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St. Mary's Gardens neighborhood fun run participants and cheerleaders Hayden Holloway, Lisa Weil, Dave Cunningham, Madison Kahn and Abby Cunningham. Photo A. Schreck

Neighbors gather in fellowship on the Fourth

By Sophie Braccini and Jennifer Wake

With the cancellation of traditional Fourth of July festivities, Lamorinda neighbors found safe ways to reconnect while celebrating the birth of the nation. At one gathering on Gloria Court in Moraga, children decorated their bikes and scooters, parents took out loudspeakers, chairs, tables and barbecues and the party started. Old fashion games were organized such as a bike rally and an egg relay, all executed either within the same family or with proper social distancing.

Those who had been in neighborhoods for a long time were delighted and amazed at the number of children and new families who came out. In spite of the

heat, the energy level was high and children threw firecrackers to add to the musical ambiance.

Moraga residents Rob Schwartz and Tom Shephard wanted to get their neighborhood out on the Fourth of July as well, and thought a safely-spaced fun run/walk would be perfect for their St. Mary's Garden neighborhood.

The nearly 50 participants, all residents of the neighborhood, ranged in age from 1 to 98. "People were given start times in one-minute increments and told to arrive five minutes in advance of their start time to avoid a big crowd gathering," Shephard said. "The fun run was free, but we gave neighbors the option to make a donation to the ALS Association."

Shephard's wife, Angela Seitz, was diagnosed with

ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) in February and currently experiences a slowness in speech and a weakness in her hands, but is still quite healthy and able to be mobile. St. Mary's Gardens neighbors contributed nearly \$2,000 for the ALS Association. "The donations we collected go to the ALS Association which provides direct funding for ALS focused research studies to find a cure," Shephard said.

ALS is currently 100% fatal, and most people with ALS die within 2 to 5 years of diagnosis.

Seitz has her Master of Public Policy (University of Chicago) and is bringing attention to two bills that have been introduced in the Senate and House:

... continued on Page A10

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Letters to the Editor	A9
How to contact us	B4
Community Service	B3
Classified	C1
Shop Orinda	C2

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VANGUARD PROPERTIES

Lafayette forms task force; needs community engagement to address systemic racism in city



Screen shot from virtual meeting. The newly-formed task force held its first meeting July 1.

By Pippa Fisher

Unanimously supported by the Lafayette City Council, three council members held their first task force meeting to brainstorm vision, objectives and to identify strategies to address equity in the city. It quickly be-

came apparent that in order for that to happen and to engage the entire community, a whole lot of listening was going to have to happen first, and that led the newly-formed group to plan a first town hall meeting at the end of the month.

The task force, as yet unnamed, held its virtual meeting July 1 with over 50 members of the public in attendance, many of whom offered practical advice and opinion.

During the June 22 city council meeting, members voted to form the task force with three council members, making it subject to Brown Act rules. Vice Mayor Susan Candell, along with Council Members Cam Burks and Teresa Gerringer were appointed. At the first task force meeting, members voted Candell as chair and Burks as vice chair.

Candell was quick to point out that the task force was certainly going to be a group effort. And as the discussion over vision, objectives and strategies progressed it became clear that a main priority was to have community-wide engagement.



Task force members agreed the best way to ac-

complish that was by listening. To that end a town hall-style meeting was proposed for the end of July, after the public safety committee's similar town hall meeting on police practices. Notably, despite any overlap in subject, the two committees are remaining distinct from one another at this point - a two-pronged approach to examine both systemic problems within the police, and systemic racism and inequality within the community.

Next steps include bringing in implicit bias training for the city council and including school board members, eventually offering such training community-wide, finding a facilitator to help run the town hall meeting and trying to reach out to those affected by systemic racism within the city to have them either speak during the town hall meeting or send in letters telling of their experiences, and not limiting it to Lafayette residents but to include those in Moraga and Orinda and those who visit or work in the city.

Gerringer noted that the meeting was a good first start.

... continued on Page A9

<p>Civic News A1-A10</p> <p>Orinda considers 1% general sales tax measure - Page A6</p> <p>Fire Districts A8</p> <p>Municipal Fire Prevention committee meets - Page A8</p>	<p>Life in Lamorinda B1-B4</p> <p>Lamorinda Arts Council's creative outreach - Page B1</p> 	<p>Sports C1-C2</p> <p>SMC Athletics and challenges it faces amid pandemic - Page C1</p> 	<p>Our Homes D1-D16</p> <p>Enhancing health at home with Feng Shui - Page D1</p> 
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Planning commission approves Terraces, but saga far from over



Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette planning commission voted to allow the development of this 22-acre site on Deer Hill Road for 315 apartments.

By Pippa Fisher

With evident reluctance voiced by several commissioners, the planning commission voted 5-2 to approve

the controversial 315-unit Terraces apartment complex, which is expected to be escalated to the Lafayette City Council on appeal during the next 14-day period.

At the conclusion of a

seven-and-a-half hour meeting June 30, Commissioners Gary Huisingh, Karen Maggio, Greg Mason, Anna Radonich and Commission Chair Kristina Sturm all said they could not make the findings to deny the project under the Housing Accountability Act – a legislative act which has had the effect of stripping local control – even though they found the project not compliant with Lafayette's general plan or hillside ordinance.

Commissioner Stephen LaBonge and Vice Chair Farschad Farzan did not support the project, citing significant impacts to health and safety on the issues of traffic and wildfire.

Plans for the 22-acre lot on Deer Hill Road by the developer, O'Brien Homes, have been riling residents in the northeast end of the city since

2011 when the project was first proposed. They object to the increased traffic they say will impact them as they make their way through an already heavily-traveled corridor and could put lives in danger in the event of a fire evacuation, such as the city saw in October 2019.

The 2011 application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes, and amenities including a dog park, playground, playing fields and a car park. Local preservationist group Save Lafayette sued the city, resulting in a referendum on the future of the revised project. With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project under the process agreement. The pro-

ject includes 20% of the units offered as low-income housing and as such has protection under the HAA.

LaBonge said he was frustrated that residents rejected the 44-home proposal. Several of the 35 people who made public comments also agreed on that point. Opponents were concerned about traffic impacts, and in an area designated as a High Fire Severity Zone, for potential emergency evacuation delays, as well as air quality, and construction noise impacts.

Northeast Lafayette for Reduced Traffic Founder Kristen Althaus said she was concerned about the questions the commissioner had not asked – such as about how crosswalks full of elementary school children could realistically be safe while drivers were turning onto Deer Hill Road.

... continued on Page A8

Cost of Lafayette Police Department scrutinized at council meeting



Courtesy city of Lafayette

Vice Mayor Susan Candell

By Nick Marnell

With the city of Lafayette projecting a \$1.5 million operating loss in the next fiscal year, an 11% increase in year-over-year spending for the city police department came under fire at the

June 22 City Council meeting. Questions on the rise in police expenditures came not only from the public but also from Vice Mayor Susan Candell.

"The optics on this are terrible," said Candell, who refused to approve the city's 2020-21 budget because of rising police department costs.

Law enforcement expenses will jump from \$6.1 million to \$6.8 million in 2021, largely due to the increase in the cost of sworn officers. The city contracts its police services on a year-to-year basis with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, which in 2019 agreed to a four-year, 5% annual wage increase with the county for rank and file members.

"I realize we're not cheap. I know that," Lafayette Police

Chief Ben Aldritt said. "My job is to manage the city's money responsibly, and I take that very seriously."

Lafayette's budget for law enforcement includes salaries for the chief, eight patrol officers, two parking control officers, two sergeants, two detectives and one floater, whose hours are filled mainly through overtime. The city discontinued its community services officer position and those duties have been absorbed by the chief and the two sergeants.

Council Member Cam Burks, head of global security for Adobe, does not want to see cutbacks in the police department. "We had two home invasions this year," Burks said. "I would not waver on the costs we're paying for public safety."

Using conservative estimates for revenue recovery, city officials presented a grim 5-year forecast with the general fund reserve balance shrinking from 79% of expenditures to 28% in 2025, while costs for police services were projected to rise from \$6.1 million to nearly \$8 million over the same period.

"We owe it to our residents to reallocate these funds to support our community better," said public speaker Tess Olsen.

The vice mayor agreed, insisting that changes in policing cannot occur quickly enough. "The reasons we've been given tonight that we can't change it, or we can't do it, are frustrating to me, because other cities are doing it," Candell said. The city of Berkeley July 1 cut \$9.2 million from its police department

budget for 2021, and council members hinted at even more cuts to come. In June, Oakland cut law enforcement funding by \$14.6 million for next fiscal year.

With a national outcry for speedy, thorough investigations into police brutality and excessive use of force, and for holding officers accountable for their actions, Mayor Mike Anderson noted that an upcoming Lafayette public safety town hall should produce ideas on how to improve policing, and that the city public safety subcommittee will provide direction to officers.

"We haven't even scratched the surface on this," said Candell, who cast the only no vote on the city's 2020-21 fiscal year budget.



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Love Where You Live!

City works with PG&E to keep lights on at resource center during power shutoffs



Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is finalizing a contract that would keep the lights on as a resource center at the Lafayette Community Center in the case of a PSPS during the 2020 fire season.

By Pippa Fisher

The council voted unanimously to work in partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to provide a community resource center for use by residents in any upcoming Public Safety Power Shutoff events during this year's fire season, subject to further negotiation on the length of the contract.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi presented his report at the June 22 city council meeting, explaining that during the 2019 fire season PSPS events, the city provided power to the public at the Jennifer Russell Building with a rented generator that was temporarily wired into the building.

PG&E is now proposing partnering with the city to provide power to residents for almost the whole Community Center as part of its plans to have several indoor CRC sites in the county during PSPS events. The draft contract before the council was worded to run until 2030.

Katayanagi explained the benefits to the city: the ability to offer places for residents to charge their devices or cool off in air conditioning in the case of an outage that might run for several days again like last year; the ability to keep

recreation programs running including full-day care for kindergarten to fifth-grade students if a hybrid learning schedule is implemented by the schools in the fall; and an income from PG&E's daily license fee of \$1,200 for days when the CRC is activated.

All council members recognized the benefit to the community, as did Lafayette resident Michael Dawson who joined the virtual meeting to make a public comment. He also sounded a warning note about signing any contract that runs for 10 years with PG&E, without at least an annual review.

Prompted by this caution, the council asked PG&E representatives during the meeting if there would be room for negotiation on the length of the commitment with a utility company that, said Council Member Cam Burks, doesn't demonstrate integrity. With indication from PG&E's public affairs representative Tom Guarino that there would be, and mindful of the need to move expediently to get things in place in time for fire season, the council authorized the city manager to move ahead, reducing the term of the contract to five years, for review at that point to decide if a further five-year contract should be continued and with an annual review of the project.

	Lafayette Public Meetings	Design Review Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center. 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room
	City Council Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m. Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel: http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube	School Board Meetings Acalanes Union High School District TBA AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf. www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
	Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall	Lafayette School District TBA Regular Board Meeting Stanley M.S. Library 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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Town allows greater signage variety for business owners

By Vera Kochan

Moraga has simplified and streamlined the approval process for certain types of signs and allowed for a new master approval process to include greater variation from current standards and

regulations for new commercial signage that includes wall signs, monument signs and portable signs.

The town's Senior Planner Steve Kowalski made a presentation during the June 10 council meeting citing a goal to "address a common perception in the business

community that the Moraga Municipal Code contained numerous burdensome provisions regulating the opening of a new business in the town that were acting as a deterrent to businesses that may have otherwise chosen to locate in Moraga." Current business and property owners have had to deal with inflexible and rigorous requirements in order to install even small signs to identify their establishments.

Stakeholder input was sought from property owners of both the Moraga Shopping Center and Rheem Valley Shopping Center, as well as Moraga's Chamber of Commerce. Dave Bruzzone, of the Bruzzone family's Moraga Center, did not submit any input regarding the proposed amendments prior to the town council meeting.

Jay Kerner of U.S. Realty Partners, Inc., the primary owner of Rheem Valley Shopping Center, had already submitted an application for a new Master Sign Program in November. Upon hearing that amendments to the sign code were in the works, Kerner voiced his support and opted to wait before proceeding with its application regarding new signage in the hopes that much of what it had proposed would be accepted.

"We believe that the added flexibility and ease in permitting to be key to a more contemporary ordinance and less cumbersome process," stated the chamber's Executive Director Kathe Nelson, while pointing out the time-consuming approval process for even the simplest of signs. "Further, the reduction of fees, lessening the expense

burden will be a very welcome change, particularly to our small businesses that are the backbone of our business community."

The town council voted unanimously to amend several sections of Chapter 8.88 "Signs" of the MMC with direction for staff to revisit the town's Design Guidelines pertaining to signs in order to confirm that none of the approved amendments require any amendments to those guidelines. During the June 24 town council meeting, a small number of final revisions to amendments was made and passed with a vote of 4-0, with Council Member Steve Woehleke abstaining. The council will conduct a second reading of the revised ordinance and consider adoption at its July 8 meeting.

Moraga School District Governing Board Elections & Orientation for interested candidates

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Campo Parents Club on Diversity & Inclusion helmed by one of Moraga's newest residents

By Vera Kochan

Hoping to replicate Oregon's physical dynamics, but with a touch more sunshine, Ellide Smith and her family moved to Moraga six months ago, focusing on its educational reputation, hills and parks.

Little did Smith realize that in early May she would become chair of the Campo Parents Club on Diversity and Inclusion, an idea developed by approximately 25 parents during a fall Parents Club meeting. "Even coming from Oregon, where the black community is very small, I could feel how difficult it must be for the 0.65% of black students at Campolindo," Smith stated. "I also felt it was a good opportunity to meet people in my new community while doing

something that was good and impactful for parents and students."

The need for a diversity and inclusion club arose due to issues both on and off campus. Victimized families felt concerns over the handling of those situations especially within the communities of color. "There is proven research that shows that if students do not feel included or that they belong or have the effects of tons of micro-aggressions filling up their head space, they don't do well in school," Smith said. "The Campo academic testing data supports this."

Smith says she and her children, ages 6, 8 and 15, have not experienced any forms of racism in the community or the schools. "I have two elementary school-aged children, and they have not spoken to me of any issues, and I try to ask them in a roundabout way, as to protect their innocent views on life." Although, classmates have wanted to touch and feel their hair "because it's so different." Smith has noticed the effects of a lack of instruction regarding their black culture and wishes it went beyond learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and Frederick Douglass during Black History Month. "My oldest, a rising sophomore at Campo, hasn't experienced racism either that I know of, but his transition to Campo has been rocky and not as inviting as his former high school in Oregon," she added. "He struggled with feeling the sense of belonging and inclusion, especially on the lacrosse team. His words were, 'Everyone knows each other. No one knows me. I'm just trying to survive.'"

Smith heads a core committee of six people at CPCDI with an ever-increasing group of 150 and counting, which includes parents, former students, faculty, district and community members seeking to provide a safe and comprehensive educational experience. While current students are not part of the committee, they will reap the



Ellide Smith Photo provided

benefits of its existence. CPCDI's vision is to "work towards an inclusive academic, athletic and social environment where every member of our community is valued and feels an equal sense of belonging." Response from the community both before and after recent events has been largely positive including support from teachers of all four Acalanes Union High School District campuses.

Encouraged by the affirmative steps toward change, Smith stated, "To see a predominantly white community say 'we could/should do better' for the black community and other communities of color is something that most don't expect. Of course, there are those that are saying this talk of diversity and inclusion is just a fad and will pass. That there's nothing wrong in our area and racism doesn't exist. That racial slurs, epithets, complicit biases and stereotypes are just 'kids being kids' or 'teenagers making mistakes,' but we have seen publicly, on a local and national scale, the harmful and dangerous effects of that sort of rhetoric and thinking."

Smith, who works for an event management firm, developed the CPCDI website (www.DNICampo.com) in her spare time.

... continued on Page A10



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Latest wave of local businesses weather COVID-19 closure storm



Loard's Ice Cream shop



Glam Palace



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Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Countless businesses across the United States have had to suffer the moniker of "non-essential" during the coronavirus outbreak. As such, they are among the last to reopen their doors and the longest to have worried when their turn would finally come.

Due to the new upturn in COVID-19 infections, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered restaurants, wineries, family entertainment centers, movie theatres, museums, zoos and cardrooms to halt indoor operations for at least three weeks as of July 1. He also ordered full closure of all bars and breweries including both indoor and outdoor operations in the hopes that such gathering spots would not contribute to the growing number of positive cases.

Among the Moraga businesses happy to be open again is Across The Way, a gift and home goods store located in the Moraga Shopping Center. Merchandise Manager Susan Marconi found ways to provide items to customers during the closure by setting up endcaps stocked with merchandise in the hardware store across the road in addition to offering curbside service. She also displayed her wares on Instagram and Constant Contact. Proud to have a good relationship with her suppliers, Marconi was able to always have a supply of necessary items that were sold out elsewhere.

Marconi typically restocks the store in January and February, so she was lucky to have a bounty of merchandise before the closure. Her most popular sellers were candles, dish towels and lots of soap. "We

lost business during the closure, but what's really nice is that people have been so happy to come in and shop," said Marconi. "People are coming in to walk around, to get the social exposure that isn't part of their immediate family. The first thing they do when they come in is take a deep breath."

Loard's Ice Cream opened recently much to the delight of the young and young at heart. Staff member Tom Higgins replied, "People were super happy to be getting ice cream – especially the kids who used to come in here after school." According to Higgins, business was booming from the minute the doors were allowed to open. A big disappointment for Loard's was the canceling of the Summer Concert Series, which is an additional revenue source for the shop. "I've been coming here since I was a kid,"

stated Higgins, "and there's a bond in coming to work for a local business."

Rheem Shopping Center's Glam Palace, a hair salon, typically operates by appointment only. Owner Rania Atout is currently booked three months in advance. "Recently I have gotten a lot of walk-ins. People are out walking their dogs, see that I'm open and ask if they could get a hair cut." Besides hair cuts, the most popular request is a root touch-up.

Atout says that business has come back better than ever since the closure was lifted. She has even received new clients coming in from Alameda County where hair salons weren't allowed to open yet. Priding herself on following the latest safety guidelines, Atout now has some new customers who weren't happy with their regular salon's lack

of social distancing procedures.

Also in Rheem, Dover Saddlery, a horse tack and supply store, was initially required to close in mid-March, but reopened 10 days later for limited purposes, because they were the only local business that provided first aid products, liniments and supplement supplies for horses.

Store Manager Christie Casazza, whose first day on the job was Feb. 1, explained that services opened up gradually, and on "April 15 we were open by appointment only and allowed 1-2 people in the store per hour. On June 1 we were open to the public." During the closure, customers came from as far away as San Jose and Sacramento to get horse supplies.

Landslide remediation plan started between town and EBMUD

Following three years of negotiations, the town of Moraga and the East Bay Municipal Utility District reached an agreement to work together to construct a retaining wall to mitigate (and hopefully prevent) future landslide damage in the area near the Canyon Road bridge, Moraga Creek and Augusta Drive.


Like many areas of Contra Costa County this area is sub-

ject to natural landslides due to its geologic makeup. Landslides occurred in 2016 and 2017 on and adjacent to EBMUD watershed land, damaging several homes on Augusta Drive and the original bridge.

Under the agreement, EBMUD will explore the feasibility and cost of constructing a retaining wall spanning the area of the recent slides, de-

signed to support the hillside below Augusta Drive and protect the integrity of the new bridge. The town of Moraga and EBMUD would assume co-responsibility for the completed retaining wall.

EBMUD adopted the settlement agreement on June 30 and the town will consider approval of the agreement at its regularly scheduled July 8 council meeting. -- J. Wake



Town Council
 Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: Monday, July 20, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, July 21 7 p.m., Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Special Board Meeting Wednesday, July 21, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Orinda soft-pedals private roads, eyes 1% general sales tax

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda city council members seemed to unanimously support a staff proposal to put a 1% sales tax measure on the November ballot. The tax, which would last for 20 years, would be a general tax, giving the council discretion on how to appropriate the funds. The council had received a barrage of communications from residents of private roads, however, who oppose any sales tax that does not provide for the maintenance of private roads. Of the 58 written comments received on the proposed sales tax, 57 strongly opposed the tax, suggesting instead a five-year parcel tax of \$150 per parcel to address fire safety issues. Nick Warranoff wrote to support the 1% sales tax, but objected to the proposed emergency operations center and the addition of an employee to coordinate emergency response.

Steve Cohn, who has long been a proponent of the private roads residents, submitted lengthy written comments. His first point was acted upon by the council, on the motion

of Vice Mayor Amy Worth. In response to his comments, the council amended the minutes from the last two meetings to include reference to written comments submitted, and a link to those public written comments. A link to public comments will also be included in future minutes. Written comments are maintained by the city clerk as part of the public record.

Cohn has continually made the point that it is not equitable that some 20% of Orinda residents pay all the same taxes as other residents, but are excluded from the street repair and maintenance by the city because their streets are deemed private. Private roads residents continue to point out that their streets resemble many other residential streets in Orinda that are included in the public street maintenance program.

In a nod to both the residents of private roads and those concerned about high fire danger, the council supported the staff recommendation that the tax be devoted to fire mitigation for the first five years, and that the effort would not exclude private road residents. It was also suggested that, as the new tax will provide discretionary funds, the possibility that the city might do something in regards to private roads continues to exist, although there is no specific proposal under consideration at the present time. Addressing the issue of private roads, Mayor Darlene Gee said, "On a personal level I have continued to be supportive to listening to the private road issues. This has still has not resulted in any actionable item that has resolved, but," she said, "a number of us are con-

tinuing to look at what might be possible in that arena."

Gee also addressed the possibility of a parcel tax instead of a sales tax. "Parcel taxes have," she noted, "historically polled very poorly in Orinda and have taken an incredible downward turn in California." She pointed out that in the recent March elections across the state, 27 non-school parcel taxes were on the ballot, but only six passed. Further, she said, of the 21 that failed, eight were for fire districts.

Also on the June 30 agenda was a staff report regarding recommendations from the Firewise Council, currently chaired by Melanie Light. MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winacker attended the Zoom meeting to talk about fire safety and the city's proposed plans. The first priority of the city is to establish a new Emergency Planning and Wildfire Fuel Reduction Program and hire a full-time staff person to work with the Oversight Committee to develop and implement a fire fuel reduction program on city property and the public right of way. This administrator would also be charged with designing and coordinating community outreach programs for a variety of city-wide emergency response and crime prevention/neighborhood watch plans, and working with inter-agency teams to coordinate, document, and implement response planning to natural and man-made disasters in the city. The administration would also maintain and upgrade training, equipment, and procedures for the City Emergency Operations Center and other duties to assist in emergency planning and implementation.

The sales tax would also provide funding for an aggressive initial fire fuel reduction program to bring city owned property into compliance with current and new MOFD fire code, initiate long-term landscape maintenance and tree service contracts to maintain all vegetation on city-owned properties and within the public road right of way to MOFD fire code requirements and develop educational handouts for the residents to prepare for future natural disasters.

Although the proposed sales tax is also needed to maintain residential roads, which have been renovated under the previous sales tax measure, set to expire next year, the council considered that the use of the new sales tax revenue for road maintenance can be deferred for at least five to 10 years. This would allow the tax to be used for the pressing issues of fire prevention and repairing high priority public storm drains and culverts. In addition, the city could use some \$90,000 to hire an emergency response administrator. Warranoff, in his comments, suggested that the drains alone could consume all of the revenue raised by the sales tax.

City Manager Steve Salomon told the council that staff will work with FM3 to do tracking polling and will present the results to the council on July 21. He suggested that the council at that meeting finalize the concept and decide whether they want to move forward. If so, on July 28 staff can present the various material in final form. The council deadline for approval of a measure for the November ballot is Aug. 4.

Senior planner Mayank Patel moves on

By Sora O'Doherty

Mayor Darlene Gee announced at the June 16 city council meeting that Orinda is losing senior planner Mayank Patel, who has been the lead planner on the downtown precise plan. "We are really going to miss him," Gee said. "He has gotten a lot of good reviews and has fans here in Orinda." The mayor publicly thanked him and wished him all the best, recalling that among his other talents, he helped the city set up Zoom as the pandemic forced all meetings to suddenly become virtual. "We will always have a warm spot for you and look forward to hearing great things about you in the future," Gee told Patel.

While Patel said Orinda will always have a special place in his heart, when an opportunity to work closer to home arose, Patel said that COVID being around made his choice clear. He and his wife, an attorney, live in Fremont with their two little boys. Patel's new job, although a step down, working for the city of Newark, is just two miles from his home. Patel will start in Newark as an associate planner.

Patel said he was giving his all to the Orinda downtown precise plan, but wasn't being good about fulfilling his responsibilities as a father and husband. "It is only right," he says, "that I step away and allow the right amount of resources to be devoted to the community and the organization." The downtown precise plan will continue, although it

has not yet been determined who will lead the project in Patel's absence.

Patel started with Orinda at the end of August, 2015. His last day was June 23. Patel brought to the job experience in the private sector that made him invaluable to Orinda. He used his knowledge of GIS (geographic information systems) to help the public works department, wore different hats and helped different departments, including helping with the new website, and the transition between the old and the new. "I've learned a lot," Patel said, "and because it is a small agency, I was able to."

Patel was honored with a proclamation read by the planning commission chair Brandyn Iverson at the joint meeting of the planning commission and the downtown development subcommittee on June 23. He was recognized for his four years and nine months as an employee, starting as an assistant planner and leaving as a senior planner. He was said to be so tech savvy that his coworkers preferred his help to that of the IT department. Other attributes that garnered praise were being a great listener with a great sense of humor who grew spectacularly as a professional, willing even to argue with the city manager. The proclamation concluded that Patel epitomizes the Latin motto, ductus exemplo (lead by example).

Patel was surprised to find his young sons as guests of the Zoom meeting. He was delighted with the proclamation, noting that the "very kind words were almost as if I



Mayank Patel Photo provided

wrote them myself and paid somebody to read them."

Downtown subcommittee members Inga Miller and Nick Kosla joined in the praise of Patel. Miller said, "You brought us so much, and I am very, very grateful. You helped pave the way for downtown development," she said. Kosla told Patel that he was personally disappointed he is leaving. "Getting an assignment like the precise plan is a massive task and you were doing the bulk of the work," Kosla told him, "and I have been so impressed at how far you have gotten us. I can't thank you enough for your work. The graphics have been extremely helpful for us to see this stuff. I'm so excited about your future. Your ability during the COVID crisis to keep everybody connected through Zoom, to keep government functioning, I don't know what we would have done without you." Kosla concluded that Orinda would keep an open internship for Patel's children whenever they are ready.

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Del Rey teacher of the year up for county award



Del Rey fourth-grade teacher Katie Sahm

By Sora O'Doherty

For the first time ever, according to Orinda Union School District

Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, an Orinda teacher has been selected to compete for the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year award and a chance to compete at the state level. Katie Sahm is a fourth-grade teacher at Del Rey Elementary School, and an Orinda Teacher of the Year.

As principal of Del Rey Elementary School, Kirsten Theurer says she has worked with many amazingly talented educators, and Sahm rises to the top. "Her passion for students, dedication to best practices, and her vision for building strong learning communities for students and colleagues have touched the lives of hundreds of individuals over her nine years in Orinda," according to Theurer.

Nominating Sahm, Theurer

said, "From the moment Katie began teaching it was clear that she connected with students, families, and colleagues in a very special way. It wasn't an easy beginning. Stepping into her fourth-grade classroom to meet students three days after the school year started amidst angry letters from parents and unsettled students was challenging, to say the least. Katie handled it with poise and grace and quickly won over the community with her warmth and well thought out communications. From the gifted student who fell in love with Genius Hour to the struggling student who benefited from her carefully designed curriculum and personal support, to the divergent student who grabbed on to

the variety of products allowed to demonstrate mastery of standards, she is loved. She has a masterful way of knowing what students need and just how to give it to them."

Theurer went on to recount the story of a young man, a former student of Sahm's, who while at Del Rey was removed from home and placed in foster care. "It was an abrupt and sad departure," Theurer said. On a recent visit, the student let Theurer know that Sahm was his favorite teacher of all time. "She made him feel loved and safe and he would never forget her. If you were to talk to students who have had the privilege of being in Katie's class you would hear many such declarations. She builds a caring com-

munity one person at a time."

Sahm was called upon by OUSD to lead a district-wide grade level planning group. She planned professional development and worked alongside other fourth-grade teachers to ensure an aligned quality curriculum for students across the district. This strong professional learning community continues to shine.

In recommending Sahm for Teacher of the Year, Theurer concluded, "Katie embraces life. She listens fully. She thinks positively. She responds thoughtfully. When you are with her you have all of her attention, and it makes you feel valued. That is a gift she gives from her heart."

Orinda is open for business, cautiously



Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Gradually, businesses in Orinda are reopening, but not in a rush. Owners are happy to welcome customers back, but only in ways that are safe for customers and for owners and their employees. Government services are also slowly reopening. Parks and Rec ran its first camps for small groups, and a few community youth sports groups have been given authorization to use city and school district fields. The library, which has been offering online services, is now open for book pickups and drop-offs.

Theatre Square isn't exactly bustling, but it isn't completely deserted either. On a recent afternoon, people were enjoying eating outdoors or having coffee. Many of the restaurants in the Theatre District offer some sort of outdoor dining. The Fourth Bore has a large outdoor patio with heaters, and there is seating by other restaurants, including Shelby's and Saffron.

Some shops are open, such as Sanvitalia Home and Garden. Others have reopened with limited hours, such as Orinda Travel, which is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sweet Dreams Toy

Store is open, requiring face coverings for all customers. Others, such as Anytime Fitness and Bamboo Spa remain closed. Anytime Fitness will be one of the last businesses that will be able to open, according to general manager Jami Edgell, but it has been offering the entire community, not just to members, numerous free virtual classes each day and are planning to organize some outdoor classes.

For other businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a surprising increase in business. Square Baby founder Katie Thomson said their online, direct-to-consumer business has skyrocketed as parents look for healthy, fresh, convenient options that save them time in the kitchen and save them a trip to the grocery store. Square Baby meals are delivered frozen with dry ice in an eco-friendly shipping box with compostable insulation. "Recently, we have started meeting parents at our Theatre Square store to pick up the meals if that's more convenient for them. However, we imagine we'll be switching back to no-contact doorstep delivery with the new spike in cases."

Derek Zemrak, owner of the Orinda Theatre, Cine Cuvee,

and Republic of Cake, has been organizing some entertainment under the theatre marquee on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Cine Cuvee has moved all the interior tables and chairs to underneath the marquee and arranged them to enable social distancing. They encourage the wearing of masks and welcome food from other restaurants as long as customers purchase drinks from Cine Cuvee. On Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. there is an open mic for singers from the Bay Area.

Zemrak says that Republic of Cake is doing really well, expanding the wholesale side and selling to Diablo Foods, as well as doing more deliveries and expanding offerings. The the-

atre, he added, is ready to go, but the studios are not distributing any films until July 24.

Sutter Health Orinda Urgent Care has been open since June 8 and Orinda Optometry Group reopened on May 4. During the time that the office was closed, according to optometrist Kristine Eng, their team spent the time reviewing new guidelines, implementing procedures, and acquiring protective equipment. "We installed Plexiglass guards throughout the office, don PPE including face shields, and have a sanitizing process for all surfaces and eyewear to keep our patients and employees safe." The parking lot has become the waiting area, and temperature checks are re-

quired before entering the building. The schedule has been rearranged in order to ensure social distancing.

Also on the Village Side, Orinda Books is slowly trying to make its way back to some semblance of normalcy, continuing with virtual author events. Although the store cannot yet host book club meetings, it is open for customers to come in and browse the shelves.

Mash Gas, which has remained open as an essential service, initially experienced a 70% drop in business. Owner Mo Mashhoon dropped prices to help the community, and business recovered to about 85% of pre-pandemic levels.

... continued on Page A8



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Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 21, 7:15 p.m. Regular Meeting
By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 14, 7 p.m.
By Teleconference Only

Wildner Council Subcommittee
Special Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 5:00 p.m.
By Teleconference Only

Municipal fire prevention committee holds inaugural meeting

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District combined forces with the city of Orinda and the town of Moraga and formed a joint fire prevention subcommittee, tasked with bringing forward innovative ways to reduce wildfire risk on the 14,000 district parcels. The group met for the first time on June 22.

The subcommittee came about after a concerted effort by mostly Orinda residents, who pressured the city and the fire district to devote more resources to fire prevention measures. District residents complained about an insufficient amount of money spent on fire prevention, and challenged the three agencies to put together a funding plan to solve the

problem.

Among ideas proffered at the meeting was the formation of a joint powers authority, comprising the district and the two municipalities, to create and administer a funding mechanism, possibly through a parcel tax, as MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker noted that a heightened fire prevention program will require a major multiyear, multijurisdictional effort.

But before anything official could be considered, Vice Chair and Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus reminded the members that the subcommittee needed to come up with a charter, outlining what the subcommittee can and cannot do.

Future discussion items include having Orinda provide for an aggressive fuels reduction program on city owned property as a part of its potential 1% add-on

sales tax measure on the November ballot. The subcommittee will also review what more the fire district and the municipalities can do to improve fuels mitigation efforts, such as a stronger effort on community education.

“This was an important first step,” said Darlene Gee, mayor of Orinda, who was appointed subcommittee chair. “This is the first time the three public entities have met together, and it provided a forum to talk directly with one another and for the public to participate.”

In addition to the two mayors, the subcommittee includes the three MOFD directors from Orinda and one council member from each municipality. The group expects to hold its next meeting before the end of the summer.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday,
July 15, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 14, 1:00 p.m.
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Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



State throws last-minute lifeline to Lamorinda school districts

By Nick Marnell

All four Lamorinda school districts enter into the next school year facing financial uncertainty, but thanks to a late June compromise by state lawmakers the situation may not be as perilous as it once seemed.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, California faced a massive revenue shortfall as the state was thrown into a recession, and Gov. Gavin Newsom had proposed cutting K-12 funding by \$6.4 billion for 2021. The state also proposed to delay \$5.9 billion in funding, pushing back payments to schools until next year.

“In all the years I’ve been teaching, I feel a desperation I’ve never felt before,” Charles Shannon, president of the Orinda Educators Association, told the Orinda Union School District board of trustees, as beleaguered school districts slashed expenditures as they prepared budgets for the coming school year.

But at the last minute, after school district budgets had been approved based on reduced state funding, Newsom and the legislature worked out a deal that rescinded the proposed K-12 cuts. “The state budget will not be quite as bad, with minimal reductions from the 2019-20 budget,” John Nick-

erson, superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District, said.

Instead of a 10% cut in state funding – the No.1 revenue source for most California school districts – the state will reinstate that revenue. But gone is the 2.31% cost of living adjustment for the next fiscal year.

“It’s not the best news, but it is much better than it could have been and very manageable,” Richard Whitmore, superintendent of the Lafayette School District, said.

There is a catch. Though the governor eliminated the cuts, he is deferring state payments to the schools until 2021-

22, which could present a cash flow problem for school districts. If the federal government provides the state more stimulus dollars, some of those late payments may go away. “But they are significant,” Whitmore said.

Cash flow does not appear to be a major concern for Lamorinda school districts. “On the one hand, any deferral is problematic as it decreases the ability to address emergencies,” Bruce Burns, superintendent of the Moraga School District, said. “On the other hand, the MSD is prepared for the proposed June to July deferral. In brief, we do have the cash for payments.”

Even with the increased funding from the state for 2020-21, school districts face a choppy road ahead. “Clearly, we have a structural deficit and significant fiscal challenges,” Nickerson said, and based on their budget presentations, the same conditions exist in both the Moraga and Orinda Union school districts.

The Lafayette School District looks to be in positive operational shape, thanks in large part to revenue from local parcel taxes. Whitmore said that the \$800,000 district deficit projected for next year will be eliminated by the increased state funding.

Planning commission approves Terraces, but saga far from over

... continued from Page A2

The commission heard from many people in favor of the project’s potential to address the need for housing, and encourage diversity, notably many young people calling on the city to “seize the opportunity to push Lafayette forward,” and decrying what one called the “growing exclusionary attitudes in Lafayette.”

The commission also required several conditions, including working with the Design Review Commission to look at a change in placement of several of the buildings to make the visuals less imposing and for the shuttle bus service to BART to be expanded to include downtown. “If it’s going forward we need to make it the best project ever,” said Maggio.

Save Lafayette Founder

Michael Griffiths said after the meeting that he was not surprised by the vote. “The planning commission was fed erroneous information and pressured to make a decision last night, so the 5-2 result was inevitable,” he said.

Griffiths went on to warn that a similar decision by the city council on appeal would have a long-term disastrous impact for Lafayette citywide.

Byran Wenter, attorney for the applicant, said on behalf of his client after the meeting that they were grateful to the planning commission for their approval.

“After nine long years and every form of legal and political challenge, the commission recognized that the Housing Accountability Act required approval of the Terraces,” said Wenter, adding, “The Terraces

will add much-needed apartment housing to the community. Because of this vote, more people will be able to enjoy the benefits of living in Lafayette.”

Wenter has previously warned that legislation could cost the city up to \$15.75 million if courts find the city acted in bad faith in denying the project.

The matter is expected to be appealed at the city council level within days.

Orinda is open for business, cautiously

... continued from Page A7

Café Teatro, located on Orinda Way below the library, recently renewed their lease, but owner Joe Kim says that business has been terrible. “Regulars come in for coffee and food,” he said, but with nothing going on, no events, and when the library was completely closed, it was bad. However,

Kim feels lucky to have a good patio. Although he felt confident renewing the lease, he thinks that business won’t be back 100%. Siam Orchid, across the street, continues to do takeout business only. Owner Pepsi Phunmongkol says that with 21 tables inside, he could place them six feet apart to provide for social distancing, but for the time being the takeout business

has picked up.

Baan Thai owner Jim Phoonpirom said that he was kind of scared because most people don’t wear masks. He is fine for now with pickup only, and said that only two or three customers had asked about reopening. Genuine Goodness owner Donna Pickhall said she was closing for the month of July to review her menu and

how to operate in a safe and efficient way. “We don’t want anybody inside,” she said. “Eventually we will be taking orders at the door, but we need a place for customers to line up.” Geppetto’s Caffe owner Frank Leou said that his patio seating has been busy, but many customers have been calling to ask when the café will be open for inside seating.

City Manager Steve Salomon has said that he has offered to work with local restaurants to provide for more outdoor seating, but he hasn’t met with an enthusiastic response. Several restaurants contacted for this story said that they are concerned about the health and wellbeing of the owners and staff and are happy to continue with takeout for the time being.

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Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



June 14 - June 27	
Alarms	52
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	55
Patrol Req./Security Check	38
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	14
Ordinance Violation	4
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way	
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Brook St./East St.	
S Thompson Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3200 Block Ameno Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center	
Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Computer Fraud	
1400 Block Edwards Ct.	
Fraud Credit Card	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3700 Block St Francis Dr.	
1400 Block Sunset Loop	
Grand Theft	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
Misc Burglary	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Petty Theft	
3600 Block Brook St.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
3600 Block Boyer Cir. (2)	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.	
1300 Block Masterson Ln.	
Petty Theft Bicycle	
900 Block Risa Rd.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
700 Block Solana Dr.	
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
3600 Block Brook St.	
3400 Block Springhill Ct.	
Loud Music	
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
3100 Block Quandt Rd. (2)	
Loud Party	
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.	
Mcgraw Ln/Reliez Valley Rd.	
3100 Block Quandt Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.	
3300 Block Orchard Valley Ln. (2)	
1100 Block Nogales St.	
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Peacock Blvd./N Lucille Ln.	
3600 Block Baker Ln.	
10 Block Eleven	
Garden Ln/Laurel Dr.	
1000 Block Stuart St.	
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Vandalism	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
3600 Block Brook St.	
Other	
Fireworks	
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.	
Acalanes Av/Pleasant Hill Cr.	
500 Block Merriewood	
Lucas Dr./Lucas Cr.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
H&S Violation	

10 Block Eleven	
Police Department	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
1500 Block Canyon Rd., Mor	
Byron Hw/Camino Diablo, Byr	
Trespass	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Violation Custody Order	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
1200 Block Warner Ct.	
Violation Restraining Order	
Police Department	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



June 16 - June 29	
Alarms	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	27
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	60
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	2
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
Not Available	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)	
St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	
Eastwood/Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3)	
St Andrews/Country Club Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
400 Block Woodminster Dr.	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Post Office	
Police Department	
Tc - Property Damage	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Grand Theft	
Safeway	
100 Block Moraga Rd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Idlewood Ct.	
1800 Block St Andrews Dr.	
Petty Theft	
1800 Block School St.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	

100 Block Moraga Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
100 Block Calle La Montana	
Theft Access Card	
Police Department	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
400 Block Kingsford Dr.	
Loud Noise	
1300 Block Larch Ave.	
Buckingham Dr./Natalie Dr.	
1100 Block Rimer Dr.	
Loud Party	
10 Block Buckingham Dr. (2)	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
Public Nuisance	
Ace Hardware	
Moraga Country Club	
Vandalism	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
School St./De La Cruz Way	
Other	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
Safeway	
Fireworks	
Campolindo High School	
Joaquin Moraga Int School	
Ordinance Violation	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
Trespass	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 14 - June 27	
Alarms	40
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	19
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	92
Patrol Req./Security Check	31
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
70 Block Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	
Auto Burglary	
500 Block Bear Creek Rd.	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	
Dui Misd	
100 Block Orinda Way	
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo	
Hit And Run Felony	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Altamount Dr./Moraga Way	
Mcdonnell Nursery	

Petty Theft From Vehicle	
Rite Aid	
10 Block Quarry Hill Rd.	
70 Block Moraga Way (2)	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.	
Bates Blvd./Warford Terrace	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Orinda Park Pool	
Veh Parts	
4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
10 Block Spring Ct.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
10 Block Del Mar Ct.	
10 Block Orchard Rd. (2)	
10 Block Aspinwall Ct.	
Grand Theft	
Rite Aid	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Wildcat	
Canyon	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Southwood Ct.	
80 Block Orchard Rd.	
100 Block El Toyonal	
Panhandling	
40 Block Santa Maria Way	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
Rite Aid	
Robbery Armed	
10 Block Camino Sobrante	
Shoplift	
Rite Aid	
50 Block Moraga Way	
Cvs	
Warrant	
Cam Pab/Cam Sobrante	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
20 Block Mariposa Ln.	
Loud Music	
90 Block Nobl Ln.	
10 Block La Fond Ln.	
100 Block Crest View Dr.	
Loud Noise	
200 Block La Espiral	
Loud Party	
Estabueno Dr./Lavenida Dr.	
Wildler Rd./Dairy Creek Ln.	
Public Nuisance	
Oak Rd./Stein Way	
Vandalism	
200 Block Camino Pablo	
100 Block Zander Dr.	
Other	
Loitering	
Miramonte High School	
Trespass	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Unwanted Guest	
Safeway	
Violation Custody Order	
Orinda Theater	

AUHSD and racial equity: How to repair the broken trust



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

During a mid-June Acalanes Union High School District board meeting staff acknowledged that trust had been broken with the district's families of color. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement and with the release of a video showing teenagers from the district using racist profanity in front of a parent (two years ago), outrage mounted from the community, calling for deep change.

The meeting opened with heartbreaking testimonies from parents of students of color who had been discriminated against and/or bullied repeatedly in the district. Parents accused the high school administration

as well as that of the district to have been side-stepping complaints and hesitating to take any action. Testimony after testimony painted the portrait of a community, starting as early as elementary school, where racism is dismissed by staff. In a like manner, some students also testified that bullying was seldom addressed and issues were swept under the rug.

The Campolindo High School Diversity and Inclusion Committee had a gathering the night before the meeting that was attended (on Zoom) by approximately 100 community members, current Campo parents, future/incoming Campo parents, Campo student leaders, former Campo students, Campo administration and faculty, AUHSD superintendent and associate superintendent, Moraga School District parents, and community members. Ellide Smith, chair of the committee who called the meeting (see related article on Page A4) said that the general feeling from parents, students, as well as teachers is that policies about racism are vague and consequences are unknown. The district has seen the number of diverse students diminish because parents send their children to private schools. Students are not equipped to stand up in a culture where those who speak out are ostracized and criticized.

The group agreed that racism and unconscious bias are rampant. Campolindo High School counselor Patrick Turner has been the only black faculty/staff

member at Campolindo. He has witnessed the pain of not only black students but other students of color as they encounter vile forms of racism, complicit biases, and microaggressions across the campus.

Amy McNamara, the district's associate superintendent, has been in charge of the district's equity policy for several years. She affirmed that a lot of listening is being done this summer and that change will happen through long-term work.

McNamara listed the actions that are being worked on within the district: to change the AUHSD mission statement to include race equity as a core value; to engage all students in a discussion about race to create a safe campus; to modify the curriculum in social studies and history; to establish more equitable grading practices for all students; to train all staff members and have them attend the Beyond Diversity training; to organize more parent information nights on this topic with parent leadership; to include more diversity when hiring new staff members; and to establish clear policies to address racist insults.

There is not yet a timetable for the implementation of these changes. All board members expressed their desire to support transformations in the new school year. McNamara noted that there is a highly activated group of young people who will be coming back to school in the fall and they will want to see change.

Lafayette forms task force

... continued from Page A1

Following the meeting Candell commented that she was thankful for all who attended and gave such good feedback, noting that the task force members needed this in-

put to shape how they move forward. "I honestly believe we can bring real positive change and create an even better community for all," said Candell.

"It was only our first meeting," said Burks after the

meeting, "and we have a long way to go on this complex and challenging movement, but if Wednesday night was an indication, I truly believe that the community will come together, representing a 'collective task force' embarking on one of the

most important and meaningful human-centered advancements in the history of Lafayette. I encourage absolutely everyone to be a part of it."

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa emphasized the need for

the public's help and engagement and invited people to send accounts of their experiences to her ahead of the town hall meeting.

Details on how to reach Srivatsa are on the city website at www.lovelafayette.com

Letters to the editor

Fourth of July Flags

When members of the Moraga Garden Club were putting out flags at the Moraga Commons on July 3, a man on a walk asked about it. When told that it was a project of the Garden Club, he asked, "Do you take donations?" Then he handed my wife a twenty-dollar bill.

Other members put out flags at the library, the Hacienda, and at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. Moraga may not have fireworks this year, but the Garden Club is quietly honoring the act that developed into our greatest gift.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

On diversity and racism

When I saw the video circulating of current Campolindo students flippantly using racial slurs such as the n-word and referring to black people as slaves while one of their fathers' drives without saying a word, I was sickened but not surprised. While I no longer reside in Lamorinda, having moved to LA for college, I vividly recall my experience at Campolindo High School as one where non-white, poor, or LGBT individuals (such as myself) were treated with at best, disregard, and at worst, outright discrimination.

I existed in a state of otherness, isolation and alienation throughout my high school years, which I'm sure doesn't even compare to what my black peers experienced, as race is nearly impossible to conceal, unlike sexuality. Some members of this community may be shocked that their children would express such violently racist ideas, but what concerns me most is the silence of the father in the video. Young people do not develop bigoted and hateful ideology in a vacuum.

There is no excuse for the behavior of the girls in that video, but it is only a reflection of the de facto segregation and race and class-based hierarchy that exists in Lamorinda, enforced by the maintenance of suburban ideals that conceals more insidious motives. Just a few days ago, after almost nine years of pushback, the decision to move forward with the 315-apartment housing plan in Lafayette, which the East Bay Times deemed "divisive," finally went through. The project has set aside 63 apartments (20%) for affordable housing.

It is endearing that Lafayette organized a 'Black Lives Matter' protest to call attention to the epidemic of police violence that has gained traction after the brutal murder of George Floyd, but highly troubling that the percentage of black students at Campolindo is 1% (U.S. News 2020 High School Rankings). The percentage of economically disadvantaged students is 4%. Tak-

ing this information into account, it is rational to assume that the majority of students at Campolindo don't have a meaningful connection or interaction with a black person until after they graduate. As much as residents of this so-called idyllic enclave want to pay lip service to the cause of racial equality, the history of exclusion of black and hispanic people from our schools, housing, and community, unless their function is to service us, tells a different story. I hope that anyone who was truly shocked by this video does some real reflection on the message that unofficial racial and class-based segregation teaches our children about whose lives matter to us and whose don't.

Fiona Deane-Grundman
Lafayette

Letter presented at the June 22 MOFD-Orinda-Moraga sub-committee

Dear Chief Winnacker,

You are my hero for your fire prevention activism. I organized seven homeowners to prepare for the chipper. I communicated with Mr. Graham, read the chipper rules, informed my neighbors, made sure all the stacks were chipper friendly, and everything went perfectly. We eliminated two trucks full of vegetation. It was the existence of the free chipper service that allowed me to generate enthusiasm.

I attended the last MOFD Board meeting and was very disappointed with the outcome!

You said that the demand would continue indefinitely. I believe you are wrong. We cleared out many low branches that will not regrow. The brush we eliminated will not be allowed to regrow now that we know about Paradise. Any regrowth will be green binned. You also referred to outlier customers. Surely there are very few.

To the MOFD Board, These are not reasons to discontinue the program through the summer months. We are talking about 70 days of 1.5 chippers at \$1500/day or less than \$160,000 out of a \$26 million budget. That budget is only possible because of the taxes we citizens pay. The MOFD Board received very many requests for summer chipper service, before the next fire season, but declined to even invest \$50,000 towards the chipper service, despite a \$500,000 surplus for the year. If 10% of our city burns this fall, you will lose millions in revenue.

It has become clear that the Board has been captured by industry insiders that make decisions in favor of the firemen's union pension fund and not in the best interest of the citizens. Their decision not to fund a paltry amount of their \$26 million budget for the chipper program

has made this obvious to the citizens and is the worst political mistake the board could make.

And lastly to the city council members,

We have already lost a week of chipping. It is now clear that the MOFD Board has exhibited a dereliction of duty to serve and protect the citizens. Should they not commit to an emergency board meeting, despite very tight city budgets, I beg you to consider funding the chipper service for the summer.

Charles Porges
Orinda

A wonderful man's passing

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley and the Moraga Community lost a fantastic person on June 22 - Larry Swindell.

A brief set of highlights from Larry's life include: (1) Published five film biographies on Hollywood celebrities -- Spencer Tracy, Carole Lombard, John Garfield, Charles Boyer, and Gary Cooper; (2) Was a writer for a number of publications and earned the nickname "Scoop"; (3) Taught composition and literature at 5 universities -- Maryland, UC Irvine, LaSalle, Delaware, and TCU; (4) Was inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame and the Classic Film Hall of Fame in Moraga; (5) Was involved in the Moraga Park Commission, Moraga Historical Society, Classic Movies at the Rheem Theater (introduced each movie), SIR, Moraga Movers, and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

Larry touched each Kiwanis member in so many ways. But little did each member initially know about the breadth, knowledge, and character of this person. Larry's memory amazed all of us, especially pertaining to baseball, the movies, and history. And he graced us with that knowledge, and without notes, in many talks. Some of those talks included: (1) "The Great Depression" (2) "1939, The Greatest Year in Movies" (3) "The Korean War" (4) "An Historical Perspective on the Political Parties and Party Conventions" (5) "The transition of Movies from Silent to Sound - Hollywood in Chaos" (6) "How Baseball Changed over the Years" (7) "The history of Popular Music, from Antiquity to the Era of Rock n'Roll" (8) "The Origins of World War II."

Some anecdotes we recall: (1) Seeing Satchel Paige in his youth in Texas, when his father caught him in a local exhibition game -- Larry indicated his dad may have contributed to the integration of baseball; (2) Swimming with Marilyn Monroe and sitting in a baseball box with Spencer Tracy and having a rough chat; (3) Telling Ronald Reagan he knew more about his movies than he did, and set out to prove it.

We were all lucky to have known Larry, to learn from, re-

spect, and admire Larry. He will be remembered by all of us forever. A wonderful man!

Stan Holcenberg
Moraga

More on MOFD chipping program

Last issue's article regarding the suspension of MOFD's chipping program to remove flammable vegetation waste only told half of the story.

First, to say there was a "passionate outcry from district residents" is an understatement. 46 people "attended" the Zoom meeting. MOFD has NEVER had that many people attending one of its meetings. Those 46 represented the 86% of Orinda who said in the recent Orinda survey that fire prevention was their #1 priority.

Second, it did not mention that the Board Members supporting the program were the two "independent" members (Jorgens and Jex) while those opposing were members of the firefighters-union-block (Danziger, Donner and Baitx).

Third, it did not put in perspective the \$100,000 chipper program which Baitx complained was "throwing money" away when they were cutting spending elsewhere. While the District is projecting a \$1.1 million deficit this year (for all of its "funds", not just its general fund), the financials show:

1) While revenue is projected to stay flat (at \$29 million), MOFD expenditures (excluding capital expenditures) are not being cut, they are increasing from \$27.5 million to \$30 million; over three times the rate of inflation.

2) Employees' salaries and benefits, accounting for 90 percent of the operating expenses, are increasing from \$24.8 million to \$27.3 million. This \$2.5 million increase (10 percent), accounts for the entire expense increase.

3) Reserves will also be increasing, from \$18.2 million to \$19.3 million, including a \$2 million increase in the employee retirement fund. So the entire \$1 million deficit is going into reserves, specifically into the firefighter's retirement fund.

4) Over the last four years MOFD has added over \$10 million to its reserves; half of it to the firefighter's retirement fund which now has \$165 million in it.

Bottom line: The union-controlled board is making sure that every extra dollar of revenue that MOFD receives goes toward salaries, benefits and retirement reserves even though that already accounts for 90 percent of the budget. It will not allow, even by a few thousand dollars, expense reprioritization for fire PREVENTION, not fire FIGHTING, which the community seeks.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

On school reopening plans

I appreciate receiving the Lamorinda Weekly and look through it every week. Today I saw an article by Sophie Braccini about Lamorinda school reopening plans this fall. She said that the blended model "will allow all students to be back in their schools at least several days a week", but at least at the high school level, the blended model allows students to attend school in person only twice a week. This is a significant difference and the public should be made aware of the actual plans, not the artificially optimistic ones. My understanding is that in the blended model high schoolers will receive live instruction from each teacher only 85 minutes a week (vs. the 135 minutes they got with each teacher prior to the pandemic). Three days a week they are home. On one of those days they might attend virtual office hours, but two days a week they will have no interactions with teachers or peers at all.

This is an important distinction that the public needs to be made aware of. "Several days a week" sounds somewhat similar to a normal school schedule. In fact what is planned at this point is attendance only two days a week, with once-weekly in-person contact with each teacher and this doesn't sound anything like a normal school schedule or a remotely adequate amount of learning.

I know the AUHSD administration has worked very hard to put forth the best possible plans and I don't fault them at all for the blended scenario. The county health department order that children be separated by 6 feet is the reason, the only reason, students are being forced to essentially forgo adequate schooling and being forced into continued semi-isolation. There are so many other ways to manage the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., testing, contact tracing, masks, daily health screenings for symptoms and exposure, hand-washing) that do not require decimating the educational and social-emotional development of our children. The county health department has tied the hands of our educators and will make it impossible for our schools to properly serve, support, and educate children in Lamorinda.

Elizabeth Owens
Orinda

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 for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



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Neighbors gather in fellowship on the Fourth

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The House bill, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies (H.R. 7071), would authorize \$75 million in funding to the National Institutes of Health and establish a Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the FDA. The Senate bill, Promising Pathways Act (S. 3872), could greatly shorten the time from ALS drug research to human clinical trial

to FDA approval.

“There is currently no cure for the disease, but a great deal of research is underway,” Shephard said. “We believe the disease can be cured, so more funding is needed.”

“It was sad not to have the normal Fourth of July festivities in Moraga including the dog and bike parades and the concert/fireworks. But it was fun to get our neighbors out for the

fun run,” Shephard added. “It is nice to live in a community with such great neighbors.”

To get involved in promoting these bills with your legislators you can visit: <https://iamals.org/take-action-to-make-access-to-therapies/> or go to the Action Center at <https://www.als.org/advocacy>. Donations can be made to the The ALS Association Golden West Chapter.

Campo Parents Club

... continued from Page A4

Although she states that it's still a work-in-progress, it is already full of resource information while on the way to listing additional content related to racial, LGBTQ+ and mental health issues.

There are many things that Smith would like to accomplish while serving as the chair of the committee “I want to see Campolindo and the AUHSD take immediate measurable action steps that addresses why only 57% of white students and 47%

of students of color feel accepted at Campolindo, or why 52% of white students and 40% of students of color feel proud belonging to Campolindo.” The D&I parents group feels there should be a full-time director to track any progress data.

Smith would also like to see an updated curriculum to include the history of people of color; a clarification of disciplinary actions that addresses racial language, symbols, religious bigotry and discrimination; and a Student Code of Conduct. Most importantly, she hopes for more active parental

participation during D&I events.

Smith stresses that all students need to be responsible for their consequences. “Students should not be ostracized or lose their ‘social equity’ because they are calling out inappropriate and unjust behavior. I want all of the students to feel the positive effects of a fully inclusive culture.” Smith concluded, “We can no longer sit back and assume that all is fine because the majority is fine. We need to keep evolving and self-correcting until all are fine.”



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<p>JOHN FONDNAZIO  925.817.9053 DRE# 01938194</p>	<p>1182 GLEN ROAD, LAFAYETTE \$3,595,000 PENDING  JULIE DEL SANTO/MATT MCLEOD 925.818.5500</p>	<p>11 EL CAJON, LAFAYETTE \$2,690,000 PENDING  TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851</p>	<p>1038 VIA ROBLE, LAFAYETTE \$1,895,000 PENDING  RUTH EDDY 925.788.5449</p>	<p>JOY WIEHN  415.377.1884 DRE# 02047712</p>				
<p>JULIE DEL SANTO BROKER/OWNER  925.818.5500 DRE# 01290985</p>	<p>11 KETELSEN COURT, MORAGA \$1,449,000 PENDING  MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500</p>	<p>186 CIRCLE DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK \$1,199,000 PENDING  HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500</p>	<p>3390 ORCHARD VLY LANE, LAFAYETTE \$1,149,000 PENDING  SMITH HOMES TEAM 925.998.1914</p>	<p>LAUREN DEAL HURLBUT TEAM  925.876.4671 DRE# 02060294</p>				
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<p>TERESA ZOCCHI  925.360.8662 DRE# 01907345</p>	<p>TINA FRECHMAN  925.915.0851 DRE# 01970768</p>	<p>VALERIE DURANTINI  415.999.6116 DRE# 01376796</p>						

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Lamorinda Arts Council is more vibrant than ever – even online



“Those Left Behind” by Tyler Pavey

Photo provided – Lamorinda Super Shorts

By Sophie Braccini

Denise Nomura, who has been presiding over the Lamorinda Arts Council for about a year, remembers the shock and the period of wonderment that struck her and the group’s board following the shelter-in-place order, which required a paradigm shift, since closing down was never an option. From Lamorinda Idol to art galleries, even the popular fundraiser Mixology will now be organized online this year.

Steve Harwood, who has been leading Lamorinda Idol for years, said that there was no question that the program should continue. This singing competition, open to individuals and groups ages 5 to 18, has been a popular training ground for so many budding Lamorinda artists – and a way to proceed had to be found.

Harwood said it was quite easy for the young talents to record videos of themselves and submit them to the jury. A phone was all that was needed

for the individuals, but the groups had to hone some editing skills to mix each separate performance. The jury received the same number of submissions as last year, and the finalists who will face off in August have been chosen.

One of the perks of this program is the professional training that the young finalists get from a professional singer. According to Harwood the finalists receive online lessons so they can be their best for their last virtual performance. The finalists’ videos will be posted online and the public will be able to vote, alongside the professionals, for their favorites. A Zoom party will celebrate the season of singing, with announcements of the winners and playing of all the finalists’ videos.

Getting the two art galleries that the LAC manages online has not been that easy. LAC runs the new Wilder gallery and the library gallery, but because the artists are

scheduled for displaying their work sometimes months if not years in advance, to reduce the backlog of exhibits LAC created a virtual display of what artists have been producing during the pandemic. One of Nomura’s paintings that she created during this time of reflection can be viewed and purchased online. LAC may continue the program depending on its popularity.

The Lamorinda Super-Shorts Two Minute Movie Challenge features very personal notes from confined people to reflections of what we can be grateful for. Don’t miss two excellent animes: “Cat and Banana” and “FYNYTE.” The winning movies can be seen at <https://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-supersshorts-winners-archive/>

And on July 19 LAC is calling writers, artists and art lovers to participate in the first Art Embraces Words webinar. Nomura explains that

emerging writers will read from their work in 10-minute intervals interspersed with visual artwork from local artists. Participating artists will be introduced and answer questions about their artwork. Portions of the event will be recorded and uploaded to social media. In this way art still ‘embraces’ the words. For more information or to sign up go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>.

One of the most interesting challenges the group is now facing is moving its massively successful fundraising live event, Mixology, online. To do so, LAC has partnered with SaloonBox, a company that specializes in home delivery of craft cocktails. Nomura says bartenders will submit recipes to the committee, which will select the best

ones. Kits to make the cocktails will be assembled and sold online and picked up at Lamorinda liquor stores. The kits will have all the ingredients but the hard liquor that either people may already own or can purchase at the pickup location.

The website for Mixology will have videos of the mixologists, and people will be able to vote for their favorite cocktails. Bartenders will be solicited from mid-July to mid-August, and the kits will be on sale at the end of August or September, so people will have plenty of time to taste and pick. Nomura hopes that the final event in October will be live, and if not possible, she promises a crazy festive, fun online party.

Information about all the programs is online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/>

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This hearty salad helps fill the summer dinner void



Turkey taco salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

Turkey Taco Salad

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

1 head Romaine, cleaned and torn into bite-sized pieces
 1 bunch cilantro leaves, cleaned and removed from stems
 1 red bell pepper, stem and seeds removed and chopped
 1 Anaheim chili, stem and seeds removed and chopped
 1 poblano pepper, stem and seeds removed and chopped
 1 jalapeno pepper, stem and seeds removed and finely chopped
 1 large tomatillo, chopped
 20 cherry tomatoes, halved or larger ripe tomatoes cut into bite-sized pieces
 1 small jicama or about 1/2 cup chopped
 1 cup of corn, preferably fresh from two ears of corn that have been barbecued ahead of time
 1 can dark red kidney beans, drained
 1 pound ground turkey (or beef), cooked according to directions below
 1 taco seasoning packet (Lawry's, McCormick or other)
 2 tablespoon canola oil
 2 tablespoons water
 1 cup grated sharp white or yellow cheddar
 2 cups Doritos Nacho Cheese tortilla chips, slightly crushed
 1 recipe Lime-Salsa Dressing (below)

DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in a frying pan and add ground turkey. Sprinkle taco seasoning packet over the top. Add water. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring often. (If possible mash the ground turkey with the Kitchen Queen Meat Chopper. This is a purchase you will never regret!) Once completely cooked, remove from heat and cool. Refrigerate until ready to use. Can also be made ahead and frozen for several months. Spread two ears of corn with canola oil. Season to taste with Cajun seasoning, salt and pepper. Barbecue corn over medium-low heat for 8 minutes, rotating every 2 minutes to distribute cooking evenly. Remove from grill and cool. When cooled to room temp, cut corn off cobs and set aside. When ready to serve, place all ingredients in a large salad bowl and toss with Salsa Lime Vinaigrette (recipe below). Serve with fresh flour tortillas.

Lime-Salsa Dressing:

Juice of 1 lime
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
 1/2 cup olive oil
 1/3 cup salsa
 2 teaspoons your favorite hot sauce
 S&P to taste

Place all ingredients in a container with a tight-fitting lid and shake well. Refrigerate until ready to use. Allow to sit for about 10 minutes before tossing salad, to allow oil to come to room temperature.

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



By Susie Iventosch

I don't know about you, but I can never seem to get enough of salads in the summer, especially if you have a great victory garden growing in your backyard! We love to make hearty salads with meat and cheese and lots of seasonal veggies so that they are filling enough to serve as the main dinner course. They are easy to prepare ahead of time so when you get back from work or fun weekend activities they are ready to go. This taco salad is a perfect example of one with plenty of hearty fixings to satisfy even the hungriest of appetites. Made with a virtual rainbow of veggies along with seasoned ground meat, cheese and crushed tortilla chips and tossed in a lime-salsa vinaigrette, you will feel like you had a full 4-course meal. Serve with a warm flour tortilla on the side or you can even make a wrap out of it. I like to use ground turkey, but chicken, beef or bison all work great in this recipe.

Lynn's Top Five

Every day is a winding road – financial planning in a sea of the unknown

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

I hope Sheryl Crow's lyrics are a truth, that we are a little bit closer. Closer to a cure, to a vaccine, to a recovered economy, to valuing all human life, to empathy. The last time I wrote for this, our wonderful community paper, I was already planning my next column focusing on the provisions of the latest tax legislation, the Secure Act. Well, we can toss that aside for the moment, and focus instead on surviving. This column will focus on some tips and ideas for financial survival, hopefully providing at least one idea for each reader.

1) Adjust new budgets: Not commuting? Not eating out, traveling or meeting up with friends? Take a deep sigh, let it go and instead focus on the opportunity to build or expand that emergency fund, pay down consumer debt, add to building toward financial independence or shorter-term financial needs such as home repairs, a newer car, education expenses.

2) Lower debt costs: There are many debt breaks available from forgiveness to deferral to simple refinancing at lower rates. Whether student loan debt, car loans or mort-

gages, research your options and make moves to take advantage of what may be the lowest interest rates of several generations to come. And if you need cash due to loss of income, you will find numerous options available including borrowing from your own retirement accounts to accessing government lending programs. Leave no stone unturned and don't delay.

3) Required minimum distributions – yes or no: You are able to step away from any previously "required" minimum distributions from retirement plans (RMDs) this year. And if you already took some and wish you hadn't, you have until Aug. 31 for just this tax year to put the funds back and reverse the distribution so as to preserve your assets and keep your tax burden as low as possible. That said, if you are in a negative income tax bracket, perhaps you might still take some distributions so as not to waste that tax-free withdrawal opportunity. And see the next point regarding another approach if you are in a low or 0% tax bracket.

4) Roth conversions – a unique historic opportunity: It's possible your investments are worth less than you paid for them. It's also possible

your income is lower this year than last. If so take a look at the math behind Roth conversions. If you moved \$50,000 for example to a Roth IRA from an eligible IRA, you'd pay the taxes on the \$50,000 distribution this tax year, however, once the funds are in the Roth IRA, they grow tax free and exempt from RMD's in your life (and if your spouse is your beneficiary his or her life, as well). This works when you have the cash outside the IRA to pay for the taxes due on the conversion. And the neat trick about this is that you can move assets in kind from your IRA to your Roth IRA. If you make these moves when markets are at lows, and move assets that have suffered value loss but that you still want to hold long-term, you are in essence moving a lot more shares to the Roth at that moment than you would have before the virus struck and markets fell substantially. Long term this could be very positively impactful to you, however, absolutely consult with your Tax Pro before proceeding.

5) Tax loss harvesting – If ever there was a time! We've chatted about this before in my column and this is yet another historic opportunity to make lemonade out of

lemons by using this tool. Tax loss harvesting involves selling assets with paper losses (in taxable, not retirement accounts) and immediately using the proceeds to replace them with a different asset (can be somewhat similar but not the same) so you aren't out of the market in the event the market charges up in the short run. You can then just keep the new asset you buy and book the capital losses on the asset you are selling to use in the current year against gains, or use up to \$3,000 of net losses against other income and carry the rest of your capital losses forward to a future year. If you want to buy back the asset you sold you must wait 31 days to do so or you forfeit the right to the tax loss on the sale. Work closely with your team of professionals including your Certified Financial Planner™ to be sure you are implementing a wise plan that works for you correctly.

While I truly hope that this column has highlighted and sparked some helpful planning ideas, I'll close with the most sincere wish that you and your loved ones are, and continue to stay, healthy, safe and able to focus on what matters most.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. The review, assessment, and/or opinion expressed in this column are limited to and in association with general financial planning subjects. They are intended to introduce the reader to general financial planning topics. This column should serve as a tool that should assist readers in the development of subsequent discussions with a financial planning professional. Always consult an accountant and/or attorney to assess your individual situation prior to implementing any financial planning strategy, including any strategy directly or indirectly referenced in this column.

International film showcase features two excellent murder mysteries



By Sophie Braccini

The International Film Showcase features one French and one Italian film this month. Not available on any other platform, these two diverse murder mysteries will bring suspense and intellectual pleasure into movie lovers' homes.

Lise, 18, is "The Girl with a Bracelet" in the French film directed by Stéphane Dumoustier. The teenager lives in an affluent neighborhood near the seaside. She wears a bracelet – not the charming type on her wrist, but a monitor on her ankle – as she is accused of having murdered her best friend and is on house arrest pending trial.

Most of the movie takes place within the confines of the courthouse. As the director described it in an interview he wanted his film to be close to what really takes place in such settings today, but his primary objective was to depict doubt – what it's like to be a parent of a teenager whom you have to trust, while accepting that there are parts of their lives that escape you and that you might never understand.

Lise, played by remarkable newcomer Melissa Guers, has always denied being the culprit of the murder, but she remains aloof and almost incapable of sharing emotions. Day after day more incriminating evidence is collected against her, yet there is no definite proof. The battle between the prosecutor and Lise's lawyer is tensed, sus-

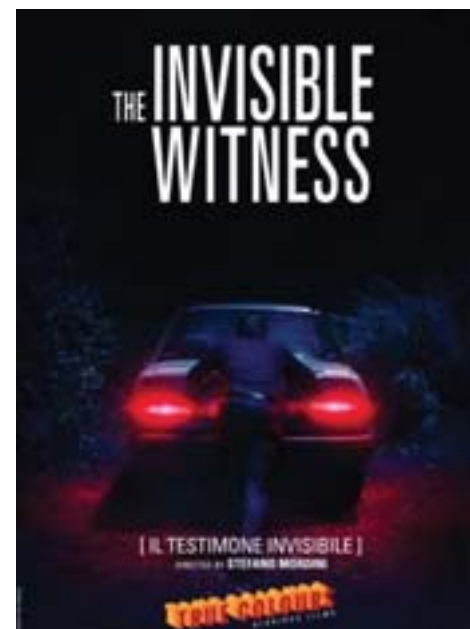
penseful but not overly theatrical.

The parents' disarray is expressed beautifully by actors Roschdy Zam and Chiara Mastroianni. The father is strong but his armor at times cracks, and the mother confesses her powerlessness to the judge. The director takes the audience step-by-step toward the truth but leaves the teen's mystery intact.

The Italian movie, "The Invisible Witness" directed by Stefano Mordini, is also a murder mystery, but of a completely different type. It is not as much Italian as the French movie is French. The convoluted plot itself, the original dramaturgy, the rhythm, could be American.

It is a highly effective movie that leads the spectators through many re-bounds and turns at a fast pace. Adriano Doria (Riccardo Scamarcio), a very successful young businessman is accused of murdering his mistress. She is found dead in a locked hotel room where he is with her, slightly injured. No one else could have entered or exited the room.

Virginia Ferrara (Maria Paiato), an attorney who has never lost a case, is sent to him to save Doria, just a few hours before his arrest. Between the



two, a game of lies and truths begin to uncover the mystery and devise a strategy. Who is good, who is bad – and finally, who is who and who did what are the many questions where answers are hidden in a clever maze. There is an interesting battle of wits on a timer that will entertain the spectators.

Both movies can be accessed on the IFS site for a fee. Details can be found online at <http://internationalshowcase.org/>

Larry Swindell now with the stars he loved so well



Photo courtesy Julie Bookman-Swindell

Larry Swindell in front a picture of his younger self in the Rheem Theatre Hall of Fame

By Sophie Braccini

When Larry Swindell closed his eyes for the last time in his Moraga residence on June 23, a few days after his 91st birthday, one of the last witnesses and chroniclers of Hollywood's Golden Age was gone. Swindell had walked with Cary Grant, Colette Colbert, Carol Lombard, Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, to name just a few. He wrote five movie star biographies, some bestsellers, he taught numerous cinema and journalism college classes and contributed to many publications. Cinema, baseball, books and faith were the passions that drove his long and rich life.

According to Julie Swindell, the eldest of his five children, her father had his first heart problem at age 63, but this did not stop him from continuing living life to the fullest for almost another 30 years. One just had to step into

the Moraga or Orinda movie theater when he was introducing a classic movie for matinee viewers to feel his passion: for a while you were with Vincente Minelli directing "An American In Paris" or alongside John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara during the shooting of "The Quiet Man."

Swindell's memory was phenomenal in each of his three passions of baseball, books, and the movies – especially the early years of the American industry to the '60s. He could give the name of any professional baseball player and their entire stats, his daughter says. At his 91st birthday dinner a few days before his heart finally stopped during his sleep, he asked his assembled children to quiz him on movie stars and the most minute details of their careers, and he got everything right.

During the last years of his life, Swindell embarked on a monumental task of writing the history of American cinema from its early silent days; he had just finished the year 1942 when he died. His work included 1939, the year he considered the pinnacle of Hollywood Golden Age; his elder daughter is now tasked with finishing the huge document that Swindell viewed as a future reference manual for scholastic research. Julie Swindell is also editing her father's autobiography, "Naked on the Freeway."

Swindell leaves behind his second wife, Pat, their children and the many grandchildren on both sides that considered him their grandpa, and many friends. He was a very active member of the Moraga Kiwanis, and of the Historical Society, for which he was the editor of the El Rancho Moraga quarterly for 10 years. His friend, former council member Howard Harpham, remembers the weekly breakfasts every Monday morning with Swindell and Kirpal Khanna. At these breakfasts, they would discuss the previous Sunday's sermons at their respective churches, Swindell holding hands with the two of them and giving a blessing over pancakes and juice, always including Khanna's Sikh religion.

The movie scholar had had a very long and productive life before his Lamorinda days as a drama critic, film scholar, musical librettist, magazine editor, theatrical producer, teacher, movie biographer, baseball know-all, and book maven. The UCLA grad created the book review section at the Philadelphia Inquirer and was one of the eight founding directors of the National Book Critics Circle.

... continued on Page B4

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Moraga Lions Achievement Awards announced

Submitted by Dan Hagan and Ray Casabonne

Once again the Moraga Lions gave Achievement Awards to the following graduates of the local middle schools:

Orinda Intermediate School – Alexis Gottschalk, recommended by Jay Stevens counselor, parent Karen Gottschalk. Will attend Miramonte High School.

St. Perpetua - Nicholas Aiken, recommended by Heidi

Schwarck, parents Todd and Mary Pat Aiken. Will attend De La Salle High School.

St. Perpetua - Tatum Haggerty, recommended by Heidi Schwarck, parents Steve and Liz Haggerty. Will attend Carondelet High School.

Joaquin Moraga - Charles Stafford, recommended by teacher Robin Russell. Will attend Campolindo.

Joaquin Moraga - Halley Pearson, recommended by Teacher Robin Russell. Will attend Berean Christian High School.

Stanley - Juliette Jarotzky, recommended by counselor Tiffany Sullivan. Will attend Campolindo.

Stanley – Stephanie (Steph) Bouistani, recommended by Counselor Tiffany Sullivan. Will attend Acalanes High School.

Stanley - Cooper Carmichael recommended by Counselor Tiffany Sullivan, parent Terra Carmichael. Will attend Campolindo H.S.

Photos provided



Alexis Gottschalk



Nicholas Aiken



Tatum Haggerty



Charles Stafford



Halley Pearson



Juliette Jarotzky



Cooper Carmichael

Local tennis players offer lessons to benefit Meals on Wheels

In response to COVID-19, Campolindo High School sophomore Jake Hammerman founded Impactful Tennis, an organization where four varsity tennis players from local schools give tennis lessons to

kids aged 7-13 with lesson fees going directly to local non-profit, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region. According to the Impactful Tennis website, Meals on Wheels had experienced a 40% increase in meal

requests due to the pandemic. They hope to raise \$10,000 for the nonprofit. "We are so honored to be chosen by Impactful Tennis as its charity of choice," said Caitlyn Sly, executive director of

Meals on Wheels Diablo Region on the Impactful Tennis website. "It really means the world to us that the next generation of leaders is concerned about the challenges our elders face every day."

To learn more about Impactful Tennis, please go to impactfultennis.org.

-- J. Wake

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Not to be missed

ART

Small Footprint. An art exhibit with works made from recycled, up-cycled or found objects. From tin to twine, Bay Area artists submitted work made from cast off items collected and re-assembled into art. Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. This exhibit will continue through July 25 Wed.-Fri. 2 p.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays noon-6 p.m.

OTHER

Central San Virtual Treatment Plant Tour
Ever wondered what happens to the water (and everything else) that goes down your drain? Join us online for an all-ages virtual tour of Central San's wastewater treatment plant in Martinez. Get a behind-the-scenes look at how we use engineering and science to collect and clean more than 13 billion gallons of wastewater every year. Wednesday, July 22, 3-4 p.m. Learn more and register at centralsan.org/virtual-plant-tour or call (925) 335-7723.

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17: Rotary Camaraderie in the Zoom Era
24: Peter Szeremi, Authentic and Effective Communication
31: Member Story Presentation
www.lamorindasunrise.com

Larry Swindell now with the stars he loved so well

... continued from Page B3

At the Fort Worth Star-Telegram his books section expanded to four pages, and his "Bookshelf" column was syndicated by the New York Times for 10 years. Swindell's biographies of Spencer Tracy, Carol Lombard (his best seller), Gary Cooper, Charles Boyer, and John Garfield (the one he found the most pro-

found) were recently republished and are available online and in all good bookstores.

Swindell had five children with his first wife, but lost her to cancer and was a bachelor for many years. Then at his 50-year class reunion he reunited with Pat, who had been his sweetheart when they were 11 years old. Swindell left his Texas home

for Pat, took early retirement and moved to Moraga, which he considered to be heaven on earth.

"All of it was rewarding and fun," he wrote to his daughter Julie, "and blessed with marriage to the two most stimulating women I have known, and three daughters and two sons who are my everlasting glory." His wife Pat noted that their

shared faith was a central part of their relationship, and she called their 22-year marriage a golden age of love, concern and fun.

A memorial ceremony will be organized at a later date, when it is safe for all to attend.
Julie Bookman Swindell contributed to this article.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Worship services are available online to view or stream or they have been canceled for now. Please call or check the individual websites for updated information.

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

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SMC athletics confronts coronavirus



Photo provided

From left: Paul Thomas, SMC women's basketball head coach, and Mike Matoso
By Jon Kingdon

With the onset of the coronavirus in March, with all its debilitating effects, we now find the fall sports season inexorably approaching.

Everyone has their individual concerns: the coaches are concerned with their particular team, the players are concerned with their playing status, the trainers with the health of the players, the academic advisors with the eligibility of the players and the fans are anxiously awaiting to begin rooting again for their favorite teams. However, at every high school and college, there is one person that is required to take all of this under consideration – the athletic director.

Mike Matoso is entering his fourth year at Saint Mary's College and his second as the

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics. In this role, he oversees the entire athletic department which entails seven men's and nine women's teams, nine different departments, 87 individuals listed in the athletic directory and about 275 student-athletes.

When the effect of the coronavirus came to the fore, Matoso's short-term concern was for the Saint Mary's men's basketball team which was waiting to hear where they would be seeded in the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament: "It was three days before the show. After winning four of our last five games, we knew that we were going to be in the tournament. When you've already gone to the tournament, you know how much fun it is, it's a celebration which you all get to enjoy

and to have that taken so abruptly, particularly for the seniors, it was very difficult."

It soon became clear to everyone that this was not going to be a problem that was going to go away quickly.

As the in-person classes at Saint Mary's were closing, it was a major adjustment for Matoso and the athletic department: "You're talking to kids that were four weeks into their season with championships two months out so at that point, you really start to grasp the depth of this entire situation. Everything was a process, from locking up all of our facilities to making the decision to send our students home."

There was no institution in the country that was fully prepared for this pandemic. For Matoso, it was one challenge after another: "I equate it to surfing where you get hit by a wave and you get pulled under and you don't know which way is up and you get your head above water and then the next wave comes and hits you and knocks you back down. It was like that the first four to six weeks where every day something new was coming at you that you just weren't prepared for and you had to adjust and you had to make a pivot."

As with every other department at the various colleges and universities, the athletic departments have taken a hit to their budgets. Around the country, at Division I, II and III schools, there have been over 100 sports teams that have been eliminated due to budgetary concerns.

Though Saint Mary's has also taken a financial hit, there are no plans to eliminate any of the sports teams. "Luckily, we're a lean, small department," said Matoso. "From a staffing standpoint to a student athlete standpoint, with the sports that we sponsor, we're in an ideal situation so it would make no sense to consider dropping any of our sports. There is nothing on the table for dropping any sports."

With the cancellation of

spring sports, the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee voted to grant spring athletes an extra year of eligibility. Saint Mary's had 28 seniors that had the opportunity to return to school and compete again in the 2021 spring season. With some of the athletes going to play professionally, some of the foreign students remaining home and others who already had jobs, there are only 12 student-athletes that are taking the opportunity to return to campus and their respective teams. "Out of our current scholarship allotment, we funded the 12 scholarships through merit savings of the entire student-athlete population. We're happy that we were able to figure it out."

The department has taken a big hit financially, having lost almost 70% of their distribution from the NCAA. Under Matoso, Saint Mary's has completed several major facility enhancements, including an \$8 million remodel of University Credit Union Pavilion and the completion of a brand new \$2.3 million strength and conditioning training center and weight room in the summer of 2020, along with a new indoor hitting facility at the baseball complex and a second on-campus beach volleyball court.

At this point, many of the athletic department's projects have been put on the back burner, says Matoso: "We're trying to be really respectful with our donors, knowing that everyone is going through a tough time right now."

There were normally nine

teams at Saint Mary's that sponsor sports camps, which run through the beginning of August. All were canceled. "It was a tough decision, but our No. 1 goal is getting our kids back," said Matoso. "When you look at the restrictions in what we could do, it just didn't make any sense to bring a limited number of kids back to our campus. Under these conditions, the camps would not have been much fun."

Saint Mary's is not operating in a vacuum. The West Coast Conference is one where all of the schools are very similar in size (except for BYU) and philosophy and are all working together, sharing ideas as to how to best handle this crisis, says Matoso: "I have a weekly call every Tuesday with all 10 athletic directors. The more we help each other and get our teams back out on the field to play, the better it's going to be for all of us."

With 49 international student-athletes, there are many more factors that have to be addressed as they attempt to return to the school from overseas: "For these students, we need to look at it from an institutional standpoint, a county standpoint, a state and federal standpoint and in some cases, an international standpoint," said Matoso. "There are some countries where those kids are going to have to fly into another country and quarantine for 14 days before they can come into the country and then will have to quarantine here for 14 days before they can return to campus."

... continued on Page C2



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Contra Costa County looking for referees, officials and umpires

By Jon Kingdon

Who hasn't sat in the stands or in front of a television watching a sporting event and not shouted their disapproval at a call made by an official and said for all to hear: "I could do a better job than that guy (or gal)!" Well, now there are ample opportunities for anyone who would like to back up their words.

There is a shortage of officials in all sports, according to Dave Cutaia, a man who wears many hats as the president and CEO of Contra Costa Athletic Assigners, an Arena Football League official and the officiating on-air analyst for ESPN. "We are looking for officials not only for football but also for basketball, soccer, baseball and softball. The shortage of officials is not just in Contra Costa, it's in the Bay Area, the state of California and in fact the entire country," says Cutaia. "With my travels with ESPN and ABC sports and working arena

football, I see that everyone is facing the same dilemma – there are not enough officials. In fact, there are areas where coaches have to officiate the lower level games."

Refereeing and umpiring are jobs that require a thick skin and personal motivation. Down through history there have been movies that have celebrated almost every sport and its participants. What did the umpires get? A 1960 movie called "Kill the Umpire" starring William Bendix.

Longtime official John Morris, who works as a bailiff, will be entering his ninth year as a football official and has also worked as a basketball referee and baseball umpire. When Morris' athletic career came to an end, he was looking to stay involved in sports in any way he could: "I started out umpiring in baseball and this led me to the group that was working in football and basketball and it grew that way. I've come to love the camaraderie, the exercise and the relationships you build

that go past the field ... and it gets me out of the house."

For Cutaia, "The best part about being an official, I think that you will find with most people it's the sense of accomplishment, doing something with the game along with the camaraderie. The financial aspect, these days may be more important now for many people than it was before, but it's just a really great avocation."

There is a wide range of physical demands for each sport. There are no physical conditioning requirements though officiating does demand that you must be in reasonably good shape. "Basketball and soccer are the most taxing physically with so much running," says Cutaia. "You are running in football but there are breaks between plays."

There is a constant evolution in each sport as the rules continue to be fine-tuned and updated which does take a commitment by the officials, says Morris: "It's a constant

learning process to stay up on the rules and unique game situations." There is an average of 3-5 meetings a season, a clinic, and officiating scrimmages as part of the training.

Doing the job well as an official does not happen overnight. It's a learned process where you don't get thrown into the deep end of the pool, says Cutaia: "In every aspect of officiating, in all of our sports, we have a person that works directly and coordinates and trains the new officials. We don't throw a new official out there without a veteran. In many cases, these veterans act as mentors for the new officials because they've all been there before."

If fans are not going to be allowed in the stadiums and gymnasiums, it's going to be a unique situation this year for the officials, though not necessarily for the better, says Cutaia: "Fan behavior has been a deterrent for some officials but that is being addressed directly by the

schools, but most of the officials prefer to work in front of the fans because that's part of the atmosphere."

Morris accepts that he is going to be yelled at by coaches and parents: "You go in there knowing it's going to happen. While I hear the fans, I don't hear the fans. I hear the noise, but I don't necessarily hear the boos."

Depending on the level of the game ranging from youth sports to the varsity games, fees range from \$45 to \$81 per game. A new official can average from \$180 to \$240 a week. Any man or woman who is interested in applying to work any of these sports must be at least 18 years old. There is no deadline to apply but the sooner people apply, the more training they will have prior to onset of the seasons. If you want to apply or have any questions, email Dave Cutaia at Cutaia@aol.com.

SMC athletics confronts coronavirus

... continued from Page C1

The Saint Mary's athletic department had been planning on reopening July 1 but the new county guidelines have delayed that opening. It will be a week-to-week decision based on when student-athletes will return to campus for voluntary workouts. There is a great deal of effort

being expended by the administration to be able to hit the ground running when the student-athletes arrive on campus, said Matoso: "Right now, our main focus is seeing our teams return when they are allowed to and then begin to phase them and our staff back into school."

With the cutback in financial resources, each of the WCC schools are looking to

save money wherever they can. "If we can avoid getting on a plane, we will, and then travel by bus," said Matoso.

There are no shortcuts being taken to eliminate the potential health hazards, said Matoso: "We may or may not continue to play in front of people. Our full intention is that we are going to be playing this fall. We are going to make it as safe an environ-

ment as possible for our student-athletes, the visiting teams, and our fans."

If there is one positive that Matoso takes away from everything that has gone on so far over the last four months, it's how everyone in the athletic department has handled the adversity: "It's been so impressive with what all of our coaches and administrators have done with our kids.

I was really impressed with the maturity of all our student-athletes. It was an emotional time and they all handled it really well and I'm happy for the spring kids that can come back. We have missed all of our student-athletes and we're ready to get it going."

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D12

Feng Shui

Health at home



Photo provided

Painting a centrally located stairwell yellow activates the earth element that governs health, like in this Orinda home.

By Michele Duffy

Taking care of ourselves during these challenging, unprecedented times underscores the importance of addressing what we do have control over, and creating a peaceful, calm and uplifting home. Home should, ideally, restore balance and bring

greater harmony into our lives, providing a place of refuge and well-being to weather life's storms. How can we attract better health and well-being at home and create with Feng Shui the sanctuary we need right now?

First, the health area is located in the middle of the Feng Shui map or Bagua and this central position is important to note since when we place health as a priority, or centrally in our lives, health will positively influence all the other life areas. The health area symbology is the Yin/Yang black and white symbol which is synonymous with balance. The Yin/Yang symbol is not rigid or fixed, it is always moving, flowing, and changing to maintain balance. Movement of Qi or energy is central to good Feng Shui and also to our health in general. When Qi or energy flows easily and moves around our home effortlessly, there is less stagnation or opportunities for imbalances to manifest.

Many of the imbalances we experience can contribute to feelings of being stuck, anxious, worried, fearful, angry or stressed out. If our spaces are out of balance it will affect our health, including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. This can include too much furniture, clutter, or uneven floorplan shapes. Effective Feng Shui is like acupuncture for the environment and functions to create healthy Qi flow circulating around our homes so that we feel nourished and supported when we are in them.

What is currently located in the center area, the health and well-being area of your home? Is there a bathroom? A staircase? Is there ample natural light? A messy closet? What colors dominate the space? Is the room used often or not at all? Next, check to see what is in the center of your bedroom? Is there a ceiling fan? Is the ceiling slanted? Finally, what is also in the center of your yard? Is there clutter in any of these "center" location areas?

Some Feng Shui challenges might include draining, rushing, depressing, cutting or no

Qi/energy circulating, and these and many other unintended consequences will affect our health. Make notes about what you found in all of these "center" areas of the home, the bedroom and yard and pay attention to your intuitive response in these areas as well.

The Earth element rules the center/health area of the Bagua, and is a natural fit for creating good health. This element is activated by introducing square shapes, yellow/orange/brown, crystals, shells, rocks, ceramics, clay or slate to the center of your home, bedroom or yard. In the Five Elements creative cycle, fire creates earth, so we can also place triangles, anything with the color red, candles or lights to further support the earth element for a healthy home. Adding the earth element to the center of your home will activate improved health and well-being.

In each home there exists a unique template and so while these are good places to start your healthy Feng Shui refresh, reviewing the health details of your home with a pro yields personalized results. Recently, with a new Zoom client, we made a huge impact on increasing well-being in her family's home which is located on the water. Having water behind the home can be challenging, especially when water is seen from the front entrance door. Her family had faced many unnerving health (and financial) challenges and now that everyone was at home so much of the time, she wanted to ensure they were together, creating a healthy home.

... continued on Page D4



The Yin/Yang symbol represents balance, health and well-being

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LAFAYETTE	7	\$370,000	\$3,315,000
MORAGA	3	\$880,000	\$1,400,000
ORINDA	13	\$1,195,000	\$3,800,000

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

- 867 Acalanes Road, \$1,850,000, 6 Bdrms, 3974 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,810,000, 10-05-16
935 Carol Lane, \$1,268,500, 5 Bdrms, 2166 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-18-20
3716 Crestmont Place, \$3,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 4291 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 05-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,938,500, 06-04-18
1849 Del Rey Street, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1914 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$299,500, 07-01-92
866 Revere Road, \$1,242,500, 4 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-18-20
3569 Silver Springs Road, \$370,000, 4 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-21-20,
Previous Sale: \$115,000, 09-01-77
11 Silverhill Way, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 3207 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 05-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 07-06-18

MORAGA

- 785 Augusta Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-29-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 11-16-17
192 Cypress Point Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1644 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 06-21-19
1716 Saint Andrews Drive, \$880,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 05-19-09

ORINDA

- 1 Aghalee Road, \$1,960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-29-20
390 Camino Sobrante, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 12-18-10
392 Camino Sobrante, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 2391 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 12-12-13
1 Casa Vieja, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2057 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-27-20
3 Corte Bombero, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1967 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-18-20
57 Davis Road, \$1,670,000, 3 Bdrms, 2457 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 05-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,301,000, 04-01-15
6 El Caminito, \$1,935,000, 6 Bdrms, 4855 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 05-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$722,000, 02-12-99
50 El Castillo, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 05-15-13
5 Heather Lane, \$3,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 4720 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 10-05-18
24 Mariposa Lane, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 1318 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$911,000, 06-10-05



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Photo provided

Color was an affordable way to adjust this center/health located bathroom (red/fire creates earth) to overcome draining bath Qi. Try this Benjamin Moore color "Poppy."

Feng Shui Health at home

By placing a large crystal (earth element) ceiling light fixture in the center (health/earth) of the home in the "great room," we addressed many Feng Shui concerns with one adjustment. The crystal (earth) chandelier adjusted and refracted the view of the water from the front entrance door and it activated the health/earth element for the family's home. Now the room was warmly illuminated and spacious, and the home grounded in possibility.

My client could not get over the difference this small change made in her home, how it literally lifted the family's spirits and positively transformed the overall energy in the space which had a positive effect on everyone's health. Feng Shui neutralizes challenging issues so that we feel better in our homes and those positive vibes create the groundwork for improved health, and can be especially effective when also part of the overall design of the home.

Some quick tips to activate health in your own home environment:

- Declutter your home and restore peaceful calm;
- Discard broken, chipped or mismatched items;
- Complete projects methodically, one at a time;
- Clean the house with green products and enjoy peace of mind;
- Balance your space with colors you love;
- Place your bed against a solid wall facing the door;
- Create in the bath a home spa with bath salt soaks, candles, and soft lighting;
- Eliminate depressing art or home items that do not bring you joy;
- Allow a path to your front door that is free from spiky sharp or overgrown foliage;
- Clear kitchen counter tops and create calm;
- Create a quiet spot near a sunny window for meditation, reading or napping;
- Create spacious and colorful uplifting views outside and clean up the yard;
- Fix plumbing so your personal plumbing works properly;
- Ground/fix the electrical system and notice an uptick in your own healthy circulation;
- All doorways should be cleared and well-lit so adult voices are heard;
- Clean windows for better insights and wisdom
- Introduce neroli or eucalyptus essential oils diffusers in bathrooms;
- Add flowering, colorful or fragrant plants to help refresh indoor air.

Personal Feng Shui tips for health:

- Get moving, hike, bike, dance, whatever you enjoy doing but move your Qi;
- Balance periods of intense activity with periods of rest and relaxation;
- Be kind, patient, and helpful to yourself and others for greater happiness;
- Cleanse your life of negative people;
- Contemplate impermanence and that this too shall pass;
- Spend more time in nature;
- Play uplifting music;
- Spend time with emotionally supportive pets;
- Eat more plants, vegetables and fruits;
- Dab yourself with essential oils like Lavendar for peacefulness;
- Place Himalayan salt lamps to eradicate EMF's;
- Switch social media, electronic devices, and TV's off;
- Sleep restfully and well.

Creating a home that is healthy and provides a sanctuary for you and your family is now accessible and possible using Feng Shui, so please let me know what you notice when you make even a few of the suggestions, and please remember to email me any questions at spaceharmony@gmail.com.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2019 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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101 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda

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\$1,295,000

4 <i>Bed</i>	2 <i>Bath</i>	.71 <i>Acre</i>	±2,140 <i>Sq ft</i>
1 <i>Amazing backyard with endless possibilities</i>			

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Fabulous Glorietta Home



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29 Overhill Road, Orinda

2798 SF | 4 Beds | 2.5 Baths. | .87 AC | \$2,150,000

Privately set on .87 acre, this wonderful home is ideal for indoor/outdoor entertaining! The gracious interior spaces include formal living & dining rooms, large family room, great eat-in kitchen, additional bonus room, private master suite and spacious secondary bedrooms - all with easy access to the gardens, patios, waterfall and views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity. Call for your private tour.

Finola Fellner, Partner
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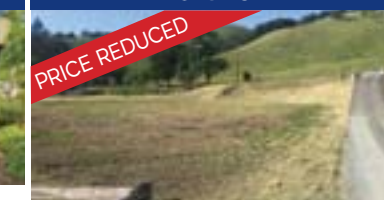
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<p>Orinda</p> <p>20 Hacienda Circle \$4,250,000</p> <p>Stunning state of the art Orinda estate designed by Orinda architect Richard Bartlett includes 8000+ sq. ft. comfortably situated on a flat 1.3-acre site adjacent to the Orinda Country Club's 13th hole. www.20haciendacircle.com Melanie Snow 925-360-0344; Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 Lic#00878893, #01272382</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000</p> <p>Prestigious Luxury Estate Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.3ValleyViewLn.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>200 Hall Dr - \$2,980,000</p> <p>Mediterranean, artistic design. 5BR/3.5BA, 4400 sq ft on 5 acre secluded estate Yan Heim 510-499-4709 www.200hallorinda.com Lic #01965925</p>	
			
<p>Orinda</p> <p>10 Rheem Blvd. \$1,999,999</p> <p>Quintessential Masterpiece Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.10Rheem.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p>Lafayette</p> <p>3193 Lucas Circle \$1,650,000</p> <p>3 Bd, 3 Bath, 1/2 acre lot Melanie Snow 925-360-0344 Melanie@melaniesnow.com www.melaniesnow.com Lic #00878893</p>	<p>Moraga</p> <p>72 Corte Yolanda \$1,649,000</p> <p>Campolindo 2-Story w/pool 4 Bd, 3 bath, flat lawn on cul-de-sac Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405 Lic #01373412</p>	<p>Moraga</p> <p>127 Warfield Drive \$1,649,000</p> <p>Updated/VIEWS!!/Near LP Grammar Tom Stack 925-878-9964 Tom.Stack@cbtnorcal.com www.TomStack.com Lic #01501769</p>
			
<p>Orinda</p> <p>1 Madera Lane \$1,625,000</p> <p>Cul-de-sac with views. Remodeled master retreat! 3 decks to enjoy outdoor living, large play area w/tree swing. 2 car oversized garage! Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 www.1maderalane.com Lic#01272382</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>28 Honey Hill Court \$1,595,000</p> <p>Move-in ready, meticulous 2845 sq ft home on .69 acres Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257 www.28honeyhill.com Lic # 01251227</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>3303 Whitehaven Dr. \$1,299,000</p> <p>Just Listed ~ Northgate stunner with pool and flat yard. 4 Bd, 2.5 bath, one story Michelle Holcenberg 925-324-0405 Lic #01373412</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>1549 Pyranees Pl. \$999,000</p> <p>Amazing value in heart of Walnut Creek Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008 ana.zimmank@cbtnorcal.com Lic #00469962</p>
			
<p>Orinda</p> <p>14 Berkeley Ave. \$979,000</p> <p>Romantic Retreat with a View Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.14BerkeleyAve.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p>Oakland</p> <p>1175 66th Street \$949,000</p> <p>Modern Oakland Condo w/Private Elevator Christine Mason 925-900-5288 Christine@christineMason.me www.homecb.com/1175-66thstreet-oakland Lic #02050542</p>	<p>San Ramon</p> <p>337 Jade Court \$849,000</p> <p>3BR 2.5BA 1732±SF. Gorgeous, bright duet in wonderful Vista Pointe! Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte 925-324-6246 marybeth@mbtbcpartners.com Lic #01480008</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>0 Reliez Valley Rd \$440,000</p> <p>Build the home you've always dreamed of. Beautiful mostly flat .72 acre lot. Chad Morrison 925-330-1416 ChadMorrisonHomes.com Lic # 01905614</p>
			<p>Orinda</p> <p>312 Village View Ct. \$7,000 LEASE</p> <p>Stunning Orinda Woods, Single Story Remodel w/attached garage Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 Laura@lauraabrams.com Lic#01272382</p>

ColdwellBankerHomes.com
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Just Listed!

30 Rio Vista, Orinda

3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,976* Sq. Ft. | Offered at \$1,295,000



Downtown Orinda Retreat

Well maintained 3 bed 2 bath only 1/2 mile to downtown, 1 mile to BART/freeway. Spacious living room with large stone fireplace & French doors to a private deck. 2nd fireplace in formal dining room with wall of original windows overlooking the property. Eat-in kitchen with granite countertops, peninsula and walk-in pantry. Master suite on the main floor with wall and walk-in closets. Master bath has a pitched ceiling and original handblown windows overlooking trees for ultimate privacy. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, laundry facility and rec room downstairs, perfect for kids to have their own space. Fabulous place to work from home with fiber optic Internet available. Work or study outside on large deck off living room or in the separate office downstairs with own entrance. Detached 2-car garage with workshop. Front yard features an expansive flat lawn, tree house & swing. Nestled amongst trees at the end of the street, feel like you are miles away from it all yet you are walking distance to downtown Orinda.

*Differs from Tax Records



Claudia Gohler

claudia@claudiagohler.com
925.765.8081 | DRE# 01995498

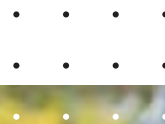


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1062 Larch Avenue, Moraga

5 Bed + Office/Bonus Room | 4 Bath | ± 3,986 Sq Ft
± 1.31 Flat Acres | \$3,200,000

37 Stanton Avenue, Orinda

3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | ± 1,900 Sq Ft | ± .11 Acre



Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives

925.285.8336
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PREMIER burton valley



3193

Lucas Circle

OFFERED AT: \$1,650,000

3193 Lucas Circle, Lafayette, CA

3 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms | 2,120 sq ft | .5 acres

3193LucasCircle.com



Ideally positioned in the premier Burton Valley, this classic California 2,120 sf, 3 bedroom, 3 bath home brings together the tranquility of wine country. The half-acre sweep of California oaks and the view of rolling hills is ever present inside. Hardwood

and slate floors, updated, oversized gourmet open kitchen. Expansive deck and a sprawling garden with views. Endless possibilities for entertaining and family activities.

In consideration of the current climate, showing by appointment only.



Melanie
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Melanie Snow CAL BRE #00878893

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- Extra Bonus Family Room | Interior Laundry
- Gorgeous Master Suite | Oversized Clawfoot Tub | Walk-in Closet
- Smart Home Features | Plantation Shutters | Wide Plank White Oak Floors
- Level, Professionally Landscaped Back Yard with Lawn & Patios
- Walk to Town, BART, Lafayette Elementary and Stanley Middle Schools
- Access to Lafayette Trail and Leigh Creekside Park



Linda Ehrich

925-698-1452

Dre#01330298

linda@lindaehrich.com

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Orindawoods



300 Village View Court, Orinda **\$2,150,000**
2+ Bed 2.5 Bath 2,500± SF 0.16± Acres w/Views

Warm and welcoming from the moment you step onto the property, this magnificent single level home exudes elegance redefined. With impeccable design, timeless finishes and worry-free living, you will rediscover what 'home' should be. The coveted end of cul-de-sac location offers unparalleled privacy and optimized outdoor living spaces for year round entertaining and enjoyment.

300villageview.com

New Listing



3223 Brookwood Drive, Lafayette **\$1,195,000**
4 Bed 2 Bath 2,150± SF 0.18± Level Acres

Tucked at the end of a cul-de-sac is this fabulous single level, four bedroom, two bathroom home in the beautiful Reliez Valley neighborhood. An excellent floor plan boasts spacious rooms, an open gourmet kitchen / family room, and a separate office or media room. The lovely secluded flat back yard is the ideal complement to this hidden gem. You don't want to miss this one!

3223brookwood.com

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Guardians of the Garden Galaxy



Integrated pest management creates a gorgeous garden oasis.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“Nature teaches beasts to know their friends.”
~ William Shakespeare

The gray turtle dove darted from the mulberry tree to the wooden nest box and back again. Thinking there must be eggs, I grabbed my camera and discovered a baby dove nestled in a hollowed nest with the mother bird proudly standing guard. The sounds of gentle cooing surrounded this bucolic scene. I felt blessed that these birds chose my garden to settle.

If you want a healthy, glorious summer garden, beneficial insects, arachnids, birds, amphibians and reptiles must call your landscape “home.”

Many people scream at the sight of a snake or a lizard and start swatting when they witness a spider. However, these are

beneficial biologicals devouring the insects and predators that capture prey that destroy your garden. Everyone loves lady beetles, known as ladybugs, and people understand the value of bees, but did you know that frogs, hoverflies, ground beetles, praying mantids and lacewings are invaluable friends to the garden?

The guardians of my garden galaxy are plentiful and ubiquitous. Every day as I walk through my oasis, I am greeted by numerous lizards darting from rock to plant, frogs hopping to hide under a leaf, spiders weaving webs, bumblebees, hoverflies and honeybees sucking the nectar from a variety of species, and birds making nests and dining on insects. My favorite garden guardians are the kingsnakes that eat gophers, moles, voles, and keep the rattlesnakes away.

Our garden colleagues keep nature in balance without the use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides. Using integrated pest management, natural sources of nutrients including compost and mulch will fertilize and keep your garden healthy.

Here are some of the benefits of inviting our flying, hopping, slithering, and scooting comrades into your garden.

Birds:

As they fly from tree to tree, birds are pollinators adding more blooms and fruit which attract more birds. Birds eat a variety of pests including mosquitoes, aphids, grubs, slugs and spiders. Large birds such as owls and hawks eat rodents including voles, moles, squirrels, rats, and other unwelcome critters. They help control weeds by eating weed seeds. Watching birds and listening to their song reduces stress.

Invite birds to your landscape by offering:

- A water source including a gurgling fountain or birdbath.
- Birdhouses for shelter and nesting.
- Feeders for seed. Even putting a pie tin in the bushes with seeds or picked clover and dandelions will attract our feathered friends,
- Plant a selection of flowering plants, shrubs, and berries for them to enjoy.

... continued on Page D14



An elaborate bird nest with eggs.

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3540 Springhill Road | Lafayette | \$4,250,000

An entertainer's dream with welcoming spaces to gather. 5 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms and 2 half bathrooms with detached guest cottage/office.

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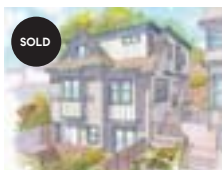
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- 3+ baths
- Office space per plan
- Exquisite details in each unique home

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- Spa-like master suite
- Ample closet and storage space
- 2 car dedicated parking space & garage



Andrew Pitarre
Real Estate Consultant
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**MICHELLE
HOLCENBERG**
REALTOR

JUST LISTED

Campolindo Stunner

72 Corte Yolanda, Moraga



Two-story on a cul-de-sac with 4 bedrooms (could be 6), 3 baths and private yard with sparkling pool and flat lawn area. Can't beat the location and the neighborhood. On MLS July 9. Offered at 1,649,000.

Northgate Oasis

3303 Whitehaven Drive, Walnut Creek



Four bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story home in sought-after area with large yard with pool, lawn and deck. Dramatic vaulted ceiling, new flooring. Top-schools, close to parks. Offered at \$1,299,000.



For more information about these two beautiful properties go to www.holcenberg.com for 3D tours, floorplans, aerial photography and much more.

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A frog sits on the patio rug.



A King snake keeps the voles, moles, rats, and rattlers away.



Ladybugs in various stages on barley stems.

... continued from Page D12

Frogs and Toads:

Natural pest control. They eat caterpillars, cutworms, bugs, beetles, grubs, slugs, grasshoppers, and numerous other detrimental insects.

Invite frogs and toads to your landscape by offering:

- A place to hide. Frogs and toads are shy. They prefer a cool, shaded area with lots of moisture and plants. Turn over a flowerpot and they will make a house.
- A pond allows them to lay eggs. Have fun watching tadpoles.

Lizards:

Reptiles are excellent eaters of garden pests including slugs and harmful insects.

A plethora of lizards living in your landscape is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. The food you grow will be free of heavy metals and pesticides since lizards cannot thrive in a hazardous environment.

Invite lizards to your landscape by offering:

- Only natural methods of pest control.
- Avoidance of all weed killers.
- Mulch to regulate moisture in the soil.
- Rocks, bricks, or stones for sunbathing.
- A saucer or small container with water for drinking.

Snakes:

Garter snakes and kingsnakes are especially beneficial in our area because they eat insects and rodents. One snake can devour an entire rat

family in two weeks. Kingsnakes also kill rattlesnakes and keep them away. Make sure to learn the good snakes from the poisonous ones.

Invite snakes to your landscape by offering:

- A hiding place in bushes, tree stumps, driftwood, or even metal panels.
- A water source on the ground, a small birdbath, fountain, or the "butterfly bowl".

Ladybugs:

Also known as Lady beetles or Ladybird beetles, their larvae look like alligators. Both the adults and larvae are voracious general pest predators of aphids, beetles, caterpillars, lace bugs, mealybugs, mites, scale, whiteflies, and insect eggs. The larvae consume over 40 aphids per hour and an adult ladybug will consume over 5,000 aphids in a lifetime. If you have a small garden or a minimal pest population in a large garden, they will fly away. Rejoice because your garden is organically balanced.

Invite ladybugs to your landscape by offering:

- A wide range of flowering plants to attract and keep them on site.

Hoverflies:

Also known as syrphid flies or flower flies, hoverflies earned their name by hovering over flowers to sip the nectar, much like hummingbirds. They look similar to bees but they do not sting and are not harmful to humans. The adults are primarily pollinators and the larvae are pest predators, crawling along plant surfaces searching for prey. They seize the insect, suck out its contents, and discard the skin. They mimic bees and wasps to protect themselves from predators but have two wings instead of four.

Invite hoverflies to your landscape by offering:

- A variety of nectar and pollen-producing plants such as aster, calendula, cornflower, cosmos, dill, fennel, lavender marigolds, mint, statice, zinnia, wild mustard, and sunflowers.
- Food throughout every season by timing plantings for continuous blooms.

Spiders:

Spiders help maintain a healthy balance in your garden by eating harmful pests from spring through winter. By controlling the bad insects, they reduce plant pathogens that damage plant tissues. Most spiders are peaceful. The most common web builder is the yellow and black spider, and the black wolf spiders are active hunters.

Invite spiders to your landscape by offering:

- Grass clippings, mulch, lush bushes, and perennials for habitat.
- Cover crops such as clover and vetch and hedges like boxwoods are havens for spiders.
- Sunflowers, vining beans, and corn as well as other tall flowers are excellent for webs.

Grow a diversity of plants, eliminate pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides to attract beneficial insects, birds, spiders, reptiles, and numerous other guardians of our garden galaxy. By providing the basic needs of food, habitat, water, and shelter, you and your family will enjoy increased outdoor amusement while learning an appreciation of nature. Your garden will be their dinner table and their bedroom. Know your friends and protect them.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Bumblebees and hoverflies pollinate the lavender.



Cynthia Brian is awed by a nest on a redwood tree.

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. Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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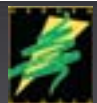
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Resort-like 7160 sqft 5 bed/ 5 bath/ 4 half bath custom gated estate built in 2017 by Diamond Construction. **\$8,995,000**

ORINDA



14 Los Dedos Road

Santa Barbara style 4232 sf 5+ bed custom beautifully designed by Mark Becker! Fabulous knoll site w/ pool & expansive lawns. **\$3,490,000**

ORINDA



220 Crestview Drive

Secluded 6 bed/ 5.5 bath home on an expansive 1.4 acre lot, offering a unique indoor/outdoor park-like experience. **\$3,295,000**

ORINDA



11 Sandy Court

Custom built 4 bed/ 3.5 bath Branagh home on cul-de-sac w/ high ceilings, wine cellar, 3 car garage & office. **\$2,495,000**

ORINDA



737 Miner Road

Custom 5 bed/ 4 bath Orinda Country Club estate home w/ easy indoor/outdoor garden living & breathtaking views. **\$2,495,000**

ORINDA



21 Los Arboles

Large 3736 sqft 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac w/ easy access to commute, top schools, & recreation. **\$1,725,000**

ORINDA



294 Orchard Road

Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath on .46 acres w/ solar heated pool, spa & outdoor kitchen in highly sought after location. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista

Beautifully maintained 4 bed/ 2 bath home featuring spectacular views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,435,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

59 Citron Knoll

Two level detached 3 bed/ 3.5 bath home facing Green Belt featuring tall ceilings, hardwood floors & E Car charger. **\$1,349,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

101 Hillcrest Drive

Updated 4 bed/ 2 bath home on .71 acres perched atop a coveted Glorietta cul-de-sac. Fab commute & top K-12 schools. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

30 Rio Vista

Well maintained 3 bed/ 2 bath home w/ workshop, rec room, & separate office. Just 1/2 mile to downtown. **\$1,295,000**

MORAGA



New Listing!

165 Danefield Place

4 bed/ 2.5 bath 2487 sqft home featuring ideal home office & wrap around deck. Close to Moraga Country Club. **\$1,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



3554 Springhill Road

Upgraded spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath contemporary of 5983 sqft at end of Springhill. Includes private office. **\$4,298,000**

LAFAYETTE



44 Prado Way

Private & gated 3 bed/ 3.5 bath on 19.9 acres with 2 additional rooms in highly coveted neighborhood. **\$4,275,000**

LAFAYETTE



1982 Reliez Valley Road

Dream home boasting 4 bed/ 4.5 bath on 1.12 acres w/ amazing gardens, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen, and views. **\$2,880,000**

LAFAYETTE



1010 Woodbury Road 301

Sought after elegant top floor 3 bed/ 3 bath condo w/ 2 + car garage. Secure access building with elevator. **\$2,735,000**

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner

Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Claudia Gohler

Dexter Honens II

Susan Layng

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

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Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

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Village
ASSOCIATES

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