

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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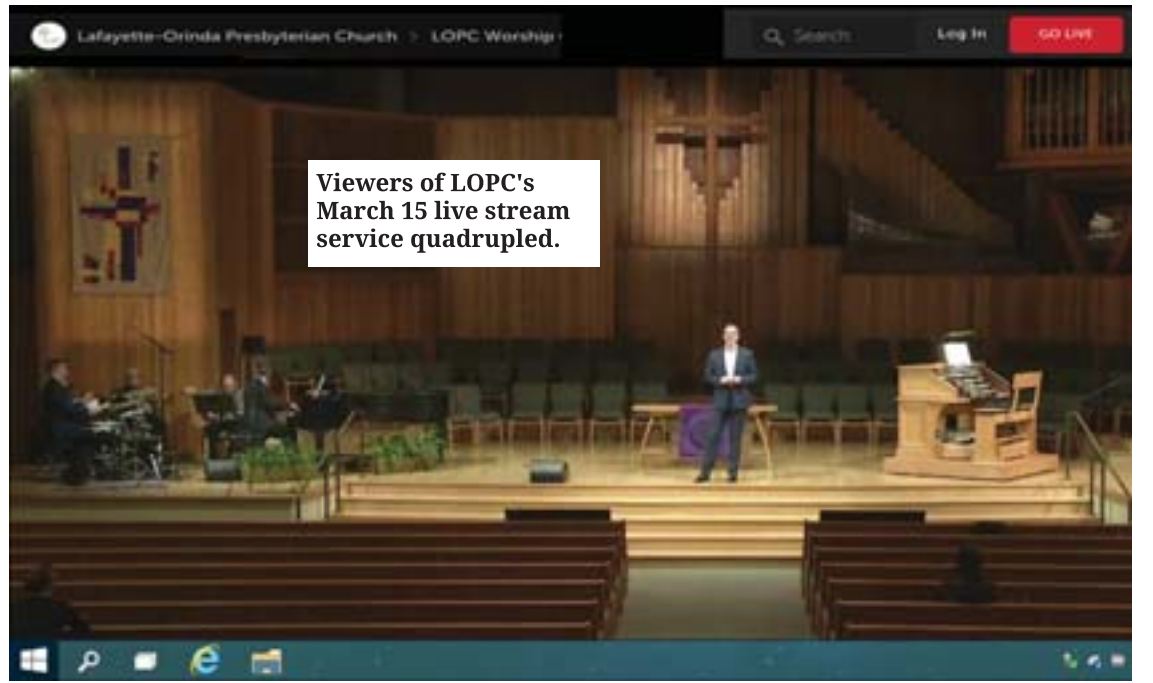
Lafayette United Methodist Church board members practice safe distancing.



MOFD Station 42 engineer Janet Brandi-Roult dressed in protective equipment

**An Important Reminder**  
**The CDC states that surfaces must be clean prior to disinfecting.**  
 Total Clean will be closed temporarily as we do our part to keep our staff and customers safe.  
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**School Campuses Temporarily closed.**



## Coronavirus upends life in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The afternoon of March 11, our lives abruptly changed.

That day, the director-general of the World Health Organization said that COVID-19, a disease caused by a new coronavirus, "can be characterized as a pandemic. We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear."

Almost instantly, financial markets collapsed, sweeping travel bans were put in place, major sporting events were canceled, and sports figures, celebrities and politicians announced that they had been infected. Public events were canceled one after the other, at a pace so breathtaking that it was sometimes difficult to keep up.

COVID-19, a flu-like illness, originated in a Chinese province in December and as of mid-March, 165,000 people worldwide had been infected and more than 6,400 had died, according to the WHO. "We have had limited testing, and there are more out there than have been detected," cautioned Ori Tzvieli, acting Contra Costa County Health Officer. He said that testing so far has been limited to the sickest patients, those who have traveled and those in nursing homes. Should county hospitals need to increase capacity, Tzvieli said they would cancel elective surgeries, erect tents on site and rely on regional partners.

Contra Costa County reported 29 cases of COVID-19 by March 15, nearly five times the number of the previous week. The Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency, and the county

health department prohibited mass gatherings of 100 or more through March 31. Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 15 called for "deep social distancing," asking all California bars to close and calling for home isolation of everyone over 65, though he stopped short of mandating either action.

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### Coronavirus coverage

Do to the fast-changing, fluid nature of coronavirus guidelines being put into place, Lamorinda Weekly staff worked diligently to update information, however some of the information may be outdated since going to press on Monday afternoon. Thank you for your patience. Lamorinda Weekly



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## Spring sports suspended in Acalanes Union High School District

By Jon Kingdon

It was determined March 11 that the Contra Costa County schools would be allowed to continue to play their games but would have to do so without spectators. The official policy was that only athletes, coaches, officials and necessary volunteers should attend these games. It did not take long for that policy to become null and void.

Campolindo High School Athletic Director Raymond Meadows, along with the high school athletic directors, have been trying to adjust on the fly. "It's been changing and progressing every hour and we are doing our best to control what we can control

within our areas and communities," said Meadows. "Obviously it's way bigger outside of our high school level."

On March 13 the Acalanes Union High School District announced that all sports activities (games and practices) have been suspended for the next three weeks. The North Coast Section commissioners planned to meet on Tuesday, March 17 to decide what to do next.

The suspension of spring sports was something that did not take Meadows by surprise. "With the cancellation of the professional and college sports, that seemed to be the precursor of where things were going. Everybody is going to be very respondent to

the athletes and also to be cognizant that sometimes the issue may be bigger than what we can control. Our job is to protect our student-athletes and that's the best route for us to do so."

The Bentley School was in fact the first school to close their campus and suspend their athletic programs March 11. "We are in a video learning," said Athletic Director Rob Rafeh. "Our spring sports have been suspended at least through spring break which will end on April 13th and hopefully by that time it will be okay to resume our athletic activities. Obviously, things can change, but that is our hope right now."

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