

LAMORINDA
WEEKLY

Independently owned and operated!

24,000 FREE copies www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977

24,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

Back Yard Office or Guest House

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

GREEN SHEDS
 www.GreenSheds.net 925-872-3187



Cattle are released back onto their historic pasture by rancher John Hoover.

Photo Dennis Rein

Cattle grazing returns to Painted Rock in Moraga

Submitted by Dennis Rein

Moraga, CA. After 12 years, cattle are once again grazing on the hills Moraga at Painted Rock. Early on the morning of May 16, the John Muir Land Trust welcomed the arrival of the first load of yearling heifers onto the 84-acre Painted Rock Open Space, owned by John Muir Land Trust. The cows wasted no time getting to their essential task of grazing down the annual grasses that, if left unchecked, could carry wildfires in the region.

Town of Moraga Mayor Theresa Onoda, Town Manager Scott Mitnicka, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board President Mike Roemer, and Linus Eukel, the

Executive Director of John Muir Land Trust, were present to witness this return to sustainable land management at Painted Rock. The significance of the return of the cattle extends beyond the present moment.

The cattle, owned by the Hoover Cattle Company, belong to Mr. John Hoover and his wife, Jackie (daughter of Sam Carr), who have deep roots in both the cattle business and the Town of Moraga. The Carr family has been running cattle in Moraga since 1916 and has continued to carry on the ranching tradition here for five generations.

... continued on Page 8

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Not to be missed	Page 10
How to contact us	Page 10
Obituaries	Page 11
Classified	Page 13
Love Lafayette	Page 14

VLATKA BATHGATE (925) 597-1573 BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.com

FOR SALE - 5744 Buena Vista Ave, Upper Rockridge	FOR SALE - 930 Hawthorn Drive, Lafayette	FOR SALE - 548 North N St, Livermore	COMING SOON IN ORINDA

COLDWELL BANKER BRE#01390784

Potential park land acquisition in Lafayette moves into negotiations

By Lou Fancher

A California Government Code that is common but rarely known by members of the general public lent special importance to Parks and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi's report to council on May 13. The report centered on potential acquisition of a property at 221 Lafayette Circle. The code allows legislative bodies such as a city council to discuss price and terms of payment for property negotiations in a closed session, but only after naming and considering a property in open session and deciding if it intends to negotiate. If a majority of its members agree, the Council can conduct a closed session to discuss price and terms of payment.

"I come to you this evening with two things," Katayanagi said. "The first is a parkland opportunity and the second is a difficult decision."

The .13-acre parcel is currently a private parking lot with 10 spaces. It is zoned for special retail business and not parkland, although Katayanagi noted other land parcels in similarly zoned areas do include parks. According to Katayanagi, this makes the parcel at 221 Lafayette Circle a potential park development site.

The property first became an item of consideration for purchase by the City in December 2023. The property owner expressed to Parks, Trails, and Rec Commission (PTR) Commissioner Grace Dixon that they were interested in selling the property to the City for parkland development, but would simultaneously proceed with applying to develop the site for a single-family home.

...continued on Page 2

Moraga Library goes batty

By Vera Kochan



A Pallid Bat up close and personal

Photo Vera Kochan

Although the Moraga Library doesn't have a belfry, there were plenty of bats on hand anyway during their May 16 "Bats at the Library!" presentation. The program was geared towards kids between ages 6 - 12 years; however, a handful of adults with an interest in the small, hairy mammals were also in attendance. Corky Quirk, a representa-

tive from Northern California Bats (NorCalBats), brought four different species from the organization's Sacramento Valley location. "NorCalBats is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of bats throughout Northern California," stated their website. "In addition, we are committed to public education regarding the environmental benefits of bats,

and dispelling fears and myths that lead to the death of roosts and colonies. Trained volunteers care for injured and orphaned bats throughout the valley and surrounding foothills."

Many in the audience expected the bats to be much larger, but that misconception can be attributed to watching too many vampire movies where Dracula turns into his alter ego and flies off into the night. Instead, the average bat can be held in one hand, and those that Quirk brought were fully grown. For the bats' safety, audience members were not allowed to touch the critters as she brought them out of their enclosures one at a time to give everyone an up-close look.

Quirk's specimens included Big Brown Bats, Mexican Free-Tailed Bats, a Hoary Bat, and a Pallid Bat, which was recently named California's State Bat thanks to Senate Bill 732 signed by Governor Gavin Newsom.

... continued on Page 4

Civic News
 Central San seeking input on fee hikes – Page 7

Public Safety
 Police Blotters – Page 8

Life in Lamorinda
 Summer Music camp at Campolindo High School — Page 9

Sports
 Volleyball success at Campolindo and Acalanes — Page 13

Our Homes OH1-OH12
 The joys and pains of roses — Page OH4

