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An outdoor salon setup in Lafayette will now be able to move indoors due to new county guidelines.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Some outdoor offerings can now move in amid new guidelines

By Sora O'Doherty

A recent drive around Lamorinda revealed a new business practice: operating in the open air. Fortunate to enjoy mild weather, and in the absence of recent smoke drift from California fires, Lamorinda residents were seen enjoying outdoor dining at local restaurants and up until Aug. 31 were getting their hair done at outdoor salons.

Although key data indicators suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic remains at dangerously high

levels in Contra Costa County, they are not increasing as they did in June and July, suggesting a leveling of COVID-19 transmission. Lamorinda, however, remains significantly below other cities in the county, according to the county's dashboard of local COVID-19 cases, accounting for less than 2% of the county's 13,259 cases.

As a result of the numbers, the county recently issued a new health order, and it's allowing hair salons and barbers to move back indoors. The Aug. 31 order allows gyms and fitness centers to operate

outdoors; and personal services that do not require touching a client's face, including nail care and massages, may be offered outside as well. In addition, the order allows hotels and short-term rentals for tourism and individual travel, previously restricted to essential travel only.

Details of the update, including the full text of the order, are available at cchealth.org/coronavirus

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Former MCF treasurer pleads guilty to criminal charges

By Vera Kochan

In early September, the Moraga Community Foundation revealed that Francis Robert Fritzky allegedly made unauthorized withdrawals as Foundation treasurer between June 23, 2016 and July 24, 2019 of more than \$250,000 from MCF's bank accounts to himself, to his majority owned company MedMatRx, LLC and to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation, which he founded and controlled. Fritzky also allegedly provided false financial reports to MCF's board of directors.

Fritzky's most recent court appearance was Aug. 21, via Zoom, before United States District Judge Jon S. Tigar out of the U.S. District Court, California Northern District (Oakland).

There were two felony counts filed against Fritzky. Count one: wire fraud and aiding and abetting; Count two: making and subscribing a false tax return. He has

pleaded guilty to both counts after initially entering a not guilty plea during a July 14 arraignment.

Court documents state, "The Scheme: Beginning on June 23, 2016 and continuing through July 24, 2019, Fritzky knowingly, and with the intent to defraud, devised, intended to devise, participated in, and carried out a scheme and artifice to defraud as to a material matter, and to obtain money and property by the means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises."

According to MCF President Dave Trotter, who attended the Aug. 21 change of plea hearing, "Judge Tigar asked Fritzky to 'tell me in your own words why you're guilty.' Fritzky initially replied in effect, 'Unfortunately, circumstances led me to do this.' This response was not accepted by the Court. Judge Tigar then took Fritzky step by step through the factual description of his crimes set forth in the Plea Agreement,

and required Fritzky to admit that all of those facts were true, which he did."

"Under further questioning by Judge Tigar," added Trotter, "Fritzky admitted that under the terms of the Plea Agreement, the amount of restitution to be ordered will be 'no less than \$204,913.84.' Fritzky also acknowledged, on the record, that the Court can and may order a higher amount of restitution to the victim (MCF) at time of sentencing."

Fritzky is currently not in custody, and as such, there was no need for bail to be set. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in Oakland's federal courthouse, before Judge Tigar.

Case information is available to the public on the United States District Court (Northern District of California) website. The case title is: USA v. Fritzky and the Case No: 4:20-cr-00233-JST.

Controversial apartments get the green light

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette city council voted 4-1, with Council Member Susan Candell against, giving the go-ahead with several conditions of approval to the highly controversial 315-unit apartments known as the Terraces, in the early hours of Aug. 25 at the conclusion of an eight-hour meeting.

The council had met for close to 10 hours previously two weeks before, hearing the matter on appeal called for by Council Member Cam Burks, following approval by the planning commission.

The application proposes 315 apartments, in 14 two- and three-story residential buildings on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, adjacent to the freeway. First proposed in 2011, the application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes. Local preservationist group Save Lafayette sued the city, resulting in a referendum on the future of the revised project.

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Lafayette officials urge residents to register with CWS



Image courtesy Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office

October.

As of May, the Lafayette Police Department had installed a network of 20 wild-fire alert cameras in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, according to Police Chief Ben Alldritt. "The cameras give fire management real-time notification of fire activity. We can tell immediately how many resources may be necessary to deploy," Pigeon said.

Officials presented other examples of what the city is doing to help the community prepare for emergencies, such as red flag warnings and public safety power shutoffs, but all town hall speakers encouraged members of the public to become their own first responders and register with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System.

CWS, a partnership of various public agencies, notifies residents via phone, text and email in case of an emergency. As Alldritt explained, Lafayette notifies residents of various city activities via so-

cial media, Nixle and CWS.

"Not all of the notifications delivered via social media or Nixle are emergencies. Those from CWS are," Alldritt said. "When that is activated, you've got to pay attention."

Before that can happen, residents must register with the program. "Make sure you register both your home and mobile phones," Pigeon said.

Residents can also register an email address, and emergency notifications will be sent via whatever formats are chosen. Duncan Seibert of the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team advised that those with voice-over-internet phone lines be sure to register those numbers as well.

In 2019, Lafayette reported fewer than 3,000 residents registered with the CWS program. As of July, more than 8,100 active registrations were on file.

"With the level of engagement from the community lately – since it's a higher

fire risk and the community in general is pretty engaged anyway – and the help from city officials, the Lafayette Police Department, CERT and ConFire to get the word out about registering for the CWS, Lafayette's registration numbers are excellent," said Heather Tiernan, CWS manager.

Subscribers should note that the program recently changed its caller ID. The new number is (925) 655-0195, and should be updated on the subscriber contact and favorite lists.

"Our CWS drill is one of the most efficient ways for families to take a role in a virtual evacuation exercise – wildfire or earthquake," Alldritt said.

The city had scheduled a CWS virtual evacuation for Aug. 29 but postponed the drill due to existing evacuations and continuing fires in the Bay Area.

By Nick Marnell

Prompted by public concern over the staggering number of lightning strikes on Aug. 17 and the ensuing major wildfires that tore through the Bay Area, Lafayette public agencies presented a detailed outline at the Aug. 26 public safety town hall of what steps the city has taken to help residents cope with emergency situations. But there was one

step every speaker insisted that residents should do – and can only do – by themselves.

Assistant Fire Chief Will Pigeon of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District explained that the up-staffing of personnel, the rebuilt Fire Station 16 and the upgrades to district apparatus should help ConFire keep Lafayette safe this fire season – much as the district did during the two major fires that smothered the city in

The vision: students safely biking to school on Pleasant Hill Road



Photo Pippa Fisher

Cyclists and pedestrians currently have to cross fast-moving traffic on- and off-ramps along Pleasant Hill Road.

By Pippa Fisher

While acknowledging there are many more steps to be put in place and that it will take the cooperation of several stakeholders, the Transportation and Circulation Commission seemed enthusiastic during a presentation of a proposed new protected bike path from the Mt. Diablo Boulevard intersection with Pleasant Hill Road as far as Acalanes High School, and perhaps in a future phase, as far as Springhill Elementary.

Lafayette resident Eric Law, founder of Safe Route to Acalanes, explained the goal of the project would be to provide a safe bike and pedestrian path for students to access the high school, where right now they have to cross heavy traffic entering and exiting the four on- and off-ramps from Highway 24 – a dangerous situation that has resulted in serious cyclist-involved accidents.

Law explained that while Lafayette has great bike lanes and paths, especially the

Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, once residents wishing to continue from that trail up the wide cycle lane on Pleasant Hill Road get to Mt. Diablo Boulevard, there is no safe way to continue to the school.

Safe Route to Acalanes High School, now a nonprofit under Sustainable Lafayette, proposes to solve the safety issue by putting a bi-directional bike path down the center of Pleasant Hill Road in place of the existing median.

... continued on Page A3



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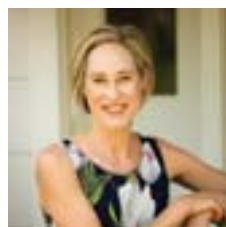
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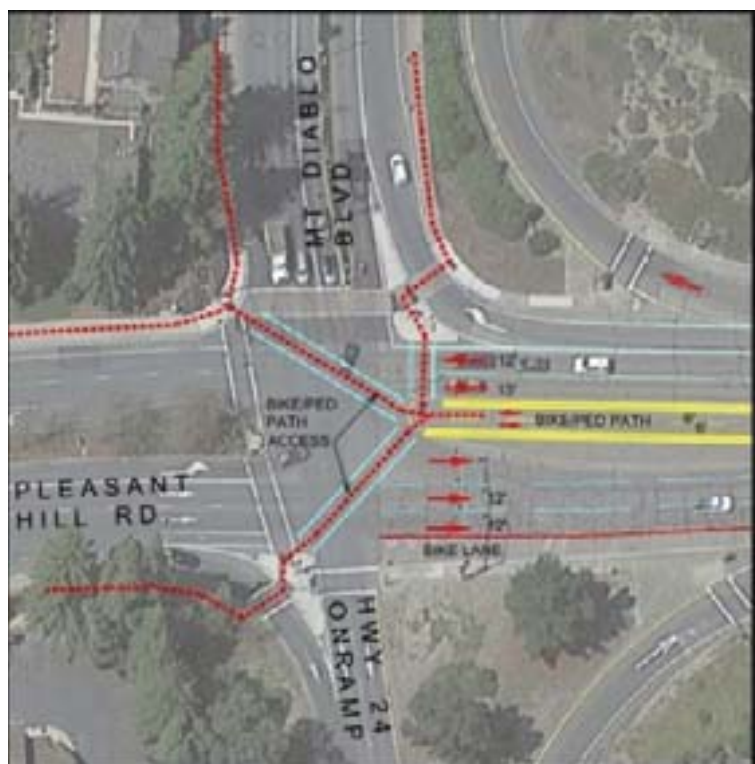
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The vision: students safely biking to school on Pleasant Hill Road



South Termination

(Pleasant Hill Rd / Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

Image from Safe Route to Acalanes High School presentation, showing entry and exit from proposed bike path.

... continued from Page A2

The pathway would be protected from traffic by concrete guard walls, and would be safely accessible from both the Mt. Diablo Boulevard traffic lights and at the Deer Hill Road lights by making them “scramble” lights, stopping traffic in all directions while bikes and pedestrians enter/exit the pathway.

Law noted that no traffic lanes need to be eliminated to make space and that benefits would include potential reduction in traffic congestion around the school. He said the existing sidewalks and bike lanes would remain.

A possible second phase would involve extending the bike path to Springhill School along the western side of Pleasant Hill Road.

Commissioners had concerns about the width of the pathway, possible collisions, and for exactly how the scramble lights would work. When asked about the potential for head-on bike-to-bike collisions, Law pointed out that this had not been a prob-

lem on the bi-directional Lafayette-Moraga trail. “And that is packed and I’m not aware of any,” he said.

Director of Engineering and Public Works Mike Moran was quick to keep expectations realistic. He said that this was a wonderful introduction to a proposed project but that it’s a placeholder at this time. “Drivers won’t lose anything and cyclists and pedestrians will be much more protected,” he said. But he noted some parking could be lost, and pointed out that issues of design, funding and maintenance, and specifics on changing the function of lights to scramble, need to be in place before taking the idea to the city council.

Currently Law is working on funding, and is exploring designs of similar pathways in other cities. He is planning to make presentations in schools and hopes to gather support for the project as he continues to work with the city. He says that the developer for the Terraces has agreed to accommodate the project in their work along Pleasant Hill Road.



North Termination

(Pleasant Hill Rd / Stanley Blvd.)



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
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Planning Commission provides forward motion for MCSP

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Center Specific Plan Zoning Codes and Design Guidelines were the topics at hand during the Aug. 17 planning commission meeting.

Senior Advisor David Early of Placeworks, a community design firm, during a previous meeting made it known that state law requires consistency between a Specific Plan and the zoning provisions that implement the Specific Plan. The zoning provisions provide the development standards (height, setback, density, allowed uses, and often include lighting, landscaping,

parking) that implement the plan's goals and policies. Development of zoning codes consistent with a Specific Plan can include a mix of current codes and development of new codes.

Addressing public concerns put forth during the July 20 planning commission meeting in which overwhelming comments centered around timely evacuation during an emergency, given the potential increase in housing and new residents. Early mentioned the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's implementation of a more aggressive vegetation management program. He also noted the various evac-

uation drills performed in conjunction with the Moraga Police Department, along with the fact that Fire Hazard Severity Zones can require fire resistant construction.

The July 20 planning commission recommendations incorporated into the zoning code include interpretive signage design guidance; a specific thematic character of Moraga Ranch; an updated Senior Housing definition; the allowance of privately owned and maintained pocket parks and congregate care in more districts; moving street types and standards to MCSP Design Guidelines; removing a

30-foot MOFD height limitation; revising R-6 (Six 21 Dwellings per Acre Multifamily Residential District) and R-12 (Twelve Dwelling Units 32 per Acre Multifamily Residential District) minimum lot requirements; and replacing the development capacity table to mirror the table from MCSP.

While public comments were again expressed during the Aug. 17 meeting, there were not as many as last month's session. Although, the concerns echoed high-density housing paired with timely evacuation; loss of open space; and building retail in a COVID-19 climate. The lone pro-retail/housing

increase comment was to point out the influx of tax dollars that would be generated for the town.

With an approval vote of 5-1, with Commissioner Suzanne D'Arcy the lone no vote, the commission made a recommendation for the Town Council to approve an ordinance to adopt a new zoning map within the MCSP Area and update Title 8 of the Moraga Municipal Code. The Planning Commission also recommended establishing several new chapters within Title 8 of the MMC and decided to move discussion regarding revised design guidelines to its Sept. 21 meeting.

Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant helps town during pandemic



By Vera Kochan

Moraga's town council voted unanimously to accept the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act's grant during its Aug. 26 meeting. The

town's portion of the \$500 million federal aid package awarded to the State of California's cities comes to \$209,235. This figure is based on population size.

The town submitted the Local Government Certification Form in early July to the Department of Finance and expects to receive the anticipated funds by September.

Federal law specifies that the funds can only be used for unbudgeted COVID-19 costs incurred between March 1 and Dec.

30. The CARES Act funds must be spent by the end of the year.

According to the staff report by Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Administrative Services Director Norm Veloso, "Expenditures using Fund payments must be 'necessary.' The Department of the Treasury defines this term broadly to mean that the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for ex-

pending CARES Act funding." Battenberg and Veloso added, "Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would otherwise qualify under the statute."

The breakdown of costs in the utilization of the \$209,235 are as follows: Expenses incurred to date totaling \$52,965 include payroll (paid emergency leave) of \$9,000; public health and safety procurement of medical safety supplies of \$21,000; facility enhancements – technology, social distancing and sanitation of \$22,965.

Additional recommended investment in town facilities and operations totaled \$97,750. This includes telework enhancement/infrastructure of \$16,000; facility enhancements – social distancing and sanitation of \$67,750; and public health and safety of \$14,000.

Also, payroll expenses for police officers substantially dedicated to COVID-19 responses and public health emergencies came to \$28,520.

The hardest hit sector was and continues to be small businesses. With that

in mind, staff has established a Small Business Relief Program containing \$30,000. The following guidelines will pertain: Businesses must operate out of a storefront or other physical space that depends on foot traffic for business. Home-based businesses would not be eligible for the program; businesses must have at least three employees and no more than 20 employees as of March 1. Franchises, chain stores, nonprofit organizations and corporations would not be eligible; grants would be awarded for between \$500 - \$2,000 and would be exclusively for the reimbursement of expenses that enable businesses to continue to operate and comply with public health regulations related to COVID-19; and the program would award funds on a first-come, first-served basis until the \$30,000 in grant funds is awarded or Dec. 30, whichever comes first. More details and an application are available at the Planning Department's website: www.moraga.ca.us/planning or by emailing: planning@moraga.ca.us or phone: (925) 888-7040.

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Bandshell rental fees adjusted to encourage more socially distanced activities



Moraga Commons Park bandshell

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Currently the rental rate for the Moraga Commons Park

bandshell is \$555 for a 4-hour time block as adopted in the 2020-21 Master Fee Schedule. Staff has recommended that the town council adopt an hourly rental fee to accommodate users who wish to book the facility for a shorter period of time.

Due to coronavirus restrictions regarding social distancing many organizations and businesses are finding innovative ways to conduct business as usual, albeit with a slightly fractured model.

The Hacienda de las Flores has begun to fill its booking capacities thanks to the gradual reopening and easing of some health department restrictions. To meet the demand for more open space

activities, town staff feels that a reduction in mandatory booking hours would increase usage of a large venue, such as the bandshell, which can accommodate up to 12 socially distanced people.

According to a presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt during the Aug. 26 town council meeting, "Gym and fitness activities are now sanctioned for outdoor use, so we expect to get more requests in the coming weeks. We've had a handful of conceptual conversations with private members who are looking to host some outdoor P.E. for their pandemic pods; fitness groups who are looking to do outdoor yoga or Pilates." Brandt added, "We recom-

mend that the bandshell space would be a suitable location and just let the community know that the town is responsive and flexible in meeting their changing needs."

The town council unanimously approved the new hourly rental fees: nonprofit \$40/hour; private resident \$50/hour; and commercial (reservations required) \$70/hour. Staff estimates that the Moraga Commons Park would see an increase of approximately \$5,670 for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year based upon an average of three one-hour rentals each week (November through June with a December closure).

Restaurants and cafes turn to food trucks to expand reach



Photo Vera Kochan

Bridge & Tunnel Coffee Company's co-founder Greg Fulcher, left, and barista Andrew Samuelson

By Vera Kochan

Many restaurants are going the reverse route to stay in business during coronavirus mandates. Finding that delivery, takeout and outdoor-dining-only isn't enough to sustain a business in these times, some restaurant owners are purchasing food trucks and hitting the road.

According to a Business Insider article by Ross Resnick, the CEO of Roaming Hunger, a food truck catering company, "With the restaurant industry on hold for the foreseeable future, innovative brick and mortar establishments are pivoting to mobile dining to navigate the new market." Resnick added, "We've seen an increased demand to bring food into communities, specifically neighborhoods and apartment buildings. People still crave the community aspect of eating out, even if they're just walking outside to pick up their dinner." The same holds true for coffee houses.

Business partners Greg Fulcher and Phil Tillotson turned their love of coffee

and community into something never before seen in Lamorinda – a pop-up coffee café on wheels. Although its name may sound like directions on a GPS, the Bridge & Tunnel Coffee Company is making a splash wherever the neon yellow vehicle sets up shop.

Tillotson lives in Atlanta and manages the acquisition of Central American and Ethiopian coffees while Fulcher, a Lamorinda resident, drives the coffee truck around town and serves as the barista.

Fulcher comes to coffee after a 30-year career in the film industry. "I just love coffee," he replied. "It's my favorite drink, and it's the culture surrounding it that makes it better."

The coffee truck's first incarnation was as a linen truck making deliveries at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. With only 28,000 miles on it, the yellow truck (yes, that's its original color) was put out of circulation.

When Fulcher and Tillotson purchased it they turned it over to a catering truck

manufacturer who took two months to transform it into the coffee truck. However, the interior still lacked enough electrical power to support an espresso machine, a commercial Kegerator, flake ice machine, a beverage refrigerator, coffee brewer, two big coffee grinders, water heater and pumps, lights, fans and more. "We designed the power system for the truck during 2019's power-shutoffs, with the goal of full functionality without the grid," explained Fulcher. "Sparing you the technical details, our truck is capable of full off-grid operation with the help of a powerful hybrid lithium polymer battery/inverter system."

Like all good businessmen, the partners mulled over many catchy names to call their new venture. On Fulcher's way home from the San Francisco International Airport one day, a friend called his cell phone to ask if he was there yet. Fulcher replied that he was still stuck on the Bay Bridge and wouldn't be at the Caldecott Tunnel for probably another hour. Suddenly the idea light bulb went off, and a company name was born. "I immediately thought of the pejorative term 'bridge and tunnel people' used in New York for commuters," he said. "I felt that it didn't really apply, because good things happen on this side of the Bay."

Bridge & Tunnel Coffee Company sells single-estate hot coffee, espresso drinks (Panamanian roast), craft ni-

tro cold brew, non-caffeinated drinks and small-batch whole bean coffee.

For the coffee truck's schedule visit: www.bridgetunnel.coffee or call (925) 388-6288. Having only just begun serving coffee on

wheels in early August, Fulcher and Tillotson have plans to eventually open a brick and mortar coffee shop in Moraga. Fulcher stated, "Great coffee is a destination for those who love it."

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Town Council
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 15 7 p.m., Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council
 Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Wilder Council Subcommittee Special Meeting
 Wednesday, Sept. 9, 5 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
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CALBRE# 00903367

Steve Salomon plans to retire in January



Photo Sora O'Doherty
 Steve Salomon in 2017

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the mayor of Orinda was sorely disappointed that the city attorney did not come up with an agreement to prevent Steve Salomon from ever leaving Orinda, she accepted his letter of retirement, effective Jan. 7, 2021. Darlene Gee told Salomon at the Aug. 18 city council meeting, "We are so very, very sorry to see that we are going to lose you."
 Vice Mayor Amy Worth echoed the mayor's comments. She thanked Salomon "from the bottom of our hearts," saying, "we have been so fortunate to have you as our city manager; you have contributed tremendously to quality of life and financial security of our city." In what will be a preview of the encumbrances to be bestowed on Salomon before the end of the year, Worth said, "I can't thank you enough. So much of your work is behind the

scenes, you have really been a mentor with your vast incredible experience managing cities around California."
 Orinda citizen Charles Porges also wanted to thank Steve "for all of his wonderful work behind the scenes and wish him the best retirement anyone could ever have."
 Porges added, "His shoes are really hard to fill."
 Salomon came to Orinda as an interim city manager after former city manager Janet Keeting retired in 2017. The city searched for a permanent city manager, but failed to find a candidate they liked better than Salomon. They prevailed upon him to take the position on a permanent, if admittedly short-term, basis.
 In his letter, Salomon said that his retirement in January 2021 will end his 45-year career serving government agencies, and will allow the city time to interview and hire a replacement. During

his time as city manager, Salomon said, "the Council and community have accomplished a great deal ... and faced significant challenges." He went on to enumerate the Miner Road sinkhole, repaired in less than six months, the completion of the \$60 million road improvement program approved by voters, the opening of the Art and Garden Center and Wilder Fields, the installation of Big Belly trash and recycling containers, and the increase in the library parcel tax to keep the library open seven days a week during normal hours.
 Salomon said it was an honor and a pleasure to work with seven Orinda council members. He added, "I also want to thank the community for the exceptional volunteerism, passion and participation. I wish you and the community the best moving forward in these challenging times."

City agrees to 5-foot parking ban on El Toyonal during red flag days

By Sora O'Doherty

Right before a flurry of red flag days, the Orinda city council on Aug. 18 adopted a ban on parking within 5 feet of the edge of the roadway on El Toyonal. The matter came back to the council after staff was asked to come up with the best distance to assure that emergency vehicles can access the top of the hill while residents can safely evacuate if needed.

The ban addresses parking alongside the road, and includes private driveways, so that vehicle parking must leave 5 feet of space from where the driveway meets the road.
 Council Member Inga Miller recognized that it is a hard topic, and inconvenient for people dealing with high fire risk, but she said, "For me it is a safety issue." She mentioned terrible tragedies that have occurred right on

the other side of the same hill. Council Member Nick Kosla asked that complaints and compliments be monitored over the next six months, and Director of Public Works/Assistant City Manager Larry Theis agreed. "This is a pilot program," he added, that may be expanded to other streets in the future. He promised to track how it goes on El Toyonal and report back before the next fire season.

Council Member Dennis Fay thinks the city will learn a lot from the pilot program, and that it will inform work in other parts of Orinda. While Mayor Darlene Gee acknowledged that there may be some inconvenience, she said, "We are all aware of the danger and how challenging this area is." She agreed with Miller's memories of the Oakland Hills fire. The measure passed unanimously.

Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

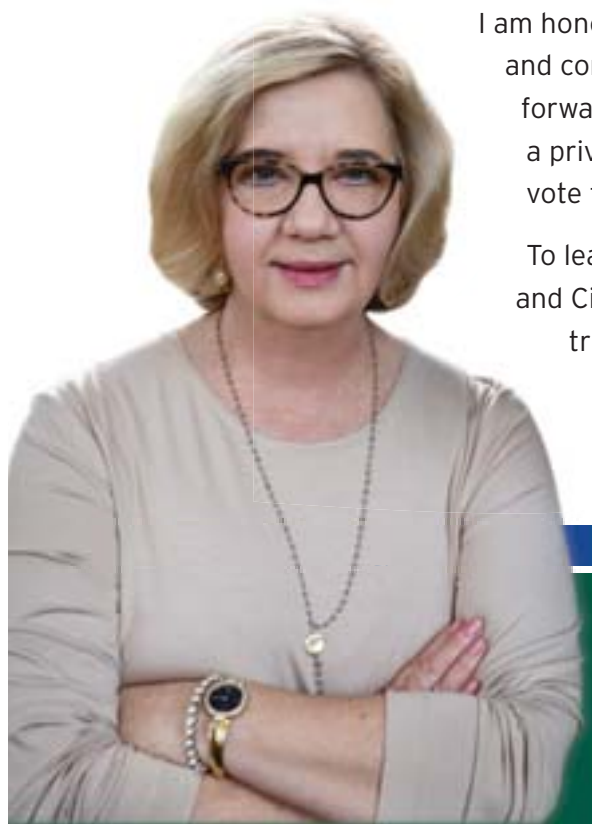
As the current Mayor of Orinda, I have worked hard this year to lead our City during the dual challenges of COVID-19 and the national unrest associated with social injustice and inequality. I am proud of Orinda's response to both these issues, as well as the key agenda we have furthered this year toward fire prevention, infrastructure rehabilitation, downtown planning, and public safety.

My husband, Dennis, and I have lived in Orinda for more than 30 years and enjoyed raising our two sons in a community with such great schools and family focus. We love living here and I have always actively contributed my time and expertise to Orinda's schools, charities, and volunteer government.

I am honored to be in my fifth year serving on the Orinda City Council and continue to have great energy toward moving our community forward while preserving our exceptional quality of living. It has been a privilege to use my experience serving Orinda and I ask for your vote this November 3rd.

To learn more about my professional background, accomplishments and City service, and goals for the coming years, and to see a list of the trusted leaders and community voices who support my campaign, please visit my website at darlenegeeforcouncil.com.

Darlene K. Gee



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OUSD approved new multi-purpose room at front of Sleepy Hollow



Sleepy Hollow Elementary School multi-purpose room Option 4 - New MPR at Lower Parking Lot.

By Sora O'Doherty

The existing multi-purpose room at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School will be demolished and a new one built at the entrance to the school. Having adopted a plan to have all students and staff shelter in the multi-purpose room in the event of a wild-fire, and installing a 10,000 gallon tank to enable the

Moraga-Orinda Fire District to protect that single structure, the Orinda Union School District board undertook a study of whether the existing structure could be renovated or should be replaced. The board, at its Aug. 10 meeting, considered various options, but selected option 4, which was the recommendation of the bond executive team. The project will be funded by

bond funds.

Under option 4, part of the location of the existing multi-purpose room will become a parking lot to replace the one currently in front of the school, and a new multi-purpose room will be built at the front of the school. HKIT Architect Inc.'s Principal Architect Dara Youngdale gave the presentation and answered the board's questions. Hilary Weiner wanted to know if the costs for relocating the building were included, and Youngdale said they were, including removing the existing solar structure and moving the portable buildings. Youngdale said that it is not anticipated that the water tank would be moved, but rather that a line would be run from the tank to the new multi-purpose room.

Board member Jason Kaune said that the committee has done great work. He added that the loss of the space currently outside of the

multi-purpose room will be offset by excitement of potential use of the uphill space for other things. Board president Cara Hoxie said that the new plaza in the front and also a fence for the front of the school creates more of a contained campus environment than in the past.

Board vice president and committee member Liz Daoust had supported the option of building a new MPR in the existing location, but said she had really come around to see all the benefits, including the exciting opportunity to use the existing space after the existing building is gone.

In public comments, parent Sarah Cherry was enthusiastic about having the school all on one level. She believes it will vastly improve the look of the school. The measure was approved unanimously and the board will move forward to rapidly advance the project, with architectural plans by HKIT Architects, Inc., to be submitted to the Division of the State Architect in a timely manner.

Sleepy Hollow Principal Patsy Templeton added a big thank you to the committee, staff and parents tasked with finding the safest place on campus to convene. Option 4 does that and more, she said. The end result is going to be fabulous, Templeton concluded.

The car show must go on, but it is now a tour



Neil Cunningham with his 1968 Ford Mustang

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

For the past 15 years, the Orinda Classic Car Show has been a big attraction in the autumn, and a big fundraiser for the Orinda Association and the main fundraiser for the Seniors Around Town

program. This year, organizer John Vanek of Orinda Motors says that, although the car show cannot go on during the COVID-19 pandemic, he is excited about the new 29.4-mile classic car tour. On Saturday, Sept. 12, the tour will feature up to 100 classic cars. The route will take them through

Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and even the Berkeley hills. However, because entries are limited to 100 this year and there will not be any show attendees, they are expecting a shortfall of \$15,000 in critical funding for Seniors Around Town.

... continued on Page A12

The Orinda Firewise Council says

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John Jex
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Measure R

Orinda

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Darlene Gee
Orinda City Council

The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources & to engage the City of Orinda and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.

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Split MOFD board declines to change reserve balance policy

By Nick Marnell

Despite the pandemic-driven decrease in ambulance revenue and other high-risk operating areas the district faces, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board voted 3-2 to maintain the policy of a general fund balance equal to 17% of fund revenue, quashing a motion to raise the level to a minimum of 30%.

Prudent fiscal management involves keeping a reasonable amount of money in a reserve account to cover short-term operating contingencies. But public entities walk a fine line between the right amount and an excessive amount, as public agencies are not in the business of hoarding taxpayer dollars.

"A fund balance is not a savings account," Director John Jex said. "It's putting money away so that you can operate successfully."

Some of the operating contingencies the district faces include potential abatement charges it has to pay upfront to clear weeds from properties whose owners defy the fire code ordinance. The district also faces uncertainty with its ongoing pension costs and an ambulance revenue shortfall due to COVID-19.

Its unfunded pension liability remains a high-risk area for the district, though MOFD created a pension stabilization trust fund to set aside money to prepay pension costs. In addition, the equity markets, into which the district pension

plan manager invests more than three-quarters of its assets, have climbed nearly 40% in three years.

On hold because of the pandemic are capital improvements to Fire Stations 41 and 45 and the administration center. The district may be vulnerable to infrastructure crises as upgrades to the buildings were recommended in the 2017 Facilities Plan and it is not clear when these capital projects can be funded.

"When I listen to these risks, and you're looking at two months of expenditures as a reserve, I feel that number is grossly inadequate," Jex said.

Vice President Craig Jorgens agreed on nearly doubling the reserve policy, noting how the Great Recession bat-

tered district finances. "We need those kinds of reserves so we can weather those kinds of storms," Jorgens said. "And we might be in one of those storms right now."

The majority of the board did not see it that way. "I'm certainly in favor of having more savings," said Director Michael Donner, a member of

the board majority that voted against increasing the reserve balance policy. "I'm not in favor of mandating it at the present moment." A motion to maintain the current 17% level passed, with Jorgens and Jex voting against. "To identify the risks and make no change to address those risks I think is incompetent," Jex said.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Orinda reviews virtual evacuation as notification system is updated, town hall scheduled

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Police Chief David Cook reviewed the responses to the survey of participants in the recent virtual evacuation drill with the city council on Aug. 18. In the week that the survey was available, 1,916 residents responded. Cook noted that his information came from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency preparedness coordinator, who worked on the drill.

With 1,311 respondents saying that they received a Community Warning System (CWS) text to their smart phones, only 670 reported receiving a CWS text to a basic cell phone; 156 respondents said that they received a CWS voice call to their home and 76 reported receiving a CWS voicemail on their home phone. In addition, 106 respondents said that they got

an email either from CWS or MOFD, 60 respondents reported being notified by a friend, neighbor or relative in person, and 150 respondents said they received no type of alert.

The great majority of respondents were over the age of 50 and had no children in their households. Over 88% reported that they would be willing and able to check on their neighbors before leaving in their vehicles. Only a very small percent of the respondents considered the exercise to be not valuable, while the majority considered it very valuable.

Cook reported that 3,156 "reverse 911" calls were made, but that they were only 44% successful, which represented the highest failure rate among the attempted contacts. Nearly 8,675 emails and 8,673 text messages were sent out to residents notifying them of the drill.

In public comments, Nick Warranoff suggested that "given significant failure rates, we need a subsequent test soon." Charles Porges wondered how many people did not receive a warning, either because they didn't sign up or they did sign up, but failed to get a warning. Cook said that most people had registered mobile phone numbers and email addresses, but said he would check with CWS.

Shortly after the Orinda virtual evacuation drill, the CWS changed its Caller ID used to issue alerts from the old caller ID number, 000-000-0000, to the new caller ID number, 925-655-0195.

Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) reported that it has been asked why the CWS system changed its phone number at a time when the CWS is so critical. CERT explained that the number was changed

owing to a change in FCC rules, that would have caused calls from the system to be rejected and/or undeliverable if reported as coming from 0000000000.

CERT advises that local residents take the following steps to make sure to receive CWS alerts: add the new CWS number as a new contact in mobile devices and label it "Community Warning System." Then make this new contact a favorite and add it to emergency bypass. According to CERT, taking these steps should stop calls from being identified as Spam or silenced by the Do Not Disturb feature on your phone. For more information about the Community Warning System visit: www.CoCoCWS.us

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan announced a Wildfire Preparedness and Property Insurance Virtual Town Hall to

be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. The town hall is in partnership with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and the Orinda Firewise Council. The discussion will cover how homeowners can take steps to lower wildfire risk, navigate insurance issues and share helpful resources. State Fire Marshal Chief Mike Richwine, Executive Director of United Policyholders Amy Bach, Executive Director of United Policyholders, and experts from the Department of Insurance will speak and answer questions. Interested persons can RSVP at <https://a16.asmdc.org/events/upcoming-events> and are asked to submit questions in advance, by Sept. 8, to crb@insurance.ca.gov with "Orinda Firewise Council Town Hall" in the subject line.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 9 - Aug. 22

Alarms	47
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	69
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	20
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	61
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	10
Welfare Check	30
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

DUI Misd	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reckless Driving	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Hampton Rd.
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.	Tc - Property Damage
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud	3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Fraud Credit Card	

3300 Block Sweet Dr.	Fraud False Pretenses
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	3100 Block Kingsley Pl.
900 Block Mountain View Dr.	Identity Theft
3500 Block Brook St. (2)	4100 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	Petty Theft
900 Block Moraga Rd.	3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
600 Block St. Marys Rd.	Bavarian Ln./Bavarian Ct.
3200 Block S Lucille Ln.	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Residential Burglary	3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.
Shoplift	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community	Disturbance-domestic
1100 Block Orchard Rd.	10 Block Southampton Pl.
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	Loud Noise
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	Springhill Elementary School
3400 Block School St.	3300 Block Kincheloe Ct. (2)
3700 Block Rose Ct.	200 Block Lafayette Cr
Loud Party	3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
600 Block Burton Dr.	Rowland Dr./Reliez Valley Rd.
Coralee Ln./Acalanes Rd. (2)	Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.
Public Nuisance	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24	Vandalism
3500 Block Terrace Way	900 Block Moraga Rd.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	Other
Animal Cruelty	1000 Block Stuart St.
Covid19 Violation	900 Block Of Oakhill Rd.
K9 Outside Assist Request	1000 Block Sunvalley Blvd., Phi
Litter	El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24
Mentally Ill Violent	10 Block Diablo Cir.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	Phone Harass
3200 Block Camino Colorados	900 Block Kelley Ct.
Threats	900 Block Diablo Dr.
500 Block McBride Dr.	1700 Block Toyon Rd.

900 Block Stow Ln.	Trespass
School St./1st St.	3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3400 Block School St.	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	800 Block Oak St.
3500 Block Oconner Dr.	3400 Block Little Ln.
Trespass W/ Vehicle	Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest	Olympic Blvd./Windtree Ct., Wcr
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Violation Custody Order	Police Department (2)
1200 Block Warner Ct. (2)	Violation Restraining Order
3500 Block Walnut St.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 11 - Aug. 23

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	24
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Excessive Speed	Rheem Bumoraga Rd
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
Safeway	Moraga Rd./Madrone
Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.	Rheem Blvd./Park St.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Ivy Dr./Miramonte Dr.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Tharp Dr./Camino Pablo	Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
Rancho Laguna Park	Tamper With Vehicle
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	Other criminal activity
Petty Theft	1500 Block Moraga Rd.
Petty Theft From Veh	1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Shoplift	

Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic	100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Disturbing The Peace	300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Loud Music	Not Available
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	Campolindo High School
Canyon Club Brewery	Loud Noise
2100 Block Donald Dr.	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Not Available	Not Available
Not Available	Loud Party
Not Available	Not Available
Not Available	80 Block Miramonte Dr.
Vandalism	Moraga Commons Park
500 Block Rheem Blvd.	Not Available
2000 Block Donald Dr.	Other
Covid19 Violation	Moraga Commons Park
Loitering	60 Block Buckingham Dr.
Ordinance Violation	10 Block Miramonte Dr.
2100 Block Donald Dr.	Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Elementary School
Safeway	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Cvs	Trespass
Via Joaquin/Alta Mesa Dr.	Safeway
10 Block Miramonte Dr.	Violation Restraining Ord
300 Block Birchwood Dr.	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 9 - Aug. 22

Alarms	34
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	14
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	67
Patrol Req./Security Check	62
Public/School Assembly Check	6
Supplemental Report	16

Welfare Check	8
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Reckless Driving	Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Tc - Property Damage	Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
Shell	Vehicle Theft
20 Block Camino Del Diablo	Mcdonnell Nursery

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	50 Block Tarry Ln.
Identity Theft	60 Block Meadow View Rd.
20 Block Rheem Blvd.	Police Department
40 Block Lost Valley Dr.	10 Block Crown Ct.
Panhandling	50 Block Moraga Way
Petty Theft	Rite Aid
Safeway	Petty Theft From Veh
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	Shoplift
Cvs	Warrant Arrest
400 Block Camino Sobrante	Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace	10 Block Lost Valley Dr.
Barbara Rd./Oak Rd.	Loud Music
10 Block Patricia Rd.	10 Block Hall Dr.
30 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.	30 Block Lombardy Ln.
Loud Noise	20 Block Ramona Dr.
10 Block La Madronal	Loud Party
Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper Ln.	100 Block Hall Dr.

Other

Accident Property	Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	Mcdonnell Nursery
Covid19 Violation	200 Block Longview Terrace
Dalewood Dr./Sundown Terrace,	Other Felony
10 Block Crown Ct.	Revocation Of Probation
Cvs	Violation Restraining Ord
10 Block Gardiner Ct.	Possession Of Stolen Prop
Beverages And More	

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Letters to the editor

Opposition to Measure R

My wife and I are residents of Wilder and are in a subset of Orinda / Lamorinda residents that are disproportionately taxed but receive somewhat lesser benefits than other residents. While we understand this is California and over-regulation and tax grabs are unfortunately the norm, it is getting out of hand particularly with our lives and livelihoods, as well as that of our neighbors, all being materially and adversely affected by the ongoing pandemic and related public safety issues.

We are staunchly against Measure R as another ill-advised, hare-brained and borderline illegal tax grab by local officials. This adds to the list of nonsensical actions around basically pimping out Wilder House for tax revenues, sloppy enforcement of the fields, an even more idiotic placement of a memory care facility on a major highway near Wilder and other tax grabs - all shenanigans that Wilder residents are gearing up to fight.

We ask that the relevant officials think things through for all residents, as opposed to focusing simply on their budget and touting their ability to stay in office.
Chris Shen
Orinda

In Consideration of Fairness

I am responding to Jim Evert's letter in the August 19, 2020, issue of this newspaper. Mr. Evert argues that people chose to live on private streets in Orinda and so it is fair that they should accept the cost of maintaining those streets personally. But what he doesn't take into consideration is that the city has not accepted any public streets since its incorporation. In this tight housing market, people are forced to buy homes where they can find them, whether they are on private streets or not. The city puts home buyers in Orinda between a rock and a hard place: it isn't just the Wilder development on which the city has forced private streets – it is any street built since 1985. Thirty percent of Orinda's streets are now private.

As far as Wilder homes go, Mr. Evert argues that they are less expensive because they are on private streets. However, in addition to the public road taxes that all Orindans pay, the city also required each Wilder homeowner to pay off a six-figure Mello-Roos bond, to pay an annual GHAD assessment, and to build the city an Arts and Garden Center, 5 playing fields, and the Red Tail Hawk Equestrian Center. The annual special assessments for their upkeep in perpetuity, and the HOA dues which fund future road repairs and maintenance, cost each homeowner in the five figures annually and continues to rise.

On the other hand, Mr. Evert's own public residential street was repaired last year at the cost of \$600,000, paid for in part by the taxes of private road residents. I think he needs to revisit the issue of "fairness."

Robert Finch
Orinda

Elect Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council

Gina Dawson is a leader of intelligence, integrity, perseverance, and passion, who has used her excellent communication skills to effect positive change in Lafayette.

Gina cares deeply about our natural world and the safety and well-being of our entire community. As a watchdog for community safety, she co-founded Save our Trees to hold PG&E accountable on their unsubstantiated plans to remove hundreds of our heritage oaks in the name of "public safety." Through passion and perseverance, Gina leveraged this community controversy into something positive, by creating a vehicle for increased public safety. She collaboratively formed the Lafayette Gas Safety Alliance with residents, PG&E, the CPUC, and the City to improve transparency, communication, and decision making on natural resources and pipeline safety.

Our local schools have also benefited from Gina's leadership. For example, Gina successfully led fundraising and communication campaigns in the formation of Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE). For those of you who enjoyed our Lafayette farmer's market, it was Gina, who co-founded it with Sustainable Lafayette.

Gina's plans to increase low income housing opportunities in Lafayette, while protecting our open spaces. She knows that diversity and inclusivity are community strengths. When I first met Gina, I was struck by her positive and friendly attitude as well as her presence and listening abilities.

I encourage you to vote for Gina Dawson for Lafayette Community Council. A vote for Gina is a vote for a positive, healthy, and inclusive future.
Deborah Callister
Lafayette

What is fair for private roads?

Half of my road is public and gets maintained with public funds. The other half does not. I pay for the public road maintenance bonds, taxes and fees but do not get my half maintained. I am offended and dismayed by Jim Evert's letter of 8/19/2020.

Jim Evert contends that the sales price of a home is lower on a private road. The data I have seen contradict his claim. He

further contends that the fees paid by the Wilder developer would have increased the price of each home without knowing what those fees might be.

The unfairness begins because the future residents are not present at the negotiation between the city and the developer. If the new and up to code Wilder roads were public, the city would incur (almost) NO COST for about 25 years, during which time the residents would have paid 25 years of bonds, taxes and fees for public road maintenance. Surely this should entitle them to public maintenance thereafter. The newcomers to our community are getting a really bad deal because of city choices, even if they purchased "willingly".

I believe that had the residents of Wilder been given a choice of paying a slightly higher sales price for a public road they would have done so.

Excluding some long paying residents IS unfair. Making private road residents pay for public road maintenance without getting their road repaved IS unfair. And making the residents of Wilder pay excessive amounts IS unfair.

I understand the attitude "it's not my road so tough" but we as a Community fund all road maintenance. We as a Community will decide what is right and what is fair. The current situation is not.
Charles Porges
A non-Wilder Orinda resident

A vote for Renata Sos

I am enthusiastically supporting Renata Sos for election to our Moraga Town Council and I encourage you to join me in voting for her on Nov. 3. Renata has served Moraga with excellence since being chosen from a field of eleven applicants to fill a vacancy on the Council in September of 2018. During these unprecedented times, we need the most experienced, stable, intelligent, and value-centered leadership possible and Renata fills that bill.

Having worked with her directly in the community, I know her deep commitment to always doing her homework on issues, to listening to all opinions and perspectives, and to making decisions that she believes are best. Renata is a collaborator and proactively reaches out. I admire her intellect and am grateful for all the years she has served as a volunteer leader in our Town- in her daughter's schools and their sports teams, as a Planning Commissioner, and now on our Town Council. Having served two terms on the Moraga School District Governing Board, I know first-hand the long hours such unpaid public service requires.

Most importantly, Renata embodies the very values that most of us hold dear and her leadership reflects those values. We are so very fortunate to live in this lovely place. My husband and I worked on incorporation along with many people who still reside here, wanting to make local decisions that reflect our desire for protected hill-sides, excellent schools, outstanding and responsive emergency services, and great outdoor recreation activities, while staying firmly dedicated to fiscal responsibility.

As I see families walking or biking together during these pandemic days, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live here. Keeping Moraga safe, strong and welcoming requires the kind of dedication Renata provides. I am grateful for all who have served on our Council over the years and especially grateful that Renata is willing to continue serving all of us.

Please visit her website (www.Renata-Sos2020.com) to learn more about her and then join me in casting a vote for Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council on Nov. 3.
Maridel Moulton
Moraga

Measure R Q&A

Another General Sales Tax? No Way!

I hate taxes, too. Name a country that doesn't pay for infrastructure with taxes and let's move there. Of all the property taxes we pay, the city only gets \$.07 of each dollar. If you want to start a movement to fix that, call me. Otherwise, we are stuck with a hobbled City Hall.

This is a terrible time for a tax! Covid! The Economy!

When is it a good time to tax? Covid will end someday. The economy goes up and down. Wildfires are getting worse every year. What if we don't make it through a fire season while we're waiting for better times? The city has a moral and fiduciary responsibility to engage around fire mitigation and the infrastructure.

State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara states that insurance companies look at how well neighborhoods have hardened their homes AND how functional the infrastructure is as part of their risk assessment. While waiting for a good time to tax ourselves, our insurance gets cancelled or triples due to bad infrastructure and excess fuel just waiting to catch. Penny wise, pound foolish?

This tax is regressive
Not as regressive as a parcel tax is.
Plus, groceries and prescriptions are exempt.

This tax hurts Orinda businesses
If you've been shopping in Moraga or Walnut Creek to avoid paying taxes here, you have been paying a 1% added tax there. Lafayette has no extra tax. Bet you haven't even noticed that on your receipts.

How will we know the money is spent

the right way?

City council members have come through on the current general tax so far. They know that we are concerned and they are scared of losing their own homes or lives in a wildfire, too. The Orinda Firewise Council and the citizen oversight committee assigned to this tax will ride herd on this like never before. The state has been burning up all around. This is serious. This is scary. This is a problem we can make a lot better. Vote Yes on R.
Melanie Light
Orinda

Protect Orinda - Vote Yes on Measure R

Orinda needs Measure R, to introduce a new 1% Transactions and Use Tax (TUT)* to replace the existing ½% TUT, which is due to expire in 2023.

Passage of this measure will provide Orinda an estimated \$2.4 M per year, a resource the City needs to significantly reduce the city's risk of catastrophic damage due to wildfires and flooding, and to protect the recent investments made in our roads.

Recent lightning-caused wildfires and the fact that much of Orinda is in an Elevated or Extreme fire risk area, provide a very clear warning that our City must prepare for potential severe wildfires, and must take steps to reduce wildfire risk.

The failure of the storm-drain pipe under Miner Road caused a dangerous sink-hole, clearly demonstrating what can happen if we don't address very old storm drain pipes in need of repair or replacement.

In the past several years, we have invested heavily in repairing many of our roads. Most are now in very good condition, and will stay that way for a number of years. But, if we don't perform needed maintenance, they will fall apart again, and we will have wasted all the money we spent.

Measure R will provide Orinda with resources we desperately need to address these issues and will give the City flexibility to direct funds where they are most urgently needed. The mandated annual audit and the required citizens' oversight committee will assure that the funds provided are spent effectively.

* A Transactions and Use Tax is a type of sales tax that applies not only to items sold in the city, but also to items, such as cars, major electronics, and appliances that are purchased outside the city, for use in the city.

Vote YES on Measure R.
Jud Hammon
Orinda

Measure R support

I support the passage of Measure R because of what I have learned about the threat to Orinda from catastrophic wildfire. Chief David Winnacker was the catalyst when he spoke to a neighborhood group about what fire scientists know about where and how a fire would be likely to start in our area: Briones, at night from a lightning source, after dry winter excess fuel buildup, with windy conditions, and CalFire strained by other fires. If that doesn't sound familiar, turn on your TV or log in. Better yet, make sure you are registered for the CWS alert system and pay attention to evacuation information.

Involvement with the Firewise Neighborhood Council has taught me that citizens in this community are eager for aggressive fire suppression. Many neighborhoods are organized to promote fuel mitigation, but we lack the resources needed to catch up to the dry fuel backlog built up over many years. Measure R will front load that effort and provide an ongoing source of funds to continue the work in the future.

The national CV-19 virus situation and the smoky sky outside my window demonstrate once again how interdependent we are. This tiny tax increase allows the community to invest in vital roads and storm drains in addition to fire prevention. The Orinda Firewise Council is committed to oversight of Measure R spending to ensure it is focused on the needs identified in the neighborhoods. This is an investment in the common good.
Dan Detzner
Orinda

Vote Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council

I encourage you to vote for Gina Dawson in the upcoming City Council election.

I've known Gina for ten years. Here are a few things that I'd like you to know about her. Gina is practical and level-headed. She's an excellent manager, meaning she knows how to organize her time and get things done. And, when it comes to new information, she does her homework.

Gina's a good consensus seeker, another quality we can use more of in today's politics. That said, Gina is driven by core values of caring for people, the environment, and public education. We can count on her to make the right choices when challenging issues emerge.

It's also worth noting Gina's been en-

dorsed by the entire sitting City Council, several former Lafayette mayors and many appointed officials, among others. With a new General Plan coming up in the next few years and with all the challenges the Pandemic is bringing to Lafayette, we'll be well served by having Gina on our city council.

You can find out more about Gina at www.ginadawson2020.com/.

Thank you for your consideration.
Rick Reed
Orinda

Please vote for Carl Anduri

I urge you to vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council. Carl and his family moved to Lafayette in 1980. Carl is experienced in city government and has the knowledge and compassion to effectively represent us. He has been actively involved in our community for years and served on several task forces, the Planning Commission and the City Council. Carl has the experience and proven track record to lead our community.

As a former Planning Commissioner, I believe it is important for a Council member candidate to have served on the Planning Commission. In this capacity, one truly hears and learns the development concerns and positions of many of our residents. It is through this experience a council candidate can understand how our residents vision growth for our city. Also, as a Planning Commissioner, one becomes well versed in the planning and land use documents that guide the future growth of our city. Having this background is important since a large portion of the Council's role is to make decisions on how our City will or will not develop. Carl has the experience and ability to balance the growth needs of our community, protect our hill-sides, expand open spaces and create a vibrant, pedestrian friendly downtown.

Carl is respectful, honest, experienced, hardworking, reasonable, a thoughtful leader, and he LOVES Lafayette. These are all the necessary qualifications for an effective Council member. Please vote for Carl in November.

Patricia Curtin
Lafayette resident for 32 years
Former Planning Commissioner

Vote "Yes" on Measure R

As a homeowner in Orinda, I write in support of the very small 0.5% tax increase that Measure R stipulates. The measure is written as an increase of 1% because Orinda already has a sales tax of 0.5% which is set to expire, so this measure only increases what we are used to spending by 0.5%. I support this measure because of how Orinda plans to spend this money: dedicated to fire prevention and mitigation. Although as an individual homeowner I have taken steps to ameliorate fire hazards on my property, individual homeowners cannot do it alone. Through this measure, Orinda will have a continual, consistent funding source to keep our community as fire safe as possible. Moraga has already passed a measure on this issue, and it's time for Orinda to do the same. When I hear about communities being dropped from insurance policies, I worry. When I smell the smoke from nearby fires, I worry. I am so grateful that I can turn these worries into action by voting YES on Measure R. Please join in me in doing our part to keep our communities safe from wildfires. It's a small price to pay for better piece of mind.
Maggie Reeves
Orinda

Vote for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

In these challenging times the City of Lafayette is fortunate to have a person with Carl's skills and experience willing to once again serve our City as a member of the City Council. I say "once again" because it is rare that one of our citizens, having retired from public office, is willing to do it again! Carl has already served on the Council for 10 years 2002-2012. He was Mayor in 2005 and 2011.

He recently retired as president of a global network of law firms. Thank you, Carl, for returning to city government. I first met Carl when I was Mayor. We recognized early on that he was a very thoughtful problem solver. He listens carefully and respectfully. Recognizing his many skills, we wisely appointed him to serve on the Planning Commission. Subsequently he was elected to Council. Now he returns to us having added years of experience to his impressive skill set. He knows our community very well. Our citizens appreciate that Carl listens to all sides of an issue and communicates his insights clearly. He loves Lafayette.

I encourage you to join me in voting for Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council.
Judy Garvens
former mayor of Lafayette

... continued on next Page

Controversial apartments get the green light



Photo Pippa Fisher

The future site of the Terraces of Lafayette

... continued from Page A1

With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer, O'Brien Homes, resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project under the process agreement. The project includes 20% (63 units) offered as low-income housing and as such has protection under the Housing Accountability Act.

Council members took the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of city staff, the police chief, and the traffic consultants. Indeed many questions focused on a fire evacuation scenario and the reliability of the traffic reports, but as the council weighed up the factors, they were very much mindful of HAA laws, which Bryan Wenter, Attorney for the developer, pointed out "mandates approval."

The decade of meetings, lawsuits and controversy, which has garnered national attention at times, holding Lafayette up as a poster-child for NIMBY-ism, has been very divisive for the city. This was certainly clear from the 30 public comments, equally split both in favor of and against the project.

Those for the project spoke of the much-needed low-income housing this would provide, the diversity they say it would bring and suggested the council should examine how history would judge them whilst those against the apartments urged leaders not to add extra traffic, with one speaker suggesting Deer Hill Road would be a "funnel of death." On an evening thick with smoke from 300 fires blazing across California, a fire evacuation seemed to be on everyone's minds.

And it was with fire in mind that Candell said she could not support putting high density housing in a high fire zone. "I'm really concerned," she said.

Burks also grappled with

risks. He agreed however with Mayor Mike Anderson, Council Member Teresa Geringer and Council Member Steven Bliss, in their confidence in testimony from the fire and police chiefs on safety. Burks said that it would take combined leadership to get through some significant risk.

"We need to be very clear and demanding in that regard," said Burks. The council all agreed to work closely with fire and police departments in the area of wildfire safety across the city.

A statement from Dennis O'Brien said, "We are enormously grateful to the many supporters in the community who spoke in favor of this important project, city staff for their years of hard work, and the council for their confidence in us in the face of relentless pressure. Although it has been frustrating to see this project take nearly a decade to obtain approval, we are happy that we have finally reached that point, and we look forward to our project becoming a part of the Lafayette community."

Following the meeting Jeremy Levine of Inclusive Lafayette, an organization that supports the Terraces, said that he was impressed by the council's civil discourse.

"I am confident the council has made the best decision for Lafayette's long-term future. State law created a set of incentives that meant we could not afford the risk of denying the proposal or demanding more review of any kind," said Levine. "Fortunately, most of the council deferred to the expertise of our excellent city staff, particularly Greg Wolff and Rob Hodil, in order to guide their decision."

Levine says, "Everyone can agree that traffic and fire risk along Pleasant Hill Road is frustrating and terrifying, but, after nine years of research, no evidence that would stand up in a court of

law suggests the Terraces will negatively impact fire evacuation times. Virtually all other concerns brought up by the opposition have become legally irrelevant."

Anderson said after the meeting that he was very pleased with the large degree of public participation in the Terraces of Lafayette appeal procedure and the thorough deliberations of the city council that highlighted the safety of the residents in the area, while balancing the options and potential legal liabilities to make the best, although not unanimous decision, concluding a nine-year-long planning process.

It may be the end of the planning process, but it is unlikely an end to the controversy.

Pointing to what Michael Griffiths of Save Lafayette calls "erroneous and unsubstantiated statements" made by the city's own consultants, he says that verbal opinions without basis were accepted as fact while proven findings of outside experts on traffic, air pollution and wildlife were virtually ignored.

"The council further ignored the true findings of its own traffic and pollution studies while accepting erroneous and unsubstantiated statements, made by those same consultants," says Griffiths. "The city staff and attorney had previously kept the pressure on the planning commission by making false and/or irrelevant statements to the commission."

"So how was it that the four council members saw fit to approve the project four to one?" asks Griffiths. "A good question, which will be resolved in the courts over the coming months and years."



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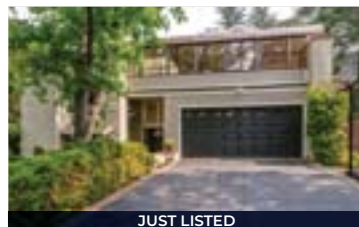


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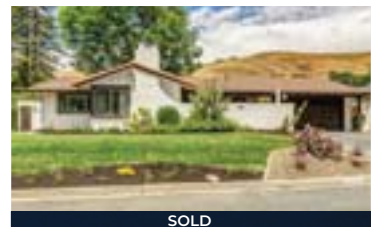
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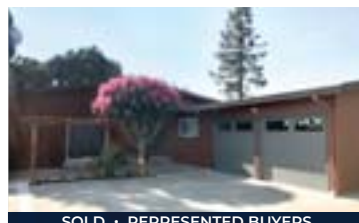
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Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A10

Vote Jex for MOFD

As longtime residents of Moraga, my wife and I have been concerned for years about the financial ability of MOFD to expand their leadership to help Moraga and Orinda become strong Fire-Wise communities. Under the effort of directors Jex of Moraga, and Jorgens of Orinda, the chipper program has helped many of our neighborhoods to reduce the fire risk by prioritizing prevention. We are appreciative of their leading the way. We need their continuing efforts during the next four years to finally get the job done. Without someone on the board like them, who have worked to build the financial resources, we are fearful the financial capability of the district will be weakened and unable to do the job.

William D. Wright
Moraga

It's About Time!

I am writing to add my support for Orinda's Downtown Precise Plan [covering privately owned property] which will complement the ConnectOrinda Plan [covering

City-owned property]. The planning process for both plans has been extraordinary with many community meetings and much citizen involvement. It's about time we did something about our tired-looking downtown!

Believe it or not, since Theater Square opened 25 years ago, Orinda has not seen a single new project break ground in our "commercial" districts. In addition, only two of the current 53 commercial buildings in Orinda have been renovated during that timeframe. We have work to do if we want to encourage renovations and new development. Our height and residential density limits are so outdated and restrictive they actually discourage commercial property owners from making improvement to their properties. We should support the Downtown Precise Plan now being formulated so we can address the changes that are needed to Orinda's old Objective Design Standards. We all need to get involved.

In my experience, there is more and better shopping available in the Town of Moraga. We can do better. We deserve better!

Ellen Dale
Orinda



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The car show must go on, but it is now a tour

... continued from Page A7

Among the 100 cars participating in the tour will be a classic 1968 Ford Mustang GT. Neil Cunningham acquired the classic car, which is almost identical to the car driven by Steve McQueen in the iconic movie, "Bullitt." That vehicle was sold at auction last January for \$3.74 million, making it the most expensive car in the world. Cunningham was absolutely amazed when he was able to secure a black California license plate for his car reading JJZ I09. The plate in the movie was JJZ 109, so the substitution of the roman

numeral I is as close as Cunningham could possibly get. His car is painted the same Highland Green as in the movie. Cunningham, a retired San Francisco police officer, is a huge fan of all things Steve McQueen, and McQueen's son Chad McQueen has even autographed the dash of Cunningham's car.

Vanek has put a lot of work into the classic car tour. He wanted to maintain continuity and have people show their classic cars. He also wanted to keep the sponsors and the charities, and to generally make people feel better during the pandemic, without having thousands of people

showing up in Orinda. The participants will meet at the same place outside Orinda Motors, but they won't congregate. The cars will leave on the tour in groups of about 20.

The tour will also take advantage of technology that is available, including Zoom. Vanek says that there will be a team of photographers, including a drone, throughout the course. Steve Harwood, known locally as "The Voice of Orinda," will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which will be hosted on Zoom live. The video of the event will continue to be available on the website.

Donations to Seniors Around Town can be made directly to the Orinda Association at www.orindaassociation.org. The route and other information about the classic car tour is available at www.orindacarshow.com/2020-16th-annual-orinda-classic-car-show-underway/



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

A mosaic of experiences: online schooling



Photo Mark Pastore

Emma Pastore at her desk, ready for online learning.

By Sophie Braccini

After a troubled start in the Spring, the fall version of remote learning in Lamorinda comes with many improvements for students and their parents. Families' experiences vary greatly depending on the age of the students, parents' work situation and disposable income, and the children's learning styles and personality. Not surprisingly, most everyone, including parents, children and teachers, hopes that in-person school will start again soon.

Janet Benedict works full time outside her home and so does her husband. They have three children, an 18-year-old daughter who graduated from Miramonte last summer and

is now taking online classes at DVC, and two sons in middle school at Orinda Intermediate in sixth and eighth grade. Benedict is quite pleased with the way school is organized this time around. Her daughter is self-sufficient, and her sons are mature enough to be left to their own devices, in synchronous classes in the morning and often at the Moraga skatepark in the afternoon.

This feeling is shared by many parents of middle school children. Trent Watkins, whose daughter Madison is in sixth grade at Joaquin Moraga intermediate School, says that she rarely needs him for school work and only when there is a technology glitch involved.

Mark Patero, father of sixth-grader Emma and eighth-grader Rex, notes that teaching is more structured this school year, that the schedule is easier to follow, and well-organized. Tiraporn Olsen parents a sixth-grader, an eighth-grader and a 10th-grader who are also independent learners who do not stop her from working full time from home. Having the whole family working from home because of COVID has, in fact, freed a lot of time for her as she does not have to commute to San Francisco or pick up her offspring from the multiple outside activities they were typically involved in.

Even if the learning experience has improved a lot compared to the spring, some parents have started or continued to organize "learning pods" where students meet and work on specific skills. Patero said his daughter invited four friends to join in such a group, both for social interaction and to study. The group will meet twice a week at one of the friends' homes with a math tutor.

Other parents do not want or need to have their child in a pod. The mother of the fifth-grader and seventh-grader, both with Instructional Educational Plans (IEP), and who would rather not be named, said she would not trust the safety of a pod. She has to invest a lot of hours especially with her younger child as he does not like school and is reluctant to participate. The aid that children with an IEP should be getting has not kicked in yet for them in the Moraga School District but contacts have been made. The mother who worked part time was able to reduce her hours

in order to support her children.

Emily S., who asked to have her name changed for this article, has a demanding full-time job as well as her husband. The mother of 5-year-old twins in kindergarten confided that she felt stressed, worried, and overwhelmed. Homeschooling two 5-year-

olds while trying to work a full-time job at home is virtually impossible, she added. Emily wanted to hire a qualified tutor for a couple hours per day and she interviewed several, but she said they all wanted at least \$40 per hour for at least 25 hours of work per week.

... continued on Page B2

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Tasty custards - a perfect twist to the cheese and cracker platter



Roasted Shallot & Jalapeno Custards

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

We were served these tasty garlic custards at a friend's house, and for all the world they looked like a little round of Boursin cheese to me, as they sat on the serving plate amongst the endive leaves and crackers. I was so surprised when I dug into the custard and spread it on my cracker, because it had such a beautiful soft texture. And then there was the taste! It is such a lovely subtle flavor and much lighter than cheese. What a great idea, I thought. Of course, as I do, I

went home and took a stab at making them for my next dinner guests, opting to use roasted shallots and finely minced jalapeno in place of the garlic, along with a bit of grated Parmesan cheese. These are so much fun and an unusual twist on the cheese and cracker platter. You can use roasted garlic, roasted shallots or even roasted red onions for different flavor profiles in the custards. Top them with a simple vinaigrette, some diced garden-fresh tomatoes and toasted pine nuts.

Roasted Shallot & Jalapeno Custards

(Makes five 3-inch custards)

INGREDIENTS

2 shallots, peeled and cut into quarters
1 clove garlic, peeled and sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 jalapeno, seeded and very finely diced
1 cup heavy cream
1 whole egg
2 egg yolks
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
Vinaigrette (recipe below)
Garnishes: diced garden fresh tomatoes, basil leaves, toasted pine nuts

DIRECTIONS

For Shallots:

Preheat oven to 300 F. Place shallots and garlic in a piece of foil, sprinkle with a pinch of salt and white pepper. Wrap tightly and bake for about 25-30 minutes, or until shallots and garlic are cooked through and just beginning to brown. Remove from oven and cool. When cool, process shallots and garlic until smooth.

For Custards:

Meanwhile, grease five 6-ounce ramekins (3.5 inch in diameter) with butter and then spray with PAM. Set in a 9x13 casserole dish or baking pan with at least 2-inch high sides. Either keep oven at 300 F or preheat again, if you decided to prepare the shallot/garlic mixture ahead of time

Place all ingredients, including pureed shallots and garlic, in a mixing bowl and whisk until well-blended. Pour custard into prepared ramekins in the 9x13 pan. Very carefully pour water into the pan until it reaches halfway up the sides of the ramekins, being very careful not to splash any water into the custards. With steady hands, place casserole dish in oven and bake for about 45-50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow custards to sit for 10 minutes or so, before inverting them onto the serving plate. (They may need a little cajoling to get out by running a knife around the edges of the ramekin or a solid slap with your hand to the bottom of the ramekin)

Garnish custards with chopped tomatoes, pine nuts and a basil sprig. Drizzle vinaigrette over the top. Serve with sliced baguette, crackers or endive leaves.

Simple Vinaigrette

Whisk together:

1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons red or white wine vinegar
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/4 teaspoon thyme
1/4 teaspoon sea salt
1/4 teaspoon white pepper

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>



Bach Shorts, a multidimensional artistic experience



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

Pamela Freund-Striplen is constantly reinventing what she offers to Lamorinda music enthusiasts, despite the difficult time for artists. The founder of the Gold Coast Chamber Players offers something new and fresh this fall with live online multidimensional cultural experiences around J.S. Bach. For one evening in September, October

and November she gives the GCCP "stage" to three exceptional local cello players with the mandate to create a performance that includes music and reflection around different aspects of the great baroque composer. The first performance on Sept. 13 is called Bach and the Dancing Brain.

Freund-Striplen explains that the reasons she chose Bach are both for the richness of his great cello work, and because

she is, like many, deeply touched by the transcendental humanity of his work. She wondered what experience could be broadcast online, support local musicians, while creating something unique and engaging.

Freund-Striplen had long conversations with three local leading cello players and they decided to create events that intersect music and other specific domains. Partnerships were formed with professors and organizations. Bach and the Dancing Brain, the September event, will be led by cellist Christopher Costanza partnering with Jonathan Berger, Stanford University professor, author and composer. Berger's research at Stanford has focused on the effect of music on the brain. How does the brain respond to music, how does music affect the cognitive process, are some questions Costanza and Berger will discuss after the cellist plays J.S. Bach Suites #2 and #6 for solo cello.

This session, as well as the two following ones, will be

broadcast live from Reve Bistro in Lafayette. Reve is providing the ambiance on that Sunday afternoon while the place is not open to the public. Paul Magu, Reve's chef, is a huge fan of chamber music and opera. He and his wife Laura got to know Freund-Striplen, and have already hosted virtual concerts in the restaurant, as the acoustics work well for live streaming. If music lovers want to add a gustative dimension to the experience, they can pick up a to-go dinner that Sunday at the restaurant and eat it at home. More information for that culinary portion can be found on Reve's website: <https://revebistro.com/>

The Sunday in September will be the first of three happenings offered by GCCP. On Oct. 11, cello player Jennifer Kloetzel is partnering with composer Elena Ruehr, presenting Bach Inspired. Ruehr is an award-winning faculty member at MIT, she has also been a Guggenheim fellow, a fellow at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute and composer-in-

residence with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. After playing J.S. Bach Cello Suite #1 for solo cello, Kloetzel will play Elena Ruehr's Cricket the Fiddler, a piece inspired by Suite #1. This presentation will be a World Premiere.

Then on Nov. 8, cellist Robert Howard will explore the universal appeal of Bach, in collaboration with cellists from Kenya and Colombia, with Bach Connections. Freund-Striplen explains that the cellist has very gifted students in these countries, young people who go to incredible lengths to be able to play. That evening Howard will tell with them, through music, their life stories and what music brings to them. Howard and his students will play J.S. Bach Cello Suite #4, and select movements from Suites #1,2, and 3.

Freund-Striplen chose the hour of 4 p.m. to reach people in different locations. Tickets are \$20 for one performance and \$50 for all three. More information at <https://www.gccpmusic.com/>

Tell me more about UC Santa Barbara

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Does your idea of the ideal California college experience include sun and surf mixed with serious academic pursuits? UC Santa Barbara might be your school. Located on cliffs directly above the Pacific Ocean, this is one of the few colleges that has its own beach, lagoon, koi pond, and nature preserve—all on one campus! Isla Vista, a short walk or bike ride from campus, is a true college town with many student-oriented restaurants and shops. If you attend UCSB, chances are you will live in Isla Vista at some time during your education. Your place may even have an ocean view. There is no need to bring a car to UCSB. It is far, far easier to travel on campus or into Isla Vista by bike or with your own leg power, than it is to drive.

Going beyond the beach and beauty of the campus, UCSB has more than 90 majors as well as numerous minors and certificate programs, all housed at one of the leading research universities in the country. UCSB's faculty boasts six Nobel laureates, and many faculty members are widely recognized and respected in their fields. UCSB's College of Letters and Sciences is the academic home to 19,000 of the university's 23,000 undergrads. Some of the most popular majors include biopsychology, communication, economics and accounting, global studies and the biological sciences. For the musically inclined, the college offers dozens of instrumental and vocal options leading to the Bachelor of Music degree. UCSB's marine location also make it a great place to study aquatic biology, earth science, geography and hydrology.

Interested in engineering?

UCSB offers accelerated bachelors/masters options in chemical engineering (with materials science), computer science, computer engineering, electrical as well as mechanical engineering. The university's College of Creative Studies (CCS), a small community of 400 undergraduates, functions much like an honors college at other large universities. It helps make a big university feel much smaller and is highly competitive. CCS offers a variety of majors including art, biology, chemistry and biochemistry, computing, mathematics, music composition, physics and writing and literature. CCS students work closely with faculty to choose courses as well as to design and complete their own independent projects. According to the university, 75% of CCS alumni go on to graduate school.

UCSB is not quite as selective as UCLA or UC Berkeley. But

whether you apply as a high school senior or transfer student, it's tough to get in. Over 93,000 students wanted a seat in last year's freshman class; less than 30% were accepted. UCSB also attracted over 24,000 transfer applicants, almost all coming from California community colleges. Just over a fifth got in. Those who get into UCSB tend to stay and graduate. Freshmen retention rates have averaged over 91 percent for every class that has arrived since 2001. At least 70% of every class that has entered since 2007 has graduated in four years. These rates are among the best in the country for a large public university. They're a strong testament to the quality of the students and their love for the school. It also resonates with the perfect slogan this university has adopted for its campus and community: "Where Beauty Meets Brilliance."



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

A mosaic of experiences: online schooling

... continued from Page B1

She supervises her children's in-class Zoom calls and daily assignments which takes about three hours of her time a day. She feels she is falling behind at work and worried that her children are not getting a quality education.

Watkins says that his sixth-grader can mostly work independently, it is not the

case for his third-grader. He notes what a difference it makes to have him available at home and he does not know how he would have done it otherwise. He says that his presence is having a positive influence on his son. Watkins knows not to watch over his son's shoulder during the synchronous lessons as he feels that some struggle may be built in the lesson plan in-

tionally by the teacher to increase students' resourcefulness.

Not being overly present in the daily school life of young children is a recommendation shared by David Schrag, Orinda school district director of curriculum and instructions. He would like parents to let go as much as possible and let their children have moments of struggle.

Schrag has seen how much work teachers have put into the creation of a completely new experience for the children. Even the star teachers that have superb mastery of a live classroom may struggle with Zoom breakrooms and keeping children accountable. They work collaboratively by grade level to establish norms and practices to make sure learning happens, on top of

redesigning the curriculum for the new way of delivering it.

Schrag says that most teachers are eager to come back to what they signed up for: live classroom teaching. When that happens is uncertain, but he said that, when it is safe for all, efforts will be made to bring back the younger students and those more in need first.

Protest over Postal Service in Orinda



Photo provided

About 50 people showed up at the Orinda post office Aug. 22 to protest recent cuts to the funding and level of service by the United States Postal Service. The event was one of over a thousand events in all 50 states organized to show support for the USPS, its services and its workers, and to object to recent cuts in the level of service. Attendance was limited to 50 to ensure adequate social distancing. Attendees wore masks. The events were facilitated by MoveOn.org, but organized by local organizers.

Speakers included local organizer

Chad Curran. One woman told how her mother in her 80s relies on medicine to maintain her eyesight. The medicine must remain cold, so it ships in a cold pack. Due to the recent delays in postal service, the cold pack arrived thawed and the medicine was spoiled, so the service cuts are directly affecting her health.

Other speakers talked about how the cuts may affect mail-in balloting. The USPS sent notices to 46 states warning that mail-in ballots may not be able to be processed in time.

— S. O'Doherty

Where's My Ballot is a California program for voters, where they can sign up to track their ballots, see when it is mailed out to them and when it is received back by their county elections department. The link is: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status/wheres-my-ballot/?fbclid=IwAR2WqRNT0iihy6rBIRKC8349GTixh-kDUFyrbGAZjPNHdw7QR13n41O4DDI>

In Memory

Mary Margaret DePriester

November 18, 1921 – August 19, 2020

Resident of Moraga, CA



Mary Margaret DePriester was born November 18, 1921 in Munising, Michigan, and passed away peacefully August 19, 2020 at the age of 98. Margaret was a graduate of the University of Michigan and an elementary school teacher. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians. Margaret and her husband Coral were longtime residents of Moraga and were part of the town incorporation committee.

Margaret was the first woman to serve on the Moraga Planning Commission, was twice elected to the Town Council, and served two terms as Mayor of Moraga. She was Moraga's Citizen of the Year in 1986.

Her community activities included two years

as President of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette AAUW and she was a recipient of their Distinguished Woman award in 1975; President of the Moraga Historical Society and chair of the committee that raised funds for construction of the Moraga History Center, serving as an archivist at the Center.

Margaret was a past president of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club. For several years, she was a member of the Advisory Board of the Hearst Art Gallery, and both she and her husband were Honorary Alumni of Saint Mary's College. Margaret served nine years on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Northern California, one year as president. She chaired, for two years, the board of directors of the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Northern California. Margaret was the founding president of the Hacienda de Moraga Foundation.

She is survived by her daughter Susan Freeman (Tim), her son Bruce (Sharon), four grandsons and five great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Coral, to whom she was married for 69 years.

The family wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the caring staff of Moraga Royale and Suncrest Hospice.

A celebration of Margaret's life will be arranged at a later date.

Donations in Margaret's memory may be sent to Planned Parenthood of Northern California, 2185 Pacheco Street, Concord, CA 94520, or the Moraga Historical Society, P.O. Box 103, Moraga CA 94556, for use at the History Center.

In Memory

H. Edward Zuber

June 19, 1941 – Aug. 12, 2020



Ed Zuber has rounded the bases for a final time. ... He is safe at home.

Born to Anna Reuther and George Zuber who immigrated from Germany and settled in Los Angeles. Ed grew up on West 59th Street. His father passed when Ed was only 6 years old and he was raised by his mother.

At Dorsey High School, Ed met the love of his life, his muse and soulmate, Kathy, "The Redhead." Last June they celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. Their love and commitment to each other and their family was an inspiration.

A USC Trojan fan since childhood, Ed graduated from the university in 1943 with a degree in public administration. After graduating, he joined Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in its sales management

training program and rose through the ranks during his 43-year career retiring in 2007 as the Western Regional Director.

Ed elevated Liberty Mutual's western region to prominence and won several awards and accolades for his division's performance and leadership. There was a saying that "what started in California eventually rippled across the rest of the country."

Ed was a passionate leader and mentor to many during his career and kept in close touch with colleagues who became dear friends over the years.

In 1974, Ed moved his family, including his mom, to Moraga, California as part of a job transfer where he planted deep roots in the Bay Area as a resident for the next 46 years.

Realizing there was no baseball program where his son Jon could play locally, Ed founded the Moraga Baseball Association (MBA) in 1977 which still teaches kids the love of the game today. Coach Zuber or "Zube" as he was affectionately known impacted the lives of hundreds of kids through the MBA teaching valuable life skills such as discipline, perseverance, commitment, a strong work ethic and good sportsmanship.

Off the field, Zube was a leader instilling those same virtues in his employees. While he could be tough, his big bark was often followed by a small bite! While he motivated people to reach their highest potential, he remained fiercely loyal; if you were on Zube's team, you knew he always had your back.

He took great pride in following his players throughout their lives and supporting them in their personal and professional endeavors.

When his son Jon's baseball career took off, there was nothing Ed liked to do more than watch his games and later when Jon coached baseball at UC Berkeley, California, Ed relished his job as the public address announcer at the Cal field. He channeled his inner Vin Scully, emulating the legendary Dodgers announcer, and read up on the stats and personal histories of each player to keep fans engaged and interested.

A committed sports super fan, in the fall Ed would journey south for USC football games, often with his daughter Lynda, where he would connect with friends from childhood. They enjoyed traveling to the Orange Bowl, multiple Rose Bowls, and to Germany to visit family.

In the spring, Ed could be found cheering on the Oakland A's where he loved bringing friends, colleagues, and of course Kathy to spend a few hours at the yard, watching the game but more importantly spending time and swapping stories with those he loved.

A loyal and devoted family man, Ed was proud of his children who he always made time for regardless of what was going on. In later years, his grandchildren, Madison and Tatum, were the great joys of his life. He loved picking them up from school, cheering them on from the sidelines while they played sports, seeing the world through their eyes as they traveled to Disneyland, Hawaii and Mammoth together.

He was a giant to many, a legend to some, and will hold a special place in our hearts forever. In lieu of flowers, Ed would have wanted you to raise a glass, make a toast and share your favorite memory of time spent with him.

A celebration of his life will be planned post-COVID.

FIGHT ON!!

In Memory

Lawrence Edward Phillips

May 6, 1933 – Aug. 13, 2020



Lawrence Edward Phillips, "Larry", age 87, formerly of Malta, Montana, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020 at John Muir Hospital in Concord, California of heart failure.

Larry was born on May 6, 1933 in Glasgow, Montana to the late Walter (William) and Tennie (Hawkins) Phillips and was the youngest of three boys. Lawrence and his brothers grew up on a large sheep ranch in Phillips County, with no electricity or other modern conveniences 22 miles from the nearest town, Malta, Montana.

Phillips County was named after the late senator and Larry's grandfather, Benjamin D. Phillips. The boys spent their childhood riding horses, shooting magpies, playing in the barn and climbing trees. After the

depression, cold winters, World War II and the drought, the family moved to Oakland, California. Larry attended Piedmont High School and was awarded Eagle Scout by the National Council of The Boy Scouts of America for Troop 2 in 1950.

After graduation, Larry attended UC Berkeley and then went on to graduate from UCSF School of Dentistry. He was awarded UC Dental School Man of the Year in 1956. Larry was employed as a pediatric dentist for two years in Walnut Creek and then he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Verdun, France for three years as a Captain and worked in the dental clinic on the army base. During his time in France, Larry lived life to the fullest! He was a member of the U.S. Army Golf Team and explored Europe with friends from the service.

After leaving the military, Larry worked at a busy dental clinic on Santa Clara Avenue in Alameda, California for more than 20 years and was involved in the Alameda Elks Lodge, Sierra Club, American Dental Association, California Alumni Association, and Encinal Yacht Club. Larry was a competitive sailor at the helm of Sprite, a Cal 20. Larry, along with his brother Glen, won many races in the San Francisco Bay.


Larry met the love of his life and partner of 51 years, Diane Dougherty, at a Sierra Club event in Oakland in 1964. Diane and Larry married at Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda on May 17, 1969 and had one daughter, Karen, a few years later. After many wonderful years in Alameda, the family moved to Orinda, California.

Larry was a true adventurer throughout life and spent his free time hiking, skiing, fishing, golfing and traveling. Diane and Larry would spend each winter in Florida and every fall the couple would pick a new place to visit. Summers were often spent camping with family and friends in Donner Euer Valley in Tahoe. Later in life Larry "Papa" was constantly surrounded by his four loving grandchildren including Benjamin (15), Joseph (13), Johnny (10) and Grace (4) who also reside in Orinda. The children loved Papa's stories from ranching days, adventures in the army and his travels around the world. Larry spent several hours each week reading, building models, and teaching the importance of brushing teeth to each of his grandchildren. Larry will be truly missed!

"What I love about Papa most is when he hugs me," said Grace, age 4, on Aug. 13. Larry was kind, patient, loving, diligent, bright and caring. Larry's older brother, Donald, preceded him in death. Larry is survived by his beloved wife Diane Dougherty Phillips and brother Glen Phillips, daughter Karen Phillips Boccabella, son-in-law John R. Boccabella, grandchildren, Benjamin, Joseph, Johnny and Grace Boccabella as well as numerous wonderful relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations are made in the name of Lawrence Edward Phillips to the Truckee Donner Land Trust (a registered 501c3) to support their mission to preserve and protect open space in the Northern Sierra. Donations can be sent to Truckee Donner Land Trust, PO Box 8816, Truckee CA 96162 or online@ <https://www.truckeedonnerlandtrust.org/ways-to-give>

Service Clubs Announcements



Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Zoom Meetings Every Friday at 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>

September Weekly Speakers

4: Roberto Alvarez, The BIG Rotary Picture
 11: Ali Guarneros Luna, NASA Project Manager
 18: Jim Marggraff, Improving Human Connection
 25: Jim Marggraff, the Future of Rotary Meetings

www.lamorindasunrise.com

Lamorinda Idol winners announced

Submitted by Carol Van De Poel

The 15th annual Lamorinda Idol 2020 was held virtually this year, due to the pandemic, with singers or singing groups, ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade, submitting videos to be judged as part of this popular talent competition.

The winners, which were announced on Aug. 16, included:

<p>Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Solo Category Miranda Klein</p> <p>3rd – 5th Grade Solo Category Palig Horoupian</p> <p>6th – 8th Grade Solo Category Natalie Schroeder</p>	<p>9th – 12th Grade Solo Category Lleyton Allen</p> <p>Kindergarten – 5th Grade Group Category The Elkind Sisters Maya Elkind Sadie Elkind</p> <p>6th – 8th Grade Group Category</p>	<p>Mina and Svea Mina Lim Svea Peterson</p> <p>9th – 12th Grade Group Category Sabs and Lyss Sabrina Hernandez Alysa Vassallo</p> <p>Audience Award Svea Peterson</p>
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You can see the awards announcement on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfNzbK_BhE&feature=youtu.be

Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces a virtual exhibition, "Diversity Among Us." The online video exhibit "Diversity Among Us" runs from Sept. 1 – 30. It explores the common threads of our collective visions while recognizing our differences as we view beauty, harmony, nature, our environment and humanity. This show includes paintings, mixed media, printmaking, and ceramics by local artists. LAA member Ruth Stanton curated this show. The online video exhibit can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/FLKMRwG-Bu4> on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LamorindaArt/ or on the LAA website at LAA4Art.org.

The Moraga Art Gallery art exhibit "Dark and Light, A Delicate Balance"

runs through Sept. 12. The gallery is located at 432 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, in Moraga. Hours are Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. The gallery may need to change its hours if there are new health directives, so call first to confirm that it is open.

MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players Virtual Concert Series. Bach Shorts (one hour live-streamed concerts) Sunday, Sept.

13 at 4 p.m. Bach and the Dancing Brain
Christopher Costanza, cello. Jonathan Berger, Stanford University Professor
Information and tickets www.gccpmusic.com/bach-shorts

OTHER

Sustainable Contra Costa August Workshop Climate Careers Chat. Are you interested in developing your career? Do you wish to learn from the top professionals in their industry? Then tune into this monthly Climate Career Panel on Sept. 8 from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for an informative panel on career development in administration and clean energy. Guests include Kimberly Lam from Republic Services and PG&E's Darren Deffner. Sign up at www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-careers-chat-brought-to-you-by-slia-tickets-116475921617

GARDEN

Thursday, Sept. 17 Moraga Garden Club. Celebrating 50 years, Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian presents "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation.

Please submit events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Worship services are available online to view or stream or they have been canceled for now. Please call or check the individual websites for updated information.

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

All are welcome to our on-line services
 Sunday Service 10 – 11 am
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 – 8:30 pm
 See website and join us through Zoom
www.christianscienceorinda.org

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mvpctoday.org



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 925.376.4800



Lafayette United Methodist Church

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Sanjay Lal – From playing at Miramonte to coaching in the NFL



Sanjay Lal while coaching with the Dallas Cowboys. Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

There are many ways to make it to the National Football League as a coach. The straight line is to be born here, learn the game here, play through high school and college and look for any opportunity you can find to get your foot in the door and take it from there.

For Sanjay Lal, a 1987 graduate of Miramonte High School, from the start of his life, playing football and eventually becoming a coach in the NFL, a straight line it wasn't: "I was born in London and my father (Vern) was working for Electronic Data Systems (EDS) which was a company owned by Ross Perot. He worked in the world division so our family would have to move to countries like Kuwait, Iran, and Mexico. As me and my sister and brother got older, he decided that we needed to get to the United States and settle down and we ended in Plano, Texas which was the headquarters for EDS. It was there where I was introduced to football as a seventh grader and ever since then I

have been in love with the game."

Having lived in so many different countries has provided Lal with a perspective, seeing people more as individuals than as members of a particular group: "I would say that it made me have a clearer outlook that people are just people. You cannot label a race or a religion as they are this way, or they act that way because it is simply not true. In Kuwait, the majority of the population is Muslim, and they were very nice and gracious people so to take the crazy section of any religion, it's not right to portray the religion that way. It gave me a broader view of things. When it was pointed out to me that I am the only Indian coach in the NFL, I have never thought about that, so I'm wired a little differently that way."

As a rule, Lal would attend the American schools in the various countries his family was living in, which he found to be "a nurturing, friendly and welcoming type of environment." It was a far greater adjustment to attend a public high school in Plano, Texas as the new kid, Lal

said: "It was all the typical stuff with the bullying. I learned that you either get stronger or you let it crumble you. I got stronger, but it was a cultural shock."

His sport growing up overseas was primarily soccer, "which I never liked." It was when he got to Texas that he quickly discovered a love of football: "My family did not even know what football was until I started playing it. We would play all the time. I started reading about all the players and just loved it. That I could catch really helped me with my teammates."

After making one final move to Orinda and Miramonte High School, Lal, then a sophomore, had another cultural adjustment: "I came to love Texas. Although the football cultures were far different from Plano to Miramonte, I really enjoyed playing at Miramonte because we passed the ball a lot more, which was fun since I got to catch a lot more balls."

What also made it more of a positive experience was his coach, Floyd Burned, now the head coach at Acalanes: "Floyd was a player's coach. I can only say good things about him. When he talked, we listened. He was a very fair coach and he wanted the best for our team and was willing to do anything for us."

Besides the football program, the classes at Miramonte laid a foundation for Lal: "The academics were excellent and the teachers were some of the best I ever had though at the time, I probably didn't appreciate them because they really made us work and it set me up really well for the academics at college."

As a wide receiver, one thing Lal did not lack for was confidence. After graduating from Miramonte, he chose to walk-on at UCLA where Troy Aikman was the team's quarterback: "I always saw myself playing major college football," Lal said. "I just knew that I could

catch, and I loved the game and I felt everything else would come." After two years at UCLA, which included a victory in the 1989 Cotton Bowl, Lal transferred to the University of Washington and was on the team that won the national championship in 1990, graduating with a business degree.

Lal had tryouts with some NFL teams and even played in NFL Europe but injuries led him down a different path: "I was working at a promotions job for Budweiser which was a night-time job and began coaching the wide receivers and passing game at Miramonte for six years, five of which we won the NCS."

Lal worked with a number of top players such as Peter French who went on to play at San Jose State but it was one play by Phil Wagner, who is now a doctor, that ultimately led him to become a full-time coach: "I taught Phil how to run the post corner pattern and he ran it perfectly in the next game, scoring a touchdown. He then ran over to me and gave me a hug and said, 'That's all you, Coach.' I had never felt anything like that and I got chills."

After a short period at Los Medanos and Saint Mary's (which dropped the program soon after he was hired), it was Jeff Tedford, the head coach at UC Berkeley that gave Lal his first exposure to Division I football: "Jeff offered me a volunteer position which got my foot in the door and I was then hired as an analyst for two years," Lal said. "Lane Kiffin, the Raiders head coach, was looking for a quality control coach and Jeff recommended me for that position and I worked there from 2007-2011. I owe everything to Jeff because without him, none of these other events would have happened. I'm forever in his debt."

It was then on to the New York Jets (2012-2014), the Buffalo Bills (2015-2016), the Indianapolis Colts (2017), the Dallas Cowboys (2018-2019) and now with

the Seattle Seahawks (2020).

Lal and his family could write their own travelogue, a project they will pass on as it's Lal's hope that Seattle will be their last move for a while: "I met my wife in Seattle and her parents still live here. My wife and daughters have been traveling with me to the various cities because we did not want to do the split family thing. (Seattle head coach) Pete Carroll always stayed in contact with me and this is a program that is not going anywhere, at least until Pete chooses to retire so it should give us a chance for stability."

Having worked with so many teams, Lal has been exposed to many of the top coaches in college and the NFL and has taken something from just about all of them.

Even though he worked with so many great football minds, it was watching 'Dancing With The Stars' that provided the foundation for his coaching philosophy, Lal said: "I'm a firm believer in muscle memory and in watching Dancing With The Stars and seeing how they would practice for four hours a day on their footwork, hitting the mark at the right time, I said to myself, that's just like football. It's choreography for my receivers. We practice it so many times they don't have to count their steps. Great scheme plays don't work if the routes don't look right. Playing a game on Sunday is like a Broadway show. We're all on the grand stage. That's what our games are. The whole world is watching."

With only a 16 game season, the NFL does not have the luxury to reduce the number of games played during the season the way baseball, basketball and hockey have done without taking an even greater financial hit, forfeiting the TV revenue that has become even more essential due to the coronavirus significantly reducing the number of fans that will be allowed in the stadiums.

... continued on Page C2

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Sanjay Lal – From playing at Miramonte to coaching in the NFL

... continued from Page C1

The Seahawks, like every NFL team, are taking every precaution to avoid any outbreaks, Lal says: "We are get-

ting tested every day. Even on off days, we have to come in and get tested. When we come to the facility, we first check in at a temporary trailer. We do the Q-tip swab test, and everyone is wearing

a contact tracer bracelet. The bracelet will flash red when you get within six feet of someone and it will track everyone who you were in contact with and for how long. We're wearing masks

the whole time, and everything is documented."

Yet it all comes back to Lamorinda for Lal: "My mom still lives in Orinda as does my sister and my brother lives in Lafayette. I like to get back to

Lamorinda to visit my family but the COVID thing has messed that up. I think it's beautiful there and I own a piece of land in Briones where I will ultimately build a home."

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 2, 2020



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Sirius is serious**



Photo Cynthia Brian

Spring blooming tulips planted in fall are interplanted with delphiniums and pansies.

By Cynthia Brian

*“When the ancients first observed Sirius emerging as it were from the sun ... they believed its power of heat to have been so excessive that ... the Sea boiled, the Wine turned sour, Dogs grew mad, and all other creatures became languid.”
~ John Brady, 1813, a Compendious Analysis of the Calendar.*

Forever the optimist, when I penned my last column, “The Dog Days of Summer,” I intentionally left out the part of the Old Farmer’s Almanac, 1817 that indicates, “Make both hay and haste while the sun shines, for when old Sirius takes command of the weather, he is such an unsteady, crazy dog, there is no dependence upon him.”

In the last few weeks we have witnessed

the ravages of Sirius with thousands of lightning strikes causing more than 600 wildfires, millions of acres burned, gusty erratic winds, radically unhealthy air quality, and ash blanketing the state. More land has burned in the last few weeks than burned in all of 2019. Death and destruction are the horrific aftermath.

Our Napa county farm was amongst the blazing landscapes. Everyone living in the valley where our vineyards and ranch reside was evacuated, yet, with firefighters engaged elsewhere battling numerous other infernos, my brother stayed behind on his tractor to cut roads, create safety zones, and clear debris. The hills and pastures burned. He saved the vineyards, barns, and our family home.

Between the brutal pandemic, perverse politics, sizzling heat and suffocating smoke, we all have a reason to despair. To thwart a fire on my hillside, I have cut my dried perennials and annuals to ground level. The only beauty is offered by my faithful blushing naked ladies and lavender society garlic plants and the passionflower vine that is twining up my peach tree. The ground is parched.

As I was repairing a broken water pipe so that I could irrigate this arid field, my optimism suddenly resurged. Swallowtails flitted through the smoke-filled air searching for a colorful landing place. A hummingbird settled on my string of patio lights before nuzzling my pink jacobinia growing in a cement urn. A five-lined skink, also known as a blue-tailed lizard, perched on a nearby boulder completely uninterested in my cutting and gluing efforts. I completed my project, picked a ripe tangerine from the tree, headed for the hammock, and savored the juice as it dripped down my chin. ... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,115,000	\$3,100,000
MORAGA	12	\$705,000	\$2,010,000
ORINDA	14	\$635,000	\$3,850,000

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

- 1202 Bacon Way, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 10-24-02
- 37 Bacon Court, \$1,960,000, 4 Bdrms, 3100 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-23-20
- 11 El Cajon, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-22-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 04-12-16
- 933 Janet Lane, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1789 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 09-26-17
- 2584 Pebble Beach Loop, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 1939 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-22-20,
Previous Sale: \$758,000, 09-22-15
- 1195 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 2089 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-21-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,385,000, 05-29-18
- 407 Ponderosa Court, \$2,310,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 08-08-13
- 1098 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1954
YrBlt, 07-20-20, Previous Sale: \$844,500, 05-04-08
- 1135 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1975
YrBlt, 07-13-20, Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 11-16-15
- 1069 Via Alta, \$2,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2597 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-23-20,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 09-11-00

MORAGA

- 863 Camino Ricardo, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2083 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 11-06-14
- 511 Chalda Way, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$124,000, 12-01-87
- 210 Fronteras Drive, \$1,937,000, 3 Bdrms, 3036 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 226 Fronteras Drive, \$2,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 4057 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-22-20
- 136 Greenbriar, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 07-11-13
- 3 Hetfield Place, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1603 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 28 Indian Wells Street, \$1,480,000, 3 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 11-29-06
- 1820 Joseph Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2452 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,409,000, 12-06-17
- 11 Ketelsen Court, \$1,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 07-10-03
- 1082 Larch Avenue, \$1,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 03-29-19
- 44 Merrill Circle, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4382 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$908,000, 07-01-92
- 5 Sierra Court, \$1,298,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-17-20

... continued on Page D6

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Feng Shui

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Photos provided

By Michele Duffy

The most important aspect of Feng Shui for your student to study online for their fall 2020 classes involves placement and selecting a positive location in the home. As in closely related real estate Feng Shui, “location, location, location” applies to deciding where your student’s workspace should be located.

A busy thoroughfare, like a dining room, is not the ideal placement for a student desk setup. Avoid dining room desk study areas if possible. A reserved area that includes the required technology, and above all is a quiet space conducive for healthy engagement and par-

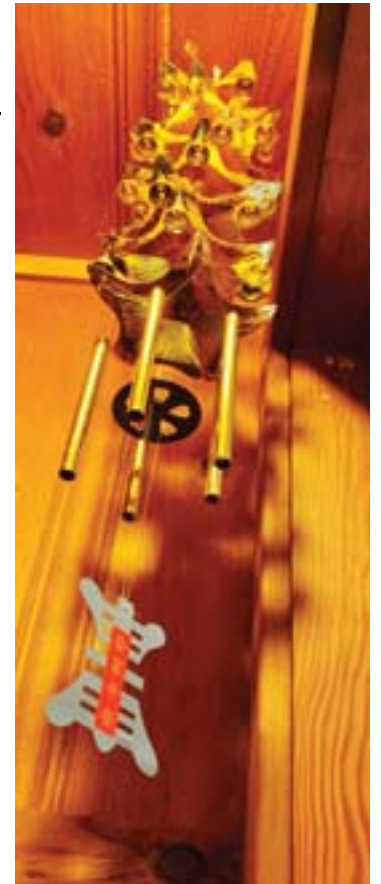
ticipation in online classes, like a roomy guest room or a large bedroom space, a nook, loft or basement for a study setup, is ideal. Think airy, light and bright “studio vibe” and involve your student in as much of the design, colors, wall art, or furniture picks. Enjoy the journey, try more patience, and work toward creating a sense of joy in bringing your shared vision to life.

Try your best to look at your home with fresh eyes regardless of how you set up online learning last spring. Were there any lighting issues that required correction? How was the sound? Was the area quiet enough? Apply the Bagua map over the entire home and next, place the Bagua over the room you choose for the study setup. Go slowly, methodically, and develop a personal space for your student that will inspire and encourage focus on study success.

Some basic Feng Shui concepts you may already be familiar with should be implemented first, like the “Commanding Position” for desk/bed placement and the importance of creating organized storage for study materials and books. Feng Shui colors of blues or greens can enhance online learning, as well as other initial activators like inspiring wall art, abundant lighting, and even fragrance with diffusers. Connecting to nature can help your student thrive. Start by sitting in the Commanding Position arranged desk. What will your student see out a window? Is a connection to the nature outdoors (sky, trees, mountains) possible to help balance out stress?

Overlay the Bagua map (Page D10) over the actual study room layout, and imagine the space with a “refreshed” energy or new look. Sit at the “Commanding Position” desk (ideally diagonal and opposite the door) as your student would. Is there a solid wall behind you? Reevaluate the space and ask questions about what worked and what didn’t during spring 2020 distance learning. Avoid glass desks; a solid desk represents being supported with studying and learning.

Of all of the Five Elements, the Wood Element is maybe the most fun to incorporate anywhere in a home, but especially in a study room. Flowering, fragrant, leafy plants are an immediate way to activate heady Wood Element Qi to encourage your student’s upward growth, focus and study diligence.



... continued on Page D10

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17 Lavina Court, Orinda

3 Bed | 2 Bath | ± 1,391 Sq Ft | ± .34 Acre | \$1,050,000

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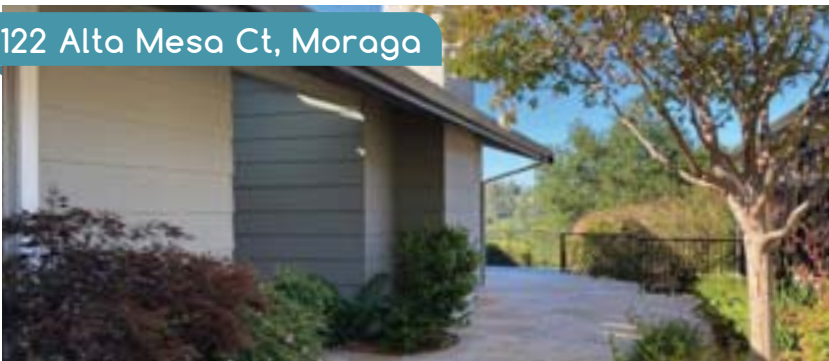
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #36, \$635,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-20-20, Previous Sale: \$533,000, 02-10-17
- 8 Camino Lenada, \$3,000,000, 9 Bdrms, 6778 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 07-16-20
- 181 Camino Pablo #183, \$1,775,000, 6 Bdrms, 3325 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 06-10-14
- 15 Candlestick Road, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 07-14-20
- 15 Dias Dorados, \$2,985,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 07-24-20, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 04-13-18
- 50 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-16-20, Previous Sale: \$995,000, 10-27-15
- 77 El Toyonal, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2154 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 11-20-17
- 62 Heather Lane, \$1,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 3357 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 69 La Espiral, \$2,151,000, 4 Bdrms, 3746 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 07-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 01-06-16
- 711 Miner Road, \$2,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 3279 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-14-20, Previous Sale: \$1,320,000, 07-11-02
- 8 Moraga Court, \$1,783,500, 6 Bdrms, 3302 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$282,500, 08-01-85
- 100 Sandhill Road, \$3,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4876 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-21-20
- 12 Snow Court, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1421 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-14-20
- 564 Tahos Road, \$2,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 3426 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-24-20, Previous Sale: \$194,000, 05-07-18



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Keller Williams East county

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PH: 925.234.5707

Email: Nicholefarsai@kw.com



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 DICK HOLT
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Don't overlook this gem
ON OVERHILL ROAD



213 Overhill Road, Orinda

Perched atop a private driveway set off the street rests this wonderful remodeled home in fabulous central Orinda/Glorietta location oozing with charm! 80% of this 1952 home was beautifully rebuilt from foundation to roof with focus on allowing natural light to flood the interior with 10' Ceilings, sky lights, transom windows & Anderson Windows and Doors. The oversized Kitchen is the heart of the home with large Kitchen Island, custom cabinets, custom tile marble backsplash, designer lighting, Stainless Steel appliances including new Wolf range and more. This well-appointed and updated house, moments to downtown Orinda, BART, FWY, Meadow Swim & Tennis Club, Lafayette RIM Trail and top-rated schools K-12 is a home to love and a fabulous place to call home!

\$1,995,000

4 <i>Bed</i>	3 <i>Bath</i>	.55 <i>Acre</i>	±2,451 <i>Sq. ft</i>
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Feng Shui

The four pillars for abundant online study, proficiency & success



... continued from Page D4

Plants are powerful cleansers of indoor air pollution. Incorporating the natural world and it's healing energy can also include gentle fountains, Koi and water features, sculptures, gardens, musical metal bells or bamboo wind chimes.

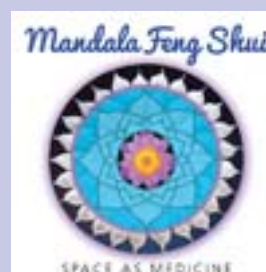
The area of the Feng Shui Bagua that governs Wisdom, Self-Cultivation, Knowledge and Studying/Online Learning, is left of the door wall. Activate Earth with memory filled shells and rocks placed on a student's desk, place a digital photo of a favorite mountain like Mount Tamalpais, or hang a metal 7 Tiered Pagoda from the ceiling of the Wisdom, Self-Knowledge/Learning area of the study room. This reinforces for your student, a desire to take a deeper dive, to be curi-

ous, creative and consistent, all hopefully designed for self-development, maturity and gained wisdom.

Remember, during this fall 2020 that it's helpful to know that you're not alone. Stay positive, go with the flow, and allow your inspired home to reimagine itself as a place for world-class online learning for your budding Einstein ("Everything is Energy").

WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple	FAME & REPUTATION LI Fire South Red Summer	RELATIONSHIPS Kun Earth Southwest Pink
FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn
KNOWLEDGE & SELF-CULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue	CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2020 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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Two Safe Harbors In The Storm Of 2020

Orinda



Casa Serena

\$8,500,000

5 Bed 5.5 Bath 5,800± SF 1.75± Level Acres

So much to admire. So little to desire. Discover an exceptional level of luxury and indulge your senses in the architecturally stunning Casa Serena vineyard estate. Behind the grand and gated circular driveway is a private sanctuary showcasing a masterfully crafted single-level interior and award-winning landscape design that brilliantly harmonizes an unsurpassed sophistication with ultimate comfort.

casaserenaorinda.com

Orinda



300 Village View Court

\$2,150,000

2+ Bed 2.5 Bath 2,500± SF 0.16± Acres w/Views

Warm and welcoming from the moment you step onto the property, this magnificent single level home exudes elegance redefined. With impeccable design, timeless finishes and worry-free living, you will rediscover what 'home' should be. The coveted end of cul-de-sac location offers unparalleled privacy and optimized outdoor living spaces for year round entertaining and enjoyment.

300villageview.com

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5 BEDS, 3.5 BATHS, 3,870± SF, .33± ACRE LOT | 3800CampolindoDrive.com

Located in Moraga's coveted Campolindo neighborhood, this stunning Mediterranean home was custom designed and built in 2000. Features include extraordinary architectural elements, open floor plan, and 14 foot ceilings. Fully appointed gourmet kitchen/family room combination has high end appliances and a large island. This 5 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home includes a spacious master suite with two walk-in closets and master bath with heated floors. Numerous amenities include built in sound system, formal living and dining rooms, an office, custom hardwood floors, and professionally designed landscape. The ideal location is in close proximity to community pools, top rated schools, hiking trails, and shopping.

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sirius is Serious



Photos Cynthia Brian

Powerful pink jacobinia grows well in containers and is a hummingbird magnet.

... continued from Page D1

Swinging, I contemplated my future gardening desires.

This is the season to start making a list of what you want to grow for the forthcoming months. Bulbs to order or buy for autumn digging include daffodils, tulips, freesia, ranunculus, hyacinth, Dutch iris, anemone, and crocus. Freesias are one of nature's greatest gifts with splendid scents, a cornucopia of colors, and the ability to naturalize. Daffodils are probably the most popular and least expensive of all the bulbs. They also will naturalize. Deer, rabbits, and other critters won't eat them, allowing their happy flowers to bloom for long stretches. When winter is nearing its finale, crocus will make you smile as they push through the soil to reveal their rich colors of blue, violet, yellow and white. Treat yourself to a garden filled with tulips.

You'll want to buy your bulbs soon as they need to be refrigerated for at least six weeks before planting. For more impact, group colors, shapes, and sizes together in a swath. They are wonderful interplanted with delphiniums, pansies, and other annuals or perennials for a very merry greeting.

After a traumatic summer filled with climatic extremes, sowing seeds for a bountiful harvest of late fall to early winter salad greens and vegetables is a welcome endeavor. What seeds do you want?



Plant seeds of two varieties of Swiss Chard.

Try any of these:

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Swiss Chard
- Kale
- Beets
- Fennel
- Turnips
- Broccoli
- Carrot
- Kohlrabi
- Shallots
- Garlic
- Radish

With the seriousness of the sizzling Sirius and the dangerous air quality outside, stay indoors and peruse catalogues and garden-

ing books to get ideas for fall planting. On Thursday, Sept. 17, I'll be doing a Zoom presentation, "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" for the Moraga Garden Club celebrating its 50th anniversary. For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation. We'll keep it light and fun.



Turnips, fennel and beets.

Summer is coming to an end and this is a great time to check for sale and clearance items that you may want for our outdoor landscaping for next year. I have found great deals at <https://bit.ly/3aG6qOI> including covers for patio furniture. As much as I love the heat, the chance of wildfires is omnipresent. Make sure to read my article on how to be prepared in the event of any emergency (see Page D14).

The Roman poet, Virgil described Sirius as "bringer of drought and plague to frail mortals, rises and saddens the sky with sinister light." The veracity of his narrative has been realized in 2020. Now more than ever, we can use large doses of humor, hope and healing. Let's employ kindness and empathy for one another as we prepare for planting autumn bulbs and seeds. A bright and beautiful spring display is only two seasons away. Embrace optimism.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Cynthia Brian swings in the hammock.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia 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. Buy copies of her best-selling books and receive extra freebies, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

STUNNING OCEAN VIEWS



27 Calle Del Sierra | Stinson Beach | Offered for \$2,925,000

An understated retreat, just minutes from the beach.
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Are you ready to evacuate?



Fires raging over the hills.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

In the last few weeks, we've experienced unprecedented weather conditions with temperatures in the triple digits, ferocious winds, low humidity, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes resulting in more perilous and damaging wildfires. Dry conditions will only worsen in the forthcoming months. Air quality is precariously unhealthy with dangerous concentrations of tiny PM 2.5 particles that penetrate deep into the lungs.

Natural disasters know no boundaries. One never knows if a fire, earthquake, flood, mudslide, or other calamity is on the horizon. It's imperative to be prepared for all emergencies.

Be Prepared!

Here are ways that you can be ready for the unexpected. Add your requirements to these tips and be ready to drive away at a moment's notice. Besides Go Bag essentials listed below,

these are items that require your attention.

1. Sign up for emergency alerts via our County Community Warning System at <https://cwsalerts.com> where you can register your phones, emails, and text numbers to be notified. Add this phone number to your favorites for notifications from CCWS: (925) 655-0195 . Even if you are already registered with Nixle (<https://www.nixle.com>), our local CCWS is the alert system that will be used for location-specific information. Also, visit <https://www.lamorindacert.org> for more information. To check on air quality, visit <https://www.airnow.gov>
2. Practice an evacuation plan with your family. Know the safest exits from your home and educate everyone in the family on the best route.
3. Install an analog landline phone if you don't already have one. These are the old-fashioned phones where the jack plugs into the wall. Electricity is not necessary for them

to work. Although billing is more expensive than cell phones, when the power is out, these landlines work.

4. Designate someone out of state to report to. Everyone in the family must have their contact information in case of separation.
5. Make a rescue plan for your pets and animals and have a bag ready for them next to your Go Bag.
6. Know how to manually open automatic garage doors and gates.
7. Make copies of your passport, driver's license, credit cards, insurance information, and have small bills available. Put these in your Go Bag.
8. Backup your computers, scan your important documents, and keep files in the cloud or off-site.
9. Family mementos, jewelry, heirlooms, and any irreplaceable article that you can't live without must be stored with your Go Bag.
10. Know your neighbors and their contact numbers to keep in touch to make sure everyone is safe.
11. Make a list of a network of friends that you can call in an emergency.
12. Know where you will go in evacuations.
13. Have a sign already made with your name and phone number and the words "All Evacuated" sitting on top of your Go Bag along with a roll of blue painter's tape. Only if time permits, tape your sign to your door when you leave so that firefighters know the house is clear.
14. Listen to and obey the first responders. These trained men and women have your safety and that of your home as their priorities. Follow their orders.
15. When told to evacuate, go quickly and carefully. Take one vehicle only so as not to clog the escape routes. Do not attempt to evacuate on foot.
16. Stay calm.

Whatever the calamity, it will behoove you to have an emergency supply kit (AKA "Go Bag") in every vehicle and a larger one in your home in a closet or area near the door you will use to escape.

... continued on next Page



The ravaged hills are ash the morning after the blaze.

Photo Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D14

These supplies need to last you for one or more days. You want duplicate Go Bags in your vehicles because when disaster strikes you may be in your vehicle and unable to return home. In an emergency at your dwelling, you may only have time to grab your keys, phone, wallet, pets, Go Bag, and what you can carry. There will not be time to “load your car” or to be searching or running

from room to room to find what you need. Keep everything that is essential together in one place. Remember, you may be evacuated for hours, days, or weeks. Sometimes, as has been the case with our California wildfires and earthquakes, a matter of minutes means the difference between life and death.

Most of all, remember that saving your life and that of your family is the most important. Everything else can be replaced.

Go Bag Necessities

Fill a backpack or small case with the following and keep one of these in all of your vehicles and one in your home. Pack a small bag for each family member, or, if easier, pack a larger bag to include everyone. Remember you may only take one vehicle upon an evacuation.

Include:

First Aid kit

Duplicate chargers for phones, tablets, and computers

Work gloves

Warm gloves

Towelettes

Small towel

Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)

Blanket

Walking shoes

Socks

Warm jacket

Peanut butter

Honey

Protein bars

Personal hygiene kit with a toothbrush, soap, medications

Matches

Candle

Flashlight and headlamp with extra batteries

Eating utensils and plates

Breathing masks Niosh-N95

Clothing change

Extra set of keys to home, office, etc.

Cash

Toilet Paper

Because of the pandemic, N95 grade masks are in short supply and reserved for medical professionals. Although better than nothing, unfortunately, surgical masks, cloth masks, and bandanas do not protect against smoke inhalation. The Air Resources Board advises everyone to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. Run recirculating fans or air conditioners and keep aware of changing conditions.

Hopefully, you will never have to use these emergency kits, but it's best to be prepared. It is natural to assume that a catastrophe will happen to someone else, but the reality is no one is immune. Across the country, natural disasters are becoming more prevalent and frequent.

It is becoming a common cliché to utter “stay safe.” Instead, be proactive and be prepared. The life you save will be your own.

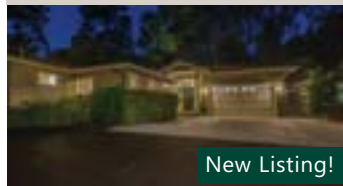
LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



220 Crestview Drive
Secluded 6 bed/ 5.5 bath home on expansive 1.4 acre lot, offering a unique indoor/outdoor park-like experience. **\$2,995,000**

ORINDA



213 Overhill Road
Remodeled updated 4 bed/ 3 bath home perched atop private driveway off the street in central Orinda. **\$1,995,000**

ORINDA



21 Los Arboles
Large 3736 sqft 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac w/ easy access to commute, top schools, & recreation. **\$1,689,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista
Beautifully maintained 4 bed/ 2 bath home w/ spectacular sunset views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,399,000**

ORINDA



46 Tarry Lane
Great opportunity to built your dream home in desirable Sleepy Hollow neighborhood. All plans approved. **\$1,349,000**

ORINDA



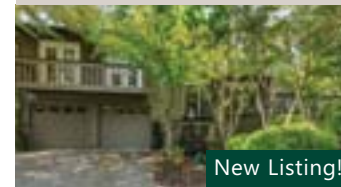
48 La Vuelta
Stunning 4 bed/ 3 bath mid-century contemporary in Orinda Country Club neighborhood. First time on market! **\$1,279,000**

ORINDA



20 Oak Court
One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views! **\$875,000**

MORAGA



101 Merion Terrace
Remodeled split level 3 bed/ 2 bath 1849 sqft Moraga Country Club w/ vaulted ceilings & wood floors throughout. **\$1,200,000**

LAFAYETTE



44 Prado Way
Private gated 3 bed/ 3.5 bath on 19.9 acres with 2 additional rooms in highly coveted neighborhood. **\$4,275,000**

LAFAYETTE



3554 Springhill Road
Upgraded spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath contemporary of 5983 sqft at end of Springhill. Includes private office. **\$3,988,000**

LAFAYETTE



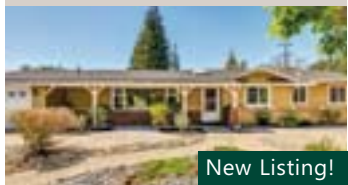
3971 Canyon Road
Private gated 6 Bed/ 4 Bath/ 2 Half bath estate including two-story guest house located in desirable Happy Valley. **\$3,175,000**

LAFAYETTE



3696 Happy Valley Road
Private gated 6 bed/ 6.5 bath 5500 sqft custom home including chef's kitchen, guest house, & pool on flat .85 acres. **\$2,795,000**

LAFAYETTE



1162 Crescenta Court
Remodeled 4 bed/ 3 bath + office Ranch style home on cul-de-sac near Downtown Lafayette, BART, schools & more! **\$1,595,000**

WALNUT CREEK



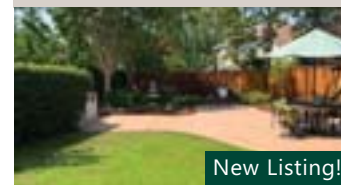
90 Pleasant Valley Drive
Updated & cared for 2 bed/ 1 bath. on .38 acres w/ room for boat & RV. Close to Canal Trail, BART & easy freeway access. **\$840,000**

ALAMO



10 Serenity Lane
Majestic gated 12 bed/ 13 bath/ 3 half bath chateau w/ vineyard, 20 showcase car barn, & trophy club room. **\$19,500,000**

SAN RAMON



248 Victory Circle
Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath home w/ soaring ceilings & fabulous backyard in gated Fleur du Mont community. **\$1,210,000**

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Patricia Battersby
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