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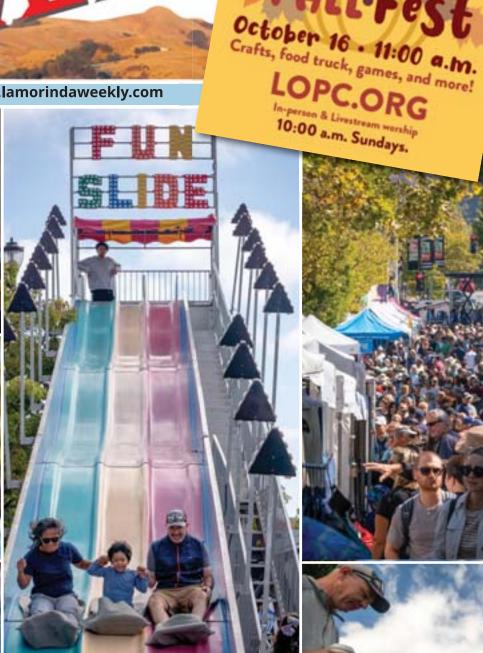
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Food, wine, art, and music were enjoyed by throngs of festival goers Sept. 17 and 18. Peter Pan Foundation singers Jordyn Foley, Leticia Bennett and William Foon (pictured middle left) performed Sept. 17 at the Festival.

Photos Jeff Heyman

25th Art & Wine Festival brings Lafayette to life

For the past 25 years, give or take a few years off for a pandemic, the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival has drawn up to 85,000 people to the downtown core for two days of music, food, art booths and fun. This year was no different and seemed exceptionally striking following the years of small crowd sizes amid COVID restrictions.

Folks arrived pushing kids in strollers, walking dogs on leashes, gathering in large groups at the

four large music stages, or meandering through the sea of artisan tents, and food and beverage stations along Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle. Music and laughter filled the air – a wonderful respite from the quiet of the streets just two years ago. Some sprinkles and a couple of downpours Sept. 18 didn't douse the enthusiasm of festival go-

Planning for the festival, which is produced by

the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Lafayette and Eckerstrom Productions, begins a year in advance, with an army of volunteers involved in the event's execution. One Lafayette resident, Marilyn Finn, who lives on Lafayette Circle put it best: "It was great to see Lafayette come to life." – J. Wake

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Election forums offer opportunity to question candidates

By Jennifer Wake

None of the three organizations endorse or oppose any candidates.

At press time only three of the six candidates for

the Lafayette School District governing board – Rob Sturm, Katy Foreman and Dave Smith - had confirmed their participation in the Lamorinda Homeowners Council and League of Women Voter forums, and only five of the seven Acalanes Union High School District governing board candidates had replied to outreach from forum organizers regarding their involvement.

Lafayette School District board candidate Neils Larsen in a Sept. 23 social media post announced that he was stopping his campaign, citing politically charged attacks on social media and an ugly and destructive process. "I'm just a Dad who wanted to help my community and provide another perspective on how to improve our public schools," Larsen wrote.

Ballots have been printed and so it is too late to formally withdraw from the election, but anyone elected who doesn't wish to serve, doesn't have to take the seat. Any open seats following the Nov. 8

election would be filled by appointment. "We appreciate everybody who runs for these positions, and all the time these folks put into these positions, without pay," said Lafayette Homeowners Council president Bill Bucher. "That's how Lafayette runs ... with volunteers.'

The following forums are scheduled to begin Oct. 3 with several others scheduled through Oct. 20: League of Women Voters Diablo Valley forums Oct. 3 - Lafayette School Board, 7 p.m., Stanley Middle School Multi-purpose Room, 3455 School St., Lafayette

Oct. 6 – Orinda City Council, 6 p.m., Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda

Oct. 12 – Acalanes Union High School Board, 7 p.m., Del Valle Education Center, Room 401, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek

Oct. 13 – Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Districts 3 and 4, 6 to 7 p.m., Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way,

Oct. 13 – Orinda Unified School District Board, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

The format will include brief candidate state-

ments followed by questions. Questions may be sub-

mitted in advance by email to voter.services@lwvdv.org.

Lamorinda Homeowners Council Candidates Nights on Zoom

Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. - Brief presentation by recently reappointed City Council members Teresa Gerringer, Susan Candell and Wei-Tai Kwok, followed by ques-

tions and answers. Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. - Candidates for the Lafayette School District School Board will have introductions, comments and then a Q&A session open to all partic-

Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. - Candidates for the Acalanes Union High School District will have introductions, comments and then a Q&A session open to all participants.

Participants can log onto Zoom via Lamorinda Homeowners Council website: lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org. A Zoom link will be added on the website approximately one week before events. On the evening of the event, double click on the link to join the online forum.

... continued on Page A4

Civic News

Moraga Town Council approves financial support for Harvey Ranch - Page A5

Public Safety

Virtual evacuation drill outcomes - Page A8

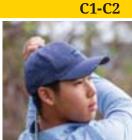
A1-A12 Life in Lamorinda

SMC Museum of Art exhibit focuses on fakes in the art world

B1-B4 - Page B1

Sports

Golfer Matthew Lin honored for leadership, character, service - Page C1



Our Homes

D1-D16

Harvesting hints for your fall garden Page D1





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Creeks Committee outlines accomplishments, next steps



Rain Garden project work on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette.

Photo J. Wake

By Lou Fancher

Members of the Lafayette Creeks Committee presented to the city council on Sept. 12 a report on progress made by the committee and the goals set as it moves forward and brings the city's Downtown Creeks Preservation, Restoration and Development Plan to the next stages.

Committee chair Will Elder began the joint panel presentation by announcing that the 1st Street and Golden Gate Way Rain Garden that broke ground Sept. 6 is expected to be complete in November. A celebration for opening the rain garden and the expected ribbon cutting ceremony are in the planning stage. Interpretive signage at the site is being developed in collaboration with the Resource Conservation and Flood Control districts, primarily undergoing refinements related to language and messaging.

Committee member David Clark outlined the work being done with city staff and a consultant to finalize required changes to city codes, plans and guidelines as identified in the Downtown Creeks Plan. In the remaining months of this year and in 2023, the committee is investigating applying Government Code Section 66300(i) ("no net loss" provision for housing density) to allow setbacks on channelized creeks; hoping to achieve enhancements largely via using BART or other upzoning changes.

Committee member Ronald Hufft addressed the Arundo issue. "Arundo is a highly invasive plant that is in all of the Walnut Creek watershed including our Lafayette Creeks," Hufft said. "In addition to being invasive, it is fast-growing, it is water consumptive, it endangers banks, and in this dry condition now, it's a fire hazard."

The committee in partnership with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council (WCWC), a collaborator on habitat restoration projects throughout the area, focused on continued maintenance and replacement planting at the restoration site along Lafayette Creek near the downtown Gazebo.

Work performed to mitigate the arundo involved obtaining funding for expanded restoration at the West End of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Arundo removal and diligent monitoring of the eradication on public and private property located along Lafayette's creeks have resulted in vast improvements. In the downtown area's public property, due to grant funding and a considerable amount of volunteer assistance, Hufft said, "We're in pretty good shape."

Hufft said 70-80% of the remaining arundo is on private property. Efforts made in this sector already involve an arrangement with the nonprofit Restoration Trust to access more funding for creekside restoration on city land, including installing irrigation lines. Hufft said arundo, for people wanting to know if it is growing on their property, "is tall like bamboo and has leaves like corn." Home and property owners with questions or wanting to report arundo on their properties are encouraged to contact a committee member via contact information provided on the city's

MaryJo Cass, another committee member, said they are working to restore the riparian vegetation along the creek to improve the ambience, soil, wildlife and natural habitat. Native plant restoration projects at Gazebo, Leigh Creekside Park and West Reach along Mt. Diablo Boulevard are ongoing and have had stages of the projects completed. Cass said 15,000 native grass plugs have been installed at the West Reach location. Eventually, benches and viewing areas will be added along the creek. The 7,300-ft square Gazebo location, once overrun with arundo, blackberry bushes, and other invasive plants, was cleared and has, with the help of volunteers and some contracted labor, been restored with grass plugs. Cass said mallard ducks have been seen in the area. The north end of the Leigh Creekside Park area has also had blackberry bushes removed. The goal is to install native

plants and obtain funding for continued improvements and maintaining the location.

Combining several projects into what committee member Phil Bradley called the "Las Trampas Creek Reach" project, the committee has built on the work previously performed to restore the creek banks. Five tracts in which fallen trees and blackberry bushes created a hazard or poor sight lines were cleared. Bradley suggested the improvements will open the visual aesthetics of pedestrian walkways. Graffiti removal and other activities such as clean-up action and painting benches drew unexpected volunteer energy from people of all ages. He said the committee learned from this experience how to better coordinate with the public on their individual sub-projects. Timing for restoration efforts has also been refined and separated by season to achieve the most effective results in the coming years.

Included in the committee's 2022-2023 goals are plans to hold at least two large volunteer events for additional cleanup and native vegetation planting along Lafayette's seven

Peter Norton closed the presentation by briefly speaking about creek crossings that were identified and the work being done to install signage along 36 crossings. An Eagle Scout candidate has expressed enthusiasm and is completing the application process for leading the installation of signs. The committee will assist the Scouts in having the signs installed and will determine if additional signs

While moving forward with all of the projects, the committee plans to monitor city meetings such as those held by the Planning Commission, Design Review Commission and GPAC, for items with creek impact. More research, applications for funding, and work with city staff and the council to support and plan for next-phase creek projects in the downtown and other areas of the city are ongoing.

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October 20

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It's Village. Of Course.



LLLC Drag Queen Storytime simultaneously celebrated & protested



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Fifteen-year-old "Laurie" stood in the middle of two groups of demonstrators – one side with rainbow colors and signs with messages like "drag queens are fabulous" and "love is louder," and the other with signs saying "stop grooming and sexualizing kids" – after partaking in the Sept. 19 storytime with Bella Aldama at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

"I'm not out as transgender," Laurie said, after asking that we conceal her identity for her safety in this community. "I use all pronouns and I would just say that I am me. I was so excited to see that there was a drag queen storytime at the library. I think representation is so important and this makes me feel seen."

Laurie said she tried talking with one of the demonstrators protesting the event to learn more about why they believed that people like her didn't have a place in the library. "She didn't really seem very present in our conversation. She was looking at her phone and didn't really have any answers that made sense to me," Laurie said. "I think if you're sexualizing someone reading books who is dressed in a costume and wearing makeup, I don't know what to say to you."

Laurie added that she's encountered a great deal of transphobia in the Lamorinda community and even in her own family, which makes it hard for her to fully be herself or to know that she truly belongs. Laurie is not an anomaly. It's in part, this kind of social pushback that the National Library of Medicine attributes to the fact that 82% of trans youth have considered suicide and

40% have attempted it. Inside the library, Bella Aldama kept a crowd of children and parents entertained and engaged with her animated storytelling and singing of Selena songs. The timing of Aldama's appearance also coincided with Latinx Heritage Month, which gave space for children and families to grapple with intersectional identities. When Aldama wrapped up her storytime hour, families lined up to greet and take pictures with her. "I think it's very important to be here and show representation for different people that are out there in the world," Aldama said. "Whether it's gender expression or gender fluidity, I think we should all have someone that's an example not to follow, but to inspire us to be ourselves."

Robbie and Katie Peacock attended the event with their two children. "It was important for us to come here with our kids to show them that everyone may be different on the outside but really we're all the same people," Robbie Peacock said, while waiting in line to meet Aldama after her show.

Peacock said he rejects the narrative that protesters holding signs saying that they were opposing the event in the spirit of protecting kids. "(I would tell them) to go away and read a book. That's the same thing I'd say to the people saying things online (on platforms like the Facebook Lamorinda Community group). Look how long it took for people to be somewhat OK with people who are gay and now you see the fight that people of the trans community have to fight. It's an uphill battle. People say they're open minded, but they're really not (when it comes to these issues)."

Of the eight people holding signs of opposition outside the library, only one, Dorothy Castel of Pleasant Hill, was willing to talk on the record. "When I heard that the library was sponsoring this event for children and preschoolers, I thought to myself 'what parent is bringing themselves to an event with a drag queen, which is all about sexualizing," Castel said. "If adults want to engage in this kind of behavior, that's their personal right, but to put it on children is wrong. This is all about a greater LGBT agenda."

Justine Parmley didn't bring any children to the event, but instead said she attended it as a sign of support for kids in the community. "I came here to support kids' learning about diverse viewpoints and really enjoying storytime," said Parmley, who added that the protesters of the event were in part inspired by a call to action on social media from a candidate for the county board of education. Lisa Disbrow asked that folks bring a sign to message opposition to adult sexualization of schools and libraries, Parmley said, while reading the announcement from her phone. "This was a call to action for folks to come out and protest a drag queen offering a storyhour - for part of Latinx Heritage Month - against our children who may be gay, nonbinary or trans. This group came out and protested against kids attending a storytelling event with their parents."

Allegra Porter is a librarian at the Lafayette Library, who helped plan the event. "I was thrilled because we were celebrating reading through the glamorous art of drag tonight. It was about representation and introducing kids to someone they might not have met before. We're also hoping that kids who don't see themselves represented at the library, saw themselves tonight in Bella's storytime and performance."

In response to the critics who said the event had no place at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and to those who said they'll consider boycotting the library as a result of this event, Porter's message was simple. "I hope they change their minds. The library is for everyone."



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's
You Tube Channel:
http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love
Lafayette YouTube
http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

Design Review

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

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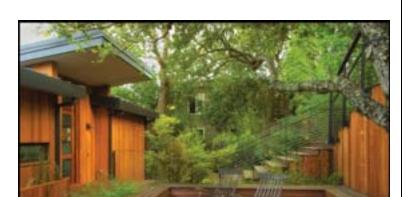


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CCTA updates council on its programs, projects and vision for the future



CCTA is developing an electric readiness program

Photo courtesy CCTA

By Vera Kochan

"Connecting Communities" was the theme for Contra Costa Transportation Authority Executive Director Tim Haile's Sept. 14 town council meeting update.

Overseeing the use of Measure J funds (the one-half cent sales tax for transportation improvements), Haile touched on the many areas that have kept CCTA busy such as sidewalk improvements for pedestrians; smoothing traffic flow on major streets; investing in a better bus network; focusing on safe routes to schools; expanding the ferry system between West County and San Francisco; investing in safe bicycle routes; improving BART's service and stations; completing Contra Costa's highway system and improving air quality; implementing a smart transportation infrastructure; and enhancing transit options for seniors and the disabled.

By leveraging local funding from Measures C/J (\$1.4 billion) and State/Regional/Federal Funds (\$4.2 billion), CCTA is able to invest the combined \$5.6 billion into some of the many projects CCTA has overseen, namely the fourth bore construction of the Caldecott Tunnel; I-680 improvements (express and auxiliary lanes); bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Treat Boulevard and San Pablo Dam Road; widening of Kirker Pass Road and

Vasco Road; Highway 4 improvements; BART extensions in Pittsburg and Antioch; a Richmond train station; and expanded and improved bike/pedestrian trails.

"One thing that's been our mantra is that it's time for a change," stated Haile. "The big message we got from the public is transportation is broken." To that end, CCTA is looking into developing a more cohesive Countywide Safety through a Connected Signal System. This would install modern traffic controllers in all 19 cities and towns in Contra Costa County. It should create a proactive approach to safety by identifying "close call" situations and preventing future tragedies. CCTA would also install bicycle detection software; prioritize potential corridor clearing for emergency vehicles; develop transit vehicle priority; create a smart infrastructure; and control/smooth traffic flow.

CCTA is also leading an effort to build a better transportation system. Hane acknowledged that some roads can never be widened to create more traffic lanes, and as such creating alternative transportation methods, especially in and around Moraga,

Clean Corridors is a high priority with CCTA, since Gov. Gavin Newsom's latest mandate demands that by 2035, all passenger vehicles sold must be electric, and by 2050, all

transit vehicles must also comply. CCTA is developing an electric readiness program and is looking for grant funding to upgrade the county's

infrastructure. CCTA is also working on an Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan that makes transportation options available to seniors and the disabled for doctor visits, shopping trips, etc., whereby individuals don't have to take several modes of transportation to get to their destination.

Always looking for innovative ideas, in 2018, CCTA acquired the former Concord Naval Weapons Station in Concord, Calif., using it as a testing facility (calling it Go-Mentum). It is currently experimenting with vehicular transportation and technology options. A new concept called Glydways, that closely resembles Disneyland's People Mover ride, could be a mobility alternative of the future.

Lastly, CCTA is working to Innovate 680. The concept involves six projects along one fully connected corridor: completion of the Express Lane; use of existing Park & Ride lots; addition of datagathering ramp meters; a personalized mobility options app; enable buses to travel on dedicated shoulder lanes to bypass congestion; and addition of automated driving systems for more accessible travel options for the elderly and disabled.

Election forums offer opportunity to question candidates

... continued from Page A1

In an effort to introduce local candidates for the upcoming election to the Lamorinda community, several Candidate Forums are planned in October, sponsored by the League of Women's Voters of Diablo Valley, the Moraga Citizens Network and the Lafayette Homeowners Council. **Moraga Citizens Network** candidate forums Oct. 3 – Meet and hear from the candidates running for Moraga Town Council, Moraga School District governing board, and Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board (Districts 1 and 3) at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College and via Live Streaming (Note: A link will be available at

https://moragacitizensnetwork .org/events/candidates-night/ a few days before Oct. 3). Tentative Schedule: 6:30 p.m.

– Moraga Town Council candidates; 7:15 p.m. – Moraga School District board candidates 8:15 p.m. - MOFD (Districts 1 and 3) board candi-

To submit questions and candidates, email your questions or topic of interest to M-CN94556@gmail.com; In the subject line, state which set of candidates you are directing your questions to: Town Council (TC), Moraga School District (MSD) or MOFD (fire district), if you have questions for multiple roles, please send separate emails; Submit questions by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept.





Town Council: Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m. **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, Oct. 17, 7:00 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.



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Town council approves \$250K contribution to JMLT for Harvey Ranch acquisition



Magnificent views surrounding Harvey Ranch Photo courtesy JMLT

By Vera Kochan

Hoping to preserve a 143acre section of the Harvey Ranch in Moraga and create a 15,500-acre natural area by connecting the three protected landscapes of Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, San Leandro Watershed and Painted Rock Preserve (which includes Carr Ranch, Buckhorn Creek, and Rocky Ridge), the John Muir Land Trust has been tasked by property owner Charlene Harvey to help her fulfill a dream to preserve the location against development.

No stranger to launching land preservation campaigns, JMLT Executive Director Linus Eukel was happy to take up the mantle and fulfill Harvey's vision. The Save Harvey

Ranch Campaign is hoping to raise \$4 million by the Dec. 31 deadline. What's at stake is the loss of a sizable acreage of untouched land that could be a gateway to pristine wilderness; a new staging area with trailheads and trail connections; convenient access to the entire East Bay; quick access to amazing views and pathways; an enhanced buffer for wildlife; a protected view shed; and the preservation of land surrounding Saint Mary's College.

With the deadline to raise the \$4 million by year's end looming, the town council unanimously approved a \$250,000 contribution for the purchase of Harvey Ranch open space and an escrow instructions agreement with IMLT for the release of funds during its Sept. 14

meeting. This payment will come from Fund 100 -One-Time Developer Fees (Palos Colorados) and is included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Adopted Budget.

There is every expectation that JMLT's purchase of Harvey Ranch will prove successful. However, in the event that JMLT fails to provide a satisfactory Proof of Purchase to the town, or if JMLT informs the town and escrow holder that the purchase of Harvey Ranch will not be completed, the escrow holder will return the contribution to the town.

Although the escrow term is through Dec. 31, escrow may be extended for an additional three months, through March 31, 2023, by mutual agreement of the parties concerned via a written notice to that effect.

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Town of Moraga submits letter for inclusion into county's Time Capsule

By Vera Kochan

About 60 years ago, Contra Costa County's then, newly constructed Administration Building at 651 Pine Street in Martinez had a time capsule placed in its tower. The time capsule was accepted during the Sept 26, 1964 dedication ceremony.

As the years marched on, the old building was deemed unsafe thanks to hazardous materials such as asbestos (making any renovations problematic and costly) and went through nearly a year of demolition beginning last November.

A replacement County Administration Building was built nearby at 1025 Escobar Street. A new time capsule will be placed in a previously constructed concrete receptacle area at the foot of the clock tower during the Oct. 4 Board of Supervisors meeting.

County Supervisor Candace Andersen has invited the town of Moraga to write a letter for inclusion into the new time capsule. Some suggested information might include town facts; current council members; population; top five issues of concern; and anything else deemed informationally significant.

"Greetings to Moraga's future citizens," begins the town's letter. "We are excited to share information regarding life in Moraga in 2022. The Town's population is currently 16,700. We are a Town that prides itself on its semi-rural feel, scenic vistas, close-knit community and excellent public schools."

The letter goes on to mention a multitude of bullet points that make Moraga special such as: its farming history (pears and walnuts); open spaces and hiking trails; public school system and parental volunteerism; safe-city ranking; youth sports along with cultural and community programs; the many volunteer and service organizations; multiple parks offering a variety of amusements; Saint Mary's College; close collaboration with Lafayette and Orinda; effectiveness of a small staff on a limited budget; recent completion of Canyon Road Bridge replacement; and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Also mentioned in the letter are some of the town's current challenges with solutions in the works: multiple wildfire mitigation projects and evacuation planning; traffic congestion during peak hours and alternatives; aging storm drains and infrastructural improvements through federal funding; and working to provide economically feasible housing opportunities for a wider range of income levels.

An additional request from Andersen was a group photo of Moraga's current town council members, which will also be included with the letter.





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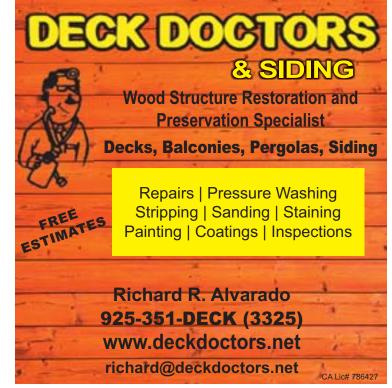
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Czech teen gymnast loving time in Orinda



Sofie Flaskova

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Sofie Flaskova, a 16-year-old visiting student from the Czech Republic, is thoroughly enjoying her time in Californa. "I'm not homesick," she proclaimed in an interview with the Lamorinda Weekly, saying that she got

used to her new situation within a few days. She communicates with her family at home in Tabor via Facetime.

Flaskova is attending classes at Miramonte High School, under the sponsorship of the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation. Unusually, the son of her host family is attending Campolindo High School, which leads to some good-natured competition. Her host mom is an attornev and her host dad, retired from banking, plays golf almost every day.

Curious about American culture, Flaskova, who is studying German and Italian in addition to her native Czech and excellent English skills, applied to be the 21st student to come to Miramonte High School from Orinda's sister city, Tabor. She has been surprised and delighted by what she has experienced. Flaskova loves the lunchtime activities offered to the students, such as flower arranging, or listening to a piano concert. "The teachers are very nice to you," she proclaimed, "very friendly." She said that, despite her extremely busy schedule, she

isn't feeling stressed. At home, Flaskova lives about 5 miles outside of Tabor with her mother, who sells home water filters. Her dad lives about 4 miles away and he has a 3-year-old son. He is the manager of a solar panel company. Flaskova alternates between her mom and dad's home every fortnight. She loves Christmas, when the whole family comes together on Christmas day for presents and Christmas dinner.

Flaskova clearly enjoys cooking and baking, and has made some traditional dishes for her host family, including koprova omacka, which is a dill sauce served with dumplings and hard-boiled eggs. She is looking forward to cooking with some of the tomatoes growing in her host-

family's garden. And she is very excited about pumpkin spice everything this fall. At home, she says, Czech people plant a lot of vegetables. She loves kale and eats a lot of cabbage, for example in the Czech national dish of pork, dumplings, and cabbage. She enjoys baking with her grandmother.

Back in the Czech Republic Flaskova plays tennis, but has been unable to fit it into her schedule here. Instead, she joined the cheerleading squad at Miramonte, performing at all of the games. She described how she realized how much she enjoys working with younger students while explaining that the Miramonte cheerleaders undertook training of a group of elementary school girls who performed with them at a Fridaynight game. Flaskova doesn't date, but is enjoying her friendships in Orinda. She is very fond of the friends she has made on the cheer team. In addition to cheerleading, Flaskova enjoys horseback riding and yoga, which she didn't expect to like but found

that she does. "When I found out that they chose me," she says, she bought a camera, and she is documenting her journey on her own YouTube channel.

Flaskova will be here until January 2023. She had to decide where she wanted to spend Christmas. She is extremely fond of Christmas at home, with all of her family getting together and enjoying traditional dishes, but in the end she opted for a California Christmas.

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•Proven, with a JD/MBA and 20+ years experience in real estate development, oversight, entitlement, finance, and investment.

•Prepared to continue the great work the City Council has already started. As a 3rd term Planning Commissioner (Chair '18-'20), I have the experience and context to keep up all of that momentum on downtown planning, fire safety, and housing policy.

Orinda City Council Candidate BRANDYN endorsed by all five members of the Orinda City Council Dennis Fay, Inga Miller, Darlene K. Gee, Amy R. Worth, Nick Kosla, D Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember www.voteiverson.com

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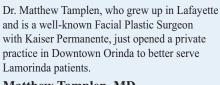
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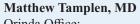
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Lease on Orinda Theatre extended for another five years By Sora O'Doherty

Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle, who have operated the Orinda Theatre for the last 12 years, recently renegotiated a five-year extension of their lease on the building, which was scheduled to expire in November.

According to Steve Harwood of the Lamorinda Arts Council, Zemrak and Pirkle have "operated the theatre with a passion for film and other forms of entertainment, bringing the community a wide variety of films, the world-class Live at the Orinda! cabaret program, comedy nights, and other entertainments." Harwood stressed that Orinda is lucky to have Zemrak and Pirkle continuing to run the Orinda Theatre.

In the past, Zemrak and Pirkle have maintained the theatre, often, Harwood noted, with their own labor along

with that of family and friends. Under their commercial lease, the tenants are responsible for the cost of maintenance and improvements. One recent improvement of note is the Meyer sound systems installed in the large and intermediate-sized theatres.

During the pandemic, Zemrak and Pirkle strove to raise funds to maintain the theatre, including a Go-FundMe campaign that raised \$275,000. "Because they are directly responsible for maintenance and improvements," Horwood noted, "they may reach out to the community for financial support in the future. If they do, I urge the community to be supportive."

In addition to showing movies and hosting live performances, the Theatre is the home of the Lamorinda Idol finals. The Lamorinda Arts Council pays market rates to rent the theatre for those performances



City Council Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only **Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only **Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only

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Orinda City Council honors Anne J. Parr for nearly a half century of art classes



Anne J. Parr

Photo Colleen Winans

By Sora O'Doherty

At the recommendation of city staff and the instigation of Orinda City Council member Amy Worth, Orinda has decided to mount a plaque honoring Anne J. Parr for nearly 50 years of teaching art classes to children at the Orinda Community Center. From before the incorporation of the city of Orinda, Parr could be found at the Orinda Community Center teaching art to Orinda's young students, as well as to their mothers. Interviewed by The Lamorinda Weekly, Parr emphasized how much she loved being able to guide children to express themselves through art.

The plaque will be installed in the Community Center, dedicating the Anne J. Parr Clay & Kiln Room. The text of the plaque honors Parr "for nearly 50 years teaching children's clay programs and providing unforgettable experiences for hundreds of community youth.' Worth said that she still has a number of clay figures her children made in Parr's classes, and that they remain favored toys of her grandchil dren now. Parr says, "I still run into people who'll say, 'I was in the 3:30 class,' and they are now there with their own children."

"It was as much a social thing as an art thing," Parr said. It was a place for children and their mothers to come and make friends. Parr too met so many people through her work at the Community Center. She recalls that her focus was on helping each student to use their own creativity. She started with Saturday Happenings, two-hour art classes with no sign-up required. Kids would just drop into the old multi-purpose room. Parr said that the children loved coming, and she would mix up different ages in groups, which they also loved. She also brought in Girl Scouts as helpers, including her own six daughters. Parr added that in those days, the community center let you have a helper, and she hired many children for whom it was their first job.

According to Parr, her real talent is getting things out of other people. She was more of a teacher than an artist. "Some were kids having a difficult time in school, and coming to art classes was a whole different thing," she re-

Parr went to UC Berkeley, where she volunteered for many things, and was often using art in her volunteer endeavors. She majored in English, history and science. Someone suggested that she teach the classes in ceramics because she had done a lot of ceramics, painting and printing in her volunteer work.

In her late 80s, Parr still lives in the family home in Sleepy Hollow. She remains very active, going to the local gym, meeting with her multigeneration coffee klatch, book club, etc. Of her six daughters, five live relatively close and one, Colleen Winans, lives in Maryland. "At some point," Winans says, "all of us worked in Mom's classes, either with the Girl Scouts or individually." She remembers it being lots of fun, and says that all the sisters have an interest in art because of her mom. "She did a ton of different things in classes: collages, painting, you name it," Winans recalls. "We had a huge mail box in front of our house and folks would drop off things that Mom needed for different projects." The classes at the Community Center cost about 75 cents a class. Parr would display the children's creations in the window of the book store in Orinda, which is now Orinda Books.

Parr is a bit sad to have given up the art classes during the pandemic. "I was kind of sorry to have it wind up the way it did," she said, "but timing is everything." The plaque in the Community Center will assure that Parr will long be remembered for the wonderful work she did there.





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I was raised here by chance; I returned by choice. Orinda is my hometown.

I will draw on my lifelong understanding and experience to help make thoughtful, informed decisions to enhance our city's safety and vibrance.



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"Janet's deep roots in Orinda and love of our community have been reflected in her decades of volunteer service to Orinda and its schools. Her extensive leadership experience, professional training and dedication to our community will make her an excellent City Councilmember."

> *Amy Worth* Orinda City Councilmember

www.JanetRileyforOrinda.com

For more information and a full list of endorsers - please visit my website.





PAID FOR BY JANET RILEY FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL 2022 COMMITTEE, CAMPAIGN ID #: 1453079

Lamorinda runs a successful virtual evacuation information drill



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Zonehaven Evacuation Platform Training Photos courtesy MOFD

By Sora O'Doherty

Nearly 1,800 Lamorinda residents responded to a survey, part of a drill to see how communications would work in the event of a fire requiring evacuation of residents in Lamorinda on Sept. 10. The drill was a joint effort by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, the three Lamorinda police departments, the Contra Costa Community Warning System and Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG).

On Sept. 10, the agencies set

up the exercise from 7 to 8 a.m. At 8 a.m. there was a briefing, and the exercise commenced at 8:25 a.m. with a review of the exercise at 9:30 a.m. Residents received an alert from the Community Warning System via a number of sources, including telephone texts, emails, and other communication tools, such as weather-alert radios. Upon receiving an alert, residents were requested to respond to a brief survey and CERT members were asked to say whether they could assist within an hour. Over 100 responded that they could.

The fictional scenario for the exercise was that a fire started at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9 near the Briones Archery

Range (Seaborg Trail at Crescent Ridge Trail) in Briones Regional Park. By 6 p.m. the fire was approximately 70 acres and had reached the crest of the ridge above Russell Research Station. By 9 p.m. several spot fires were reported, including one near Sundown Terrace and Dalewood Drive and another high on the ridge east of the main fire above Bear Creek Road. The fictional fire had grown to 230 acres.

Dennis Rein, MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, reported that during the drill, an Orinda Police Department Sergeant was the evacuation ordering official. Messages were sent out via CWS, Nixle as well as pre-exercise notifications via city manager newsletters, and social media. Rein said that the GMRS and HAM radio response to the exercise was excellent, with the two receiving stations fielding about 50 radio contacts. In addition, Lamorinda CERT tested their call-out paging system and sent over 600 text messages to see if CERT volunteers would be available to respond if needed.

The drill had a number of objectives. The exercise tested the Contra Costa County Community Warning System's ability to notify residents in the Lamorinda area in a simulated disaster scenario. Lamorinda residents were asked to sign up for CWS alerts on their notification platforms and to receive a CWS alert and troubleshoot any issues directly with CWS after the exercise. The joint agencies practiced setting up and operating a Unified Command with law, fire and cooperating agencies in a large-scale wildfire scenario and to practice the proper XCC CWS alert call process using Sherriff's Dispatch, CWS, local police department personnel. City and town staff were used to receive a handoff of Zonehaven information from CWS and practice updating evacuation details in the Zonehaven application (arrival points, road closures, etc.) In addition, the drill was meant to identify potential areas where communication can be improved between the field, CWS and the Zonehaven AWARE websites.

Had there been a real emergency, only zones actually affected would have been alerted, and residents would have been provided with evacuation information specific to their evacuation zone.

More information on the community warning system can be found at the following website:

https://cwsalerts.com

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Special Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org (http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)



MOFD fall Open House, Oct. 1

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is hosting its annual Fall Open House and Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at Fire Station 41 (1284 Moraga Way, Moraga). Join local firefighters for breakfast, see a fire rescue demonstration and learn more about safety and fire prevention.

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, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org **Lafayette Police Department** Incident Summary

Report - Sept. 17 Sept. 11 11 34 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Traffic Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 15 Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Public/School Assembly Check 8 19 Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check Ordinance Violation Vehicle violations Hit And Run Misdemeanor

Deer Hill Rd./Laurel Dr. Tc - Property Damage Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St. Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave. Other criminal activity

Fraud False Pretenses 600 Block Huntleigh Dr. Grand Theft 300 Block St. Marys Rd.

Identity Theft 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Police Department (2)

Panhandling 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Residential Burglary 1000 Block Viela Ct. 3200 Block Quandt Rd.

Robbery Strongarm 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3๋500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Warrant Arrest 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 3300 Block Mildred

Disturbing The Peace 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Loud Music 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3600 Block Brook St.

3400 Block Silver Springs Rd.

Public Nuisance 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3) Happy Valley Rd/Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Oak Hill Rd.

Vandalism 3200 Block Stanley Blvd. Other

H&S Violation 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Threats

1200 Block Cambridge Dr. Unwanted Guest 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Violation Restraining Ord 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

Moraga Police Department **Incident Summary Report** will be back





Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 4 - Sept. 17

Alarms 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11 Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject

Suspicious Vehicle Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Public/School Assembly Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check Ordinance Violation 10 2

Vehicle violations Accident Injury 400 Block Moraga Way

Accident Property
El Nido Ranch Rd./Charles Hill Rd.
Orinda Way/Camino Pablo
Manzanita Dr./Camino Pablo Camino Pablo/Miner Rd. Ivy Dr./Moraga Way Camino Sobrante

Auto Burglary Camino Sobrante 30 Block Knickerbocker Ln.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor Camino Pablo/Claremont Avenue 20 Block Sycamore Rd. Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.
Camino Pablo/San Pablo Creek

Vehicle Theft 30 Block Ardor Dr. 10 Block Camino Del Monte

Other criminal activity Fraud False Pretenses Orinda Way 200 Block Órchard Rd.

Grand Theft 10 Block Orinda Fields Ln. **Identity Theft** 50 Block Donna Maria Way

10 Block Las Piedras (2) Panhandling Brookwood **Petty Theft**

Loud Noise Tiger Tail Ct./Miner Rd. Loud Party 50 Block Tarry Ln. Public Nuisance 10 Block Calvin Dr. Vandalism Theatre Sq./Brookwood Rd. Other

Fireworks 20 Block El Camino Moraga Park Lane Dr./Glorietta Blvd. Loitering 70 Block Donald Dr., Mor

100 Block Camino Sobrante

Camino Sobrante 10 Block Madera Ln.

Theatre Square Camino Sobrante Moraga Way Orinda Way

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music 30 Block Lombardy Ln.

Shoplift Camino Pablo

Warrant Arrest

Mentally Ill Commit 3500 Block Brook St., Laf. Resist Delay Or Obstruct

Fish Ranch Rd./Eb Sr 24 Transient Contact Theatre Square (2) California Shakespeare Festival 60 Block Moraga Way

20 Block Orinda Way 10 Block Theatre Sq 106 **Unwanted Guest** Theatre Square

Elect Greg Hasler Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD)

Endorsed by:

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Rochelle Tocchini, Former Moraga Town Council

Chris Severson, Acalanes Union High **School District Board**

Gordon Nathan, Former MOFD Director Gene Gottfried, Former MOFD Board Marna Eyring, Former Moraga Education Foundation President

Dick Olsen, Former MOFD Director John Jex, MOFD Board

Craig Jorgens, MOFD Board Brad Barber, Former MOFD Board President

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Ann Walgenbach, Co-Chair Bluffs Firewise Community Melanie Light, Founder Lamorinda Firewise

Neighborhoods Dick Wilcox, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader

Ian Baird, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader

Partial list of endorsers. Titles listed for information only







"During the 50 years our family has lived in Moraga I have been extensively involved in our local Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Those activities have included service on the County's Emergency Medical Services Committee, the Moraga Fire Commission and the Board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). As a result of those experiences, I sincerely believe that at this November's MOFD Board Election Greg Hasler is the right choice to represent the interests of the residents of South Moraga (MOFD Division 1) -- as well as the interests of all the residents and taxpayers of the MOFD."

Dick Olsen

Former member MOFD Board & Moraga Fire Commission President of County Fire Commissioners Association, retired Moraga Citizen of the Year 2013

Paid for by Greg Hasler for MOFD 2022, FPPC # Pending

HaslerforMOFD.com

Fighting for Moraga, not outside special interests

Letters to the editor

A moderate's take on what is needed for the Lafayette School Board

To fellow residents who may also be in political limbo: the past two years have been a roller coaster with prior perspectives possibly in flux. That has certainly been my experience and perhaps yours. And it's OK.

So you know, I'm a triple vaccinated registered Democrat; definitely not a "Trumper" nor anti-vaxxer. The fact that I feel the need to state this says a lot about where we are today.

As for our local schools, I believe there have been failed policies and a misalignment of priorities that negatively impact our kids and our community. We all know the Lafayette School Board kept kids in distance learning months longer than required. But even now, it's astounding that in the 2022-2023 District Goals (bit.ly/LAFSD_Goals), there's no mention of working with parents on long-needed afterschool care and no mention of nutrition, greatly important especially post-pandemic. Plus, the essentials of "health and safety" are lumped together in one vague bullet point - and this document was reviewed and approved by the Board despite Sandy Hook, Parkland, Uvalde and the death of our own crossing guard Ashley Dias. These omissions are concerning.

The Lafayette School Board's failure to "advocate for children" - a responsibility stated in its Governance Handbook - has greatly contributed to my questioning of institutions that I've vehemently supported. But that's exactly what I want for our kids. While we may not always agree, I want our schools to be teaching students how to respectfully understand multiple viewpoints, use their brains and think critically.

I fear our current school board is not an embodiment of this and it's being reflected in our community. I believe all candidates want EVERY child to succeed and feel included, just as I do. There are just differences on how we get there and the roles in which our schools play. That said, as the school district has put DEIB above Curriculum and Instruction (see lafsd.org, "District" dropdown menu), then we need diverse perspectives.

Electing new voices gives us that. You have three individual votes. Use them. Our children and community will be better for it.
Lauren McCabe Herpich
Lafayette

Lafayette School Board Elections

Our public schools in Lafayette are among the best in the country. There are so many who contribute to our schools' success, but today I write to show support to our district's elected School Board and to encourage you to vote for incumbents Rob Sturm and Dave Smith this Fall.

The lockdown year was hard. But with no playbook, no roadmap, our Board came together, listened to our community, to state, Federal, and local guidance, and to a chorus of strong voices to find a safe and balanced way forward. As a parent of two young children, I appreciated their efforts to keep our kids learning.

Rob, Dave and the Board are committed to academic excellence, high performing schools, and to teaching our kids a broad perspective on history, culture, family, and what it means to be a kind citizen. Teaching our kids a diverse, "broad perspective" makes some folks uncomfortable. It shouldn't.

The world is diverse. Embracing that fact and working steadily against the tribal tendencies we all have is important if our children are going to be successful in an interconnected, interdependent society. Here in The Bay, we're blessed with the opportunity to engage with people, language, history, and cultures outside our own lived experience. That's a plus. Gaining that diverse, "broad perspective" is an advantage available to our kids. And they will all be better citizens because of it.

Rob Sturm, Dave Smith and our current Board supports lessons that offer a diverse, global view interwoven with traditional reading, math, and history lessons. To continue to build the strength of our schools, to highlight and celebrate all the colors of California, Lafayette deserves School Board leaders who are committed to welcoming diverse perspectives in the classroom.

Rob Sturm and Dave Smith have demonstrated a commitment to our community, to supporting and promoting a diverse and inclusive school, and to an open and transparent district. Please join me in voting for Rob and Dave for Lafayette School Board this Fall. Robert Chevaleau

Lafayette

In support of Lind, Larsen for Lafayette School District board

I am writing to ask for your support in voting for Sarah Lind and Neils Larsen in the upcoming election for the Lafayette School Board.

I have a son at Burton Valley Elementary School and a daughter at Stanley Middle School. I am a former teacher in the district and have worked with the youth in our community in many capacities. I currently substitute teach in our Lafayette schools and care deeply about the future of our students.

Like many parents, I had never been to a

school board meeting until our schools were forced to close their doors in March of 2020. At that point I spent many evenings attending board meetings and was disillusioned by the apparent disconnect between the voices of the families and the decisions of the board.

Lind and Larsen have children in our district and are dedicated members of our community. They are focused on partnering with parents and teachers to keep their voices and the student needs at the center of their decision making process. They believe in keeping our students safe, promoting academic excellence, and fiscal responsibility (which includes responding to the enrollment declines our district experienced over the last few years).

Join me in voting for Sarah Lind and Neils Larsen for the Lafayette School Board. Tracy Morrison Lafayette

Conservatives Target School Board Elections Nationwide and in Lamorinda

In 2020, Donald Trump spread the lie that the election was stolen. His supporters illegally accessed voting machines, urged elections officials to overturn the results, and sent false slates of electors to Congress. General Michael Flynn called for Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act, seize voting machines, and have the military rerun the election. On January 6, 2021, Trump supporters and organized militias stormed the Capitol to disrupt the peaceful transfer of

In 2022, conservatives have turned their focus to state and local politics. Leaders have promoted conspiracy theories about election fraud and "indoctrination" in public schools. States have banned abortion and passed laws restricting DEI and LGBTQIA education. Libraries have been ordered to pull books from the shelves. Militia members have threatened elections officials, school board members, and the LGBTQIA community. Flynn has endorsed candidates throughout the country for state and local elections, including school boards. He said "We need to take this country back one town at a time, one county at a time, one state at a time, if that's what it takes."

However, this is not just happening in far away places. It is happening right here in Lamorinda. Conservative candidates are running coordinated campaigns for Acalanes Unified High School District (AUHSD) and Lafayette School District (LAFSD). The campaigns' websites call for "transparency" and "critical thinking over ideologies", implying that teachers have a hidden agenda and are trying to "indoctrinate" children.

Some candidates have close ties to nationally prominent political operatives. Contra Costa County's elections website shows contributions from wealthy donors inside and outside Lamorinda, including one of the biggest donors to both Turning Point USA and Project Veritas. One candidate's immediate family members have close relationships with Michael Flynn. Another candidate managed Peter Thiel's investment funds for years, and was tapped by Thiel for Trump's 2016 Treasury transition team.

Educate yourself on this year's candidates, their associations, their language and their goals. Educate your friends and family, donate, put up signs, and get out the vote. This year is different.

Chad Curran Orinda

Trump Appointee Running for Lamorinda High Schools board

The Republican party recently began a national campaign to take over local school boards as part of efforts to control state and local elected bodies. We are seeing the effect locally with a slate of three candidates, running as a bloc, for the Acalanes Union High School District board which oversees Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte High Schools.

The Wall Street Journal (Dec. 7, 2016) reported that current Lafayette resident Mark Woolway had been appointed by Trump to his transition team for the Treasury Department. Woolway was an associate of Peter Thiel at Paypal, and The Guardian on Feb. 10, 2017 attributed Woolway's appointment to his close association with Thiel. Woolway is part of a threeperson AUHSD slate which includes Renee Nowac and Gabe Ledeen. Ledeen is no lightweight in Libertarian circles either; the Federalist Society, the group responsible for Trump's Supreme Court selections, published a very laudatory report on Ledeen on Nov. 18, 2021.

None of them have children attending any of the Lamorinda high schools. So what is their motivation? These candidates talk about "transparency" and "critical thinking" in our schools, as if they are being impaired. They make no mention of the extraordinary academic standing of the high schools overseen by the board.

We urge you to reject this takeover attempt and to vote for incumbents Nancy Kendierski and Chris Severson and candidate Jennifer Chen for the Acalanes Union High School District board.

Jim Landau Orinda

... continued on Page A10

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY: Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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Paid for by Sarah Butler for CCC Board of Education 2022, FPPC #1410196



VOTE VINCE DELL'AQUILA

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Roard

- Orinda resident 34 years with wife Kathie; raised three children, all MHS grads
- Teacher MHS, retired; still Coaching MHS football & golf
- Firewise Neighborhood LeaderPassionate Community Volunteer
- Maintain excellent fire and medical services
- Focus on fire preventionUse technologies to improve
- operationsBe responsive to community concerns
- Supports full staffing of an Orinda ambulance





"Vince Dell'Aquila has served our communities admirably as a professional and a volunteer for decades and he would be a superb Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director."

Karen Mendonca, Former Moraga Mayor

Amy Worth,
Orinda City Council,
Former Mayor

*Titles listed for identification only.
Paid for by Vince Dell'Aquila for Moraga Orinda Fire District 2022, FPPC pending

Letters to the editor

Endorsing Foreman, Smith and Sturm

Lafayette has great schools. As former school board members we are proud of the part we played in building and sustaining the educational programs that support every student's success.

Today, we are supporting the following candidates for the Lafayette School Board: Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Rob Sturm. We are confident that they will ensure the continued excellence of our schools and reflect the values of our community.

These candidates are knowledgeable about educational issues, and have outstanding records of contributions to our schools and community. They will best represent all of our students, our teachers, our community, and our school district. Lafayette deserves and needs School Board members who will continue to bring our community together.

Please vote for these candidates on Nov. 8 to ensure the excellence of schools in Lafayette for our students

Ann Appert (8 years) Judy Carney (7 years) Roger Falcone (6 years) David Gerson (8 years) Teresa Gerringer (19 years) Art Kapoor (6 years) Mary McCosker (13 years) Shayne Silva (18 years)

More on November's ballot than you realize

Over the past couple years we've read about school board takeovers by right-wing groups who have proceeded to fire administration, regulate sex education, and ban books. I thought we'd be immune from such attacks here in this liberal enclave of Northern California. However, a recent Cal Matters article titled "Back to school: California Republicans bet big on local board races," and a look at the slate of candidates running for the Acalanes Union High School Board has me

Could a takeover be happening here? Have pandemic lockdowns and frustrating back-to-school protocols so fractured our community that the door is now open for right-wing candidates to take control of our local school boards?

It's said that school board seats are supposed to be non-partisan positions. However, the values held by school board members influence the policies that shape our students' daily lives. It's important that we get more answers to fundamental questions about their candidacy:

- What do they believe is needed for our schools? What work have they done to create an informed
- point of view? How familiar are they with the learning
- environment?
- What is their perception of the current school administration and teachers?

Do they support diversity programs? Many of us moved here for the high-quality public education. Let's not endanger this jewel of our community. Please research the candidates on November's ballot, demand more visibility into their platforms, and keep monitoring their campaign contributions at www.cocovote.us/run-for-office-or-file-a-measure/ campaign-contributions/

Karen Jaworski

Moraga

Lafayette School Board election

This year's election for Lafayette School Board, like many school board elections around the country, is an important one that merits the attention of all Lafay residents. The markedly different platforms represented by the candidates offers one of the clearest choices for voters in recent history.

Our public schools have had a long tradition of academic rigor and excellence, while providing a safe and supportive environment for all children. In addition, our schools offer forward-thinking programs to ensure that our students are prepared to positively contribute to the society of our future. The quality of our schools and their positive impact in our community is one of the primary reasons why so many of us live here.

Our schools have also benefitted greatly from a high level of parental engagement. Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Rob Sturm have demonstrated the highest level of parent volunteerism and leadership in the Lafayette School District. They have dedicated their time to the schools, volunteered on the PTA, raised money for LPIE and served on the Lafayette School Board. They know and understand the schools and this community. We are all fortunate to have the opportunity for the three of them to continue in their service and their leadership.

At this critical time for our children, our city, and our country, our school system cannot afford to move backward in its curriculum and programming. My vote is for Katy Foreman, Dave Smith, and Rob Sturm. They have the experience, qualifications and commitment to inclusivity to move our schools forward. Sean Emerson George Lafayette

Sturm, Smith, and Foreman for Lafayette School Board

Lafayette Education Association (LEA) is proud to endorse Rob Sturm, Dave Smith, and Katy Foreman as candidates for the Lafayette School District Governing Board. These three have shown a commitment to education and community as evidenced by the long list of committees, councils, and associations to which they have been or currently are members.

Rob Sturm has served on the Lafayette School District Governing Board since 2017 and has been President for the past two years. He was a calm and objective voice of reason as our district and community weathered the challenges of the pandemic. Dave Smith was appointed to the Governing Board in June 2021 and immediately made an impact. As a board member, the questions he asks show a willingness to learn and the statements he makes show how quickly he has learned. In all things, Dave presents considered views based on facts. Katy Foreman has an impressive back-

... continued

ground in service to our schools. She has served on various parent organizations, often in a leadership position. In all things, Katy is steadfastly centered on inclusion and well-being for everyone.

At a recent LEA Members' Meeting where all six candidates for school board spoke, it was obvious that Rob, Dave, and Katy were deeply familiar with our district's curriculum and programs, its financial structure, and the needs of the students, employees, and parents. All three candidates possess their own individual strengths and expertise that will make them invaluable members of the Lafayette School District Governing Board. In addition, these three candidates possess the ability to accept and welcome others and they put this ability into practice consistently.

Lafayette School District needs leaders with such depth of knowledge and character and Lafayette students deserve leaders who will always have students' best interests as their focus. Rob, Dave, and Katy are this type of leader. Lafayette Education Association, as the representative for certificated and credentialed staff in the district, feels that Rob Sturm, Dave Smith, and Katy Foreman are the best candidates for Governing Board. Please cast your vote for Sturm, Smith, and Foreman!

Debbie Deitch, Lafayette Education Association President Lafayette

A Crucial Vote

In 2020, over 7,000 community members signed our petition affirming that Acalanes Union High School District and Lafayette School District students deserve to learn in classrooms that are anti-racist, anti-biased, and inclusive. We heard you loud and clear, and our school districts were listening closely too.

Today we invite you to revisit Support Racial Equity at LAFSD and AUHSD at change.org to receive an update on the tremendous progress we have made. We also call on you to join us in this critical moment.

As we approach the upcoming school board elections, we have seen two vastly different groups of candidates emerge. We would like to highlight candidates who have been champions for this cause.

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) goals that our districts have met are based on data that show when students feel seen and supported, it has a positive and direct impact on their academic success, mental health, and sense of safety. This change that has allowed students to thrive as leaders and as learners, is now under attack. In this election, every voice and every vote is critically important.

In November, Walamorinda voters will choose three candidates to fill three open seats on the LAFSD and AUHSD Governing Boards. As authors of this petition, a parent group with a multi-year track record of service to both school districts, we offer our full endorsement for LAFSD candidates Katy Foreman, Rob Sturm and Dave Smith, and AUHSD candidates Jennifer Chen, Nancy Kendzierksi and Chris Severson. These candidates have a strong history of supporting DEIB efforts in our schools and communities.

All of our families belong. All of our children deserve to see themselves reflected in what they learn. It is not hyperbole to say that our community is at a tipping point. We need each other. We have seen the beautiful change that can happen when families, board members, faculty and administrators collaborate across our districts. Let's make sure this continues - together.

Lamorinda Community for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in Education

City Meeting on SP Creek Restoration

The FlowWest 2019 Plan was designed to minimize environmental impacts (e.g. tree removal, hardscaping) and has the approval of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Sept. 14 Lamorinda Weekly article on creek restoration ignores that Planning Director, D. Buckley, noted this plan as an alternative and concentrates only on the PLaceWorks plan to keep the broken, strait-jacketed channel. It was stated the PW plan "would result in no net rise of flooding." True but it does not improve habitat nor hydraulic function. In fact, no net rise is a requirement of ANY creek restoration project.

Director Buckley thought the 2019 concept would "need approval from all property owners" but this is not exactly true as only 2 properties have the space to approve meandering. Furthermore wouldn't the PW ADA trail through parking lots and private land require approval from all property owners? The mention of transmission lines as a constraint applies to development, but not to creek restoration.

A positive outcome: PW writes that "research into property ownership and easements would be necessary" – something that is overdue. The one thing we all agree on is that the downstream culvert is undersized for the amount of runoff we can potentially get in a heavy storm. No one has addressed this issue due to cost. SP Creek last flooded at the culvert in 1995. Cinda MacKinnon Orinda

Shapiro for Moraga Town Council

We're writing to express our strong support for David Shapiro for Moraga Town Council. We have known David for over a decade, and he offers indispensable skills to the Council: he is thoughtful, respectful, and even-keeled, and possesses wide-ranging legal expertise—having excelled as federal prosecutor and private attorney for over 40 years—that will be of great value to the Town.

While serving as a U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Criminal Division in San Francisco, David prosecuted complex drug, mafia, and white-collar cases. In private practice he has litigated securities and accounting fraud, real estate disputes, banking law matters, and other varied legal topics, and provided pro-bono counsel to individuals unable to afford lawyers.

David's stellar career leading government and law firm offices, along with his investigative and trial experience, will enhance Moraga's ability to navigate new state housing mandates, zoning law changes and development proposals. He is intensely committed to ensuring that our town preserves its historic semi-rural

character and scenic beauty throughout this process. David has lived in Moraga 26 years. His kids grew

up here, went to our schools, and were active in sports and theater. He and his family care deeply about our

Moraga will benefit from a Council of smart, hardworking and analytic people who can consider all points of view and work together toward consensus. David is the consummate professional and will fulfill that role with distinction.

Please support him with your vote. Barry and Sue Behr Moraga

Vote for David Shapiro for Moraga Council

We support David Shapiro for the Moraga Town Council's open two-year seat. We first met David and his family through our daughters and have since come to know him and his wife Tina well, meeting often at Rancho Laguna Park to walk our dogs together and to clear overgrown weeds.

David is dedicated to protecting open space which is central to Moraga's identity. He also recognizes that the state now requires Moraga to plan for additional growth. His goals during this planning process are to enhance our commercial "downtown" areas while minimizing adverse impacts on traffic, scenic corridors, and open space so that Moraga's special character and quality of life are preserved.

We are confident David will use his legal expertise and intellect to work collaboratively with our town council, staff, and residents. We believe his readiness to meet the challenges of the position will benefit the people of Moraga.

William Faoro, PE

Board of Directors - Moraga Local Sales Tax Oversite Committee (Measure K)

Elizabeth Faoro

Former Moraga Parks and Recreation Commissioner

Moraga Town Council Endorsement For Candidate **David Shapiro**

As a longtime (33 year) Moraga resident, I am enthusiastically endorsing David Shapiro for Town Council. David's successful legal career began as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. DOJ where he notably helped create the Office's securities fraud and computer fraud sections before venturing into private practice with nationally renowned firms. The Town needs council members with David's passion for public service, proven analytical, intellectual and consensus building skills, and wisdom and clear eyed judgment based on long years' experience handling complex and challenging problems. David is honest, fair minded, approachable and understands Moraga's community values. David will be an outstanding council member. Jim Wraith Moraga

Support for Steven Danziger

As a 50 year resident I have seen many changes in our area. One of the most dramatic has been the amount of property clearing along evacuation routes. The MOFD Chief and Fire Board have done a great job to try and make us all safer. I believe we are fortunate to have Director Steven Danziger as District 3 representative on the Board. Steven has impressed me with his understanding of the issues, his leadership, qualifications and responsiveness. He understands government, Fire and cares.

Steven is running for re-election against an oppoent who does not appear to have any government or fire. Steven has over 3 decades, including 20 years as Administrative Manager of Oakland Fire. Steven was Board President for two terms and is involved in our community. He is a MOFD Ambassador and on the CERT Team. He chairs the Parks and Rec Commission, volunteers at the library and at the Orinda Nature Area with Toris .He does much more including organizing Blood drives and will soon give Red Cross donation #100!

Steven knows the Fire Service at every level and is doing a fantastic job. I know he is ready to continue to make our community safer. Please join me in reelecting Steven Danziger to the MOFD Board. John "Bob" Heath Orinda

Hasler will bring valuable skills to MOFD board

Greg Hasler has lived in Moraga for over 22 years and as a longtime resident has contributed in numerous ways as a community volunteer. His background in finance and consulting would bring the resources we need to meet the expanding demands being placed on the fire district staff to ensure we are better prepared to avoid the disasters which have plagued many other communities in California. I know Greg well, and am confident that his intellect and common sense approach would bring satisfactory solutions to any situation or which may arise in respect to the Moraga Community and fire safety. This is why I am endorsing Greg Hasler for MOFD District 1. Steven Christensen Moraga

Hasler Uniquely Qualified to Make a Difference!

MOFD, (Moraga Orinda Fire District), has numerous conflicting demands on its limited financial resources. For example, several of the fire stations are old and need major repairs or replacement. Also, there are increasing demands for more resources to be directed towards abatement and fire prevention. Greg Hasler's broad experience as a CPA and his extensive financial background as a consultant where he led diverse teams to solve complex problems would significantly help the board find solutions to these demands on the budget. We need him on the board. This is why I am supporting Greg Hasler for MOFD in District 1. Kathy Cropper Dana Moraga

Letters to the editor

Dell'Aquilla for MOFD board

This is in support of Vince Dell'Aquila's candidacy for the MOFD Board of Directors. I have known, and worked in volunteer roles with Vince for over 27 years. He is as capable, dedicated and altruistic as anyone could wish to have serve on the Board. In Vince's broad experience as an Educator (Including Miramonte Hight School Athletic Director), General Contractor, Non-Profit Board member and Firewise Neighborhood Leader, he has successfully collaborated with a variety of stakeholders, for years. Vince is uniquely qualified to prioritize and implement MOFD goals. I can't overstate how valuable he will be for the MOFD Board, and Community. Bill Cosden Orinda

Elect Vince Dell'Aquila to the MOFD Board - Dis-

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Vince Dell'Aquila for the MOFD Board of Directors, District 3. While we have excellent firefighters and substantial resources dedicated to our fire district, we need to do more to become a true fire adapted community. This will involve proactive engagement by MOFD board members to help our community get ready for a major fire event. The district needs to spend more resources on education, improved fire detection technology and community communications. Vince is a long time Orinda resident and has been an educator and coach at Miramonte High School for many years. He will bring the energy and focus needed to help our

... continued

www.lamorindaweekly.com

neighborhoods prepare for the existential threat of a wild fire. Jim Keefe Orinda

Elect Vince for MOFD

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Vince Dell'Aquila for the MOFD Board of Directors, Division 3. I have known Vince for 25 years and have worked closely with him in his roles as Athletic Director of Miramonte High School and coach of Miramonte and Solano College teams. Vince is hard working, conscientious, works well with others, and is a man of integrity. I am confident he would make a positive contribution as a member of the MOFD Board of Directors. Steve Harwood Orinda

Chris Young for MOFD Division 1

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Chris Young for the MOFD Board of Directors. Chris is an independent and balanced candidate who is running solely because he wants to give back to

Moraga, and to the fire district whose outstanding work he so greatly values. As 10-year Moraga residents with two young children, Chris and his wife are invested in our community, and his top priority is serving the safety and well-being of our residents.

Chris is 100% committed to keeping MOFD locally controlled, and to ensuring that it is managed in a fiscally responsible manner. He also wants to facilitate collaboration between labor, management and administration to reach consensus whenever possible. This is why he has support from Moraga residents, past MOFD Board members, and our firefighters as well.

Effective communication between MOFD and the community regarding fire prevention and safety is increasingly vital as the risk of wildfire grows, and Chris's expertise as a marketing and communications executive will add a welcome new skill set to the Board. He is exactly what MOFD needs to keep it running smoothly and successfully and I urge Division 1 residents to elect Chris Young to the MOFD Board. Ann Walgenbach

Residential Leader of the Bollinger Canyon Road Firewise group Moraga

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BART celebrates 50 years with two of its stations in Lamorinda



Photo Vera Kochan

BART's Lafayette and Orinda stations celebrate 50 years of

By Vera Kochan

Although the official year when Bay Area Rapid Transit first began revenue service was 1972, the concept began nearly six decades earlier.

As far back as 1911, business and civic leaders in the Bay Area had met to discuss various options about how best to "connect" the East Bay to San Francisco. Ideas that in those days would have been considered science fiction, soon grew into viable possibilities with the onset of improved technology.

It wasn't until 1946 that BART as we know it began to take shape. After World War II, a migration boom made its way to California with much of it settling in the Bay Area. The population explosion added commuters which triggered increasing traffic on roadways and bridges.

According to "BART History" author Justin Roberts, "In 1947, a joint Army-Navy review Board concluded that another connecting link between San Francisco and Oakland would be needed in the years ahead to prevent intolerable congestion on the Bay Bridge. The link? An underwater tube devoted exclusively to high-speed electric

The State Legislature created a San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit Commission in 1951, consisting of 26 representatives from each of the nine counties bordering the Bay. They decided that the least costly option was to form a five-county district (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo) responsible for building and operating the new high-speed rail network.

Someone had to pay for a new BART system, and that someone was the taxpayers. The five-county district was granted a taxing power of five cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. It was also given the authority to levy property taxes to support a general obligation bond issue, if approved by the district's voters. Additional funds would come from operating revenues. The total cost of the system, as of 1962, was projected at \$996 million and was considered to be the largest single public works project ever undertaken in the United States by local citizens.

Official construction began

on June 19, 1964, with President Lyndon Johnson attending the ground-breaking ceremonies where the Concord -Walnut Creek link would be developed.

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New eatery in Rheem dishes up Cal-Mex cuisine



Casa Turing staff, from left: Owner John Reyna, Prep Fermin Andres, Head Prep Bernabe Garcia, and Owner Joseph Reyna

By Vera Kochan

From the owner of Town Bakery & Café comes a new dining spot called Casa Turing (Rheem Shopping Center next to TJ Maxx). Co-owners John Reyna and brother, Joseph, have named their new establishment after their maternal grandmother whose nickname was

The brothers were born in the Philippines and come from a long line of relatives in the food industry. Their grandparents owned a bakery there in the 1950s, before moving the family to the United States in 1989.

John's first foray into his own dining business began with a food truck called Sliders in 2014. He had plans to open a brick and mortar establishment, and when the Moraga resident realized that a space

in Rheem became available in 2018, he opened Town Bakery & Café. Never one to rest on his laurels, the ever-ambitious restaurateur was on the lookout for another location where he could open an ethnic eatery.

Initially a pizza place came to mind, but the brothers were still open to ideas. They were informed of a town-wide survey taken more than five years ago, whereby residents overwhelmingly wanted to see a Mexican restaurant in Moraga; and realizing that he dined on Mexican food "at least twice a week," John began to make the necessary plans.

"We did a lot of research for what they really do in terms of the Mexican technique of cooking," explained John. "We even went to L.A. Our main cook, Miguel Jimenes, is from Tijuana."

Before Casa Turing opened, the recipes were "tested" at

Town Bakery. The ones that were a hit made it to their new Cal-Mex menu. Items such as: Crispy Shrimp Tacos; Burrito Bowl; Taco Salad; Tostadas; Homemade Tortilla Chips with fixings; Enchiladas; Angus Steak Fajita Plate; and more are served along with bottled drinks. Coming soon are beer, wine and agave-based cocktails. Casa Turing is also available for catering events.

"Our food is prepped to order," Joseph stated proudly. "We use local ingredients. Whatever seasonal foods are available go on our rotating menu. We shop for groceries everyday, and the only thing the freezer is for will be to keep the ice cream [coming soon]."

"The main focus for us is not to cut corners as far as food goes," added John. "We don't even use a microwave except to melt cheese."

Sister, Grace, runs the front of the house and the Reynas' parents come to help out when they can. "We have a very strong team behind the scenes," said John. "The prep guys are the ones that make us successful." Hoping to add to the success are Taco Tuesdays; live music on weekends; and lunchtime hours. Casa Turing is currently open Tuesday through Thursday from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m. Closed on Monday.

Casa Turing quietly opened for business on Sept. 2. "We're in the honeymoon stage," said Joseph. "The flow of customers is nice, and we've gotten great feedback from diners." Added John, "We really enjoy doing this."

For more information visit: casaturing.com or phone (925) 592-0964.



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October 2022 Weekly Speakers

Sept 30 - Erica Gies, Journalist & NatGeo Explorer on the Water in CA Oct 7 - Rotary Big Picture: Camp Royal Attendeed

Oct 14 - Bill Tobin - Shelter Box

Oct 21 - Intro to Improv: How Making Up Theater Can Fix Your Live and Save the World

Oct 28 - MemberMag - Melissa and Mark Agnes (David Waal)

50 years BART in Lamorinda

... continued from Page A11

"In July 1967, work began on the Market Street subway stations," wrote Roberts. "Carried out 80 - 100 feet below heavy downtown traffic, against the combined pressure of mud and Bay water, the work required one of the greatest concentrations of tunneling crews and equipment in construction history."

Additionally, "Subway excavations were rich with buried ships and other memorabilia, providing a fascinating look back into Nineteenth Century San Francisco when landfill of lower Market Street and the Embarcadero was still open harbor."

At noon on Sept 11, 1972, BART officially opened the first 28 miles of its system between the Fremont and MacArthur stations to paying riders. Later that month, President Richard Nixon rode a BART train from San Leandro to the Lake Merritt Station. It wasn't long before BART carried its millionth rider on Dec. 12 of that year.

Lafayette and Orinda stations along with the rest of the 17-mile Concord line began service on May 21, 1973, linking East Contra Costa County to the MacArthur Station. Within a year, the Transbay Tube saw trains from the East Bay travel through to San Francisco at an

average speed of 75 mph. Stretching 3.6 miles along the floor of the bay, it is considered to be one of the deepest (135 feet below the surface) vehicular tubes in the world.

Since California and the Bay Area are known for continual seismic activity, extensive studies were conducted. Even though the Tube would not cross any active geologic fault, the Tube was designed with earthquake absorbing flexibility and packed from shore to shore in a trench of soft soil, gravel and mud for cushion. Flexible connections were also used which allowed for several inches of up or down, in or out, and sideways movement. It can be noted that during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, BART was inspected within hours and deemed to be the only safe means of transport between Oakland and San Francisco as the Bay Bridge had suffered structural collapse.

After one year of service and 56 miles of rail lines, BART counted 5 million passengers carried; along with plans to add stations further along each of its lines with fares at a minimum of 25 cents and a maximum of \$1.45 (one-way) depending on trip miles -- children 4 years old and under could ride free.

The Lafayette Station park-

ing lot was originally built with a capacity for 982 vehicles. The Orinda Station lot came a close second with 939 vehicular spaces.

Cost estimates for BART, as of Feb. 28, 1975 totaled \$1.619 billion. This included direct construction costs; design and construction management; utility relocation; land and land rights; rolling equipment; insurance; other construction costs; preliminary expense, security and maintenance; unallocated Transportation Development Act Funds: cost of Transbay Tube; and contingencies.

The project received funding from the sale of General Obligation Bonds; California Toll Bridge Authority; proceeds of Sales Tax Revenue; earnings from Temporary Investments; Transit Development; Federal Capital Grants; and Miscellaneous Income.

After 50 years, it is hard to imagine what the Bay Area's ever increasing traffic woes would look like if not for BART's share of heavy lifting to help alleviate a sizable portion of congestion from our roadways. Lamorinda residents use the convenient rail system, in all directions, for work, shopping, day excursions, airport trips, sporting events and more. If only finding a parking space could be as easy.

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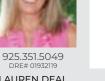
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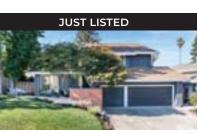




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New SMC exhibit explores authenticity in the art world



SMC's "Fake It Till You Make It" exhibit at the Art Museum

By Vera Kochan

Fakes, forgeries and imitations. Does the average art lover know how to spot them? Most likely not, because oftentimes even the experts have been duped by near-perfect copies of "the real thing," much to their embarrassment.

"Fake It Till You Make It," a new installation currently at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, through Dec. 11, takes visitors on a journey of supposition and explanation into the possibilities and reasoning behind "fakes."

"Fakes and forgeries were once the dirty little secret of many art galleries and museums," according to a lecture sponsored by Smithsonian Associates. "The reason? The counterfeits managed to slip past the resident experts thanks to convincing technical expertise and often aided by fraudulent provenance. They are embarrassing reminders of how clever and insidious art forgers can be."

No doubt, based in the belief "if you can't beat them, join them," the Museum of Art Fakes (Vienna, Austria) was opened in 2005, and proudly displays only works of art that

are fraudulent.

SMC has chosen to take a different tack by displaying 50 works from their permanent collection (such as Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, and William Keith), that may or may not have been created by the credited artist, thus challenging visitors to ponder the authenticity of the art.

According to SMC's Academic & Engagement Curator Britt Royer, "Despite expertise, often there is no clear definition of authenticity for many works of art - largely due to expenses and research limitations, but also because of shifting contextual evidence and variation in cultural values. This exhibition embraces ambiguity, bringing case studies forward to the viewer to deconstruct and consider."

The first painting on display has a description panel that states: In the Manner of Bartolome Esteban Murillo (Spain 1617-1682) Copy of "Madonna of the Rosary" c.1800. Using the phrase "in the manner" is a term auction houses use when they mean "in our qualified opinion a work in the style of the artist possibly of a later date." The painting went through a restoration process, whereby it was discovered that the work was most likely painted between 1800-1850.

Another painting, "Head of a Man (St .Paul) c.1550-1650, by an unknown artist from Belgium, was originally attributed to Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640). Through the centuries the artist attributed to it had changed, and in 1977, a restoration brought to light

Photo Patrick Maisano

more shifts to its acknowledgement details.

Some works of art are described as "attributed to." Oftentimes, a master painter had pupils under his wing. In order to teach them how to paint, the master painter would have his students copy one or more of his works. Some became so adept at reproducing that even the experts were fooled.

"Authenticity manifests in different ways," explained Royer. "Nominal authenticity, or the correct identification of an object, relies heavily on a provenance - a record of ownership connected to the object's history. The absence and unrecorded context of many objects' provenances presents challenges for curators and cultural institutions. Experts must often rely on the artists' intent in defining the line between a fake, copy, or forgery.



Attributed to Marco di Tiziano Vecellio (1545-1611), Copy of Girl with a Platter of Fruitby Titian (c. 1555) c. 1570, Oil on canvas, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Dunn, Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Permanent Collection [0-106]

A 'fake' represents a work of art that appears as a copy, replica, or misattributed work, whereas a forgery reflects an intent to deceive.3

An additional exhibit sharing space in the art museum through Dec. 11 is titled "Interdisciplinary Voice." SMC's faculty, scholars and staff have created art in response to works from the permanent collection. The intent of the exhibit is to facilitate conversation, spark ideas, and create new perspectives to art.

For example, a painting by Elizabeth Emerson Keith, "California Fruit" c.1872, inspired

Mixologist and Alumni Brother David L. Caretti, to create a cocktail recipe entitled "Reflecting Elizabeth."

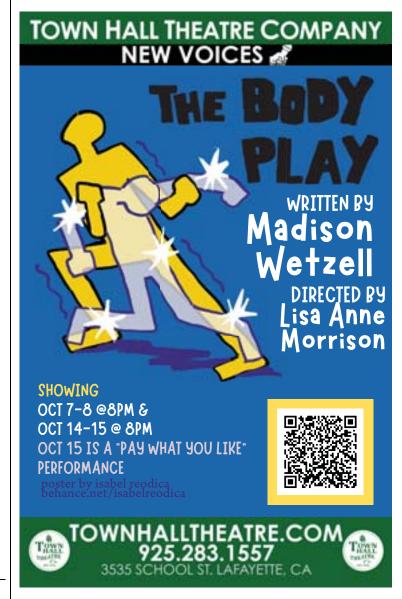
Another piece by Louis Siegriest (1899-1989) titled "Out of this World" prompted Adjunct Assistant Professor and Art Integration Education Specialist Everett Louis, Ph.D. to create an interactive textural discovery piece.

Many of the works by SMC personnel reflect their personalities, social outlook, professional background or hobbies. Of the 11 pieces on display, the styles and expressions run the gamut of interpretation.



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Sweet Thursday Author Series presents Debbie Chinn

Submitted by Laurelle Miles

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center offers the second author event this fall at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall. Debbie Chinn, author of "Dancing in Their Light: A Daughter's Unfinished Memoir" will discuss her colorful memoir of growing up first generation Asian American in the restaurant, hospitality industry. Her family fled China when the Communists took over the country in 1949 and immigrated to the United States. They brought with them specialized culinary skills which they used to open fine Oriental dining restau-

rants when Polynesian clubs were the rage in the 1960s and 1970s. The restaurant was her playground and training ground for the utmost in gracious hospitality and discretion. Debbie's book is inspiring and unfathomable as she weaves together stories of humor, pathos, confluences of fate, and the eternal guiding hands of her ancestors. You won't want to miss her great storytelling.

Join the Friends of the Lafayette Library for this free in-person event by registering at tinyurl.com/Sweet-Oct22. The DTCH doors will be open at 6:30 for coffee and sweets before the talk. Orinda Books will be on site selling copies of the book. Wear a facemask, if not fully vaccinated.



Roasted Tomato and Pepper Romesco Sauce perfect for pasta or pita chip dip



Roasted Tomato and Pepper Romesco Sauce Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Romesco sauce is a perfectly delicious roasted tomato and pepper sauce originating from the Catalonia region in northeastern Spain. It's most commonly used as a sauce to accompany fish or meat, but we also love it over roasted veggies, or as a sauce over pasta, especially fettuccine! It even makes a great dip for pita chips. There are many variations on this sauce from mild to a bit spicy, but some of the more common ingredients besides the roasted peppers and tomatoes include garlic, parsley, toasted almonds, paprika, lemon juice, wine vinegar and olive oil. The type of nut can vary, but they are what give the sauce the signature texture and thickness. We usually use

toasted, slivered (unsalted) almonds, but pine nuts or even hazelnuts can be used. Some Romesco sauce recipes call for chili powder, and we like to use New Mexico chili powder, to keep it a bit more on the mild side, but we also love it without chili powder and just more paprika. We use two kinds of paprika smoked and the regular paprika you find in the spice section. You can either roast your tomatoes and peppers in the oven, or on the grill, which is what we usually do, but the roasted veggies give this sauce such great flavor. Be sure to use whatever juices you have from roasting the veggies in the sauce too. The sauce stores well in the refrigerator for a week in an air-tight container.





Roasted Tomato and Pepper Romesco Sauce

(Makes about 1 1/2 cups of sauce) **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 large orange bell pepper, cut in half 2 large tomatoes, cut in half (or 25 cherry
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds
- 2 tbsp. fresh parsley leaves
- 2 small cloves garlic
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. New Mexico chili powder (optional) 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 4 tbsp. olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the grill to medium-high heat or the oven to 400 F. Spray a baking dish with cooking spray. We like to use an aluminum pan so we can use it right on the barbecue. But, you can also use a glass, metal or ceramic baking dish if you plan to roast your veggies in the oven.

Susie can be reached at

our website:

suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Susie please contact her by

If you would like to share

your favorite recipe with

email or call our office at

https://treksandbites.com

(925) 377-0977. Or visit

Place the tomatoes and peppers in the prepared pan and toss them in 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Lightly season with salt and pepper. Place the pan directly on the grill and cook the veggies for about 5 minutes per side. Flip them with a spatula halfway through. They should be slightly charred and softened. In the oven, it will take longer to get the veggies roasted and charred, maybe 15 minutes or so. Remove the veggies from the heat once they are softened and charred.

Place the roasted tomatoes and peppers in the food processor along with the almonds, parsley, garlic, salt, both paprikas and process until smooth-ish. (If you want to add chili powder, add it at this time too, with the other spices.) The sauce won't be completely smooth due to the almonds. Add the lemon juice, red wine vinegar and olive oil and process again. Serve right away or store in the refrigerator until ready

Our feathered friends



Red Tailed Hawk

By Toris Jaeger

I don't know about you, but I am so in-

spired by the birds we see in our back-

count on them to be the species we see

In my backyard I have enjoyed

friendly Chickadees to the large Band

corvids for their intelligence and the

left me a clam shell as a thank you for

One Raven that visits me each day

yards, our community and our open

space areas in Lamorinda. We can

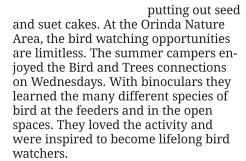
over 30 different species from the

Tailed Pigeons. My favorite are the

connection I have with them.

and enjoy during the day.

Photos Reg Barrett and Bill Hudson



I am hoping that we can involve our youth in the annual Christmas Bird Count in December, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, which would involve volunteering two times during the day: at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on



Blue Heron

Sunday, Dec. 18. The Oakland count circle extends from Treasure Island northeast to the San Pablo Reservoir in Contra Costa County, and south to Saint Mary's College in Moraga and the Oakland International Airport. (That includes not just Oakland but the cities of Alameda, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, Orinda, Moraga, and

Lafayette.) Registration opens in October. For information, visit

https://goldengateaudubon.org/birdingresources/birding-information/christmasbird-counts/. Books about birds worth reading

include "Raven's Winter" and "Mind of



Great Horned Owl

a Raven" by Bernd Heinrich; "The Genius of Birds, the Bird Way" by Jennifer Ackerman; "What is it like to be a bird?" by David Allen Sibley; and "Important Bird Areas in California" by David S. Cooper.

Readers will be inspired by these

MCF presents \$100K check to Town at Pear and Wine Festival



Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of PG&E, The Eagle Foundation and many other community supporters, the Moraga Community Foundation presented another \$100,000 check to the Town of Moraga on Sept. 24 at the Pear and Wine Festival. Funds will be used to construct accessibility improvements, treeplanting and other amenities at the Commons which are part of MCF's Moraga Commons Enhancement program. Pictured from left, front row: Mackenzie Brady, the new Director of the Town's Parks and

son Auggie; Dave Trotter, MCF President; PG&E Public Affairs representative Sarah Yoell, with daughter Bella; Moraga Town Council Member Teresa Onoda; Aaron Johnson, PG&E Bay Area Regional Vice President; and Jeff Schwartz and Cathy Harris from The Eagle Foundation; back row: Moraga Vice Mayor Renata Sos; Moraga Mayor Steve Woehleke; Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg; and MCF board members Bob Moore, Tim Culleton, Tom Schnurr, Bill Snider and Rohit Sabnis.

Recreation Department, with

Photo provided

Lamorinda Weekly

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MEF funds new elementary science program



Photo Ana Moon

By Jenn Freedman

The Moraga School District has launched a new elementary science program this fall with the help of a generous grant from the Moraga Education Foundation (MEF). The program adds two new dedicated, credentialed science teachers who lead all elementary students through UC Berkeley's FOSS science curriculum

Longtime fourth grade teachers Millie Tang from Los Perales and Virginia Drury from Donald Rheem have been tapped to teach the new curriculum. Both passionate and experienced educators, Drury also previously held a similar position at San Ramon Unified as a science specialist.

FOSS is a product of UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, made by scientists and teachers. The FOSS program aims to make students active investigators instead of passive spectators. Awarded more than any other science program in America, FOSS is widely recognized for its quality, rigor, support, and effectiveness.

"Many children think they are 'not good' at certain academic subjects, like

science, at an early age. My goal is to help students learn to love learning and find answers to problems. ... We want students to love science, ask questions, and wonder about the world around them," Drury shares.

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Tang adds, "We want our students to continue to be curious about the world around them, to be bold, to carry on their investigations and research outside of our classrooms. We want them to be relentless with their search for the 'how-to' and their 'I

With the new program, each student receives 45 minutes of hands-on lab work in the new, dedicated science classroom each week. In addition, Drury and Tang are leading teachers with a coordinated science lesson in the classroom. They have even created an internal website for the classroom teachers to share student progress, lessons, and links to ensure easy accessibility for all educators.

"The more people that are sharing and teaching the same subject, the more impactful it is going to be for the student," Brian Sullivan, principal at Rheem, emphasizes.

"My first graders call themselves scientists," a teacher recently mentioned to Ana Moon, president of MEF. "To have that be in their vocabulary that they identify as a scientist, it's going to open up so many possibilities for these kids to envision themselves enrolling in STEM electives at JM or taking classes like Biotech or Computer Integrated Manufacturing at Campolindo High School," Moon said.

MEF has been supporting Moraga's public schools for over 40 years. Thanks to the generous community of donors, MEF granted \$2.55 million to Moraga public schools this year, making these science teachers and many other programs possible.

Donations fund academics, enrichment, academic support, and student wellness.

The 2022-2023 Giving Campaign is going on now to raise funds for next year's grant. Donations can be made online at moragaeducation.org.

'Triptychs' features black & white photos by Jeff Heyman at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre **Gallery**



















Photos Jeff Heyman

The City of Lafayette's Public Art Committee has selected "Triptychs," a collection of 36 black and white photographs by East Bay photographer Jeff Heyman, for exhibit at the Town Hall Theatre Gallery in Lafayette. Heyman is a contributing photographer for Lamorinda Weekly.

The exhibition runs Oct. 4 through Nov. 17. There will be an opening reception Sunday, Oct. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.

After taking photography classes at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif., Heyman went on to earn a degree from San Francisco State University in Fine Art Photography. He studied under such photographers as Catherine Wagner, Don Worth, Jack Welpott and Melanie Walker, and painters Robert Bechtle and Paul Pratchenko.

Heyman has had work featured in

group shows and won several awards for his photos. This is his first solo exhibit. The photographs range from abstracts of a home in Orinda to surreal objects and bizarre portraits.

Heyman chose the triptych format, which historically has been used to convey a spiritual meaning or a narrative, because he felt it suited these particular photographs.

"I have always liked triptychs and felt that although I'm not telling a particular story with these photographs, it lends them a certain amount of whimsical mystery," Heyman said. "Each triptych will mean something different to the person viewing it. It will become their own personal narrative."

To view Heyman's photos, visit https://heymanfoto.smugmug.com/SoloExhibitTownHallTheatre/ – J. Wake

Eric Gregerson Oct. 5, 1944 – Sept. 3, 2022



Eric, a fifth generation Californian, was born on Oct. 5, 1944 to Eugene and Beryl Gregerson in Watsonville. He grew up in Sacramento, and later moved to Atlanta where he graduated from high school in 1962. Eric studied at University of Georgia and then moved back to California, attending Fresno City College and Fresno State. Eric also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

At Fresno State, he met Judy Simonian in the spring of 1969. They married in 1972 and moved to Lafayette, Calif., where Eric worked for Bank of America. After a few years in banking, Eric received his contractor's license and made a career of home repairs and remodeling.

He and Judy lived in Lafayette for 40 years and raised Cora and Chad, coached youth sports teams and forged many friendships. Upon retirement in

2010, Eric and Judy moved back to Fresno. Eric's favorite place to be was in his shop, refinishing and repairing antiques and creating wood projects. He worked alongside Judy to help turn her creations into a reality. Eric enjoyed restoring and traveling in

He was always there for anyone that needed help, including helping his son with many projects or flying to the Midwest multiple times to help his daughter's family move. Eric inherited the Gregerson dry sense of humor and quick wit that was appreciated by many. He loved family time in the mountains: the annual family summer trips to Pinecrest and boating on lakes across California. He was an avid reader and he loved cooking gourmet meals for his friends and family. His beloved dog, Roxy, was always by his side. Eric was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Above all, Eric was gracious and giving and he will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Eric is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy, his children, Chad Gregerson (Denise) and Cora Bahl (Brad), and grandchildren, Mary and Margo Gregerson and Parker and Avery Bahl. He was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Beryl Gregerson and his sister Gale McArdle. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Eric's name to the American Cancer Society.

IIn Memor

Katherine Marie Cooper (Meyers) Morgan



atherine Marie Cooper (Meyers) Morgan passed peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on Aug. 12, 2022. She was born Oct. 22, 1977. Known and loved as Katie, she grew up in San Leandro and attended Bishop O'Dowd High School. Katie earned her BA from the University of California, Davis and her law degree with honors from Boston College Law School, where she served as Managing Editor of the Law Review.

Katie started her career as an attorney at Latham & Watkins in San Francisco before embarking on a second career in interior design. She curated each space in her life in her intentional, elegant way. Everyone could always breathe easier in the beautiful environments she created, including the family home she shared with her husband, Rees, and children, Claire and Jack, in Lafayette, Calif. Katie volunteered with the Lafayette Juniors for many years and served as president of the organization, was active in her children's schools

and extracurricular activities, and participated extensively in her community. She seemingly had more hours in the day than most.

Katie was whip smart with a lightning quick wit and as compassionate as she was funny. She loved books, talking politics long into the evening, wine, running, travel, gift-giving, and the absurdity of the human condition. To know Katie is to have laughed with her, received her sound advice, or benefitted from her pragmatic perspective; everyone in her orbit was drawn to her.

Most significantly, Katie was a wife and mother whose dedication to those roles has left not only a tremendous void, but an indelible mark on this world. She loved Rees deeply and unconditionally with a commitment to creating an exemplary life filled with meaning and connection, humor and fun. Claire and Jack were Katie's greatest accomplishment and pride. She lives on in them.

She is survived by Rees, Claire and Jack; her parents, Steven and Sally Meyers; her brothers, Steven Meyers, his wife Michelle and their three children and Michael Meyers, his wife Ashley and their three children; her father-in-law William Morgan and brother-in-law Chad Morgan; her aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless devoted friends Katie touched throughout her entirely too short life. Rest Katie and we will see you again.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Katie's memory to the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) by visiting melanoma.org/KatieMorgan or sending a donation to: Melanoma Research Foundation P.O. Box 719329 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19171-9329. Federal Tax ID Number: 76 0514428

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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

Not to be missed



Not to be missed

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Not to be missed



Not to be missed



ART

Lamorinda Art Alliance presents: Enhance and Abstract the Human Figure in Art with Melinda Cootsona, who will be conducting two instructional Zoom chats with LAA members on the topic of abstracting the human figure. Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. will concentrate on the human form in drawing, painting, and virtually all mediums. Tuesday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m. will take us into the intriguing world of the cold wax process. www.melindacootsona.com/

Art show at Orinda Books. October features the paintings of Sussana Griswold and the woodturnings of Steve Griswold. Sussana's award-winning oil and pastel work focuses on portraits, both human and animal, which are her favorite subjects. For Steve, wood has always been a source of wonder: "Within the ordinary trees we walk by every day, there are miracles waiting to be discovered, and through turning wood on a lathe I try to reveal those miracles." Visit the Artist of the Month at www.orindabooks.com. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

The Valley Art Gallery presents a new fall selection of "Focal Points" that you can use to dramatize your décor. In addition to paintings and photography, this fall the Gallery introduces a new category of art: sculpture!

Free, open to the public. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

Bedford Gallery presents: The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper. Now until Dec. 18, from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday at Bedford Gallery in the Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$5, free for children under 13 and Bedford Gallery members), visit www.bedfordgallery.com.

Theatre

Synergy Theater, the folks who brought you "Improvisors in Space!" and "Spontaneous Dickens!" returns to the Lesher Center for the Arts, at 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, with the world-debut of "Spontaneous Hitchcock: An Improvised Thriller in the Style of the Master of Suspense!" This completely improvised two-act comedy pays homage to Sir Alfred Hitchcock and his beloved legacy of the Hollywood thriller. It plays Thursday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Oct. 30 at 8:15 p.m., Thursdays - Saturdays, and 3:15 p.m. on Sundays. www.SynergyTheater.com

Orinda Starlight Village Play**ers** present: George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" through Oct. 1. Fridays, 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m. Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. www.orsvp.org/

Town Hall Theatre Company presents: "The Body Play". Written by Madison Wetzell, directed by Lisa Anne Morrison, cast: Alyxaundrea Munson, Sierra Camille and Maeron Yeshiwas. Dates: Oct. 7, 8, 14 & 15 at 8 p.m., at Town Hall Theatre, Lafayette. Tickets: \$25. Oct. 15 is a Pay-What-You-Can performance.

www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Aurora Theatre Company presents "Colonialism is Terrible, But Pho is Delicious" on Tuesday-Wednesday 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Nov. 4 -Dec. 4 (no show 11/24), at Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley. This comedy spans centuries, continents, and cultures, where the argument around culture, ownership, and authenticity comes to a roaring boil. Cost: \$20-70. For more info see www.auroratheatre.org/Pho or call (510) 843-4042 or email info@auro-

Literature

ratheatre.org.

Sweet Thursday Author Series is offering on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. inperson in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Debbie Chinn, author of "Dancing in

OUR SAVIOR'S

Their Light." Chinn gives us a glimpse into the world of hospitality, dining and live entertainment in restaurant/nightclub business she grew up in. This free event in sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. Register at tinyurl.com/Sweet-Oct22.

Orinda Books will host a book launch for Isidra Mencos, featuring her new book, "Promenade of Desire" Oct. 15, 2 p.m. Her new book is a rich journey into the life of a woman once contained, who finds a way to set herself free. Email info@orindabooks.com to register.

Lauren Groff, 2022 Joyce Carol Oates Prize Winner will read from and sign copies of her books, including, the most recent title and just out in paperback, "Matrix," as well as "Fates and Furies," "Florida" and "Arcadia." Orinda Books is partnering with the New Literary Project to bring Lauren Groff to the bookstore. Saturday Oct. 15 at 3:30 p.m. To register, go to the Orinda Books website or email info@orindabooks.com

Pat's Book Club will read and discuss "Voices in the dead house" by Norman Lock, a masterful dual portrait of two iconic authors-Walt Whitman and Louisa May Alcott—who, during the Civil War, took different paths toward chronicling a country beset by prejudice and

SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 8:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP | 9:30AM

at war with itself. All are welcome. Just call, (925) 254-7606 or email info@orindabooks.com to let us know that you are coming. Thursday Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda.

Other

AAUW-Orinda Moraga Lafayette will hold its annual Tech Trek paper shredding fundraiser at 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga on Saturday, Oct. 8. Plan to securely shred three full boxes of papers to help us meet our Tech Trek goals to send local middle school girls to AAUW's own Tech Trek science and math camp. \$10 per file box. You may also destroy, separately: metal CDs, DVDs and computer hard drives removed from computers and laptops. Any questions, email Lana Reichick at lanasan@aol.com.

On view at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMCMoA) are two original exhibitions featuring work from the museum's permanent collection. "Fake It Till You Make It: A Quest For Authenticity" embarks on an exploratory journey of painting, photography, sculpture, mechanical advances of printing, and digital media to discover how authenticity shifts through time and context. "Interdisciplinary Voice" features 11 unique responses from faculty, staff, and scholars to objects in the permanent collection. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 11. Admission and programs are free. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 2 p.m. For more information, visit: www.stmarysca.edu/museum

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce, along with several Moraga service organizations, have come together to create the first Moraga Community Service Day! It will be held Saturday, Oct. 1 and Sunday, Oct. 2. There are activities for all ages, from painting pots for seniors and the homebound to blood/food drives, planting trees in Moraga Commons, school beautification, as well as fire abatement on our lovely hillsides. http://moragaserviceday.org/

AAUW-Orinda Moraga Lafayette and the League of Women Voters will hold a Zoom webinar on the Pros and Cons of November 2022 California ballot propositions on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. The webinar is free and open to the public; all are invited to attend. There will be a short video about each proposition followed by Q&A. Advance registration required. To register visit our website https://oml-ca.aauw.net.

Join Sokol SF members and friends at the Community Center and Park in Orinda on Saturday, Oct. 8 for a festival-style "Day of Czech Culture" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Program includes Moravian dancing, by the Karicka Dance Group from San Diego in their beautiful traditional costumes. The students from the Czech School of California who will be on hand with some entertaining singing and historical presentations, followed by musical Sokol members who hope to engage our audience in sing-alongs of beloved Czech songs!

Garden

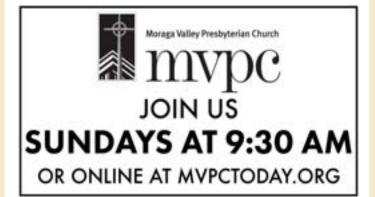
Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting begins at 10 a.m. on Oct. 13 at the Veterans Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Shawna Anderson will be the guest speaker. She is an Advanced Certified Nursery Professional and Certified Horticulturist for Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. The meeting is free to attend. If interested please contact

LGCMembershipCommittee@ gmail.com.

Please submit events to:

calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services





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

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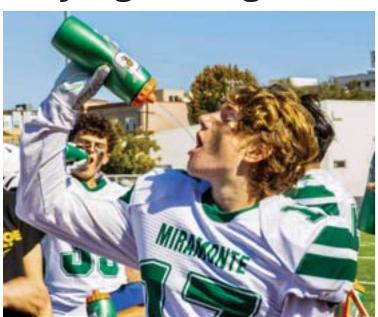
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Playing through the heat wave

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said. "When we were in the

black ranges, we were not al-

lowed to do anything. There

were a number of days where

we started in the black range so

there were a number of cancel-

lations or postponements to try

enough to allow the kids to have

With the temperatures

seeming to max out when the

teams were scheduled to have

games or practices, events were

moved to later in the day. "The

pushed back the starting time

evenings," Clark said. "Every-

thing was modified. The fresh-

moved from 5 to 7 as were the

tennis matches. I worked with

(Athletic Director) Randy Taka-

hashi and we were in constant

contact with the coaches taking

the temperatures and dissemi-

when to reduce the intensity of

the practices. I would ask Coach

Burnsed to hold off practice for

another half an hour when the

Did Burnsed cancel, post-

pone, start early, or have pad-

temperature should drop into

that safe range and he re-

you've got to do."

sponded simply: "Whatever

nating the information as to

when to start practices and

for the volleyball matches to the

gyms were also hot, so we

men football games were

and let the temperature drop

some sort of activity."

Miramonte JV players Grant Jedick, right, and Gabon Levesque, left, keep hydrated during the recent heat wave.

By Jon Kingdon

Under conditions that could be described as biblically hot, the high schools and Saint Mary's College were forced to make concessions to the heat in many ways. Practices were shortened, postponed, canceled, or moved to a time when the heat began to diminish. Cooperation was essential between the administration, the trainers, the coaches, and the players and unlike with the COVID situation, there was a game plan that was put in place and the issues with the heat were kept at a

We knew it was coming so we had parameters around it, knowing when it was safe to play," said Acalanes trainer Chris Clark. "We were on top of it, but we were just at the mercy of what the weather would allow us to do."

As with the coronavirus, the high schools utilized a colorcoding system to determine what the athletic teams could and couldn't do. Beginning with the least threatening conditions, the colors were green, yellow, orange, red and black.

"The red range was where you had to decide what you wanted to do outdoors," Clark

adjust in that we only had one good practice during the week. No one missed any games. We were very careful and followed what Chris advised us to do and we did all we could to stay on top of it." The preventative word for

Burnsed said. "It was difficult to

less practices? "All of it,"

every trainer, coach and athlete was hydration. "We told our athletes to pre-hydrate in advance of practice and the games," Saint Mary's Head Trainer Josh Sims said. "We directed them to drink Gatorade to get more electrolytes into their systems along with adding a little more salt on their food to keep their bodies regulated as much as possible," Sims said.

With the medical histories of all of the Saint Mary's players, Sims and his staff knew that some of them would need special attention. "Some of our athletes have conditions, such as sweating excessively which made them more vulnerable to the heat," Sims said. "We would modify their activities, giving them special attention whether through diet, hydration, exercise restrictions and other precautions. It does get hard in the games because you can't control the intensity but hopefully, we've prepared everybody along the way."

Saint Mary's and the Lamorinda trainers all used an item called the wet-bulb globe thermometer (WBGT) to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed, and visible and infrared radiation (usu-

ally sunlight) on humans. "Based off that reading, we determine what type of workrest ratio the players should have," Sims said. "Luckily for us, humidity usually drives that and so the hotter it gets here, the lower the humidity. We're pretty lucky in that regard unlike in the south and southwest where it's hot and humid so they will get more restrictions than out here. Still, when a certain number is reached on the WBGT, the National College Athletic Association has a set of rules which requires that in

games like soccer, the players have water breaks at assigned times during their games."

At Saint Mary's, there were more alternatives available to work around the heat than there were at the high schools. "We got lucky in that our schedules could line up where we were able to practice earlier in the day, unlike the high schools where it's classes all morning, so we were able to have soccer practice at 7 or 8 a.m. Our soccer team was able to finish by 10 o'clock when it really began to heat up," Sims said. "On days when the team could not change their practice time, we moved them into one of the rec gyms."

Acalanes cross country coaches Bruno Morlan and Jeff Hudson were particularly attuned to the heat. "We canceled practice when it was over 105 degrees," Morlan said. "Between 100 and 105 degrees we kept the runners on campus where we could keep eyes on all the time, making ice water available for them after each loop. Ninety to 95 was as close as we could get to normal. We kept reminding the runners to constantly hydrate before and after practice because they lose so much water when they run so if they start on empty, they're just going to have a bad time. Fortunately, we never had any major issues with our runners.'

Amanda Turtle, a senior on the cross-country team at Miramonte was at the forefront of the hot temperatures. "We normally ran right after school, but we had to cancel three of the five days of practice one week," Turtle said. "Coach (Tristan) Tool made sure we stayed hydrated, and we would run in the evening when the temperature dropped to 85 degrees which was a lot better than 100. When the temperature did drop enough for us to practice, we went on a slow 20-minute run and then we were told to get water and go home."

John Grigsby, Miramonte's trainer also saw to the postponing and cancellations of practices and also alerted the coaches to be aware of any athletes that showed signs of heat issues. "I told them to monitor the athletes to see if they had hot, dry and red flushed skin and if they appeared confused or disoriented," Grigsby said. "I filled up big tubs of ice water in case we might have needed an ice water immersion for anyone suffering from heat exhaustion or a potential heat stroke victim. Fortunately, we never had a situation where we needed to make a 911 call. Everyone managed it well as the coaches all adhered to the guidelines.'

The field turf also exacerbated the problems with the heat for the football team. "One year we placed a thermometer on the field and the mercury burst the glass so it can be as high as 120 degrees on the field if it's a 100-degree day," Grigsby said. "We moved football practice to the grass baseball field for three days in the evening.'

The heat issues were not restricted to the athletes. "We actually had some kids in their PE classes who were not that well trained that had some heat exhaustion issues and we would send them down to the nurse," Grigsby said. "A lot of the one and a half hour classes would normally take little walks to take a break and they also had to send some of their students to

Ironically, the one sport where you would not expect to have any issues with the heat, water polo, had an issue in a match at Acalanes. "A player who was not participating for the visiting Davis High School girls' team was sitting out in the sun," Clark said. "She was obviously having a heat issue bordering on heat stroke, so we got her into the pool and then the air-conditioned girls locker room until her mother came down from Davis to pick her

Clark essentially spoke for all of the trainers when he said, "We were super-cognizant and aware of all that could go wrong.

Orinda golfer's success acknowledged on and off the course



Matthew Lin

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

Tiger Woods described golf as "A lonely sport." For many professional and amateur golfers, such is the case. For Orinda resident, Matthew Lin, it's quite the opposite. Golf has allowed him to succeed on the course and on many levels away from the game.

This past summer, Lin was awarded the Presidents' Leadership Award by the United States Golf Association-American Junior Golf Association (USGA-AJGA) which has annually honored one male and one female golfer since 2005. Among the thousands of AJGA members, Lin, and Madeline Bante (Énglewood, Colorado) were chosen as the golfers "who demonstrate leadership, character and community service through their involvement with the Leadership Links program."

In awarding Lin and Bante, USGA

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President Stu Francis described the pair as "exceptional leaders who are an inspiration to us at the USGA, their generation and everyone in the game. We can't wait to see their careers unfold."

Upon learning that he had won the award, Lin's reaction was anything but subtle: "I had just taken the last final of my sophomore year and I was really tired. When I learned that I won the award over thousands of applicants, I was ecstatic and jumping up and down with my parents.'

Matthew's parents, Patrick and Darlet, were a tad more restrained. "We were a little bit surprised and thankful." Patrick Lin said. "Surprised because there were so many amazing kids that were doing really neat things. We were very thankful because Matt is the kind of kid that does these projects not for the recognition but because he enjoys doing those things."

Lin has raised over \$20,000 for for-

mer 49er great Ronnie Lott's All Stars Helping Kids (ASHK), \$7,000 for C.T. Pan's (a Taiwanese professional golfer) Foundation which supports youths, many from Taiwan who aspire to play golf at United States colleges, and has worked at CityTeam in Oakland, which serves Oakland's homeless and a women's shelter.

"I will go to CityTeam and donate necessities and serve food to the people," Lin said "It's an opportunity to get to know these people while making friends and learning more about their needs."

Lin, who is fluent in Mandarin, acquired his charitable drive from his parents. "I'm just really grateful for the opportunities that I have had because of my parents and all they've gone through. My parents passed down to me an overwhelming sense of feeling lucky to live in America.

... continued on Page C2

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Orinda golfer's success acknowledged on and off the course

... continued from Page C1

From this thankfulness comes an instinctive desire to help others and I've seen how a little bit of kindness goes a long way."

What Lin's parents went through was not easy but imbued them with a real appreciation for those who helped them upon their arrival to America. "My dad's family came to the United States without any money," Patrick Lin said. "We benefited from the people that helped us out with things as simple as a free lunch at school and professors and teachers that mentored us along the way."

Darlet Lin, who was born in Africa when her father was in the Peace Corp, also appreciates what she found in coming to the United States. "We both came from humble beginnings, and we really benefited from living here," Darlet said. "With all of the hardships going on everywhere, we always told our kids (Matthew and his sister Samantha, also a top golfer at the University of Chicago) that we're lucky to be here and we've always tried to be positive.'

So how did Matthew raise such a substantial amount of money for the charities? "I started giving free golf lessons in my backyard to young kids because I love teaching golf, especially those who do not have a lot of experience," Lin said. "Being able to see the excitement in their eyes when they hit a really good putt for the first time or hit a chip in the middle of the club face is really satisfying. Golf is just such an amazing sport and I'm trying to share it with other people."

It was from these 'free lessons' where Lin raised funds from his students' parents. "I gave them the option of donating to ASHK or C.T. Pan's Foundation via the AJGA," Lin said. "Over the last four years, I've also raised money from my friends, my church, and the community. I love Orinda. It's a great environment and there are so many opportunities and great people that I have met and connected with."

And then there is Lin's talent as a golfer. The Lins belong to the Orinda Country Club where Matthew won their Junior Championship in 2021, shooting a four under par 67. Lin is also a Junior Club Member at The Olympic Club in San Francisco and is ranked #85 in the USA for the Class of 2024 (#18 in California).

Growing up in Orinda, Lin was a multi-sport athlete. "I played competitive basketball, and I was on

three different teams until the eighth grade," Lin said. "I also played varsity tennis on the Head Royce varsity team as a freshman. I didn't really start to focus exclusively on competitive golf until my sophomore year."

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It was in the eighth grade when Lin began taking regular lessons from Justin Lee, the pro at the Blackhawk Country Club who has observed firsthand, Matthew's meteoric growth as a golfer going from a twelve handicap to a +4.1 handicap.

Lee initially saw Lin's athletic skills but also his commitment to fully reach his potential. "Matthew has a lot of natural athletic ability, being able to move the ball and his body fairly well," Lee said. "It took a lot of hard work on his part to get to where he is, and he did a very good job with that. Matthew is the happiest kid in the world. His attitude is to just enjoy life and a big part of it is his faith which is why he is such a happygo-lucky kid."

Lee also sees a connection with the happily achieving and contributing attitude that Lin possesses to his success at golf. "It definitely helps him," Lee said. "You need to have that type of attitude to succeed in this game. Having a positive mentality and a belief in himself carries over to his playing and performing so well."

It's the psychological aspect of the game that Lin finds most satisfying. "It's such a mental sport," he said. "It's a perfect balance of being relaxed and stressed at the same time while staying patient and making smart decisions. When I'm playing, I will take the time to look at the sky and be thankful that I've been given the opportunity to play golf."

Lin, who has started visiting colleges including a number of top academic Division I schools, utilizes the mental demands of golf as a carry over to his academic work and is a community leader at the Head Royce School while practicing golf six to seven days a week.

"One of the great things about being a golfer is that since you spend so much time on the course, you really have to learn to be efficient, whether it's focusing on one technique or one process or one thought," Lin said. "Because of this, I'm able to be efficient with my time, studying, learning how to study, and putting in the work. I really enjoy school and love learning about things I'm not knowledgeable of and in the end, it's

When Lin was headed to play in the Notah Begay



Photo provided

Darlet, Matthew, Patrick and Samantha Lin

III Championship, Lott, to acknowledge the contributions that Lin has made to his foundation, took the time to send him a video with these words: "Greatness comes from your heart and your mind ... and make sure you make a lot of birdies," both of which Lin took to heart.

Ronnie Lott is a great guy I'm just trying to follow in his footsteps in that he always asks, 'What can I do for you?' and I'm want to bring the same message to have the opportunity to help others," Lin said.

Working so closely with Lin, Lee sees the upside for him as a golfer and as a man. "The biggest thing with Matt is, regardless of his golf and what he does in school, he's just a good person and that will take him a long way," Lee said. "The values that his parents have instilled in him have given Matt a great platform to work off of. They have given him opportunities and he has taken advantage of it as much as he can. He's very mature for seventeen but it's a continuing growth and process for him. His future is very bright whether he plays golf or decides to do something else."

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Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 16

Issue 16 Wednesday, September 28, 2022



Handyman Jim Hurley about LED lighting

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward



An abundance of nutritious fresh vegetables.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"Delicious Autumn! My soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird, I would fly about the earth seeking the successive Autumns." ~ George Eliot

The sweet smell of the recent rain-dampened soil stimulated my soul. Although it wasn't enough moisture to revive a parched earth, my brown lawn exhibits more strands of green. This short respite from the horrendous heat of the first part of September was a welcome beacon of the cooler forthcoming autumn.

This surprise rainfall was also an indication that it is time to complete harvesting our summer crops before the rainy season begins. Nature has a way of informing us about the optimum time to pluck our favorite vegetable or fruit at its peak of flavor. Berries are plump, juicy, and deep in color. Apples fall into our hands the second they are touched. Our noses lead us to the sweet smell of ripe Asian pears, our eyes shine when we see that perfect deep red tomato, and our ears listen for the hollow thump of a crunchy melon. We use our senses to identify the best time to harvest, including our common

In my garden, because of the heatwave we experienced, many of my fruits are self-harvesting including apples, pears and citrus. (Selfharvesting means that when the fruit is ripe, it automatically falls from the tree.) The challenge with self-harvesting is that the fruit bruises or gets dirt, rocks, or sticks stuck in its flesh. Cut out the blemishes, wash, and eat the rest!

To move forward with fall harvesting, pick your produce early in the morning, just as the sun is rising. The air is cooler, and the crops are crisp, allowing them to last longer. If you wait to pick until the heat of the day, lettuces, radishes, peas, chards, and leafy greens will be limp and wilted. The second-best time to harvest your non-droopy crops like zucchini, grapes, tomatoes, and root vegetables is early evening, preferably after the sun has set. The early sunbathing adds to their sugariness.

Harvesting Hints to help you pick, pull, and pluck a sampling of your garden favorites at the peak of perfection.

Apples: When you touch a ripe apple, regardless of variety, it should need only a slight pull to fall off the branch.

Beans: Pick before the pods begin to swell and when the strings are still slender. Pick often to encourage more bean development. Beets: Pull when beets are 1 ½ inch to 2 inches in diameter. Cut off the tops to use in cooking or chop them into salads.

Carrots: Whether you are growing orange, purple, yellow, or white carrots, loosen the soil when they are ½-1 inch thick, then pull. **Cucumbers:** Harvest cucumbers when they are shiny and small. The bigger they get, the more bitter and seedy they become. Lemon cucumbers will be slightly yellow while English and Armenian cucumbers will be green. Frequent picking encourages more growth. **Pepino Dulce Melons**: When you see the pink stripe and the fruit is about 2 inches in diameter, these sweet cucumber/melons are ready to eat. ... continued on Page D12



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Page: D2 OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	14	\$1,005,000	\$3,400,000
MORAGA	4	\$1,954,000	\$3,615,000
ORINDA	10	\$1,351,500	\$3,600,000

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.

LAFAVETTI

3219 Andreasen Drive, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1500 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-16-22, Previous Sale: \$1,168,000, 07-01-15

3411 Echo Springs Road, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3302 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-11-22, Previous Sale: \$1,803,000, 12-08-12

1250 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1077 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-19-22, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 08-01-07

1124 Glen Road, \$3,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2641 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-11-22

3270 Judith Lane, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1628 \$qFt, 1951 YrBit, 08-08-22, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 06-14-18

3918 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,621,500, 4 Bdrms, 3715 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 08-09-22, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 04-29-10

3279 Mt Diablo Court #11, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 08-15-22, Previous Sale: \$795,000, 01-02-19

682 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$2,052,000, 4 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-17-22

3237 Quandt Road, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1670 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-09-22, Previous Sale: \$327,500, 06-19-13

622 North Silverado Drive, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-09-22

581 Silverado Drive, \$2,022,000, 3 Bdrms, 2075 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-10-22, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 03-26-15

646 Sweet Court, \$1,705,000, 2 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-09-22, Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 10-22-15

3361 Sweet Drive, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1796 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-11-22 969 Yorkshire Court, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-08-22, Previous Sale: \$250,000, 05-05-98

MORAGA

344 Fernwood Drive, \$2,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 2547 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-09-22 1283 Larch Avenue, \$1,954,000, 5 Bdrms, 2510 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-17-22, Previous Sale: \$920,000, 09-19-12

16 Quail Xingx, \$3,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 5818 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 08-12-22, Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-29-04

1246 Rimer Drive, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2182 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-17-22, Previous Sale: \$818,000, 05-17-01

ORINDA

106 Caro Lane, \$2,550,000, 6 Bdrms, 3122 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 08-12-22, Previous Sale: \$385,000, 06-01-89

457 Dalewood Drive, \$3,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 3413 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-17-22, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 05-16-11

2 Lomas Cantadas, \$1,510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1497 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-19-22, Previous Sale: \$562,500, 09-09-02

65 Meadow View Road, \$3,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2631 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-11-22, Previous Sale: \$899,000, 08-19-03

14 Risa Court, \$2,212,500, 4 Bdrms, 2118 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-17-22, Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 04-09-13

103 Tara Road, \$1,351,500, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-10-22

41 Tarry Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 1686 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-08-22, Previous Sale: \$770,000, 08-12-02

5 Twig Lane, \$3,155,000, 4 Bdrms, 4567 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 08-18-22, Previous Sale: \$2,791,500, 06-16-22

62 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2552 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-12-22, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 12-04-17

14 Zander Drive, \$2,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 3165 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-11-22, Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 03-23-20



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Shedding light on LED lighting







LED lighting options

Photos Jimm Hurley

By Jim Hurley

One of my goals as a handyman is to help you save money. One of the best money savers for homeowners is to convert their lighting to LED bulbs and fixtures. One of the frequent calls I get is to fix a light that is misbehaving due to the LED update. Hopefully I can shed some light on this.

Not all light fixtures are created equal. Your home probably has several different kinds of lights: incandescent, fluorescent, condensed fluorescent, halogen, and LED. Let's sort this mess out.

The incandescent bulb is the oldest version of lightbulb. (Thank you, Thomas Edison, or was it Joseph Swan? Google Time ...) The bulb is screwed into a socket. Of course, it's not that simple. Sockets come in different sizes: Standard (medium) and Candelabra (small) are most common. I've also encountered Metric-sized/French-thread (Gaggenau hood fans), and Mogul bases (super large for old-fashioned floor lamps) out there. Incandescent bulbs also come in different wattages. Bulb "wattage" has been the standard measurement of how bright the bulb is, (more about that later). By the way, your parents were right, they do burn a lot of electricity, so turn them off when you leave the room.

The second most common fixture in older homes is the fluorescent tube. Fluorescent fixtures are more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs, but still not as efficient as LED. Fluorescent bulbs use less electricity than incandescent to run, but they do use more electricity to start. To save money, leave the fluorescent turned on, rather than turning it on and off when you are at home. The downside to fluorescent lights is they sometimes hum, or flicker, or are just too bright. They are very common in commercial lighting because they are more energy efficient when left on for extended periods of time.

Similar to the long fluorescent bulb is the condensed fluorescent (CF) bulb. These are the bulbs with the glass curlicue, spiral, or pronglike glass tube. Some can be screwed into regular bulb sockets, but many are made with square bottoms that click into the fixture. Replacing them is a fun experience in matching the configuration of the base to the new bulb; two or four pins, clips or tabs. Hint: take the old bulb with you to the hardware store.

Halogen bulbs are small but powerful bulbs that burn very hot. They were popular with designers because they are small, bright and can fit discreetly into small fixtures. They are commonly found in recessed ceiling lights, bookcase "puck-lights," and low voltage garden lights. Halogen bulbs have different bases too. They may have pins that insert into a ceramic block or the GU10 base which clip or twist into the base.

LED stands for Light Emitting Diode. This light source runs on very low voltage and is the most efficient light for power consumption. This is the future and I recommend upgrading to LED wherever possible in your home. LED brightness is measured in Kelvin, not Watts. The K factor is an assessment of their "warmth"

– 2700K is called "warm white" and resembles the soft glow of an old incandescent bulb. From warm white they range up to 5000K or "Daylight." "Daylight" has a blue brightness to it and is great for dark places like your garage, attics, basements, and closets.

Now that we've learned not all bulbs are created equal, neither are light switches. Your standard light switch which toggles on or off can operate with any of the above bulb types. The problems start with dimmer switches. Older dimmer switches may not be compatible with LED lights. How will you know? Sometimes the new LED bulb just refuses to turn on, sometimes it does not shut off completely; sometimes it buzzes and flickers or strobes when you try to dim the light. Some will work at full brightness and only have trouble when dimmed. If these problems arise when you switch to an LED bulb, a good test is to take the dimmer switch out of the junction box and manually complete the circuit. (If you don't know what that means, then you should probably call your handyperson.) If the lights work when you bypass the switch, then you need to buy a new dimmer with LED compatibility. Read the label of the new switch to make sure it is compatible with LED. Also please be aware, that some LED bulbs may not be "dimmable." Non-dimmable bulbs are usually lower priced at the store. Look for the word "Dimmable," (is that really a word?), on the package before buying the bulb, if you intend to use them with a dimmer.

Some spouses may say, "they can't even change a light bulb" about their unhandy partners. In light of the complexity of bulbs, bases, and switches discussed above, you might consider cutting your better half some slack.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25

years of experience in residential repairs. Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.





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Central Contra Costa Real Estate – The WILD Ride Continues

Our local real estate market is much like a roller coaster. Affluent cities of Lafayette, Orinda and San Ramon saw an uptick in the number of sales, with San Ramon being the most interesting. Closed sales went from 41 in July to 56 in August. Although this is still well under the 100+ number of sales in prior months for San Ramon. The trend for all 11 cities is that buyers are focusing in on lower priced homes. Good news for sellers, active inventory is shrinking. At the end of July there were 739 active listing in central CC County. At the end of August, it rolled down to 570. As of this writing, active inventory has dropped a little more to 555.

The number of sold units in central county was the same in August as in July with 371 closed sales. The monthly average sales price is again lower. Average sale prices YTD compared to 2021 has 3 cities with less than double digit increases: Concord (9.58%), Orinda (8.63%) and Martinez (7.61%). The increase for the 8 remaining cities ranges from 13.62% (Pleasant Hill) to 21.84% (San Ramon). All these increases are still good to fabulous.

The key market indicator, Pending Sales the last 30 days was 327 transactions. That's up from July which was 292 transactions.

The outlook for both buyers and sellers is good. While shrinking inventory is never a good thing for prices, Days on market average of 26 days is good for buyers. Days on market translate into less transactions being competitive and encourages most sellers to be realistic about sales price.

My last tip for buyers is to build into their budget, funds to buy down their interest rate which will lessen the impact of continued high interest rates.

To see details by city, go to www.YourContraCostaRealtor.com



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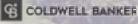
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward



Japanese eggplant, zucchini, lettuce, and more are harvested.

... continued from Page D1

Eggplants: Young eggplants are the tastiest and sweetest. Their flesh is glossy purple. Do not pull eggplants. Cut with a sharp knife. Fennel: Cut bulbing fennel at the soil line. Use the bulb as well as the ferny leaves in recipes. If your fennel has yellow flowers, save the seeds for your culinary recipes.

Grapes: If you are growing grapes, you know when they are ready to be harvested by doing a taste test. Don't pull the bunch from the vine. Use a sharp knife to cut individual bunches.

Kale: Leave six to eight leaves of the kale on the stem when picking kale. Kale grows quickly and will continue to send out more leaves. **Peppers**: For the ultimate in flavor and sweetness, allow peppers to grow to their deepest colors of green, red, yellow, orange, and purple. Twist and pick whatever size you wish.

Pumpkins: Try to pierce the skin of a pumpkin with your fingernail to determine ripeness. Cut the stem at least 3 inches long and let the pumpkin cure for a week or more in the sun. Pumpkins will last a very long time when stored at 48-50 degrees in a dry environment. **Tomatoes**: For the richest flavor, be patient and wait for your tomato to reach its full sun-ripened color for the specific variety. When rain threatens, pick your green tomatoes, and leave them on the counter. Most will ripen at room temperature. Whatever you do, never refrigerate tomatoes after picking or you'll lose nutrients and flavor. **Leafy greens**: Nutritious leafy greens like arugula, lettuce, Swiss chard, and spinach continue to sprout. Harvest as needed to augment



Harvested beets with tomato vine in the rear.

Photos Cynthia Brian

and accent your other edibles. The smaller the greens, the more concentrated the vitamins and minerals.

Keep in mind that the birds, squirrels, skunks, raccoons, deer, rabbits, and other critters are as excited about the fall harvest as you are. They may start their feeding frenzy before your yields are at their optimum ripeness. Be vigilant and if necessary, gather your bounty earlier than expected.

The end of crop harvesting heralds the beginning of autumn as a time for rejoicing. When I was a kid growing up on our farm, a barn

dance signaled the finality of the harvest and time to rest from a season of working in the fields. In our communities, we celebrate with festivals and fairs that are filled with family fun. Fall is a delightfully delicious time of year with the abundance of farmfresh fruits and vegetables ripe and ready. Pick, eat, enjoy!



Fennel blossoms and seeds are excellent for

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

seasoning.





504 McBride Drive, Lafayette 4BR/2BA | 2790 sq. ft. | 2.69 acres

Enchanting and unique 4BR/2BA, 2,790 sq. ft. home in highly desirable Burton Valley! Not your usual rancher. It sits on a very private 2.69 acre lot at the end of a cul-de-sac and has a sprawling flat yard with possibilities galore! The huge double-paned windows let the sunshine in and showcase views of the lush greenery surrounding it. The cherry on top... no need to worry about interest rates! You'll have the *INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSUME A 2.25%* VA LOAN for up to \$1,100,000. There is no requirement to be a veteran to gain access to this loan! Don't miss this special gem! Top Lafayette schools. CO-LISTED WITH SUSAN SCHLICHER



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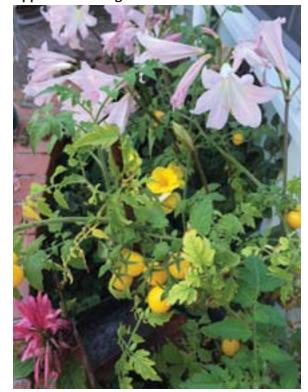




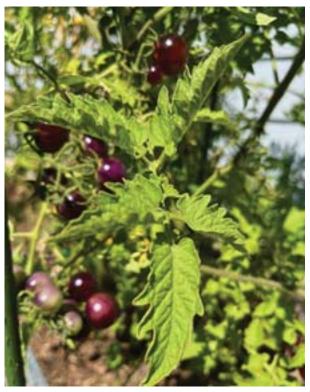
COLDWELL BANKER 5 Moraga Way, Orinda



Apples are falling from the tree.



Yellow tomatoes growing amidst jacobinia and amaryllis belladonna.



Purple cherry tomatoes are tart.



A rare treat, Pepino Dulce melons taste like a sweet cucumber.



A garden of frilly kale plants.



Kumquats are the perfect citrus tree for a container.



Cynthia Brian by a fall fountain.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your fall 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. Her newest children's picture book series, "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures," will be available soon. Buy copies of her books, www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and special perks, buy a StarStyle® NFT at https://StarStyleCommunity.com Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com





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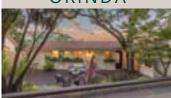
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ORINDA

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DANVILLE New Price

45 Lily Court Exceptional single story 3 bd/ 2 ba home w/ open floor plan that is light & bright ideal for entertaining & day to day living! \$1,449,000



16056 Mount Olive Road Traditional 3 bd/ 3 ba ranch style home set on 1.97 acres, 1248 sqft w/ detached 'studio-like' structure of approx. 320 sqft! \$525,000



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