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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.

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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.

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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.

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See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.

Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.

Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Potential park land acquisition moves into negotiations

... continued from Page 1

That application is currently being processed by the City Planning Department while the PTR department continues its review and the council

determines its interest in acquiring the land.

Importantly, Lafayette's Downtown Specific plan calls for three parks in the downtown area. Gazebo Park and Town Green are under consideration or en-

visioned, respectively: the Lafayette Circle site is not listed in the 2012 plan.

The staff report Katayanagi used during his presentation to council also included relevant PTR information that could prove vital to the council's evaluation of the purchase:

"The 2009 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan does not specifically mention a park in Lafayette Circle; however, the City is still over 25 acres short of the plan's goal of 5 acres of land for every 1,000 residents. The plan calls for downtown parks and provides needs such as off-leash dog areas and neighborhood parks, with a potential size from 0.1 acres to two acres."

The PTR Commission has reviewed the site and following a 7-2 vote, Katayanagi said the recommendation to council was to engage in a negotiation process with the property owner. The recommendation did not come with a proposal or advice to develop the site specifically as parkland; only to begin discussions. While considering different uses prior to coming to the council, the commission determined the small size of the parcel to be the most limiting factor in terms of development.

Katayanagi presented a list of pros and cons to council to aid in the decision about whether or not to enter the negotiation process. Included in the pros



Image provided

were a property owner willing to negotiate with the city, funds available that can only be used for Parkland purchases, a location immediately adjacent to 66 apartments, and existing utilities. He said parcels that become available often "sell faster than I could even get them to the Parks Commission, so having a property owner that is willing to negotiate with the city is a key feature in this property."

Among the cons are the maintenance and facility costs (the General Fund has a deficit and negative balance in the Parks Facilities Fund), inability to count on timing for development fees owed to the city that might be used to offset budget challenges, and the specific site is not listed in the City's official park opportunities. Ironically, the lot's diminutive size landed in both pro and con columns: while the best design and use as a park is made more complex by size limitations, the smaller footprint would mean maintenance and development come at a lower price point for the City's already challenged parks budget.

With an approved motion to proceed with negotiations, the city would not be making a decision to acquire the property, he emphasized. The urgency of moving into closed session is accelerated by the history of potential sites selling quickly before the city can enter negotiations, and the property owner's dual track plans that have potential single-home

development running parallel to the city's interest in acquisition. Katayanagi reiterated that, although there are many factors to weigh in determining the site's eventual use, opportunities for parks in the downtown core "come and go very quickly" and expediency is encouraged.

Council member John McCarthy asked about a mention in the PTR report of Native American artifacts found in the 1960s, but Katayanagi quickly clarified the matter. He said the report stated that the items were found at an adjacent site, not on the parcel at 221 Lafayette Circle. If such items were to be found, consultations with the tribes involved would be held and such action is built into the process for any development project.

A second question concerned allowing for adequate public comment about the best use of the parcel, which Katayanagi said would occur and be a priority. Council member Karl Anduri asked about the PTR commissioners' discussions of ideas for uses other than a park. Katayanagi said the commissioners were "conflicted" and considered alternatives such as a small off-leash dog space, passive green space, a half-court basketball court, and other options. Even so, the recommendation remained for council to move forward to initiate negotiations.

Public comment included one man who supported the value of

parks to community and individual health. "We are under-indexed on park space," he said. He added that a small park would add excitement and vigor to that location in the downtown core.

Council member Susan Candell supported the idea of a park in that area, if there is community input indicating interest, despite the parcel's small size. Council member McCarthy said whatever is determined to be the use must be something the community can "really rally behind."

Mayor Gina Dawson expressed concern about the city's limited resources and funding the project. The negotiation process involves the City Manager, and the public engagement process would be extensive and use considerable staff time. Additionally, the exact price of the parcel is estimated only, and would be clarified by appraisals that begin only after entering the negotiation process. This topic brought up the closed session that is the council's next step and would allow in the early stages for an appraisal to be compared to previous estimates. Anduri made a motion "to declare our intention to negotiate for the purchase of (the parcel) at 221 Lafayette Circle and schedule a closed session to discuss price and terms of payment."

The motion passed 4-1, with Mayor Dawson the one "nay" based on budget concerns she would prefer are resolved prior to moving forward.

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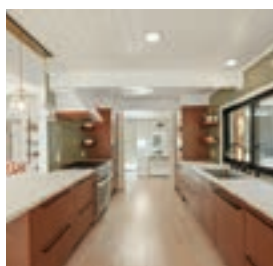


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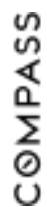


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Lafayette's Artisan Walk displays the best of local business and art

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

Shoppers walk down Mount Diablo Boulevard and stop at Susan Goldie's booth at the Lafayette Artisan Fair, Saturday, May 11.

On the hot and sunny Saturday afternoon of May 11, Lafayette's downtown was bustling. Shoppers chatted with local artisans displaying their crafts in booths that dotted Mount Diablo Boulevard and wandered into local businesses showcasing locally sourced goods. A knot of women laughed together with Susan Goldie in a booth full of her paintings at Abode Flooring and Finishing, while a father and his son studied Jeff Heyman's photographs in front of Reasonable Books. Teenagers goggled at a mass of Mother's Day bouquets inside Floral Arts Florist and Arlynn Bloom painted vibrant watercolors in front of Hollie's Homegrown. People called out to friends they hadn't seen since before Covid. Rhoda Larner and her friend Adrienne Jones came from out of town to do some Mother's Day shopping. "We're excited about the brand-new vintage store, Vintage Vida, that just opened on Tuesday," said Larner. The cause of the all this exuberant activity was Lafayette's inaugural Artisan Walk.

The idea for the Artisan Walk came from the first meeting of the Retail Committee, a new sub-committee of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. They wanted their kickoff event to be a downtown walk where participating businesses would each have a partnered artist or artisan, and would either display the artist's products or art inside the store or have the artist themselves with their products at a table at the business.

Many of the local businesses collaborated with artists with whom they already have ties. Fleurette Sevín of Artglass displayed her jewelry and art in front of Lamorinda Music. "I make things out of recycled musical instrument keys and I'm a musician so I've known them for a while," she explained. In Broadway Plaza, Jeff Kent of Enumero Cribbage Boards had a booth in front of Sharp Bicycle, from whom he and his wife bought a tandem bicycle in 2004. "When I heard Matt and Sally had an opening in front of the shop I asked and they were gracious enough to say 'Sure, no problem'," he said. Not all businesses had a connection with an artist and in-

stead asked the Retail Committee to set them up with one. Some forged new connections and some ended up re-revealing old, unrealized connections. When paired together, photographer Juleen Lapporte of Studio Jule and Leah Hendrickson of Wax A Peel realized that they share mutual friends.

The committee hoped not only to motivate more shops to collaborate with artists throughout the year, but also to encourage residents to shop locally instead of online. "It's so easy to just buy on Amazon. We need to bring the awareness that there's benefits to shopping here and meeting the business owners, meeting the kids or retirees that work there, so the employees and the business owners are your neighbors and community members," said Holly Sonne, the Communications Director of the Lafayette Chamber and coordinator of the Artisan Walk. "It's very easy to get stuck online these days," Sara Regan, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, expanded. "But we need a vibrant downtown in order to sustain and keep Lafayette where it is."

According to Regan, the response across the board has been very positive. They are already thinking about how to improve next year, like getting more shoppers to the more remote stores. The Lafayette Retail Committee plans on this being the first of many Artisan Walks and will soon be meeting to plan events in the summer and fall that will support local small businesses and nonprofits.



The aurora borealis glowing in the sky, seen from the hills of Lafayette on May 10. This rare display was caused by the most powerful geomagnetic storm to hit Earth since 2003. —Elaine Borden Chandler



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MORAGA

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Town of Moraga:
www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council Meetings
Wed., May 22, 6:30 p.m.
Wed., June 12, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission:
Mon., June 10, 6:30 p.m.

Local Hazards Mitigation Plan seeks public input

By Vera Kochan

Contra Costa County is in the process of updating a 5-year Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The Plan will require working with cities, special districts, and county departments involving three main areas: hazard identification, mitigation action planning, and public comment and outreach.

Moraga's residents are invited to provide input for the LHMP. In doing so it will allow the town to meet federal, state, and local requirements for grant funding. Associate Planner Mio Mendez said that by providing comments, "the Town of Moraga will be eligible for resiliency grants to reduce

Moraga's vulnerabilities to local hazards, as they are made available, and for recovery grants once the town experiences and recovers from a local hazard."

According to the Contra Costa County website, "During the hazard identification phase, the planning team analyzed data on natural and human-caused hazards based on the likelihood, impact, and severity. For the county, the three highest-ranked hazards were earthquakes, wildfires, and landslides. Even though every participating city and special district also ranked their hazards based on their area, there are common trends across

the county in the hazard ranking."

In Moraga's case, the LHMP Hazard Risk Ranking's high probability factor included landslides, heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms, strong/damaging winds, heat wave/extreme heat, and utility interruptions. The town's medium probability factor included earthquakes, wildfire, flood (urban/flash flood and ravine/creek), drought, hazardous materials incidents, climate change, cyber security threats, and active shooter incidents.

"After hazards were identified, at least one mitigation action item was identified for each hazard," continued the

county website. "This ensures that each participating agency has a proposed strategy to mitigate hazard impacts."

"In an effort to make the county more disaster-ready and resilient, the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services is seeking public feedback on the 2024 LHMP," stated Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid. "The plan serves as a guide for the county to become more resilient to the impacts of natural, human-caused, and technological disasters."

The county also wants to remind residents that "just as mitigation planning helps local governments be-

come more resilient during disasters, personal preparedness can help you and your family recover more quickly after a disaster. Talk to your family about your local hazards, make a preparedness kit for every household member and pet, and practice your emergency plan at least twice a year."

The 2024 LHMP for Moraga is available on the town's website: www.moraga.ca.us/599/Local-Hazards-Mitigation-Plan. Interested residents have until May 31 to view and provide comments on the Plan before it is submitted to FEMA for review.

Council votes to adopt FY 2024-2025 Townwide Goals and Priorities

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's council members agreed to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Townwide Goals and Priorities during their May 8 meeting. While initial discussions began in March, staff was requested to make revisions and wait to make the updated presentation when all council members were in attendance.

There are 11 agreed upon Goals and Priorities, which include working with local property owners, Chamber of Commerce, and the community to create a mix of housing, revitalize the town's commercial areas, im-

plement the town's Housing Element, and continue the General Plan 2040 update effort.

Moraga also wants to maintain a balanced Biennial Budget, 50% General Fund Reserve, AAA Credit Rating, and develop a Ten-Year Financial Strategic Plan to provide long-term fiscal sustainability and core municipal services.

Another priority is to complete construction of the 2023-2025 Townwide "Worst Streets First" Street Reconstruction Projects, implement the revised Street Rehabilitation Cost Sharing Policy, and improve the Moraga's

overall Pavement Condition Index.

Completing construction of the 2023-2025 Storm Drain Capital Improvement Projects and continuing the town's Storm Drain Operations and Maintenance Program are also on the list, along with maintaining high-quality public safety services by providing responsive law enforcement, continuing to coordinate with Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and completing the Lamorinda Evacuation Study.

Additional goals are to commence preparation of a Recreation and Open Space Master Plan;

the implementation of measures to address congestion and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along streets and roads, especially near schools; and lessen Moraga's impact on the environment by implementing environmental sustainability and resiliency initiatives – including those contained in the town's Climate Action Plan and Facility Energy Generation Study.

The final goals and priorities include reviewing the town's Fee Schedule, development fees, and other potential fees that would benefit the community, such as

a fee for the arts, landscaping, stormwater, drainage, Transient Occupancy Tax, etc. Finally, the town plans to continue to improve the town-gown relationship with Saint Mary's College and update the Townwide Noise Ordinance.

In the past, Moraga's town councils approved the annual Townwide Goals and Priorities at the beginning of each new calendar year. However, a shift to a fiscal year basis of July 1 to June 30 will align the process with the timing of the budget cycle.

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Moraga Library goes batty

... continued from Page 1

Some of the fun facts that attendees learned about bats during the presentation were that bats fly with their hands; worldwide there are over 1,400 species of bats (47 of which are in the United

States, 26 of those are located in California, and 17 are found in our region); for the most part, bats eat insects, but some eat fruit, nectar, or very rarely meat; bats drink milk when they are born and water when they get older.

More interesting

facts are that bats can be found on every continent but Antarctica. They are born as a single birth, but there are rare occasions when they have a twin. Bat guano (droppings) is highly valued and used in fertilizers. A bat's wings are made of skin with trails of blood vessels within. If a wing is torn, thanks to the blood vessels, it can grow back and heal. House cats are a bat's primary predator, because they can climb trees. Raccoons and squirrels are also their enemies, in addition to any tree snakes.

Depending on the species, bats can, on average, fly 100 mph, so this comes in handy when chasing their favored meal of flying insects, which they eat immediately. Because bats dine on insects that can be harmful to crops, the farming community appreciates them as a non-



Photo Vera Kochan

NorCalBats' Corky Quirk extends a Pallid Bat's wing

toxic and natural form of "pesticide".

Quirk informed everyone that, contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind. They navigate using echolocation by producing sound waves at frequencies above human hearing, called ultrasound. The sound waves they emit bounce off objects in their environment which then return to the bats' ears. Dogs and cats can hear the echolocation of bats.

Bats do like to sleep during the day and hunt

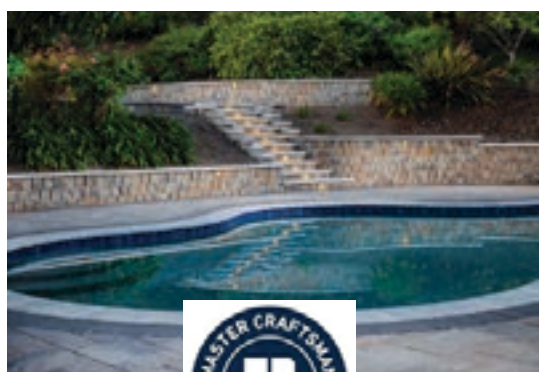
for food at night. They sleep upside-down by hanging onto objects with their sharp claws.

According to Quirk, Hoary Bats are a large, hairy species that likes to stay in trees instead of hiding in caves. They arrive during the spring and fall and are considered to be solitary creatures. Mexican Free-Tailed Bats have short hair and very sharp teeth, and use their ears to help them fly. The Big Brown Bat can be found near wood such as dead trees, under the eaves of houses, and in barns. They chew their food and love to eat mealworms. Lastly, Pallid Bats can live in a variety of habitats. They have large ears and they hunt for food on the ground, looking for crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, and potato bugs. They've been known to enjoy munching on centipedes and scorpions without getting sick from the venom. They protect themselves by emitting a mild, skunk-like odor.

A bat on the ground is usually sick, injured, or orphaned. "Do not touch it," explained Quirk. "If you pick it up it will be scared and might fight back. There is a possibility of being bitten and contracting rabies. Instead, cover it with a box or container and call wildlife rescue."

For more information visit: norcalbats.org.

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Moraga residents sue Moraga for changes at Hacienda that lessor says will put them out of business

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga is the subject of a civil suit alleging excessive noise during weddings.

A group of residents of Devin Drive and El Paraiso Court – streets that adjoin the property of the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga – are suing the town, alleging that it has failed to protect their quiet enjoyment of their properties. Wedgewood Weddings LLC, the company providing wedding services at the site, has filed a response denying that events held at the Hacienda violate the terms of the lease regarding noise levels. The matter will come before the court on May 23 for a hearing on a preliminary injunction against the Town of Moraga. The hearing will start at 9 a.m. before Judge Charles Treat at the Contra Costa County Superior Court in Martinez.

The suit names The Town of Moraga and Z-

Golf Food and Beverage Services, LLC dba Wedgewood Weddings, LLC as defendants. According to the complaint in the matter, until 2012 Moraga operated its city offices in the Hacienda, which had been purchased by Moraga in 1977. When it was under the control of the town, the Hacienda was occasionally used as a wedding venue, but rarely, perhaps once a year, the plaintiffs allege. All public events at the Hacienda were halted during the Covid 19 pandemic during 2020.

In 2021, the town resumed holding weddings and events at the Hacienda. The plaintiffs state that owing to pent-up demand, there was “a record increase” in the number of weddings that led to significant disruption in the neighbor-

hood, largely because of private disc jockeys without knowledge of the neighborhood. There were numerous noise complaints to the Moraga Police Department.

The town subsequently entered into a lease agreement with Wedgewood Weddings that established rules for weddings to be held at the site. According to the complainants, the lease, which they say is enforceable by the town, provides specific requirements as to noise, which they argue have not been enforced by the town.

The suit by the residents close to the Hacienda seeks damages for inverse condemnation, as well as a preliminary and permanent injunction and other relief. The hearing on May 23 will deal with the issue of a preliminary injunction, which would bar the defendants (the Town of Moraga and Wedgewood Weddings) from excluding the public from public portions of the Hacienda; from serving hard alcohol at the Hacienda; and from setting up speakers outside and would require all DJs and amplified sound to be inside the Hacienda building. The plaintiffs also seek to bar the future scheduling of more than two weddings per week from April through October each year, and a prohibition

on future scheduling of weddings from November through March each year.

In its response to the request for an injunction, Wedgewood argued that, in addition to not violating the terms of the lease regarding noise, the company made significant changes in response to noise complaints, including hiring a security guard to make sure that the doors to the venue were closed at all times to contain noise and installing additional sound insulation.

Wedgewood also points out that it was required to make an initial capital investment in the Hacienda property in the amount of \$253,000. Wedgewood says that they have been a major financial contributor to the Town of Moraga, “We have turned a heavy financial loss for the town into what will be north of \$250,000 in annual financial contributions to the town of Moraga general fund.” Further, Wedgewood contends that if “Plaintiffs obtain the injunction they seek, Wedgewood will lose out on approximately \$2,600,000 in revenue and will have no choice but to cease operations at the Hacienda.”

In 2011 Moraga lost a suit by a town resident over the noise level of concerts at Moraga Commons park.

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City of Orinda:
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 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
 www.orindaassociation.org

City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.
 Orinda Library Auditorium
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.
 Orinda Library Auditorium
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.
 Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

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LINDA EHRICH



Orinda School Board considers rejecting \$1.5 million from state for nature area

By Sora O'Doherty

The Board of Trustees for Orinda schools is running up against a deadline for accepting \$1.5 million from the state of California, secured by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, towards the restoration of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area located adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School. The nature area has been mostly closed since severe winter storms last year brought down many trees over the 19 acre property, rendering it unsafe for use. Bauer-Kahan was responsible for an appropriation of \$1.5 million being added to the state budget for the nature area, but if the OUSD fails to accept the money soon—probably by the end of June—the appropriation will revert to the state's general fund.

On May 6, the board had a discussion about the nature area, although the matter was not on the agenda for action. Superintendent Aida Glimme and Director of Facilities, Stuart Watson, presented information to the board. District staff reported to the Board that they did not recommend acceptance of the funds with the mandates as they understood them.

In a wide ranging overview, it was reported that OUSD staff could not recommend placing 16 acres of District property into a perpetual Conservation Easement, in order to secure the appropriation. Staff also concluded that \$1.5 million is not sufficient for maintenance of the property in perpetuity (or 99 years)

and that therefore the District cannot agree to being “locked into” an agreement that may prevent the staff from exploring funding options and other potential maintenance agreements. Nor could staff recommend an agreement in perpetuity due to unknown circumstances in the future.

Glimme said that the nature area is a highly valued historic site that has provided years of outdoor education, summer camps, and volunteer opportunities. Although the district has not obtained an official quote, the rough estimate to repair the damage to the nature area is estimated to be from a quarter to a half-million dollars just to reopen the nature area. However, Glimme stated that the district has to prioritize core curriculum and has no revenues specifically earmarked for the nature area, which has been cared for for years by The Friends of Orinda's Nature Area. She added that she could not recommend the use of general funds for the nature area.

In addition to the state allocation, the district is considering the possibility of utilizing other Orinda funds restricted for facility use – Fund 40, and Measure E and I Bond money. She also said that the district is committed to not building on the land and has been engaged in discussion with the City of Orinda and its Parks and Recreation Department on possible cooperation on maintaining the nature area.

School attorney

Harold Freiman, with the Lozano Smith firm, tried to answer the board's questions regarding what exactly is meant by a “conservation easement,” which is believed to be required in order to get the state money. The board members had questions about whether anything that the board agrees to would lock them in and prevent future fundraising to support the nature area. They also had concerns regarding what a designation as “open space” would mean to the nature area and how any future actions might affect the designation of the area as a national historic site. Negotiations are ongoing with the assembly member's staff.

Orinda city council member and former mayor Inga Miller attended the meeting to submit written comments. In a letter to the board, Miller said she spoke as “a student of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area who moved back to Orinda for the values it promoted,” and added, “I stand with the other alumni who urge you to seize this moment and tend to this community's sanctuary for mindfulness, tolerance, and knowledge.” She wrote of her family's long connection with the nature area, and praised long-term naturalist Toris Jaeger, who for decades has taught Orinda children in the Nature Area.

The matter drew a great deal of public comment, leading the board to reduce the time for each speaker to one and a half minutes. Two

students who attended had to leave before the matter was opened for public comment. Katharine Barrett, co-president of the Friends of the Orinda Nature Area, explained that the Friends have been funding the nature area since the district terminated funding in 2008. She noted that close to a thousand people have signed a petition because they are concerned that the district will turn down the \$1.5 million appropriation. “You've been equivocating for seven months since the nature area closed,” she added.

Toris Jaeger said that her heart aches for the students who have missed out on the nature area, adding that high school students are dying to get back to volunteering there. Steve Danziger, speaking on behalf of himself and his two sons, called the nature area the “greatest memory of elementary school.” He urged the board to accept the \$1.5 million. “This can be your defining moment to preserve your legacy,” he added. Naturalist Bill Hudson also urged the board to accept the appropriation, offering that the district's only responsibility for the nature area would be to do the minimum maintenance required for fire safety.

Josephine Sabolboro spoke on behalf of over 850 parents and students who have signed the petition to preserve the nature area. Retired teacher Peggy McGill reminded the board that with the closure of the nature area, students “lost a lot of connection to experiential learning, which balances intellectual knowledge.”

Another Friend of Orinda's Nature Area, Cinna McKinnon, called the nature area “the jewel in the crown of Orinda for the children.” After the meeting, Barratt and co-president of the Friends Rebecca Dahlberg wrote to Glimme offering to work with the district to negotiate with Bauer-Kahan's office to ensure that the terms of the agreement not only facilitate the acceptance of the grant, but also address the assembly member's concerns such as: protecting the Nature Area from development, mitigating hazards so that students and others can return to attend programs and volunteer in the nature area, and expanding access to the nature area.

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Central San appeals to customers to speak out on large fee hikes

By Sora O'Doherty

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District wants their customers to communicate with the Regional Water Quality Board, who is proposing nutrient regulations that will result in very large wastewater fee hikes for customers if approved. All three Lamorinda mayors have already written to the board expressing their concerns.

Nutrients in wastewater are a serious environmental problem. According to Emily Barnett, Communications and Government Relations Manager at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, in the past couple of years there have been at least two significant fish kills in the San Francisco Bay owing to the presence of algae blooms caused by nitrogen from a number of sources, including wastewater.

Central San is committed to nutrient reduction but believes that the Regional Board should help plan multi-benefit recycled water projects due to the large \$665 million price tag, which will be borne by homeowners, businesses, and renters. This reporter met with Barnett and engineers Dana Gemmell and Melody LaBella who answered questions. Their biggest concern is that the Regional Board's proposed permit will translate to about a 28% increase in rates over the next seven to ten years, just to deal with the nutrient issue alone. On July 1 this year Central San's annual rates, which are included in property tax bills, will rise to \$725 for single family homes, \$343 for accessory dwelling units, and \$647 for apartments, condominiums, duplexes, and mobile homes. That increase, approved last year, will not cover the costs of reducing nutrients in wastewater.

In her letter, Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee said, "To meet the Water Board's proposed steep nutrient reduction requirements and short timeline, the Bay Area's clean water agencies will need to spend more than \$11 billion—costs that ultimately will be borne by our constituents. Under the proposed order, Orinda residents alone could be on the hook for nearly \$21 million in costs to fund required treatment upgrades. . . ." She added that this "would be a significant financial burden for many vulnerable members of our community and working families already struggling to make ends meet."

Central San urges residents of Contra Costa County to ask the Regional Board to grant a 90-day extension to the comment period to allow the public adequate time to provide input on this important and financially impactful decision. There will be a public hearing on June 12 where people can join remotely to provide comments. The public comment period closed on May 8, but Central San would like to see it reopened and extended. Central San also urges residents to ask the Regional Board to conduct a hearing of community concerns before considering adoption of the order, allow time for the necessary scientific research to better understand nutrient reductions that will benefit the Bay, and develop a financial analysis to determine how the proposed order will impact Bay Area residents, as well as how we can mitigate this significant burden—which comes on top of numerous other essential infrastructure needs—for our communities. Central San says that they are doing what they can to keep down costs that must be passed through to rate-

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are as high as 92% contributors. Even if Central San spends \$665 million on nutrient reduction, they will still be at less than a 1% providing little to value to the Bay health while costing substantial rate payer dollars without a multi-benefit effect, such as augmenting regional water supply. Additionally, Barnett expressed the wish that the Regional Board would take the lead on implementing a regional recycled water project that would not only reduce nutrients in the wastewater, but also add to Bay Area water resiliency. More information about this subject can be located at central-san.org/nutrients

More information about this subject can be located at central-san.org/nutrients

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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2024 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest winners announced

Submitted by Fran Strykowski

The Friends of the Orinda Library proudly announce the winners of the 2024 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, which was open to all students who reside or attend high school in Orinda. The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and long-time Orinda resident.

From many outstanding entries, winners were selected in the following categories: Science Fiction/Fantasy, Poetry, Science Fiction, and Essay. The winners are: Olivia Falk, a junior at College Preparatory School, for her poem entitled An Abecedarian of My Thoughts on Lunar New Year; Antong Cao, for his short story, Cell, Rising; Josslyn Grover, a junior at Bentley,

for her essay, The Elephant and the Peacock, and for her Science Fiction story, Case Study Volleyball Territory 94563. Each winning entry earns a \$500 award from The Friends.

Honorable Mentions went to Abigail Kim, Emma Wong, Adria Esopa, Livia Segall, and Rory Gaarder-Wang. We congratulate the winners and all the talented entrants.

Many thanks to this year's judges, who donated their time and literary expertise. The judges included Sora O'Doherty, reporter for Lamorinda Weekly; Susan Williams, librarian at Miramonte High School; Anne Lowell, librarian at Glorietta Elementary School, and Sally Hogarty, retired executive editor of The Orinda News.

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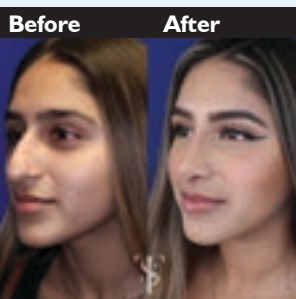
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CERT Monthly Meeting Heat and Cold Injuries

Lamorinda CERT is excited

to welcome guest speaker Lamorinda CERT Instructor and Moraga-Orinda Fire Support Services volunteer Wes Ayers who will be sharing important information about heat and cold injuries during our monthly meeting on June 10th at 7:00 pm. Outdoor activities increase during the summer and being able to identify the signs of heat stroke or hypothermia and know what to do can save the life of a loved one. This will prove to be an information-packed meeting and residents are encouraged to attend. Anyone interested can join our monthly Zoom meeting on June 10th by contacting the CERT registrar at registrar@lamorindacert.org to receive the meeting link.



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Letters to the editor

Police parking

As a former member of the Lafayette Commission, I am disappointed to see the police department have decided to park their vehicles all over the street near the Lafayette Library. This parking is for the general public and it is limited to 2 hours.

They even have equipment parked in the middle of the street between the islands.

Every business in the city must provide parking and it does not include parking on the street, and not getting a ticket. If you don't have room for your vehicles, then go rent a storage yard.

It is time for the City Council to tell you to remove your vehicles off the street.

Jim Peacock
Lafayette

Love and Support for Our Lamorinda LGBTQ Community

Greetings from PFLAG Lamorinda!

PFLAG, a national nonprofit organization with a rich 50-year history, is a diverse community of LGBTQ people, their families, friends, and allies, spread across the United States. Our shared mission remains resolute: to ensure that LGBTQ individuals are embraced, protected, empowered, and loved.

PFLAG unambiguously stands with the LGBTQ community and against fear, misinformation, and hate of all kinds. Unfortunately, in recent months, we have observed the distressing actions of a small faction engaging in anti-LGBTQ protests at Lafayette Elementary School. The harmful impact of their daily presence and harassment on the mental well-being of our community members cannot be overstated. To those affected, please know

that we see you, we hear you, and we are with you.

It is imperative to acknowledge the vital importance of supporting LGBTQ individuals of all ages. Recent studies reveal that LGBTQ youth face disproportionate mental health challenges due to discrimination and lack of acceptance. Shockingly, research indicates that LGBTQ youth are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide compared to their heterosexual peers. Moreover, fostering an inclusive workplace for LGBTQ individuals has been shown to enhance productivity and cultivate a sense of belonging for all employees.

We are so proud of our neighbors in Lafayette, Lamorinda, and beyond, for flooding our social channels and inbox with notes of encouragement, donating books for our chapter library, and showing up as "just an ally" to hold signs of love. To everyone who has expressed their solidarity with LGBTQ peo-

ple, particularly youth and families, we extend our deepest gratitude.

We formed our local chapter in 2019 and started out as just a few Lamorinda families meeting up for peer support. Over the past five years, our group has grown into a robust, strong, vibrant, hilarious, and loving community. We invite all who share our mission to join us in creating a more supportive and understanding world for LGBTQ individuals. Together, let's continue to champion love, acceptance, and equality for all members of our community, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Members, Families, and Allies of PFLAG
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PFLAGLamorinda.com

Protests Along Moraga Road in Lafayette

In response to the letter published on May 8th addressing protests outside Lafayette Elementary School, we strongly disagree with the primary assertion

that the signs and people holding them show no animus towards transgender youth or the LGBTQ community and are simply seeking to inform and protect.

At face value, the messages on the purple posters may not sound harmful or hateful. However, for young people whose perceived gender is different from what is reflected in the mirror, these messages are an attack. The signs tell children and their families that their feelings and struggles are not real, that the medical attention and support they seek is shameful, and that they should wait while nature takes its course, moving their bodies away from their identities. That is animus.

The May 8th letter cherry-picks data and largely ignores the wider medical consensus supporting medical interventions. It also overlooks the fact that reversals in European nations stem from partisan, conservative efforts. Efficacy figures for puberty blockers and other interventions are exceedingly

high and demonstrate that these treatments significantly reduce the likelihood of self-harm and set a positive trajectory for the overall well-being of transgender children as they develop.

The prior letter also fails to mention protestor signs targeting elected officials and specific children in our community, which are held aloft as protestors scream and shout words that are neither protective nor kind.

Our community is experiencing a moral panic, and unfortunately, the most vulnerable among us are defenseless against the very real and personal attacks from the purple sign protesters.

We want to finish with a message of hope to these children and their parents: You are not alone, you are worth it, your needs and feelings matter, and there are people here who love and support you—including us.

Rebecca Martin
Moraga
Nikki Cowger
Lafayette

Cattle grazing returns to Painted Rock in Moraga

... continued from Page 1

Cattle grazing has been part of Painted Rock for more than 70 years. John Hoover remembers hearing that George Goodfellow grazed cattle at the Rheem Blvd property (now Painted Rock) in the 1950s. Sam Carr helped the Goodfellows manage the cattle there until the 1970s and assumed the lease under the Carr Cattle Company after Elsie Goodfellow passed away.

When Sam Carr passed away in 2010, his family had to decide whether to continue

grazing at Painted Rock. The fencing surrounding the property was failing and the risk of cattle getting loose was great. In the end, they felt they could not justify the expense of rebuilding miles of fence, so the cattle were removed in 2012.

MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, said, "Painted Rock has a history of wildfires, and the acres of ungrazed, dry grass and high winds there have the potential to carry fire to homes surrounding the property very quickly." MOFD performed prescribed fire projects at Painted

Rock in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023. The managed fires were used to train firefighters, reduce fuel loading, and enhance the grasslands to promote California native plants with the goal of eventually returning cattle grazing to the site.

In early 2023, MOFD sought a \$250,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to replace the dilapidated fencing, build new corals, and bring reliable water for the cattle to the site. John Muir Land Trust prepared a Grazing Management Plan, coordinated operations on the ground, and executed the cattle grazing lease with the Hoover Cattle Company.

Linus Eukel of John Muir Land Trust said "the collaboration between the John Muir Land Trust, MOFD, the Coastal Conservancy, Hoover Cattle Company, and the Town of Moraga has been wonderful. Wildfire is a complex problem, and, working together, we are trying to minimize the risks and manage this unique open space for everyone to enjoy." John Hoover agreed, adding, "We are very grateful that a piece of the past has been made available through the John Muir Land Trust, enabling the heritage of Carr Ranch and Hoover Cattle Co. to continue cattle grazing in the Moraga hills." Dennis Rein is the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Sora O'Doherty contributed to this article.

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. 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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Orinda Police Department: 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 28 - May 11

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alarms | 30 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 11 |
| Traffic | 150 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 11 |
| Suspicious Subject | 17 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 11 |
| Service to Citizen | 36 |
| Patrol Req./Security Check | 13 |
| Public/School Assembly Check | 5 |
| Supplemental Report | 22 |
| Vacation House Check | 29 |
| Welfare Check | 22 |
| Ordinance Violation | 0 |
| Vehicle violations | |
| Auto Burglary | 3200 Block Fairholm Ct. |
| Dui Misd | 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| Hit And Run Misdemeanor | 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (3) |
| | 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
| | Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave. |
| | Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd. |
| | 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. |
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| | Springhill Rd./San Reliez Ct. |
| | St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr. |
| | Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave. |
| | 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. |
| | Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. |
| | Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln. |
| | Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd. |
| | Withers Ave./Taylor Blvd. |
| | Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd. |
| | Deer Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd. |

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.

Tc - Property Damage
1400 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.

Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud
1600 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Fraud Credit Card
30 Block Lafayette Cir.
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Identity Theft
3100 Block Indian Way (2)
600 Block Murray Ln.

Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3900 Block Leroy Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift - In Custody
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Disturbing The Peace
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block School St.

Glenside Dr./Michael Ln.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Drunk In Public
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Loud Music
1100 Block Woodborough Rd.

Loud Party
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Public Nuisance
900 Block Village Center
School St./Topper Ct.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.

Vandalism
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.

Other
Litter
3300 Block Deer Hill Rd.

Threats
1200 Block Panorama Dr.

Trespass
1300 Block Sunset Lp.

Unknown Problem
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Patrol Req./Security Check 20
Public/School Assembly Check 7

Supplemental Report 10
Vacation House Check 1
Welfare Check 6
Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Accident Property
Seven Eleven

Dui Misd
Lafayette/St Marys Rd.
Taco Bell

Excessive Speed
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
Canyon Rd./Sanders Dr.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
600 Block Moraga Rd.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
St Marys College

Reckless Driving
Campolindo High School
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
1400 Block St Marys Rd.
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.

Other criminal activity
Grand Theft
400 Block Center St.
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Petty Theft
1400 Block Camino Peral
Not Available (2)
Safeway

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
80 Block Miramonte Dr.
600 Block Augusta Dr.

Loud Music
Draeger Dr./Lambeth Sq.

Loud Noise
100 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)
10 Block Miramonte Dr.
600 Block Moraga Rd.
10 Block Thune Ave.
Homegoods

Loud Party
10 Block Larch Ln.
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
10 Block Corliss Dr.
2100 Block Donald Dr.

Vandalism
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
100 Block Hodges Dr.

Other
Fireworks
Homegoods
Mentally Ill Commit
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

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Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 30 - May 13

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 11 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 6 |
| Traffic | 58 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 2 |
| Suspicious Subject | 1 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 7 |
| Service to Citizen | 32 |

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back

One dish chicken with herbs, greens, and olives

By Susie Iventosch



Chicken on polenta

Photos Susie Iventosch

With home gardens starting to produce vegetables and herbs, this chicken and veggie recipe is a perfect choice for a garden-fresh dinner. Made with scallions, Swiss chard, collard greens, cilantro, parsley, and olives, it is so delicious and easy to make in just one pot or pan. You can prepare most of the ingredients ahead of time, so it's easy to assemble once you're

ready to roll for dinner. I especially love the addition of lemon zest and lemon juice to brighten everything up, and the combination of lemon and olives gives the dish a delightful tangy and salty contrast. As the dish bakes, it creates a wonderfully flavorful sauce, so I like to serve it over a base of creamy polenta to soak it all up. You can also serve it with rice, French

bread, mashed potatoes, or even a soup spoon for mopping up the sauce. The polenta recipe I like for this dish is remarkably simple and easy to prepare. Just sauté your shallots ahead of time, and when it comes to making the polenta, simply bring water, milk (or cream) and the shallots to a low boil, and

slowly add the polenta or cornmeal, whisking as you go. The polenta thickens up very quickly. For this recipe, I make it with regular cornmeal for a creamier texture and a quicker polenta, but if you like the coarser polenta grind, that will be just as delicious.

Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

- 12 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1/2 + cup olive oil, split (some for veggies and some for chicken - may need more for browning the chicken thighs)
- 5 cloves garlic, minced or finely chopped
- 2 tsp. ground coriander
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 bunches green onions, thinly sliced (use both green and white parts)
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup fresh parsley leaves, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup diced Castelvetrano olives
- 1 large bunch collard greens (use 2 small bunches if you can't find large)
- 1 large bunch Swiss chard (use 2 small bunches if you can't find large)
- 2 lemons (one juiced and zested and one sliced into 6 wedges)
- 1 can chicken broth (14.5 ounces)

DIRECTIONS

Prepare your veggies. Slice the onions, mince the garlic, coarsely chop the herbs. Clean and trim the stems of the collard greens and Swiss Chard. Coarsely chop or tear into 2-3 inch pieces. Zest and juice the lemon. Set all of the prepared ingredients aside until ready to use. This can all be done several hours ahead of time.

Preheat oven to 425 F. Blend 1/4 cup olive oil with the garlic, salt, and coriander. Rub this mixture on top and bottom of each chicken thigh.

Heat a little of the olive oil in a large oven-proof skillet or Dutch oven. Cook over medium high heat until thighs are nicely browned. Turn thighs over and continue cooking for another 1-2 minutes. The second side does not have to be as browned. Remove chicken to a plate.

Heat a little more oil and cook the onions until translucent and just beginning to brown. Add chopped olives, cilantro, parsley, and lemon zest and continue cooking for another 2-3 minutes over medium heat, stirring occasionally.

Reduce heat to medium-low, and slowly add the chopped greens a handful at a time, until all of the greens fit into the pan, tossing them with the onions and olives in the bottom of the pan as you go. Don't over cook the greens, just cook them enough to fit them all into the pan. They should just be beginning to wilt. Gently toss greens, onions, and olives together.

Nestle chicken thighs back into the pan among the greens. Pour chicken broth and 2 tsp. lemon juice over the top and bake for about 25 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through and tender.

To serve, spoon the greens over a bed of the polenta and place two chicken thighs on top. Serve with a lemon wedge on the side.

Creamy Caramelized Shallot Polenta

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large shallots, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup cream or milk
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan or similar cheese

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oil in a medium saucepan. Add shallots and cook over medium heat until beginning to caramelize. Add water and cream (or milk) and stir to incorporate shallots. Bring the mixture to a slow boil and slowly add the cornmeal a little bit at a time, whisking with each addition to combine. Once the cornmeal is added, bring mixture just to a boil and remove from heat. Stir in grated cheese. If you want to make the polenta ahead of time, reheat when you're ready to serve and you may need to add just a little more liquid to make it soft and creamy again.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

Lamorinda summer music camp coming next month

By Diane Claytor

In just a matter of days, summer vacation begins for Lamorinda students. Kids, teachers and school employees will go off to enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer. School buildings will go dark, campuses will go quiet -- but for one week in June, music will fill the air around Campolindo High School.

The Lamorinda Summer Music camp will bring fourth through eighth graders to Campolindo to have fun learning, enjoying and playing instrumental music.

Under the tutelage of Tana Barnett, Campolindo's director of instrumental music, a staff of professional musicians serving as teachers, and local high school band and orchestra students serving as counselors, this summer enrichment program is designed to offer young students the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and grow a lasting love of music.

With a degree from the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific in both saxophone performance and music education, Barnett has spent 25 years

teaching music, the majority of those in the south bay. She has performed with Dave Brubeck, the California, San Francisco and San Jose Wind Orchestras, and pit orchestras around the bay area.

As she completes her first year at Campo, teaching wind ensemble, concert band, orchestra, and AP music theory, Barnett is enthusiastic about the school's "very strong music program," and is really looking forward to next year when the Campo orchestra and wind ensemble will perform at Carnegie Hall, competing in the New York International Music Festival. "This will be no small feat," Barnett notes, "traveling with about 90 students as well as all their instruments."

The idea of a summer music camp actually began with a group of Campo students last year, Barnett explains. "The kids started an informal camp for middle and elementary school students," she says. "The high school students organized small chamber groups and learning experiences. There was no

adult director, just a group of really motivated kids who are super excited about music." The program attracted 20 local campers, and the evaluation from both the participants and their parents was overwhelmingly positive.

Several months ago, some of Barnett's students approached her with the idea of organizing a similar program this summer. Barnett has run summer music camps before and wanted some time to develop the structure for this particular program.

She reviewed her ideas with the students and got their concurrence. Barnett reached out to local school music directors, who agreed the camp was a good idea and wanted to participate. Joining her at this June 24-28 program are Edwin Cordoba, director of Instrumental Music at Acalanes; Brittany Shankle, director of Instrumental and Choral Music at Las Lomas; John Speers, who teaches elementary band and strings for the Orinda Unified School District; and Kevin Stewart, currently direc-

tor of Saxophone Studies at the college level.

The camp runs from 9 a.m to 3:30 p.m., offers both before and after care, and is open to all levels of instrumental musicians, from beginners to advanced. There will be general music courses, music games, music theory, and lots of music playing. There will also be outdoor activities and games, as well as team building. "It is, after all, summer camp," Barnett exclaims. "We want it to be fun."

She envisions an instrument-specific and band program where high school students are paired with younger students who play at approximately the same level. "We'll play, work, have a whole general music experience and then at the end of the week, have a performance to showcase all we've done," Barnett says.

The whole idea, Barnett states, is for music students to "of course, make music for a week," have fun, and connect with their peers from other schools.

For more information and to register, go to <https://lamorindasm.org>.

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Coach's Corner

Welcome to Coach's Corner, where Advantage College Planning addresses questions asked by local student families. If you have a question you'd like us to address, please email us.eastbay@advcp.com.

Question: My daughter is a sophomore at Acalanes, and we're debating whether to sign her up for the SAT or ACT. Is it worth it?

Answer: For a sophomore considering the SAT or ACT, these tests can be helpful for college admissions and offer multiple benefits. While many colleges are now test-optional, a significant number—particularly selective institutions—are starting to re-require standardized test scores as policies rebound post-COVID.

High scores may lead to scholarships and merit-based financial aid, making education more affordable. Students can choose between the SAT, which emphasizes critical thinking, and the ACT, known for its content-heavy format, allowing them to play to their strengths.

However, individual circumstances are crucial to consider. Limited preparation time or stronger showcases in other areas of the application might mean focusing efforts elsewhere could be more beneficial. Also, for test-blind schools, preparing for these tests may not provide any advantage.

In conclusion, the decision to take the SAT or ACT should be tailored to each student's situation, but generally, the benefits make them worth considering.

Question: I've got a junior; when should we consider letters of recommendation?

Answer: As Cole, our consultant from the Moraga office and a former high school English teacher, shares, the end of your junior year is the optimal time to ask for letters of recommendation. While asking during your senior year is acceptable, avoiding delays beyond October is crucial.

Most non-UCs and CSUs require four recommendations: two from teachers, one from a counselor, and one from a college counselor. Teacher recommendations should come from academic subject teachers, including at least one teacher you will have during your senior year. It's best to wait until you've established a relationship with this teacher before requesting a recommendation early in the fall.

Also, submitting additional strong recommendations can be helpful. These can come from various sources, including PE teachers, art teachers, or community members. You can email any extra recommendations directly to undergraduate admissions.

If you share a strong bond with a teacher or community member, seeking their endorsement is wise; otherwise, it's best to refrain.

We'll be back next month with more Q&A!



OUR CONTACT INFO

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Art

Orinda Books May Artists of the month are Dee Tivenan and Valerie Corvin. Dee is an abstract expressionist creating meaning from bold colors, lines and shapes. Her mixed media approach uses acrylics, inks, and collage as a form of personal expression. Valerie Corvin is a contemporary abstract painter with shapes and colors inspired by both natural forms and memories and feelings. A self-proclaimed colorist, Valerie uses color to communicate deeper feelings in her works. For a preview, visit www.orindabooks.com.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library - Ekphrasis Arts & Letters. The Lamorinda Arts Council, California Writers Club Mt. Diablo Branch, and Lamorinda Arts Alliance invite you to view 50 artworks paired with 50 bespoke writings displayed side by side in this collaborative exhibit. Ekphrasis is a term from ancient Greece meaning a literary description of visual artwork. This unusual exhibit featuring local authors and artist runs through June 28 during normal Library hours, closed Sundays and May 27. For more information email ekphrasis@LamorindaArts.org, call (925) 359.9940 or visit http://lamorindaarts.org/galleries

Art Gallery at Wilder - Ania Lesela "Contemplations". The Lamorinda

Arts Council invites you to view featured artist Ania Lesela of Orinda's artwork in the Art Gallery at Wilder, 20 Orinda Fields Lane, Orinda. As a neuroscientist, physician, and artist, Lesela explores the interplay between the physical, spiritual, and the emotional using acrylic and mixed media. Wilder is open Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., and is closed May 27. Please download directions to the Gallery if you plan on visiting at https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/

Valley Art Gallery presents Watercolors on Yupo by Juanita Hagberg through June 24. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110 Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org

Music

Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO), Lawrence Kohl, Music Director, presents summer pops featuring the orchestra, PCO's 50 voice chorus, and star of stage and screen Franc D'Ambrosio Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and Sunday, June 30 at 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, Livermore. Purchase tickets at PacificChamberOrchestra.org

Rock the Plaza Summer Concert Series Friday evenings in June in Lafayette Plaza, 3530 Plaza Way, Lafayette (corner of Mt. Diablo

Bldv. & Moraga Road). Bring a picnic, chairs or blanket. Bands perform 6-8 p.m. Friday June 7: Other People's Money; Friday June 14: Midnight Flyer; Friday June 21: Bay Bridge Beat; Friday June 28: Lamorinda Idol Finalists. Activities for kids June 7, 14, 21 by All Ages Recreation Downtown. Free popcorn by The Park Theater Trust June 14 & 21! Photography by BlueGoo Photography June 14 & 21.

2024 Concert at the Moraga Commons park schedule 13 JUNE: EAST BAY MUDD - Classic Soul and R&B 20 JUNE: JAZZPHORIA - Jazz Rhythm & Blues Octet 27 JUNE: MIDNIGHT FLYER - Eagles Tribute 4 JULY: HOUSE ROCKERS - Rock & Soul (7pm Concert) 11 JULY: MUMBO GUMBO - Genre-bending Americana & Musical Stew 18 JULY: STEVE HANSON & CAROUSEL COWBOYS - Modern Country 25 JULY: PURPLE ONES - Prince Tribute 1 AUG: NATIVE ELEMENTS - Reggae 8 AUG: TRAVELING WILBURYS REVUE - E.L.O, Orbison, Harrison, Dylan Tribute 15 AUG: 3 DAY WEEK-END - Motown, R&B, Classic Rock 6:30-8:30 p.m. (UNO) at the Moraga Commons Band Shell.

Cruisin Oldies Concerts presents The Fleetwood

Mac Concert Experience starring Gypsy Dreams on Friday, May 31, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Cost: \$39-\$49. For more info see www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/16642/3144 or call (925) 943-7469.

Theatre

Orinda Starlight Village Players present Agatha Christie's Spiders Web, directed by Jill Gelter on Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. May 31 through June 29, Sunday, June 23 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, June 27 at 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater www.orsvp.org, Tickets at Box Office or call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Literature

Join the Sweet Thursday Author Series on Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin CH at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center to hear authors Brad Mangin and Brian Murphy discuss their book, 28: A Photographic Tribute to Buster Posey. This is a free event, but registration is required at Tinyurl.com/sweet-June2024. The doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and treats. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library.

Other

AARP Tax-Aide will be providing Free Tax Clinics 1 Saturday per month starting in May and running through September at the Concord Library. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call: (925) 471-5686

The League of Women Voters Diablo Valley presents Mis and Disinformation: Election Edition. This event is an eye-opening discussion of the impact of misinformation and disinformation on elections. Learn how to spot fake news, fact-check sources, and navigate the complexities of today's media landscape. Don't miss out on this opportunity to become a more informed voter and citizen. Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Walnut Creek Public Library, 1644 North Broadway. Please RSVP to: www.eventbrite.com/e/mis-and-disinformation-election-edition-tickets-890582856297. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Fire Safety Community Meeting held by Town of Moraga & Moraga-Orinda Fire District on May 30 at 6:30 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga. Community discussion of upcoming fire season, fire prevention measures, fire insurance, and related topics. PANELISTS: MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, Moraga Police Chief Jon King, Moraga Town

and a fire insurance expert.

Mocktails & Cocktails - Sunday May 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. @ Tutu's, 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Join friends of the Lamorinda Arts Council for some artsy talk about the creative life. Share something you are working on to start the conversation. Look for the knock-off Picassoesque poster of surrealist Dora Maar. No host bar. Just show up. Questions? Call (925) 359.9940.

"Ritmo y Sabor: Bay Street Bites & Beats"! Delight your taste buds as cuisines of all types come together to offer an eclectic array of flavors. From savory to sweet, there's something for everyone. June 7 through August 16 from 4 to 8 p.m. Alternate Fridays, Bay Street South Plaza, Emeryville.

Bayareacomics presents the Laugh-ayette Standup Comedy Showcase on Friday, June 28 at the Town Hall Theatre, Lafayette. Tickets available at: Bayareacomics.com

"A Time to Remember" on Memorial Day, May 27, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Hillside Memorial. There will be reflections, music, and poetry. The Lafayette Hillside Memorial is across from the Lafayette BART station. Please park at the BART station and use the crosswalk.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church A welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves TOGETHER Sundays 10:00 a.m. 49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA In person & Livestream LOPC.ORG

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lafayette United Methodist Church 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org 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.

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH 24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212 Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm All are welcome www.christianscienceorinda.org



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Rheem Elementary wins 29th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Tony Schoemehl



Photo provided

Girls sprint final at Moraga Rotary Field Day.

Rheem Elementary athletes won the 29th annual Field Day recently held at the Joaquin Moraga Middle School field, amassing a total of 109 points. Camino Pablo won second place with 59 points, followed by Los Perales with 32 points and Saklan School with 22 points. Rheem had the most participants with 37 athletes. The teacher whose students got the most points was Ms. Brown of

Camino Pablo, with 41 points. The high point boy was Jack Sero, a third grader in Mrs. Culleton's class at Rheem, with 18 points, and the high point girl was Mira Emhoff, a fourth grader in Ms. Brown's class at Camino Pablo, with 14 points. A first place earned 5 points, a second place earned 3 points, and a third place got 1 point. The Field Day contin-

ues the Moraga Rotary tradition of hosting a mini-track and field meet for third, fourth, and fifth graders in Moraga schools, which was suspended during 2020-2023 due to the Covid pandemic. Only 83 students participated this year, down from 345 athletes in 2018.

Moraga Rotary Field Day Chairman Tony Schoemehl gave a big thank you to the many athletes and students from St. Mary's College who helped conduct and judge the events, and to the teachers who encouraged their students to participate. The events consisted of sprints, sack races, long jump, frisbee throw, and basketball throw. It also includes relays when more runners participate. Schoemehl anticipates many more athletes will join in the 2025 event.

Orinda Troop 303G held inaugural Court of Honor for three female Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Angelica Steinmeier



Photo Alex Filippenko

From left: Jenna Steele (Eagle Scout from Lafayette Troop 402G), Capri Filippenko, Caitlin Loughran and Aimee Steinmeier

On May 4, Boy Scouts of America Troop 303G of Orinda held its first Eagle Court of Honor at St Stephen's Episcopal Church to commemorate the achievement of their first female Eagle Scouts, each of whom recently obtained scouting's highest rank. Honorees were Capri Filippenko, Caitlin Loughran, and Aimee Steinmeier.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in Boy

Scouts of America's Scouts program. To obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, candidates must now earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts' Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. Eagle Chal-

lenge was delivered by Eagle Scout Jenna Steele of Troop 402G from Lafayette CA. Darlene Gee, mayor of Orinda, presented each scout with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council, declaring May 6 as Aimee Steinmeier Day, May 7 as Capri Filippenko Day, and May 8 as Caitlin Loughran Day. Representative Ryan-Thomas Brown and Deputy District Director from US Congressman Mark DeSaulnier presented certificates of recognition and congratulations to the troop's first Eagle Scouts. Scouts also received certificates of congratulations from State Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, State Senator Steve Glazer, Governor Newsom, and the Department of Defense. The newly confirmed Eagle Scouts thanked their Scout leaders, community, parents and fellow Scouts who helped them achieve this rank and honor.

Lafayette eighth graders look to repeat success at OM World Championships

Submitted by Manju Lind



Photo provided

Left to right: Shriya Lind, Lauren Brekke, David Siu, Sanika Khamkar, Madhav Sahasranaman

Five Lafayette eighth graders representing Stanley Middle School are returning to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals this week, eager to continue their 2024 success. This year's championships are taking place in Iowa and are expected to draw hundreds of teams from around the world.

Odyssey of the Mind is a decades-old, global, creative competition that engages kids from kindergarten through college in STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) problem-solving activities. At the competition, the team will compete against other middle

school teams and present a creative solution to one of five long-term open-ended problems, and a spontaneous "think-on-your-feet" challenge.

At the 2023 championships in Michigan, the Stanley team captured first place in the spontaneous competition and fifth overall, beating out over 50 teams from across the United States, Asia, and Europe. While this is the Stanley team's second time attending the World championships in person, this is their third time representing Lafayette on the global stage.

For this year's long-term problem, the Stanley team created a "play

that goes wrong," where required set and character malfunctions cause antics and chaos on opening night in front of distinguished guests. During their Northern California state competition, the team's performance through both planned and unplanned set malfunctions earned them first place for their Long Term problem as well as the prestigious OMER's Award. The OMER's Award "recognizes those individuals... who, during a tournament, serve as exemplary examples or role models through their actions and words."

In describing the team's challenge in overcoming an unplanned, complete set collapse, a judge wrote, "The team... put on an amazing performance, improvising as they went. They even had some judges convinced it was supposed to happen! They embodied the spirit of the problem and overcame 'antics' in their performance."

The team also earned first place for their elaborate set and costume construction made nearly entirely out of recycled and upcycled materials.

Troop 219 honors four new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Audra Fraioli



Photo Missy Goldwyn

From Left: Stewart Cocotis, Danny Goldwyn, Cole Trimble, Rocco Fraioli

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 219 recently honored four young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, on April 21, at Rolling Range Ranch. The scouts received recognition and proclamations from the City of Lafayette and Vice Mayor Wei-Tai Kwok, US Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, US Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Khan, NASA, The Blue Angels, The White House, and The US Capitol.

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn his way up the

scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 required merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, and complete an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution, school, nonprofit organization, or the community.

Stewart Cocotis constructed a road sign on Ygnacio Valley Road that Walnut Creek Historical Society can advertise with, and weeded and added tanbark to its surrounding area. He also

constructed their main WCHS sign in the driveway and installed an information kiosk near the front porch and a covered posting board for brochures.

Rocco Fraioli found a design, purchased materials, and lead ten volunteer scouts in the building of two redwood benches for Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. These redwood benches were constructed, sanded, stained, and later installed at JM's dog parks.

Danny Goldwyn worked with Xenophon therapeutic horse riding for disabled youth. He built a horse pasture with 360 feet of fencing, hot wire, and two large equipment gates.

Cole Trimble built a bridge on a walking trail in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. The 20-foot-long, reclaimed redwood bridge is designed to protect the area from further trampling and compaction and allow for recovery of the native wetland and redwood understory.

In Memory

Anne J. Parr



Long time Orinda resident, Anne J. Parr, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2024, after a brief illness. Born in 1934 in Indianapolis to the late Paul and Dorothy Jane Jarvis, Anne briefly resided in Chicago before her family relocated to Oakland, then Sacramento.

Anne and her late husband, John S. Parr, were married for fifty-two years before John passed away in 2008. College sweethearts at UC Berkeley, Anne and John married shortly after graduation then traveled extensively and moved frequently in support of John's career as an Air Force pilot. At the conclusion of John's military service, the couple settled in Orinda where they raised their six daughters and many cherished family pets.

Anne was a widely known, beloved children's art and ceramics instructor for fifty years at the Orinda Community Center. She was proud to have taught hundreds of children including three generations of several Orinda families. Anne declared that her love for art was rooted in the fact that art is one of the only endeavors which fosters creativity and imagination. She regularly encouraged her students by sharing, "In art, there is no wrong answer." The Orinda City Council and the Community Center recently honored Anne by naming the clay and kiln room after her.

Anne served several organizations throughout her life, notably the Military Wives Club and Air Force Childcare programs, Fair Housing Program, Children's Home Society, Inter-Tribal House, and Orinda Art Council. In addition to her family, Anne was deeply grateful for her many Sleepy Hollow and gym friends, her book club, and her coffee klatch which enveloped her and provided special care after John's unexpected passing.

Anne is survived by her siblings, Bob Jarvis and Nancy Fast; her adoring daughters, all of whom deeply loved and revered her: Shannon Parr (Steve Zakula), Kerry Donovan (Greg), Colleen Winans (John), Megan Warren (Scott Ingraham), Katie Parr (Joe Terry), and Molly Guthrie (Kevin); grandchildren Nick Zakula (Karli), Katie Zakula (Dane Lindstrom), Eva Zakula, JP and Kevin Donovan, Molly and Haley Winans, Riley Warren, Alexa and Kayla Terry, and Chloe, Ellie, Quinn, and Grace Guthrie; and her great-granddaughter, Romy Lindstrom.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 1, at 11 am, at the Orinda Community Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association, The Orinda Library/Orinda Community Center, Joybound Pets and People Alliance (formerly ARF), or SFPark Alliance.org (please note: Friends of Visitation Valley Agriculture).

In Memory

Nancy Sue Ernsberger



Nancy Sue Ernsberger passed away in her home in Lakeway, TX, surrounded by her loving family, Dave Ernsberger (husband), Eric Ernsberger (son), Stacey Kydd (daughter) and Marci Goolsby (daughter). She was Nana to Avery, Harper, Penny and Nolan who all love her to pieces, and was a mother and grandmother figure to many, including her sons-in-law, Bill Kydd and Clark Goolsby. She was born and raised in Glen Ellyn, IL, and was predeceased by her parents, George (Skip) and Mildred Clark, and her brothers, George Clark and Chuck Clark and is survived by her brother, Jeff Clark, and her many nieces and nephews.

She was a lover of nature, books and mah-jongg but more so loved the people connected to these hobbies. She and Dave lived in Moraga, CA, from 1988-1997, where their children attended Campolindo HS, and where Nancy was a middle school teacher at Orinda Intermediate School. She had a special gift of connecting with middle schoolers and had a true passion for teaching. We plan to have a celebration of life for Nancy/Mom/Nana at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX on Saturday, June 9, at 10am, as well as future gatherings in New Hampshire July 26th and Chicago/Wisconsin area (tentatively this fall).

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to one of many charities she regularly supported. The Refuge for DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) Doctors without Borders Women for Women International With love, Dave and Eric Ernsberger, Stacey Kydd and Marci Goolsby

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Lamorinda Weekly's Goddess Gardener uses her farm experience to write "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures" for kids

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

Author Cynthia Brian and her "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures" picture book series.

Readers of this newspaper know Cynthia Brian as the Goddess Gardener. Most recently her

organization, Be the Star You Are!, a 501(c)(3), won honors as Moraga's Nonprofit of the Year for

its efforts to empower at-risk youth through literacy and positive media. Besides her many talents as a producer, interior designer, radio host, and more, she has authored 11 books. Three of those are based on true, personal stories told within her series of children's picture books, "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures". She chose the barnyard owner's name, Stella Bella, which means beautiful star in Italian, as a nod to her charity.

Brian grew up in Napa, California where her parents and grandparents owned a farm. "They raised all kinds of animals, so I have been raising animals since I was born," she explained. "Dad would come home with abandoned baby animals that I would nurture as a kid and nurse them back to health -- all of the animals were rescued. I'm like an animal whisperer. I also raised chickens and sold their eggs to help pay for col-

lege."

Now a Lamorinda resident, Brian keeps a menagerie on her own property. "Every time I lectured, I always talked about my animals, and people came up to me and asked if I had written children's books."

It wasn't until Brian's first grandchild and COVID's isolation came along that she was inspired to write her initial picture book, "No Barnyard Bullies." The story is based on her experience when she accepted a pampered piglet into the fold of her multi-animal sanctuary. Acting like she was queen of the barnyard, the piglet chose to bully the other animals, with a particular focus on a three-legged goat. Only a small bunny was able to stand up to the bullying piglet, who eventually realized that being accepted as "one of the family" was a lot more fun.

Brian's second book, "Family Forever," is based on the finding of a

helpless newborn animal that no one could identify until it eventually grew a squirrel's tail. Not having a mother squirrel to teach it what should come naturally, Stella Bella decided to dress in a thick, long, green robe in the hopes of emulating a tree to help the squirrel learn to climb. Over time, the squirrel found a mate and left the barnyard, but the other animals knew that "family is forever".

"Oh Deer!", Brian's newest release, revolves around an orphaned, injured fawn who was nursed back to health by Stella Bella and her children. As the fawn grew she developed a super power -- the ability to read. Bambina, as she was named, read books to the other barnyard animals and taught them how to read as well. Messages of encouragement, love, and kindness were always a part of the lessons, echoing the sentiment of her "Be the Star You Are!" books.

"These books are based on true stories, except that animals don't talk," stated Brian, "but I hope that this will help to make people better humans. It's easier to teach a lesson through animals. I want my books to be lessons for learning about love, inclusivity, and diversity. They are topical for today's times. I also hope that the parents who read these to their kids will learn a lesson. The purpose of my books is also about getting kids to read."

Brian welcomes the opportunity for classroom or library readings and notes that the proceeds from book sales benefit her Be the Star You Are! nonprofit. "I am blessed and grateful that I grew up on a farm surrounded by nature and lots of diverse critters that taught me how to be a better human."

For more information visit: www.CynthiaBrian.com.

Butterfly Parade at Moraga's Donald Rheem Elementary school

Donald Rheem Elementary School in Moraga celebrated its 50th annual Butterfly Parade on Thursday, May 9. The colorful parade has been a tradition for Rheem kindergarteners

since 1974. This year the school has 68 kindergarten students, under teachers Amanda Lorie, Cathy Kathan, and Tatiana Gessling. —S. O'Doherty



Lafayette City Council gives out eight green awards

Submitted by Nancy Hu



Lafayette City Council members with award recipients

Photo provided

On April 22, the Lafayette City Council awarded eight Green Awards (Environmental Awards of Excellence) at their City Council meeting.

1) Chuck Silva – This Lafayette resident designed and installed a home gray water system after a recent remodel of his home. All the water from his washer, four bathroom vanities, bar sink, and showers is filtered, collected, stored, pumped, and distributed via a drip irrigation system to his backyard landscape. Gray water is the primary source of landscape irrigation, while the normal water supply is used as auxiliary. As he refines his model, he plans to share

and replicate his efforts with others, during their major remodels and new construction.

2) Assistance League Diablo Valley Thrift Shop – Established in 1978, this Lafayette business has been reusing and recycling thousands of items throughout the year, keeping them out of the landfill while giving them new life, and inspiring others to do the same. In 2023, 92,000 items were sold. Packaging materials are reused; wire clothes hangers are donated to local dry cleaning businesses. Donations not chosen for sale are repurposed, or sometimes donated to other organizations. Their youth

auxiliary Assisteens is a group of 60 young people ages 12-18 who volunteer in the thrift shop. Since 1991, Assistance League Thrift Shop has published a Thrift Shop Trail Guide, helping customers find other thrift stores in the area.

3) Mighty Market – This Lafayette business is a refill apothecary and sustainable goods brick and mortar store, which helps to reduce single use container waste. They offer refills of home care and body products at affordable prices. Since 2020, Mighty Market has helped to divert 174,080 single use containers from the landfill. They provide quality ingredients, sustainable prod-

ucts, and continue social outreach on green initiatives.

4) Mary Laska – A former Lafayette student at Acalanes, Mary championed environmental stewardship by implementing school-wide programs for garbage classification. She held highly-attended informative seminars at both Acalanes and the Lafayette public library, educating students and the community on actions they could take to reduce their environmental impacts, and even directed and premiered a 32-minute climate change film featuring many of her classmates, entitled, "Be the Change." Her outreach has centered around topics such as carpooling and water conservation, refrigerants and e-waste, trash sorting and hazardous waste, and food waste and diet.

5) Buy Nothing Project – A Lafayette community organization started by Nancy Hu in 2018, who currently runs it with co-admin Christina Goddard. In 2022, a second Buy Nothing Lafayette, CA 2.0 was started and is managed by co-admins Jen Bhadra, Alphonsine

Viry, and Carly Anne. The Buy Nothing Project, started in 2013 in Washington, is centered around fostering community connections through Asks, Gifts, and Expressions of Gratitude. Everything is free, as no monetary transactions are involved. Neighbors have been able to reduce their waste by reusing, borrowing, repurposing, and thoughtfully regifting their household items. Some members who have moved away have shared that they have started Buy Nothing groups in their new communities where Buy Nothing did not previously exist.

6) Elizabeth Dietsch – This Lafayette resident championed the zero waste annual family picnic for the Springhill Valley Homeowners Association, hosting 264 homeowners and 1000+ residents in October 2023. Elizabeth encouraged attendees to bring their own reusable water bottles, provided Boy Scout reusable dishes and serving plates, reusable utensils, and set up multiple recycle and compost receptacles throughout the site. Be-

cause of Elizabeth's advocacy, all subsequent events will be Green.

7) Contra Costa Fruit Rescue – A community organization run by Lafayette resident Pat Schultz, Contra Costa Fruit Rescue (formerly Urban Farmers) harvests fruit that would otherwise go to waste and upcycles it to those who can use and consume it, such as White Pony Express. Having started harvesting in January 2023, they have collected in total 60,000+ lbs of fruit, and diverted 7,355 lbs of fruit out of the waste stream in Lafayette, mostly coming from 42 Lafayette owners and the Lafayette Reservoir. Besides reducing food waste, they have participated in community outreach events to educate area residents and businesses on food waste, food insecurity, and food justice issues. They partner with community organizations such as Sustainable Lafayette, Lafayette Community Garden, Sustainable Contra Costa, and RecycleSmart to promote their free program, so that they can further reduce waste and feed more people.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo volleyball makes it to NorCal, Acalanes to NCS

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Jon Kingdon

Campolindo's Will Marusich spiking the ball with libero 22 Andrew Hanhan

CAMPOLINDO
Having made it to the finals of the NCS tournament and qualifying for the NorCal tournament, sporting a 31-11 record and a 9-1 in league play, Campolindo lost to Rancho Americano 3-0 in the first round. "We struggled to get any traction

and before you realized it, we were out," Head Coach David Chen said. With a 42-game season, David Chen described the season as a journey. "We spent a lot of time with each other to try to find our identity, and I was able to enjoy this one last chap-

ter with all these seniors," Chen said. "I know it wasn't the outcome team we were looking for, but they accomplished a lot."

With nine seniors graduating this year, Chen kept a large squad of underclassmen on the roster. "The reason we had such a large squad was to try and have the underclassmen understand what they will be stepping into next season," Chen said.

The team was led by middle hitter Will Marusich and co-captains Graham Volk and Will Balasi. "It was the pieces of the puzzle that made this team; everybody's personality and everybody's energy," Chen said. "With the camaraderie and the bond, they all really liked each other and even though there were arguments, they really enjoyed spending time with each other and that was special."

Assistant Coach Scott Forney shared that sentiment with the team after the loss to Northridge in the NCS final: "I told them to keep their heads high. We were honored to be playing in the Nor-

Cal Championship and that we played like champions and champions hold their heads high."

ACALANES

Playing in a very competitive league along with a difficult non-league schedule, Acalanes finished with an 11-13 record, making it to the semi-finals of the NCS with the fourth seed in Division III, losing 3-0 in the semi-finals to the ultimate champion, Bishop O'Dowd.

"I would definitely say it was a successful season, making it back to the semi-finals like we've done in the past even with the ups and downs that we had throughout with injuries and with illnesses, but it was very positive at the end, and I was happy with the outcome," Head Coach Lexi Hammer said.

Acalanes lost their first game to O'Dowd by a score of 29-27 but faltered at the end, ultimately losing the match 3-0. "We were ahead almost the entire first game, but we just couldn't pull it out," Hammer said. "I was extremely proud of how

we played against O'Dowd, and it was an awesome learning experience, especially for the JV kids we brought up for the tournament. We definitely have areas for improvement but it's looking really good leading into next season and the offseason. These boys are dedicated, and they love the game and that's what's going to make a successful program at Acalanes."

This senior class was the first one that Hammer coached when they were sophomores on the JV team. "I'm definitely going to miss all the seniors. For many of them, it was their first time playing because of Covid so there was a special bond with this senior class. They will be moving on to big and amazing things in their adult lives so it's exciting to see that."

Girls lacrosse finish the playoffs with two semi-finals and a final game in NCS playoffs

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Ann Murphy

Campolindo's Carley Hudson (48), Caroline Griffith and Elsie Ceridono on offense. Miramonte's Sawyer Bohlig (4) getting back in defense

With the second, third, and fourth seeds in the NCS, it was a successful season all around for Lamorinda. The first seeded San Marin team snuck by Acalanes 11-7 in the semi-finals and Campolindo in the finals 11-7, after Campolindo defeated Miramonte 12-8 in their semifinal game.

CAMPOLINDO

With a 13-6 record and the second seed in the playoffs, in his first year as the Cougars head coach, Stephen

Lineweaver was effusive in his praise of his players. "I am super proud of the girls, and they did a fantastic job with a new coach who brought in a different style of play," Lineweaver said. "It was a very tough game versus San Marin. They pressed us very hard, and we came back in the fourth quarter. We didn't lose the game - we just ran out of time."

Campolindo had a very balanced offense led by Molly Stephens,

Carley Hudson, Elsie Ceridono, and Clara Cecchin. The team had eight players that scored ten goals or more and nine with double digit points. "That was by design," Lineweaver said. "I saw a ton of talent that was deep on the bench, and I wanted to create a motion offense where everybody got involved and the girls responded really well. This made it harder for teams to defend and it also sets us up with a good foundation for the future as well."

The defense was anchored by seniors Sadie Geenty, Caroline Obsitnik, and Maddie O'Balle, and junior Viv Tolajian, with some underclassmen who also stood out. "Our defense was very strong all year which allowed us to stay in games when the offense had a cold spell," Lineweaver said.

Goalie Haley Richards had twenty-one saves versus San Marin and will be playing for the University of Louisville next year. "Haley was extraordinarily gifted and talented

in the cage," Lineweaver said. "She is a great leader that really sees the field, intercepted passes, directed the defense, and was just a rare talent at the high school level."

Lineweaver is already optimistic about next season. "I'm excited about our returning players and the JV players moving up next season and we'll diversify our offense a bit."

... continued on Page 14

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Girls lacrosse finish the playoffs with two semi-finals and a final game in NCS playoffs

... continued from Page 13

With the culture at Campo, in terms of appreciation of girls sports and lacrosse, I'm looking forward to building on that."

ACALANES

In his first year as head coach, with a 13-8 record and the fourth seed in the playoffs, Giles Imrie was also pleased with the team's performance. "Overall, it was it was a great season for us," Imrie said. "We had a couple of tough close losses to our league rivals, Campolindo and

Miramonte, but other than that had had a fantastic season."

The Lady Don's leading scorer and a leader of the team was midfielder and two-year co-captain Grace Imrie. The strength of the team however was with their defense. "Our goalie, Adie Martin had an amazing season, highlighted by her twenty-one saves against San Marin which is off the charts in terms of numbers," Imrie said. "Seniors co-captain Avery Ives and Kelly Todhunter were key players that anchored our

defense."

Even with talented graduates, Imrie is already very optimistic about next year's team. "We have a number of key returners along with a very impressive group of underclassmen which included four freshmen, the first time in three years we've had a freshman on the varsity," Imrie said. "Grace Colaco started at midfield and Reese Tierney started on defense. There were also a couple of freshmen that were on Steven Seiler's JV team that could have played on the

varsity, so the future's bright."

MIRAMONTE

Miramonte had a slow start to the season, winning only one of their first seven games. "With five starters still competing in the soccer and basketball playoffs and twelve new players on the roster, combined with a difficult early schedule against D1 teams, it ultimately made us much better in the second half of the season, winning nine of our last twelve games," Head Coach Jackie Pelletier said.

With the endorsement of Pelletier, the team voted sophomore Sawyer Bohlig as the team's overall MVP and freshman Sydney Gray as the team's offensive MVP, who netted 101 points on the season, despite sharing the workload with Bohlig and other players.

The co-MVP's on defense were sophomores: goalie Elsa Schroeder and defender Maegan Eichenberger. "Elsa had over 100 saves, facing down some of the top players in the Bay area, along with a career high

eleven saves in the semi-final loss in the playoffs to Campolindo," Pelletier said. "Maegan is also a top basketball player and was in her first year on the varsity."

Departing after ten seasons as the head coach at Miramonte, Pelletier is looking for the team's continued success: "With a large number of players returning, I believe they will have fast success in the Diablo Athletic League next season."

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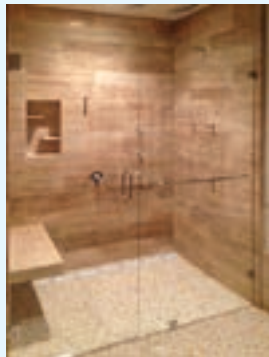
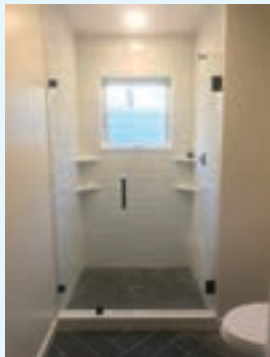
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Roses. Oh, the roses

... read on Page OH4

Pickleball showcase puts a fun spin on open house

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Jon Kingdon

From left: Karen Reedy, Dana Reedy, Carmen Sanz, Melanie Snow, Chris Otani

In a recent listing of an open house on April 30 at 3911 Happy Valley Road in Lafayette, Melanie Snow, an agent from Coldwell Banker, listed its seven bedrooms, six and a half baths, and luxurious view on 1.5 acres among its many other selling points. In addition, Snow made it clear prior to the showing that the owner, a pickleball enthusiast, had resurfaced the tennis court and lined it to make two pickleball courts available as well.

“Most of my friends play religiously and there has been more excitement for residential homes to have pickleball courts,” Snow said.

“It’s a very social sport and it leans into what’s popular for all age groups. They can bring their friends and have small events. Potential buyers can try out the pickleball courts because we have the nets ready to go.”

To make it clear how the game was played for the uninformed, Snow had Carmen Sanz, a pickleball instructor at the Lafayette Tennis Club and a part time competitor on the pro tour, demonstrate the game with three of her students and answer any questions agents might have about the game.

Sanz came to the United States from Brazil ten years ago and was working in the pharmaceutical industry. Four years later, she discovered pickleball and never looked back. “I always loved sports and when I found pickleball, I knew that it was what I wanted to do and it gave me a real purpose,” Sanz said. “I can see it adding value to a property as there is a real shortage of pickleball courts for people to play on. It has become popular with professional tennis players and celebrities so it’s something that can become a core of their backyard.”

Sanz is also available to come to people’s home and bring people together. “My team and I will conduct competitive events, birthday, retirement, and bachelorette parties, and corporate and team events,” Sanz said. “Today we’re here doing exhibition matches for the realtors to observe.”

Sanz takes more of a holistic approach in teaching the game. “Pickleball can be a platform to learn more and be the best version of yourself,” Sanz said. “It really takes the values that you need in life to do better like perseverance, physical and strength, conditioning, and positivity. It’s a 24/7 approach in mind, body, and soul.”

Like all sports there is the potential for injuries. “There is a risk in everything we do in life and in sports but from an injury point of view, it is a low impact sport and people don’t get injured as much compared to other sports in that you don’t need to move a lot,” Sanz said.

“However, people should consider wearing protection for their eyes.”

Chris Otani, one of Sanz’s students, began playing two years ago and was soon won over. “I used to play tennis in high school, and I found that pickleball is simple to play but hard to master and that’s what makes pickleball very addicting.”

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

| City | Last reported | Lowest amount | Highest amount |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 11 | \$1,324,000 | \$4,250,000 |
| MORAGA | 6 | \$950,000 | \$2,750,000 |
| ORINDA | 10 | \$1,050,000 | \$3,500,000 |

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 140 Arbor View Lane, \$3,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 3991 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 04-18-24, Previous Sale: \$2,595,000, 09-03-15
- 32 Crest Road, \$3,495,000, 3 Bdrms, 3778 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 04-15-24, Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 10-07-13
- 3104 Del Oceano Drive, \$1,324,000, 3 Bdrms, 2077 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-10-24
- 17 Fallen Leaf Court, \$4,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4659 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 04-16-24, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 09-01-06
- 3382 Johnson Road, \$3,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2930 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 04-16-24, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 03-12-14
- 18 Juniper Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2339 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-09-24, Previous Sale: \$858,000, 03-02-17
- 1830 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2308 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-19-24
- 1258 Scenic Drive, \$3,165,000, 4 Bdrms, 3162 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 04-17-24
- 839 Topper Lane, \$3,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-08-24, Previous Sale: \$1,744,000, 09-10-18
- 3000 Windtree Court, \$4,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 6866 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-11-24
- 3262 Woodview Drive, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2698 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-08-24, Previous Sale: \$220,000, 09-01-86

MORAGA

- 211 Corliss Drive, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2538 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-09-24
- 846 Crossbrook Court, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-10-24
- 29 Hardie Drive, \$1,680,000, 4 Bdrms, 2508 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-19-24
- 231 Paseo Bernal, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-16-24, Previous Sale: \$815,000, 03-10-20
- 125 Whitethorne Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 04-18-24, Previous Sale: \$1,735,000, 07-15-21
- 230 Willowbrook Lane, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3174 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 04-11-24, Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 09-21-17

ORINDA

- 43 Camino Don Miguel, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2643 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 04-08-24, Previous Sale: \$1,975,000, 06-18-21
- 241 Camino Pablo, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 04-12-24, Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 06-09-18
- 36 Dias Dorados, \$1,538,500, 4 Bdrms, 2064 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-16-24, Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 12-13-19
- 70 El Gavilan Road, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2736 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 04-19-24, Previous Sale: \$450,000, 01-01-89
- 225 El Toyonal, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 04-11-24, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 12-07-15
- 3 Harran Circle, \$1,660,000, 5 Bdrms, 2708 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 04-18-24, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 12-20-05
- 42 Honey Hill Road, \$2,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2237 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-10-24
- 31 Martha Road, \$2,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-10-24
- 8 Rabble Road, \$3,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 4601 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 04-08-24, Previous Sale: \$2,218,500, 08-14-13
- 116 Scenic Drive, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-18-24, Previous Sale: \$2,500,000, 10-12-21

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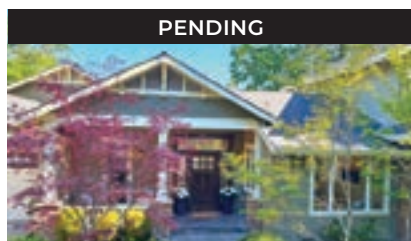
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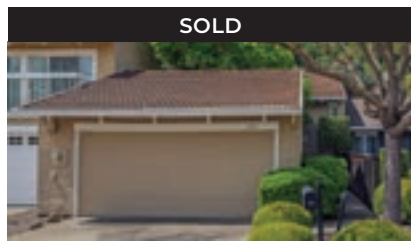
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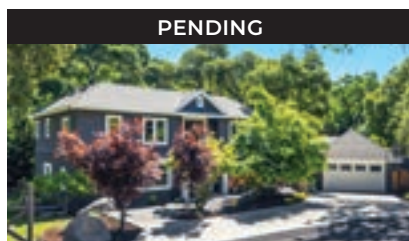
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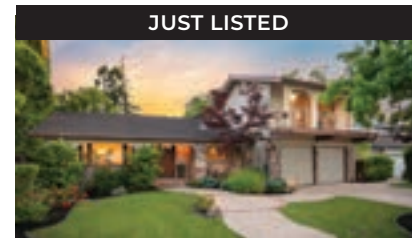
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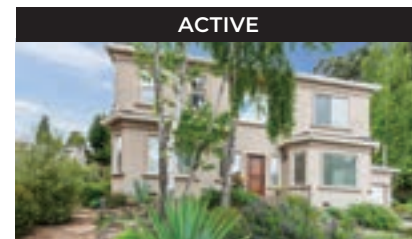
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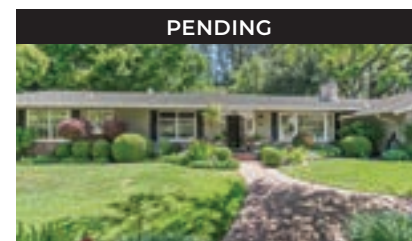
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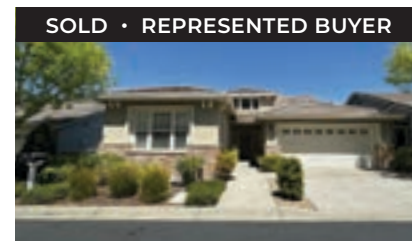
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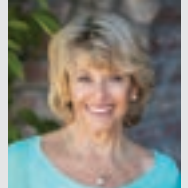
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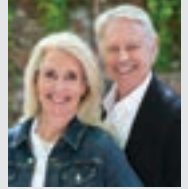
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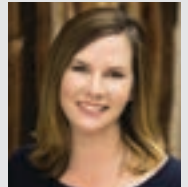
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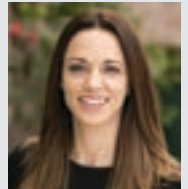
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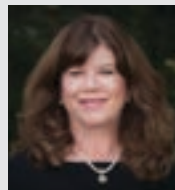
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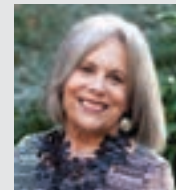
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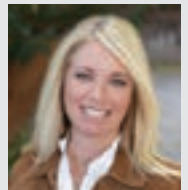
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Showers of Flowers

By Cynthia Brian



Photos Cynthia Brian

Artichokes are easy to grow and delicious!

“Everything is coming up roses—for me!” Ethel Merman

On Mother’s Day, my friend, Linda, texted me to tell me she was thinking of my garden. “Our roses are ridiculously on steroids and growing like crazy! Have a wonderful day,” she wrote. I texted her back that my entire garden was on steroids. I’m not sure I’ve seen such full blooms before: everywhere, everywhere, all at once!

My artichoke plant has grown to gigantic proportions, producing huge, delicious globes as it continues developing new buds. The edible artichoke is the immature bud of a cultivated thistle plant before it flowers. The bracts, the heart, and the stem are what we consume as a delicacy. Unless you eat a baby artichoke, the choke is hairy and inedible. Tomatoes planted in early April are flowering, while the ones planted at the beginning of



Olivia Rose Austin rose commences flowering early in the season and blooms all year round.

May already feature small fruit.

My optimism for a great summer is at an all-time high because the hills are still green, beauty is bountiful, the birds are singing, butterflies are flitting about, and my garden smells like a perfume factory. Between the night jasmine and the fragrant roses, the aromas in the air spray the scents of botanical incense.

Yes, I am still battling the wild weeds. Each day I get closer to uncovering the field of flowers amassed beneath the tangled tendrils of unwanted plants. Although my garden is filled with flowers of many species, in this article I am concentrating on the contribution of roses to our landscape.

In my April 24th, 2024 column titled Social Climbers ([https://lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1805/Digging-Deep-with-Goddess-Gardener-Cynthia-Brian-Social-](https://lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1805/Digging-Deep-with-Goddess-Gardener-Cynthia-Brian-Social-Climbers.html)

[Climbers.html](#)), I mentioned passionflowers and climbing roses. In this column, you get to see photos, too. My passionflowers are especially robust and decorative this year. There are 500 species or more of this unique, flamboyant, and fragrant pollinator magnet. Passionflowers prefer moist soil with good drainage and full sun exposure. They thrive in zones nine to 11, where temperatures range between 60-90 degrees. Remember that it is a vine requiring solid support structures for climbing. Some, but not all varieties produce edible passion fruit. Native tribes foraged passionflowers for a multitude of uses including medicinal applications.

Roses. Oh, the roses. Check out the photos of two of my glorious, rambunctious rose climbers in this article, Lady of Shalott and Gertrude Jekyll, both English roses from David Austin. ... continued on Page OH 8



Step into the Summer of Your Dreams at 42 Tappan Lane in Orinda
 5 BD | 6.5 BA | Office | 8,097 SF | 2.26 AC | \$6,895,000
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Make a Splash This Summer at 3 Los Conejos in Orinda
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5 CIELO COURT

ORINDA

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3944 WOODSIDE COURT

LAFAYETTE

4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,734 SQ. FT.
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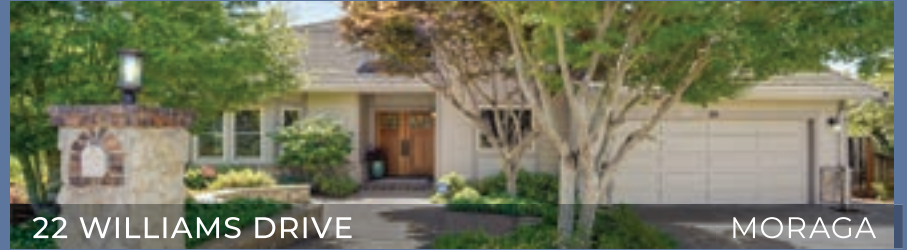


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MORAGA

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MARTINEZ

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Showers of Flowers**

Photos Cynthia Brian



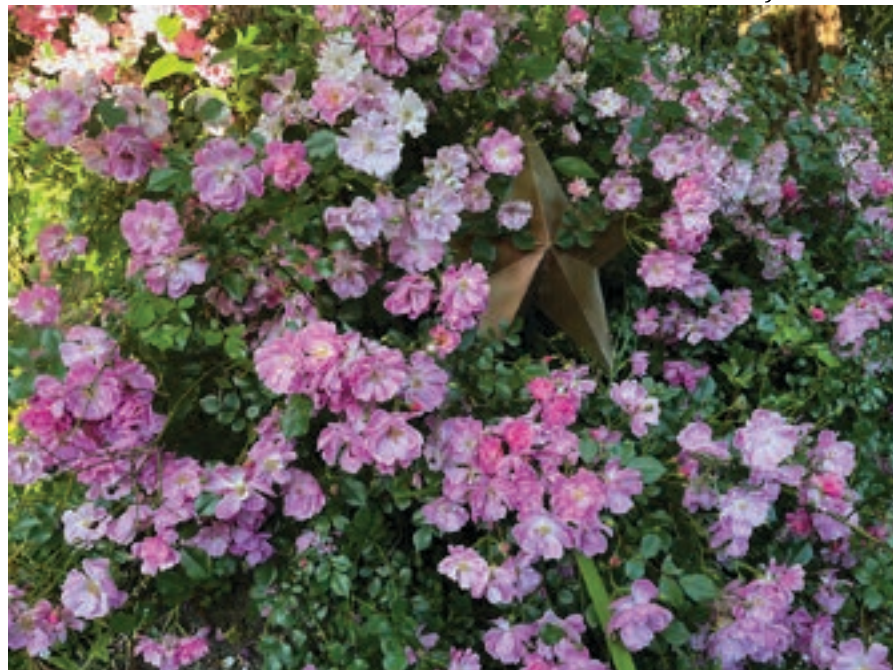
Lady Emma Hamilton roses create excitement in the border with their tight, bright orange buds

... continued from Page OH4

Not only have they climbed above the weeds, but they are adorning limbs on my magnolia tree and covering my fence. Lady of Shalott is a repeat-flowering, hardy rose, part shrub, part climber, that is disease-resistant with rich orange-red buds that open to form bounteous chalice-shaped blooms of salmon, pink, and peach with 60-plus petals. The voluptuous fragrance has hints of clove, spice, and apple. The Gertrude Jekyll rose climber, named after the famous gardener, displays about 80 petals of gorgeous rosette-shaped blooms in splendid shades of pink with the most strongly scented rose fragrance. Flowers flow freely branching all along the climbing stems. Because our climate is warmer than what it prefers, it repeats less often.

Over the years I have purchased and been gifted many varieties of roses. My favorites are the roses that came to prominence in the 1970s – the English roses. Most are crosses between Old Roses and Modern Hybrid Tea and Floribundas that retain the fragrance of the Old Rose with the repeat-flowering and disease resistance of the Modern Rose. English roses were bred not only for color and flowering capacity but also for their fragrance and versatility. These roses can be tall, short, bushy, graceful, arching, upright, rambling, or climbing. The scents range from fruity to musky. One of the best reasons to grow English roses is their high disease resistance. Another plus is the bountiful bouquets they make as cut flowers, displayed alone or in tandem with other species.

Roses are adaptable plants and can be used in numerous ways. Planted in groups of three or more, they look lovely in mixed borders with other perennials. Formal rose beds can be outlined with clipped



French carpet roses are unscented yet blanket the hill.



Lady of Shalott is part climber, part shrub, with glossy green foliage and chalice-shaped salmon peach blooms.

boxwoods. Rose hedges line pathways, producing a mass of color throughout the seasons. In urns or pots, a single rose bush makes a satisfactory statement.

... continued on Page OH10



MAGICAL TUDOR

in Orinda Country Club

33 La Noria, Orinda - \$5,500,000

Magically set in an heirloom garden with meticulously maintained Black and Valley Oaks, various other trees, bushes and flowers blooming almost year round. Originally built in 1933 and beautifully updated over the years, this story book home oozes with undeniable charm inside and out including a Slate roof with tons of character, original brick upper patio with cafe lights lovely for entertaining, a vintage tiled pool and hot tub, multiple spots for entertaining indoors and out & lovely garden views out every window.

The fabulous and newly renovated primary wing boasts a gym, walk in closet, office, bedroom and perfectly appointed custom bath. 3 more beds and 2.5 baths in the main house and a 1 bed, 1 bath upgraded pool house to host overnight guests or parties.

**This is a must see in person!
Pictures will never do it justice.
Contact me for a private tour.**

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 <i>Bed</i> | 4.5 <i>Bath</i> | .69 <i>Acre</i> |
| ±5,267 <i>Sq ft</i> | 1 <i>Wow Pool</i> | 100% <i>Amazing!</i> |

Amy Rose Smith
Partner - Village Associates
925.212.3897
amy@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
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925.254.0505 | **It's Village. Of Course.**



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Showers of Flowers**



Mesmerizing passionflowers will send runners several feet from the mother plant.

... continued from Page OH8

Rose Requirements

Caring for roses requires time and patience, but roses are not fussy. Growers recommend planting roses in areas where a minimum of four hours of sunlight daily will shine on them. Generally, the more sun the better unless the temperatures soar, in which case roses benefit from afternoon shade. Roses need air circulation and space for their roots to grow without competition from neighboring trees, bushes, or other plants. I do my heavy pruning in January and February. This is also the best time to plant bare-root roses. In March, when the leaves are unfurling, I sprinkle alfalfa pellets around each plant as an organic, slow-release nutrient that breaks down with the rain or irrigation. At this time, apply a rose spray as a preventative measure to control blackspot, powdery mildew, and rust, following the directions. In spring and mid-summer, feed your roses with an organic fertilizer. Mulch with wood chips, shredded bark, redwood, or pine needles to improve the appearance of the beds. Mulch aids in retaining moisture, suppressing weeds, and stabilizing the plant. For pest control, let nature do its magic with the birds and bugs battling the bad actors. Deadheading is a must from May through December to maintain continuous flowering. This is the most arduous task because if deadheading is not maintained, rosehips form, and the flowering falters. Appropriate watering is essential. The soil needs to be moist but not soggy. Water deeply in the morning or evenings. Attend to con-



The Gertrude Jekyll climbing rose showcases perfect rosette-shaped flowers on stems along a branch.



Boscobel David Austin rose is a healthy, upright shrub with a strong myrrh fragrance.

tainer moisture requirements as pots dry out quickly in hot weather. From December to January, I allow the rosehips to form. Birds enjoy a winter feast. The cycle repeats when the heavy pruning begins.

May you enjoy showers of flowers on steroids this spring. Everything is coming up roses for me and I hope for you, too.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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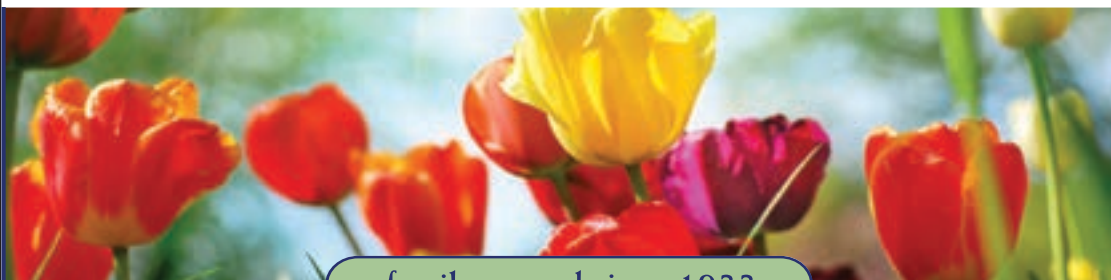
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Cynthia Brian inhales scents of Huntington rose and jasmine!

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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 which was just honored as the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Books in the Barnyard: Oh Deer!, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available for discounted pre-sales at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

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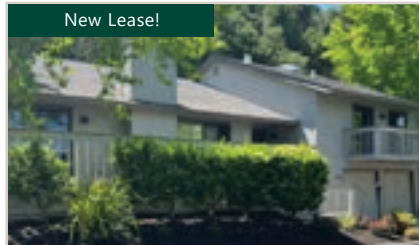
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