The band The Real Thing performs June 2 as part of the free summer concert series offered at Orinda Community Park.

Photo Sora O'Dohert

Free live concerts return to parks in Lamorinda this summer

By Sora O'Doherty

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda will enjoy a bounty of live concerts this summer. The 2022 summer concert season in Orinda kicked off on June 2, with the band The Real Thing performing in Orinda Community Park. The Orinda concerts, held from 6 to 8 p.m., are sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda, and City of Orinda. This year, the concerts will be held on Thursday evenings to accompany the Thursday Night Food Truck event with Taste of the World

Market

The following additional groups will be performing: June 16, Opera in the Park; June 23, EP Sax; July 14, Lamorinda Idol; July 28, Juke Joint; Aug. 4, West Grand Blvd.; Aug. 25, Grateful Bluegrass Band; and concluding the season on Sept. 8, 925 Band. This year marks the 12th year that Orinda Rotary has sponsored "Opera in the Park." The free event features Festival Opera singing and Broadway music.

Concerts are free and open to the community. The Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation will be on hand collecting donations to help fund the community park renovation project. Families are encouraged to bring their blankets and lawn chairs. Dinner options include the food truck event, or any of the local restaurants.

Moraga Commons will also host a series of concerts, from early June to early August.

Moraga Park Foundation presents the Summer 2022 Concert Series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings, with the exception of July 4, which falls on a Monday. The site is Moraga Commons Bandshell and food will be available for purchase from on-site food trucks and vendors. Picnics are welcome. ... continued on Page A6

LAMONTNDA

Not to be missed B5
How to contact us B5
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Moraga's iconic Painted Rock trails become hiker-ready

By Vera Kochan



Newly completed trail along Painted Rock acreage

Photo Eliot Hudson

Way before it became part of the John Muir Land Trust, Painted Rock was a symbol of expression and outdoor art perched on the hill overlooking the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. For decades, intrepid high school students climbed the hill and used the giant rocks there as Mother Nature's bill-board by plastering them with whatever message was apropos for the moment – thus the eventual nickname.

In 2019, thanks to a successful \$2 million fundraising effort by JMLT, Painted Rock and the surrounding 84-acre property was saved from developers. Soon, with the help of the town of Moraga, an adjacent 421-acres will turn the combined 505-acres into a park with amazing views, natural wildlife habitats, light recreation and hiking trails.

To that end, JMLT partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) over the weekend of May 19-22 in order to cut trails into the grassy open hillsides in preparation for the upcoming hiking season. According to V-O-Cal Project Team Lead and JMLT Board Member Eliot Hudson, "Over 70 trail volunteers and over a dozen more volunteers in the supporting base camp, in the course of a single weekend, built over 2,000 feet of trail across Painted Rock's steep northern slope on a gentle grade that virtually anyone can walk."

Campolindo High School's grassy field, situated along Moraga Road, served as base camp for any overnighters who brought tents to spend the evenings. Hearty meals, musical entertainment and showers were made available to the volunteers who braved potential hazards such as sun exposure, dehydration, poison oak, ticks, snakes, and accidents from sharp tool usage.

... continued on Page A4

Civic News

A1-A10

Moraga mayor and vice mayor swap positions mid-term - Page A4

Public Safety

Parking restrictions on Red Flag Days in Orinda - Page A6

Life in Lamorinda

Ukrainian family flees war to make a new life in Lamorinda - Page B1



Sports
Success in the water for Lamorinda swimmers at NCS meet

- Page C1



Our Homes

Drought resistant succulents add texture to

the garden

- Page D1

D1-D16