

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Independently owned and operated!

25,000 FREE copies [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

25,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

**925-377-0977**

**Back Yard Office or Guest House**

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

**GREEN SHEDS**

[www.GreenSheds.net](http://www.GreenSheds.net) 925-872-3187



SMC's Erich Storti runs with the ball; in back, from left: Hunter Chulantseff, Josh Allen and Karl Keane

Photo Grace Kiesel

# Saint Mary's rugby team heads to national championships

By Jon Kingdon

There were two things on the minds of the Saint Mary's rugby team when they went to Berkeley to play Cal in the national semifinal championship game – making it to the championship game and exacting revenge against Cal for their only loss this season.

The Gaels scored in the first two minutes of the game and toward the end of the half, they were up 28-0 before Cal scored a goal, but missed their try, to make the score 28-5 heading in to the second half. "I was pretty much surprised when the score was 28-0 early on," Saint Mary's head coach Tim O'Brien said. "A lot of breaks came our way in the first half, but we almost penalized ourselves off the field in the second half."

The adjustments O'Brien made from the first time they played Cal proved effective. "The last time we played Cal, we made some errors that we wanted to correct," O'Brien said. "We wanted to play vertical rugby this game. We played the way we trained, and we wanted to drive the tempo."

After Cal scored the first three times in the second half to close the score to 28-26, the Gaels defense settled down. ... continued on Page A10

Advertising



- Not to be missed B3
- Obituaries B4
- How to contact us C4
- Classified C2
- Love Lafayette C4

## LAFAYETTE JUNIORS

# 23RD ANNUAL LIFESTYLE TOUR

SATURDAY APRIL 30, 10AM-3PM • Tickets: [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org)

# Broad smiles greet Brook Street Park reopening in Lafayette



Photo Sharon Sobotta

City staff, commissioners and council members at Brook Street Park on April 18.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

As the mother of two toddlers and a Lafayette Elementary School kindergartener, Zinab Lagab couldn't be more thrilled that Brook Street Park is officially open and ready for play.

Lagab moved from Oakland to Lafayette because she thought it would be a great place for her children to go to school. "When we got here two years ago, this park was just wood chips and we're so excited that the park is officially opening," Lagab says while attending the ribbon cutting ceremony of the reimagined airport themed park on April 18. Lagab lives in an apartment complex on the east side of town, about a 10-minute walk from the park. Like many in the city, Lagab longed for an outdoor space to bring her kids during the pandemic. "I was wondering where are all the parks in Lafayette," she says with a bright smile. "And now, it's here. We're

so excited to play."

Lagab's son, 3-year-old Adam, says he's excited about everything at the park, especially the airplane. Why? "Because I love to play and I love to fly."

More than four dozen people of all backgrounds and ages gathered to celebrate the reopening of Brook Street Park, which had been reduced to just tan bark after the broken down pirate-themed play equipment was removed just before the pandemic. Parents, residents, nannies, grandparents and children of all ages expressed how much they noticed the absence of a park during the long stint of sheltering in place most of last academic year.

Lauren Herpich, a member of the Parks, Trails and Rec Commission, says the arrival of a downtown park that is accessible to all ages, abilities and income levels has been a long time coming in the city of Lafayette.

... continued on Page A10

<b>Civic News</b>	<b>A1-A10</b>	<b>Life in Lamorinda</b>	<b>B1-B4</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>C1-C4</b>	<b>Our Homes</b>	<b>D1-D16</b>
Orinda council again closes door on joining MCE - Page A6	<b>Public Safety</b>	Orinda Ballet School returns with production of 'Cinderella's Ball' - Page B1		Boys baseball teams look to the playoffs - Page C1		Spring planting suggestions during drought - Page D4	





See public meetings schedule on this 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



### Resort-Style Living | 3666 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette

5 Bed | 6 Full + 2 Half Bath | 5885± Sq. Ft. Main House  
 905± Sq. Ft. Guest House | 1.47± Acre Lot

[3666HappyValleyRoad.com](http://3666HappyValleyRoad.com)  
 Offered at \$9,195,000

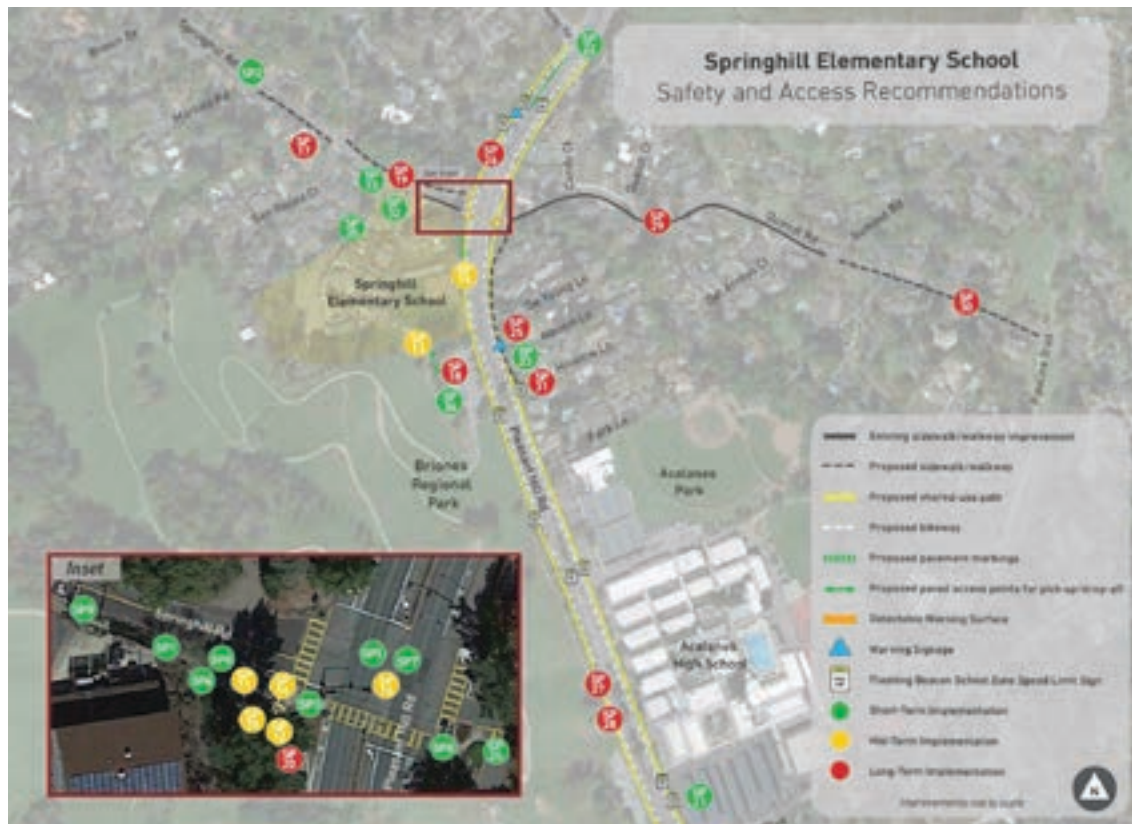
Lafayette's #1 Real Estate Team  
 Since 2008

DanaGreenTeam.com  
 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



COMPASS

## Council approves moving forward on 'quick-build' school safety plans



Courtesy staff report

### By Lou Fancher

The City Council on April 11 received staff recommendations for moving forward with the next steps of what Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran described as a “first batch” of quick-build school safety plans for three local schools. Stanley Middle School, Lafayette Elementary School and Springhill Elementary School were clustered in the first Rapid Implementation School Safety Plans proposal developed by the city in partnership with Toole Design Group. The consultancy firm was hired in October 2021 to assist the city in reviewing existing traffic safety plans and studies near seven Lafayette schools.

TDG met with stakeholders and school district staff and conducted school walk-

bouts that were open to public participation and aimed at observing and learning about local residents’ safety concerns near schools. The plan in front of council presented alternative actions for three schools and included short-, mid-, and long-term projects. Acalanes High School, Happy Valley and Burton Valley elementary schools, and Meher White Pony School would come in a second batch, Moran said.

Among the improvements recommended by the Trans/Circ Commission after two recent study sessions of the TGD report are signing, striping, curb-painting, delineation using temporary materials, improving ramps, sidewalks, and paths, installing speed humps, radar speed feedback signs, bulb-outs, temporary bike lanes, fences or barriers, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs)

at select crossings. Mitigating safety issues at a pork chop island in an intersection on Pleasant Hill Road near Springhill Elementary School drew considerable attention from the public and from Council Member Susan Candell.

Drew Parker from the Toole Design Group in responding to the concerns about school children and traffic moving swiftly past the island said protective fencing or a similar barrier and traffic calming measures could be added at low cost.

A proposed two-way, temporary bike lane installed on the north side of First Street running from the Lafayette/Moraga Trail to Paradise Court and from Paradise Court to First Street would result in the loss of approximately 30 parking spaces. Moran said this action item

will require more study by the Transportation and Circulation Commission, notification of residents, a public hearing, and a council-adopted resolution to be enacted. Moran said despite that time-intensive process not being started yet, approvals for moving to the next stage of planning and funding the other recommendations should not be delayed, emphasizing that completing projects during the summer months was practical and vital to residents concerned about school safety.

In response to public comment concerning the location of the bike path, Moran said the city for at least a decade has studied which side of First Street is best suited for a bike path. The north side was chosen because it provides a more direct connection to the trail path and eliminates the need for pedestrians and bikers to make street crossings when moving from School Street to the trail path (and other street crossings from other directions). “The frontage along the Stanley school (side) isn’t a good place to cross because of a parking lot that is congested and is already a concern,” he said.


He said a north side bike path could be considered long-term for a permanent solution, but locating the path on that side would require a considerable amount of delineation to reduce pedestrian/bike and vehicle conflicts. He reiterated that the council was making no decision or endorsement on the parking reduction-related items during the meeting. He and members of the council repeatedly emphasized a public forum is standard procedure for any parking removals and adopting a resolution for any such changes is required of council. Individual notices about the loss of parking

spaces sent to homeowners by the city are not required because parking falls under municipal codes.


The staff report proposed council release \$500,000 in funds from the Vision Zero Capital Improvement Seed Fund and authorize a fund transfer of \$112,000 from the General Fund to Capital Improvement Projects Fund 014 620 906. Asked for an estimate of the costs associated with the second batch of recommendations, Moran said a “first cut” from the draft report he has reviewed results in an estimated \$435,000. He said the “lion’s share” of the “big ticket” items in the second batch recommendations would be at Acalanes and White Pony because considerable improvements have already been made at Happy Valley and Burton Valley schools.

In addition to asking the council to approve finalizing plans and soliciting contractor costs for improvements at the first three schools, the council in staff’s second request was asked to authorize the release of funds to cover the \$612,000 tab for the projects near Stanley Middle and Lafayette and Springhill elementary schools. Staff and council agreed that any costs higher than estimated in the first batch of proposed actions will come back to the council for consideration.

After a handful of additional suggestions and modifications such as adding crosswalk push buttons and a fencing/barrier of the Springhill pork chop to the proposed actions, the council unanimously approved staff recommendation to solicit bids and authorized the transfer of funds for safety improvements near the first three-of-seven schools.



**THE KURT PIPER GROUP PRESENTS**




## Spanish Colonial Revival


8 Rabble Road, Orinda | Offered at \$3,895,000  
 5 Bed | 5.5 Bath | 4,601 Sq. Ft. | 0.56 Acre Lot

**Call Kurt Piper for a private showing.**

**Kurt Piper**  
 Realtor® | Broker Associate  
 925 818 8000  
 Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com  
 KurtPiperGroup.com  
 DRE 01130308



**COMPASS**



Go to KPG Site

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

## BATTERSBY.

Just Listed in the Heart of Happy Valley!




**3812E Happy Valley Rd**  
**QUALITY, SERENITY, SETTING**








BUILT BY OWNER/BUILDER & DESIGNER  
 4 Bedrooms 3 Baths 4111 Sq Ft\* 1.21 Acre\*  
*Ideally oriented, naturally light, private, expansive windows, it's the perfect home for today's CA living!*  
[www.3812EHappyValleyRd.com](http://www.3812EHappyValleyRd.com)



**Ashley Battersby**  
 Linda Ehrich  
 (925) 323-9955  
 DRE# 01407784/01330298  
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com  
 linda@lindaehrich.com  
 @ashleybattersbyhome





**It's Village. Of Course.**

\*per pub records









### MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**Town of Moraga:**  
[www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)  
 Phone: (925) 888-7022  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
[www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org)  
**Moraga Citizens' Network:**  
[www.moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org)



**TERRI BATES WALKER**

**Top 1%**  
 of Contra Costa  
 County Agents in 2021\*

**SELLING HOMES BY PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**

C. 510.282.4420  
 TerriBatesWalker@gmail.com | TerriBatesWalker.com  
 CalRE #01330081



\*Based on information taken from the MLS as of January 1, 2022. Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC. ©

**Town Council:** Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.  
**Special Joint Town Council and Planning Commission Meeting:**  
 Wednesday, May 4, 6 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, May 3, 7 p.m.,  
**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
 Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.,  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**  
 Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m. [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us)

### Prospective Governing Board Candidates

Candidate Information Session  
 Tuesday, May 17, at 6:00 PM  
 Joaquin Moraga School Library  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 RSVP to [jbaier@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:jbaier@moraga.k12.ca.us)



## Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan presented to Town Council

By Vera Kochan

Capital Asset Replacement involves services and programs that are essential to the community and include the town's parks, buildings, permanent fixtures, facilities, vehicles and information technology infrastructure. Moraga had experienced three lean years between 2016-19, whereby many asset replacement or repairs had to be postponed if not crucially necessary. As such, in 2019, both the library's heating system broke down during the winter, and the restrooms in

Rancho Laguna Park were incapacitated for nine months.

According to an April 13 staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, "The Asset Replacement Program transitioned into a five-year program in 2021-22 to align with the town's implementation of a five-year Capital Improvement Program. The complete list of assets that are past due or due for replacement in the next five fiscal years totals \$2,418,700. Staff is recommending \$1,582,000 in asset replacement projects over the next five years, with an annual investment average of \$317,000

per year."

For Fiscal Year 2022-23 staff recommendations include: Hacienda Metal Entrance Fence and Gate (nearly 30-years old, is unstable and rusting; repairs would be cost prohibitive) \$42,000; Pavilion Flagstone Staircase Phase 1 - Design (c. 1938 is not ADA compliant and unstable) \$49,000; Rancho Laguna Park Picnic Tables (dry rot, replace with 100% recyclable plastic tables) \$53,000; Police Vehicle 2016 Ford Explorer (police vehicles experience high wear and tear, this vehicle is at its service life of five to seven years. ... continued on Page A5

### NEW IN POETS CORNER

#### 250 KEATS CIRCLE, PLEASANT HILL



Even for Poets Corner, this home is special. Cul-de-sac location offers quiet enjoyment on one of the prettiest streets in the area. Over 2500 sf single-level home features classic touches on a private .31 acre landscaped lot with multiple gardens, lawn, low-maintenance front yard and separate building (not inc. in sq ft) for hobby workshop or office. Ideally located just a short two blocks to multiple restaurants and shopping.

**JIM COLHOUN**  
 REALTOR®  
 925.200.2795  
[jim@jimcolhoun.com](mailto:jim@jimcolhoun.com)  
 DRE# 01029160



Over 100 5-Star Zillow Client Reviews.  
 The Most in Lamorinda!




Call Jim — He Knows What To Do

**OFFERED AT \$1,600,000**

## Moraga's third mayor, Merle Gilliland, is fondly remembered



Merle Gilliland Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

The town of Moraga was incorporated in 1974, and one of its citizens, Merle Gilliland, played a large role to that ef-

fect. Having served on the initial town council for two terms, Gilliland, who passed away on March 31, became Moraga's third mayor in 1976.

Besides using his architectural skills to design the Town Seal, Gilliland worked on several projects within Moraga and the Bay Area (San Francisco International Airport). As a member of the very first town council, he helped to format ordinances, plans and the eventual establishment of the Moraga Police Department. In 1976, Gilliland and his fellow council members were presented a town certification plaque from then Gov. Ronald Reagan acknowledging Moraga's incorporation. It was also the first five council members who were instrumental in preserving the area now known as Moraga Commons Park for family recreational purposes.

Former colleague and the town's fourth mayor (1977), Susan McNulty-Rainey stated, "We were a close group. We all kept on getting together after our council duties. We were very close on many decisions - it took us forever to decide the color of the town's stationary." She remembers Gilliland as "a wonderful man who donated a lot of his time and used his architectural skills to help us out."

"Merle was a pleasure to work with," recalled Barry Gross, the town's fifth and 11th mayor (1978 and 1983), who also served with Gilliland on the town council. "He was very talented. He had the ability to disagree without being disagreeable. His loss is felt

deeply, I'm sure, by anybody and everybody who knew him besides his family."

Betty, Gilliland's wife of 64 years, has fond memories of their time in Moraga. Although they have since moved to Montana, she also remembers the closeness of the town's first elected officials and their families. "We had a lot of really good times with the town council. We got along so well - it was a blessing."

Many will remember Gilliland for his sense of humor and injection of fun for the town's benefit. His wife reminisced about the time Saint Mary's College hosted a Fourth of July event and she was in charge of baking 14 cakes for the occasion. She enlisted one of their daughters to help frost all of the cakes who eventually lost enthusiasm after completing a very few. Enter Gilliland who not only helped to frost the rest of the cakes, but when the job was done proceeded to have a frosting war with his daughter all over the kitchen.

Before the Pear Harvest existed, Gilliland had arranged with the owner of Nation's Bakery to bake pear pies to sell at the Pear Festival. He went out to the orchards every year and hand picked pears to personally deliver to the bakery.

Borrowing from Gilliland's obituary, "Through both challenging and joyous moments, Merle created levity through laughter, bringing smiles to those around him. It is through those relationships and memories that Merle's legacy will proudly and confidently live on."

## Want safer roads? Public Works Dept. needs your feedback

By Vera Kochan

The state of California is required by the Federal Highway Administration to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan aimed at reducing traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on its public roads.

In order for Moraga to qualify for federal grants, the town has hired TJKM Transportation Consultants to develop a Local Roadway Safety

Plan. Community input is important for the project's success. The Public Works Department has set up a link on the town's website for residents to provide feedback related to traffic safety issues. Examples are: drivers often speed along this road segment; cars don't stop at this stop sign; please add bike lanes here; and crossing the street is difficult at this intersection.

**To provide your own feedback visit: [www.moraga.ca.us/515/Local-Roadway-Safety-Plan](http://www.moraga.ca.us/515/Local-Roadway-Safety-Plan). Please submit your feedback by May 31.**



# Spring FORWARD

## SAVE ON STORAGE & RECIEVE

# 25% OFF

FOR 3 MONTHS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

STOP BY AND GET AN "EGG" CELLENT GIFT

Hours of operation  
 Mon-Sat 9am -6pm  
 Office and Yard.  
 Or call for an appointment.

**RENT-SPACE**  
 Storage Solutions & More

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F  
 (925) 643-2026  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)







**EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

Linda Ehrich  
Realtor  
93 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925.698.1452  
Linda@LindaEhrich.com  
www.LindaEhrich.com  
DRE# 01330298



LINDA EHRIICH




**Hauling & Cleanup**  
Pruning Trees & Weed Cutting  
Call Tony at (925) 497-3741

references available

## Moraga Country Club's facility expansion breaks ground under guidance of new general manager



Photo Vera Kochan

David Coy (left) and Eric Jacobsen with new bocce and pickleball courts under construction

By Vera Kochan

A little over a year ago, the Moraga Country Club, located at 1600 St. Andrews Drive, received a green light from the planning commission for its request to expand facilities. The new plans include a 6,600-square-foot fitness facility, a new 4,300-square-foot Courtside Grille, a sports court with three bocce and six pickleball courts, additional parking and

upgraded landscaping.

MCC was originally developed in 1974, and is more than willing to keep up with the times by adding up-to-date facilities for its members. Already completed is the new parking lot at the corner of Moraga Way and St. Andrews Drive.

"We're striving to make it a family club," stated Communications and Membership Manager David Coy. "The new

facilities will allow us to hold more events that will be open to the public." MCC will continue its popular "Walking the Course Mondays" which are open to anyone from 7 a.m. to sunset (the golf course is closed on Mondays to golfers).

An expanded pool deck, 10 remaining tennis courts along with the new pickleball and bocce courts are expected to hold tournaments allowing non-members. At such times, all participants can make use of the new Courtside Grille, which will lead from the pool deck down to the adjacent sport courts and take up two levels. The main deck will include a bar, dining room and kitchen with a wrap around outdoor terrace. This casual, full-service restaurant will also offer grab-and-go options.

The single-level fitness club building will contain a weight/fitness machine room, a workout studio offering yoga/spin/Pilates classes, a children's activity room, restrooms and reception area with administrative office. The projected completion date of the entire expansion is between January and March, 2023.

Coy expects town favorites

such as the annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot and golf tournaments to continue. He noted that the MCC Homeowners Association was recently awarded Firewise community status and in the process has removed enough underbrush that "equaled the weight of the Statue of Liberty."

On March 30, new General Manager/COO Eric Jacobsen took the reigns at MCC. "I'm coming on board at such a great time," he said. "It's a place of enjoyment and fun. We want to make sure our members are happy. The board of directors is fantastic, and our entire team is phenomenal. I walked into a great

situation."

Jacobsen grew up with golf in his veins. Initially involved in the restaurant business, he received his big break from a representative of San Francisco's Presidio Golf Course when he handled a situational snafu with professionalism. Prior to MCC, Jacobsen, a Pleasanton resident, helmed The Citrus Club at La Quinta Resort. "It has the very same footprint as far as amenities go."

For more information about MCC or membership contact: David Coy (925) 631-1902 or email david@moragacc.com.

## Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan presented to Town Council

... continued from Page A4

A contribution of \$56,000 is available from Fund 103 COPS) \$56,000; Public Works Vehicle 2001 Ford Expedition (maintenance costs are becoming cost prohibitive) \$58,000; and IT Server and Hardware (annual investment in the town's technology infrastructure, includes server replacement, new computers and Tri-Caster replacement) \$57,500. The total expected costs are \$315,500.

Fiscal Year 2023-24 staff recommendations include: Library Sewer Lateral (due for replacement in 2014, a 2020 inspection extended its life two more years) \$34,000; 329

Rheem Sewer Lateral (should have been replaced last year) \$6,000; Pavilion Flagstone Staircase Phase 1 - Construction (replace existing staircase) \$206,000; Police Vehicle 2014 Dodge Charger (this vehicle is past its five to seven year service life) \$56,000; Public Works Vehicle 2007 Ford F-250 (reached the end of its service life) \$48,000; and IT Server and Hardware (annual investment in the town's tech infrastructure) \$32,500. The total expected costs are \$382,500.

Expected FY 2024-25 costs (\$328,500) will cover: Hacienda Retaining Wall; Refinish Hacienda Wood Floors; 329 Rheem Trellis; Police Vehicle

2014 Ford Taurus; Public Works Maintenance Vehicle 2007 Ford F-250; and IT Server and Hardware.

Anticipated FY 2025-26 costs (\$290,500) will cover: Commons Park Spray Feature; Hacienda Interior Paint; Pavilion Exterior Paint; 335 Rheem Restroom Refurbishment - Back; Police Vehicle 2018 Dodge Charger; Public Works Maintenance Dump Truck; and IT Server and Hardware.

Lastly, expected FY 2026-27 costs (\$267,000) will cover: Hacienda HVAC; Library Flat Roof; Mulholland Gate and Fence; Police Vehicle 2019 Dodge Charger; and Public Works 1999 Bobcat Loader.

## Town seeks ways to function during extended power outages

By Vera Kochan

With the onset of an early fire season approaching, the town of Moraga is looking ahead in the event of any Pacific Gas & Electric Co. induced Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Having experienced them a number of times over recent years, council gave staff a thumbs up to hire Clean Coalition in January 2022, in order to create a Town Facility Energy Generation Study for the purpose of examining various cost and efficient use-based alternatives for the town's four properties: Town Hall Offices/Police Station; Corp Yard/Town Council Chambers/Emergency Operations; Hacienda de Las Flores Park; and Moraga Library.

Clean Coalition is a non-profit organization based in Santa Barbara with offices in the Bay Area. They specialize in providing technical services related to accelerating the transition to renewable energy. On April 21, Clean Coalition Executive Director Craig Lewis and Director of Development Greg Thomson joined Moraga's Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain for a public webinar to present the study's findings

and suggestions.

The first task for Clean Coalition was to "obtain and analyze energy use at each of the four town properties; study and model various options to provide resilience at each site; and consider renewable energy and fossil fuel resources."

Clean Coalition proceeded to "provide a detailed report analyzing the power needs for each property and proposing various alternatives for independent and emergency backup power generation for each site."

Finally, recommendations were made for "the best options considering the town's program and project goals for climate change, energy provider mix of resources, sustainability, financing, affordability."

Several options were determined to be unfeasible for various reasons: Solar only has no resilience due to solar being automatically shut off when the grid goes out; Battery only is too large and costly to provide resilience without onsite energy generation; Run of river hydro has insufficient local hydro resources; Geothermal has insufficient local resources and is uneconomical; Biofuel is nonexistent locally and uneconomical to create; Pipeline fu-

eled generators can be disrupted during earthquakes and extreme weather; and Propane requires an extra, separate tank versus diesel.

Clean Coalition's key findings determined that the energy option of solar plus storage (battery), and diesel-only were not considered preferable due to cost and minimal savings for Moraga. Using solar plus storage would cost over \$8 million. Diesel-only would cost over \$800,000 with both options providing no savings.

On the other hand, either solar plus diesel or solar plus storage plus diesel would save the town over \$1.8 million over a 25-year period using the Power Purchase Agreement (pay a fee on the energy that is generated).

Clean Coalition made an additional point, stating, "Due to the addition of storage, the solar plus storage plus diesel option provides ongoing, indefinite support for a percentage of loads during outages, while also providing additional Value-of-Resilience of over \$250,000, thus bringing the total savings to Moraga for this scenario at over \$2.1 million."

The findings and suggestions of the study are tentatively scheduled for the May 11 town council meeting.



**LeapFrog Plumbing**

When it comes to safety.....  
We Hop To It!

**\$50 OFF** Earthquake emergency shut off valve\*



Head Frog Mo Williams



Reduced Toilet Cleaning Frequency    Reduced need for Toilet Paper    Auto Energy Saver

**\$150 off** Tankless water heater install\*

**\$50 off** Toto Bidet and install\*

\*Limit 1 coupon per job. Exp. 5/31/22



**We Hop To It!**  
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993  
green solutions!

(925) **377-6600**  
www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

CA Lic 929641    VISA    MASTERCARD



**Carefree Moves**  
MOVE COORDINATORS



CYNTHIA NOLAN, OWNER

**All-Women Company Serving East Bay Residents for Over 20 Years**

**COMPLETE MOVE & COORDINATION SPECIALISTS**

★ CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ★

**FULL PACKING & UNPACKING SERVICES**

**PACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
plan, sort, pack, label and help with what to keep, toss, donate, consign

**UNPACKING SERVICE INCLUDES:**  
placing furniture, setting up kitchen, organizing closets, cupboards and drawers

Insured, Bonded, and Green

Nominated by SCORE for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business

**925.330.1988**  
hello@carefreemoves.net  
www.carefreemoves.net





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

## Happy Spring! Contact me anytime for a market update.



**Dana Reedy**  
 JD | Broker Associate  
 415.205.8050  
 dana@danareedyhomes.com  
 DRE 01880723



**Sale Pending!**  
**1523 Wicklow Court**  
 5 Bed 3.5 Bath 2,610 Sq Ft  
 Representing Seller



**Just Sold!**  
**2865 San Benito Drive**  
 4 Bed 2.5 Bath 1,786 Sq Ft  
 Representing Buyer

## Orinda again closes the door on Marin Clean Energy

By Sora O'Doherty

Yet again the Orinda City Council has refused to even consider the possibility of joining Marin Clean Energy. Mayor Dennis Fay expressed himself to be “extremely disappointed” as his motion to explore the questions surrounding joining the community choice aggregator failed to receive a second from Vice Mayor Inga Miller or council members Amy Worth or Nick Kosla. Council Member Darlene Gee recused herself because her husband is retired from Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

Marin Clean Energy is one of a number of community choice aggregators in the state of California and was the first in California. Launched by Marin County in 2010, MCE provides electricity service to more than a million residents and businesses in 34 member communities across four Bay Area counties: Contra Costa, Napa, Marin and Solano. Contra Costa County is a member community, as are 14 of the 19 cities within the county, save only Orinda, Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, and Hercules.

The item was on the April 19 agenda as a matter initiated

after Miramonte High School student Kaitlyn Roach asked the city to consider joining MCE. Roach is president of the school's Climate Action Club, and recently succeeded in getting the city to agree to commit to joining Sustainable Contra Costa County.

The council had two controversial items on its agenda, and attracted very large numbers of people attending the Zoom meeting. The council proceeded to consider the draft Housing Element first (see story, Page A7). The discussion went on for hours. At some point, the council realized that it would have to continue some other matters on the agenda, and did so, but kept the discussion about MCE until the end of the evening, requiring votes to extend the meeting past 11 p.m. twice.

The matter was introduced by City Manager David Biggs, who noted that staff provided some background, but if the council was interested in revisiting the question of joining MCE, he suggested that they could invite MCE and PG&E to come and make presentations to answer the council's questions. Biggs added that the city of Fairfield is the most recent to join

MCE, and that he had talked to the city about their experience. Biggs also reported talking to the mayor and staff in Lafayette, who said that joining MCE was a little bit time consuming, but that the amount of time required after getting in is “pretty minimal.” Biggs also talked to the MCE member from Danville.

The council received some 22 emails before the meeting about MCE and heard public comments during the meeting. Roach urged the council to join MCE and make it easy and effective to support cleaner energy in the future.

Nick Waranoff strongly objected to the item. “If MCE were that good,” he said, “it would be an opt-in program, not an opt-out one.” (The legislation allowing CCAs requires that they be opt-out.) He made a number of points, including that PG&E offers fully renewable energy just like MCE does (although PG&E's 100% renewable energy is not currently available), and that “once you get into a joint powers agreement, there is no exit.”

A fact sheet provide by MCE to the city council earlier states that a jurisdiction could withdraw from the JPA, but could be responsible for reimbursing

MCE for the long-term energy contracts purchased on behalf of the jurisdiction. However, it might be possible for MCE to make adjustments to short-term energy contracts, according to MCE. “If another new jurisdiction is joining MCE near the same time, the energy purchased on behalf of the existing jurisdiction could be transitioned to the new jurisdiction.” Since its inception in 2010, no community has left MCE's JPA.

Most of the public comments, both in writing and at the Zoom meeting, were staunch supporters of joining MCE. Latika Malkani, a member of the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee, addressed a few big picture points. When the matter came before the council in the past, she said, MCE and CCAs were very new, but now there is so much information available showing that the concept has been tested and proved very successful in other communities. “I am a huge supporter,” she said, “and now Orinda is behind the game, having not signed on to a CCA and given our residents a choice.” Malkani added that many other students would have spoken if the council had reached the matter earlier in the evening.

Former Moraga Mayor Lynda Deschambault said, “When I was the mayor of Moraga I used to look to Orinda, but Orinda has really fallen behind the curve.” She urged the council to move forward to at least put the matter on a future agenda, as did Mike Roemer, Matt Forgarty, and Charles Porges. Supporters who submitted written comments included the League of Women Voters. A professor from Berkeley's Haas Graduate Business School, offered the council an analysis of CCAs in general and urged them to perhaps shop around before selecting one.

Waranoff and Judy Sherwood were the only written comments opposing MCE, with Sherwood suggesting that MCE is “nothing but a scam,” and unregulated. Speaking to the Lamorinda Weekly after the meeting, Jenna Tenney, MCE's Marketing and Communications Manager, explained that while the California Public Utilities Commission does not regulate MCE's rate setting, it does regulate other aspects of the business. Rates are set by MCE's board, which is made up of representatives of local governments.

Miller argued that in voting on things that are going to be the basis of rates, Lafayette and Moraga have like a 1% of the vote. MCE has stated that its board operates generally under a one-community-one-vote policy and has never called a weighted vote based on the electric load of each member community. Miller agreed with Waranoff.

... continued on Page A8

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED  
 30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd  
 in Lafayette  
 925-284-4440  
 lamorindafloors.com



## Beauty and Charm, Classic Orinda!



### JUST SOLD ~ 2 BIEN VENIDA, ORINDA

3 Beds • 2 Full Baths • 2,284 Sq. Ft. • .79 Acre Lot

This magical mid-century single story masterpiece is located up a private driveway off of a private lane lined with redwood trees, adjacent to the lush green Orinda Country Club golf course. The home features a gable roof that flattens at the perimeter, a motif inspired by Japanese architecture. This residence has been preserved and the original design features are intact. The home lives like a four bedroom with one room split by a unique variation of a shoji screen to create an additional private space with its own door and closet. Perfect for an office or another bedroom. This enchanting home features a beautiful backyard with meandering paths, contemplation benches, abundant native plantings, a black bottom pool and a large pool area for play and entertaining.

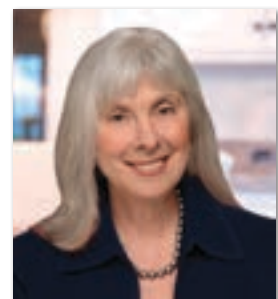
Offered at \$2,495,000 | Sold at \$2,940,000 • 2BienVenida.com

### PENDING ~ 9 LA NORIA, ORINDA

3 Beds • 3 Full Baths • 3,034 Sq. Ft. • .48 Acre Lot

This delightful home is located in the Orinda Country Club neighborhood, very close to downtown, and combines the charm of a traditional 40's Orinda home remodeled to an open floor plan with a new kitchen complete with Quartz counters, an island for casual dining, stainless appliances. Large formal dining area that opens to a spacious living room all with windows that frame the lovely views. There are three sets of French doors that open to a flat play area and deck. The property is enhanced by heritage lush Oak trees that provide shade and privacy to enjoy the patios and green lawn. There is an attached office with an exterior entry not included in the bedroom count. A charming home on a magical lot!

Offered at \$1,890,000 • 9LaNoria.com



**Laura Abrams**  
 laura@lauraabrams.com  
**510.697.3225**  
 DRE # 01272382

Top 25 Coldwell Banker Bay Area  
 International Presidents Premier  
 5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.  
 www.lauraabrams.com



Celebrating 22 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda  
 A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise with Global Connections

Recognized as one of America's 2021 Best Real Estate Professionals by Real Trends and Tom Ferry.  
 Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate professionals in the United States!



**City Council  
 Regular Meeting:**  
 Tuesday, May 3, 7 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only  
**Planning Commission**  
 Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only  
**Supplemental Sales Tax  
 Oversight Commission**  
 Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only



# Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

**GUARANTEED**

**FREE In-Home Inspection,**  
Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount

**Call 925-433-3988**

www.honestrodentproofing.com  
Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



## Thinking of Downsizing?

Many long-term residents dream of moving to a smaller or single level home while eliminating a mortgage and keeping their property taxes low.

I've assisted many Lamorindans with that and can ably guide you through the process. Call me today if you would like to utilize my 20+ years of local success to achieve your real estate dreams.

*Integrity* ♦ *Knowledge* ♦ *Results*



### Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist  
T. 925.788.4963  
E. Frank@FrankWoodward.com



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
REALTY

©2022 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

## Orinda School Board asks legislature for grant to preserve and protect nature area

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Union School District board of trustees voted at its April 19 special meeting to ask Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan to seek funding from the governor's office to be allocated from the state's 2022-23 budget for the express purpose of preserving and protecting the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The matter was brought to the board by OUSD Superintendent

Aida Glimme. The exact amount to be asked for has yet to be determined, but would be in the region of \$5 million or more.

The Wagner Ranch Nature Area, as it is currently known, covers an area of approximately 19 acres adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, but it is considered to be a sixth OUSD campus, where students from all of the other elementary schools in the district receive outdoor education. Fully

owned by OUSD, the area features meadows, forest, ponds and streams and is certified as a Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The area is bordered on one side by the San Pablo Creek, home to thousands of native plants and animals.

Throughout the year, OUSD students take part in field trips and hands-on experiential educational opportunities in the nature area, including summer camps. The district is looking

toward expanding opportunities to avail of the nature area to middle school students and to students from other districts.

District staff was informed of the opportunity to submit a request for funding and protection of the nature area. State funds may only be used for such projects, and may not be used to improve school facilities, to secure services for students, (such as mental health support), or for staff salaries.

The proposed request

would be to protect an area of roughly 15 acres and to designate that area as open space. In exchange for the funds, the designated portion of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area would be permanently preserved as protected, deed-restricted open space lands and would not be subject to potential future construction or development by OUSD or others.

... continued on Page A8

## At Housing Element review, city council agrees to not recommend housing at St. Stephen's

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council heard a detailed review of the draft Housing Element for the sixth cycle, and, in response to numerous public comments, agreed to not recommend housing be built on the site of the St. Stephen's church parking lot. Although the church had been willing to consider 30 housing units on its property, local residents in the area strongly objected. In response to public opinion, the church made it clear that it would not proceed with

building housing on its parking lot. The city received over 100 emails on the proposed draft, one of which was signed by hundreds of local residents. Ted Urban wrote to urge the city to include the site on the grounds that it has relatively easy access to Highway 24 and is located next to a fire station.

The discussion of the draft included a presentation by Placeworks consultants Jennifer Gastelum and Cynthia Walsh. Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley and City Manager David Biggs were also available for questions. The Housing Ele-

ment is an extremely complex process, dictated by state law, and the discussion continued over hours.

Placeworks went through the existing fifth cycle Housing Element, under which Orinda was only obligated to provide for the addition of 227 housing units and succeeded in having 346 building permits issued. However, none of those permits were for very-low or low-income units. The fifth Housing Element covered the period from 2015 to 2023. The sixth cycle covers the period of 2023 to 2031.

For the sixth Housing Ele-

ment, Orinda has received a regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) number of 1,359, a more than 500% increase. Adding a 25% buffer, the number of housing units Orinda is required to provide for is 1,506, and Placeworks has succeeded in identifying 1,806 potential sites, of which 982 are designated for very-low to low-income housing. The city is not required to actually build any housing units, but must make reasonable provisions to allow such units to be built.

One of the issues that attracted a great deal of public interest and comment is the possi-

bility of rezoning the BART parking lots for housing, which could, theoretically, provide enough housing to meet Orinda's RHNA for the sixth cycle. This approach was promoted by local resident Nick Waranoff and supported by other commenters. The problem with this approach, identified by Placeworks, is that the BART parking lot may not realistically be available for home building in a timeframe within the sixth cycle that will be acceptable to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

... continued on Page A8

## COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



**LAFAYETTE | \$2,850,000**  
Enchanting 4br/3ba gem in Happy Valley with top-of-the-line finishes.  
Soraya Golesorkhi 925.808.8390  
sg@soraya4homes.com | CalRE #01771736



**LAFAYETTE | \$1,295,000**  
Mid-century modern retreat with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths in idyllic location.  
Vlatka Bathgate 925.597.1573  
vlatka@bestlamorindahomes.com | CalRE #01390784

# SELL YOUR HOME FOR MORE

Powerful property marketing that gets you top dollar\*. Contact your Coldwell Banker Realty agent today.

\*Based on Coldwell Banker Realty property spotlight marketing plan usage data from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021 with an average sales price of properties marketed through Listing Concierge of \$603,866. Results are not guaranteed.



# MOFD announces an early burn ban

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District issued a public announcement from the fire marshal's office effective April 12 instituting a burn ban for all areas under MOFD's jurisdiction. This comes as a result of extremely dry conditions and lower than average rainfall this past season and will remain in effect until the onset of seasonal rains in the fall. The ban is in accordance with MOFD

Ordinance 20-03, which "sets forth the requirements and/or restrictions pertaining to banning open burning and recreational fires during high fire season and providing for enforcement options and penalties."

The ordinance specifies that improperly extinguished recreational fires could potentially turn into an uncontrolled fire that threatens to ignite nearby wildland and structures. Additionally, high winds and low fuel moisture could

add to an already dangerous situation. The ordinance also states that any person who fails to comply with the order may be subject to a fine of \$500 per each day of violation.

Basically, a burn ban involves all forms of open flames such as bonfires, portable outdoor fireplaces, ceremonial fires, recreational fires and campfires (on public and private land). The exceptions are UL or ASMI listed manufactured GAS (LPG or NG) outdoor flame devices and charcoal

grills. Also acceptable are wood pellet fuel based barbecue/smokers (such as Traeger). These pellet burning devices contain heat and ash which fully consume the pellets with no super-heated particles remaining that could start a fire after disposal.

MOFD does make exceptions to the burn ban by issuing a permit regarding special events or commercial cooking. In these instances, an inspection will be conducted and a permit outlining specific oper-



Photo courtesy MOFD

## Outdoor fireplaces fall under the burn ban category

ating guidelines will be issued. For permit information contact the Fire Marshal's office at (925) 258-4513.

# Lamorinda Community Emergency Communications plan exercise, May 4

By Sora O'Doherty

Local residents may get a radio call offering them ice cream and cupcakes from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4 during an exercise by the Lamorinda emergency preparedness community to determine how well radio communication works in

Lamorinda. MOFD will set up a communications net control near the Orinda Community Center, utilizing MOFD's equipment.

The objectives of the exercise are to introduce, test and revise a checklist for General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio emergency communications, to map radio coverage,

and to map collected locational information. Additionally, it is hoped that the exercise will allow participants to practice perishable radio skills in the GRMS community, to practice setting up communications stations for an emergency event, to develop message-taking skills, and to determine where coverage exists and where efforts will need

to be concentrated for future emergencies.

During the exercise, three repeater channels will be used by the net participants to identify themselves and provide locational information. Moraga GMRS, channel 121, Orinda GMRS, channel 122, and Lafayette GMRS, channel 123 will be linked and will be under

one net control.

Participating groups will include the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (Duncan Seibert and Julie Sparks), MOFD Support 245 (Dennis Rein), and Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (Todd Gritzer), as well as other interested community members and groups.

# Orinda again closes the door on Marin Clean Energy

... continued from Page A6

"It doesn't smell right," she said; "if it was so great, they wouldn't keep courting us." Worth appreciated all of Miller's com-

ments. She said that in her experience, JPAs require a tremendous amount of time, suggesting that city staff, including the city attorney, would have to look at every one of the

JPA's contracts. "It's a huge commitment," she concluded.

In response to Worth's comment after the meeting, MCE stated that joining a CCA JPA often brings more resources

and support to city staff. "We provide additional programs to the community and support GHG and energy savings reporting for city staff."

Council Member Nick Kosla

asked, "It feels good and it sounds nice, but what does it really mean?" He wondered how Orinda joining MCE would actually impact climate change.

# Orinda School Board asks legislature for grant

... continued from Page A7

All of the land would remain wholly under the ownership of OUSD.

The board looked at a proposed budget request of about \$4.5 million, which would provide funds for a visitor/education center, a bathroom, pathways compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an outdoor education coordinator and educators for five years, nature path signage and displays,

an outdoor kitchen, an outdoor classroom, fencing, a shade canopy and a garden upgrade.

Board member Liz Daoust explained that the request has to happen by the end of April. Board President Carol Brown queried whether the board is expecting the state to compensate OUSD for the full value of the land. She expressed her concerns that the board might be encumbering too much property.

Board member Jason Kaune

agreed that the nature area is very valuable property and this request is for all time. He said that he would like to explore a land trust for the open space property and felt that the board should not look as this grant as compensation for the land. Board member Cara Hoxley worried about the large area encumbered and Kaune suggested, "If we can't do the land trust, we have to evaluate all our options."

In public comments, Erica Bains spoke on behalf of the

Friends of the Orinda Nature Area, recently renamed from the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Bains said that since 2000 when the Friends formed a 501(c)(3), they have had the mission of preserving and maintaining the historical nature area, and have stepped in to ensure the continued operation of the area as an educational site. Saying that the Friends stand committed to the area and offering their help, the Friends urged the board to agree

that the majority of the nature area be conserved as protected open space, and that buildings should only be considered to the extent absolutely necessary for the economic and educational viability of the space.

Glimme told the board that there are two clear next steps: to conduct a survey and to review the budget and make sure the request is realistic, which is being undertaken by OUSD Director of Facilities, Stuart House.

35 years of experience in architectural design

**KAPLAN ARCHITECTS** [www.kaplanarchitects.com](http://www.kaplanarchitects.com)  
(510) 361-0223

# Orinda Housing Element review

... continued from Page A7

While there has been a lot of building on BART parking lots in recent years, Orinda is in a somewhat unique position because the parking lots are located between the two directions of Highway 24 and do not have direct street access. In addition, the land is owned not by BART but by CalTrans, which is known to move slowly in matters of land transfers. Placeworks recommended that

the BART parking lots be held in reserve for the seventh Housing Element.

As with everything involved in the Housing Element, the timeline is extremely complex. Orinda was required to make the draft Housing Element available for public comments for 30 days, plus an additional 10 days if any comments are received, which they have been. Following the public review, Orinda staff and consultants will make revisions

and submit the draft to HCD. It is anticipated that this will occur in May. HCD will then have 90 days to review and provide comments back to the city. Staff anticipates receiving comments from HCD in August. After HCD comments are received, there will be a second public comment period and second round of revisions before submission to HCD. HCD will have 60 days to review the resubmission.

Placeworks' long and extremely detailed document is available as part of the agenda packet for the Orinda City Council meeting of April 19, at <http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2030&Inline=True>

## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)  
**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 3 - April 16**

Alarms	50
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	147
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	21
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Public/School Assembly Check	7
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	29
Welfare Check	14
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
900 Block Hough Ave.	
100 Block Lafayette Cir.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Reckless Driving	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

3300 Block Springhill Rd.
1000 Block Leland Dr.
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Vehicle Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
<b>Other criminal activity</b>
Burglary - Misc
3300 Block Of Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Commercial Burglary
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses
2900 Block Windtree Ct.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pd Laf Police Department
Grand Theft
3300 Block Betty Ln.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
4000 Block Woodside Ct.
Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Petty Theft
3700 Block Sundale Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>
Disturbance-domestic
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music
1000 Block Orchard Rd. (3)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
Loud Noise
1000 Block Orchard Rd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
Loud Party
10 Block Springhill Ln.
Silverado Dr./Bradbury Dr.
Public Nuisance
Happy Valley Rd./Soares Ln.
Rohrer Dr./Bavarian Ln.
St Marys Rd./Woodview Dr.
Vandalism
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
700 Block Moraga Rd.
3300 Block Victoria Ave.
3400 Block Springhill Ct.
Chestnut St./Walnut St.
3500 Block Brook St.

**Other**  
Trespass  
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.  
Unwanted Guest  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Custody Order  
3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 5 - April 18**

Alarms	26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	44
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Excessive Speed	
700 Block Plot (2)	
Moraga Rd./Woodfoord	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
St Marys College	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Commercial Burglary	
Moraga T J Max	
Grand Theft	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
300 Block Constance Pl.	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	
Petty Theft	
Police Department	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-fight	
Moraga Commons Park	
Loud Music	

School St./Hazelwood Pl.
Canyon Club Brewery
Loud Noise
Hacienda (2)
<b>Other</b>
Accident Property
Police Department
900 Block Moraga
Animal Cruelty
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
10 Block Miramonte Dr.
Campolindo High School (2)
Other Felony
Moraga Rd./Tanglewood Dr., Laf
Suicide Attempt
600 Block Carroll Dr.
Trespass
1200 Block Larch Av
Unwanted Guest
500 Block Center St.
Violation Custody Order
2100 Block Donald Dr.

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 3 - April 16**

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	74
Patrol Req./Security Check	27
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Injury	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
300 Block El Toyonal	
10 Block El Pulgar	
Accident Property	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Auto Burglary	
Camino Pablo	
10 Block Wildwood Rd.	
Dui Misd	

El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
Theater Square
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
Tc - Property Damage
Ivy Dr./Coral Dr.
Vehicle Theft
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
90 Block Claremont Ave.
Orinda Way
<b>Other criminal activity</b>
Commercial Burglary
80 Block Dairy Creek Ln.
Grand Theft
70 Block Rheem Blvd.
60 Block Camino Don Miguel
Grand Theft Veh Parts
20 Block Alta Vista
Petty Theft
80 Block Via Floreado
Camino Sobrante (2)
10 Block Estabueno Dr.
Shoplift
Camino Sobrante
Warrant Arrest
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way
Ivy Dr./Ardith Dr.
Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln.
<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>
Loud Motorcycle
80 Block Via Floreado
Loud Party
10 Block Big Leaf Rd.
Public Nuisance
70 Block Southwood Dr.
Theatre Square
Moraga Way
St Stephens Dr./El Nido Ranch Rd.
Theatre Square
Vandalism
10 Block Orinda View Rd.
Vandalism - Felony
200 Block El Toyonal
<b>Other</b>
Animal Cruelty
Camino Sobrante
Mentally Ill Commit
20 Block Carisbrook Dr.
50 Block La Espiral
Prowler Seen
50 Block Windy Creek Way
Trespass
100 Block Camino Pablo
Unauthorized Possession
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way
Unwanted Guest
60 Block Moraga Way
Violation Restraining Ord
60 Block Oak Rd.



# Letters to the editor

## Multi-family housing

As a long-time friend to Moraga's town staff and to the Lamorinda Weekly, I offer this as a helpful suggestion regarding procedure. The stock photograph in the April 13 edition shows what a multi-family housing development can look like if there is open space around it, but there won't be anything like that in Moraga, as there hasn't been in the past. What we do have in our most recent multi-family development on Moraga Way next to the fire station is a typical example of too many units crowded onto a small parcel of land. I assume the photograph was supplied in good faith by the planning department and you used it without determining if it was realistic with regard to Moraga. No great harm done, but please be careful in the future.

As we increase the density in Moraga, the number of cars increases too. Please make sure that sufficient garage space is provided and that occupants use it for their cars. We don't want our streets lined with parked cars, as in parts of Oakland and Berkeley. I have noticed cars parked along Country Club Drive opposite that new development. There weren't cars parked there in the past.

As always, never forget that Moraga has a unique problem in the form of limited access to the outside world. If we let that one get away from us, we might as well call it Brigadoon, the mythical village in the Scottish Highlands that the residents may not leave.

Dale Walwark  
Moraga

## A vote for Devin Murphy

Devin Murphy, running for Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder, brings the blend of experience, vision and community knowledge that will enable improved Clerk-Recorder operations and ability to serve all of Contra Costa well. The County Clerk-Recorder safeguards our election process, voter registration, marriage licenses and business licenses. It is this office that can ensure votes are protected and can ensure all eligible voters are educated about voting and have ease in registering to vote and voting.

Devin has worked on voting since he was a teenager doing voter registration. He knows that civic education builds trust in government and commitment to the privilege of voting. He is currently Mayor Pro Tempore of Pinole and business owner of a technology company. His 12 years of civic and business experience working as a CEO, included building cultures oriented to serving the public. He wants to bring this spirit to the Clerk-Recorder's office coupled with technology innovations that will make the office easier to access. Devin will increase community locations and times of service to make it easier to se-

cure your marriage or business license and ensure all can be paid cash or check, as well as debit and credit card.

Devin will work to make the Clerk-Recorder office more efficient, and will focus on making it more environmentally sustainable in ways that also save money, starting with phasing out diesel mobile vans and replacing them with energy efficient electric vehicles.

Devin grew up in Contra Costa. Growing up, he watched his social worker mother advocate for the needs of vulnerable children, seniors, and families across the Bay Area. This instilled in him early the values of community, service, and making your voice heard when it comes to doing what's right. He graduated from and was class President at UCLA. As a Harvard Ash Fellow, Devin studied and applied ways to use technology to advance democratic governance.

Devin's passion for democracy and voting infuses his commitment to bring innovations to the Clerk-Recorder office using technology, enhanced community outreach and improved customer service.

Please vote for and learn more about Devin Murphy at [www.devinmurphy.com](http://www.devinmurphy.com).

Marti Roach  
Moraga

## Racial Equity Policy in schools

The dogmas of Critical Race Theory (CRT) continue to expand throughout Lamorinda's public schools under DEI, DEIB, and SEL, although the CRT-term itself is no longer used. Lafayette School District is now in the forefront of this activism with its Racial Equity Policy Manuals 0415.1 AR and BP, which you can google. See also prior letters in 10-27-21 and 12-08-21 editions. In order to begin to counter this openly racist ideology, the following Resolution needs to be adopted by local school districts:

District schools shall treat each student as an individual rather than as a member of a group based upon any immutable characteristic, in particular based upon race or ethnicity. Further, the student shall be judged based upon his or her individual behaviors and achievements, and not be judged, rewarded, or punished based upon group stereotypes or averages.

Specifically, in accordance with the above, the District:

1. will not permit teaching that any individual is an oppressor or is oppressed based on race, ethnicity, or any immutable characteristic.
2. will not permit teaching that an individual is inherently racist either consciously or unconsciously, is morally superior or inferior, or has a presumed superior or inferior competence or inherent advantage or disadvantage based upon race or ethnicity.
3. will not permit teaching that an individual should receive adverse or favorable treatment in

order to balance some statistical group property.

4. will not permit teaching that an individual bears responsibility for actions committed by other members of the same group in the past or present, or that an individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her group membership.

5. will not permit teaching that racism is the primary principle of society or the chief lens through which to view the world, ignoring other influences on culture, society and individuals.

6. will not permit any instruction that asks students to self-identify their group memberships.

David Berti  
Moraga

## Orinda City Council refuses to consider community choice energy

I'm writing because I'm interested in this issue and was disappointed by the presentations of our council members on agenda Item H.2 at the April 19 meeting of the Orinda City Council. With the exception of Mayor Fay, it seemed like they were struggling to find justifications for a predetermined vote.

Agenda Item H.2 was whether to request MCE (Marin Clean Energy) or other CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) entity make a presentation and answer questions at a future council meeting. A CCA is an alternative source of electrical generation to PG&E. They provide more choices of renewable energy sources than PG&E at typically slightly lower costs.

Twenty two email comments were submitted prior to the meeting. Twenty emails were in favor of the Item, including our state assembly representative Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Latika Malkani (a prior candidate for city council), and UCB business and energy professor and electrical grid operator who offered his expertise to council members.

There were only two emails against the Item.

There were eight public comments during the meeting seven for the Item, including the president of the Miramonte Climate Action Club ("Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our generation. An opportunity that shouldn't be ignored."), and one against.

Agenda Item H.2 started out with the new city manager saying, "We haven't done a lot of leg work at this time" because "council hasn't expressed a lot of interest."

Council member Gee recused due to a conflict of interest with PG&E.

In general, council members, excepting the mayor, expressed a lack of interest and vague concerns about council member and staff time required to review contracts, agendas, budgets, and possible financial

liabilities of joining a CCA. One council member agreed with the negative email citing a five-year-old article on "...a tin foil hat Conspiracy site that promotes quackery-level pseudoscience."

Comments included: "I'm not close to understanding what we're talking about" "I'd love to dive in a get more information - over a period of years."

"PG&E would be fossil-fuel free by 2045"

"What will this accomplish to reduce climate change?"

"We are a small city, what we do doesn't make any difference."

"A tremendous amount of time and its not free time in my life, it has a financial cost."

"Very concerned about our ability to take on projects."

"No further information will change my concerns."

Mayor Fay concluded by saying that he was extremely disappointed. "Cost is not the real issue, giving Orinda resi-

dents a choice of energy sources, including 100% renewable, is. PG&E doesn't offer that choice. This is not impossible." The real issue now, he said, is "Do you want to find out more?"

In the end, Mayor Fay moved to support the Item. No council members seconded the motion.

Let the city council know if you want a choice of energy sources. If council members do not represent you, vote them out of office.

Archived video of the meeting and supporting documents are available on the City website under Government, City Council Agendas. City Manager and council discussion of Item H.2 begins at 4:06, followed by citizen comments. Council discussion after citizen comments begins at 4:38. Meeting ends at 5:18 (12:20 a.m.).

Jim Ulrick  
Orinda



## Couples Weekend Creekside Retreat

May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 in Lafayette  
Saturday/Sunday 10:00 to 3:30

- ◆ Create the "Conscious Relationship"
- ◆ Improve your communication
- ◆ Deepen your connection
- ◆ Learn how to negotiate conflict more effectively
- ◆ Create conversation about your sexual relationship

For more information contact Dr. Darrell Christian at:

Email: [drdarrellchristian@gmail.com](mailto:drdarrellchristian@gmail.com) or

Visit: [www.darrellchristian.com](http://www.darrellchristian.com) for more details.



## Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices



22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda

Visit our Snack Shop & play Lotto & Lottery

Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am; Sun 6 am - 11 pm



## Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your  
Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



visit our website  
[www.bayareadrainage.com](http://www.bayareadrainage.com)

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



## ROCKRIDGE FURNITURE & DESIGN

rockridgefurniture.com

# OUTDOOR FURNITURE

IN-STOCK NOW



510-652-5753

3048 CLAREMONT AVENUE BERKELEY





**TG HARDWOOD FLOORS**  
Moraga California  
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION  
**925-376-1118**  
Lic # 974653

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Since 1993!  
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator



**Building Foundations**

- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

**707 310-0602**  
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 867128



**BURKIN ELECTRIC**  
"Let Us Light Up Your Life"  
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Serving Contra Costa since 1991  
More than 45 years experience

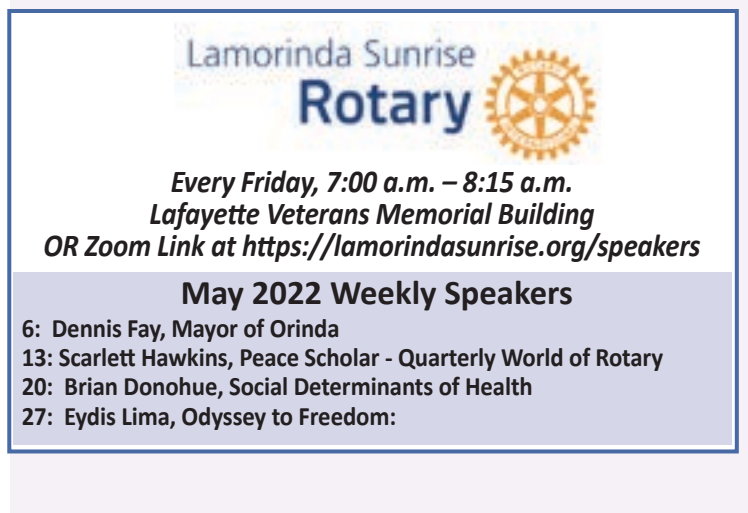
**All Work Done by Owner**  
Bonded & Insured  
Lic.#C10-631523

Professional Installation of:  
• Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting • Kitchen or Bath Remodel  
• Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting • Electrical Service Upgrade  
• Complete Home Wiring - Old & New • Spa Installation

**(925) 672-1519**

Electric Car Chargers

**Service Clubs Announcements**



Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary

Every Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.  
Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building  
OR Zoom Link at <https://lamorindasunrise.org/speakers>

**May 2022 Weekly Speakers**

6: Dennis Fay, Mayor of Orinda  
13: Scarlett Hawkins, Peace Scholar - Quarterly World of Rotary  
20: Brian Donohue, Social Determinants of Health  
27: Eydis Lima, Odyssey to Freedom:

**Exceptional Privacy and Seclusion**



**25 RUSTIC WAY, ORINDA**

6 Beds • 5 Full Baths • 1 Half Bath • 8,514 Sq. Ft. • 8.14 Acre Lot

This Amazing Private Glorietta Estate in Orinda was a custom build, by the current owner, to accommodate an active life style and social events. The residence features 8.14 acres with a remodeled home, a 6 car garage, an indoor racquetball court, a full tennis court, 6 bedrooms, a game room, an exercise room, sauna, pool, and a spa with amazing panoramic views! This exceptional lot has many areas for play and recreation as well as two private walking trails. There is a large gently sloping area above the home that could be a potential grape vineyard or orchard. There is potential for an easy subdivision of a lot just inside the gates for an additional home. There is also a large flat parking area perfect for an in-law unit if needed.

Offered at \$5,750,000 • 25RusticWay.com

**Laura Abrams**  
laura@lauraabrams.com  
**510.697.3225**  
DRE # 01272382

Top 25 Coldwell Banker Bay Area International Presidents Premier  
5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.  
www.lauraabrams.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**

Recognized as one of America's 2021 Best Real Estate Professionals by Real Trends and Tom Ferry. Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate professionals in the United States!

**Saint Mary's rugby team**

... continued from Page A1

"We did a lot of nice things today on defense," O'Brien said. "The guys had the defensive mindset of just wanting to get up and get out there and get the body profile right. We did create a lot of turnovers, but we also had a few big misses on defense due to our over aggressiveness."

The offense was led by juniors Inoke Waqavesi and Karl Keane. "We had our share of missed opportunities but Inoke and Karl both had good games and Karl was just a fraction away from being pulled," O'Brien said.

After a final score by Saint Mary's to close out the scoring, O'Brien could not restrain his satisfaction at defeating a program like Cal after their early season loss: "Every time you're playing rugby, you learn something. That's the beauty of the sport. We need more games like this where there's a big disparity in the talent levels in our programs, but I love the competition and what Cal has done for the college game. We need more rivalries like this. Every player on Cal is one of the top players in the country and we're like the island of misfit toys but we just find a way to get it done. We've had every kid come to practice for the last two weeks during the breaks when other people went away. We always expect to be playing in the last week of the season and we've done all the right things to be here, so we're not shy to say it."

The Gaels will be in Houston next Saturday to take on Army for the national championship, but O'Brien allowed himself to enjoy the victory over Cal for a little bit longer: "I'm not sure how we're going to address Army, but I'll start looking at film when I get home."

Since O'Brien became the head coach at Saint Mary's in 2007, they've had a run of success that can stand up against the top teams in any sport and the results speak for themselves: 2007-08 National semi-finals, ranked No. 2; 2011-12 - Undeclared season up to national semifinals;

2012-13 Lost in national finals; 2013-14 National champions; 2014-15 National champions; 2016-17 National champions; 2018-19 Undeclared, no playoffs; 2019-20 Undeclared, no playoffs; 2020-21 Undeclared, no playoffs; 2021-22 Heading to the national finals.

For Marty Storti, the assistant vice president for club athletics and revenue at Saint Mary's, the formula for the success of the rugby team is simple: "Unlike at a school like California, where rugby is a varsity sport with all of its advantages and resources, at Saint Mary's, we just happen to have a great coach and passionate players that are willing to put in the time and effort to learn the game and play it in a dynamic way. The fact that most of the funds that go into the rugby program (\$300,000 to \$400,000) are raised with the very generous help of our alumni groups makes the success of the program all the more impressive."

For Storti, it's much more than talent that has elevated the program at Saint Mary's. "We have great players but it's the culture that O'Brien has created and developed that is very supportive and encouraging for leadership. It's being held accountable by your peers and it has proven to be extremely successful," Storti said. "The amount of time and effort that he has the players studying the game, watching the game and his design of a physical offensive and defensive attack have all contributed to the success of the team. We have a culture that supports that style, taking the higher risk on offense that is harder to defend and that is really making a difference."

In the end what O'Brien feels makes his teams so successful is that they are just that: a team. "We don't recruit. We just have boys that come out in September, wearing a white T-shirt that has their name on it and off we go. Everybody practices and trains together and they all understand each other's position and profile and what their assignments are. We're pretty much all in and it's a pleasure to be a part of it."

**Broad smiles greet Brook Street Park**



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

**Zinab Lagab celebrates the Lafayette airport-themed Brook Street Park with her children.**

toddler and a first-grader, Robbie Peacock says he's relieved that the park has reopened. "During the pandemic it was a lot of sitting inside trying to find something to do so they didn't drive me crazy. It's a place to come and play and burn off energy," Peacock says. "Jack runs into a lot of his friends from LES here. Oliver is making friends. It's great because everybody gets to hang out. Even parents get a chance to talk to each other."

Scott Tanenbaum, a retired educator, might have outgrown the playground decades ago, but he says he'll never outgrow the park. He and his 13-year-old golden retriever, Katie, often take in the morning excitement as families rush their children to school. "This is a place that gets people out of their homes so they can see who their neighbors are."

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan helped cut the ribbon for the park's official opening. For Bauer-Kahan, investing in parks is a way to invest in healthy, accessible and inclusive communities. "It's so important to give kids a place to play together to move their bodies, play and learn to work together, to use their imaginations and to become the kind of adults we hope they can grow into," Bauer-Kahan says. And parks that are accessible to people of all ability levels and centrally located do play an important role in building inclusive communities that are environmentally friendly. "It's critical that we have parks in communities that people can walk to."

Jay Lifson from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has many fond memories of the park when it had a pirate theme and was also known as the Pirate Park. Even though his grandson has outgrown the park, Lifson says he's happy to see the new iteration of the park - Airport Park - come to life. "We needed this park in the downtown area so badly," Lifson says. "They've done a beautiful job laying it out and it will be a great place for years to come."

... continued from Page A1

She recalls joining the commission because there was just one baby swing in all of Lafayette, which was at the community center. "There was nowhere for a young mother, a nanny or a babysitter to take their kid and swing (in downtown Lafayette) and now we have four," Herpich says. "Just to see a family swinging together and hearing children's laughter makes four long years worth it."

Herpich's own child, Connor, appreciates the park and even helped with the ribbon cutting, but Herpich believes the park is vital for all children in the community, especially those in dense housing units. "People don't realize how many people don't have backyards. We have a lot of people who live in apartment buildings who do not have places for their kids to go outside and play. That made the last two years really hard. I hope this rectifies that."

As a longtime Lafayette resident and the parent of a



**When I say "good," you say "neighbor."**

**Mike Rosa**  
Agent  
**925-376-2244**  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106  
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7

**State Farm**

State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL



# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## 'Cinderella's Ball' ballet in Orinda



Photo provided

Front row, from left: Joanna Yu, Arya Samanta, Elise Nguyen, Ella Pierce, Emma Silberschmidt, Chloe Sabo-Nichols, Ava Allaire, Rene Silberschmidt, Phoebe Higgins, Maya Elkind, Sadie Eldind, and Emily Charo; back row: Francis Giquinto (red flower in hair), Amy Dai, Gemma Leach, Bailey Brothers, and Phoebe Schultz.

By Sora O'Doherty

"Cinderella's Ball," the spring production of the Orinda Ballet School, will be performed at the Orinda Library Auditorium on May 20-22. For the first time since the pandemic, the ballet will be performed without wearing masks, and the student dancers are very excited. It has been 10 years since the school produced and performed "Cinderella." Gemma Leach, an advanced student, will dance the role of

Cinderella and a professional male guest artist will perform the role of the prince.

The last time the school performed "Cinderella" in 2012, Leach was 6 years old. Now, after 10 years of dedicated hard work, she is performing in the lead role. Male guest artist Vincent Chavez has been working in Bay Area local dance companies for more than 10 years as well as teaching in various cities around the country.

The show will also in-

clude contemporary dances as openers. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$25 for adults and at the door, children's tickets are \$23.

The three performances will be Friday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, May 21 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 22 at 2 p.m.

Artistic Director Patricia Tomlinson is classically trained professional dancer and a graduate of Saint Mary's College in Moraga.

## 'Moods For Moderns' at Town Hall Theatre



Contemporary painter Michael Robinson

Photo provided

Submitted by Tracy Robinson

Oakland-based contemporary painter Michael Robinson will be the subject of a special free art exhibit at the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette through May 31.

Titled "Moods For Moderns," the show features six of Robinson's unique originals that highlight his three main formats — abstract figurative, mid-century geometrics and modern surrealism.

Robinson, 65, is well known in the Bay Area. Before embarking on a career as a painter, he worked as a reporter at the Oakland Tribune and the San Francisco Examiner. As a former touring musician, he was featured in a wide range of Bay Area and California newspapers.

Ironically, he did not get back into the visual arts until shortly after he turned 60 and spent four years painting under a pseudonym. "Moods for Moderns" is his first solo exhibit.

Armed with a playful attitude, he's becoming known for a deceptively simple style imbued with hidden meanings and cultural references. He is particularly regarded for his love of big ideas and for his bold color schemes. His major influences are Kandinsky, Miro, Warhol, Klee, and Basquiat.

"Moods for Moderns" features the iconic "In the Belly of the Beast," which refers to a controversial book by Jack Abbott championed by the late Norman Mailer. "Seance for Penny Cent" reveals how he often borrows from Monet to create lush backgrounds designed to intrigue the viewer.

Surrealism has had a big impact on Robinson as exemplified by "Voices from the Graveyard Shift." And the background for "There Beneath a Sharp and Sudden Sky" reflects the love he had for stormy Midwestern skies growing up in Kansas City. The title is a blend of songs from Crown the Empire and the Beatles.

For display hours, call the Town Hall Theatre box office at (925) 283-1557. Robinson's works can be viewed at [www.michaelrobinsonart.com](http://www.michaelrobinsonart.com).

## LIVING TRUST

**\$895**  
COMPLETE

Valid until June 8, 2022

**FREE** INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of  
**Lauren Smykowski**

### Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property
- Advanced Health Care Directive

### Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277

[www.smykowskilaw.com](http://www.smykowskilaw.com)

[laurensmy@gmail.com](mailto:laurensmy@gmail.com)

Office Located in Walnut Creek

## OUT OF THE BLUE

A Generational Love Story Series  
Elizabeth Blake Schloemer

In 1916, blue-blooded Bostonian Jack runs away from family tragedy. On the road, he meets Lizzy, whose dark secrets keep her heart locked up. These two opposites meet in South Carolina and are immediately drawn to each other, but can they overcome Lizzy's temper, that Jack was born mute, and their divergent cultural backgrounds, or will their differences and misunderstandings drive them apart?

Visit: [www.outofthebluebooks.com](http://www.outofthebluebooks.com) for more information and buying links to Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, Kobo, Smashwords ISBN # 979-8-9855447-0-1

## Help Wanted for the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program



- Part time paid driver for the Lafayette Shopping Shuttle from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, eventually two+ half days a week. If wanted, this position can also include part time dispatching and/or driving older adults to appointments and errands. Position requires a good driving record, cheerful communication skills, agility to occasionally tie down a wheelchair.
- Part time paid dispatcher to take ride reservations, schedule the route, communicate with passengers and drivers, and prepare reports. Position requires good communication skills and knowledge of Excel.
- Volunteer drivers for a 4-hour weekly or bi-weekly morning or afternoon shift to take older adults to appointments, errands and shopping.



For more information, please email Mary at [mbruns@lovelafayette.org](mailto:mbruns@lovelafayette.org) or call 925-284-5546.

## Tamplen Plastic Surgery now in Orinda

### Cosmetic Surgery

- Facelift
- Facial Implants
- Neck Lift
- Nose Surgery
- Brow Lift
- Eyelid Surgery
- Ear Surgery

### Laser & Non-Surgical Services

- BOTOX® Cosmetic and Dysport®
- Cosmetic Removal of Moles & Skin Tags
- Fillers (JUVEDERM®, JUVEDERM VOLUMA®, Restylane®)
- Fraxel Re:Store Laser Treatment

### Skin Care Services

- Chemical Peels
- Obagi® Consultation

Before

After



Dr. Matthew Tamplen, who grew up in Lafayette and is a well-known Facial Plastic Surgeon with Kaiser Permanente, just opened a private practice in Downtown Orinda to better serve Lamorinda patients.

**Matthew Tamplen, MD**

Orinda Office:

77 Moraga way Suite G, Orinda

925-444-0824

[TamplenPlasticSurgery.com](http://TamplenPlasticSurgery.com)



Double Board-Certified Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon.

## HOME TEAM HAULING

# 925-605-6663

WIN WITH THE HOME TEAM ADVANTAGE!

RESIDENTAL & COMMERCIAL  
CLEAN OUTS

UNWANTED FURNITURE

GENERAL TRASH & JUNK

APPLIANCES

MATTRESSES

HOT TUBS

YARD & CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

### SERVING

- LAMORINDA
- WALNUT CREEK
- GREATER CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Home Team Hauling is owned and managed by three life-long friends who have a history of service to our community and who simply enjoy working together.

We aspire to be the company you call every time and the one you refer to your family and friends.

925-605-6663

[www.hometeamhauling.com](http://www.hometeamhauling.com)



## A delicious air-fried option for Buffalo chicken egg rolls



Buffalo Chicken & Blue Cheese Egg Rolls (Air-fried). Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

Melted cheddar, tender shredded chicken, cilantro, and blue cheese crumbles all tossed in your favorite Buffalo wing sauce, then wrapped in an egg roll and air-fried to the perfect crispiness is what I'm talking about! Of course you can fry your egg rolls in oil, but since we are health buffs (most of the time) we opted to make these in our air fryer and they turned out great. They are not quite as crispy or flaky, but still really crunchy and so much healthier.

If you don't have an air fryer, you might think about getting one. We have the Instant Vortex 6-Qt. Air Fryer and we really love it, because you get all of the crunchiness of fried foods, but with so much less fat. We love the taste of fried foods, but not the feeling after eating all that oil. You can cook so many things in your air fryer, too, like the falafel we posted a few months ago, French fries, yuca fries (so de-

licious), Brussels sprouts and so much more. We are really just beginning to make use of ours, but there are so many



Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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>

things that we want to try making in it.

If you don't have an air fryer, you can also bake these

in the oven on a baking sheet for another healthy version!

### INGREDIENTS

#### Buffalo Chicken & Blue Cheese Egg Rolls

(Makes 10 Egg Rolls)

- 10 each egg roll wrappers
- 2 cups cooked, shredded chicken breast (can use thigh meat too, if you prefer)
- 1 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/3 cup Buffalo sauce
- 1 tablespoon Louisiana hot sauce
- Salt to taste
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup yogurt blue cheese dressing (recipe below)
- Extra Buffalo Sauce
- Carrot & celery sticks for garnish

#### Yogurt Blue Cheese Dressing

- 1 cup crumbled blue cheese, at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar (red wine vinegar will turn the dressing pink!)
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 dash white pepper
- 1/2 cup plain nonfat yogurt

### DIRECTIONS

#### Buffalo Chicken & Blue Cheese Egg Rolls

Place shredded chicken, grated cheddar cheese, blue cheese and cilantro in a mixing bowl. Stir to combine. Season to taste with salt ... just grind some right into the bowl. Add 1/3 (or more if you like the heat) cup of your favorite Buffalo wing sauce and mix well. Stir in Louisiana hot sauce. Set aside.

Lay five of the egg roll wrappers out on a cutting board. Divide half of the chicken mixture evenly on each wrapper toward the bottom of the egg roll wrapper.

Starting from the bottom roll up part way. Then fold the right corner of the wrapper in toward the center. Then fold the left side in toward the center.

Using a basting brush or the tips of your fingers, brush the top triangle of the wrapper with the egg. Then continue to roll the egg roll up toward the top until the whole thing is snugly wrapped. Press down where the egg wash is. Set aside.

Repeat the process until all of the egg roll wrappers have been filled. At this point you can refrigerate them until you are ready to air fry or bake them, or cook them right away.

When ready to bake, heat the air fryer to 350 F and set the bake time to 8 minutes. The fryer will tell you when to add the food, and then you just lay half the batch in the basket in the fryer. Air fry until the machine tells you to turn the food. Do as it says and then continue to air fry until they are golden-brown and crispy. Set aside in foil to keep warm. Repeat the process until all egg rolls are baked.

If you don't have an air fryer, preheat the oven to 400 F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the egg rolls on the parchment paper. Bake for 10-15 minutes, or until the crust is golden-brown and the filling is heated and the cheese is melted.

Serve hot egg rolls with a side of homemade yogurt blue cheese dressing (recipe below), extra Buffalo sauce, celery and carrot sticks.

#### Yogurt Blue Cheese Dressing

Place blue cheese crumbles in a bowl and mash with a fork. Add olive oil and mix into a paste. Stir in lemon juice, vinegar and white pepper. Blend well. Add yogurt and stir to combine. If you like your dressing a little more on the thin side, then simply add more olive oil and white wine vinegar in equal amounts until you arrive at your desired consistency.

## MSD Teacher of the Year Serina Culleton



Serina Culleton

Photo provided

### By Lou Fancher

In the oddest of ways, instructing elementary school students during the pandemic has suited Rheem Elementary School third grade teacher Serina Culleton perfectly. She loves teaching outdoors, centering lessons within games and observations of nature, springing dexterously from hands-on to virtual to hybrid formats, and most of all, never sugar-coating or sending obscure messages to her students.

A teacher at Rheem for 20 years, Culleton was recently announced as Teacher of the Year for the Moraga School District. "The way they told me was so sweet. The new superintendent (Dr. Julie Parks) came into our classroom with our principal, Brian Sullivan, and a giant balloon. They announced it to all of the students; to all of us at once. All the kids thought it was so cool. After the announcement, they took a picture

with all of us together."

Culleton said it was such an honor "because we have so many strong teachers in our district. I was simply shocked. What's interesting is that my kids and my niece and nephew have gone through Rheem now and I've seen the teachers here in a different light. I've been so impressed. I saw a different side of them, especially during COVID."

Culleton and her husband, Tim Culleton, have two sons, ages 10 and 13. Her mother is Susan Sperry, who taught for 37 years in a variety of positions at Los Perales Elementary and Joaquin Moraga Middle School in the Moraga School District. Like her mother, Culleton's path to leading a classroom of young students followed a few twists and side journeys before reaching its destination.

After attending Campolindo High School, Culleton earned a degree in psychology at UC Berkeley. "I always enjoyed performing, being an extrovert. I like being around the energy of people, especially kids. I thought I might do something with education and business. But I wasn't motivated by profit and loss: it was people I enjoyed. Over time, I realized psychology would be draining. I'm like a sponge for other people's emotions so it's hard for me to let go of how other people are feeling."

Fascination with the psychology involved in teaching and a strong interest in understanding kids motivated Culleton to return to school; eventually earning teaching credentials and a master's in interpersonal communication from Saint Mary's College in Moraga. "At Saint Mary's I learned my strength is working with people; realistically seeing where they are coming from. I researched the connection students and teachers have and how that impacts their academic paths."

Even though Culleton's temperament and skill set primed her to handle what she says was the pandemic's repeated "go, go, go, stop, readjust" pattern, disrupted routines and procedures were tough. In the

summertime between the last two school terms, she says she and her colleagues crashed. The anxiety of disjointed schedules and thinking about the next stage of returning to classrooms and removing masks created new dynamics that continued as soon as classes resumed.

"There were questions and feelings getting hurt when some kids still wore masks and some didn't. We've been thinking about how we'd keep kids safe, but also how to get along amid differences. We don't want our kids to be fractured in the way our country is. We're trying to nurse the ideal of being kind, even if you don't agree with each other. We're asking our students to do this, even if adults don't model the same kindness."

Asked if the pandemic, and parents having to become pseudo class assistants at home, has led to changed perceptions about the teaching profession, Culleton said, "For a lot of parents it was eye opening to see how hard it is to teach not only your own child, but to teach so many kids. They saw how challenging it is to teach."

Culleton nurtures new ways of thinking about and acting in her students' rapidly changing world, encourages questioning and supports the need for books and other materials with more diverse characters and authors. "It's all in the approach. Let's question, have discussions, not charge in with information saying this is the only way it is. In my classroom, when we do a section on the Missions in California, they're aware that the native people weren't marching happily into the missions. They see the injustice. They think about right and wrong. They get upset about segregation before 1964 and we talk about why it was done and have a whole conversation around that.

"A few years ago a parent came in and talked about Chinese New Year and told us it's more often called Lunar New Year, a term I learned and use now," she added. "We have to look at more than one perspective. You can't know everything."

### 2022-23 Lamorinda Teacher of the Year Nominees:

- Sarah Frank, Acalanes Union High School District, Miramonte High School
- Claudia Windfuhr, Lafayette School District, Stanley Middle School
- Vanessa Olona, Lafayette School District, Lafayette Elementary School
- Cheri Facer, Lafayette School District, Happy Valley Elementary School
- Nancy Newcomb, Lafayette School District, Springhill Elementary School
- Cathy Bertics, Lafayette School District, Burton Valley Elementary School
- Serina Culleton, Moraga School District, Donald L. Rheem Elementary School

## Moraga photographer featured in gallery at local boutique



Thomas Black, a Moraga-based photographer, is the featured artist at Hollie's Homegrown, an artisan boutique located in Lafayette at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The exhibit runs May 2 to Labor Day.

Having taken up photography upon retiring some years ago, Black specializes in Rural Americana subjects – "anything old, in a non-urban setting, and preferably in no better than worn-at-heel condition," he said.

Favored subjects include old barns and anything else that is farm-related. He is particularly drawn to old cars and trucks, many of which have been put out to pasture literally.

Although concentrating on California, he travels coast to coast in quest of subjects that "serve as a

nexus to the past and evoke a feeling of nostalgia," he said. "Although few of us grew up on a farm, all of us can relate to Rural Americana images. The more urbanized we become as a society, the stronger the pull."

Black's photography has garnered numerous awards, including juried competitions. Images have been published here and abroad, including in a magazine in the U.K. dedicated to Nikon photography.

His work can be viewed during normal business hours, Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The store proprietor, Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, has scheduled Saturday, May 14, as Meet The Artist day. Black will be on site from noon to close. His website is [www.tfblackphotography.com](http://www.tfblackphotography.com).

Moraga photographer Thomas Black

Photo provided



Not to be missed

ART

**The Lafayette Public Library** is now hosting an exhibition of "Freedom of Abstraction" at its Art Gallery in the lobby of the Don Tatzin Community Hall. (3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) Exhibit runs April 13 through Sept. 14. One of the works references the support for Ukraine's fight for freedom.

**Art Gallery at the Orinda Library:** Tablets, Out of Africa Photos and Watercolors. The Lamorinda Arts Council presents "Reading the Tablet" by Francesca Borgatta; "Out of Africa" photographs by Maggie Boscoe, David Fleisig, Pam Hall, Jeff Halliday and Maureen Rosati-Wee; and watercolors by Anne Fallin. The show runs throughout May in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Meet the artists at a reception in their honor on Saturday, May 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. Visit [lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2/](http://lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2/) for more information.

**Art Gallery at Wilder:** Collage – Pop-Up Collage Party & The Art of Listening to Your Materials. The Lamorinda Arts Council's featured artist in the Art Gallery at Wilder for May is collage artist Hallie Strock. Meet her at a Pop-Up Collage Party reception in her honor on Sunday, May 8 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and help make a collage. All Moms are honored guests at this Pop-Up Collage Party. View her virtual exhibit at the Council's online gallery, [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries). For directions to the opening see [www.lamorindaarts.org/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/)

current-exhibits-wilder/.

**Moraga Art Gallery's** new springtime show "Natural Abundance." Reception Saturday, April 23, 5 to 7 p.m., the public is invited. The Gallery is open from noon until 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday, 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com) or call 925-376-5407.

MUSIC

**The Stanley Jazz Café** is back! Friday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. at Stanley Middle School, Lafayette. Stanley Jazz Bands, Acalanes Jazz Ensemble, Campolindo Jazz Band, and many more will be coming together for an evening of music and to honor Mr. Bob Athayde after 35 years of inspirational service to the Lamorinda community. This is a free event to celebrate the arts and of course, Mr. Athayde.

**Crowden Music Center** presents Sundays @ Four: Vitamin Em on Sunday, May 1, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden presents an afternoon of exuberant, genre-defying, dance-inducing music by the award-winning players of Vitamin Em! Free for kids. Cost: Free to \$25. For more info see <https://www.crowden.org/vitamin-em/> or call 510-559-6910 or email [concerts@crowden.org](mailto:concerts@crowden.org).

**Festival Opera and The Rotary Club of Orinda** are thrilled to present the Club's 12th "Opera in the Park" concert. This free performance, will be presented from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, at

the Orinda Community Park. It is an opportunity to hear Festival Opera's stellar artists performing hits that span both opera and musical theatre genres. For more information on Festival Opera or the concert, please visit [www.festivalopera.org](http://www.festivalopera.org) or email [info@festivalopera.org](mailto:info@festivalopera.org).

**Lamorinda Idol: Audition** Video submission deadline May 15. Lamorinda Idol is a singing program open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who either attend school or reside in Contra Costa County. Idol runs April through August 2022. Visit [lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/](http://lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/) for more information.

**Berkeley Chamber Performances** presents Vitamin Em on Tuesday, June 7, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Vitamin Em is a musical collective of Grammy and award-winning musicians from the Bay Area celebrating jazz, funk, R&B, soul and fiddle music. Cost: \$30. For more info see <http://www.berkeley-chamberperform.org> or call 1-510-525-5211 or email [chiara9@comcast.net](mailto:chiara9@comcast.net).

**Gold Coast Chamber Players** concert: Cultural Crossroads, Black and Indigenous influences on Dvořák in America. Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m., Pre-concert interview with R. Carlos Nakai and John-Carlos Perea at 7 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning May 17. Tickets \$15-45. Tickets online ([www.gcchambermusic.com](http://www.gcchambermusic.com)) or by phone: (925)

283-3728

LITERATURE

**It's back! The giant spring** book sale sponsored by the Friends of Moraga Library will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moraga Library (1500 St. Mary's Road). Proceeds from the sale are used to fund library materials and programs. See you there!

THEATER

**Orinda Intermediate School** Bulldog Theater stages Disney's "High School Musical JR.," May 5 - 7 at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life with its inspiring message of friendship, self-discovery, and teamwork as the students of East High deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.townhalltheatre.com/thed-residencies](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/thed-residencies) for show times and tickets or call 925-283-1557.

**The Performing Arts Department** of Saint Mary's College presents the Saint Mary's College Dance Company annual spring dance concert "In the Slipstream." Being in the slipstream refers to the "turbulence behind a moving object that pulls us along." The concert features Modern/Contemporary Dance, Tap, West African, Dance Theatre, Asian Dance and Ballet Folklorico. The evening culminates with a tribute to our graduating seniors called "Reposar la Juventud en la Victoria (Standing in Your Victory)."

Not to be missed

OTHER

**The 4th Annual Girls Crushing** It Spring Pop-up Shop is back in person. The Spring Pop-up Shop will showcase 50 young entrepreneurs (ages 7-17) proudly selling everything from homemade bath products and pet treats, to original works of art and handmade jewelry from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 1 at the Outdoor Plaza at Orinda Library (26 Orinda Way, Orinda). Special guest and award-winning author, Diana Kapp, will be on hand signing copies of her new book, "Girls Who Green the World: Thirty-Four Rebel Women Out to Save Our Planet."

**The Moraga Historical Society** will be presenting a LIVE program Thursday, May 12 on Contra Costa County's Illustrious Maritime History. Noted historian Carol A. Jensen, author of numerous books and articles on Contra Costa County, will be at the Moraga Library Meeting Room discussing how San Francisco's "opposite shore" played a significant maritime role in securing the city's financial preeminence. Contra Costa County provided deep-water ports for shipping agricultural, mineral, and manufactured goods around the world. Free to members of the Moraga Historical Society and their guests, refreshments will be provided at 7:15 p.m. The program will commence at 7:30 p.m.

**Ecology Center Hosts Farmers' Market Salsa Festival** in Berkeley at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Park (2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Way), on May 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A community gathering for a day of environmental and cultural experiences featuring live music and dance. This is a free event with easy BART access within walking distance. <https://ecologycenter.org/events/farmers-market-salsa-festival>

**Event at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School** for adults and students 11+. Gender has become an increasingly prevalent topic of discussion in our culture. Learning about gender can help prevent bullying behaviors, which are often based on gender stereotypes. Addressing this topic can help youth who feel alone because of their gender identities or expressions. These youth are at greater risk of suffering harassment, bullying, and committing suicide. Our school is not immune from these issues. Join us for films and conversation about supporting, celebrating, and being allies to our LGBTQ+ youth!! 6 p.m. dinner in the JM Pavilion from Shllin Berkeley, 6:30 p.m. Four documentaries will be shown in the JM Library, 7:45 - 8:30 p.m. discussion. <https://youthandgendermediaproject.org/films>

**The Lafayette Chamber** is presenting a very valuable webinar for area restaurant owners and managers on Tuesday, May 10 at 2:30 p.m. Trashy Takeout Education For Restaurants To The Rescue! Learn about best practices for adding reusables to your takeout business. This event is open to all restaurant managers. Register at: <https://lafayettechamber.org/takeout>.

**Sustainable Lafayette presents** Lafayette Earth Day Festival 2022 on Golden Gate Way by the Lafayette Library & Learning Center on April 30, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GARDEN

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all, Friday, May 20, Glenn Phillips, Executive Director of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will tell us How to Create a Backyard Symphony by making our gardens inviting to birds. Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd. Proof of vaccination including booster is required and an N95 or KN95 mask must be worn. Doors open at 9 a.m., attendees must be seated by 9:45 a.m., meeting begins at 10 a.m. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, visit [montelindogarden.com](http://montelindogarden.com).

Lamorinda's Religious Services



**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
**Sunday 10am in person worship**  
We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Please join us!

A WELCOMING AND LOVING  
COMMUNITY OF FAITH  
that LEARNS, GROWS, AND SERVES  
**TOGETHER.**

[LOPC.ORG](http://LOPC.ORG)



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

An Open, Affirming & Loving Community  
**In-Person & Virtual service Sun. at 9:00 AM**  
If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email [cathy.w@stanselms.us](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.us)  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, [www.stanselms.us](http://www.stanselms.us)



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)  
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

**Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.**  
**Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel**  
**Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel**



ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA

**Sunday Service at 10 a.m.**  
451 Moraga Way, Orinda  
[www.stmarksorinda.org](http://www.stmarksorinda.org) | (925) 254-5965  
All Are Welcome

WILLOWSPRING community church

**Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are.**

[www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)  
1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550  
**10:45 AM Sunday Service**

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](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

**mvpcc**

**JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:30**  
**INDOORS & ON THE PATIO**  
**OR ONLINE AT MVPCTODAY.ORG**

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SUNDAY SOUL FORUM | 9AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP | 11AM  
IN PERSON OR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM  
[WWW.OSLC.NET](http://WWW.OSLC.NET) | FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549 | 925.283.3722 | [SPIRIT@OSLC.NET](mailto:SPIRIT@OSLC.NET)





Photo provided

## Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour, April 30

The Lafayette Juniors will host a lifestyle tour showcasing unique and masterfully designed spaces at five beautiful Lafayette homes from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30. The self-guided tour was formerly known as the kitchen tour. This year marks the club's 23rd tour and is a beloved Lafayette tradition for many residents. Funds raised through the Lifestyle Tour will directly support beneficiaries, Futures Explored, Lamorinda Village and White Pony Express.

Guests are invited to experience breathtaking landscaping, gorgeous outdoor conversation

spaces, and beautiful hardscapes and softscapes to get ideas for future projects or just enjoy a day out in Lafayette.

The tour will be in compliance with Contra Costa Health Guidelines. If you can't attend in person, the Juniors ask that you consider purchasing a donation ticket, available in varying amounts. Tickets are available either for the tour alone or the tour plus lunch at one of the homes designated for luncheon, and can be purchased at Eventbrite, [www.eventbrite.com/e/lafayette-juniors-lifestyle-tour-tickets-274411581427](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lafayette-juniors-lifestyle-tour-tickets-274411581427) - S. O'Doherty

## National Charity League Lamorinda honors Class of 2022



Photo Renee Sweeney

Members of the Class of 2022, from left, front row: Riley George, Allison Smith, Ava Caballero, Adriana Colon, Paige Chivers, Chloe Carberry, Samantha Hess, Joanna Bishop; back row: Olivia Curtis, Erin Smith, Anna Crinks, Kristi Conner, Emily Starn, Lila Hill, Laurel Hunter, Danielle DeFrancisci, Sophia Harju, Sammi Huebner, Megan Mitchell, Jacqui Huebner, Avery Bahl.

### Submitted by Kim Hunter

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League on March 27 recognized and celebrated its 21 graduating seniors in a lovely ceremony filled with poignant speeches, dinner, dancing, and a generous donation to Monument Crisis Center. Alexa Gambero and Tina Ross from MCC accepted the class gift at the event, which took place at the Saint Mary's Soda Center in Moraga, 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 5,300 hours to those in need.

NCL's Lamorinda 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. Philanthropies include 10,000 Lunches, American Heart Association, Blue Star Moms, Cake 4 Kids, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Community Reading Buddies, East Bay Heritage Quilters, Food Bank of Contra Costa County, Lamorinda Village, Loaves & Fishes, New Day for Children, White Pony Express, and more than a dozen others.

## Lafayette scouts celebrate 110th anniversary of Girl Scouts



Photo provided

### Submitted by Susan Reimer

Senior scouts from the Lafayette Service Unit on March 12 brought together local Girl Scouts to honor the 110th anniversary of the first Girl Scout meeting held on March 12, 1912. This was when Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low brought 18 girls together for the first meeting in the

United States. The event was held in Lafayette Plaza, which was filled with song and scout spirit. Currently there are 417 scout and 410 adult members in the Lafayette Service Unit and 2.5 million members in the U.S. Special thanks to Lafayette Sideboard, Lafayette Safeway and Lafayette Pack and Ship + Print for their support of this special event.

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

## Temple Isaiah Rabbi aiding Ukrainian refugees on Poland delegation

### Submitted by Jen Boxerman

The Temple Isaiah's senior Rabbi Jill Perlman is on an international delegation between rabbis and cantors in the U.S. and Israel at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow, Poland providing aid to Ukrainian refugees. Almost \$750,000 has been raised to date. The delegation was coordinated through the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), a Reform Rabbinic leadership organization, in partnership with J Squared Adventures [www.j2adventures.com/](http://www.j2adventures.com/)

"The JCC Krakow is doing incredible work," Perlman said. "They've completely pivoted and are focusing on supporting the vulnerable. Right now, about 25% of the Krakow population is made up of Ukrainian refugees. Each one has a story. They're all heartbreaking. Husbands left behind. Best friends killed. Children who can't sleep. Psychological trauma. Worry about what is next. The JCC is helping refugees find shelter, food, needed supplies, and psychological services. It's incredible work and they need help."

Perlman said what she witnessed was a mixture of sadness and hope. "I saw a bus arrive full of new

refugees carrying all they could, rows of beds full of old men, women, and children, and a warehouse full of supplies that we were told will turn over completely in a day. I also saw children laughing, scooting around in their scooters just like my own children do. Thank God someone donated toys so these children can still be children."

To make a donation, visit <https://temple-isaiah.org/values-in-action/ways-to-help/>

## In Memory

### Eleanor Farr Clark

Dec. 18, 1938 - March 14, 2022

Resident of Rossmoor



Eleanor was born to Sarah "Peg" Messerer Farr and Cecil Parker Farr on Dec. 18, 1938, in San Francisco, Calif. She passed away on March 14, 2022.

Eleanor's early life was impacted by World War II. When Cecil enlisted and went to Europe, Peg and Eleanor moved to Washington, D.C. After the war, the family settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. El attended Palo Alto High School before attending Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, earned her Bachelor of Art degree in Art History from the University of California at Berkeley.

El married Alan Roderick Clark in 1960.

They enjoyed 56 years together. They settled in Moraga in 1964 and remained Moraga residents until 2013. El was a loving wife and devoted mother to their three children. She served many community and youth organizations: AAUW, Moraga Service League, teacher's aide at Los Perales Elementary. She was an avid fan of her children's activities; she never missed a football or baseball game, dance recital or swim team meet. She enjoyed hiking, camping, skiing, bird watching and genealogy. She and Alan made many trips to New England and the Midwest in search of their roots. They were rewarded with revolutionary ancestors and El became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Eleanor loved travel and people. She and Alan found a second home in Puerta Vallarta, Mexico. Over 30 years they hosted friends, made many new friends there, and enjoyed having their children's families join them on their annual sojourn. El and Alan were members of First Covenant Church in Oakland. She served in the Sunday School, nursery and as a Deaconess.

Eleanor is preceded in death by her parents, and her loving husband Alan. She is survived by her children Stuart (Karen), Douglas (Karol) and Allison (Thomas), and five grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. May 7 at First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619. Flowers or memorial gifts may be sent to First Covenant Church.

## In Memory

### Robert Leon Mills, Orinda

1938 - 2022



Longtime Orinda resident, Robert (Bob) Mills, died on Feb. 24, after battling numerous medical problems. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of 53 years. The son of Doris and Leon Mills, Bob was born in Berkeley, Calif., and graduated from Hayward High in 1956. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1961 with a degree in civil engineering. While at UC he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity and sang with the UC Men's Glee Club and the Senior Men's Octette. Upon graduation he entered the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain. He was duty officer of a missile battery in northern Maine during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. While with the

California National Guard he was sent to Los Angeles in 1965 to perform riot control during the Watts riots.

He was employed with Kennedy Jenks Engineers and Brown and Caldwell Engineer throughout his working career. During his experience with Kennedy Jenks Engineers he designed a water distribution system for the islands of America Samoa. A significant achievement while working with Brown and Caldwell was as the author of the Framework Plan for the greater San Diego wastewater system, an effort that required negotiations with the Mexican government.

Bob was active in community affairs in Orinda, serving as vice president of the Orinda Association; commissioner on the Orinda Area Planning Commission; co-chair of the Orinda General Plan Committee and a member of Orinda's Infrastructure Committee. He ran for Orinda City Council in 1985 when the city won incorporation. He also enjoyed choral music and sang tenor in the Diablo College Masterworks Chorale, the Contra Costa Choral and Cantare Con Vivo. While singing with Cantare Con Vivo he traveled with the group on two European concert tours.

Besides traveling throughout the states, Bob and Carolyn also enjoyed international travel to many European countries, Africa and South America. Highlights for both were visiting the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. Bob was interested in the history of the Civil War and toured many battlefields from Fort Sumpter to Gettysburg. He also had a love for his dogs which led to several dog sledding experiences, including helping a musher at the Iditarod Dog Sled Race.

A celebration of life will be held on May 6 at 4 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library. Contributions in Bob's name can be made to the East Bay SPCA, 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland, CA 94621, or Cantare Con Vivo, 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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





**We're here for you**

**OAKLAND**  
(510) 428-3558

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
(415) 353-2808

**SAN RAMON**  
(925) 979-3430

**WALNUT CREEK**  
(925) 979-3430

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Baseball teams pointing to the playoffs



Photo Jon Kingdon

**Acalanes' Luke Souza bunting; Connor McPhail on deck; Miramonte Catcher Anthony Ricevuto**

**By Jon Kingdon**

Acalanes head coach Connor Hornsby's plan was to begin the year with a challenging non-league schedule. After losing four of their first six games, the Dons won 10 of their next 12 games, moving up to 11th in the Bay Area rankings. "Our plan was to play those type of teams to see how they perform and how they do the right things on the field," Hornsby said. "Those are the kind of things that we have embraced along with making adjustments every day and getting the right players in at the right time."

This looks like a veteran team, comprised of 12 seniors, nine juniors and three sophomores. Like everyone else, the coronavirus deprived the players of a complete season the last two years. "The players are learning a lot and leaning on each other," Hornsby said, "It's good to have the senior leadership, helping the younger kids who are getting to play."

Hornsby is trying to turn the clock back to the days when he was playing for Acalanes. "I want us to be a blue-collar program," Hornsby said. "Blue collar is showing up with your lunch pails every day, doing the little things right, catching right, doing ground balls right, listening to your coaches and even picking up the baseballs at the end of practice. Talent does not always succeed and that's when hard work comes into play."

The Dons have five players batting over .300 - Will Berrien (.350), Nico O'Rourke (.333), Kyle White (.300), Miles Bergman (.3108). Connor McPhail is batting .286 but has a .525 on base percentage.

Hornsby has taken the Oakland A's Moneyball philosophy: "We stress the quality of our at bats and how to get on base with hits, walks, and hit by pitches, trying to figure it out one base at a time. Once on base, we'll bunt, hit and run, bunt, and run, put guys in motion and putting the balls on the ground and that's how we've been winning our

games."

Leading the pitching staff has been senior Benjy Braunstein. After that, it's been a group effort with seniors Ethan Montgomery and Ethan Rowland, juniors Tyson Bates and Miller Smith and sophomore Henry Souza. "We're leaning on Benjy who fills up the zone and is not scared of any situation," Hornsby said. "We're just looking for our pitchers to get three outs at a time. If we think it's necessary to take them out at that point, they will embrace it. We play pitch to contact focusing on getting ahead on the count. It's a game of chess with us: sometimes it's a good move and sometimes it's not."

True to his maxim, Hornsby used three pitchers, Souza, Bates, and Smith, to throw a combined five inning no-hitter versus St. Mary's.

After averaging 3-4 errors a game early in the season, the team has shown a marked improvement. "Sophomore Gavin Bender has been figuring things out at third and Montgomery and Miles Bergman have been solid at short and second," Hornsby said "Montgomery is our most athletic guy on the field and he and Bergman have done a really good job in turning double plays. Will Berrien is one of the better centerfielders in the area. We have our pitchers throwing up in the zone to make them hit fly balls and that's an adjustment we made from early in the season."

With their eyes focused on the post-season NCS tournament, it's a simple formula for continued success for Hornsby. "For us, it's energy, attitude, and effort. We will find a way to put it together and everyone has to be ready to come in at any point."

**Miramonte**  
For first-year head coach Sean Hennessey, a difficult non-league schedule was not a problem, going 9-3 with wins against Division 1 opponents like St. Patrick's and Amador Valley. League play was another story having lost their first five league games, three of them by a total of four runs. The Matadors finally broke

into the win column with a 7-6 victory over Acalanes, breaking the Dons' four-game win streak.

This is a team with 17 seniors, seven juniors and one sophomore. "We're a really mature team and they have responded well to me as a first-year coach," Hennessey said. "They've learned what I was about and I'm still learning about them. I love the character of the players. They're a great bunch of kids and we'll continue to get better as the season wears on."

Such a mature team has matched up well with Hennessey's way of working with them. "I believe in the players having a say in the program," Hennessey said. "I hold myself to high standards and those are the same character traits that I want to bring to my players. I like to have conversations and the players appreciate that they have a say but, ultimately, I make the final decisions."

The leading hitters have been seniors Payton Harris, Jack Brun, and Anthony Ricevuto. "My hitting philosophy is hitting it from gap to gap, seeing what we can do to extend innings and put a lot of pressure on our opponents," Hennessey said. "The fluctuation of their batting averages is just one data point. If they're making productive outs such as advancing the man, hitting sacrifice flies, or doing whatever we can to score runs, I'm okay with that. We walk a lot so if we can get six or seven hits a game, we'll be in the game."

There is a lot of pitching depth on the roster led by seniors Will Heckler, Johnny Schlemmer, Nolan O'Brien, J.J. Savala, junior Michael Bohm and sophomore J.D. Pierce. "Heckler had a slow start that was hard on him," Hennessey said. "We've changed some things mechanically, and he had a two inning save against Amador Valley where he gave up no hits. Michael has been excellent. J.D., our only sophomore, started against Amador Valley and pitched well."

Jack Brun at shortstop and Armaan Sharma at second have been solid up the middle. "Our infield has played very well, and they have kept us in games," Hennessey said. "We've been playing well in

the outfield, making the plays that we should."

Leadership from the players has been a key to the team's performance: "I was very fortunate in coming into this program with some kids who are natural leaders. Ricevuto, being a catcher, sees everything and Harris and Brun have done everything I've asked along with the other seniors. These guys want to have success. The last few years have been tough without having much to play for other than the enjoyment of the game so it's nice to have goals again and we know that we can compete with everybody."

**Campolindo**

Even with a roster of nine seniors and eight juniors, and an 8-8 record, Campolindo head coach Max Luckhurst has a team that had to establish who they were from the start. "We have had to try and find our new identity," Luckhurst said. "There are a lot of players on the roster that are playing that have not had a lot of experience. It takes a little while to get up and running. I

don't think we ever walk out day one with an identity."

The pitching staff has been consistent all season, led by seniors Colin Godfrey and Matt Elliot who have been the primary starters. Juniors Philip Jagard and Adrian Blumberg have been anchoring the bullpen.

There has been a solid core of hitters led by juniors Hideki Prather, who has already committed to the University of Michigan and Greg Palamountain along with seniors Matt Elliot and Connor Fritch who have also been hitting for average. "We swing it fairly well through the lineup from one through nine," Luckhurst said. "We also have some team speed and everybody's able to compete."

The defense has also been a strength of the team. "Our infield, outfield and catching has been solid," Luckhurst said. "We ask our pitchers to pitch to contact so these guys better be ready to play catch and get outs."

... continued on Page C4

Quality Hearing Aids • In Ear Monitors • Ear Mold Impressions

**FREE Initial Consultation**  
Now taking Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Medicare.

**Dr. Erik M. Breitling,**  
Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA

**LAMORINDA**  
**AUDIOLGY**

3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette  
**(925) 262-4242** www.LamorindaAudiology.com

Swim Plugs • Comprehensive Diagnostic Adult Hearing Evaluations

**FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP**

**COUGAR FOOTBALL**

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH  
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADES 5 - 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

**DATES: July 11-15 & July 18-22** **TIMES: 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.**  
**FEES: \$500 (T-shirt included)**

**FOR REGISTRATION GO TO: cougarcamps.com**

**Now accepting registrations!**

**LAMORINDA**  
**LACROSSE**

Character. Competition.  
Discipline. Fun.

Registration is open for our  
**Summer Day Camp**  
Boys and Girls 8U-14U  
**DATES: July 11-July 15**  
**TIME: 9:00AM-2:00PM**  
COST: \$425.00  
Full gear is required.  
Please bring water and sunscreen



## Lamorinda athletes and community gather in remembrance



Acalanes girls lacrosse players and coaches, as well as students and families from the three local high schools lined up on three sides of the field at Acalanes High School April 13 to honor lacrosse player Natalie Hiatt, who tragically passed away, with a moment of silence, remarks and remembrance.

- J. Wake

Photo provided

## Softball teams learning as they go



Photo Jon Kingdon

**Miramonte Head Coach Deb Mauer and her twin daughters Maggie (left) and Kendall (right)**

**By Jon Kingdon**

There are young teams and there are young teams. In the case of **Acalanes**, it's a situation where youth is not served. With only two seniors, six juniors, six sophomores and freshmen, many of the players have not brought the commensurate playing time to make it an easy transition to the varsity. With an overall record of 5-8 and 2-1 in league play, the Dons still have their eyes set on the post season.

Bringing the most experience to the team is senior third baseman Scarlett Pappalardo with a .343 batting average and an on base percentage of .521 and junior shortstop and pitcher Hailey

Stripling with .524 average. "Scarlett is having a great year as a hitter and as a fielder and Hailey, who has committed to Rutgers University, has been a dominant shortstop for us though we are now using her as our starting pitcher where she has made a big difference. Lana Cerejo, our other pitcher, is only a sophomore who worked hard in the off-season and should keep improving."

Junior Emmi Cronin, the team's leadoff hitter has moved from second to shortstop and freshman Avery Robb is now the team's second baseman and is learning on the job as is freshman catcher Esa Orman. "Both of our freshmen are doing well and getting good experience," Silva said. "However, it's really the

juniors that are holding the team together."

"I've had young teams before but most of them had more experience," Silva said. "It's a mental game and they have to learn not to take it out on to the field. You can't have a long memory in this game. We had a game where we made 10 errors but with experience, we're going to get better. Everyone gets along great which is important; we're having fun and the kids have been working hard."

### **Campolindo**

Campolindo is another young team with only two seniors along with five juniors, one sophomore and five freshmen. In his fourth year as the Cougars' head coach, Saul Tallarico acknowledged that "this is the fewest number of seniors we've had."

With a 3-7 overall record and 2-1 in league play, it's the approach that his players take to the game that Tallarico most appreciates. "The girls are really happy to be out there and they're having fun," Tallarico said. "Losing is never fun but the girls really have a good camaraderie. After the pandemic, they're very appreciative and enthusiastic to just be out there, which is a really positive thing."

The team has five girls with at least 10 at bats that are batting over .300: Lyla Marcus (.389), Molly Strohmeier (.333), senior, Sarah Tallarico (.318), Kylie Dowdall (.316) and freshman Clara Hwang (.300).

"The girls have been consistently hitting well, especially with our top hitters," Tallarico said. "We've been aggressive at the plate. Kaeli Martinet was hurt at the beginning of the year, so we weren't at full strength which led to some of our losses. As we round into the league schedule, we should start to round into more of a whole team as well."

With the new players and the veterans, there is a difference in how they have been handling their at bats. "Some of the younger girls are swingers but the older girls are more disciplined and willing to wait for their pitch," Tallarico said.

The pitching staff is led by Kaeli Martinet and Lyla Marcus. "Kaeli has been pitching the lions share right now and has had some great games but has not had the run support that was hoped for," Tallarico said. "Lyla Marcus is our second pitcher on the staff and also plays second base."

The infield has been very solid with junior Ashlyn Chin playing third base, after moving over from catcher and Tallarico at shortstop and Kylie Dowdall at first base. Junior Keilly Kilpatrick and freshman Lucy Wilson have been splitting time behind the plate. Molly Strohmeier has been very solid in the outfield.

"With Ashlyn and Sarah both playing well along with Lyla and Kylie, our infield has been solid," Tallarico said. "Keilly and Lucy are both first time catchers and have been doing great, particularly since neither had ever played there before. Molly has made some great catches in the outfield along with junior Nikita Vayner who has been playing left and right field. Plus, we've been able to sprinkle in the freshmen in other positions at times."

As the Cougars are trying to position themselves to be able to play in the postseason, Tallarico knows what the team has to do to be successful the rest of the season: "We have to be consistent and cutting down on the physical and mental errors. The girls are now getting into a place where they know where to go with the ball every time its hit to them, especially the younger girls. It's having confidence in themselves and building off the personal and team successes which will lead us to better results."

### **Miramonte**

With a 1-7-1 record, 1-2 in league play, Miramonte head coach Deb Mauer has kept things in perspective: "I think the most important thing about this team is that they're having fun and that they have created a really strong bond with each other," Mauer said. "So, when we are in a game where we trailed by a lot, after the game, we don't look at it as if we lost but rather that we played our best and we all

appreciate each other."

The team is made up of five seniors (two who are injured), four juniors, two sophomores and four freshmen. "Despite the fact that we have a number of girls that had not played softball before this season, it's been a learning experience for most of them and we've seen a quite an improvement in the play of the team," Mauer said.

Ruby McCabe, Kendall Mauer, and Izzy Pursano have been big hitters on the team. "I'm looking to instill a sense of confidence in our players," Mauer said. "When they're up at bat, I want them to see the bat hit the ball and when that happens, it's a good day."

McCabe was the number one pitcher but has been injured and the team has been trying to find more replacements. Kendal Mauer has moved from behind the plate to become the team's pitcher. "We've done a couple of pitching clinics so we're trying to grow our pitching strength with underclassmen and we're trying to build that as we grow," Mauer said. "Antonia Lawrence, Katherine Scheingart, Pateel Horoopian and Sarah Michels are all potential prospects. Moving to catcher is Izzie Roy."

Maggie Mauer is the team's centerfielder. In the infield, Sarah Michaels is the team's shortstop, Como Adule is the third baseman with Izzie Pursano at first base. "Sarah is one of the top athletes on the team and Komal Aujla is learning as she plays, and Izzie is solid at first base, so we have a pretty solid infield."

Mauer understands that the team's improvement comes in small steps: "The basic skill set of our players has improved exponentially along with their knowledge of the game and their comfort in it. They're much more aware of what is going on in total as opposed to just in their sphere of things. I love softball and being around the girls, teaching them how to be strong women and to have fun with this game and to use it as a jumping off point for the rest of their lives."

## Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

### Science Tutoring

Science Tutoring by Stanford Grad./ Credentialed Teacher/Prof., 15 yrs exp.: MoragaAcademicConsulting.com

### House Cleaning

**www.totalclean.biz**  
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.  
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

### Rototilling

**Ken's Rototilling**  
• 4 W/D Tractors  
• Hillside Weed Cutting  
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling  
• Brush Removal Abatement  
To Fire Dept Regulations  
Free estimates! **925-938-9836**  
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491  
[www.kensrototilling.com](http://www.kensrototilling.com)

### Vacation Rental

**DREAM VACATION on MAUI.** Rent a beautiful 2 bedroom/2 bath villa which sleeps 6 on the beach in the Westin Nanea Kaananpali from August 6-13 for \$600/night. This spacious unit is fully appointed with a full kitchen, living room, dining room, spa tub, large lanai, washer/dryer and wifi. The Westin Nanea has multiple pools (including one for kids), a gym/workout room, grills and multiple restaurants. It's right on the beach with swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving at your fingertips.  
Call Andy at 925-788-4480 or email at [andy.krakoff@gmail.com](mailto:andy.krakoff@gmail.com).

### Fencing and More

**Java Fence (925) 957 1628**  
Decks, Hog Wire, Arbors, Stairs, Trellis, Deer Fence, Chicken coop, Green house  
CCL 880556, Free Est

### Structural Repairs

Since 1989  
**Alameda Engineering DRAINAGE SYSTEMS RETAINING WALLS FOUNDATIONS UNDERPINNING LANDSLIDE REPAIRS 510-537-6550**  
General Engineering Contractors  
Lic. # 562641  
[alameda-engineering@comcast.net](mailto:alameda-engineering@comcast.net)  
[alameda-engineering.com](http://alameda-engineering.com)

### Handyman

**Quetzal Handyman AC Service**  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL**  
Electrical, plumbing, concrete, driveways & more...  
Please call Carlos Toledo  
510-689-7490

**Rusty Nails Handyman Service**  
Repair • Restore • Revamp  
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

### Plumbing

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
(925) 377-6600  
[LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://LeapFrogPlumbing.com)

### Tile Setting

Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls, Counters  
Cliff 510-697-1125

\$15 per 1/2" classified ad height. Email to: [classified@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:classified@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Special Olympics returns to Acalanes after two-year hiatus



Photo Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

It was 11 years ago that the Special Olympics began what was to be an annual event at

Acalanes High School. It was something that was always looked forward to with great anticipation but for last two years, it was just another victim of the coronavirus. So,

when the official announcement was made that the Special Olympics was to restart last Friday, April 22, the news was met with both relief and excitement.

An event like this does not come together overnight. “We started setting up in October and began meeting in January to make sure that everything was flowing,” Program Coordinator Sheri Roberts said. “With the kids not being able to go to school or anywhere the last two years, they’re very excited to be here today and it’s exciting for me as well.”

There is still a carryover to what went on with the virus in that there were only 28 classes represented whereas there had been at least 54 classes in the past. “With so many bus companies having gone out of business, getting enough buses was an issue and a number of the teachers were really tired from all that they had gone through.”

There were over 300 special ed students participating in the events, over 200 general ed students in the stands cheering them on and 111 Acalanes students volunteering, mostly from Kat Bautista’s Leadership class helping out in any way they could.

After the opening parade, the athletes had the opportunity to participate in the 50-

meter, 100-meter and mile runs, the standing long jump, the softball throw and the turbo javelin.

Introducing all of the classes was ABC News Anchor Dan Ashley. “I was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies along with singing the National Anthem,” Ashley said. “I don’t usually sing at 10 in the morning so it’s going to be interesting. (He gave a great rendition). I’ve always supported the Special Olympics and have done so many times over the years. It’s a beautiful organization and events like this are just wonderful and whenever I have a chance to support it, I’m happy to do it.”

For Natalie Chargin, a speech therapist at Acalanes, it was her first time at the event and she saw how excited her students got just waiting for the day to arrive. “I watched videos with them in preparing them for this event and I became really excited as well,” Chargin said. “It’s such an amazing day with everyone smiling and engaging together. This community with the staff and students is just wonderful.”

Acalanes senior Emily Starn, one of the student volunteers, had more personal reasons for her involvement with the program: “My brother has Asperger’s Syndrome so I’ve always been in-

involved with this type of work. I love volunteering for the Special Olympics, and it means a lot for me to be here.”

Chris Clark, Acalanes’ athletic trainer, always makes himself available to oversee the athletes. “If they are brought to the medical area, I make sure that they have all their medications and medical information to appropriately address whatever might be going on,” Clark said. “We’re ready to take care of anything but ideally, all we will have to treat are the various bruises that can be treated with band-aids.”

Chevron has been a big donor for Special Olympics and Mary Francis was their representative on the field: “We’ve been long sponsors of the Special Olympics organization and really support their mission, allowing everyone to celebrate their unique abilities and the acceptance of it. This program is more than about sports. It’s a valuable education experience that unifies students of all abilities and encourages acceptance and respect.”

Sheri Roberts spoke for more than just the Olympics when she concluded: “This is a big event that hopefully is kicking off a whole new era of getting back to normal.”

# Lamorinda RFC U14s win Rugby NorCal End of Year Tournament



Photo provided

Submitted by Andrea Parrott

The Lamo U14s ended their season in style at the Rugby NorCal End of Year tournament at Bartholomew Sports Park in Elk Grove last Saturday. The Rodents eased through the playoffs, beating Elk Grove, the hosts and Danville, before encountering a very strong local team, Kaji in the final. After a bruising 30 mins, and a fatal missed kick, Lamo overcame Kaji 14-12 to take the cup.

Daniel Dunne (inside center) scored two tries. Thomas Parrott (flyhalf) kicked both conversions.

The U14s were coached by Henk Van Niekerk, Steve Miller, Nathan Rundell, Patrick Dunne, Robbie Haskings, Ray Lehner and Andrew Parrott.

Back row, from right: Zaire Palmer, Ryan Crane, Eli Levenfeld, Adam Shedd, Danny Dunne, Cole Haraburda, Josh Haskings, OC Lehner (C), Bryce Birdsong, Ethan Kong; middle row: Sam Kennedy, Sebby Strittmater, Xander Hagen, Max Mitchell, Kayden Prak-Perry, Thomas Parrott (C), Will Miller, Alastor Friend, Billy Ellis; front: Jeremy Rundell

# Lamorinda Water Polo Club celebrates its recruited student athletes



Photo Shirley DeFrancisci

Submitted by Andra Berkman

Lamorinda Water Polo Club hosted its College Commitment Celebration on Wednesday, April 13 at Miramonte High School to celebrate its 2022 graduates who have committed to play collegiate water polo. At the celebration, the club recognized the following outstanding athletes for their excellence and dedication to water polo and academics: top row, from left: Kim Everist, LAMO Director of Girls and 16U Girls Head Coach; Lindsey Lucas (Orinda),

Princeton University; Anna Painter (Lafayette), Villanova University; Ally Smith (Orinda), UC Davis; Grace Clark (Orinda), Claremont McKenna College; Shannon Murphy (Orinda), San Diego State University; Maggie Hawkins (Lafayette), Stanford University; Guy Baker, LAMO Executive Director and 18U Girls Head Coach; bottom row: James Lathrop, LAMO Boys Director and 18U Boys Head Coach; Owen Van Stralen (Orinda), Santa Clara University; Will Stryker (Lafayette), UC Davis; and Donovan Davidson (Orinda), Claremont McKenna College.

# Karate & Fitness USA Tournament Results



Photo provided

Team members from Lamorinda: Hazemach, Amaliya, Sophia, Wayne, Ethan, Chloe, Miles, Adeeb, Ammar, Paroma, Andrew and Rayan

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff

At the 2022 Ozawa Cup International Karate Tournament in Las Vegas, Nev., 12 Karate & Fitness USA members competed against athletes from all over the world and returned home with 19 medals: six gold, seven silver and six bronze.

Chloe and Miles Paras return home with all gold medals: Chloe with three gold medals in Kata (forms), Kumite (sparring) and Kobudo (weapons) and Miles with two gold medals in Kata and Kumite.



Chloe and Miles Paras



# Baseball teams pointing to the playoffs

... continued from Page C1

Prather has been a dominant catcher with sophomore Cam Enberg ably backing him up. "Hideki does it all - throwing, catching, blocking the plate and he swings the bat well. He's very smart and calls a very good game."

Palamountain at short-stop has been very solid.

Freshman infielder Miles Clayton who backs up at second, short and third has been the surprise of the team. "Miles has done a great job and has been able to handle things. Our outfield with Adam Harper in left, Connor Fritch in right and Max Rittman and Scott Linden sharing centerfield have been playing well."

Unlike many other teams, there are multi-sport athletes on the team with Rittman, Fritch, Godfrey, Zach Anderson, and Brendan Comerford having all played football for Campolindo. "We have an interesting dynamic with our football players. They've played a limited amount of baseball, but I'm not surprised to see them come out

here and compete. They're really good athletes. It takes them a little while to get up and running but they have become main contributors to us."

Luckhurst is looking for continuity for the last eight games of the season. "It's a matter of seeing who's stepping up and who can stay healthy and contribute so that

we can keep the best players together on the field," Luckhurst said. "At one point, we played one with six guys out with the flu. The key to be successful the rest of the year will be staying healthy. The idea is to start playing back into the year and then head into NCS. You use the year to figure that out and then be ready to go at the end."

# Love Lafayette

**Lafayette Glass Co. Inc.**  
**Shower & Window Glass Specialist**

- Frameless Shower Glass
- Shower Enclosures
- Custom Mirrors
- New Windows/Patio Doors
- Replacement & Installation



**3375 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette**  
 next to Premier Kitchens, **USE DYER STREET TO ENTER**  
**925-284-9510**  
 www.lafayetteglasscompany.com | CSLB # 489426, CSLB # 795837

**MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING**

**HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST**

**925-247-0092**

**MarkBellinghamPainting.com**

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration  
 Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair  
 Light Carpentry Drywall Repair

**For a Quick Preliminary Estimate Email Photos of Project to: Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com**

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

*Anthony's*  
 Custom Picture Framers

After 30 years of service, we are proud to reintroduce ourselves as Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Family owned and operated since 1991. Anthony and Tony look forward to seeing you soon and assisting you with all your framing needs.

1020 Brown Ave, Suite A Lafayette, CA 94549  
 925-283-7620

Monday by Appointment Only  
 Tues-Sat 10:30 am to 6:00 pm  
 By Appointment Only

anthony'sCPF.com

\$30 off your next order with this ad!

**Reasonable Books**

New  
 Used  
 Vintage  
 Antique

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM  
 3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (925) 385-3026

Offering a selection of thoughtful books including local authors, biographies, history, philosophy, current events, and classic literature. We also carry a great selection of fiction, young adult, and classic children's books.

**LEATHER AND SHOE CARE**



**Bring in this ad for 25% off\* Leather Cleaning**

**3622 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette (925) 284-4809**  
 Open: Tues-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-4 \*exp. 9/30/22

*Ware Designs*  
 Fine Jewelry since 1977

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing
- Free Ring cleaning

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

**\$5 off Watch Battery**  
 Reg \$15, Now \$10  
 1 watch battery per person. Exp. 6/8/22. Usually installed while you wait.  
 W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
 283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tues-Sat 10-5

**LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics

Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a **Complimentary Consultation**

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste B110, Lafayette, CA  
**925-284-6150 www.LafayettePT.com**

**The UPS Store**

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00 Sat 9-5, Sun closed


**Our location:** 3527 Mt Diablo Blvd Lafayette, CA 94549

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services

store0202@theupsstore.com  
 www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202

**Hello Lamorinda!** Let me introduce myself-I'm Jack Perez. Im a traditional Barber at SHARP Barber Shop and I'd like to invite you to come see me at Sharp Barbershop for your next Haircut! I specialize in scissor and clipper work with an emphasis on haircuts that grow out well. **Schedule online at SharpBarbershop.com or call 5104325716**

1001 Oak Hill Rd, Lafayette



**Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.**

www.lafayetteautobody.com



3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette **(925) 283-3421**

**Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946**

**Blodgett's FLOOR COVERING**

"Quality and Service Since 1946" Abbey Carpet. www.blodgetts.com

Larry Blodgett Owner

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807

**Piano Studio**  
 Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan  
**925-323-8969**  
 ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com

1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette



**Watch for Shop Orinda May 11. Call for Advertising 925.377.0977**

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 25,000 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

**Contact us:**  
 Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Publishers/Owners:**  
 Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Sports Editor:** sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

**Staff Writers:**  
 Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com, Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com, Digging Deep; Cynthia Brian; Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com, Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com  
**Contributing Writers:**  
 Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, John T. Miller, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, M.D. Jones, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Lou Fancher, Jeff Gomez, Chris Rauber, Sharon K. Sobotta  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:**  
 Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556,  
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com  
**website:** www.lamorindaweekly.com



# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 5 Wednesday, April 27, 2022



The Real Estate Year in Review

read on Page D4

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## April showers



Photos Cynthia Brian

Jasmine twines around a birdbath filled with succulents.

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” ~ William Shakespeare*

If experiencing rain in a dry season doesn't put a spring in our step, what will? After months of no precipitation, finally, in April we experienced a few showers. A critical ingredient of California's water supply, the Sierra snowpack is less than 40% from its peak. The drought will be with us this summer and fall but these mid-spring storms will deliver May flowers.

Jasmine is the delightful scent permeating the air, especially after a rain shower. The intoxicating perfume is rejuvenating. I grow jasmine throughout my landscape, various vines twining up trees. Mul-

tiple colors of bearded iris tender their brilliance in the middle of my hillside, where, after the rainfall, new weeds sprout. Proliferating is Herb Robert geranium, a fragrant weed that is pretty when small yet suffocating to other plants when full-grown. The positive aspect of this weed is that it is very easy to pull out by the roots when the soil is moist. Weeds shooting up on my gravel paths demand attention.

Bulbs and rhizomes are the ultimate celebrities of my garden. Once planted, I forget about them until they burst into bloom, a welcome surprise especially when other plants are failing. If you are a beginner gardener, I highly recommend indulging in bulbs for all seasons. Most require little maintenance or effort with minimal water while providing maximum results. Some of my perennial favorites that are available in hues of white, pink, purple, yellow, and mixed colors include calla lily, gladiolus, oriental lily, bearded iris, Asiatic lily, dahlia, anemone, and naked lady.

The April showers also brought a swath of wild onions or more accurately, *A. triquetrum* three- cornered leek. The invasive, yet edible wild field garlic and three-cornered leek boast delicate white bell-shaped flowers with a distinct onion aroma. If they are growing in your landscape, enjoy them as in culinary dishes as you would chives or green onions, albeit with a stronger flavor. If you are not a fan of garlic or onions and you have these growing in your garden, it can be almost impossible to eradicate an abundant population. Also, be aware that there are other toxic species of flowers that resemble the tree-cornered leek including death camas or death lily. All parts of that plant are poisonous. The best safety method in differentiation is to only eat a plant that looks and smells like garlic or onion.

Another edible weed that I cultivate is mustard. Young mustard greens are delicious sauteed with onions, garlic, and olive oil or added to soups, salads, sandwiches and stews. The flavor is snappy and hot.

Roses are already in glorious bloom. Rose petals can be added to baths as well as salads if they have not been treated with chemicals. With Mother's Day around the corner, perhaps you'd like to present your mom with a gift of roses?

These young sprouts encourage us to embrace the spirit of youth as we march into May. A heartfelt shout out to every mom! You are our nurturers, teachers, and consolers. Happy Mother's Day!



**VLATKA BATHGATE**

IF I HAD A BUYER FOR YOUR HOME WOULD YOU SELL IT?

Call me at 925 597 1573

Vlatka@BestLamorindaHomes.com

CalBRE#01390784



**VLATKA GETS RESULTS ALL OVER THE EAST BAY  
FOR SALE**



**15 PARKWAY CT, ORINDA**

Gem with location par excellence

**Offered at \$1,798,000**

**SALE PENDING**



**3161 JUANITA DR  
LAFAYETTE**

Mid Century Modern  
Retreat



**VLATKA CAN HELP YOU WITH BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME.  
WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM**

©2021 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	16	\$700,000	\$6,106,000
MORAGA	12	\$1,145,000	\$3,250,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,120,000	\$3,200,000

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

**LAFAYETTE**

- 809 Avalon Avenue, \$1,741,500, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-17-22, Previous Sale: \$190,000, 03-01-86
- 887 Birdhaven Court, \$4,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3655 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 03-17-22
- 3230 Burton Court, \$4,210,000, 5 Bdrms, 3428 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-11-22, Previous Sale: \$1,326,000, 05-29-14
- 3196 Diablo View Road, \$1,420,000, 3 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-17-22, Previous Sale: \$527,500, 09-20-10
- 3402 Hall Lane, \$1,575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-07-22, Previous Sale: \$685,000, 04-18-06
- 1000 Hawthorne Drive, \$2,153,000, 3 Bdrms, 1655 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-18-22, Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 12-30-15
- 1778 La Playa Drive, \$1,556,000, 3 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 03-09-22, Previous Sale: \$623,000, 12-26-01
- 3985 North Peardale Drive, \$9,280,000, 5 Bdrms, 5640 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 03-10-22, Previous Sale: \$4,585,000, 07-31-13
- 3587 Powell Drive, \$6,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 4464 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 03-17-22, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-17-17
- 521 Silverado Drive, \$2,215,000, 5 Bdrms, 3591 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 03-08-22, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 05-23-18
- 627 North Silverado Drive, \$1,616,000, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 03-10-22
- 1019 Silverhill Drive, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 4589 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 03-11-22, Previous Sale: \$585,000, 04-01-90
- 771 Solana Drive, \$2,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 2460 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-07-22, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 11-01-89
- 4021 Tilden Lane, \$2,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 03-10-22, Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 06-24-15
- 5 Townsend Place, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3391 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 03-11-22, Previous Sale: \$2,315,000, 05-20-19

**MORAGA**

- 31 Ascot Place, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-09-22, Previous Sale: \$785,000, 05-24-17
- 175 Calle La Mesa, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2511 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-07-22, Previous Sale: \$930,000, 05-12-03
- 1519 Camino Peral #A, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1272 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 03-17-22
- 117 Cypress Point Way, \$1,400,000, 2 Bdrms, 2383 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-14-22, Previous Sale: \$455,500, 09-27-17
- 335 Deerfield Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 03-15-22
- 217 Sonora Road, \$3,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 4739 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 03-07-22, Previous Sale: \$2,175,000, 02-26-20

**ORINDA**

- 28 Camino Encinas, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 03-18-22, Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 05-12-21
- 40 Cedar Lane, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1717 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 03-17-22
- 88 El Toyonal, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 4192 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 03-17-22, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 10-20-15
- 43 El Toyonal, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 03-17-22, Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 09-15-20
- 60 La Espiral, \$2,190,000, 5 Bdrms, 3914 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 03-10-22, Previous Sale: \$796,000, 03-03-17
- 61 Moraga Viax, \$2,245,000, 4 Bdrms, 2164 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-16-22, Previous Sale: \$1,305,000, 02-25-20
- 47 Orinda View Road, \$6,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 6612 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 03-16-22
- 1 Tappan Way, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 3961 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 03-18-22, Previous Sale: \$2,450,000, 05-24-18
- 11 Valley View Drive, \$2,320,000, 5 Bdrms, 2493 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 03-10-22, Previous Sale: \$110,500, 01-01-79
- 21 Watchwood Court, \$2,500,000, 2 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 03-02-22



# DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP



WWW.DUDUM.COM

ADAM HAMALIAN



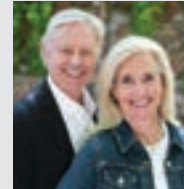
925.708.5630  
DRE# 01917597

CAROLYN WAY



925.890.4115  
DRE# 00947460

JANE & DAVE SMITH



925.998.1914  
DRE# 01476506/02105225

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884  
DRE# 02047712

KAAREN BRICKMAN



925.351.5049  
DRE# 01932119

LAUREN DEAL  
HURLBUT TEAM

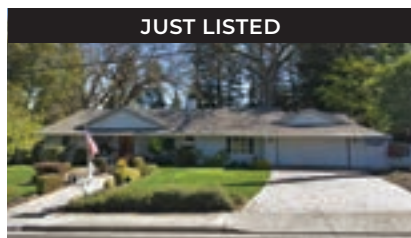


925.876.4671  
DRE#02060294



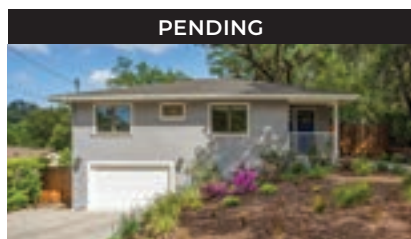
COMING SOON

1030 VIA NUEVA, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,950,000  
L. LEGLER & C. HATA | 925.286.1244



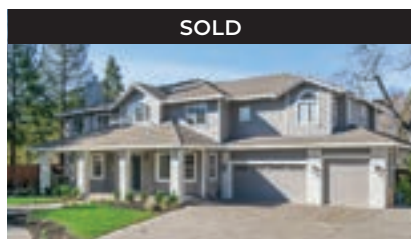
JUST LISTED

347 DEL AMIGO ROAD, DANVILLE  
OFFERED AT \$2,799,000  
SMITH HOMES TEAM | 925.998.1914



PENDING

944 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000  
K. WOOD / K. BRICKMAN | 925.381.7172



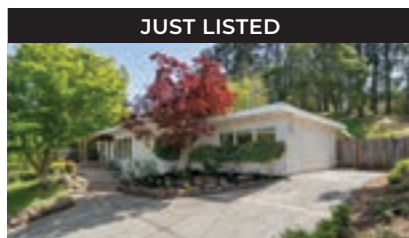
SOLD

817 ASHLEY LANE, WALNUT CREEK  
SOLD FOR \$4,125,000  
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



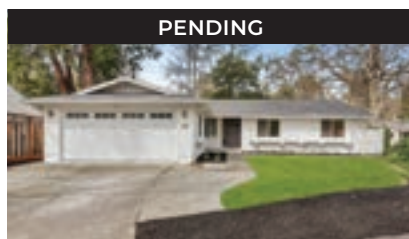
COMING SOON

66 BROOKWOOD DRIVE, ORINDA  
CALL AGENT FOR DETAILS  
RUTH EDDY | 925.788.5449



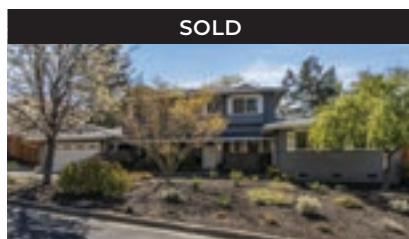
JUST LISTED

163 CRESTVIEW DRIVE, ORINDA  
OFFERED AT \$1,850,000  
KELLY WOOD | 925.381.7172



PENDING

995 VICTORIA COURT, LAFAYETTE  
OFFERED AT \$1,789,000  
BRYAN HURLBUT | 925.383.5500



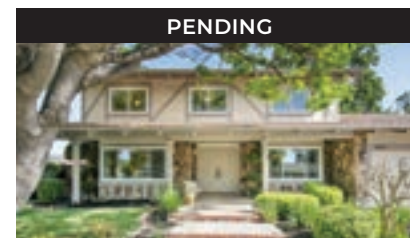
SOLD

120 DEVIN DRIVE, MORAGA  
SOLD FOR \$2,910,000  
RUTH EDDY | 925.788.5449



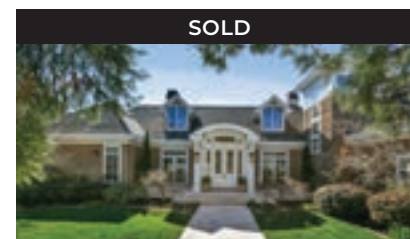
COMING SOON

23 FIELDBROOK PLACE, MORAGA  
CALL AGENT FOR DETAILS  
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



PENDING

3318 WHITEHAVEN DR., WALNUT CREEK  
OFFERED AT \$1,895,000  
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.708.5630



SOLD

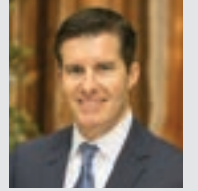
3985 N. PEARDALE DRIVE, LAFAYETTE  
CALL BRYAN HURLBUT FOR DETAILS  
J. DEL SANTO / B.HURLBUT | 925.383.5500



SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

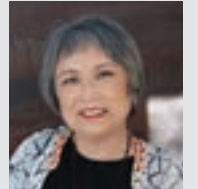
9 MOUNTAIN VIEW LANE, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$6,000,000  
CAROLYN WAY | 925.890.4115

BRYAN HURLBUT



925.383.5500  
DRE# 01347508

CHERYL HATA



510.912.5882  
DRE# 013859346

JILL BALAZS



925.804.0200  
DRE# 02038791

JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500  
DRE# 01290985

KELLY WOOD



925.381.7172  
DRE# 01931711

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093  
DRE# 01478540

LORI LEGLER



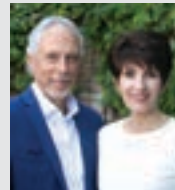
925.286.1244  
DRE# 00805732

MATT MCLEOD



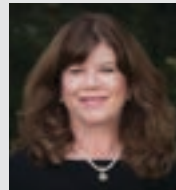
925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

PAMELA & DON  
COLOMBANA



925.878.8047  
DRE# 01979180/01979181

RUTH EDDY



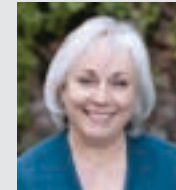
925.788.5449  
DRE# 01313819

SHELLEY RUHMAN



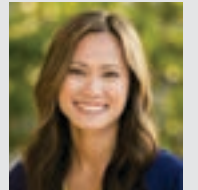
510.506.1351  
DRE#01180260

SHERRY HUTCHENS



925.212.7617  
DRE# 01320608

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851  
DRE# 01970768





## The Real Estate Quarter in Review



### By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T; Licensed Real Estate Broker

The first quarter of 2022 began with a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The closings that occurred, for the most part, came from properties that went under contract in late November to late February.

The average sales price has skyrocketed so far this year in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. The days on market remained short and the homes that had multiple offers were plentiful.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through March 31, 66 single-family homes closed in Lafayette – less than the 76 in the first quarter of 2021. Sales prices ranged from \$975,000 to \$12 million and the average number of days on market was 19. The average sales price was \$2,954,570! In the first quarter of last year, it was \$2,062,932. In 2018 it was \$1,469,744 in the first quarter. This change can be due to a larger sample size and more homes selling at the high end of the range. However, this points to a 100%

increase in value in four years!

The median sales price was \$2.45 million. A year ago it was nearly \$1.85 million ... far exceeding 2020's \$1.65 million.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 26, a drop below the 39 in the year ago first quarter. Prices so far this year have ranged from \$1.36 million to \$3.625 million. The average sale price was \$2,350,269 – the first quarter ever where the average was above \$2 million in Moraga. In 1Q2021 it was \$1,800,433. In 1Q2020 it was \$1,578,476 and \$1,436,733 in 2019. It was \$1,534,007 in 2018. In 2017 it was \$1,381,452, and in 1Q2016 it was \$1,278,575. The average marketing time was six days, versus 15 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 32. In 2021 it was 54. Sales prices ranged from \$1.305 million to \$6.75 million with an average price of \$2,268,258. A year ago, it was \$2,021,192. It was \$1,783,674 in 2020. It took an average of 16 days on the market to sell a home in Orinda where a year ago it was 28 days on the market.

This would also be the first time that in a separate quarter the average sales price of a

home in Moraga exceeded that of one in Orinda.

In the first quarter of 2022, Lafayette homes sold at an average of \$989.08 per square foot – a huge increase from \$737.02 a square foot in 2021. Moraga came in at \$901.87 per square foot. This is way up from \$703.47 in 2021 and \$594.32 in 2020. Orinda was at \$858.59. One year ago it was \$703.56 – up from \$635.02 in 1Q2020.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had two closings reported to the MLS. They were at \$1.25 million and \$1,988,795. Moraga again had 15 ranging from \$340,000 to \$1.825 million. This is also the first time a townhome in Miramonte Gardens closed above \$1 million. Orinda had three – two on Brookwood Road at \$460,000 and \$515,000 and one on The Glade that traded at the price of \$2.25 million.

As of April 12, there were 94 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities (a year ago it was 132) with asking prices of \$565,000 to \$4.5 million.

Inventory is at 60, comparable to the 62 a year ago.

There are 22 Lafayette properties currently on the market versus 27 properties on the market in April, 2021. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$624,753 for a Below Market Rate listing to \$11.95 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 14 homes, down from 18 homes at this time in 2021. The price range is \$550,000 to \$2.995 million.

In Orinda there are 23 homes on the market. A year ago there were 17. The list prices range from \$450,000 for a condominium on Brookfield to \$7.2 million.

There are no distressed (bank-owned or a short sale) sales available in Lamorinda.

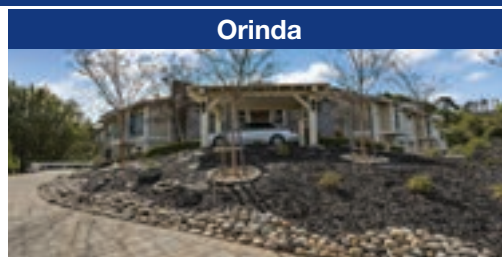
As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more “affordable” price ranges. At the high end, 21 homes sold above \$3 million in the three communities combined. The affordability factor is subject to a lot of interpretation. There are 25 currently available above this amount in Lamorinda.

... continued on Page D12



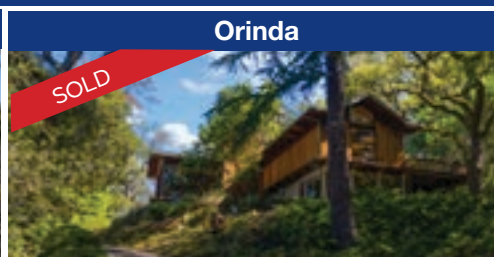
**YOUR CB ORINDA REALTORS:**

LAURA ABRAMS  
 BEVERLY ARNOLD  
 EMILY BAHN  
 MARAM BATA  
 VLATKA BATHGATE  
 ALBERT BERNARDO  
 NANCY BOOTH  
 ROBERT BROWN  
 ROBERTA CALDERON  
 TONY CONTE  
 KELLY CRAWFORD  
 COLIN ELBASANI  
 JOANNE FISHMAN  
 LANA FITZPATRICK  
 SUZANNE GEOFFRION  
 JEFFREY GILLET  
 SORAYA GOLESORKHI  
 HANK HAGMAN  
 ANDREA HARRIS  
 MARGARET HARTWELL  
 PETER HATTERSLEY  
 YAN HEIM  
 MICHELLE HOLCENBERG  
 WENDY HOLCENBERG  
 DICK HOLT  
 SHELLIE KIRBY  
 SHERYL KORTRIGHT  
 MEREDITH LINAMEN  
 MARY BETH MACLENNAN  
 CHRISTINA MCCORMICK  
 MARSHA MCCRAE  
 MICHELE MCKAY  
 PEYMAN MOSHREF  
 TERRY MURPHY  
 AUDREY NEALE  
 BRUCE NEWMAN  
 DIANE PETEK  
 MARGARET PRICE  
 SUSAN SCHLICHER  
 CATHY SCHULTHEIS  
 AUBREY SHAW  
 JOEL SHEIMAN  
 MELANIE SNOW  
 TOM STACK  
 TED STREETER  
 BO SULLIVAN  
 NORLA TORRES-TURNEY  
 LINDA VAN DRENT  
 TERRI BATES WALKER  
 GREG WATKINS  
 JERRY WENDT  
 FRANK WOODWARD  
 JUNE YOUNG  
 ANA ZIMMANK


**Orinda**
**25 Rustic Way \$5,750,000**

Private Glorietta Estate features approx 8,514 sq ft on 8.14 acres, indoor racquetball, a tennis court, 6 bd / 5.5 ba, pool, and panoramic views!

 Laura Abrams  
 www.25rusticway.com

 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382

**Orinda**
**SOLD**
**2 Bien Venida \$2,940,000**

Magical mid-century masterpiece located off a private lane with redwood trees, adjacent to the lush green Orinda Country Club golf course.

 Laura Abrams  
 www.2bienvenida.com

 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382

**Orinda**
**SALE PENDING**
**9 La Noria \$1,890,000**

Orinda Country Club classic 40's delight updated with an open floor plan on a gentle downslope surrounded by Mature Oaks!

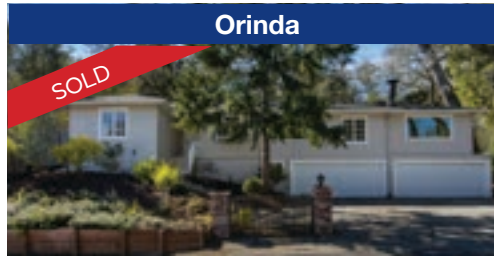
 Laura Abrams  
 www.9lanoria.com

 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382

**Orinda**
**PENDING**
**344 Glorietta Blvd \$1,695,000**

Beautifully updated 4 bedroom 2.5 bath in desirable Glorietta neighborhood.

 Shellie Kirby, Hank Hagman  
 www.shelliekirby.com

 925.872.4257  
 Lic#01251227

**Orinda**
**SOLD**
**75 Stanton Avenue \$1,650,000**

First time on the market in 46 years! Charming Orinda Rancher / Cottage style residence. Close to downtown but very quiet and peaceful.

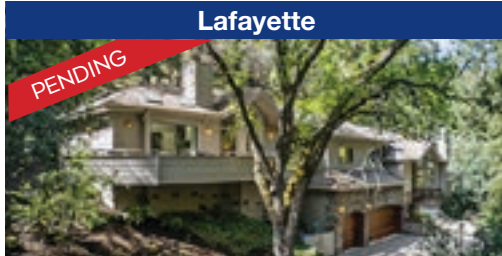
 Laura Abrams  
 www.75stanton.com

 510-697-3225  
 Lic#01272382

**Orinda**
**PRIVATE!**
**228 The Knoll \$1,399,000**

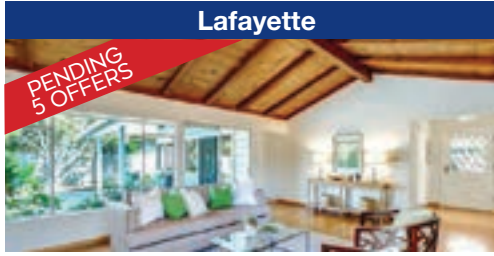
2 bd / 2.5 ba, approx 2141 sq. ft. Coveted Orinda Woods. Nestled amongst towering trees. Remodeled kitchen. Top Rated schools.

 Ana Zimmank  
 www.anazimmank.com

 925-640-6008  
 Lic #00469962

**Lafayette**
**PENDING**
**11 Redwood Cir \$2,850,000**

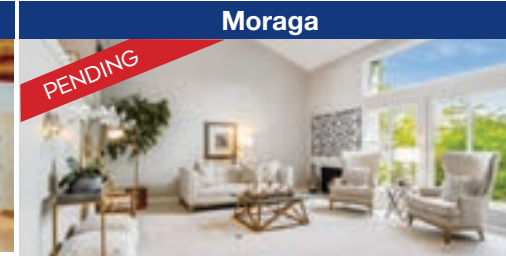
4BR/3BA , 3,705 sq. ft. on 3.33 acres, Magnificent Contemporary in the Heart of Happy Valley

 Soraya Golesorkhi  
 www.Soraya4homes.com

 925-808-8390  
 Lic #01771736

**Lafayette**
**PENDING 5 OFFERS**
**3222 Gold Ct. \$1,749,000**

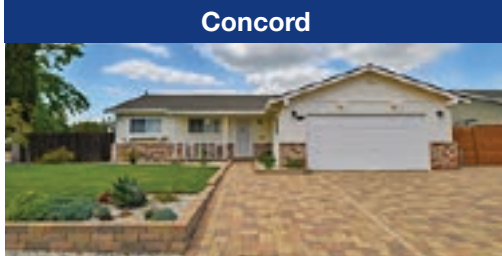
4BR/2BA home in coveted lower Burton Valley. Glimmering pool, fruit trees, family room, updated kitchen, Solar! Award-winning schools.

 Tom Stack  
 TomStack.com

 925-878-9964  
 Lic#01501769

**Moraga**
**PENDING**
**102 Alta Mesa Ct \$1,495,000**

Representing Buyers

 Suzanne Geoffrion  
 www.myagentsuzanne.com

 925-699-4832  
 Lic #01878803

**Concord**
**1405 Parkland Dr \$895,000**

3 bd / 2 ba, Updated Kitchen &amp; Bathrooms. Excellent Backyard for Entertaining! Quiet lovely street.

 Ana Zimmank  
 www.anazimmank.com

 925-640-6008  
 Lic #00469962

**Pleasant Hill**
**NEW LISTING**
**535 Shelly Drive \$985,000**

Coveted Poet's Corner. Charming rancher 3/2, updates throughout! HUGE .28 acre lot, room for ADU, pool, sport court, orchard, you name it.

 Tom Stack  
 TomStack.com

 925-878-9964  
 Lic#01501769

**Walnut Creek**
**SOLD**
**150 Twin Peaks Drive \$1,822,500**

Views for days. Park Mead schools, updated throughout. Celebrate the sunrise AND the sunset. Represented buyers.

 Tom Stack  
 TomStack.com

 925-878-9964  
 Lic#01501769



# Teacher trees



Photo Ellie Gkatzimas

## By Toris Jaeger and Holly Grossman

At the Orinda Nature Area we aim to illuminate the sacred gifts of nature. Let's dive into the glorious lives of trees and explore how they are our wise elders. Herman Hesse said, "Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth."

Trees are gentle giants that surround us, with gentle arms above us. They provide us with oxygen and absorb the greenhouse gasses around us. In our area we can see them budding in delight of the spring weather. Have you no-

ticed the trees where you live? Are they evergreen or deciduous? Trees that are evergreen are green in the fall and winter months. Trees that are deciduous lose their leaves in the late fall and winter, and are bare during winter.

Additionally, there is a magical life-force amongst trees that may surprise you. Did you know that trees are social beings? In the forest they care for each other and nourish unhealthy trees back to health. They communicate and share resources through chemicals given off by their leaves and branches, and also through a complex network of soil fungi known as mycelium connecting one plant to another. Through the mycelium an enormous amount of information and goods is transferred to benefit the health of the collective trees in a forest. In this way, the trees teach us the importance of our interconnectedness as a means to a thriving community.

Trees provide us with life sustaining food and medicine, and teach us that everything we need is provided by Mother Nature. Let's look at some of the native trees in our area and learn about their sacred qualities.

We have Black Oak, Valley Oak, and Live Oak. Oak is highly valued in the timber industry for its strength, resilience and its beauty. But, it's also important to keep these trees alive!

Different parts of the oak tree (acorns, leaves, bark, roots) have been used throughout time to treat ailments such as diarrhea, alleviating respiratory illnesses, and relieving hemorrhoids. Perhaps the most obvious use of the Oak tree is the acorns. The beautiful fruit and seed of the Oak beckons us to claim it for our own use and sustenance. Acorns can be used in place of nuts and cornmeal in many recipes. With acorns you can make pancakes, pasta, bread, dumplings, muffins, soups ... the list goes on. Check out the Ohlone Cafe in Berkeley to see and taste all the delicious ways they use acorns.

Bay Laurel is another tree in abundance in our area, and has many medicinal qualities: supports digestive tract functions, reduces flatulence, soothes urinary tract infections, dental infections, and sore throats, and offers antiseptic and bactericidal properties. Emotionally, it is known to alleviate anxiety, hypersensitivity, and lack of self-esteem. Good tip for the kitchen: flies are generally repelled by the odor of Laurel leaves!

Next, let's look at Elderberry, which has been known as the magic tree of life. It is extremely versatile as well as fast growing. It is a true gift to us all, packed with vitamins, flavonoids, anti-oxidants, rutin and tannins, and we often walk right by it without even noticing it is there.

Not only are elderberry flowers delicious additions to recipes, they also are useful for reducing fevers, upset stomachs, boosting the immune system, mitigating itchy skin and improving the complexion, and treating inflammation of appendix and kidney. Natives used the whole plant, including its bark and roots, for things like reducing pain and swelling from bee stings. The wood is also highly versatile. The natives made instruments, fire drills, weapons, toys, combs, and building materials out of elderberry wood. We find elderberry in natural healing remedies on our grocery store shelves, and the berries are used in jams and pies.

The most sacred tree is the Redwood. Our Native Peoples believed it to be so, and cutting down a redwood was an act of violence. If one embraces the Redwood, it will heal you and give you a giving nature. The Natives knew that no one of us is the center of the universe, and felt a deep kinship with the Redwood. I encourage you to dive deeper into the Redwood by reading a collection of essays in, "The Once and Future Forest: California's Iconic Redwoods." This book was put out by Save the Redwoods League on its 100th anniversary.

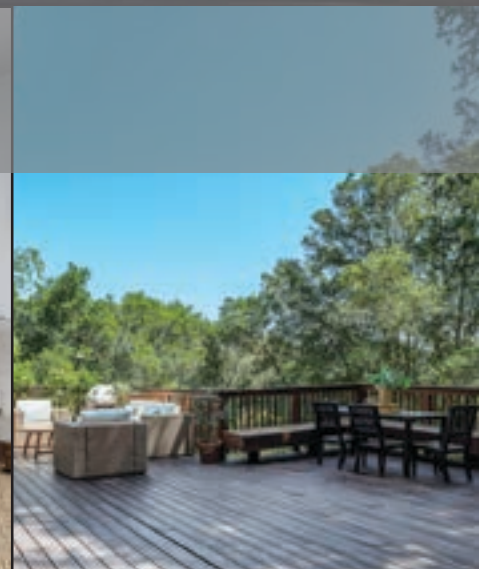
For more learning on the wisdom of trees, check out the work of Peter Wohlleben in his book, "The Hidden Life of Trees."

*"For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver." ~ Martin Luther*





# Marvelous ON MARSTON ROAD



## 25 Marston Road, Orinda

Beautifully updated on a quiet, Redwood-studded lot rests this marvelously private home with a wonderful floor plan and serene views. The recently renovated, eat-in kitchen/great room is truly the heart of the home. Incredibly spacious, with stainless steel appliances, new countertops & backsplash, tons of counter space and storage - it has it all!

<b>5</b> <i>Bed</i>	<b>2.5</b> <i>Bath</i>	<b>.49</b> <i>Acre</i>
<b>±2,457</b> <i>Sq ft</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Deck</i>	<b>100%</b> <i>Location!</i>

**Quiet and Redwood-lined lot**

*Listed for \$1,695,000 | Visit [25marstonroad.com](http://25marstonroad.com)*

Amy Rose Smith  
Village Associates  
925.212.3897  
[amy@amyrosesmith.com](mailto:amy@amyrosesmith.com)  
[www.amyrosesmith.com](http://www.amyrosesmith.com)  
CalBRE: #01855959



FINDING THE *Right* FIT



AMYROSESMITH

[villageassociates.com](http://villageassociates.com) | [@villageassociates](https://www.instagram.com/villageassociates)



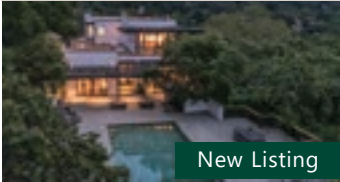
925.254.0505 | **It's Village. Of Course.**





# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



New Listing

**105 Alta Haciendas Road**  
Spectacular 5 bd/ 3 full ba + 2 half ba home on private 4.02 acre lot w/ an amazingly landscaped walking path!  
**\$4,995,000**

## ORINDA



Pending

**38 Parklane Drive**  
Winner of Mayor's Award for Excellence & CCT Excellence in Design is this 5 bd/ 2.5 ba modern ranch home!  
**\$2,395,000**

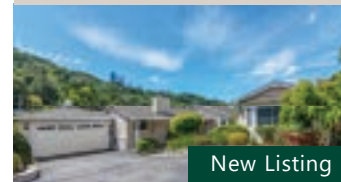
## ORINDA



New Listing

**17 Vista Del Mar**  
Mid-century custom-built 4 bd/ 4 ba home w/ filtered views is generous in its creative integrity & peaceful ambiance!  
**\$1,925,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

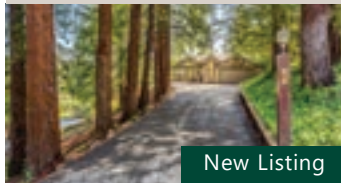
**294 Orchard Road**  
Rare opportunity in Orinda's popular Glorietta neighborhood to own a 3375 SF, 4 bd /3 ba on a level .46 acre lot!  
**\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



**33 Via Callados**  
Attractive 4 bd/ 3 bath home w/ super oversized rooms, high ceilings & large windows tucked at end of cul-de-sac!  
**\$1,750,000**

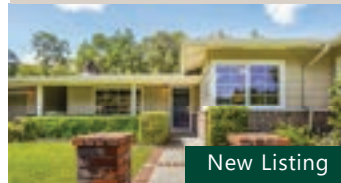
## ORINDA



New Listing

**25 Marston Road**  
Beautifully updated on a quiet, Redwood-studded lot rests private 5 bd/2.5 ba home w/a wonderful floor plan!  
**\$1,695,000**

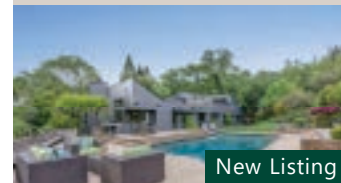
## ORINDA



New Listing

**85 Tarry Lane**  
Charming 3 bd/ 2 ba + office in coveted Sleepy Hollow neighborhood has flexible floor plan on .61 acre lot!  
**\$1,625,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

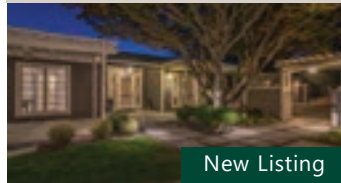
**16 Toledo Court**  
Stunning 5+ bd/5.5 ba in fabulous Happy Valley neighborhood. Private & tranquil cul-de-sac, spectacular .92 acre setting!  
**\$3,995,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3406 Shangri La Road**  
Very charming, spacious Reliez Valley single level light and bright 4 bd/ 3.5 ba home on amazing .95 acre lot!  
**\$2,598,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**10 Dianne Court**  
Lovely traditional 4 bd/ 3 ba home abounds w/ charm, character, style & serenity. Close to the Trail w/ views of the hills!  
**\$2,275,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1025 Dolores Drive**  
Darling Downtown Lafayette Rancher. 3Bds/1Ba. 1181sqft. Gleaming Hardwoods. Cute yard & patio. Turnkey!  
**\$1,195,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**783 Augusta Drive**  
Stunning Contemporary 3 bd/ 2 ba home combines sophisticated elegance with charming ease plus golf course views!  
**\$1,995,000**

## MORAGA



**1884 Joseph Drive**  
Classic traditional 4 bd/ 3 ba fully renovated property of incredible craftsmanship quality & designer style!  
**\$1,975,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**2135 Ascot Dr. # 22**  
Beautifully maintained 2 bd/2.5 ba 1529 sq. ft. two-story condo w/ walking distance to Rheem Shopping Center!  
**\$839,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Price

**440 N Civic Dr. #313**  
Resort Living at The Keys! Fabulous South facing top floor 2 bd/ 1 ba condo with lots of natural light. Tons of amenities!  
**\$425,000**

## OAKLAND



Pending

**1009 56th Street**  
Charming 2 bd/ 1 ba bungalow on a quiet, tree lined street between the Sante Fe & Gaskill neighborhoods!  
**\$775,000**

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich  
Joan Evans

Linda Friedman  
Claudia Gohler  
Christina Linezo  
Gillian Hogan

Dexter Honens II  
April Matthews  
Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy  
John Nash

Altie Schmitt  
Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith  
Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Margaret Zucker

Village  
ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392

facebook.com/VillageAssociates  
twitter.com/villageassoc  
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com)

Sunday Open Homes





# Welcome, Christina!

Christina Linezo  
415-425-3085  
Christina@christinalinezo.com  
DRE# 01964989



Christina Linezo  
joins our team of  
outstanding agents



## Village. Of course.

#1 Real Estate Brokerage in Lamorinda | [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com) | [@villageassociates](https://www.instagram.com/villageassociates) | 925.254.0505

DRE# 01301392





**Spring FORWARD**  
SAVE ON STORAGE & RECIEVE  
**25% OFF**  
FOR 3 MONTHS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

STOP BY AND GET  
AN "EGG" CELENT  
GIFT

Hours of operation  
Mon-Sat 9am - 6pm  
Office and Yard.  
Or call for an appointment.

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. 1  
(925) 643-2026  
www.5Aspace.com

**TREE SCULPTURE**

COMPLETE TREE CARE  
*Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!*  
Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977  
**(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com**

## DanaGreenTeam

Lafayette's #1 Real Estate Team Since 2008



**3840 Happy Valley Road,  
Lafayette**

3866± Sq. Ft. | .78± Acre Lot  
Offered at \$3,995,000

[3840HappyValleyRoad.com](http://3840HappyValleyRoad.com)



**642 Sky Hy Circle,  
Lafayette**

3175± Sq. Ft. | .53± Acre Lot  
Offered at \$2,395,000

[642SkyHyCircle.com](http://642SkyHyCircle.com)



**3229 Burton Court,  
Lafayette**

1863± Sq. Ft. | .28± Acre Lot  
Offered at \$1,925,000

[3229BurtonCourt.com](http://3229BurtonCourt.com)

COMPASS

[DanaGreenTeam.com](http://DanaGreenTeam.com) | 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454





# SPLENDID IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

85 Tarry Lane, Orinda

1710 sq. ft, 3 beds, 2 baths on a .61 acre lot in one of Orinda's favorite neighborhoods!



This super charming home in the coveted Sleepy Hollow neighborhood has a flexible floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and an office on a large .61 acre lot.

Call for more details - [www.85tarryln.com](http://www.85tarryln.com)



925.980.3829

[Shannon@ShannonConner.com](mailto:Shannon@ShannonConner.com)  
[ShannonConner.com](http://ShannonConner.com)

DRE# 01885058

[Villageassociates.com](http://Villageassociates.com)  
925.254.0505



SHANNON  
**CONNER**

[villageassociates.com](http://villageassociates.com) | [@villageassociates](https://www.instagram.com/villageassociates) | 925.254.0505 | **It's Village. Of Course.**

Village  
ASSOCIATES

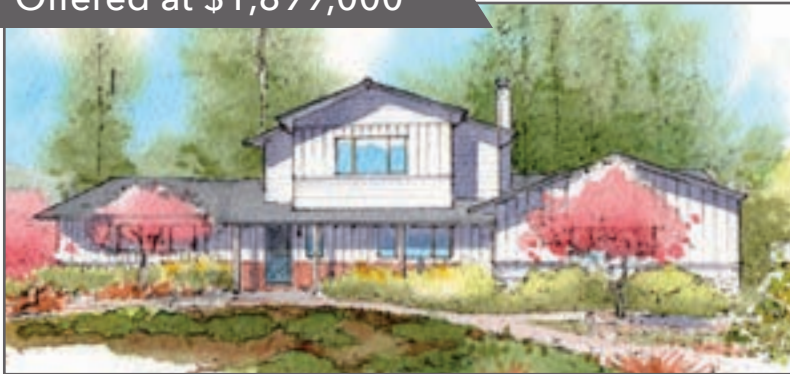




JUST  
LISTED

5 ROBERTS  
COURT, MORAGA

Offered at \$1,899,000



5 bed | 3 bath | 2,484 sq ft | .38 acre

Beautiful traditional home located on a cul-de-sac. Large, flat, redwood-studded lot with 2 primary suites, hardwood floors throughout and charm to spare.

JUST SOLD

3908 Paseo Grande,  
Moraga

Listed for \$1,899,999  
Sold for \$2,251,355

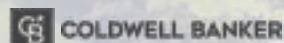
468 Kingsford Drive,  
Moraga

Listed for \$1,799,000  
Sold for \$2,015,000

[www.holcenberg.com](http://www.holcenberg.com)

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
CB Top 100 East/North Bay Region

michelle@holcenberg.com  
925-324-0405  
BRE #01373412



## The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from Page D4

Interest rates have increased a lot in the last few weeks which have pushed some buyers either out of the market or to lower priced homes or out of Lamorinda. Relocation from the corporate side has continued to be slow as many companies continue to have their people work remotely and as such, many of those buyers are on the sidelines at their departure locations before making housing decisions.

Lamorinda continues to be attractive with BART access and highly rated schools. The real estate markets in Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont have continued to be active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more “affordable housing.” We also continue to see a lot of buyers in Lamorinda being represented by agents based in San Francisco and the Peninsula. Prices there have been higher for many years so many have sold there and bought more house for less money in Lamorinda.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. On occasion, homes come on the market at unrealistic prices and they do not sell. We also are seeing more homes listed well below true values so that it may encourage bidding wars that sellers hope might generate a higher overall sales price. In the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 66 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2022, 62 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, all but one of the 26 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 26 of the 32 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first two weeks on the market. Of the 94 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 75 went pending in 14 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but many agents are setting up marketing plans where they market the home to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market – pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

In the detached home category in the first quarter of 2021, the average sale price in Lafayette was 103% of the asking price. In 2022, it went to 111%. In Moraga it was 105.6% last winter and this last quarter it was 119% and in Orinda it changed from 104% to 109.4% of the final asking price.





SELLING HOMES BY PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



**RECORD-BREAKING SALE!**

1003 Woodbury #108, Lafayette | \$1,225,000

Highest sold price per square foot  
for a Lafayette condo at \$1104/sq ft.

Wondering what your home is worth? Let's connect.



Terri Bates Walker  
C. 510.282.4420 | Cal RE #01330081  
TerriBatesWalker@gmail.com  
TerriBatesWalker.com



Here, you're 100% in charge.  
Please let it go to your head.

**Take charge at Merrill Gardens Senior Living**

When to dine? It's up to you. When to exercise? Up to you. Who to see? Your call.  
There are a million choices to make every day and they're truly all yours.



**Come enjoy a meal on us!**



(925) 272-0074 • [merrillgardenslafayette.com](http://merrillgardenslafayette.com)  
1010 Second St, Lafayette, CA 94549



Lic #079200597





## Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

**COMPLY** with Moraga-Orinda Fire District mandates by creating a defensible space around your home. Requirements include:

Trimming trees to maintain a six-foot vertical clearance from the roof line.  
 Removing hazardous vegetation.  
 Clearing debris from gutters and roofs.  
 Maintaining a two-foot non-combustible space around structures.  
 Removing fire laddering fuels by trimming trees to eight feet above the ground.  
 Cutting grass to three inches or less in height.  
 Removing dead or dying trees and shrubs.  
 The compliance deadline is June 1.

**SPRAY** your barbecue grill with white vinegar then scrub with half an onion to clean the grates and get ready for outside dining.

**BUFF** your garden tools by plunging them in a five-gallon bucket of sand mixed with a cup of vegetable oil. The sand will keep them sharper and the oil wards off rust. Small hand tools can be stored in the sand bucket.

**PLANT** frost tender plants as the weather warms toward the end of the month. Ground covers, citrus, bougainvillea, and summer annuals are available for purchase.

**SOW** seeds of scarlet runner bean, sweet peas, or morning glories to climb on fences and wire.

**CUT** back the dying leaves of narcissi and daffodils if the fronds are dry and crunchy. If still green, wait another month.

**SNIP** a few tendrils of blooming jasmine. Add them to a vase for an enchanting fragrance that will permeate your house.

**BAIT** the snails and slugs, pick them off by hand, use copper barriers, or bowls of beer. These slimy crawlers will devour new seedlings.

**BUY** ladybugs from your nursery or garden center only if you see aphids or other pests on your plants. Remember ladybugs fly to infested gardens.

**WEED**, weed, weed. Because of the spring rains, weeds are ubiquitous, yet easy to pull. If they don't have seed heads, add pulled weeds to your compost pile.

**FERTILIZE** lawns, trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants.

**TREAT** roses organically to repel aphids and fungal diseases.

**SPRAY** evergreen pear trees and crape Myrtle trees to treat for and prevent fungal diseases including mildew and leaf spot.

**BUY** a red rose to show your love for your mother or anyone's mom on Mother's Day.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Weeds must be pulled from the gravel path.



Blossoms on the Asian pear.





### Cynthia Brian is elated about the rain!

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are!

[www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
[www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

## McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Flowers • Trees • Succulents • Pottery & Fountains  
 Benches • Garden Decor • House Plants • Gifts • Jewelry  
 Garden Consultation

[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

196 Moraga Way • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wednesday - Sunday





## 17 Vista Del Mar, Orinda



**4+ bd | 4 ba | 2894 sqft | .51 ac | \$1,925,000**

Situated on a private parcel with filtered views in one of Orinda's most popular upper-end neighborhoods. Exceptionally designed home offering comfortable family living & ideal separation of space.



**CLARK THOMPSON**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES  
CALBRE# 00903367

Office: 925-998-7898 | [ct@clarkthompson.com](mailto:ct@clarkthompson.com)  
[www.clarkthompson.com](http://www.clarkthompson.com)

