd.
	3500 Block Brook St.
	3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Shoplift

	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (11)
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	900 Block Anita Ct.
Disturbing The Peace	3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Drunk In Public

	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Police Department

Loud Music

	1400 Block Rancho View Dr.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.
	Santa Maria Way/Santa Maria Ct.
	3300 Block Orchard Valley Ln.

Loud Noise

	50 Block Lafayette Cir.
--	-------------------------

Public Nuisance

	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Village Center/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Moraga Blvd./4Th St.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
	900 Block East St.

Vandalism

	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	10 Block Hawks Hill Ct. (2)
	900 Block Moraga Rd.

Other

Arson	3500 Block Terrace Way
Arson - Dumpster	3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Indecent Exposure	Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass

	4000 Block Marianne Dr.
	3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	900 Block Moraga Rd.

Trespass W/ Vehicle

	1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
--	-------------------------

Unwanted Guest

	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Bl A
	1000 Block Willow Dr.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Sept. 12 - Sept. 18

Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	61
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Public/School Assembly Check	8
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	6
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Police Department	
Dui Misd	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
	Canyon Club Brewery
Excessive Speed	St Marys College (3)
	Moraga Way/School St. (3)
	Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
	Ifo 7/11
	St Marys Rd./Cattle Chute Rd. ,Laf
	Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
	Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr.
	Campolindo High School
	Moraga Rd./Moraga Way (2)
	Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
	Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)

Reckless Driving

	Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.,Mor
	Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.

Tamper With Vehicle

	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
--	----------------------

Tc - Property Damage

	Rheem Blvd./Center St.
--	------------------------

Vehicle Theft

	Tharp Dr./Rimer Dr.
--	---------------------

Other criminal activity

Fraud Credit Card	100 Block Hodges Dr.
-------------------	----------------------

Fraud False Pretenses

	100 Block Fernwood Dr.
Grand Theft	400 Block Center St.
Identity Theft	200 Block Paseo Bernal
	Police Department

Shoplift

	Tjmaxx
--	--------

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	Rancho Laguna Park
Loud Party	1500 Block St Marys Rd.
	100 Block Ascot Ct.

Vandalism

	900 Block Camino Ricardo
--	--------------------------

Other

Corporal Injury Spouse	Not Available
Death Suicide	30 Block Sullivan Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Possession Of Stolen Prop	Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
	Moraga Rd./Tanglewood Dr. ,Laf

Trespass

	Moraga Swim And Tennis Club
	Not Available

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Sept. 17 - Sept. 30

Alarms	34
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	70
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	47
Patrol Req./Security Check	9
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	4

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury	60 Block Loma Vista Dr.
Accident Property	Orinda Way/Cam Sobrante
	Camino Pablo
Reckless Driving	Camino Pablo
	Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.
	Moraga Way/El Camino Moraga

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary	Moraga Way
Petty Theft	20 Block Barbara Rd.
	Camino Sobrante
Petty Theft From Building	Irwin Way
Petty Theft From Veh	20 Block Los Dedos Rd.

Warrant Advise

	Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
--	------------------------------

Warrant Arrest

	El Nido/El Castillo
	Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
----------------------	---------------------------

Loud Music

	Camino Don Miguel/Los Arboles
--	-------------------------------

Loud Party

	Knickerbocker Ln./Stein Way
	Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd.
	10 Block Abbott Ct.

Public Nuisance

	10 Block Theatre Sq 106
--	-------------------------

Vandalism

	10 Block Charles Hill Cir.
	20 Block Daryl Dr.
	600 Block Moraga Way

Other

Trespass	10 Block Theatre Sq 106
	500 Block Orindawoods Dr.

Orinda's Crane Terrace Winery joins bonded ranks of AVA

By Vera Kochan



Photos Vera Kochan

Crane Terrace vines planted on the cave exterior

Nestled on a private estate in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, Crane Terrace Winery, a 2-year Lamorinda Wine Growers Association member, had once produced their wines exclusively for personal enjoyment or sharing with friends. Having gone through the rigors of becoming bonded this past July, the winery is now entitled to sell to the public.

Crane Terrace's General Manager Leanne Pilot was more than knowledgeable about every aspect of the business and its history since starting with the winery in 2016 as a property manager. Coming from Chicago and working in the IT industry, Pilot's move to California exposed her to a lot of great wines, and a new passion was born.

Initially, the winery's approximately 4,500 grape vines were planted in 2004, along hillsides that could easily resemble Italy's Tuscany region. This extensive number of vines makes Crane Terrace the largest winery in the Lamorinda American Viticultural Area (AVA). The entire property encompasses 8 acres, but only 3-4 acres are devoted to the vines which grow along steep slopes producing Syrah, Grenache, Chardonnay, and Roussanne. Crane Terrace's first vintage was bottled in 2006, and in 2010 a lengthy cave was dug through one of the hillsides and now serves as a cool storage area furnished with chandeliers, soft lights, a polished banquet-style table and chairs for either tast-

ings or meetings.

"The wines kept getting better and better," said Pilot. "We needed to go beyond just making wine for friends and family."

Crane Terrace's 2017 Chardonnay back label states, "Grown in the East Bay hills on our family's private estate vineyard, our Chardonnay grapes are biodynamically farmed and tended by hand using 'old world' care and techniques that produce low yielding high quality fruit. This wine was produced in temperature controlled stainless steel and aged in the finest French cooperage producing a wine that's rich in character."

"We are completely hand-farmed and don't use any pesticides or toxins," explained Pilot, adding that they use a vineyard management company that comes to prune the vines and do the picking at harvest-time.

Crane Terrace bottles, on average, 50 cases of Grenache, 50 cases of Chardonnay and 300 cases of Syrah. "We've blended the Roussanne with the Grenache in the past, or our winemaker will use it for some other purpose of his own," Pilot explained.

The winemaker's tasting notes for their 2021 Chardonnay are: "Nose - Very 'Chablis-like' with notes of citrus and hints of vanilla. On the palate, this wine is structured with solid acid, lemon, mineral, and green apple." The recommended pairing is to serve it with seafood.

With their 2021 Grenache:

"Nose - Restrained notes of strawberry, flint, and cedar. On the palate this wine is suitably structured with solid acidity, meaty with notes of strawberry, and violets, and of light body." The recommended pairing is savory, grilled meats with smoky barbecue sauces and grilled vegetables such as zucchini or eggplant.

The 2021 Syrah: "Nose - filled with leather, tobacco, and hints of olallieberry. On the palate, you'll find notes of raspberry, blackberry, black pepper, with structured acidity and medium to light body for a Syrah." Suggested pairing with duck, grilled chicken and an assortment of hard artisanal cheeses.

Crane Terraces poured at Moraga's 2022 Pear and Wine Festival and more recently at last month's Lafayette Art and Wine Festival.

Pilot is on the cusp of completing a new website. In the meantime, anyone wishing to contact the winery can email Pilot at Leannepilot@craneterracewinery. Local deliveries will be available.



Inside Crane Terrace Winery cave



Vines planted along the hillside at Crane Terrace Winery

Lafayette Housing Element

... continued from Page A3

Mayor Carl Anduri said the process is "inherently difficult" and the changes made represented everyone doing their best within an admittedly frustrating situation. "Yes, there have been changes. Yes, it's frustrating," he said, while expressing appreciation for the staff's hard work and efforts to maintain transparency.

The council asked City Attorney Mala Subramanian to clarify the 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. lease details and how any residential development could happen within the housing element's eight-year term. She said the parking lot was determined as the only possibility for development, not the entire building, which reduced the total acreage available but was more realistic due to constraints of the lease agreement for the building. Subramanian also answered a question about up-zoning properties and if such a choice could be reversed at a later date. The city attorney

said SB 330 made that not a viable option because any property later "downzoned" would require an offset and another property of equal size to be upzoned for residential development.

The council agreed unanimously on a number of items: to allow staff to share the appendices with an HCD reviewer for an informal review, to remain with the ADUs as part of the package, and to hold the realistic capacity at 88%. Specific to the opportunity site list, members supported the Desco properties as amended and centered the final discussion on Revised Workbook C, which included the FBOs.

Kwok and others emphasized the community aspect of FBOs and said people in Lafayette were interested in working cooperatively to provide affordable housing that meets HCD requirements. The item was continued with unanimous support to Oct. 10, which happened after press time.

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Lafayette Seeks Applicants

For Seat on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCTA)
The Contra Costa Transportation Authority maintains a standing Citizens Advisory Committee to provide citizen perspective, participation, and involvement in the CCTA's policies. The Authority manages the County's transportation sales tax program and county-wide transportation planning. The CAC meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in Walnut Creek. To learn more about the CCTA visit the Authority's website: <https://ccta.net/about-us/>

For Seat on the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging

Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them on all matters associated with the planning, development and administration of programs relating to older adults in accordance with the Older Americans Act. The Advisory Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 9:30am to 11:30am in Pleasant Hill. To learn more about ACOA: <https://ehsd.org/elderly-disabled/advisory-council-on-aging/>

For Seat on the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District

The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is a public health agency dedicated to protecting the community from mosquitoes and other vectors of disease. The District is governed by a Board of Trustees, each representing one of the incorporated cities in Contra Costa County and appointed by their respective city councils. The District meets on the second Monday of every other month at 7pm in Concord. To learn more about the District visit their webpage: www.contracostamosquito.com/

POSITIONS OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Lafayette volunteer application: www.lovelafayette.org/volunteerapplication
Submit the completed application to Cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Applicants should be aware that upon appointment, an additional application and financial disclosure documents may be required.

Multiple agencies involved in Lamorinda virtual evacuation drill



Photo Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page A1

Members of Lamorinda CERT and the LARIG sent messages to their members, asking them to radio in and also to respond, had this been an actual emergency, if they would have been available to assist their neighbors to evacuate. CERT sent text messages to 618 trained CERT members. Over 97% of the messages were delivered, and 37.5% of the recipients replied. Over 100 CERT members reported that they would be available to assist. CERT also conducted a General Mobile Radio System (GMRS) net. This net received 44 incoming calls from seven zones in Moraga, 10 in Orinda and three in Lafayette. Twenty-two HAM radio operators checked in with LARIG between 8:25 and 9:18 a.m.

The Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Downs, and Monte Vista neighborhoods organized a functional evacuation

exercise, where about 25 neighbors "evacuated" to the Orinda Safeway where they shared coffee and donuts.

The scenario was a wild-land fire originating at the reservoir, pushed by heavy fuels, hot, dry winds, and low humidity. The imaginary fire in the drill escapes the initial attack, triggering evacuation actions in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.

At the end of the drill, a survey was sent to participants. Although the initial link sent was not operational, after discussion with CWS staff the issue was identified and a new link was posted. The updated link received 564 responses from exercise participants. About 37% of respondents live in Lafayette, 33% in Orinda, and 29% in Moraga. About 28% of respondents reported that they are members of one of Lamorinda's FireWise Communities, while just over 30% do not, and over 41% of respon-

dents did not know if they live in a FireWise Community.

Three quarters of respondents do not have school age children in the household, with the remaining quarter reporting the presence of between one and four children at home, and 68.4% of respondents had not logged on to their CWS Alert account to verify their information within the past 90 days, while small numbers had either logged in within a shorter time or never. Of those who did log on, only 49.5% reported that they were able to locate their evacuation zone, while over 50% said that they could not. And although more than 50% reported that they had not packed "go bags" for each family member and pet, the overwhelming majority reported that during an actual emergency they would be willing and able to check on their neighbors before leaving.

Recycle Smart updates Orinda City Council on recent service issues

... continued from Page A6

Kreuger said that one of the benefits that has improved owing to a renegotiated contract with Republic Services is if bins are collected two days late, consumers can receive a credit for the week by calling Republic Services, whose telephone number is located on the bins.

Tony Mancini, general manager of Republic Services, also addressed the council. He admitted that since 2019 there has been an issue of not being able to consistently collect on the days specified for each neighborhood. "We work as hard as we can to solve the problem," Kreuger noted. He explained that there have been some long-term retractable problems that have contributed to the problem. It can take up to two years to get new garbage trucks and it is also difficult to get qualified technicians to work on the trucks, which are complicated vehicles. Their new plan is to obtain less qualified technicians and train them. Although it is an ongoing process, four people have been promoted in the past year.

Smaller vehicles more capable of dealing with Orinda's narrow, twisting, wooded roads are also more challeng-

ing. Although three of these vehicles were ordered in July, Mancini noted that, owing to supply chain issues, they will not arrive until the first quarter of 2024.

Further, Mancini stated that Republic Service's plan includes getting new drivers acclimated and trained. "We've got five new drivers," he noted, "but we need five more." He added that they have brought in managers from our area and other areas, and are working with health care providers to get drivers back at work. During times when the company has been having difficulty with meeting the collection deadlines, Mancini said that they have brought in emergency drivers from other states.

City Council Member Brandyn Iverson complimented the drivers who serve Orinda as really masterfully skilled, talented folks. But Council Member Janet Riley said that the problem of late pickups is not new, but has taken a downturn in recent years. She expressed fears that when bins are left out overnight it may cause difficulty for emergency vehicles in the event that they need to access the street. Sandy Gross, speaking in public comments, also complained that the bins present a fire hazard.

Council Member Latika Malkani had questions about what to put in each bin. For example, she wondered why we can't put compostable cups and cutlery in our green bins. Kreuger said that it comes down to "truth in advertising." While some items are theoretically compostable, not all facilities can handle them. On the other hand, he added that some compost facilities accept the fact that there will be microplastic in the compost, but Recycle Smart decided that that is not a good thing.

In response to a question from this reporter, Kimberly Lam, Municipal Manager with Republic Services, said that the Big Belly Receptacles have been very effective in helping people dispose of their items properly. The bins have pictures showing which items go in which container, and the extra step of having to open the containers, rather than just tossing an item into an open bin, seems to give people a little more time to make the best choice.

To report a missed pickup or other service issue, contact Republic Services at (925) 685-4711. If not satisfied, call RecycleSmart at (925) 906-1801 or email authority@recyclesmart.org.

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Apply for a Waste Reduction Grant for your community!

Contra Costa Recycles

Republic Services will award a community waste reduction project within the RecycleSmart service area with a **\$3,000 grant**. Projects must be related to recycling, composting or other waste-reduction initiatives. These can be new projects or existing projects that need some help expanding.

Applications are now open!
Please complete the online application form by October 25, 2023.
www.ContraCostaRecycles.com

The winner will be selected based on public voting by Central Contra Costa residents, on ContraCostaRecycles.com from Nov. 1-30, in conjunction with our Recycling Pledge.

(Project must be located in Republic Services' RecycleSmart service area: Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and Walnut Creek)

Recycle Smart
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

REPUBLIC SERVICES

Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a **Lafayette City Reporter:**

Required Qualifications:
Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required. Understanding of AP Style is a plus

Compensation is made on a per article basis.
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Please send your resume and writing sample to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977

LAMORINDA WEEKLY
Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

10th Annual Art of Mixology: sip and taste at Theatre Square



Getting a sample at last years event

Photo Jeff Heyman

The Art of Mixology – the Lamorinda Arts Council’s biggest fundraiser of the year – will return to Theatre Square on

Saturday, Oct. 14. Tickets, available in advance and at the door if any remain, will entitle visitors to sample small bites

prepared by local restaurants and the craft cocktails that will be concocted by the more than 15 bartenders vying for cash

prices and trophies. Ticket holders will also receive a souvenir shot glass.

The event includes both professional and amateur bartenders creating craft cocktails as the audience and judges sample and vote for their favorites. The event will run from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and the prizes will be awarded live at the conclusion of the event.

Tickets are \$75 with limited tickets available for purchase at the door. Patron level tickets will also be offered at \$125, which includes a \$50 tax

deductible donation to the Lamorinda Arts Council.

Participating bartenders could win one or more of the following awards: Mixologist of the Year, first place, trophy and \$500; second place, certificate and \$300; third place, certificate and \$150. In addition, there will be an audience award, bringing a trophy and \$200, an amateur home-crafted cocktail award, that comes with a trophy and \$100 and an art of table staging trophy.

—S. O’Doherty

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‘In the Heart of the Machine,’ a Bulgarian thriller in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

August 1978, in a steel factory in communist Bulgaria, inmates from a high security prison go about a difficult but typical work day when they discover a bird stuck in a piece of machinery. From this strange situation, the dynamic of the group begins to spiral more and more dangerously, especially for the prisoners.

“In the Heart of the Machine” (V sŭrtseto na mashinata) by Martin Makariev is a very well-told story of men placed in an impossible situation, where nothing is black or white, but who nonetheless embark on an almost sacred quest for redemption.

Practically the whole movie develops in real time. Little by little, the reality surfaces about who these men really are: the prisoners, their crimes, real or not; the wardens more or less decent; and the military that represent the Bulgarian order of the time in all its brutality.

There is a hostage situation, there are really bad people on both sides of the equation, and really decent ones too. The atmosphere is dark, the colors in grey shades, and it is clear from the start that

this cannot end well.

The opposition between the prison administration and the military force sent to end the crisis at any cost, illuminates the political atmosphere of the time. The story of the bird, that the prisoners want so desperately to free, is hardly believable but symbolically perfect. It is their ticket to salvation; saving the bird is like saving their soul.

The actors on both sides give very convincing performances, and make this parable about what it is that makes us human convincing and very touching.

“In the Heart of the Machine” opens in Orinda on Oct. 20 for at least one week. It is brought to Orinda by the nonprofit The International Film Showcase. Tickets at www.orindamovies.com

The California Independent Film Festival will be held Nov. 9 -16 at the Orinda Theatre. The festival will feature about 29 films from 14 countries and at least nine directors will offer Q&A sessions following the screening of their films. For more information and tickets go to caiff.org or visit The Orinda Theatre Box Office.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS:

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE OF AGING & ELDERCARE

Saturday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Learn how to prepare for your older years or to be a family caregiver, gain legal awareness, learn about entitlements/benefits, and get support and answers to your questions and concerns.

This is a free event for our community. All are welcome, but space is limited and registration is required at lopc.org/registrations.



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A no-mayo version of Mexican Street Corn

By Susie Iventosch



Mexican Street Corn sans Mayonnaise

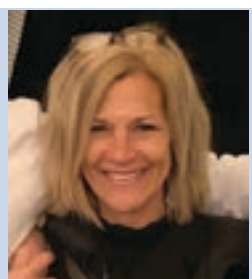
Photos Susie Iventosch

We really love corn and everything about street corn is so delicious, except a few people in my family won't touch mayonnaise. So, I've come up with a version that avoids mayo and we think it tastes even better this way. We used grilled corn to start with, and then combine it with onions, peppers, cilantro, lime juice, spices and cheese to get a

burst of flavor. It's also easy to eat, since the corn is already cut off the cob.

You can use any kind of cheese you like, but the cheese is what gives it that creamy texture to replace the mayonnaise. We use mixed Mexican cheese in addition to feta or cotija cheese. We like the tangy flavor of the feta, so we stick to that instead of cotija,

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>



which is a milder cheese.

The nice thing about this recipe is that you can grill the corn several days ahead of time, and store it either on or

off the cob until you're ready to make the street corn. I love that, because it saves so much time when you go to make your street corn. You can also

make the whole dish ahead of time and refrigerate it in an air-tight container until you're ready to heat and serve it.

Mexican Street Corn

(Serves 6-8)

INGREDIENTS

8 ears corn, husks and silk removed
2 tbsp. canola oil (for brushing corn)
2-3 tsp. Cajun or Diavola spice (I have a proprietary Diavola spice if you are interested!)
3 tbsp. olive oil
1 large yellow onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 jalapeño, finely diced
1-2 tsp. Cajun spice or Diavola
2 limes (zest and juice)
1/2 cup grated mixed Mexican cheese
1/2 cup feta cheese
1/2 cup cilantro leaves, coarsely chopped (or whole)
Sea salt and pepper to taste
Garnishes: cherry tomatoes, cilantro sprigs, extra feta, diced peppers.

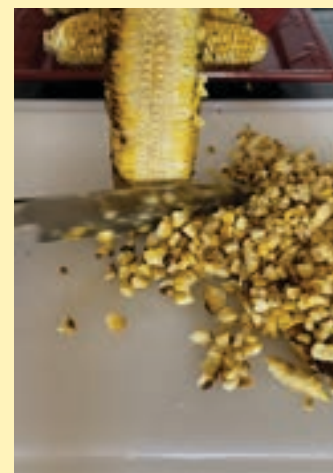
DIRECTIONS

Spray a 9x13 casserole dish with cooking spray. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350 F.

Preheat the grill to medium. Brush the ears of corn with canola oil and lightly dust on all sides with Cajun or Diavola spice. Place on upper rack of the barbecue and grill for about 10-12 minutes, turning every 3-4 minutes, until the corn is cooked and nicely browned. Remove from grill until cool enough to handle. Cut the corn off the cob and set aside.

Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large skillet. Cook onions until translucent and beginning to brown. Add garlic, jalapeño and Cajun spice. Continue to cook until pepper softens. Add grilled corn, lime zest, lime juice, both cheeses and cilantro. Toss well and season with salt and pepper. (You can also prepare the street corn to this point and refrigerate in an air-tight container until ready to heat and serve.)

Turn mixture out into the prepared baking dish. Bake for about 25 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and street corn is heated through. Garnish with cherry tomatoes, extra feta, freshly diced peppers and cilantro sprigs.



Family Focus

Child-centered families

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

There are several theories on why many present-day families are very child-centered. There are positive reasons of course: parental love, compassion and willingness to sacrifice; efforts to compensate for unmet needs in one's own childhood; societal emphasis on the importance of the family; and a tendency to identify closely with our children so that their joy is our joy.

One of the not-so-positive outcomes may be raising children who become entitled and self-centered. Many parents have devoted themselves to their children only to have them become adults who are much more preoccupied with their lives than giving thought to their parents or to others. Some parents express surprise, since they thought that by giving to their children there would be more reciprocation along the way.

Another potentially negative consequence of highly child-centered families is that the parents often don't receive enough respect from their children as they are growing up. Some older children have expressed the view that their parents' job is to serve their needs. And parents sometimes enable this lack of respect by not setting limits with their children; and if they do, not implementing them consistently. For example, many par-

ents report how they limit time on screens and tend to have to remind, nag, or cajole until their child finally complies with the set time limit. By then, inevitably, there is frustration, anger, and resentment in the air. Another hot issue is struggling over older children consistently doing chores around the house.

One couple I worked with, Katy and Joel, were low-key non-confrontational people. They had three children ages 5 to 11. Both worked at outside jobs full-time and spent most of their non-working time with their family. They wanted parenting help to figure out better ways to handle the chaotic situation with their kids. It seemed that their two sons and daughter constantly argued with each other and vied for attention from Katy and Joel. In addition, the children were generally uncooperative at home, arguing often with their parents, "forgetting" to do their assigned chores and prolonging bedtime for up to an hour later most nights.

The stress of dealing with challenging children and a somewhat out-of-control household led to this couple being increasingly more upset. Katy and Joel were each unhappy with the way things were and took out their frustrations on each other.

Their children witnessed

Katy and Joel constantly trying to cater to them. There were very few consequences for misbehavior; instead, their parents tended to try to explain and reason with them to convince them to behave. As a result, the children seemed to feel much more in control than either of their parents did.

Even though it wasn't in their natures to be "take-charge parents," over time Katy and Joel learned to establish rules and most importantly, implement them consistently. They made a chores chart with positive incentives and also with consequences for failure to perform. The outcome was their children started having healthy competitions with each other over who would get the most rewards.

Katy and Joel practiced not letting their children interrupt them when they were talking to each other, and to say "excuse me" and wait. They scheduled date nights with each other more often in order to have more breaks from parenting and also to strengthen their relationship.

Other important changes they made with their children included setting limits on screens, working to eliminate disrespectful talk, and eventually letting their children "have a seat at the table" to have a limited choice on consequences for non-compliance. It became

clear to their children that their parents were taking charge and following up on rules and expectations with consequences.

Katy and Joel saw how effective these strategies and others gradually became, and the eventual result was a much calmer atmosphere in the home and more cooperation and respect from their children.

Dear readers: This will be my last column for the Lamorinda Weekly Newspaper as I would like to make more time for personal pursuits as well as my therapy practice. I started writing the Family Focus column 16 years ago, and I've compiled many of these columns into a book: Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families (Amazon.com 2021). I hope it can be a resource for those of you who have enjoyed my columns.

We're fortunate to live in a community that values children – protecting them, educating them, encouraging them, and caring for them in all the important ways. Everyone contributes to this: parents, grandparents, teachers, school counselors and administrators, coaches, child care workers, and neighbors. And notably, I see parents and grandparents constantly reaching out to gather information and re-

sources to help their families in every possible way. It is this caring and open-minded spirit that helps our children flourish and ultimately feel thankful to have grown up in this community.

Thank you to everyone who has read my musings, and also to those who have provided valuable feedback. And a special thank-you to the wonderful editor of Lamorinda Weekly, Jennifer Wake, and to Wendy and Andy Scheck, the publishers, who have always been very encouraging and supportive.



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.

Local photographer's and artist's work to hang at de Young



Jeff Heyman

Photo provided

"Oak Scars No. 3, Orinda, California, 2023," a series of photographs of oak trees by East Bay photographer Jeff Heyman, was selected to hang in The de Young Open 2023, an exhibit showcasing Bay Area artists at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. The exhibit runs through Jan. 7, 2024. The de Young also selected Lafayette resident Ellen Reintjes' painting "Name that Tune: H_ on the R_" to hang in the exhibit.

Heyman's series of black and white photographs – presented together in a single 20-inch by 20-inch print – consists of nine closeup images of the "scars" on oak trees after their limbs have been removed. Each photograph captures the many unique scars left on these old growth oak trees

from decades of serial delimiting.

"A tree endures many scars during its lifetime and I have documented a number of the sometimes strange markings on oak trees in Orinda where I live," said Heyman. "These oak scars, in many ways, mirror the scars we acquire over the course of our own lives," he added.

Heyman first took photography classes at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif., during which time he learned Ansel Adams's Zone System and met noted photographers, including Ruth Bernhard. He went on to earn a degree from San Francisco State University in Fine Art Photography, studying under photographer Catherine Wagner, Melanie Walker, Jack Welpott

and Don Worth, as well as painters Paul Pratchenko and Robert Bechtle.

This is Heyman's first piece to hang at the de Young Museum, a place he visited frequently with his parents while growing up in San Francisco. He has had his work exhibited in a number of solo and group shows. Heyman's photographs are regularly featured in the Lamorinda Weekly and other publications. You can see his work, including "Oak Scars No. 3," at <https://heymanfoto.smugmug.com>. More information about The de Young Open 2023, including exhibit hours, can be found at www.famsf.org/exhibitions/de-young-open-2023.

– Submitted by Jeff Heyman

Sweet Thursday Author Series features book about dementia

Submitted by Laurie Miles

Sandeep Jauhar author of “My Father’s Brain” will be the featured author on Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. on a Zoom webinar as part of the Sweet Thursday Author Series. Listen to the discussion of his relationship with his father as he succumbs to dementia.

Jauhar sets his father’s decent into Alzheimer’s alongside his own journey toward understanding his father’s disease. He blends humor, compassion, and family drama with expert science writing into an introduction to what

has been called the Age of Alzheimer’s. A deeply affecting story of the descent into dementia and a revelatory inquiry into why the human brain degenerates with age and what we can do about it. The result is a work of essential insight into dementia, and into how scientists, caregivers, and all of us in an aging society are reckoning with the fallout.

Almost 6 million Americans – about one in every 10 people over the age of 65 – have Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia, and this number is

projected to more than double by 2050. What is it like to live with and amid this increasingly prevalent condition, an affliction that some fear more than death? In “My Father’s Brain,” the distinguished physician and author sets his father’s struggle with Alzheimer’s beside coping with it, if not curing it.

“My Father’s Brain” is Jauhar’s most recent book. His first book, “Intern: A Doctor’s Initiation,” was an international bestseller and was optioned by NBC for a dramatic series. His sec-

ond book, “Doctored: The Disillusionment of an America Physician,” was a NYT bestseller and was named a NY Post Best Book of 2014. A practicing physician, Jauhar writes regularly for the opinion section of The New York Times.

This program is free, but registration is required at tinyurl.com/sweet-19oct23. The Sweet Thursday author talks are presented by The Friends of the Lafayette Library.

UC application system discussion co-sponsored by Moraga Rotary and AUHSD

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo provided

UC System admissions officer Janelle Cardenas speaks to local parents and students about the university application and admissions process.

Janelle Cardenas of the UC system recently spoke to about 125 parents and students about the University of California system application and acceptance program at the Holy Trinity Hall in Moraga, and stayed to answer many questions. She is the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UC Davis, responsible for Bay Area recruitment. Her talk provided perspective on the University of California single application system, with information about their comprehensive review process, the timing of applications, and financial aid possibilities.

The presentation was arranged by Moraga Rotary, which last year arranged a similar program from an Associate Admissions Director from Vanderbilt University, via Zoom. Both well-attended programs were co-sponsored by the Acalanes Union High School District and the Moraga School District. Based on feedback from attendees, Moraga Rotary anticipates arranging a similar program next year.

Moraga Rotary Club is a 56-year-old club performing community service in Moraga and beyond. They meet most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org

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

Moraga Fun Run and Carnival for charity a success

Submitted by Wyatt Johnson



Photo provided

The Lamorinda community showed their support for the Kapnek Trust USA by coming out in record numbers on Sunday, Aug. 27 to the annual Fun Run and Carnival held at Moraga Commons. The morning event was in celebration and support of the Trust’s efforts to end pediatric HIV in Zimbabwe. Every year the Trust holds a 5K run along with shorter runs for children and walkers/stroller-pushers to raise money in support of this worthy cause.

Members of the local National Charity League, local Boys Team Charity, staff from Lamorinda Pediatrics and members of local Boy Scout Troop 237 all pitched in to make the day a grand success.

Through partnership with J.F. Kapnek Zimbabwe and various governmental organizations, Kapnek Trust USA has developed and implemented initiatives that continue to prevent thousands of cases of HIV AIDS in newborns every year. It has created preschool programs now serving over 15,000 children at over 150 preschool sites, and has brought services to families with disabled children.

Visit kapnektrustusa.org to learn more about their mission and how you can support these efforts year round.

Lafayette Juniors honor former member

Submitted by Kendal Hurley Redd



Photo provided

Katie Morgan joined the Lafayette Juniors in 2012 and was an incredibly active and passionate board member until her retirement in 2020. Morgan passed away surrounded by family and friends on Aug. 12, 2022. She held numerous board positions throughout her tenure in Juniors, including running the Kitchen Tour, leading Community Service efforts, and serving as president as well as a two-year stint as parliamentarian. Members who worked alongside her all benefited from her quick wit and dry humor, her incredible intelligence, but mostly her generous capacity for kindness and love toward the underserved. Morgan was fiercely dedicated to serving those in need in her community.

The Lafayette Juniors have created a Katie Morgan Service Award which will be given yearly to an outstanding member who emulates the same commitment and dedication to serving those in need as Morgan did in her time with the Juniors.

Additionally, a bench in her honor has been erected across from the Toyon Room at the Lafayette Community Center, a spot where she spent many hours and made countless memories.

To help raise funds for melanoma research, her family has started Katie’s Memorial Giving Campaign, which can be viewed at the link: www.justgiving.com/campaign/katiemorgan?invite=true

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include “Celebrations or Remembrances” in the subject line.

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

Art

The Orinda Library Gallery presents “Glover Group and Friends,” Oct. 1 through Nov. 3. Seventeen local plein air artists will display paintings done on location in the Bay Area and beyond. Gallery Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sundays.

Art show at Orinda Books. October features the paintings of Kath Balamuth, Jules Campbell, and Pam Jameson. Kath Balamuth, an Orinda resident, likes to create a story with a series of paintings, and her exhibit is all about books. Jules Campbell, a Lafayette resident, collages layer upon layer of paper and string creating map-like compositions, much like neighborhoods accumulate patina. Pam Jame-

son, a resident of Pleasant Hill, paints landscapes and urban views – finding quiet beauty in the everyday locations around her. Visit the Artist of the Month for a preview at <https://www.orindabooks.com>. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

The Moraga Art Gallery, located at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center, announces the opening of its 2023 “holiday” exhibit “Now and Then,” a striking array of artwork by more than two dozen member and guest artists, and featuring paintings by two of the gallery’s favorites: Susan Erickson and Margaret Lucas-Hill. The exhibit runs from Wednesday, Oct. 25 until Dec. 31. Free gala reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. By Dec. 1, the gallery will be bursting

with an array of original gifts of art and will be open daily from noon to 5 p.m. Take note that on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 6-8 p.m., the gallery has invited the public to “Shopping Night and Craft Beer,” a festive mid-week beer-tasting event with appropriate foodstuffs and holiday entertainment. www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925)376-5407.

Art that rocks and rolls at Valley Art Gallery. Among the hills. Over bridges. Along beaches and beside bays. Up mountains and down towns. Until Nov. 11. Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. (925) 935-4311, Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Music

Berkeley Chamber Performances presents Alexander

String Quartet at Lafayette on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Berkeley Chamber Performances proudly presents the Alexander String Quartet in Lafayette with quartets by Haydn, Ravel, and Schoenberg. Cost: \$0 to \$45. For more info see <https://www.berkeleychamberperform.org> or call (415) 531-1480 or email rcarlin16@gmail.com.

Dia de los Muertos Concert and Celebration. On Sunday, Oct. 29, you are invited to embrace the wisdom and spirit of Dia de los Muertos as we honor the tradition of connecting to the ancestors that have gone before us. A night filled with the music of Bay Area favorites, Cascada de Flores, taco truck, candlelight, sangria, pan de muerto, and

projects for kids. A wonderful way to add some depth to the Halloween season. Creekside Commons Main Hall 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets available online or at the door. www.creeksidecommons.org/upcomingevents

New Century Chamber Orchestra presents Visitations on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Journey into the beyond with New Century as they offer music for communing with spirits in a candlelit evening of orchestral and choral works. Cost: \$30 to \$70. For more info see <http://ncco.org> or call (415) 357-1111 or email info@ncco.org.

... continued on next Page

Lamorinda Weekly

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Not to be missed

Theatre

Improv comedy company
Synergy Theater is invading the Leshar Center for the Arts, at 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, with its madcap improvised horror spoof, "Z is for...Zombie: An Improvised Zombie Apocalypse!" Oct. 19 - 29, Thursdays - Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 3:15 p.m. The Leshar Center for the Arts, George & Sonja Vukasin Theatre 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, tickets: \$25 buy online at www.lesherartscenter.org or by phone at (925) 943-7469.

Town Hall Theatre Company
present "A Christmas Story" Adapted by Philip Grecian, story by Jean Shepherd. Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 (Previews), Dec. 2-17th. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$20-45, Pay-What-You-Can tickets will be available at all performances at the door. www.townhalltheatre.com/christmas-story

Sister Theater: Campbell
Theater and PlotLine Theatre Company presents "I hate Hamlet." The delightful play, by Paul Rudnick, brings John Barrymore back to life to help an L.A. soap opera star play Hamlet in the park in New York. Swordfights, romance, a seance and Shakespeare are all a part of making this a memorable night in the theatre. Running through Oct. 15, Tickets are available on www.campbelltheater.com. For more information, call (925) 350-9770.

Literature

The giant fall book sale
sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moraga Library. Books, CDs and DVDs in every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Beginning at 1 p.m., a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it can hold. 100% of the proceeds of this sale support the Moraga Library's children's and adult's programs, books, other materials and library upgrades.

Sandeep Jauhar author of "My Father's Brain" will be the featured author on Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. on a Zoom webinar as part of the Sweet Thursday Author Series. Listen to the discussion of his relationship with his father as he succumbs to dementia. This program is free, but registration is required at tinyurl.com/sweet-19oct23. The Sweet Thursday author talks are presented by The Friends of the Lafayette Library.

Other

Lafayette Res Run for Education. Sunday, Oct. 22. 5K: 8a.m., 10K: 8:15 a.m., 2 mile fun run/walk: 8:45 a.m. Start/Finish Line is on Mt. Diablo Blvd. between Moraga Road and Oak Hill Road. Reservoir Challenge (Virtual Race): October 12-21. Only the 10K goes around the Reservoir. Please note, the Reservoir is closed for all but 10K runners on Race Day, Oct. 22. Healthy Lifestyles Health Fair is held at the same time as the races, Sunday, Oct. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Lafayette Circle (east side.) Includes vendors, kids' activities and more! Learn more and get the link to register at <https://lafayettechamber.org/resrun>.

AAUW's October Shred Day at 5A is back on Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to noon at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga. Rain or Shine. Drive Up to Shred. Local AAUW volunteers unload, dump your papers for the shred truck, and return empty boxes to your car. Pulverized shredding is done at the truck. \$10/file box.

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Orinda Moraga Lafayette

Not to be missed

Branch will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. All are invited to a discussion on "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California?"

"How to Make Change for the Better" - A free public talk. Sunday, Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. "Life doesn't have to feel like it's caving in. We can build on a new basis: life rooted in an all-good God," says lecturer Janet Hegarty, CSB. Join us in person or online. All are welcome! www.ChristianScience-Orinda.org, Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, (925) 254-4212

Learn how to prepare for your older years or to be a family caregiver, gain legal awareness, learn about entitlements/benefits, and get support and answers to your questions and concerns. This is a free event for our community. All are welcome, but space is limited and registration is required at lopc.org/registrations. Saturday, Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Haunted House Moving Outside! For the first time ever, the Lafayette Community Center's Haunted House is venturing beyond its haunted halls to the great outdoors! We proudly present to you the

newly named "Spooky Walk" - a hauntingly thrilling adventure on the Bellenger trail, featuring a quarter-mile stretch of bone-chilling encounters that will leave you trembling with delight! Not Too Scary: For our younger friends and those who prefer a more festive atmosphere, our "Not Too Scary" version offers a delightful, family-friendly experience with just the right amount of spookiness to keep the smiles going! When: Oct. 28 and 29 from 5-6:30 p.m. Very Scary: Are you courageous enough to confront your deepest fears? In our "Very Scary" version, fear lurks around every corner, waiting to send shivers down your spine. It's a pulse-pounding thrill for the bravest souls! When: Oct. 28 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Oct. 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. Pre-registration required, get your tickets now! <https://tinyurl.com/3jwvhj6x>

Dan Hanel, award winning author of the historical mystery series "In The Shadow of Diablo" is Moraga Historical Society's next featured speaker. Hanel combines fact with fiction bringing to life locations such as Brentwood's John Marsh House; the abandoned Byron Hot Springs Resort; Antioch's 19th century Black Diamond Coal Mine; and Contra Costa County's Winehaven - once the world's largest winery. Event held Sunday, Nov. 5, from 1-3 p.m.

Not to be missed

in the Casita @ Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr, Moraga. RSVP: ranchSusan@aol.com by Oct. 27. Reservations only - limited seating. Moraga Historical Society members free, guests \$5.

California Independent Film Festival at Orinda Theatre Nov. 9 -16. The festival will feature about 29 films from 14 countries and at least 9 Directors will offer Q&A sessions following the screening of their films. For more information and tickets go to caiff.org or visit The Orinda Theatre Box Office.

Garden

Moraga Garden Club meeting Oct. 19, 9:30 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The speaker Dawn Koo-jumjin—UCCE Master Gardener Program Coordinator—will discuss "Houseplants: Gateway to Gardening." The club is open to all and welcome new members. www.moragagardenclub.org.

Montelindo Garden Club meets Friday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m., at which speaker land conservation director Seth Adams of Save Mount Diablo returns to discuss accounts of his hands-on experiences preserving land, creating trails, acquiring new land, reintroducing peregrine falcons to the mountain, and a story or two about con-

Not to be missed

dors. He will bring the old devil mountain to life for you. See www.montelindogarden.com/current-year-meetings.html for more information. 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free.

Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting begins on Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m. for social time and nibbles before the short business meeting at 10 a.m. It is held at the Veteran's Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. There will be an update on three philanthropies the club supports and to which the club has contributed. Julie Stagg will discuss the Monarch Butterfly Garden in Moraga, Kathy Bowles and Tracey Farrell provide an update on the Lafayette Park Theater, and Hannah Hodgson will discuss the John Muir Land Trust Family Harvest Farm. It is free to attend and guests are welcome. Please visit www.lafayettegardenclub.com for more information.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
A welcoming and loving
community of faith
that learns, grows, and serves
TOGETHER

Sundays 10:00 a.m. In person & Livestream
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Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/

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

Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

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"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.
Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel
Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
mvpcc
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SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM
OR ONLINE AT MVPCTODAY.ORG

Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
Sunday 10am in person worship
We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
WE WELCOME ALL!
Sundays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette
Zoom Link for 10 a.m. service at www.stanselms.us

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212
Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
All are welcome
www.christianscienceorinda.org

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

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

Continued success for Saint Mary's men's soccer

By Jon Kingdon



Louis Sterobo



Riley Lynch

Photos Tod Fierner

As Adam Cooper approached his 18th season as the Saint Mary's head soccer coach, it was only natural for him look back with great satisfaction at the team's accomplishments. Prior to his arrival, from 1978 until 2005, the soccer team had a winning percentage of 36.1% and in league play finished as high as third twice and fourth four times.

During Cooper's tenure, the team has had a winning percentage of 58% and has finished first three times, second three times, third three times and fourth five times in league play. He has been named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year four times and the team has finished in the top half of the league in 14 of the last 15 years.

"To be honest with you, I don't even know how to describe it myself," Cooper said. "It's been a great ride and pretty crazy how long it's been. When

I first got here, we weren't close to being fully funded with scholarships like all of the other schools in our conference. Once we were able to add scholarships and hire full-time assistant coaches, we were able to get caught up."

Cooper attributes his growth and evolution over that period in one word: experience. "Experience goes a long way as a player and as a coach which has allowed me to adapt, change and continue to grow," Cooper said. "Every day I try to learn something whether it's on my own or from the guys. You have to constantly evolve, particularly at a school like Saint Mary's. We can't be doing things just one way and we've changed and grown in all aspects. There was a lot of trial and error – and a lot of error."

This year's team is balanced with experience and youth with a roster of 15 juniors

and seniors and 18 freshmen and sophomores. "This is a fun team that is full of characters which I love," Cooper said. "They are a very close-knit group which has a lot of talent and leadership. They're still learning how to win games in some ways because we're still a relatively young team. We had a stretch of three games in seven days and they did well with it."

Cooper has used 26 players at various points this season, including seven freshmen. "Our players have had a lot of wear and tear, so it's been good that we are only playing one game a week now which gives us a little bit more rest and more preparation for the games," Cooper said. "Early in the season when it was two to three games a week, it was just rest, recover and play a game, recover, and play another game. Our freshman class as a whole is fantastic. A number of them have al-

ready stepped up and even those that haven't played yet have been learning and have a bright future with us."

The offense has been led by juniors Riley Lynch (4 goals, 4 assists), Wade Muttitt (3 goals, 2 assists), Storm Schmidt Hollensted and senior Tyler Hardin (3 goals, 2 assists) with a total of 16 goals and 22 assists.

"Riley has done a good job of putting the ball in the spots for guys to score but we just haven't scored on some of them. But he's definitely finding ways to contribute," Cooper said. "Wade, Tyler, and Storm have all been stepping up."

The Gaels have had eight different players score goals. "It's nice when you don't have to rely on one person to score all the goals and we've been able to spread them out a little bit, so our opponents don't just focus on one player. I'd still like to see a little bit more consistency from our attacking group and for us to just find that consistency as a whole."

With a record of 5-4-2, the Gaels have only given up 16 goals, but Cooper is looking for more: "At the end day, we have to do a better job of keeping the ball out of the net and do a better job of getting shutouts, grinding out some more 1-0 victories."

The leading defenders have been seniors Louis Sterobo, Timothy Stephens, and sophomores Luke Lawrence and Bastian Toelhoej. "Louis is our captain and has been a terrific leader on and off the field,"

Cooper said. "They've all been solid and have really done a good job of locking down the back."

Assistant Coach, former all-American Gael goalie Remi Prieur is very pleased with the play of junior goalie Jack Landreth. "Jack is leading the conference in shutouts and is in the top three in the majority of the statistical leaderboards and has been very consistent," Prieur said. "He is a smart player that moves around the goal easily. When he's dialed in and focused, he will make some spectacular saves. He communicates with everyone, making sure they are in the right position in set pieces and other areas."

Cooper is still looking for improvement from the team. "We still have to do a better job of defending set pieces. We can move the ball very well but there are too many times where we're just relying on one person to make something happen and we can move the ball a little bit more clinically than what we do right now."

With nine players from Europe and two from Canada, there is a great deal of heterogeneity on the team. "It's a tremendous positive," Cooper said. "There are times when we can't understand what some of our Europeans are saying. Actually, I think that's one of the most enjoyable parts of our team, with all of the different cultures, backgrounds and styles of play, still, everything comes together on and off the field."

Saint Mary's women's soccer brings new attitude to the game

By Jon Kingdon



Isabella Banuelos



Briana Salvetti header

Photos Tod Fierner

In the four years prior to head coach Theresa Romagnolo's arrival, the Saint Mary's women's soccer team had a combined record of 25-45-6. Since being hired in January 2021, Romagnolo's composite record (including the COVID shortened 2020 season) is 25-18-15.

Romagnolo's initial effort was to have the players bring a new attitude to the game. "What I tried to bring when I got here was a higher level of competitiveness along with what we did every day in training and raising the bar in terms of the standard that we were trying to achieve," Romagnolo said. "Along with bringing that every day, we figured out a system that was going to be effective with the personnel that we had and getting really good at

what we do. Our players are driven and want to be successful. When I got here, it was just continuing to push and give them the tools to be able to do that."

With only eight seniors and juniors on the roster, there are 29 freshmen and sophomores that Romagnolo has recruited, a task that was not difficult for her: "We're selling a great education and for me, it's the best place to live in the world. You've got everything near you, the city, mountains, and beaches. We compete in a top five conference so it's an opportunity for players to come in and really measure themselves."

Romagnolo has been a head coach at Dartmouth and Notre Dame and an assistant

coach at Stanford and the University of San Diego along with having been an all-American and scholar-athlete all-American at the University of Washington and has been exposed to a number of top coaches like Ada Greenwood at San Diego, Paul Ratcliffe at Stanford and Albertin Montoya, the current Bay FC head coach.

"I've learned something from every coach I've worked with," Romagnolo said. "When you think about the people who impact you along the way, it could be short stints with people that just say things or motivate you and you like the way they do certain things and you put those things away. I loved Albertin's style and passion for the game that he conveyed so he was someone I modeled part

of my coaching game after."

After a 5-6-7 record last year, this year's team has improved to 6-4-2 so far. "Last year, we were super young, starting five freshmen which was exciting," Romagnolo said. "We then had three ACL injuries with some of our most experienced players and we had a lot of tired legs at the end of the season. This year, we still are a young team in that we have a number of freshmen who have been coming off the bench getting starts and doing well."

So far, the offense has scored 19 goals by eight different players, led by sophomore Briana Salvetti (8 goals, 4 assists) who only had one goal last year, Savannah Schwarze, Tessa Salvestrin (2 goals, 1 as-

sist) who is currently out with a knee injury and junior Emily Jensen (2 goals, 3 assists).

"I've challenged the group to get a minimum of 30 goals on the season, Romagnolo said. "What Bri has done has been really fun to watch. She has great instincts and can score in a lot of different ways. She is a great crosser and can finish from outside the box. She's been paired with freshmen Micaela Romo, Sydney Middaugh and Samantha Fenske and has helped bring the most out of them."

The leading defenders have been senior captain Marissa Garcia along with Amari Hicks, Makena Carr, a transfer from the University of Washington and Alessandra Towle. "Our backline has been tremendous; Marissa brings the vocal energy, leadership and great toughness," Romagnolo said. "Amri is new to the defender position and has been doing great and Makena has been a fantastic left defender. Alessandra, our right defender has been more consistent this year."

Senior Taylor Poland (2 shutouts) and sophomore Isabella Banuelos (3 shutouts) have been competing for playing time in the goal. "It's been a real battle between Taylor and Isabella. It's been a toss-up as to who's sharp going into a week because they're both really good."

... continued on Page C2

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Acalanes breaks Miramonte girls' water polo winning streak at 75

By Jon Kingdon

It was on April 10, 2021, when the Miramonte girls' water polo team broke Acalanes' winning streak of 59 games. Turnabout was fair play for Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel, the losing coach in that game was the coach who broke Miramonte's 75 game winning streak by a score of 9-8 on Sept. 27.

Buchel studied Miramonte film prior to the game. "Miramonte plays a very unique style of offense," Buchel said. "If you don't prepare, and understand that to a point, you're going to have a steep learning curve in the game. We wanted our players to understand what they wanted to do and how we needed to defend it. We were beating them to the spot a lot and we saw them getting called for a ton of offensive fouls as they were trying to swim through us."

The Dons respected but were not intimidated by Miramonte with their having lost

nine graduates that are playing in college now. "Miramonte is still a very good team but without the depth that they had last year, they were not able to wear us out," Buchel said.

The Dons were led by Ella Del Rosario (3 goals, 2 assists), Brooklyn Plomp (3 goals 1 assist) and Wendy Heffelfinger (3 goals, 2 assists). "They all played a huge part against a team that is hard to score against," Buchel said. "Brooklyn and Wendy are normally our key defenders but against Miramonte that didn't always work out that way because they move so much. It had to be a complete team effort because they're not just a one-woman team."

Miramonte had six different scorers - Tali Stryker (2 goals, 2 assists), Alison Sagara (2 goals, 1 assist), Ally Larsen (1 goal, 1 assist), Rosalie Hassett (1 goal, 1 assist), Bea Hearey (1 goal), Mira Haldar (1 goal), and Audrina Kang (1 assist).

Acalanes goalie Adelyn Horciza had 10 saves. "Adelyn was magnificent in the game," Buchel said. "Our perimeter defense was excellent but when they did break us down, she was a wall for us back there."

After Heffelfinger scored the go-ahead goal late in the game, Buchel called timeout when Acalanes got the ball back. "I reminded them that we needed to make sure that we did not have any surprise turnovers and to not be careless with the ball, and down the stretch the girls executed perfectly. After the game, the Miramonte girls were very classy in the handshake line and John Roemer was very complimentary to me and our team."

Without missing a beat, Miramonte has already begun a new streak, winning their next two games against Clovis North (Fresno) 11-8 and Clovis 18-14.

Once again the teams in Lamorinda have proved to be a



Photo Sarah Graff

Acalanes water polo team after victory over Miramonte.

dominant force: Miramonte (15-1), Campolindo (14-3) and Acalanes (14-3). The rivalry is great and in a sense the teams are their own worst enemies: Miramonte's only loss was to

Acalanes, Campolindo's only three losses were against Miramonte and two of Acalanes's losses came against Campolindo.

Saint Mary's women's soccer brings new attitude to the game

... continued from Page C1

Taylor has the advantage of experience, aerial dominance, and a good range on her distribution with a good vocal presence. Isa brings an ability to play higher off her line so it's almost like playing with

another field player on the field and she sees the game really well."

With such a young team, leadership on the team has been important and Salvestrin at the center back, Jensen in the midfield and Poland in the back have filled those roles.

Romagnolo is looking for the team to keep improving as the season is winding down. "I want my team to be ultimate competitors," Romagnolo said. "With every game and every practice, we're wanting to improve who we are so when we step on the field, we're bring-

ing a great energy and organization to what we're trying to achieve. You might not execute everything that you're trying to do but you can always control the effort. We're also looking to be aggressive in scoring and to be able to adjust to teams on the fly. As a

younger team, we're trying to get them to read space in defensive pressure and figure out how they can break the game open and trying to get them to be dangerous in different ways and to see space on the field."

MOL Breast cancer drive and new girls flag football division for 2024

Submitted by Craig Hunt

In support of October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, MOL (Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette) had its players wear pink this past Saturday, Oct. 7. It made for a colorful spectacle and MOL is proud to continue its annual tradition of supporting local charities by donating to the following local organizations: Notes for Hope and Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The California Interscholastic Federa-

tion, the statewide body that governs high school athletics, voted in early 2023 to sanction high school girl's flag football, and it's a varsity sport now being played at each of the local high schools. MOL is thrilled to announce that in its 2024 season beginning next fall, it will offer a separate seventh / eighth grade girls division formatted more closely around the high school rules.

Photo provided



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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 11, 2023



Top tips for fall organizing

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Seasonal reset

By Cynthia Brian

“Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own.” ~ Charles Dickens

Monochromatic. My feature-less October garden appears unicolor. There are several shades of green, so perhaps not completely boring, but other than splashes of pink from the crape myrtles, rock purslane, roses, Jacobinia, and late-blooming Naked Ladies, as well as purple from the Princess flowers and muscari, colors are absent. I’m trying to find the beauty in this “in-between time” before autumn leaves turn brilliantly bright.

It seems like it was only last week that I was power washing my patio, setting out umbrellas, and arranging my outdoor furniture in a landscape that was filled with blooms. The summer wasn’t endless as fall arrived abruptly and with it the numerous chores in preparation for winter and spring. It’s time for my annual seasonal reset.

Because summer is so wonderfully pleasant in our community, my husband and I choose Saturday and Sunday “staycations” instead of traveling elsewhere in the warmer months. Summer is when we do our outdoor entertaining for family and friends. I’ve designed my backyard to reflect a relaxing and rejuvenating resort complete with multiple market umbrellas, lounges, tables, chairs, firepits, hammocks, games,



Fountains and ponds are especially enjoyable to the birds and wildlife.

and spa refinements. Summer is glorious, colorful, and comfortable.

When October arrives, it’s time to pack up. It takes me more than a week to clean, cover, move, and store all the furniture, cushions, umbrellas, hammocks, and more. The dozen atmospheric rivers of last winter may be an indicator of even stronger storms requiring sand bags coming this winter. I prefer to be prepared. Most of my outdoor cushions I custom sewed myself using Sunbrella® fabrics in the colors that complement my landscape. Although these fabrics are created to last years in the sunshine, rain,

and inclement elements, I choose to protect them from winter wear and tear.

Here are my recommendations for shielding your outdoor furnishings from the harsh winter to increase their longevity.

1. Wipe off all dirt from furnishings. If dirt or bird droppings are on your furniture or pads, wash them thoroughly and allow them to dry in the sunshine.
2. If you have the space, it is best to store your chair pads and lounge cushions indoors. After cleaning and drying, I place mine in plastic bags to keep them dust-free.

If you can’t store them in-

Photos Cynthia Brian



Get in the fall spirit by decorating with gourds and pumpkins.

doors, make sure to seal them in water-proof plastic bags and place them in an area that will incur minimal rain, wind, or rodent invasions.

3. Buy outdoor furniture patio covers for each of your patio chairs, tables, and chaises. Search for quality workmanship that will last longer. Most of my patio covers last an average of two years in the wind and rain. Cover your furniture and make sure to anchor the bottoms of the fabric so it doesn’t blow off.

... continued on Page D11

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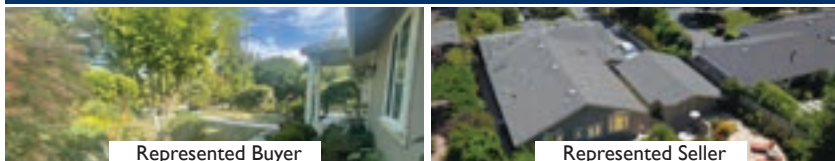


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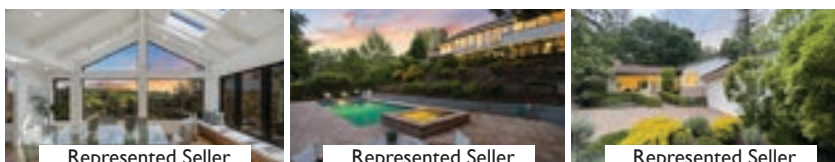
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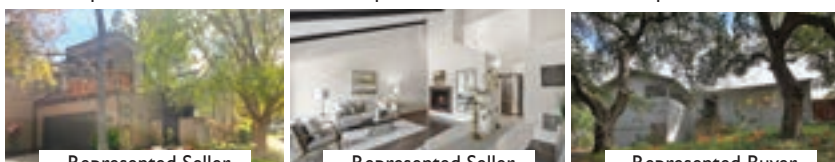
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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,651,000	\$13,690,000
MORAGA	4	\$715,000	\$3,550,000
ORINDA	9	\$1,270,000	\$2,900,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 3561 Brook Street, \$174,000-08-23
- 1124 Garden Lane, \$2,835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-30-23, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-01-22
- 670 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-01-23, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 05-28-13
- 3947 Happy Valley Road, \$13,690,000, 4 Bdrms, 5647 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 08-30-23, Previous Sale: \$11,500,000, 07-14-21
- 3611 Lincoln Way, \$1,651,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-31-23, Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 06-04-21
- 1332 Martino Road, \$1,780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 09-08-23
- 1245 Rose Lane, \$3,870,000, 2 Bdrms, 4037 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 09-08-23, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 02-06-02
- 3402 Shangri La Road, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 09-01-23, Previous Sale: \$2,070,000, 05-09-13
- 3104 Teigland Road, \$2,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 3119 SqFt, 2022 YrBlt, 09-05-23
- 20 Woodbury Highlands Court #14, \$2,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 2022 YrBlt, 09-06-23

MORAGA

- 1903 Ascot Drive, \$1,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-29-23, Previous Sale: \$845,000, 03-26-18
- 427 Chalda Way, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-29-23, Previous Sale: \$688,000, 03-24-21
- 116 Hazelwood Place, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-30-23
- 52 Merrill Circle, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 5471 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 09-05-23, Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 07-31-13

ORINDA

- 289 Camino Pablo, \$1,270,000, 2 Bdrms, 908 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-30-23, Previous Sale: \$276,500, 04-01-99
- 24 La Cuesta Road #A, \$2,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2802 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-29-23
- 70 Meadow View Road, \$2,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-28-23, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 06-29-06
- 24 Miner Road, \$1,895,000, 3 Bdrms, 2278 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-07-23, Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 04-24-23
- 1 Monroe Court, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1775 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-01-23
- 31 Normandy Lane, \$1,380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 09-01-23
- 24 Tara Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2616 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-31-23
- 12 Valley View Drive, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2563 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 09-08-23, Previous Sale: \$970,000, 06-28-11
- 120 Via Floreado, \$2,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3719 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-06-23, Previous Sale: \$1,455,000, 10-31-12

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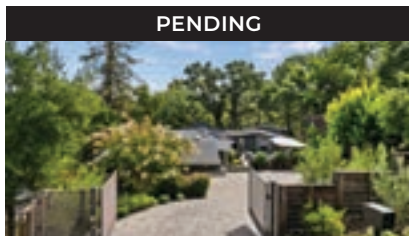


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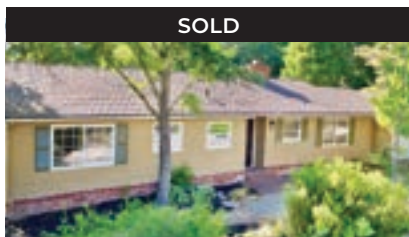
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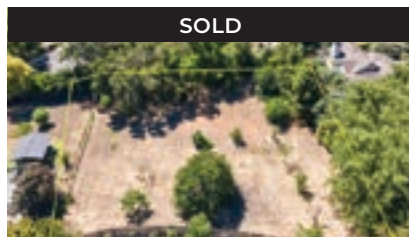
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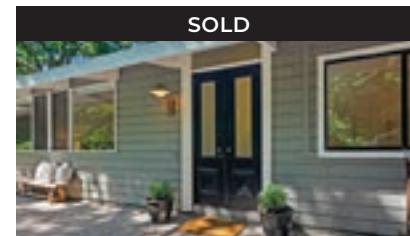
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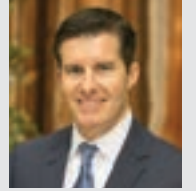
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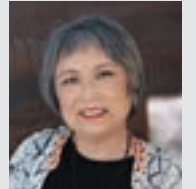
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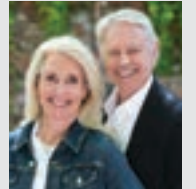
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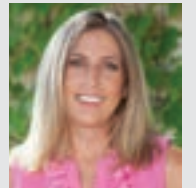
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Top tips for fall organizing

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

Fall is definitely my favorite season. I love the changing colors, cooler weather and of course, boot season. Organizing and packing away the summer toys, swimsuits, goggles, and the million beach towels feels great!

Because I raised three kids who started back to school in the fall, it was always a reset time in my house. Even though our kids have grown up and don't live at home, I still think of fall as a time to organize and reset for the upcoming months. Of course, back to school still affects my schedule as I have to make sure I don't get caught in the school traffic. Can you relate?

Now is an ideal time to start looking ahead and organizing for the fall weather, different schedules and of course, the holidays.

Here are a few things you can organize now to stay on top of the schedule:

1) **Summer items** - Before you clean and put everything away, double check the condition of the items. Is it time to retire the swimsuit and beach towels or can you get another year out of them? Flip flops, sandals, shorts and tank tops still good to go?

2) **Wardrobe** - Even though it can stay warm through the fall, it will get colder in the mornings and you will probably need to start layering. Accessories like scarves and hats are easy to wear in the cool mornings and take off later when it gets warmer. This is a great time to check on the condition of your sweaters, jackets and boots. Taking

these clothes out of the closet and laying them out can help you better see their condition. Trust me, leaving them on the hanger in the closet won't work for a thorough closet thinning. Check the clothes for stains, pills, holes, and ask yourself ... is it still in style? Start a shopping list of all items that you are throwing away or donating so you know which pieces you need to replace.

3) **Digital clean-up** - It's always a good time to edit the space on your devices. Task yourself to set a timer for 10-15 minutes a day for a few weeks and go through your email, photos, and apps to eliminate junk. Digital clutter can be as overwhelming as physical clutter, and after eliminating the excess, you will have more storage on your devices too!

4) **Financial organization** - I recommend creating a budget before the holidays. Be sure to include the price of plane tickets for your college or out of town children and entertaining expenses (I always forget how much I spend on food and beverages when everyone comes home). If you live with a partner, it can be helpful to agree on the amounts you can budget for gifts as well as setting a budget for your annual contributions to charities. We have always made contributions only once a year so we can throw out all donation requests that are bombarding the email inbox and mailbox throughout the year.

... continued on Page D8

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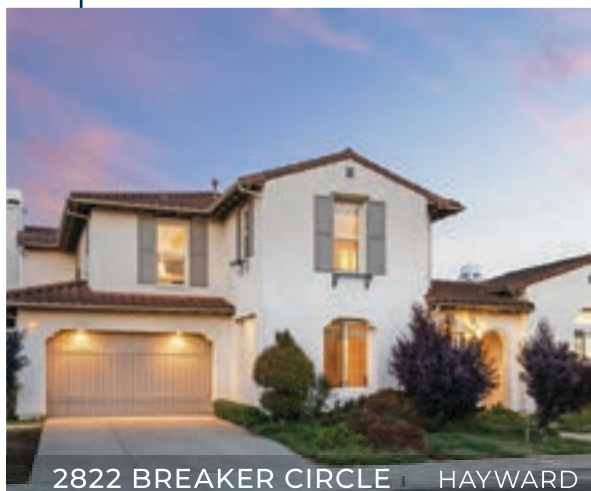
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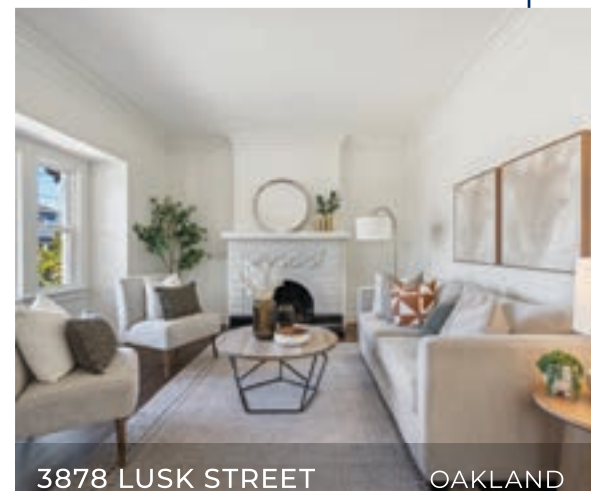
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Top tips for fall organizing

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO(r)

... continued from Page D4

5) **Pantry** - Go through the pantry and remove the expired items and wipe down the shelves for a refresh before you begin stocking up. Again, keep a list of the items you need to replace.

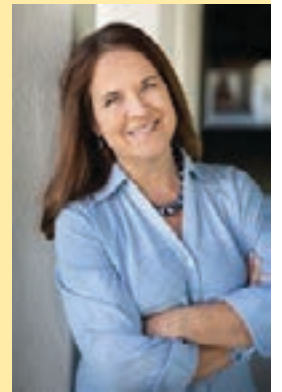
6) **Emergency Kit/Smoke Alarms/Flash Lights** - Update your emergency kit to make sure you don't have expired items. You will sleep better knowing that it is ready to go in case of an emergency. Of course, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke alarms as well as replacing old flashlight batteries.

7) **Throw blankets** - Check to see if your throw blankets need cleaning or replacing. I just examined mine to determine that many of them (some 25 years old) needed to be replaced, so I donated all of them to the animal shelter and purchased new ones.

8) **Outdoor spaces** - Luckily, in California, we are able to utilize our patio seating area well into the end of the year. Typically, when it starts raining, it is time to clean all the cushions and make sure they are very dry before storing them. Some people store the cushions inside an outdoor shed or even the garage. Again, make sure you clean them before you store them. If you don't have storage bags for the cushions, you can use a clear, dry cleaning bag. Don't forget to check on the heater lamps too!

As we embrace the beauty and charm of fall, these organizational tips will not only prepare you for the season ahead but also bring a sense of order and readiness to your life. So, take this opportunity to declutter, refresh, and set the stage for a cozy and well-prepared autumn. Whether you're navigating back-to-school chaos or simply relishing in the joys of fall, a little organization can go a long way in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable transition.

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



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Gardening Guide for October from Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

While winters are generally milder in our area, these are important steps to take to ensure the health of your garden this October:

- **PLACE** flags on sprinkler pop-up risers in lawns to make it easier to find them in the spring. Because I over-seed each year, roots in the grass form a thick carpet over the sprinkler heads, not allowing them to pop up. Without the flags, it takes hours of probing and digging to find the sprinklers.
- **BUY** colorful gourds and small pumpkins to brighten your porch. They will serve dual holidays with the simple addition of decorative spiders, skeletons, or ghouls for Halloween and a turkey, fall leaves, or pilgrims for Thanksgiving.
- **CLEAN** and cover patio furniture and cushions before storing for winter.
- **REMOVE** dead or diseased plants from your garden to prevent disease spread.
- **ADJUST** your irrigation schedule and stop watering when it rains.
- **REDUCE** lawn mowing frequency as grass growth slows.
- **ENSURE** container plants have adequate drainage to prevent waterlogging.
- **REFRIGERATE** your tulips for four to six weeks before planting. Daffodils and other spring-blooming bulbs can be planted anytime.
- **ENJOY** the soothing sounds of water with a pond or fountain.
- **TAKE** steps to protect your garden from gophers.
- **HARVEST** Asian pears at the height of their crunchiness.
- **PICK** tomatoes as they ripen or make fried green tomatoes.
- **SAVE** seeds of fennel for sowing and savory licorice flavors in recipes.

Prepare for this seasonal reset and you'll be ready to weather winter, whatever it will be.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing.



Harvest Asian pears as they are crunchy and sweet.



Tomatoes grown in a window box are still providing fruit.



Mash dried fennel seed in a mortar with a pestle to create savory licorice flavors.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Seasonal reset

... continued from Page D1

4. Because much of my patio furniture is vintage wicker, I not only cover it, but I move it under a protected balcony. Wicker can be fragile. If you have wooden furniture, oil it or treat it to prevent moisture damage.
5. To keep the patio looking a bit tidier and to hold down the coverings, I place my potted plants around the perimeter.

6. The last thing on my list is to fold up the hammocks carefully. Again, I clean them of any bird droppings or other debris, then, return them to their cloth bags. The bags are stored in my weather-proof shed.
When spring unfolds, I uncover everything. Wipe down any dust. Take the cushions out of storage, hoist up the umbrellas, hang the hammocks, and voila! We are ready for another season of beautiful outdoor living.



Patio furniture is covered for winter with colorful planters holding the plastic.



Cynthia Brian and Be the Star You Are!® charity volunteers thank you for coming to our Pear Festival booth.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. 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 now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

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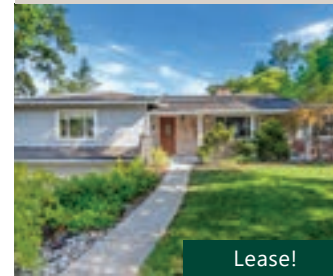


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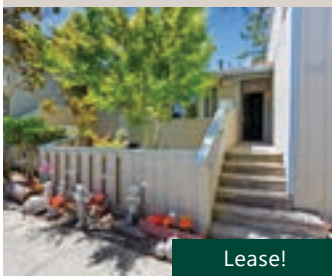
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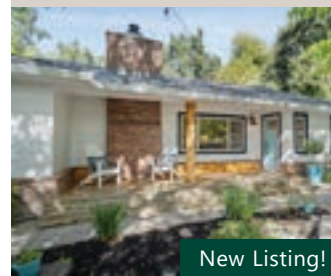


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