

Independently owned and operated!

24,000 FREE copies [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) 925-377-0977

**Back Yard Office or Guest House**

- Office
- Studio
- Potting Shed
- Storage Shed
- Guest House
- Attractive Storage

**GREEN SHEDS**  
Complete Sheds

[www.GreenSheds.net](http://www.GreenSheds.net) 925-872-3187

24,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses



Crushed and banded aluminum cans



Bundled OCC (Old Corrugated Cardboard)



Shards of multi-colored glass will be sent to Gallo Glass Company

# When Lamorinda recycles, one man's trash becomes another man's treasure

By Vera Kochan

Where do Lamorinda's recyclables wind up once the blue bins are emptied into a trash truck each week? It lands at Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery in Pittsburg, Calif. (with the help of partners such as Republic Services and RecycleSmart).

Started in the 1930s by the Garaventa family in Concord, the facility currently serves over 250,000 residents and thousands of businesses, promising to "reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, and recover." Their company philosophy states, "Every day at Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery we commit our people and our systems to elevating the environment, economic, and community value of every material stream we collect and process. We call our philosophy Community Resource Optimization."

MDRR's CEO Kish Rajan and General Manager Jim Nejedly gave this reporter a crash course in recycling methodology and a tour of the facility's already processed inventory. According to Rajan, the 40-acre site handles 1,500 tons each day with the help of 360 employees. Their 100 all-renewable diesel trucks operate in the Pittsburg, Concord and Oakley area, and the single stream recycling from Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, and Danville area is delivered by Republic Services.

They accept all colors of glass and prefer that the lids are separated from the containers; aluminum cans, foil, cookie sheets, tin cans, etc. should be clean;

... continued on Page 15

Advertising

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Letters to the Editor	Page 12
Not to be missed	Page 10
How to contact us	Page 10
Classified	Page 10
Community Service	Page 12
Obituaries	Page 12-13
Shop Orinda	Page 15



**Barb Brawner JD**  
925.212.7672  
Barb@BarbBrawner.com  
BarbBrawnerHomes.com  
DRE# 01922264

**BARB BRAWNER HOMES**

**SOTHEBY'S TOP PRODUCER 2023**

**Golden Gate Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY**  
Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.



## 4.8% hike in refuse collection rates approved for Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Most Orinda residents will be paying an extra \$2.50 to \$2.85 a month in garbage rates, in accordance with a raise in collection rates approved by the City Council on Jan. 23. The increase allows Recycle Smart, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to charge the higher rates from March 1 through Feb. 28, 2025. Orinda is represented on the JPA by council members Inga Miller and Janet Riley. With the increase, commercial monthly rates will go up by \$33.22 to \$49.83. Although the increases are described as monthly, services are actually billed quarterly.

Recycle Smart will be selecting a new trash hauler, but the process will take a couple of years. Riley said that during the process, the JPA wanted to avoid a price spike when the new hauler takes over, perhaps in 2027. Council Member Latika Malkani was reassured that the rate hike was consistent with what the JPA consultants had recommended, including a 3.3% rise in operating costs and a 1.37% rise in reserves. Malkani also thanked Reilly and Miller for performing this time-consuming assignment.

Mayor Darlene Gee

added her thanks to Miller and Riley, and said that the rate hike "seems quite reasonable."

"Everything goes up at least a little every year," she added, and this increase "seems proportionately tolerable."

Malkani asked if complaints are down, and was assured that since the end of October, things have been a lot better because Republic Services brought in a national vice president to oversee local operations.

There was no public comment on the rate increase.

## Lafayette council streamlines transportation projects for future funding

By Lou Fancher

Raising public awareness of and to have a conversation about potential transportation projects so appropriate and timely funding can be sought was the purpose of a presentation at the Jan. 22 council meeting by Transportation Program Manager Patrick Golier.

City staff sought council input because citywide projects needed to be efficiently communicated so that staff is able to anticipate grant opportunities far enough in advance of funding deadlines. Relatively short timelines between a grant program's call-

for-projects and the application due date limit the ability of the staff to vet potential projects through public processes on a case-by-case basis. In the report, they suggested that having a number and variety of identified future projects that may be candidates for when grant programs are announced would be helpful, if not essential to obtaining transportation funding for unfunded projects identified in 2024's Transportation Work Plan. He emphasized that none of the discussion of the six projects he planned to introduce

in the meeting precluded the usual public engagement process that must follow, should any of the projects receive future funding.

The six projects include the EBMUD Aqueduct Pathway Project; updates to Lafayette's Walkways and Bicycle Master Plans; Traffic Signal Design and Construction at Deer Hill Road/Oak Hill Road; a traffic study involving right-turn on red restrictions along Mt. Diablo Boulevard.; construction of St. Mary's Drop-Off and Sidewalk Gap Closure Project;

... continued on Page 3

**Civic News**

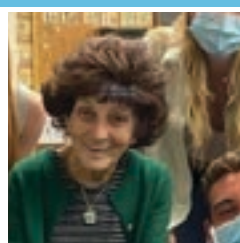
El Curtola bridge protests continue, sparking continued safety concerns – Page 2

**Public Safety**

Orinda Red Flag Day parking restrictions discussed – Page 7

**Life in Lamorinda**

"I am not an entertainer, I am a teacher," Campolindo teacher retires – Page 9



**Sports**

Floyd Burnsed named Coach of the Year – Page 14



**Our Homes**

Lamorinda Weekly's Gardening Goddess outlines gardening goals for the new year – Page OH1



**OH1-OH12**