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Campolindo outside hitter Claes Bell spikes the ball with #15 Jake Askew and #45 Alex Chng to Bell's left, and #0 Noah Henry at the net.

Photo Josh Uziel

Boys volleyball teams advance to third round of NCS

By Jon Kingdon

All three Lamorinda boys volleyball teams advanced to the third round of the NCS playoffs.

CAMPOLINDO

After an uncharacteristic under .500 season, head coach David Chen has brought the team back this season with a 26-7 record in the very competitive Foothill League. "This is a well-balanced team with 12 juniors and seniors and six sophomores and freshmen, with contributions from every class," Chen said. "As a group, we have a very good culture

and vibe in that everyone really gets along well, enjoying each other's company. There isn't a lot of division in the group which is really nice."

Chen has a team that brings a lot of height to their offense led by 6'7" Claes Bell, 6'6" Noah Henry, and 6'7" Finn Harvey. "Claes is our pin and he has been doing a lot for us as our outside hitter, anchoring us a lot along with Noah is a middle blocker. Finn has been working really hard on his defensive game. Jake Askew is another effective outside hitter as is freshman Beckett Langkammerer. They're all

finding a way to play."

Senior co-captain Alex Chng is the team's starting setter. "Alex is doing a great job and we're mixing in other setters as well. We're using more substitutes than I have usually done because we're trying to learn from our past where we played so many matches, we just got run down. Most of our returners have done a really great job in conditioning themselves coming into the season."

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Local high schools affected by national cyber incident

By Sora O'Doherty

Local high school students in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) were affected by a national cyberattack at Instructure, the parent company and developer of Canvas, a widely used cloud-based Learning Management System (LMS) for K-12 and higher education. Canvas is the online learning management system that AUHSD uses for accessing curriculum, assignment calendars, and online gradebooks.

On Thursday, May 7, some AUHSD students and staff lost access to some curricular resources during the shutdown of Canvas by Instructure. Canvas was back up and running by the morning of Friday, May 8, according to Superintendent John Nickerson and Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, John Walker.

The scope of the cyberattack included certain personal information of users at affected organizations. That includes names, email addresses, student ID numbers, and messages among Canvas users. Instructure found no evidence that passwords, dates of birth, government identifiers, or financial information were involved.

Instructure reported unauthorized activity in Canvas on April 29, and on May 7 they identified additional unauthorized activity tied to the same incident. Instructure released a statement saying that, out of caution, they took Canvas offline and into maintenance mode to contain the activity, investigate and apply additional safeguards. Instructure notified law enforcement of the incident, including the FBI, the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and international law enforcement partners.

Instructure later confirmed that the unauthorized actor carried out this activity by exploiting an issue related to Free-For-Teacher accounts. "This is the same issue that led to the unauthorized access the prior week. As a result, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily shut down Free-For-Teacher accounts. These accounts have been a core part of our platform, and we're committed to resolving the issues with these accounts." However, Instructure reported that in the meantime, Canvas is

fully back online and available for use.

Nickerson told The Lamorinda Weekly that AUHSD had not been approached for ransom and had paid no ransom. He confirmed that no AUHSD data was compromised as data integrity was maintained. Although Canvas is back up and running, there might be a few challenges with other programs that are integrated with Canvas as the integration was sealed off and are being reintroduced. Nickerson added that "Our tech team performed very well to protect systems and data."

Walker confirmed that "Data security is a core priority for AUHSD, and our Technology Department will continue to monitor all of our online platforms to ensure the highest level of security." On May 8, Walker informed parents that the Technology Department has been in communication with Canvas representatives, and there is no indication that any AUHSD data was compromised in the recent cyberattacks. AUHSD's academic programming will continue as originally scheduled.

Civic News

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High school students on a mission in Tijuana — Page B1

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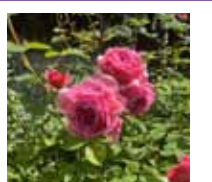
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Our Homes

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The artistic aspect of planting and placement in the garden — Page OH1





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 26, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall Planning Commission: Monday, May 18, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall Design Review: Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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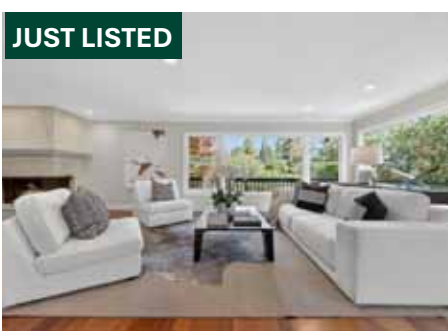
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Downtown Lafayette Parking Management Study presented to city council

By Gwyneth Lee

Transportation and Circulation Program Manager Patrick Golier presented the Downtown Lafayette Parking Management Study to the City Council during its April 27 meeting.

The study, funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Parking Management Planning Grant, evaluated the existing and future parking conditions in the downtown Lafayette area using county assessor data, city tax revenue data, pipeline project information, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation projections to forecast future demand under multiple policy scenarios as well as community input. The study builds on the city's 2016 Parking Management Strategy, which focused on balancing downtown development with parking supply.

Golier presented the staff report to the council along with Siqing Yi and Ben Miller from Alta Planning + Design. According to the staff report, the study found that downtown Lafayette's parking chal-



The Downtown Lafayette study area is divided into three subareas reflecting differences in land use patterns and parking activity.

Image courtesy City of Lafayette

lenges are primarily related to location, user behavior, and system coordination rather than a systemwide shortage of spaces.

"Peak occupancy levels remain well below thresholds that would indicate a systemwide shortage," Golier stated in the report. "However, parking demand is unevenly distributed, and the system is fragmented across multiple public and private operators, regulations, and enforcement practices. As a result, users often experience confusion, unnecessary circling, and perceived shortages in high demand areas—despite the presence of available parking elsewhere."

The study found that peak occupancy of the nearly 5,000 publicly accessible parking spaces has on average approximately 52% occupancy on weekdays and 55% on weekends, leaving over 1,100 parking spaces unused during peak parking periods. Staff recommended share-use agreements, parking maps, real-time monitoring, and better wayfinding. Staff also noted the uneven demand, with some blocks overburdened with parking—such as Plaza Center and Diablo Foods—while others have minimal use.

Unmet employee parking needs and safety challenges were a continuing concern. Currently, there is limited secure parking for em-

ployees and many employees must take long walks through poorly lit areas for parking spots. The plan to remedy this involved coordination, not new parking supply, by expanding permit programs, improving lighting and enhancing unified management for pedestrian safety and consistent parking policy enforcement.

Fragmented management was another concern. Multiple disconnected entities manage parking, causing inconsistencies in policies and unclear oversight. This has caused unclear pricing, time limits, and regulations for drivers. Like the employee needs problem, the proposed solution involves unified management to improve accountability and transparency, in addition to creating standardized policies.

The top 10 actions recommended for the city to take focused on managing downtown parking as a coordinated system, preserving short-term downtown parking for customers and visitors, formalizing expansion of employee parking options, simplifying parking regulations, improving signage and wayfinding, enhancing public facing information, pursuing shared parking agreements, using performance metrics to guide changes over time, and integrating parking management with walking/biking projects. The consultants in-

entionally designed these actions to be practical and achievable in the near term. The goal is to have systems and networks in place so people park once and walk from one place to another.

According to the staff report, Phase 1 implementation activities are expected to require approximately \$80,000 to \$160,000 in consultant services over the next several years, depending on the level of consultant support for data collection and wayfinding planning. By July 1, 2027, Golier said he would like to have parking inventory complete, set up a more robust employee parking permit program, identify opportunities for a shared parking program and have a process in place for that, and start to think about wayfinding and branding.

Staff was directed to return to the city council with a detailed implementation work program and any associated budget requests as part of a future funding cycle.

To view the full staff report, visit: https://lafayette.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&event_id=1443&meta_id=208429

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Correction: In the article, "Mixed-Use Condo Development Approved for Downtown Lafayette Site" in the April 8 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, the following information was written incorrectly: The developer requested a Density Bonus Waiver in order to waive the city's tree replacement requirements, not in accordance with city requirements; The city deemed the preliminary application in May 2025 before the Planning Commission meeting, not after; State Density Bonus Law provides unlimited waivers, not just one waiver, in addition to one concession, and by the developer choosing to use the concession on the dispersion requirement, it was not available to be used to waive the public art requirement. We apologize for these errors.

City of Lafayette secures \$3.7M state funding to construct portion of Aqueduct Pathway

Submitted by Suzanne Iarla, City of Lafayette



People use the completed segment of the Aqueduct Pathway between Risa Road and Dolores Drive in Lafayette.

Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

The City of Lafayette has secured \$3.7 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to construct a key segment of the Aqueduct Pathway, a safe, fully separated route for people walking and biking through downtown Lafayette.

The newly secured funding, combined with other sources, will allow the City to construct the segment of the pathway between Dolores Drive and the Lafayette BART station.

The Aqueduct Pathway is a planned multi-use trail located within the existing East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) corridor that runs through Lafayette parallel to Mt. Diablo Boulevard, BART, and State Route 24. When complete, it will provide a continuous, car-free route connecting neighborhoods, downtown destinations, and regional transit.

The segment from Dolores Drive to BART will close a critical gap in Lafayette's walking and biking network, making it easier and safer for residents to access BART,

vision is to ultimately extend the pathway east to the existing regional trail network that connects to Walnut Creek, as well as establish connections to the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

"The Aqueduct Pathway will provide a safe alternative to busy roads like Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Deer Hill Road," said Lafayette Transportation Program Manager Patrick Golier. "By creating a fully separated route, the project will make it easier for people to walk and bike to BART, downtown, and other everyday destinations."

The project also supports planned housing growth in downtown Lafayette by providing safe and convenient first- and last-mile connections to transit. As new housing is developed, the pathway will help reduce reliance on driving, lower transportation costs, and support a more sustainable and connected community. The City is coordinating closely with regional partners, including BART, to ensure seamless connections between the pathway, the BART station, and downtown Lafayette.

Together with the Lafayette BART Town Center and Bike Station project, the Aqueduct Pathway will help create an integrated network of safe and accessible routes linking housing, transit, and downtown destinations. For more information, visit the Aqueduct Pathway Project webpage.

The City's long-term

local businesses, schools, and community amenities without needing to drive. The start of construction of this segment is anticipated in 2029.

The City is currently seeking federal funds to help construct the segment east of Brown Avenue to Pleasant Hill Road. Last week, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier announced that he advanced \$2.8 million for this segment of the project to be considered by the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 federal budget process.

A westerly segment of the pathway is already complete. The segment between Risa Road and Dolores Drive opened in 2025 and is currently in use. In addition, design work is currently underway for the next phase of the Aqueduct Pathway, easterly to Pleasant Hill Road. The City previously secured \$300,000 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to complete design for this segment, which is approximately 1.9-miles.

Voters to decide on Lafayette School District Measure H in June

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Ask a parent of school-age youth what brought them to Lafayette and you'll likely hear about the high ratings of the schools. What is less remarkable about the school system is statewide funding.

In recent years, a parcel tax for property owners, also known as Measure L has helped bridge that gap through locally controlled funding. Voters will have the chance to renew the parcel tax in June when voting on Measure H. A yes vote would bring the per-parcel tax up to \$585, a 56% increase from Measure L, for the next nine years. The measure includes an annual 3% adjustment to account for inflation, and extends an exemption for seniors and renters – though it's unclear if these populations may indirectly incur some of the costs through increasing rent costs.

Laney Whitcanack is a parent of a Stanley middle-schooler and an Acalanes student, and the chair of 'Yes on Measure H.' She says she believes the fee is small when she considers the return of the investment for the whole community.

"When you ask people why they move to Lafayette, 9 or 10 times out of 10, they say it's for our incredible schools," Whitcanack says. "I think of H as the heart measure because our schools are the heart of Lafayette."

Whitcanack added that California's funding formula underfunds districts like Lafayette, causing the district to rely on local sources such as LPIE and parcel taxes for up to 20% of funding. She says that Measure H would bring in an estimated \$5.1 million/annually for the next nine years—which she believes will help to safeguard the teachers and programs that make the schools strong.

"It's really focused on attracting and retaining high quality teachers, protecting the incredible math, science and engineering programs that we have for our students, our reading, writing and language programs, our performing arts programs, and ensuring that we can continue to have manageable class sizes and keep our facilities clean and safe," Whitcanack says.

Those voicing concerns about the Measure point to the \$257 increase per parcel over the previous \$328 per parcel tax and its nine-year long-term obligation, as well as the desire for funding to be handled entirely through state funds without requiring a tax increase.

Katy Foreman, Lafayette School Board President and mom of two students in the school district, says good schools are good for everyone in the community.

"Most of the seniors (I talk to) take great pride

in the fact that our schools are so high performing because they've served their children well, even if their children are long gone, or they have grandchildren in our schools," Foreman says.

Foreman says there's also a long-term economic incentive for homeowners and business owners.

"Our great schools impact the value of our homes, so supporting Measure H is a good investment for residents even if they don't have school age children," Foreman says. "We have the endorsement of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and that's because business owners in Lafayette know that our schools, and the schools that attract these families to live here are really kind of the heartbeat of our economy."

Foreman noted that while the federal government's tone toward education has not been positive, less than 1% of the school's budget comes from federal funding.

"It just makes us more focused on protecting ourselves locally and making sure we have what we need to deliver to our students," Foreman said. "That's why local funding matters."

The measure requires a 66.67% supermajority to pass, according to Ballotpedia.

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Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org
Town Council Meeting,
Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 p.m.,
Council Chamber
**Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting,**
Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

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Moraga Chamber celebrates Business and Nonprofit of 2026

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce honored Business of the Year (Moraga Ace Hardware & Lumber) and Non-profit of the Year (Moraga Lions Club) during a small reception on April 18 at the Hacienda de las Flores' Casita building.

This year's recipients were chosen because they practiced good business strategies; supported the Moraga community; served as a good business or community role model; exhibited good customer relationships; and demonstrated ethical business practices.

Ace Hardware owners Bill Snider and his wife Vel bought the store in 2000. Two years later, he added another busi-

ness to his repertoire and called it Across the Way (which it literally is). His general manager, Susan Marconi, spends her days helping out in both. Snider's business has donated to many events and organizations such as Earth Day, Campolindo High School's wrestling, football, and Robotics Club programs, numerous Eagle Scout projects, and more. He has worked with schools to hire members of the neurodivergent student community in order for them to acquire work skills, and he was part of the Moraga Community Foundation committee that raised funds to upgrade the Moraga Commons Park restroom.

Snider's fundraising efforts helped create the Skate Park with a sizable personal donation. Additionally, Ace Hardware has supported the Moraga Education Foundation, all of the Town's schools, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, and the Moraga Junior Women's Club.

"I recognize every person in this room, either from the Chamber or as a customer," stated Snider. "People come into the store and talk



Business and Nonprofit of the Year members honored by Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Photo Vera Kochan

about how hard retail is. I enjoy what I do and I like helping people. We're in the customer service business. Our goal is to have the customer leave somewhat satisfied even if they couldn't find what they needed."

The Moraga Lions Club's list of all of the projects for the past year are too numerous to mention, but highlights include: concessions at the Fourth of July Picnic, Pear Festival and Summer Concert Series, sup-

porting MOFD's Pancake Breakfast, supporting Community Service Day, blood drives, eyeglass donations to Third World countries, scholarships for Lamorinda high schoolers, annual Crab Feed, cash donations to dozens of relief organizations both local and world-wide, sponsoring Campo's Leo Club, E-Waste disposal, food donations to Food Bank of Contra Costa, clothing donations to Special Kids Day, and their latest project of removing usable

items from homes about to go on the market in order to distribute them to local charities.

Club President Andy Boggeri said, "We are very proud to be here with the Business of the Year. I'd like to thank all of our volunteers, especially those that aren't even Lions. Our slogan is 'We serve,' and we're always trying to improve things. Volunteering is so important - there are so many people that need help out there."

Moraga School District's Ballot Measure I gets endorsement from Town Council

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga School District's (MSD) board adopted resolution 26-30 in February to put Measure I (Teacher Retention and Academic Preservation Measure) on the upcoming June ballot. In order for the measure to pass it must collect two-thirds voter approval. During Moraga's April 8 meeting, Town Council members voted unanimously to endorse Measure I.

According to MSD, "The proposed parcel tax

would ensure mandatory fiscal accountability requirements, including all money raised would be controlled locally, could only be used in local elementary and intermediate schools, and could not be taken away by the State. Annual financial audits and an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee would be required."

MSD added, "Homeowners aged 65 and older as well as those receiving Supplemental

Security Income for a disability and those receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits would be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure."

The Ballot Measure Summary for June 2 will read: "Shall the local school funding measure to attract and retain the best qualified teachers, continue effective science, technology, engineering, math, arts, music and reading pro-

grams, maintain manageable class sizes and prevent academic cuts and teacher/educator layoffs by levying \$295 per parcel, providing \$1,700,000 annually, for 7 years, with senior exemptions, inflation adjustments, independent oversight, audits, and all funds supporting local elementary and middle school students, be adopted?"

New Town banners bring spring to Moraga skyline

By Vera Kochan

Ten new banners can be seen throughout Moraga's scenic corridors, having taken the place of the ones proclaiming "Welcome Back Gaels" which will make a reappearance in the fall.

The Parks and Recreation Department teamed up with the Art in Public Spaces Committee (APSC) to create the banners depicting a flowering pear branch with pear and proclaiming the message of "Grow, Explore, Play."

"The banner reinforces the themes of outdoor recreation, community connection, and

quality of life here in Moraga," explained APSC Chair Holly Hartz. "The design intentionally reflects the vision and priorities being explored through the Town's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan process."



New Town banner at Moraga Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection

Photo Mackenzie Brady

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Town required to upgrade technology in Council Chambers

By Vera Kochan

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law (October 2025) a bill that requires municipalities to upgrade their equipment for open meetings. Senate Bill 707 would entail better public access in the form of two-way participation, captioning, and language-translation requirements that would take effect on July 1, 2026.

An April 8 staff report to the Town Council by Administrative Services Director Katie Bruner and Town Clerk Amy Heavener stated, "The public must be able to attend meetings and participate remotely and provide comments in real time via a 'two-way telephonic' or 'two-way audiovisual platform.' A two-way telephonic service is one that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate. A two-way audiovisual platform is defined as an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic service (e.g., Zoom)."

Currently, neither the Council Chambers

nor the Pear Conference Room is equipped to meet SB 707 demands. As such, staff contacted Silicon Connections, LLC, Moraga's technology provider, to put together a cost-upgrade proposal. Some of the equipment changes involve decommissioning existing wired microphones and the TriCaster production console, installing new cameras, a wireless microphone system, a Zoom Room Controller Computer, a public comment countdown timer, a Zoom-to-YouTube live streaming via Zoom cloud, and more for a total cost of \$89,093.

Silicon Connections would install the equipment during times when the Council Chambers and the Pear Conference Room are not in use. They would also provide training to town staff during the system's learning phase.

Adding in a contingency amount of \$5,907, the Town Council authorized a go-forward agreement for a total amount not to exceed \$95,000. Staff noted that there are sufficient funds available in the Town's Public, Educational, and Government Access (PEG) Fund to pay for the technology upgrades.

Council Member Steve Woehleke noted that the Town Council meetings are held in an area that has space constraints, and that making the meetings more accessible through enhanced off-site viewing would be a positive move.

"We don't like unfunded mandates," stated Mayor Kerry Hillis. "This is \$100,000. We had a healthy discussion on hiring an economic development consultant which was \$40,000 less, and that's changed the entire direction of our town. This is to add some cameras, which I'm glad that there's a happy positive that can be brought out of it, but this is not money we would have spent otherwise."

Hillis added, "I'm also personally concerned with the prevalence of Zoom Bombing." Zoom Bombing is the unwanted or disruptive intrusion of uninvited participants into a video conference that can result in chat disruption.

Flag display policy discussed during Town Council meeting

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Town Council considered two Flag Display Policy options during its April 22 meeting. Option one was a Traditional Flag Display and option two was a Governmental Ceremonial Flag Display.

Town Manager Scott Mitnick's staff report explained, "The Town does not have a consolidated administrative policy governing the display of flags at Town-owned facilities. Adoption of a formal flag display policy would establish standards for the display of United States, State of California, Town of Moraga, and ceremonial flags at designated Town-owned public facilities. Such a policy would also clarify if Town flagpoles are to be used to convey official governmental speech, and if they are intended to serve as a forum for public free expression."

Mitnick's report added, "A comprehensive flag display policy should further address outdoor and indoor display standards, half-staff observances, ceremonial flag displays, care and retirement of flags, and assignment of responsibility for implementation."

During the Council's Feb. 11 meeting, staff was directed to research and provide feedback with regards to flag display policy options. In doing so, staff discovered that surrounding Bay Area municipalities had varying flag display policies.

With that in mind, Moraga's Council was presented with two options to choose from. The first, a Traditional Flag Display Policy, would continue the past practice of restricting the display to content-neutral traditional government flags including limiting the display to the United States, State of

California, and Town of Moraga flags only, with no authorization to display political or ceremonial flags of any type.

The second option of a Governmental Ceremonial Flag Display Policy may include certain components and would expressly state that Town flagpoles are not a forum for public expression and are limited to ceremonial flags approved by the Town Council, which would be considered government speech, stated Mitnick.

It would "restrict the display to a single designated flagpole or location; require requests to be from the mayor, a council member, or town manager, rather than from third parties; and set clear Town Council approval criteria included in the authorizing resolution and/or policy." In selecting this option, the Town runs the risk of other special interest groups or individuals requesting equal time for the display of their flags.

Staff's recommendation to Council was the Traditional Flag Display Policy option as it would provide clear standards, reduce administrative discretion, and reduce the risk of future disputes. However, the Council agreed to select the second Governmental Ceremonial Flag Display Policy option.

Members of the public spoke in favor of the second option with specific references to flying the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag as a symbol of Moraga's inclusivity. Council Members noted that letters were also received in favor of the second option.

Staff is now tasked with clarifying the chosen policy with rules that will make it defensible. It must also be

decided which Town flagpole will be designated as the "ceremonial" one and a maximum display period must be agreed upon. Council will receive the updates in a future meeting.



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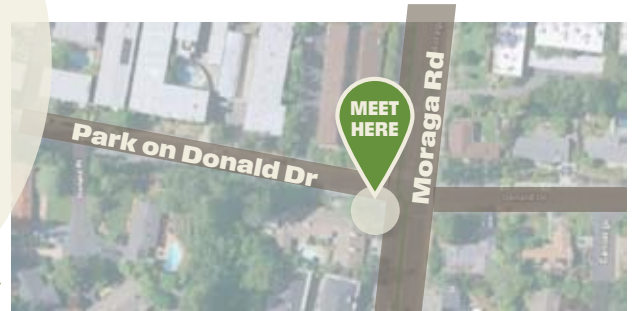
Come on a walk with us and share your thoughts!



May 16th

10A-12P

WWW.MORAGA.CA.US/LMR



Meet at the southwest corner of Moraga Road and Donald Drive
We'll be walking south to Corliss Drive, about 1/2 mile

Please visit our project website for additional information and any updates

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City Council Reg. Meeting:
Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium
Parks and Recreation
Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
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State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Local business fills a gap in refuse collection

By Sora O'Doherty



Amber Johnson of Curbside Solutions demonstrates getting a recycling bin up a long, steep driveway.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

After sorting refuse into separate bins for trash, compost and recyclables, there remains the task of dragging the bins to the curb, and then collecting them again the next day. For many in the Lamorinda area, this means struggling with long or steep driveways, or finding someone to deal with

the bins when the homeowners are away. Amber Johnson of Orinda saw a need and started a business to fill it.

Curbside Solutions is the company that Johnson and her husband founded. They hire mostly college students and sometimes go out and do the work them-

selves. Johnson owns other businesses, so the human resources side of things did not present a challenge for her. The company is licensed and insured.

The company offers many flexible options. They can take care of bins on a regular weekly schedule, billed monthly.

Or they can step in for just one week or a few weeks if the homeowners are going to be away. They also provide some small-scale hauling, and may, in the future, include bin washing in the services they offer.

Johnson said that she and her husband were looking for something "low-tech" and were inspired by another bin management company that doesn't operate locally. She notes that they have about 25 customers who are quite fussy about how their bins are handled, wanting them to go into precise positions, for example.

Currently Curbside Solutions is operating in Lamorinda, mostly in Orinda. They also have clients in Danville and Pleasant Hill. They have about 30 clients in Lamorinda and about the same further out. To grow their business, they look for local forums, including Lamorinda Families Facebook group and a senior expo in Pleasant Hill.

Customers can access the services, choose exactly what they want, and pay for it in advance through the company's website, curbsidesolutions.com.

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2026 Poul Anderson writing contest winners announced

By Sora O'Doherty

The Friends of the Orinda Library announced the winners of the 2026 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident. This annual contest has encouraged many students to continue their interest in writing and to pursue successful careers as authors and journalists.

Entry Categories were Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, and Poetry and Short Story. This year's win-

ners are Ayan Mohapatra of Bentley Upper School, Short Story, "Tomato Juice;" Vinny Yu of Miramonte High School, Short Story, "The Bearer of Dreams;" Tildyn Andres of Miramonte High School, Short Story, "Medic 12: Moscow, Vermont;" and Serena Scheiner of Miramonte High School, Poetry, "Grief in California."

There were also four Honorable Mention awards, which went to: Carol Zhang of Miramonte High School, "Poem #18-My Kindle;" Jay Sandhu of Mira-

monte High School, Science Fiction, "Alien Discovery in New Mexico;" Nina Segall of Miramonte High School, Essay, "From Bud to Bloom;" and Jamie Goldstein of Holden High School, Short Story, "The Gas Station."

Entries were judged by a panel of local judges including Susan Williams, librarian at Miramonte High School, Anne Lowell, librarian at Glorietta School, Sora O'Doherty, reporter at The Lamorinda Weekly, and Sally Hogarty, former editor of The Orinda News.

The four winners each were awarded \$500 and those awarded honorable mention received \$150 each, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website https://www.friends-of-orindalibrary.org and inside the Orinda Library facility, for all to enjoy.

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Contract is finally awarded for update to Orinda's Crossroads Plaza

By Sora O'Doherty

Following years of discussion, the project to update the area across from the Highway 24 off-ramp went out for bid earlier in March. However, owing to several of the bids being deemed unresponsive, the City of Orinda rejected all five bids received.

Staff rebid the pro-

ject, with more precise bid instructions for contractor license requirements and project experience requirements. On April 7, new bids were opened. Only Modernscapes Innovations from Oakley bid on the project, and their bid of \$277,000 was deemed to be responsive. Staff also

considered the bid to be in line with market conditions.

In accordance with staff recommendations, the City Council voted on April 7 to award the contract to Modernscapes Innovations for \$277,000 with an additional 15% contingency amount of \$41,550 to allow for un-

foreseen changes. The total potential value of the contract would be \$318,550.

As the project was already part of the city's capital improvements plan, only an additional \$48,000 was required and was authorized by the council.

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Divided Orinda city council vote on traffic signage actions around Ivy Drive

By Sora O'Doherty

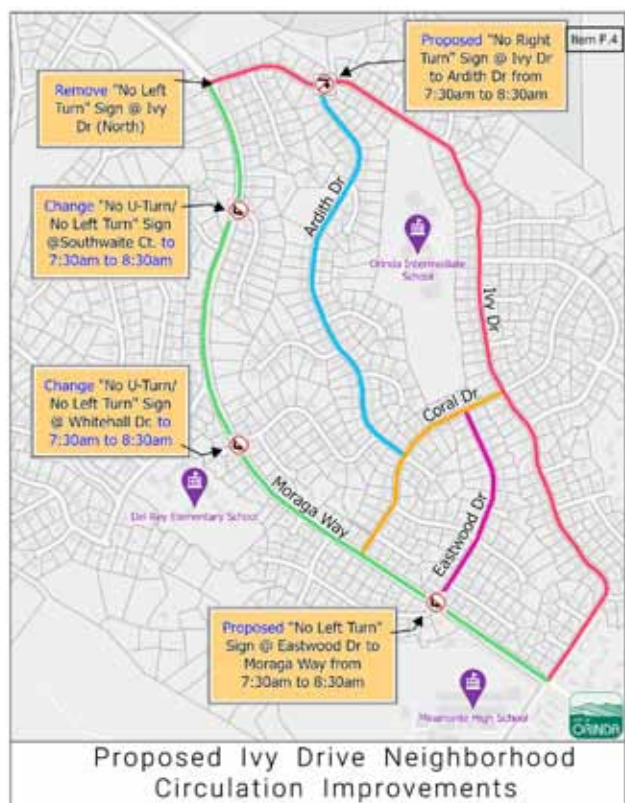


Photo courtesy City of Orinda

The Orinda City Council on April 7 considered a pilot program of changes to the traffic patterns around Ivy Drive, Coral Drive, Eastwood Drive and Ardrith Drive, known as the Ivy Drive Pilot Program. The area has been of concern to the

city and local residents for some time owing to the tendency of Miramonte High School students or parents to cut through the area to avoid traffic delays on Moraga Way. After receiving written comments and in-

person remarks at the meeting, the council decided to approve the recommended package of actions, with the exception of removing the sign that restricts left-hand turns from Moraga Way onto the north end of Ivy Drive between 7 an 8 a.m. on weekdays. Mayor Brandyn Iverson first proposed adopting the full package of measures, but that motion failed. Iverson was the sole negative vote on the motion that subsequently passed.

At an earlier city council meeting, the council had approved some improvements for Coral Drive, including an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Coral Drive and Ardrith Drive, signal timing modifications on Moraga Way and additional road markings, which are currently in the process of being implemented.

The staff report was presented to the council by City Engineer Siva Natarajan. The actions approved by the council include changing the timing on some traffic

restrictions to reflect changes in school times. The most significant changes included the removal of the sign restricting left turns from Moraga Way onto Ivy Drive north (which was not approved) and prohibiting right turns from Ivy Drive onto Ardrith Drive.

While the council generally approved of most of these measures, council members wondered about additional ways to protect pedestrians and cyclists, particularly school children on their way to school.

Council Member Darlene Gee favors greater use of license-reader cameras. Other measures that seemed to have fairly widespread approval included lowering the speed limits on Ivy Drive and Ardrith Drive from 25 mph to 15 mph in an effort to make taking a cut through the neighborhood a slower route to Miramonte High School than staying on Moraga Way.

Council members were pleased to hear that traffic signal modi-

fications approved earlier will be going into effect soon. The council spoke at length about possible alternative measures, such as the installation of stop signs, speed bumps, protected left turn lanes, or even traffic lights.

Natarajan responded to council questions about these possibilities and also about the timeline for improvements in the Ivy Drive area. There was considerable back and forth on the length of the pilot program, which some council members considered to be too long. Natarajan explained that the period for gathering data would be from the start of the school year in August through the end of the year. The pilot program was proposed to continue until February of next year to allow city

staff to evaluate the data and prepare for changes.

The urgency of the traffic problems in the Ivy Drive area was underscored by commenter Nicole Carter McGill who reported on a recent accident in the area when a distracted driver left the roadway, hit a mailbox and flipped the car. Speaker Emily Pocari mentioned two accidents on Ardrith Drive and one on Coral.

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Broschard reinstated to Fire Chief role pending a permanent replacement

By David Scholz



Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Lewis Broschard Photo provided

Fire Chief Lewis Broschard has hit the pause button on his long-awaited and certainly well-earned retirement after he was reinstated to his prior role with the Contra Costa County Fire

Protection District, which covers Lafayette, just days after his March 26 departure.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors took the action April 6 until a perma-

nent appointment is made. "Chief Broschard's return ensures experienced leadership and continuity while the District conducts a search for its next permanent Fire Chief," said Board Chair Diane Burgis, District 3 Supervisor. The fire chief position was originally posted in February with a recommendation for candidates going to the Supervisors in early April and interviews with a short list of finalists occurring later in the month.

"They're on schedule," said County spokesperson Kristi Jourdan.

A decisive, politically aware executive with deep experience in large-agency operations, EMS transport systems,

hazardous materials response, industrial safety, and WUI operations are characteristics being sought for the next fire chief.

"The Chief must be an authentic, relationship-driven leader who excels in labor relations, community engagement, and regional collaboration. Strong financial acumen, capital project oversight, and organizational development skills are essential," according to a statement posted on the CCFPD's Facebook page.

Broschard retired in March after more than 18 years of distinguished service.

Ahead of his Last Shift Ceremony, Broschard remarked that serving as Fire Chief for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection

District had been the greatest honor of his career.

"I am incredibly proud of the members of this organization and grateful for the trust and support of the community, our Board of Supervisors, and the County Administrator's Office. I leave knowing the District is positioned for continued success," he said.

During his tenure, the District achieved significant advancements, including the annexation of the East Contra Costa and Rodeo-Hercules fire districts and a service contract with the City of Pinole.

The District established a firefighting hand crew program, launched a seasonal aerial firefighting helicopter program, implemented

an apparatus replacement program, increased staffing in operations and fire prevention, and undertook the rebuilding of several fire stations. Additionally, the regional fire dispatch center was expanded and modernized, 911 dispatcher staffing levels were increased, emergency ambulance operations were strengthened and expanded, and numerous health and wellness initiatives were introduced for its members.

Significant wildfire mitigation projects also were funded and completed across the county and over 40 new Fire-wise communities were formed in the District under his leadership.

New Rescue 1 grant aids MOFD

By Sora O'Doherty

In March and April this year every member of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District had the opportunity to attend three hours of physician-led education designed to enable paramedics and

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to improve the success of airway intubations in the field. According to Niels Tangherlini, MOFD Ambulance Supervisor, this new technology al-

lows the health-care provider to see a visualization of the inside of the patient's throat during the process of inserting an airway. Tangherlini confirmed that every paramedic, EMT as well as every firefighter in the district completed the training.

Funded in part by the Rescue 1 Foundation, the Airway 100 program supports MOFD's paramedics and EMTs in ensuring they have the skills and tools needed to address airway issues for the patients they treat. The educational program funded by Rescue 1 included several 3-hour physician-led sessions that covered basic airway maneuvers up to addressing the most difficult airways.

Contra Costa County recently approved paramedics using video laryngoscopes to perform endotracheal intubation. Although infrequent, intubation is the gold standard of airway care for a patient who is unconscious and having difficulty protecting their own airway.

In upgrading to video laryngoscope, the MOFD took the opportunity to launch an aggressive training program aimed at improving all aspects of airway care. Known as the Difficult Airway Course, these sessions are typically attended by doctors and gave MOFD members a host of new techniques to use when caring for some of the most critical patients.

To facilitate this



MOFD paramedics and EMTs participate in Airway 100 training. Photo provided

training and ongoing training, Rescue 1 purchased a high-fidelity airway manikin for each of the five MOFD stations and a difficult airway manikin for use by the ambulance supervisor.

In addition, the doctors leading the training sessions were able to make recommendations for equipment improvements that MOFD has been able to immediately implement. These included changes in both types of endotracheal tubes and suction equipment. All are meant to ensure the highest standard of care for patients experiencing a critical emergency in the areas served by MOFD.

The ongoing part of the program will have paramedics using computer-led training simulations during their shifts throughout the

year. Tangherlini has prescribed one training session for each paramedic per shift. Rescue 1 purchased video laryngoscopes to facilitate these trainings across the MOFD.

The Rescue 1 Foundation thanked the Angie Sakalay Trust for providing the funds for this important advancement in medical treatment.

Tangherlini pointed out to this reporter that California is one of only five states that currently does not permit paramedics to perform cricothyrotomies. A cricothyrotomy is an emergency, life-saving procedure that establishes an airway by creating an incision through the skin and cricothyroid membrane in the neck. Tangherlini says that he will continue to strongly

encourage the California legislature to restore this procedure to those that California paramedics are permitted to employ in emergencies in the field.

Donations to Rescue 1 Foundation may be made on their website, <https://www.rescue1-foundation.org/donate> and more information about this and past projects can also be found there.

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Open House brings joy to young faces



Bruce Macler of Rescue 1 securely fastens a balloon to a child's wrist during the Open House at MOFD Station 45 in Orinda on Saturday, May 2.

- S. O'Doherty

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Stacie Arguello
Sunil Arora
Eron Ashley
Lauren Ashley
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Jida Azam
Pej Azam
Jessica Badalov
Michael Badalov
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Betsy Balmet
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Kahan, State
Assemblymember
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Jaymes Davis
Pamela Dawkins
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Jon Deane
Les Deane
Caitlin Debban
Louis James Decario
Savannah Louise
Decario
Siena Rebecca Decario
Susan Fink Decario
Lauren Decker
Rachel Decker
John Deel
John Eric DeFreitas
Sarah DeFreitas
Hakan Desjardins
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Vermita Chudasama
Michelle Chang
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Whitney Dickman
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Daryll Drexler
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Wei-Tai Kwok
Kristen Labrosse
Octavio Lacayo
Donya Ladunga
Nicholas Ladunga
Darin LaFramboise
Piper LaGrélius

Yes on H
Strong Schools Strong Lafayette

STAND WITH US.
YOU'LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

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Andreanna Garcia
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Heather Hawke
Cina Hazeigh
Tara Hazeigh
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Elizabeth Hennessy
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Vote By Mail NOW.
Election Day June 2.

StrongSchoolsStrongLafayette.com

Paid for by Residents to Protect High-Quality Lafayette Schools - Yes on H 2026.

Letters to the Editor

Supporting Dr. Dana Eaton

As a former principal and superintendent in the Moraga School District for 25 years, I have seen firsthand the leadership our schools need to serve our Lamorinda communities well. I strongly support Dr. Dana Eaton as the next Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Eaton brings 17 years of superintendent experience and nearly three decades in education, grounded in a clear focus on student success, early literacy, school safety, and student well-being. He has also been recognized as a two-time Superintendent of the Year for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, an honor reflecting both results and the respect of his peers.

Importantly, Dana's experience aligns directly with the county office's responsibilities. He serves on the State Governing Board of FCMAT and on the Superintendent Advisory Panel for CCEE, bringing rare expertise in both fiscal accountability and academic improvement, areas critical to supporting all districts, including those in Lamorinda.

Our communities deserve a county superintendent who understands both strong schools and responsible stewardship. Dr. Dana Eaton is that leader.

Bruce K. Burns
Former Moraga School District Superintendent

Vote Yes on Measure H: Our Schools Need Us

Hello, Lafayette. I'm asking you — from the bottom of my heart — to vote Yes on Measure H on June 2. Our schools are the foundation of this community. Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette Elementary, Springhill, Stanley — they're the reason families move here. They're a big part of why Lafayette is Lafayette. But that foundation is cracking.

California's funding formula shortchanges our district. Despite being in one of the most expensive regions in the country, Lafayette receives among the lowest per-pupil funding in the state. Over the past three years, our schools have absorbed millions in cuts. Teacher salaries have fallen behind neighboring districts, making it harder to keep the exceptional educators our kids deserve.

Measure L, the parcel tax that helps close that gap, expires next year. Without a replacement, we lose roughly \$3 million annually — money that funds teachers, manageable class sizes, science, music, and the arts.

Measure H is the replacement. Every dollar stays local. None goes to administrator salaries. It includes a senior exemption, citizen oversight, and mandatory audits. It sunsets after nine years and cannot be extended without your vote.

During my time as Mayor, I saw firsthand how our schools drive everything we value about this town — our property values, our sense of community, our identity. Protecting them isn't optional. It's the most important investment we make. The state won't fix this for us. It's up to us to ensure our kids, our teachers, and our school staff have what they need to succeed. Lafayette voters passed Measure L in 2020 with 73% support. The need is even greater now.

We can do this. Please pledge your support for Measure H.

Cam Burks
Former Mayor of Lafayette

PTA & Parent Organization Presidents for Measure H

As the PTA and Parent Organization Presidents of Lafayette's four elementary schools — Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette Elementary and Springhill — we are writing with one united message: vote yes on Measure H.

Our schools are exceptional. Lafayette students consistently rank among the best in California, and our teachers are among the most dedicated anywhere. But that excellence depends on local funding that the state simply does not provide. California's school funding formula ranks Lafayette among the lowest-funded districts in the state. We have always made up that gap ourselves — and Measure H is how we continue to do that.

The current parcel tax expires in 2027. Without Measure H to replace it, we are looking at larger class sizes, teacher layoffs, and the elimination of the academic and enrichment programs that define a Lafayette education. The district has already had to cut \$2 million in spending each year for the past three years, and this year's

cuts eliminated teachers and staff that our students know, love and interact with weekly.

Measure H will help retain high-quality teachers, keep class sizes small, and preserve core programs in academics, arts, and sciences. We don't always agree on everything as a community. But we agree on this: our schools are worth protecting. Please vote yes on Measure H in June.

Ria Di Costanzo, President Lafayette Elementary PTA
Kristen Winterbotham, President Burton Valley Elementary PTA
Irene Lee and Lulu Sun, Co-Presidents Springhill Parent Faculty Club
Jesse Abhyankar, President Happy Valley Parents Club

No on Lafayette's Measure H

As mothers, we want our kids to have great schools. As homeowners, we want to retain our home values. And as citizens, we are very concerned about the lack of affordability in California. We see Measure H as yet another of the many tax increases we see on ballots this year (now and in November) that comes without any accountability.

Despite organizers' claims, the school district has not demonstrated fiscal responsibility. When teachers negotiated a 13% raise in 2023-2024, the district also slipped in increases for top administrators and recently-hired employees, including our superintendent who had only been on the job for about 18 months. This resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars that the district knew it wouldn't have. Nevertheless, the board, including former school board members who are now cheerleading this effort, approved this. No accountability.

In addition, the Lafayette School District's own 2024-2025 budget shows that it has spent 40% more since 2020 despite a total school enrollment that has never recovered since school shutdowns. There has been an increase of \$10 million in salaries and a \$4.5 million increase in services and other operating expenses. And the worst part ... since 2023, they have been spending more than a half a million dollars LESS on books and supplies!

Measure H is not just a continuation of our last "temporary" tax. It is an increase of 78% and comes a year before the previous tax ends. It also includes a 3% automatic annual increase despite inflation. This means even more taxes contributing to California's unaffordability. For many it's "what's another \$250?" But not everyone in Lafayette is wealthy. Increased costs also get trickled down to renters and small business customers, many who can't claim the senior exemption.

Yes, the state's funding model is broken. But the same people using it as a reason for this tax are ones who continue supporting those in Sacramento that keep the system going. Again, no accountability. No on H. Lauren Herpich - Lafayette mother and former Lafayette City Council candidate

Sarah Lind - Lafayette mother and former Lafayette School Board candidate
Stacy Schirmer - Lafayette mother, and 26-year resident and homeowner

The Fiscal Case for Supporting Measure H

As a tax attorney who has spent decades advising clients on all matters related to California state and local taxes, and as a parent of two children currently in the Lafayette School District, I evaluate Measure H with a clear eye toward both fiscal responsibility and real-world impact.

The central issue is straightforward: Lafayette schools face a structural funding gap driven by California's education finance system. This is not the result of overspending. The district has already implemented more than \$5 million in budget reductions and efficiencies. The shortfall is on the revenue side.

Measure H replaces an existing parcel tax that is set to expire, providing a stable, locally controlled source of funding to maintain the quality of our schools. From a financial standpoint, stability matters. Schools cannot plan, retain teachers, or sustain core academic programs on uncertain or fluctuating revenue.

No parcel tax is perfect. By design, parcel taxes are not based on income, which raises valid questions about equity. But they offer two critical advantages: predictability and local control. In a state where school funding is largely determined at the state level, parcel taxes are one of the few tools communities have to directly invest in their schools.

Lamorinda Weekly's Website and emails restored after patch by hosting company

On April 30, a critical security vulnerability affecting cPanel & WHM login authentication was identified by Lamorinda Weekly's hosting company Network Solutions. According to their vendor, this issue could have exposed servers to unauthorized access if left unpatched. They secured these servers but took Lamorindaweekly.com offline while they addressed the issue from May 3 - May 7. There was no data breach, but a few days of emails were lost all together. As of Friday, May 8, the website and emails are functioning normally again.

Measure H also includes important fiscal safeguards. Funds are restricted, independently audited, and cannot be used for administrative salaries. They remain local and subject to community oversight. Furthermore, the existing senior exemption is preserved with Measure H.

The financial implications extend beyond the school district. Strong public schools are one of the most consistent drivers of property values and community stability. In Lafayette, they are a central reason families choose to live here. Allowing the quality of those schools to erode would have long-term economic consequences for the entire community.

As a parent, I see what is at stake in the classroom. As a tax attorney, I see the importance of making prudent, forward-looking financial decisions. Measure H is not about expansion. It is about maintaining what works with a stable, transparent funding source. It is a sound financial decision, and I urge Lafayette voters to support it.

Shail Shah
Lafayette

This is Not a Close Call: Why We Must Vote Yes on Measure H

I have lived in Lafayette for 29 years and currently serve on the City Council, twice as Mayor, and spent years working on the issues that shape this community: emergency preparedness, traffic, support for local businesses, and above all, the relationship between our city and our schools. I know this community well. And I'm here to tell you: vote yes on Measure H.

Strong schools and a strong city are not separate goals. They are the same goal. On the City Council, one of our core strategic objectives was deepening collaboration between the City of Lafayette and our school district — because we understand that what happens in our classrooms shapes everything else. Our property values, our civic culture, and our ability to attract and retain the families and businesses that make Lafayette thrive - all of it flows from the quality of our schools.

Measure H will help us retain high-quality teachers, maintain small class sizes, and protect the academic programs that define a Lafayette education. Every dollar stays local. There are no funds for administrator salaries, mandatory audits are required, and a citizens' oversight committee ensures accountability. Seniors can apply for an exemption.

As someone who sits at the intersection of city and school governance, I can tell you that local funding measures like this one are exactly how communities like ours take responsibility for what matters most. The state won't do it for us — California's funding formula ranks Lafayette among the lowest-funded districts in the state. We have always stepped up to fill that gap, and Measure H asks us to do so again. This is not a close call. Our schools are worth protecting. Please vote yes on Measure H.

Susan Candell
City Councilmember and twice Mayor of Lafayette

A teacher for Measure H

I have spent my career teaching in Lafayette, and I can tell you without hesitation: this community's commitment to its schools is something special. Parents show up. Kids are engaged. And for most of my career, I have had the resources I need to do my job well.

Measure H will continue to make that possible ... and without it, things change fast.

Teaching is not just a job for me. It's a calling. But callings don't pay mortgages. Lafayette teachers are already competing against neighboring districts that can offer higher salaries, and every year we lose talented col-

leagues who simply can't afford to stay. Measure H helps keep competitive salaries in reach and protects against the kind of layoffs that gut a school's culture and continuity.

Beyond salaries, I've watched what happens when funding gets cut. Class sizes creep up. Vital programs get cut. These aren't luxuries; they're what spark student engagement and create meaningful, effective learning experiences.

Lafayette's students deserve better than a slow erosion of the programs that set this district apart. And Lafayette's families deserve to know that the teachers they trust with their children are being supported, not squeezed out.

Measure H replaces the expiring parcel tax and includes strict accountability: no funds for administrator salaries, mandatory audits, and citizen oversight. It's responsible, targeted, and essential.

I'm asking you to vote yes on Measure H. Not just for teachers like me, but for every student who walks through our doors expecting the best. Let's make sure we can still deliver it.

Eileen Leach
Burton Valley Teacher of the Year

Measure H and LPIE funds

Every year, Lafayette parents, neighbors, and local businesses come together to support our schools through both the parcel tax and LPIE (Lafayette Partners in Education). Together, these two sources of local funding make possible the level of education our community expects.

This year, LPIE has committed \$4.65 million to Lafayette schools, funding teachers, academic support, wellness services, and expanded course offerings across all six campuses.

We are proud of what this community makes possible. But it's important to be clear: neither LPIE nor the parcel tax can do this alone.

In practice, both fund the core of our schools. The parcel tax supports smaller class sizes and helps retain excellent teachers. LPIE funds additional teachers, academic support, and programs that are part of the school day. Together, they ensure students have access to a strong academic foundation and a well-rounded experience. Take away either piece, and the system doesn't work as it does today.

I've seen what this community can accomplish when we invest together. Please protect that investment and support our schools. Vote yes on Measure H.

Jaia Kaufman
President, Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE)

Close the funding gap with Yes on Measure H

We have called Lafayette home for nearly 50 years. In that time, Don spent 33 years in city government focused on long-term investments, and Ellen spent years volunteering for the Lafayette Library. We have watched this community grow - and we know what makes it work.

Strong schools don't just benefit families with children. They shape a city's character, drive property values, and attract the residents and businesses that sustain a healthy local economy. They are as essential as roads and parks - and far more underfunded by the state than most people realize.

California's funding formula ranks Lafayette among the lowest-funded districts in the state. We have always closed that gap locally. Measure H replaces an expiring parcel tax and adds to it to accommodate inflation and district needs, to ensure that we are able to maintain the high quality education our students deserve.

Please vote yes on Measure H.

Don Tatzin and Ellen Reintjes
Lafayette

Please submit letters to the editor to:
letters.lamorindaweekly@gmail.com
Letters should be 350 words max

Roasted Artichoke Heart Pasta with olives and lemons - a perfect pairing for spring

By Susie Iventosch



Photos Susie Iventosch

This pasta dish, made with grilled or roasted artichoke hearts, tangy olives and a handful of peppery arugula, is tossed in lemon and garlic-infused olive oil creating a perfect combination of flavors. We love to serve it with a grilled slice of sourdough bread and a side salad for a delightful, light springtime meal.

You usually think of pasta as a chilly weather dish, but when done with the right ingredients, it's perfect for a light meal on a warm spring or summer evening. This is exactly that kind of pasta recipe. It's light, bright, and full of bold flavors. It's super easy to make and perfect for when you want something satisfying but not heavy, elegant but still effortless.

The flavor really starts with the olive oil. Gently infused with garlic and fresh lemon, it becomes the backbone of the entire recipe – simple, fragrant, and full of depth. Tossed with delicate strands of capellini, it coats every bite without weighing it down, letting each ingredient shine. The smoky, tender grilled artichokes, olives, and a handful of fresh arugula give the pasta the depth, and a final squeeze of lemon ties everything together, giving the dish that signature brightness that keeps you coming back for another forkful.

Enjoy this meal on the patio with a glass of Sancerre!

Roasted Artichoke Heart Pasta

INGREDIENTS

Garlic & Lemon Infused Olive Oil

- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. fresh-squeezed lemon juice

Grilled or Roasted Artichoke Hearts

- 1 (14 oz.) can quartered artichoke hearts
- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. lemon pepper

Pasta and Toppings

- 1 lb. capellini pasta (angel hair)
- 1 1/2 cups olives (we like Castelvetrano and cracked green olives for this, but you can definitely use your favorite kind of olives).
- 2 cups arugula leaves
- 1/2 cup pistachios, (roasted and salted), coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup Gruyere cheese, grated. (Can also use Parmesan or Pecorino Romano)
- 1-2 whole lemons, sliced

DIRECTIONS

Preparing the Infused Olive Oil

Heat the olive oil over medium heat on the stove. Add the minced garlic, and reduce heat to low. Cook until the garlic is a little bit sizzled. Add lemon juice. Set aside until ready to heat and serve. This step is best done several hours ahead of time so the flavors have a chance to infuse the oil. But, if you're in a hurry, you can also do this step as you prepare the rest of the ingredients.

Grill or Roast Artichoke Hearts

Lay artichoke hearts out on a tray and drizzle with olive oil. Season with lemon pepper. Roast at 425 F for about 10 minutes, or until the edges start to become golden-brown. Remove from heat. Note: This can also be done indirectly on the barbecue over medium-high heat and set aside.

Assembling the Pasta

Cook pasta to al dente. Drain and toss with warmed olive oil mixture, arugula, roasted artichoke hearts and olives. Serve in hot pasta bowls or plates, and garnish with lemon slices, pistachios and Gruyère cheese.

Serve with a slice of toasted or grilled sourdough bread, brushed with olive oil.

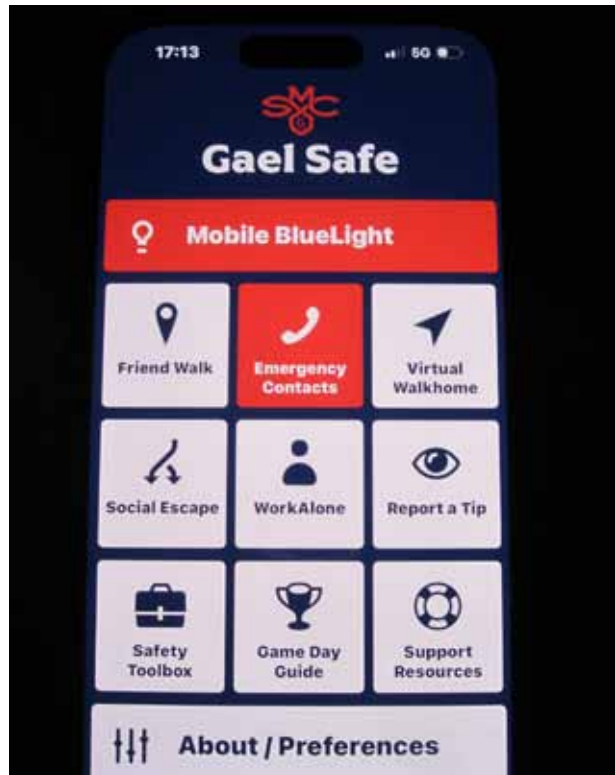


Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



SMC holds Active Shooter Response Workshop

By Vera Kochan



It is estimated that 50% of the SMC community has downloaded the "Gael Safe" app.

Photo Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College held an Active Shooter Response Workshop on April 9 and 15 for students and staff in order to explain key concepts to help protect both individuals and the campus. The workshop also offered guidance on how to respond effectively.

Campus Safety & Transportation Executive Director Nathan Johnson, Ed.D. took attendees through various objectives such as providing background on active incidents, discussing general strategies for surviving an active incident based on best practices, encouraging the need to pre-plan, and identifying available resources and capabilities. He stressed that the recommendations are general and might not apply to every situation.

Johnson noted that, "The FBI designated 229 active shooter incidents from 2019 to 2023. This

represents an 89% increase in active shooter incidents (121) from the previous five-year period (2014-2018). The 229 active shooter incidents from 2019 to 2023 occurred in 44 states and the District of Columbia." The period between 2024 to 2025 showed the first decline in recent years by 50%.

General statistics for active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 to 2013 were 510 incidents with a total of 3,657 casualties.

Businesses had 220 incidents while houses of worship had 16. The most common weapons used were handguns (465), rifles (176), and shotguns (60).

"The perpetrators of mass shootings are often incorrectly portrayed as mentally unhinged individuals who simply 'snap' and engage in a killing rampage," explained Johnson. "The reality is that the major-

ity of mass public shooters are individuals who would not be classified as either clinically or legally insane at the time of their crime."

Johnson added, "The perpetrators are more likely to be angry, vengeful individuals who seek retribution for a perceived harm done by some person, group, or institution. Moreover, mass public shooting incidents are generally premeditated and often planned well in advance of their commission."

According to Johnson, "Run (if you can), Hide (if you need to), and Fight (if you must)." These are key elements to surviving an active shooter incident. "Run: Get out, even if others insist on staying; help others if possible; leave belongings behind; and once out, call 911. Hide: If you can't get out, find a place to hide; barricade or lock doors; hide behind large objects; be quiet and silence your phone; and if necessary, play dead. Fight: Attempt to incapacitate the shooter; act with aggression; improvise weapons; and commit to your actions." Most importantly, "don't be a deer in headlights – think and act."

If, during an incident, phone contact with the police is made, be prepared to provide the location; a description of the suspect/suspects; any special considerations; type of weapon (if known); and stay on the phone with it set to vibrate. In the event of possible explosives, don't move or touch anything, and don't use a mobile phone near the device. They emit electromagnetic waves and radio frequencies that can theoretically trigger detonators or ignite sur-

rounding explosive vapors.

Pre-planning for an active shooter situation is one way to get ahead of an otherwise potentially chaotic scenario. Johnson recommends locating safe spaces within work areas; knowing which entrances and exits lock;

noting movable furniture to block doorways; always carry a mobile phone; be able to notify police of location and status; and use anything at hand that could be a weapon such as a heavy stapler, letter opener, chairs, etc.

After an incident, don't be afraid to seek

counseling. Post traumatic symptoms may occur in the form of changes in behavior, change in diet, and sleep disorders (lack of/nightmares).

"If you remember as much of this advice as possible," stated Johnson, "it will greatly diminish your risks."

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Lamorinda celebrates Earth Day in a variety of ways



Colorful booths filled Lafayette Plaza on April 26 as part of Sustainable Lafayette's Earth Day Festival.

Several colorful booths filled downtown Lafayette Plaza on April 26 as part of Sustainable Lafayette's Earth Day

Festival, which included information about recycling, composting, public transportation, and more as well as fun

games like giant LEGOs and cornhole for the kids. In Orinda, children donned in neon green "Orinda Action Day" T-Shirts and armed with garbage grabbers headed to the hillside behind Orinda Community Park on April 25 in search of elusive hidden trash as part of the Earth Care Carnival, sponsored by Mindful Littles and Orinda Parks and Recreation. Other groups of residents cleaned up at several different locations throughout the city.

Moraga was a bit more low-key, focusing on herbs and potpourri at 5A Rent-a-Space. - J. Wake



Local kids hunt for trashy treasures on April 25 on the hillside behind Orinda Community Park.

Photos J. Wake

Lamorinda middle school students honored for character, unveil 'Peace Through Art' Project

Submitted by Bob Marino



Award recipients, pictured from left: Teddy Carroll, Sophie Powell, Saiona Braman-Pleasants, Alina Ngo-Olson, Robby Redding, Kai Sviatocha-Lim, Kayla Koray, Alice Upson, Aaron Alvarado

Photo Leander Hauri

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary recently honored outstanding middle school students at its fourth annual Good Character Awards ceremony, recognizing young people who consistently demonstrate kindness, truthfulness, fairness, and service to others.

Students were selected for their sustained acts of integrity and leadership by teachers and administrators from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (Alice Upson, Kayla Koray, and Teddy Carroll), Orinda Intermediate School (Alina Ngo-Olson, Robby Redding, and Saiona Braman-Pleasants), and Stanley Middle School (Sophie Powell, Aaron Alvarado, and Kai Sviatocha-Lim).

The ceremony, held at the Campolindo High School Library, was at-

tended by families, school leaders, and civic officials, including Aida Glimme, Superintendent of the Orinda Union School District; Julie Parks, Superintendent of the Moraga School District; Carl Anduri, Mayor of the City of Lafayette; Kerry Hillis, Mayor of the Town of Moraga; and Brandyn Iverson, Mayor of the City of Orinda. Dave Kemnitz, President of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and Bob Marino, Youth Services Chair, presented the awards.

Keynote speaker Bhavana Kasalanati, copresident of Campolindo's Interact Club, encouraged students to continue their leadership journey. "You are all leaders in your own right," she said. "There is a place for you to continue your passion for service and to grow as a

leader." Rotary Past President Alex Arnold underscored the enduring importance of character. "These aren't just words we put on a certificate," he said. "They're the habits that shape a life and lift a community."

A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Peace Through Art, a Rotary-sponsored initiative developed in partnership with local middle school art programs. Students painted wooden pickets during their art classes, each expressing a personal interpretation of peace, empathy and community. The artwork will be installed at locations throughout Lamorinda.

For more information, visit www.lamorindasunrise.org.

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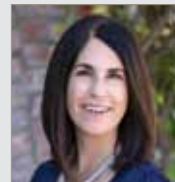
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Students on a mission: One student's spring break trip to Tijuana

By Cayley Chang



Cayley Chang and Kennedy Bond at the campsite in Tijuana. Photos provided

The week before spring break at Campolindo High School feels like a long red-eye flight. Everyone is tired, irritable, and just waiting to leave. Then comes Saturday, March 28 – my departure day. This is my third time participating in the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church mission trip to Mexico to help build homes for families in need.

For people like me, who are preparing mentally for a 14-hour bus ride ahead of them, it is a quiet day. Last minute shopping for tent necessities, a Costco run to hold me over for the week, and some quality dog time before heading to Tijuana where I'll befriend all the wild dogs that I will explicitly be seen told time again not to pet.

On March 28 at 11:30 p.m. sharp, the buses full of about 150

excited kids leave for our journey down to Tijuana. Fourteen hours later, we cross the border on foot with all our luggage and embark on the final stretch to our campsite – a peaceful area surrounded by beautiful hills. We spend the rest of our first day setting up tents, getting used to the porta potties, and meeting new people. By 10 p.m., we collapse in our sleeping bags, exhausted from the travel day.

The next morning, we are woken up at 6:30 a.m. sharp, ready to tackle the day. After breakfast, we board our buses and make way to our work site. This year, my team was building for a family with a 2-year-old named Naomi. Once we introduce our team and get set up, we dive head first into building.

The first day is by far the most labor inten-

sive. In order to be on track to finish the house by the end of the week, we have to finish our foundation. To do this, we need to make concrete. The method goes as follows: one bucket of cement, two buckets of gravel, and three buckets of dirt. Once the dry ingredients are mixed, we add water until the consistency is like oatmeal. Mixing is no small task. By the time we get back to the campsite around 4:30 p.m., my overalls are covered in dried cement. I take my filthy backpack off, grab my sunshower (a bag of warm water heated from sitting out in the sun) and head to the shower area.

After what seems like the fastest shower of my life, I head back to my tent to change and grab my taco money. In addition to the actual dinner that is served to everyone for free, a local

family comes and cooks tacos, churros and burritos for us each night. Once everyone has had a chance to eat, play some Spikeball and talk to their friends about either their successful, or unsuccessful first day, it is time for worship.

Worship is one of my favorite parts of the trip. The whole group gets together to talk about our mission in Tijuana, play fun games, (ask me how the hammer competition went this year), sing worship songs and of course, pray. By the end of worship, there are two groups of people: those kids who are ready for quiet and sleep; and those who feel like the night is still young. I am part of this second group and it's around this time that I make all my new friends as we get up to random shenanigans on these nights.

Bonding with kids across all ages and from different schools is something so unique about this experience. After a while, we reluctantly make our way to the communal teeth brushing station to get ready for bed. The next days consist of wall building, sawing and nailing, roof building, chicken wiring and tar papering the walls, and applying three coats of stucco. The hard work put into these homes is truly astonishing. It is amazing what a group of high schoolers with no building experience or church membership required, and who have never met can accomplish in such a short period of time.

The most memorable part of this whole trip is gifting the house to the families on the last day. Each team hands over the keys to a safe, lockable shelter, as well as some other gifts like



This small one-room shelter was built for a couple with a 2-year-old daughter.

toys for the kids.

This trip is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am so hon-

ored to be a part of someone's life changing forever.

NCL-Acalanes Chapter recognizes 21 graduating seniors

Submitted by Mary Gray Ranzal



2026 Senior Class, from left, back row: Maddie Silveira, Lilly Schmidt, Cate Appleton, Maddie Bernstein, Natalie Hamill, Ella Binney, Piper Coy, Sage Balducci, Molly Jones, Christina Hageboeck, Grace Wolpert; middle row: Olivia Metz, Mia Walloch, Paige Walburg, Caitlin Loughran; front row: Charlotte Gellman, Ellie Hansen, Ava Ranzal, Mia Kelly, Olivia Lewis, Olivia Tomasco

The Acalanes Chapter of National Charity League on March 7 recognized and celebrated its 21 graduating seniors in a lovely Senior Recognition event at the Orinda Country Club, marking the culmination of six years of service to the community for these dedicated young women. They began their journey in the mother-daughter philanthropic organization as seventh-graders, and have collectively volunteered

more than 6,275 hours to local philanthropies, some of which support the arts or the environment, and many that provide health and social services to children, families, and the elderly.

Each year the graduating class of NCL's Acalanes Chapter organizes a local nonprofit organization to support. This year, the 21 girls of the Class of 2026 opted to partner with Grateful Gatherings, an organiza-

tion that believes that children and adults thrive outside the home if they have a safe, warm, properly equipped and furnished home.

NCL's Acalanes Chapter supports many local nonprofit organizations through its mission to foster mother-daughter relationships in its commitment to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences.

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Saturday, May 23
at 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION

Orinda Library Auditorium
26 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563
LIVESTREAM available

The Library is 10 minutes walk from the Orinda BART station.
Free childcare will be available.

Not to be missed

Art

Valley Art Gallery's Featured artist through May 30 is the highly acclaimed watercolor artist Ruth Miller, who maintains a successful career as a professional artist while sharing her love for art with the local school children and teaching an art history curriculum that she designed. Meet the Artist from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 27 at the Gallery located at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to present "Spring To Summer" with a curated exhibition at the Papillon Cafe & Gallery in Lafayette through June 9. The days are getting longer, and it is time for the wildflowers to show off their beautiful blooms. We are exhibiting artwork that celebrates the seasons of Spring and Summer. Flowers, butterflies, birds and bees in our gardens, local landscapes and scenery. The paintings include the

pastel colors of spring and the bolder colors of summer. Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffee & Tea is located in La Fiestra Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.

The Main Street Arts Gallery is pleased to feature guest artist Iretta Hunter, a watercolorist whose vibrant work explores a variety of subjects, often from unusual angles and close-up perspectives, through June 28. In addition, the display windows of the gallery will be featuring Martinez-themed art during May and June, in honor of Martinez's 150th Anniversary of Incorporation. Main Street Arts is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez. Open Wednesday-Saturday 11-4, Sunday 10-3 and Martinez First Fridays 11-9. www.mainstreetarts.net

Theater

Looking for a fun, different way to spend your Friday night? Come check out Orinda's First Friday celebration, then get LIT at our adults-

only BYOB Improv Jam! This relaxed, just-for-fun event is all about sharing laughs and enjoying a playful night out—no experience required. We'll play easy, low-pressure, high-energy improv games. Whether you prefer to take the stage or simply enjoy the show, just bring your favorite drink and unwind, have fun, and connect with others. Friday, June 5, 7 p.m. LIT Studio, 2 Orinda Theater Square, Ste 111, Orinda. Register at <https://www.litimprov.com/> Cost: \$20 per person

The Orinda Starlight Village Players presents "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Mark Shanan's all new adaptation of the classic Agatha Christie mystery directed and designed by Matt Cardigan-Smith June 5 through July 4 in the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater (located at 28 Orinda Way in Orinda). Set in an English village in 1926, the widowed Mrs. Ferrars is found dead by apparent suicide and shortly after her fiancé, the most prominent man in town - Roger Ackroyd, is found dead, rumors start to run rampant. <https://www.orsvp.org/the-murder-of-roger-ackroyd>

Music

St Mary's Spring 2026 Performances presents a free Chamber Players and Concert Ensemble "Love Is All Around" on Friday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel and a Choir Concert "Stronger Than the Storm" on Saturday, May 16 at 3 and 7 p.m. at the Chapel. Free for SMC Students, Admitted Students, & High School Juniors; \$15 Faculty/Staff/Non-SMC Students: \$20 General

Admission plus ticketing fees. Please purchase tickets online ahead of time at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/liberal-arts/performing-arts/box-office>

St. Paul's Concert Series is delighted to present Dr. Natalie Chan Ning, in a spectacular pipe organ performance on Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m. at 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Dr. Ning will present a dynamic program ranging from classical masterworks to modern compositions—music of lyrical simplicity and grand, multi-layered textures that transforms the very space into sound. No tickets necessary. Optional donations accepted. St. Paul's Concert Series is pleased to invite its audience in-person for this event, and we will also broadcast this performance simultaneously online. To obtain the online link and review the full concert program, visit St. Paul's at stpaulswc.org/concert-series.

Literature

Local author Tess Perko will discuss her debut novel, "Learning to Whistle," at Orinda Books on June 6 at 2 p.m. "Learning to Whistle" is a contemporary women's fiction novel about a recently bereft daughter who journeys to South America to run away from her grief—and instead finds self-discovery and healing. It makes a perfect summer read. Resister at <https://orinda-books.com/event/2026-06-06/tess-perko-learning-whistle>

Other

Let's Run Lamorinda! There is a new FREE homegrown running

Not to be missed

club in our own neighborhood. Sahand Shahrabani, a Miramonte grad, is a local runner and founder of this club. This group is purely for the joy of running and health enthusiasts. Gather in front of 24hr Fitness on Rheem in Moraga every Monday (rain or shine!) at 6 p.m. for a 45-to-90-minute run.

"Moving past fear - to healing," presented by Lisa Troseth, practitioner of Christian Science healing on Saturday, May 23, at 2:30 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The talk will focus on universal healing precepts found in the Holy Bible, especially in Christ Jesus' life and teachings, showing how they are available for anyone to understand and experience through the lens of Christian Science. The talk is free, open to the community.

Collective Medicine Circle is a guided meditation and sound bath experience in Orinda, designed to support relaxation, reflection, and meaningful connection. Held in a peaceful, intimate setting, each gathering blends mindfulness practices with live, multi-instrument sound healing. Ideal for those seeking stress relief, personal renewal, and a consistent wellness ritual within the Lamorinda community. Thursday, June 4, 6:30 p.m. at 501 Orinda Woods Drive in Orinda. This is a recurring monthly gathering held on the first Thursday of each month in Orinda.

Kids Teaching Kids: An AI Workshop Thursday, May 14, 4 to 5 p.m. Introduction to AI Concepts (Grades 5-8). This beginner-friendly ses-

sion introduces the fundamentals of artificial intelligence using activities inspired by MIT's Day of AI curriculum. Students will explore how AI works and how it's used in everyday life through simple, hands-on projects. Led by Benji Spicer-Youakim and Leo Xie, middle school students and co-founders of the SIGMA Club at Saklan School. Bring your own device or use a library laptop. Space is limited. Registration required: 925-376-6852. Moraga Library 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga.

Garden

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center is celebrating its 15th year with a Community Open House on Sunday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The community garden is located across from the reservoir at 3932 Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. All are invited and the event is free. In addition to guided tours of the garden, there will be information on raising chickens, master gardening, raising bees, simple crafts, refreshments, an opportunity to walk a labyrinth and see the garden's Miwok Village. Garden members will be on hand to answer gardening questions and showcase their use of vermiculture (worm composting), drip irrigation, ways of amending of beds, native plants and use of hinged covers and mesh enclosures as ways of protecting plants from critters. www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org

Georgia Dawn Briskey To Wed Leo James Fahmie

Dawn and John Briskey, Orinda, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Georgia Dawn Briskey, to Leo James Fahmie, son of Frances and Leo Fahmie, Los Angeles.

Georgia is the granddaughter of Sallie and Jay Sanders, Orinda, formerly of Menlo Park.

Georgia attended Miramonte High School and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in computer science. She is employed at Credera, a business technology consulting firm in Los Angeles.

Leo attended El Segundo High School. He graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and earned a degree in business and finance. He is employed at Netflix in Los Angeles.

A 2027 wedding is planned.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

Lafayette United Methodist Church
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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.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette
Sundays at 10 a.m.
Serving Lamorinda since 1960
www.stanselms.us

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Join us in person or on Facebook and YouTube livestream services every Sunday at 9:30 AM
We are an LGBTQ+ affirming, RIC church!
1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
www.OSLC.NET 925.283.3722
SPIRIT@OSLC.NET

St Stephen's Episcopal Church
Worshipping, Learning, Serving
www.ststephenorinda.org

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

St. Perpetua Catholic Church & School
3454 Hamlin Rd
Lafayette, Ca 94549
Parish office 925.283.0272
School office 925.284.1640
www.stperpetua.org
office@stperpetua.org
Building a vibrant, welcoming, and missionary parish community centered on Jesus Christ
Pastor: Fr. Jimmy Macalino
Business Manager: Gianni Manzone
School Principle: Molly Gotchet
Daily Mass M-F 9am, Sat-5pm, Sun-9:30 & 11:30. Check website for details

Lamorinda Weekly

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Please submit community events to: calendar.lamorindaweekly@gmail.com

'Ky Nam Inn' – A tender romance from Vietnam amid a nation learning to reconnect

By Sophie Braccini

In post-war Vietnam, just after the victory of the Vietcong and reunification in the early 1980s, the country was under the rule of the Communist Party. In cities such as Ho Chi Minh City (also known as Saigon in former South Vietnam), neighborhoods are policed by local leaders, and everyone scrutinizes everyone else. In this context of petty privileges and timid attempts at individualism, young Khang arrives from Hanoi (former North Vietnam), carrying both the privilege of a powerful uncle and a prestigious assignment. This humble and generous young man is soon drawn to Ky Nam, an attractive widow and talented cook, surrounded by an aura of mystery.

The film unfolds as a beautiful, slow dance between two souls wounded by life, both seeking recognition and peace. For director Leon

Le, the story is less about plot than about what comes after conflict. Khang is from the North, and Ky Nam from the South. "It's not just a love story between a man and a woman," he said in an interview with Variety. "It's reconciliation between the winner and the loser, between the North and the South." He adds, "What are we going to do now, after the war has ended, after the foreigners have left, and we have to live with each other again?"

Khang is a translator. The government has tasked him with producing a new translation from French to Vietnamese of Antoine De Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince." Between Ky Nam and the young man – both versed in history and literature – a bond begins to form through their shared understanding of the book, which is ultimately about love.

The film not only explores reconciliation after war and separation, but also addresses the legacy of colonialism. As the director notes, it was made for the Vietnamese people. It does not explain the historical context in detail, and while mature viewers may clearly remember the divisions between North and South Vietnam, as well as the country's colonial past, younger audiences may benefit from the perspective of their elders. Beyond its specific historical setting, the film serves as a powerful metaphor for mending relationships between communities that have learned to hate and fear one another.

Director Leon Le immigrated from Vietnam at the age of 12. He has carried with him the sounds, sights, and atmosphere of his native land, recreating them with meticulous detail in

the old quarters of Ho Chi Minh City, where much has remained intact.

The journey of the two main characters toward one another is portrayed with great care and compassion. Ky Nam has endured much, and the arrival of young Khang from the former enemy side is likely painful. He approaches her with respect and curiosity, slowly building trust. This delicate process echoes the relationship between the little prince and the fox in "The Little Prince" – the same patience, affection, and, ultimately, love. It's this factor of love, that has the potential for supplanting the vicissitudes of war, that makes this movie relevant for our time, as well as theirs.

"Ky Nam Inn" will open at the Orinda Theatre on May 22 for at least a week. It is brought to Lamorinda by



Photo provided

the International Film Showcase, a local non-profit. For times and

tickets go to: Orindamovies.com.

Carole Judith Lucas

Dec. 20, 1934 – March 21, 2026



Carole Judith Lucas, of Moraga, California, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Carole was born on December 20, 1934, to William and Erna Petersen in Barrington, Illinois. She moved to California in 1945 and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Concord in 1952 and attended Cal Berkeley 1952-1953. In 1955 she met Ed Lucas. They were married in 1956. They went on to have 3 children, Greg, Dina and Steve.

She worked for Pacific Telephone Co., 1953, Dow Chemical Co., 1955 and was a homemaker. She then went back to work for St. Mary's College as Assistant Director of Development from 1980-1993.

She was immensely involved in the Moraga community. She held various volunteer positions in many organizations such as Moraga Service League, Scouts, Moraga Ranch Swim Team, Moraga Library, and Moraga Historical Society. She and Ed were avid St. Mary's College Basketball fans, season ticket holders for over 50 years. She loved to read, family camping, vacations at their cabin in Bear Valley, genealogy, word games, Mah-Jong, and of course hanging out with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded by her parents, brother Billy and husband Ed. She is survived by her children Greg Lucas (Cindy), Dina Fiorio (Danny) and Steve Lucas (Darla). Grandchildren Ashlee Blom (Dane), Chelsea Estrada (Anthony), Hannah Tyler (Ben), Zoe Calara (Gabe), Bailey Fiorio, Daniel Lucas, Lindsey Lucas, and Ben Lucas. Great Grandchildren Skyler and Harper Blom, Ellie and Hayes Estrada, Griffin and Emmy Tyler and Lucas, Miles and Nori Calara.

A Celebration of her life will be held at Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park St., Moraga on Thursday, June 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers we request donations be made to either St. Jude's Childrens Hospital or Moraga Historical Society, organizations Carole felt strongly about.



Rev. David James Ricketts

Jan. 2, 1970 - April 12, 2026

On April 12, 2026, at the age of 56, Rev. Dave Ricketts had a heart attack and died while in the Dominican Republic working with Here for Kids and Seed to Sower Ministries.

Dave was born in Santa Cruz, California, to Terry and Nancy Ricketts. His brother John arrived two years later. The family placed high value on church involvement. Beginning in high school, Dave took part in spring break house-building trips to Mexico; he participated in or led 32 Mexico trips, 20 with Amor Ministries.

In 1991, Dave earned a BA in Religious Studies from Westmont College in Santa Barbara. In 2004, he earned an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2006.

Dave met his wife Siv on their first night at Westmont. They fell in love at age 20 and married at 23; their 33rd wedding anniversary will be May 22. Their sons, Corban (27) and Quinn (22), are the great joy of their life.

Dave served five churches during his career: Oxnard First Baptist; Solana Beach Presbyterian; Mt. Soledad Presbyterian; Moraga Valley Presbyterian, as Associate Pastor for 19 years; and San Clemente Presbyterian, as Co-Lead Pastor for only seven months.

An avid outdoorsman, Dave enjoyed hiking, camping, backpacking, and fly fishing. He took his family camping throughout the U.S. and to explore the jungles of Costa Rica. To celebrate his 50th birthday, Dave climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. In Lamorinda, he had a side gig as "The Snake Guy," safely relocating rattlesnakes from neighbors' yards, committed to the people and environments in which he lived. He delighted in sharing his sons' adventures with Boy Scout Troop 212.

Dave will be remembered for his larger-than-life personality, booming voice, and infectious laugh. He was the life of the party, went above and beyond in service, and loved deeply.

Dave is survived by his wife, Siv, and sons Corban (Hallie) and Quinn; his parents, Terry and Nancy, and brother John; three brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; four nephews and a niece.

A celebration of life service will be held at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. June 21.



Norman Kilburn Tuttle II

Oct. 30, 1935 - March 17, 2026

Norm lived a full, successful, and satisfying life but died at age 90 after a few short months of not enjoying life at all. He was born in Watsonville, the same town where his grandfather was born in 1877 to a pioneering family. Norm loved his Tuttle family history, going back to 1636 in New Haven, Conn.

In 1950, he relocated to Orinda with his family, parents Katie Lou Crawford and Norman Tuttle, along with his younger sister Joey, and made lifelong friends at Acalanes High School. At UC Berkeley he was recruited out of the "Reg Line" for the Cal Crew, earning three varsity letters and being chosen as captain. He liked to joke that rowing was the only sport where you sit down and go backward. He was a member and ultimately President of Sigma Phi Society which he said he joined because they didn't have locks on the doors.

Norm married his college sweetheart Barbara Hall in their senior year before graduating in 1957. Norm served as an officer in the Air Force (he bravely flew a desk) and returned to Berkeley to attend Boalt Hall (aka Berkeley Law) where he graduated in 1963. By then they had been joined by son Crawford and daughter Cameron.

Most of Norm's legal career was spent as a partner at the highly regarded law firm Crosby Heafey Roach and May in Oakland developing his expertise and reputation as a real estate attorney. His warm, charismatic, curious, and authentic approach led to many of his clients becoming his friends. He never tried to impress anyone as evidenced by his not-so-snazzy Mazda pickup that he drove to work. Norm was also legendary for his mentoring of younger lawyers. He was fondly referred to as "The Professor" by some of his partners and was famous for the annual historical tour of Oakland he led for the firm's summer interns.

Barbara and Norm built a house in Lafayette in 1964 where they hosted wonderful gatherings and raised their two children along with many pets. Sadly, Barbara died of cancer in 1976.

Norm felt a deep connection to his community, serving on the Lafayette Planning Commission and City Council, including a year as Mayor. He chaired the Lafayette goals and policies committee that was fundamental to the development of the city's first general plan. He was a longtime fan of the Marquis de Lafayette and threw himself into building a sister-city relationship with Langeac, the birthplace of Lafayette, in south-central France. He led a "State Visit" to Langeac, consisting of about eight teens, including his kids and his nephews and niece, all on bikes. Prior to their riding into town, he carefully prepped them on how to behave amid the throngs of people who would be waiting to greet them.

Much to the amusement of some, but definitely not all, not a soul was there. Later the visiting contingent was properly feted, but Norm gamely put up with the teasing. For years! It was classic Norm, turning an idea into an adventure and bringing young people along for the ride.

Norm met the one he had been waiting for and happily fell in love with Mary Lee Ullner Burress and they married in 1992. Wonderful and exotic travel adventures brought out his creativity including skits, plays and costumes. Norm and Mary Lee lived their life together in chapters. They moved from Lafayette to become city dwellers in a San Francisco apartment while Mary Lee did one of her fixer-uppers in St. Helena. Norm's love of gardening enhanced the outside while ML worked inside. After 18 years in St. Helena, they bought a new home in Maui, a favorite destination for them both. Norm loved watching the sunsets at Keawakapu Beach with friends and working alongside Mary Lee to create a tropical paradise at their new home. In 2023 they returned to the East Bay where they both had many friends and happy memories and settled in Rossmoor.

Norm enjoyed celebrating his recent 90th birthday with most of his family who gathered to share many memories and much laughter. His family was happy to be able to tell him personally and before it was too late how much he was loved.

Norm is survived by Mary Lee, his son Crawford, wife Molly and their children Olivia and Owen of Camas, Wash., and his daughter Cameron of Sonoma. Mary Lee's children, son JD Burress, his wife Christina, and their children Nick and Ali as well as her daughter Katy Joyce and her husband Billy with their sons Jacy and Jaxxon who were all very much a part of Norm's life. Norm is also survived by step-brother Peter Frazier (Robin), his sister Joey Tuttle Judge, brother-in-law Bill, their children, and grandchildren who all dearly loved him. Norm is missed by many.





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www.smcwomenssoccer.com



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Summer 2026 Camps and Classes

Adventure Day Camp (Moraga)

A traditional summer day camp, providing a welcoming, lively, safe, positive, and diverse environment for children ages 3-15. The program exposes campers to a variety of fun, exciting and at times challenging activities that will strengthen their teamwork skills, bolster their confidence, and develop their sense of self-esteem. campinfo@adventuredaycamp.com

(925) 937-6500 | www.adventuredaycamp.com

The ArtRoom (Lafayette)

The ArtRoom is excited to be offering weekly camps this summer. Choose from Fine Art Camps for ages 5-12, Clay Camps for ages 7-17, and Teen Intensives in Painting, Drawing, Embroidery, Sculpture, and more. Join us for half or full day, with a Lunch Bunch option available!

Dates: Weekly, June - August
(925) 299-1515 | www.TheArt-Room.com

Camp Awesome Summer Camp (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is back this summer for another Awesome camp experience. Awesome games, activities, and phenomenal summer shows. Open all 11 weeks of summer: Early care 8 a.m., Day Camp 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Afternoon camp 2 - 5:30 p.m. Registration opens March 23 at noon.

Dates: June 3 - Aug. 8
www.LafayetteRec.org | (925) 284-2232

Cougar Football Camp (Moraga)

This full contact youth football camp is directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy at Campolindo High School with a one-week Junior Camp for 5th-8th grades, and a two-week Cougar Camp July 13-24 for rising 9th grade. Camps are in the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m.

Dates: July 13-17 for Junior Camp
July 13 - 24 for Cougar Camp
www.cougarcamps.com

Camp Galileo (Lafayette)

Summer day camp in Lafayette at Lafayette Elementary School. Camp Galileo's curriculum combines STEAM exploration and outdoor fun for kids in grades K-10. Camp day: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Extended care available. AM care: 8 - 9 a.m. | PM care: 3 - 6 p.m.

galileo-camps.com

925 Dance Collective (Lafayette)

925 Dance Collective is Lamorinda's only competition-focused dance school. Summer programs provide a focused, inspiring environment for dancers who want more. Students train in Ballet, Acro, Poms, Leaps/Turns & Tricks, Lyrical, Jazz, Commercial Jazz, Hip-Hop, and K-Pop. Each themed week blends technical refinement, performance coaching, and artistic growth — culminating in an end-of-week showcase. Ages: 3 - 12+

www.925dancecollective.com

Lafayette Summer Music Workshop (Lafayette)

In its twenty-eighth year, the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Master classes, improvisation workshops, combos, theory, and free choice classes are led by preeminent jazz musicians. Average student to teacher ratio is 6 to 1. Student age is 11 through adult.

Dates: July 13 - 17
lafsmw.org | (925) 914-0797

Moraga Day Camp (Moraga)

This summer, we're setting course for "Journey into the Unknown" — where curiosity leads the way and every day reveals a new world waiting to be explored. Will you answer the call to adventure? Weekly sessions available for Ages 3.5 - 1. Held at the Hacienda de las Flores Park, Fridays at the Moraga Commons Park, and field trips too.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 7.
www.moragarec.com | (925) 888-7045

Eclipse Soccer (Orinda/Lafayette)

Summer offerings are a great way for players of all ages to train, grow, and enjoy the game — either trying soccer for the first time or looking to stay sharp between seasons, with a focus on individual skill development in a fun, supportive environment led by Eclipse staff coaches.

www.eastbayeclipse.com/programs

FastBreak High School Girls Basketball (Lafayette)

Lamorinda Girls Basketball Foundation will host FastBreak Basketball Camp at Acalanes high school for girls going into grades 3-9. in the afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dates: June 22-25
925-330-7414. | Coachmargee@gmail.com | www.fastbreakbball.org

Firecracker Summer Math Camp (Lafayette)

Firecracker Summer Math Camp for curious and challenge-loving kids ages 6 to 16. Instructions employ math games, projects, and magic tricks, sparking kids' interest in math and boosting their skills and confidence. Morning classes are followed by fun activities in the afternoon.

www.firecrackermath.org | (510) 488-4556

Grind Baseball and Softball Camps (Concord)

Lamorinda Girls Basketball Foundation will host FastBreak Basketball Camp at Acalanes high school for girls going into grades 3-9. in the afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dates: June 22-25
925-330-7414. | Coachmargee@gmail.com | www.fastbreakbball.org

Lafayette Recreation (Lafayette)

Lafayette Recreation's summer programs are back and packed with fun and adventure! Get ready for a summer of creativity, learning, and play with programs including Art, Soccer, Cooking, Dance, Science, Engineering, LEGOs, Pickleball, Archery, Basketball, Carpentry, Singing, Chess and so much more.

www.LafayetteRec.org | (925) 284-2232

Lafayette Summer Music Workshop (Orinda)

In its twenty-eighth year, the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Master classes, improvisation workshops, combos, theory, and free choice classes are led by preeminent jazz musicians. Average student to teacher ratio is 6 to 1. Student age is 11 through adult.

Dates: July 13 - 17
lafsmw.org | (925) 914-0797

Lamorinda Improv Theater (Orinda)

At Lamorinda Improv Theater's summer series of week-long improv classes, we'll embrace creativity, discover new friendships, and mine our imaginations for comedy gold. For a laughter-filled summer—it's LIT! Located at 2 Orinda Theater Square, Ste. 111, Orinda CA.

https://www.litimprov.com | (202) 302-8923

LOPC Vacation Bible Camp (Lafayette)

Swing into Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible Camp as we flock together for fabulous summer fun! With hands-on experiments, impactful service projects, team building games, vibrant crafts, tasty treats and more, campers are sure to experience the nature of God in this concert of daily activities. 2 - 5 p.m. Ages 4 - completed 4th grade

Dates: June 8 - 12
lopc.org/vbcamp



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AGES 3-12+

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925 Village Center, Suite 2, Lafayette, CA 94549





Mickey McConnell Basketball Camp (Moraga, SMC Basketball)

Mickey McConnell Basketball Camps held at Saint Mary's College are a great way for boys and girls grades K-9th to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game. Coached by SMC's elite camp staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.

Dates: June 1 - July 10.
www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com

Moraga Day Camp (Moraga)

This summer, we're setting course for "Journey into the Unknown" - where curiosity leads the way and every day reveals a new world waiting to be explored. Will you answer the call to adventure? Weekly sessions available for Ages 3.5 - 1. Held at the Hacienda de las Flores Park, Fridays at the Moraga Commons Park, and field trips too.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 7.
www.moragarec.com | (925) 888-7045

Moraga Specialty Camps (Moraga)

Explore new passions this summer! Half-day enrichment camps feature hands-on STEM, creative art, skateboarding, drama, and more. With a variety of topics and age groups available, there's something for every interest.

(925) 888-7045 | www.moragarec.com

MVPC Vacation Bible Camp (Moraga)

Kids 2 years - 5th grade will step through the mist into rainforest falls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Bible lessons will be learned through outrageous skits, small group time, music with motion, and fun crafts. One week only, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Dates: June 8 - 12
https://mvpc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3416684

Orinda Parks and Rec (Orinda)

Orinda summer camps are a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, learn new subjects, and have fun in a safe, engaging environment. This year's summer camp theme is Curiosity Quest, with a variety of camp offerings, such as theater, STEM, sports, art, coding, traditional city-run day camps, and more.

Dates: June - August
https://www.cityoforinda.org/188/Camp-Information

Roughing it Day Camp (Lafayette)

Campers enjoy every day playing, learning, and having fun with their camper group and counselor in the great outdoors at the Lafayette Reservoir. Campers learn, grow, and make new friends. There are also set times for snack, water breaks, sunscreen, and lunch in the shade. K-10th grade options available.

Camp Day: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended care options.
www.roughingit.com

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townhalltheatre.com /summer-2026



SMC Soccer (Moraga)

Don't miss Saint Mary's College Women's Soccer Camps this summer! The camps are coached by the SMC Women's Soccer staff and players. Each week of summer camp features fun camp themes, games, a campers versus coaches challenge, and a World Cup!

wsocccercamps@stmarys-ca.edu | www.smcwomenssocccercamps.com

Saint Mary's College Creative Camp (Moraga)

Embark on a summer of creativity at SMC Creative Camps! Our Moraga campus sets the stage for elementary, middle, and high school students to explore art, acting, creative writing, and musical theatre, including Winnie the Pooh, Beetlejuice, and The Sound of Music! Full Day and Half Day Camps.

www.SMCCreativeCamp.com

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps (Lafayette)

Each week, campers "travel" to a different Latin American country, exploring its culture, traditions, and FIFA World Cup fútbol spirit. Every day brings something new, from outdoor games and sports at the Lafayette Reservoir to hands-on science, cooking, crafts, and cultural discovery.

Full day, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Before and after care available.
www.vivaespanol.org | (925) 962-9177

Summer@Saklan Art & Science Camps (Moraga)

Summer@Saklan is the perfect place for your child to discover new passions and cultivate creativity this summer. Weekly summer camps offer hands-on art and science experiences, and engaging activities such as cooking, games, and water play for children ages 3 - 8 in a fun and supportive environment.

Dates: June 15 - July 31
www.saklan.org/summer


Town Hall Theatre (Lafayette)

Explore theatre while building confidence, creativity, and real-world skills at Town Hall Theatre. From imaginative play to skill-building intensives and full productions on stage, our 2026 Summer Camps offer rising PreK-12th graders space to learn, perform, and create - with programs to fit your family's summer schedule.

TownHallTheatre.com/summer-2026

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda girls lacrosse teams show prowess on the pitch

By Jon Kingdon



Miramonte midfielder Sawyer Bohlig No. 4 taking a shot on goal.

Photo Mark Bell

MIRAMONTE

First year Miramonte head coach Abby Bautista, a recent graduate of the University of Alabama where she played lacrosse, led the team to an 11 and 3 record.

Bautista had her own way of directing the Miramonte team. "I looked at our players' strengths, whether it was footwork, running speed and creating. I liked to play, move, and pass fast, achieving things when our opponents defense was not ready. It helped that we have the athletes that allowed us to play that way. We could play big and that allowed our offense to get more space to be able to do their thing."

Along with the talent on the team, Bautista appreciated the intangibles that the players brought with them. "This is a team where they are all really good friends that support each other on and off the field. We have a lot of really strong talent all across the field but it really came down to their energy, coming together and that's what really has enabled us to win the big games."

The Miramonte offense was led by senior Sawyer Bohlig, who has committed to attend and play lacrosse for Northwestern University. Bohlig led the team with 71 goals, 15 assists, 58 ground balls, and 118 draws. "Sawyer is a great athlete and her speed is unmatched," Bautista said. "She has great stick skills and is equally powerful with either hand. She is a great role model and leader for all of her teammates, always wanting to work hard."

The offense took a big hit when Mackenzie Pearce suffered a season ending knee injury in the sixth game. "Mackenzie is a co-captain and was a real asset to the team, athletically and as a role model," Bautista said. "She still showed up for every practice and games, helping the other girls learn the offensive plays."

Senior co-captain

and midfielder Zara San Gabriel is the team's second leading scorer and junior Lauren Schultz both stepped up their games with Pearce's absence. "Zara (27 goals) is an all-around player that is really quick and a good defender," Bautista said. "I've seen a crazy amount of progress with Lauren (21 goals). She used her height really well and is a very accurate goal scorer with great field IQ."

The defense held their opponents to single figures 12 times and Bautista was very positive with her senior heavy defense. "I like a high intensity, aggressive and overall athletic defense. We have three senior defenders on the field with Maegan Eichenberger, Avery Freer and Camilla White. Maegan is a standout defender who brought her basketball skills in reading, communicating, and sliding well along with being very athletic."

Senior Elsa Schroeder has been very solid in the net, stopping 44.6% of the shots on goal. "Elsa was super consistent and strong in a lot of areas," Bautista said. "She is very accurate in feeding the ball over halfway down the field after making a save, which allowed us to make a really quick transition. She has really fast hand-eye coordination and gets to the spot where the ball is coming in hot."

As the seventh seed in Division 1, Miramonte defeated Lick-Wilmerding (S.F.) 16-10 but lost their second round match to the second seeded San Ramon Valley 16-4.

ACALANES

After an 8 and 10 record last season, Acalanes head coach Giles Imrie finished the season with a much improved 12 and 5 record. With 21 juniors and seniors and two freshmen, it was obviously a very mature team, but it still found the two freshmen contributing to the team's overall performance.

The experience of the team was key to their success. "We have a lot of upperclassmen and most of the starters are returners," Imrie said. "We were really well balanced so we didn't have a lot of holes and that balance allowed us to control possession more and play our game. Still, we learned from our three losses. We had our ups and downs so we learned that it's important to have the right mentality coming into a game and the wrong mentality can prove to be the difference in a game so you have to come prepared to play."

The offense was led by senior co-captain attacker Emily Roberts and freshman Ximena Angel. "Emily has been great as an attacker and stepped into the role of our leader," Imrie said. "She had the best IQ field knowledge as to where to be and knowing how to exploit holes in the defense."

The offense took a big hit when they lost two key players, junior attacker Catalina Liu and junior midfielder Stella Hamilton to season ending knee injuries. "They've both been working hard and we're looking forward to them coming back next year," Imrie said. "Our midfielders are senior co-captains Reese Imrie and Grace Colaco, junior Kate Beaver, and freshman Kelly Reidenbach. They were all big contributors and Kelly started from day one and looks to be future of the team. Senior Maya Stafford was our "Swiss army knife, playing where we need her on defense, midfielder or as an attacker and she has been ultra reliable."

"Our midfielders were very strong with senior co-captain Charlotte Gellman, junior Grace Colaco, and Kelly Reidenbach and they were big contributors."

The defense was led by juniors Reese Tierney, Grace Eppinger, Julia Lyons, and senior Kate Uffelman. "Reese was just a beast and Kate was also an anchor. Julia and Kate were solid players and as a unit they improved throughout the season."

Senior Sarah Hession was very solid in her second year as the Dons' goalie. "Sarah made big strides this year," Imrie said. "She has great hand-eye coordination and played with great confidence."

Acalanes was the ninth seed in Division 1 and lost their opening match to San Marin 17-11.

CAMPOLINDO

After starting off the season winning their first seven games, Campolindo then went on a deceptive six game losing streak. Deceptive in the sense that these were close games that could have gone either way with 3 one goal losses, a 2, 3 and 4 goal losses. The team closed the regular season with a four game win streak and finished the regular season with an 11-6.

Head coach Stephen Linaweaver saw the

character in the team. "This is the most bonded team that I have coached. The players really looked out for each other and they knew each other's strength and looked out for each other's success. They were almost selfless to a fault. Each game we got better in a certain way and the players just kept coming out and grinding."

What was the difference between the losses? "A lot of it came down to poise in the fourth quarter," Linaweaver said. "We were awesome in coming back in those games and I found a way to help keep the team focused and controlled in the fourth quarter."

This was a pass intensive team that assisted on 63% of the team's goals. "That's exactly the type of lacrosse we wanted to play, always looking for the next pass, being a super selfless team."

There have been a number of players that have contributed to the team's offense led by senior attackers Kelsey Dellamar and Clara Cecchin, juniors Isabelle Maher, Emery Radell, and freshman Maddie Poritsky. The team scored on 55.3% of their shots.

"Kelsey is a real sharpshooter that has been on the team since she was a freshman," Linaweaver said. "She was very poised and knew where to put the ball. Clara's was also very productive. Maddie had a great year and Isabelle has also stepped up this year. Emery was really intense and showed great vision behind the cage."

There are three other freshmen besides Poritsky who contributed -- attack and middle Sadie Ginestro, middle Emery Spires and Hope Anderson on defense. "It was a first for me to have four freshmen on the varsity and they all had an impact on the team," Linaweaver said. "They have that youthful energy that pushed the team in practice."

On defense, Asha Spitzer and Maher led the team in ground balls. "Both of them were outstanding in the open field and I was excited about the team's more aggressive open field play and pushing it up in transition," Linaweaver said. "Cate Appleton, Lily Coane, and Avery Bruno,

all seniors, formed a defense that really shined this year."

The team used two goalies, senior Maddie Collins who stopped 46.6% of the shots against her, and junior Flore Levesque who stopped 47% of the shots against her. "Maddie and Flore have both had good years. They really pushed each other in the off season and in practice and that's been fun to see and they both came into their own."

As the 11th seed in Division 1, Campolindo lost their first-round match to Amador Valley 11-8.

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CYO 5th Grade Girls American Basketball Team 2026 Oakland Diocese Gold Division Champions

Submitted by Veronica Porter



Yizhen Zi, Scout Preston, Catalina Chung, Tyla Cullen, Ellie Laman, "Coach" Ryan Preston, Julianna Tyndall, Emery Lee, Ellie Porter, Emily Finley, and Giovanna Romagnolo (not pictured), along "Coach" Alex Romagnolo (not pictured).

Photo Joe Porter

St. Monica's CYO 5th Grade Girls American basketball team captured the 2026 Oakland Diocese CYO 5th Grade Girls Gold Division Championship with an exciting two-day playoff run. The St. Monica Spartans opened the tournament

with a strong performance on Saturday, Feb. 21, defeating CCOP 25-14 to advance to the championship game.

In the final game on Sunday, Feb. 22 at Carondelet High School, St. Monica edged Santa Maria 18-16 to secure

the title. The closely contested game highlighted the team's teamwork and poise under pressure, as the Spartans capped off their playoff run with a memorable championship victory for the St. Monica community.

Lamorinda boys volleyball

..continued from Page A1

Senior co-captain Andrew Hanhan is the team's libero. "He's another player that's been one of our anchors in the back row and has been doing a great job with the previous year of experience and maturity," Chen said. "We have a lot of players playing various roles and we have Jaden Ta seeing time on defense and Knox Smith Vuong playing the right back position and Jake Askew is being used as both an outside hitter and on defense."

Chen has learned from the team's losses. "We've got to find a way to create the headspace to compete. Oftentimes when you lose, it's tough to read that part of the game or you're just competing rather than being concerned with the loss so it's a matter of having the headspace to play free and be okay with the results."

As the fifth seed in Division I, Campolindo won their first match 3-0 over Castro Valley. They then defeated the fourth seeded Las Lomas 3-2, 15-8 in the fifth set, and will be playing at top-seeded Northgate on May 12.

MIRAMONTE

It's been a major turnaround for Miramonte volleyball. After winning only 12 games over the prior four seasons, the team has won 16 games heading into the playoffs.

Entering his third season as the head coach, Aria Jahangiri saw the change coming into the season. "It's really a culmination of seniors that have been working together the last few years, gelling, and finally developing the teamwork and overall improvement in their skills necessary to win. We've also had an influx of freshmen who have been playing volleyball starting with the youth programs and they have made a big impact."

Jahangiri also acknowledged his captains as another key to the team's attitude and improvement. "There has been a lot of stepping up from our captains, Ryan Balonick, a four-year player, and Mercer Ehrhorn-Lung who saw this season as their chance to win this year.

After winning the Livermore tournament in March and getting a piece of silverware under our belts, I felt it with every starter and they saw that they could punch into the upper level of our league and make it to the North Coast Sectionals."

The offense has been led by Balonick, Ehrhorn-Lung, freshman Tyson Flournoy and Jayden An. "At outside hitter, Ryan has been the base of our offense and the go-to guy that gets points for us," Jahangiri said. "Mercer has made great strides and plays anywhere we need him. Tyson has really stepped and shined as the team's only setter and team's quarterback. Jayden and freshman Henry Kopelson have been valuable backups when players have gone down."

With a stronger front line, Jahangiri has begun to use a Red Defense. "We had enough tools to be able to run that type of defense and it has paid off, getting out of a lot of situations."

Freshman Brendon Collins has been the leader on defense. "Brendon is a great athlete that also runs track and is our pure libero and has really grown since he began as a freshman, and now he's the big leader on the back row telling the freshmen what to do," Jahangiri said. "Our four freshmen have brought in a lot of club experience with Reid Souter and Landon Hall also providing a lot of depth to the team."

With the team's newfound success, Jahangiri has been looking for more all season. "I want us to be more polished as a serve and receive team, having more communication and seeing them move their feet more."

Miramonte got the No. 1 seed in Division 4 and won their first round match 3-1 against Kelseyville, their first post-season victory since MaxPreps has kept records in 2008. They won their second round match against Quarry Lane (Dublin) 3-0 and will have another home match on May 12 against Mt. Eden (Hayward).

ACALANES

In his first year as the varsity head coach,

Orinda Church answers the call at Bay Area Crisis Nursery

Submitted by Mike Gee



Volunteers from St. Stephen's stand with BACN Executive Director Tara Legaspi after donating and assembling new children's beds for families in residence.

Photo Andrew Hawthorn

When families face a crisis – a parent hospitalized, overwhelmed, or encountering an unsafe situation – the Bay Area Crisis Nursery in Concord is there to provide refuge. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, BACN provides a safe haven for children from birth to age 5. Along with around-the-clock childcare, BACN offers a food pantry, free clothing, and a diaper bank for families working to get back on their feet.

In honor of Mother's Day, and in honor of mothers everywhere, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda recently lent a hand to that mission. When St. Stephen's asked Executive Director Tara

Legaspi what the nursery needed most, her answer was simple: "We need new beds in our boys' bedroom. It may sound simple, but a safe, comfortable place to sleep can make all the difference for kids who have already been through so much." St. Stephen's did more than that. The congregation purchased five new beds for the boys' bedroom – then showed up to do the work. Volunteers Patrick Hawthorn, Betsy Donnelly, John Donnelly, and Andrew Hawthorn removed the old, damaged beds and assembled the new ones.

"We wanted to offer more than encouragement. We wanted to provide rest and dignity,"

said Betsy Donnelly, who leads St. Stephen's Outreach Ministry. "A bed is a small piece of stability, especially for a mom doing everything she can for her child."

The project is one piece of St. Stephen's 75-year commitment to the community – a hands-on, neighbors-helping-neighbors approach that includes food programs, school supplies, and support for shelter guests throughout the year.

For more information about St. Stephen's Church, visit www.ststephen-sorinda.org. To learn more about Bay Area Crisis Nursery, visit www.bacn.org.

Girls Santa Maria CYO win consecutive championships

Submitted by Jay Atkinson



The 8th Grade Girls Santa Maria CYO won their third consecutive Regular Season and Diocese Championship on Sunday, Feb. 22. This team won back-to-back-to-back championships since 6th grade (regular season and play-offs). Over the course of three seasons this team only lost two games, holding a record of 45-2 over the 6th, 7th and 8th grade seasons.

Pictured from left, second row, standing: Coach Katie Fagundes, Annie Daoust, Hope Rogers, Jazzy Atkinson, Emeline Eller, Coach Tony Cantando; first row, kneeling: Sidney Topping, Aimee Fagundes, Harper Cantando, India Cohen; not pictured: Emma Logan.

Photo provided

LAA 'Spring to Summer' exhibition at Papillon Café

Submitted by Samantha McNally

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to present "Spring To Summer," a curated exhibition at the Papillon Café & Gallery in Lafayette. The days are getting longer and it is time for the wildflowers to show off their beautiful blooms. The Arts Alliance is exhibiting artwork that celebrates the seasons of spring and summer. Flowers, butterflies, birds and bees in local gardens, local landscapes and scenery. The paintings include the pastel colors of spring and the bolder colors of summer. The show will



"Bee" by Samantha McNally

Photo provided

be held through June 9 at Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffee & Tea, located in La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.

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