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The process of hanging and lighting the fish Oct. 1 at JPG@TheBank in Lafayette took 12 hours.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Something fishy going on at Lafayette art gallery

By Pippa Fisher

An aquarium has been installed high above the pop-up art gallery in downtown Lafayette, for those who look up as they pass by.

No less than 73 colorful fish are 'swimming' up in the glass tower of the old World Savings Bank, that is now home to Jennifer Perlmutter's gallery, known as JPG@TheBank.

Not real fish, of course, but instead brightly painted and decorated, sturdy cardboard aquatic life moving gently in the breeze, their motion quite mesmerizing.

And, proving that artists walk amongst us and that art indeed belongs to the community, these art

creations were all made by members of the public, from kindergartners on up, including some adults.

It was the idea of Ken Hughes, a structural engineer who has his office above the old Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery opposite Diablo Foods. Perlmutter describes him as an artist. Hughes says the idea came to him as he sat at the traffic lights leaving the Safeway parking lot, looking at the building. Inspired partly by the large fish displayed outside the gallery, but perhaps more by the entry tower that he says resembles a goldfish bowl, he and Perlmutter set about recruiting artists for the project.

Perlmutter says COVID-19 was a factor in not having a huge response initially. "So Ken had a driveway party with friends one Sunday and we re-

cruited a few gallery friends and painted over a weekend," says Perlmutter, "and now the tank is full!"

Hughes says that he wanted to let people express themselves so gave very few directions other than that the fish should be between 18- and 36-inches long. "We wanted to include all the work and we want everyone to see their work," he explains.

It took Hughes eight hours to hang the fish on Oct. 1, and another four to set up the LED strip lighting.

"I'm thrilled with it," says Perlmutter. "It's another thing to bring added beauty and levity to your day - through all the smoke and pandemic, we find a reason to smile!"

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Village

Lack of consensus on school reopening causes angst for OUSD Board

By Sora O'Doherty

Teachers expressed their concerns at the first of two Orinda Union School District board meetings on Oct. 5 to consider returning to physical in-school teaching. The first meeting was designed to review results of a survey asking parents for commitment to either have their children return to school or to continue distance learning, with a second meeting scheduled for Oct. 14 slated to review the results of a teacher and staff survey. Although the results of the parents' survey indicated a strong desire for a return to school, the teachers have considerable doubt and concern, while school board members expressed their anxiety at having to make such a difficult decision.

Parents and guardians were sent a survey Sept. 29 asking them to commit to one of three options: to continue with a current teacher regardless of the model of instruction; to return to school for in-person instruction in the hybrid model; or to continue distance

learning for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. For the return to in-person schooling, there was a choice between as soon as possible, or after Winter Break. The survey was modified on Oct. 1 to add another return date option, March 2021, following flu season.

The survey results were broken down into elementary and middle school parent/guardians, with 1,467 elementary respondents, and 596 middle school respondents. Over 50% of elementary respondents favored returning to school with a hybrid model and nearly 80% of those preferred an immediate return to school. Over 80% of OIS parent respondents preferred the hybrid model, with nearly 18% favoring continued distance learning.

During public comments, several commenters complained about the survey methodology and interpretation. Januna Rudani said that, in fact, 75% of parents at each school wanted students to return to full-time in-school education. Rudani said that

distance learning is not working, and that it is possible to safely bring children back to school and urged the board to do so by mid-October. Speakers varied over the spectrum of opinions, some urging that safety be the first priority, others arguing that children need to be back in school and can be, safely.

Teacher Terry Schrittwieser, Glorietta teacher of the year for 2019, said that she was very concerned to see so many who want to return to school as soon as possible. She said that it will be a lot of work for teachers, like

starting the school year all over again. She also questioned what would happen in the event of an exposure.

Board president Cara Hoxie suggested that it should be easier to transition between hybrid and distance learning for when students need to be quarantined. Susheel Daswani suggested a conduct pledge, where parents would pledge to take all precautions to assure that their children are not infected, such as agreeing not to eat at restaurants.

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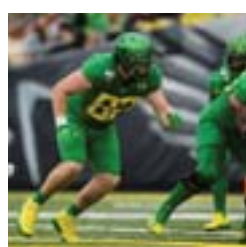
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LAFAYETTE
 See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Planning ahead to prepare for emergency evacuations vital – especially for non-drivers

By Pippa Fisher

With major fires burning all over the state, some close to home, and smoke blanketing Lamorinda most days as a daily reminder, the practicalities of exactly how to evacuate are a concern for many, especially older folks or others with limited mobility who don't drive. The message from emergency services is loud and clear. Think about it now.

"We strongly encourage seniors, those with access and functional needs (AFN), or who do not drive to develop a plan now," urges Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt, explaining, "This includes identifying family, friends, or neighbors who are willing to be a part of your evacuation plan."

Alldritt encourages those in this group to consider leaving as soon as they receive an evacuation warning and not to wait for the evacuation order.

It is something the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team has thought about. It is addressed on page six in the Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation guide – a booklet com-

plied by CERT with the police and fire departments – published last year and delivered to every home in Lamorinda. The guide is available online (see link below), and hard copies are available at city offices, police and fire departments, and libraries.

Additionally all residents should sign up for the Community Warning System (see link below). Lamorinda CERT Registrar Julie Luckenbach says this is the best thing residents can do and notes that in addition to email, Contra Costa County residents can also register many phone numbers to a single location, including their home phone and even their adult children living out of the area. "That way their children may get the alert even if their elderly parents miss it. Hopefully they can make a plan to be able to assist their parents," says Luckenbach.

During a recent virtual emergency evacuation drill held in Lafayette that suggested people check on their neighbors, Luckenbach says she wasn't sure how many people actually knocked on their neighbor's door at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday "for a virtual evacuation and lived to

tell about it! But now that the idea is out there, I feel that it would become a reality in the event of an actual fire evacuation situation."

Rose Brandt, a Lafayette resident in her 80s who does not drive and does not often use the internet, did not know about signing up for the CWS until her neighbor told her about it a few days before the drill. But Brandt has given consideration to evacuation and has made a plan with her neighbor.

CERT recognizes that this is the best step for AFN individuals. According to the guide, "Pre-determine who will help any AFN person evacuate and have a backup – family friends and neighbors who live very close by."

The guide emphasizes that AFN individuals should not rely on first responders to evacuate them. "They may be overwhelmed."

Lamorinda Village, a community-based network that supports seniors to keep them in their own homes where possible, is partnering with CERT to work on a plan

for its members.

"We both have two sides of the puzzle – Lamorinda Village has seniors who need help and CERT has many volunteers who would like to help when needed," explains Luckenbach. Together they are working on finding the CERT graduates who live near seniors in need.

Lamorinda Village Operations Manager Kathryn Ishizu says that every time there is smoke in the air, they have anxious seniors asking how Lamorinda Village can help.

"As we learned from the Paradise Fire, older adults are inordinately affected by fires as they have a harder time evacuating," says Ishizu. "We want to make sure that does not happen in our community."

Luckenbach cautions that this plan will only be available for Lamorinda Village members and that evacuation help would not be an activation of CERT – only neighbors helping neighbors.

"It gets tricky because we do not want to violate any

privacies, and, since the CERTs will not officially be deployed as CERTs, they must act on their own as good neighbors," says Luckenbach. "Mostly, we want to facilitate a connection to foster a relationship and fulfill the evacuation needs of the seniors if we do need to leave the area."

Lamorinda CERT says everyone should have a plan and practice it. They encourage everyone to have a go-bag packed and ready.

"I love that Lamorinda Village got all of its members go-bags," says Luckenbach. (See Aug. 5 issue of Lamorinda Weekly for story.) Checklists and resources are available on the CERT website and in the Evacuation Guide to help people decide what to pack.

Luckenbach sums it up. "Knowing your neighbors and working together is a great way to help the community survive and ultimately recover from a disaster."

**To view the Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation online, as well as for other useful links go to: <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/evacuate/>
 To sign up for CWS alerts go to: <http://cococws.com/>**

Civility and respect mark Lafayette city council forums

By Pippa Fisher

Election season means several candidate forums – opportunities for residents to hear the various opinions and plans of each of the candidates for city council. This year, because of

COVID restrictions, all forums were held virtually, giving residents the advantage of being able to watch the recordings if they missed the live events (see links on Page A16).

Three seats are up for grabs on the city council. Four

candidates are vying for election – Carl Anduri, Cam Burks (incumbent, running for his second term), Gina Dawson, and Farschad Farzan.

The Chamber of Commerce kicked the series of discussions off with its

monthly Coffee with the Mayor dedicated to meeting the candidates in a forum moderated by Chamber Board President John McCormick Sept. 18.

Inclusive Lafayette partnered with Sustainable

Lafayette for its candidates forum, Lafayette Forward, on Sept. 24, facilitated by Jeremy Levine of Inclusive Lafayette and Mike Rohde of Sustainable Lafayette.

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Lace up Lafayette! The 2020 Res Run is on ... virtually



Photo provided

This year's Res Run will look a little different than this photo from last year, but the course remains the same, along with the sense of community and support for the schools.

By Pippa Fisher

Not even a global pandemic can hold back the Lafayette Res Run! Even as just about every other city event has been canceled this year, the folks at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce are very happy to partner with the city for this community-building, fundraising event once again – providing a virtual race, but a physical run.

Of course the run will look a little different this year – runners will not be meeting on the traditional third Sunday in October. This year the Lafayette Res Run for Education has been reimagined. Runners will have the two-week span from Oct. 16-31 during which time they must complete the course.

The Chamber is offering four races: a 5k, 10k or 2-mile walk/run along the same route as in previous events, and, new this year, a 2.7-mile Lafayette Reservoir Run/Walk Challenge along the paved trail of the Lafayette Reservoir.

The 5k, 10k, and 2-mile walk/run course will be marked along the sidewalk on the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. This year roads will not be closed for runners. Caution and social distancing is urged.

Following registration for the event (see link below), runners will be sent a confirmation email with information about the race and the Race Joy App used to track times and post results.

As in previous years,

money raised will benefit local public schools. Participants choose which school they want to support at registration. Last year the Chamber raised over \$28,000. Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says they are on target to catch up with that again this year.

Usually the event attracts runners from all over the Bay Area including many elite runners. Lifson says he thinks this year will probably be much more of a local event.

Participants will receive a long-sleeve T-shirt designed by longtime Lafayette resident and artist Betsy Streeter. The special design this year commemorating a very unique year, features a row of socially distanced cartoon bear runners that Streeter says was inspired by one of Lifson's Grateful Dead T-shirts.

As if all this wasn't enough, Zoonie's Candy Shop, one of the many local sponsors making the event possible, is offering a gift certificate for a free quarter pound of bulk candy to the first 100 students registered for the run from each school.

And this year, because they don't have duties to attend to in any physical location, Chamber members might be able to participate too in what they describe as the city's most popular "family affair" along with the sprinters, walkers, the stroller brigade and many of Lafayette's four-legged residents.

To sign up for the Res Run go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Lafayette/LafayetteReservoirRun>



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Lafayette
Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Zoom Webinar

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January 1 to June 30	July 1 to September 30
Homes Sold: 113	Homes Sold: 137
Avg. Sales Price: \$1,798,603	Avg. Sales Price: \$1,971,851
Highest Sold Price: \$4,495,000	Highest Sold Price: \$5,850,000
Lowest Sold Price: \$890,000	Lowest Sold Price: \$749,000

Moraga

January 1 to June 30	July 1 to September 30
Homes Sold: 64	Homes Sold: 47
Avg. Sales Price: \$1,613,630	Avg. Sales Price: \$1,657,282
Highest Sold Price: \$2,700,000	Highest Sold Price: \$3,365,000
Lowest Sold Price: \$900,000	Lowest Sold Price: \$1,025,000

Orinda

January 1 to June 30	July 1 to September 30
Homes Sold: 106	Homes Sold: 105
Avg. Sales Price: \$1,793,168	Avg. Sales Price: \$1,908,924
Highest Sold Price: \$5,600,000	Highest Sold Price: \$4,125,000
Lowest Sold Price: \$785,000	Lowest Sold Price: \$970,000

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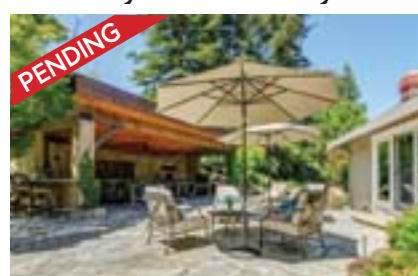
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Moraga Citizens Network holds online Candidates Night

By Vera Kochan

Adhering to county social distancing mandates, the Moraga Citizens Network held its Sept. 30 town council Candidates Night via Zoom. The public was encouraged to submit questions days beforehand regarding important issues concerning the town of Moraga.

Shari Simon, current president of MCN, opened the online event with a brief overview of the agenda. Each candidate was allowed to give a two-minute introduction. That was followed by eight out of 40 questions submitted by the public, to which each candidate had two minutes to respond. Once the question portion of the evening was over each candidate was given one minute for closing comments. According to MCN, there were seven basic themes revolving through the questions: development; fiscal management; fire safety; council culture; climate; inclusion and open space.

Moderator Chris Laszcz-Davis, a facilitator for the Lamorinda Presents Group, kept the time allotment clock on point. The candidates themselves kept well within

their timeframe margins and delivered a civil performance.

The following candidate comments are a compilation of responses to all eight questions:

Candidate Kendall Langan views Moraga's homes, schools, parks and bike trails as its chief economic assets and hopes that the Moraga Center Specific Plan will attract more people to help the town grow. While it's important to maintain Moraga's open spaces, open growth will increase revenues and make a tax hike unnecessary. Planned growth will keep the ridgelines intact.

Langan feels that shoppers are leaving town because there's nothing to shop for and believes it's important to welcome vital businesses. He would like to change the image of the town council by introducing more town halls where residents can have increased opportunities to address their concerns publicly. He stressed the need for residents to mitigate property vegetation and keep evacuation routes clear. He would rather see Moraga's EV charging stations located in more accessible locations rather than the town offices and Moraga Commons Park.

With regards to inclusion, Langan believes in sensitivity toward diversity.

Candidate David Stromberg feels that the community is the town's biggest asset – people are involved in Moraga, and that includes business leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, along with various organizations donating time and money. He said it's important to look for new ways to generate revenue such as becoming a charter city or have a real estate transfer tax on sellers that leave Moraga (something that he's not committed to, but has explored). He has studied how a city such as New York handles diversity in business and feels it will benefit Moraga to follow the same example.

Stromberg likes the idea that the MCSP will focus on a multi-family/mixed-use/senior housing scenario in the center of town. Residents of that area will not have to use cars to shop or dine, and it moves development away from the open spaces, which in his view are fire zones. Stromberg thinks the town council should have a degree of tolerance by listening to the value of what a difference of opinion could bring to the table in order to work collaboratively.

Candidate Renata Sos feels Moraga's schools are its biggest economic asset in boosting property values. The town's growth is vital, and by targeting the growth to the town's center it allows for open space preservation. En-

couraging people to shop in Moraga brings much needed revenue. The town council needs to identify investment needs, prioritize spending and look for ways to be more efficient in order to avoid a need for new taxes.

Sos believes it's important to provide the Moraga Police Department and Moraga-Orinda Fire District with the resources to keep the town safe, and by the same token, residents must do all they can to keep themselves safe. She feels that the town council sets the tone for the town itself, and it's important to treat everyone with dignity that invites a diversity of views. The entire town must continue to practice tolerance and kindness and reduce the barriers to becoming a business in Moraga.

Sos pointed out that the current town council has made strides toward a green Moraga by installing EV stations, hydration systems, making HVAC improvements and giving residents an additional energy option with MCE.

Candidate Teresa Onoda feels that people move to Moraga because of the schools and eventually fall in love with the open spaces. Town council members should vote by the General Plan's guidelines and standards involving hillsides and ridgeline ordinances. The MCSP will give students and seniors an opportunity to live in a beautiful development without adding additional traffic. Moraga doesn't receive

a large cut of tax revenues and the storm drain maintenance being done is a patch-as-you-inspect process. There might have to be something on the ballot with a sunset clause to pay for the infrastructure needs.

With regards to future town councils, Onoda says that each person has a perspective and needs to be heard. Respect and integrity holds the council together. As for a green Moraga, she would like the town's scientists to come together and update the Climate Action Plan. Onoda believes in the town's police department and feels they take care of everyone on an equal level while keeping the peace.

Candidate Ursula Schilling also feels that Moraga's schools are the reason people move to town. It is important to maintain a business friendly environment, and by doing so it encourages more vital businesses to come to town thereby increasing revenue. While traffic is an important consideration she feels that the town and the developers must share more common ground. Schilling wants the town council to have shorter meetings. She feels that it's important for citizens to be part of the process to keep Moraga fire safe and to partake in the MPD and MOFD drills. She agrees with the town's CAP, and Schilling stresses the importance of tolerance within the community.

To watch the Candidates Night recorded Zoom event visit: www.MCNMoraga.org

Human trafficking arrests in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

After receiving complaints for several months about suspected nefarious activity at a Miramonte Drive home in Moraga, investigators compiled enough information to obtain a search warrant and accompany a Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office SWAT team to the residence on Sept. 30.

Three suspects were ar-

rested without incident and booked at the Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez: Herbert Williams, 35, of Moraga (warrant - human trafficking, pimping and pandering); Alexa Landa, 30, of Moraga (warrant - human trafficking, pimping and pandering); and Justin Lewis, 31, of Oakley (identity theft and possession of controlled substance).

Firearms and other evidence were also seized during the warrant service. Develop-

ments have come to light that Williams and Landa may be involved in additional crimes both in Contra Costa and San Mateo counties.

As of Oct. 7, Moraga Police Detective Kevin Mooney stated, "There is not really anything else I can disclose right now." The investigation is ongoing at this time. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Mooney at (925) 888-7056.

Caregiver of aging Moraga couple charged with stealing over \$360K

By Vera Kochan

According to court records, Heidi Suzanne Miller of Alameda was hired as a caregiver for a Moraga couple in their 70s who are suffering from early onset dementia. Miller was charged on Sept. 29 with access device fraud in the theft of \$360,000. Prosecutors have uncovered more than \$500,000 of "unauthorized transactions" from the couple's bank accounts over a three-year period beginning in 2016, immediately following Miller's hiring by the victims' family.

The crime was initially reported to the Moraga Police Department after April 2019 when Miller's employment was terminated. Two officers were assigned to the extensive investigation. After consulting with the District Attorney's office, the decision was made to begin prosecution through the U.S. Attorney's office in Federal Court.

MPD turned over the investigation to the FBI and coordinated the filing of the case.

The suspect used the money to make the following purchases: a new king-size bed; a Peloton bicycle; automobiles (including a Porsche and BMW); paid college tuition for her daughter; \$15,000 for LuLuLemon clothing; liposuction and breast augmentation surgery; numerous high-end purses and jewelry; thousands of dollars worth of items for her pets; a Disneyland trip; and a Princess Cruise.

The complaint alleges that Miller often posed as one of the victims to extract funds from bank accounts. Additionally, she is alleged to have taken money from one of the victim's military veterans retirement account.

Miller was freed on her own recognizance Oct. 5. The access device charge carries a maximum of 15 years in federal prison and a \$250,000

fine. "I think that it is difficult when relatives are getting older and need assistance," stated Moraga Police Chief Jon King. "Family members need to strike the correct balance between allowing them to be independent and trusting caregivers, while verifying expenses and ensuring their relatives are safe."

King cautioned, "Credit card and bank statements need to be diligently checked and balanced on a frequent basis by family members, not caregivers. In this case, the suspect did not waste any time and was making fraudulent purchases within a week of starting to work for the family. It is essential for family members to stay present with frequent visits and telephone calls."

MPD advises people to check out the internet or contact the county for tips about hiring caregivers.

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Saint Mary's College fall semester – functioning through coronavirus

By Vera Kochan

As humankind adapts to the COVID-19 induced new normal, Saint Mary's College begins its 2020 fall semester doing what it can to provide students, faculty and staff with some semblance of business-as-usual.

First and foremost, everyone affiliated with the campus is required to commit to the Gaels Wellness Pledge. The 10-point pledge encourages personnel to consciously adhere to the safety protocols put forth by the Contra Costa County Health Department, the California Department of Public Health, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The pledge includes: reporting any COVID-19 related symptoms to medical professionals; completing a daily health screening; staying away from campus if living with someone who has a confirmed case; reporting if tested positive; practicing good hygiene; keeping belongings and shared spaces sanitized; practicing physical distancing; complying with contact tracing, quarantine or isolation; wearing a mask; and avoiding stigmatizing and generalizing.

Instruction is primarily remote, although some in-person and hybrid courses are

offered for undergrads living on campus using research and lab facilities, working in studios with performance-based courses, and attending seminars. There are newly developed outdoor classroom spaces that will also be utilized.

All facilities will go through a daily cleaning regimen by a custodial staff, and Facilities Services will provide individuals with disinfecting wipes and spray for use in computer labs, classrooms and public spaces. Any athletic facilities that are open for use will undergo a more rigorous cleaning. Outdoor facilities will also be cleaned at least once a day.

Residential areas will see an increase in disinfection to three times a day for the restrooms and other common spaces. Students are expected to keep their individual bedrooms sanitized.

The Chapel, Health & Wellness Center, Oliver Hall, Café Louis, post office, recreation center, library and bookstore will all be open with frequent disinfection services provided several times a day.

Pending approval from county health officials, SMC will allow student-athletes from limited fall and winter sports to begin returning to

campus in preparation for voluntary conditioning workouts.

Any events, meetings and gatherings should continue to be offered virtually with the exception for on-campus residential students. Campus departments may sponsor outdoor recreation activities for groups of 12 or less; outdoor worship or cultural ceremonies; and indoor/outdoor academics activities conducted outside of regular class sessions and associated with academic classes for groups of 12 or less.

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Rheem Theatre waiting for 'orange tier' designation to reopen



Rheem Theatre's message to the town.

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan


Despite the good news that Contra Costa County has moved into the red tier allowing movie theaters to reopen at 25% capacity or 100 people, Cinema West (owner of the Rheem Theatre) has decided to wait until a 50% capacity is sanctioned. According to Executive Director James Howard, a 25% capacity "still won't work for our smaller auditoriums. Plus, by

that time the movie selections will also have improved enough to entice people back to movie theaters."

Many studios have decided to push back the release of their anticipated blockbusters to November, December and into 2021. To make matters even more difficult, local movie houses are currently banned from selling concessions, which typically accounts for higher revenues to the theater than does their share of ticket sales.

Election information for Moraga

There is a new permanent ballot drop-off box at Saint Mary's College (1928 St. Mary's Road), in the first parking lot on the left when you drive in. All ballots from drop-off ballot boxes will be handled by County Elections personnel only and will not be mailed through the USPS. There will be an Early Voting Site at the Moraga Library on the following days: Oct. 30 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.); Oct. 31 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Nov. 2 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and Nov. 3 (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). This site will be available to anyone dropping off a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Any County resident who wishes to vote in person may do so Friday, Saturday and Monday only! On Tuesday, Nov. 3 voters will need to vote at their correct polling location – Moraga Library at 1500 St. Mary's Road and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church at 10 Moraga Valley Lane.



Town Council Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Oct. 20 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Finance Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Orinda hires consultant to assess economic aspects of housing on downtown development

By Sora O'Doherty

How much housing in downtown Orinda is needed to drive an upscale grocery store to open there? More restaurants? Other amenities? Those are some of the estimates that the Downtown Subcommittee found they lacked in trying to come up with a draft Environmental Impact Report for the Orinda downtown precise plan.

The downtown subcommittee put out a request for bids for an economic analysis, and then reviewed the applications it received at a Sept. 30 public meeting. After hearing presentations from three firms, the subcommittee recommended that the city council authorize a contract with Economic & Planning Systems, an Oakland firm, and on Oct. 6 the council selected EPS for the project, beating out Lisa Wise Consulting and BAE Urban Economic for the contract.

EPS has been around since 1983 serving Oakland, Contra Costa County and

Alameda County submarkets, and specializing in real estate market and development feasibility studies and fiscal analysis. Principal Jason Moody has been with the firm for over 20 years, and will be assisted by Ben Sigmund, who has 20 years of experience in land use economics, and Kate Traynor who previously worked for HUD and was a consultant for the San Francisco board of supervisors.

Mentioning that the firm worked for the city of Danville, looking at upzoning their old town and what kinds of incentives would be required, Sigman and Moody responded to questions by downtown subcommittee member Nick Kosla, including how many residential units are required to draw retail and restaurants, as neighboring Lafayette has done.

EPS representatives pointed to work on 4th Street in Berkeley. Moody said that it took a while to get 4th Street right, to subsidize an anchor draw. Sigman explained that ever since the dissolution of re-

development agencies, cities have used all manner of density bonuses, and EPS does test bonus programs on both public and private sector projects.

When Kosla said that Orinda is looking to inform its downtown specific plan, Moody replied, "You are talking our language!"

"This is what we do," he continued. "We've worked on three or four now, providing fiscal analysis, cost and benefit, affordability, costs, public safety and maintenance. We provide a robust fiscal analysis package," he said, adding, "We can do it easily because we've done it so many times before."

When Mayor Darlene Gee asked Moody what his thoughts are for when we go back to normal times after the very unprecedented time in the world of COVID, he replied: "Retail is the eye of the storm, transforming significantly in a very short time." He actually thinks that there is a silver lining for smaller communities. "Early indications are that when people are working at

home, they do their shopping in their own communities more, including lunchtime expenditures and local errands." Still, he recognizes that retailers who haven't fully embraced the internet are going to be in trouble. Streetscape is becoming more important, he opined, and Orinda has an advantage in that it already has a nice, walkable downtown. Vice Mayor Amy Worth agreed that a big factor in economic viability is having outdoor space, and speculated that during a pandemic, people are more comfortable staying in their own community.

Although city council approval was required for the EPS contract, it is not required for smaller contracts like one with a creek consultant. Planning Director Drummond Buckley noted that the city has not spent any money yet on the creek, but it's a long overdue expenditure and not a tremendous cost: "We are really giving the city the most bang for its buck."

NO
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WRONG TIME

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Private proposal for mural art in Orinda



Photo provided

Artist Jane Kim painting a 50-foot high monarch butterfly mural in San Francisco last year.

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda city council heard an unusual proposal Oct. 6 under Items for the Good of the City: resident Kate

Rittmann is suggesting a plan for artist Jane Kim to install large-scale mural art around the city. Rittmann was inspired by the ConnectOrinda Downtown Streetscape Mas-

ter Plan that includes ideas for public art. Years ago, Rittmann was on the board of the Rhode Island School of Design, where she met Kim, a student. Kim is a co-founder of Ink Dwell, a studio dedicated to art that celebrates wildlife and its role in the natural world. She is known for, among other works, a 50-foot-tall monarch butterfly painted on a building at Hyde and O'Farrell in San Francisco last year.

Rittmann invited Kim and her partner, Thayer Walker, to come to Orinda to identify potential sites for murals. The Ink Dwell team identified a number of potential sites for large-scale murals, including Vashall Way, Theatre Square, the side of Casa Orinda restaurant, the pedestrian overpass from BART to the village and the Orinda public library.

Rittmann imagines the project as a combination effort between the city and private sector. The Orinda Community Foundation has given the project a dedicated account for fundraising. Donations will be tax deductible. Vice Mayor Amy Worth asked Rittmann if it would be a daunting task to raise the funds, and she said that as soon as word got out, she received two emails from people who would like to be the initial donors.

The name of the account is OCF Connect Orinda Mural Project. Persons interested in donating should contact OCF President Sue Severson. Rittmann emphasized that although she is a member of the Orinda Garden Club, this is not a club project but a personal one.

Worth asked Rittmann about her background. "I'm

not an artist," Rittmann said, "but I do have a good eye." Always interested in art and architecture, her youngest child went to the Rhode Island School of Design and Rittmann was asked to join the board. She served for 12 years on the board, making friends all over the world, including Kim. "Art makes things better," Rittmann says. "I really firmly believe that. When you see a 50-foot-tall butterfly in the city it sparks the neighborhood."

Maggie Boscoe also appeared before the council to talk about Artify Orinda, the idea of Maggie Boscoe, a longtime Orinda resident and co-curator of the Lamorinda Art Council's Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Worth initiated a matter to look at art in the community on a future council agenda, which passed unanimously.

At long last, restoration of Moraga Adobe begins

By Sora O'Doherty

A project long in the works has broken ground, so to speak. J&J Ranch, the developers of a new housing development in

Orinda, have begun the restoration of the Moraga Adobe. The historic building is the oldest extant building in Contra Costa County. The building is subject to a memo-

randum of understanding under which the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe can purchase the building to preserve it and make it accessible to the public and a history and

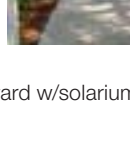
learning center. The developer will turn the restored building over to the Friends if they succeed in raising the purchase price. If not, the building would be made a part of the

housing development. However, the Friends have no doubt that they will succeed. The purchase includes the building and its surrounding 2.3 acres of land. ... continued on Page A16

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New MOFD fire code on the books

By Nick Marnell

When the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors ratified the new Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire code Sept. 22, a nine-month process that included negotiations with district municipalities, and beset with COVID-19 delays, finally came to fruition.

As a result, MOFD enacted its Ordinance 20-10, a document that outlines the elements of a new fire code which as of Oct. 1 became the new law of the district.

“By adopting the new fire code, the district will be enforcing a code which is consistent with state regulations,”

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs said.

A highlight of the new code is the revised deadline for exterior hazard abatement, pushed up from June 15 to May 31. Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette now share the same compliance date for abatement requirements.

One of the most controversial features of the new code is the stipulation of an exterior fire hazard inspection as part of a real property transfer.

“Compliance with exterior abatement regulations has always been a requirement for a real property transfer,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. “It’s only the reporting that’s new.” For ease of compliance with the

inspection requirement, the district set up an online portal for sellers to self-report, and for agents to check the status of a property.

The ordinance needed the ratification of not only the fire district, the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda but also the Board of Supervisors, under whose jurisdiction lie unincorporated areas within the district. The new fire code is a product of significant coordination among the above agencies to ensure all individual concerns were addressed.

“The new fire code being very progressive helps us protect our citizens and their property from fire,” Isaacs said. “We want our fire code

to focus on all aspects of fire safety.”

Isaacs noted that the new code supports the MOFD Wildfire Prevention Strategic Plan, a document that outlines district efforts to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. The plan covers internal and external fuels mitigation programs, wildfire

preplanning and evacuation planning, early detection and notification systems, fire code updates, and community outreach and education.

The entire fire code can be reviewed at the district website. Under the Our District tab, click on Ordinances & Resolutions.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



ConFire officials warn against complacency as fire season winds down

By Nick Marnell

Wildfires have scorched more than 4 million acres in California this fire season, shattering records for the amount of burnt earth in a single year. It’s been a rough fire season locally as well, as vegetation

fires rose 63% over last year within the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

But thanks to a combination of efforts, including a high level of preparedness, aggressive mitigation activities and the awareness and contributions of residents, not one

of the 412 vegetation fires in the district through September charred more than 10 acres nor resulted in a fatality.

“People should realize it’s not for lack of fires that we’ve had good fortune here. Every one of those fires could have gotten away from us,” ConFire spokesman Steve Hill said.



ConFire crew puts out vegetation fire in June Photo courtesy ConFire

The Orinda Firewise Council says
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Orinda City Council

The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources & to engage the City of Orinda and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.
WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG
ad paid for by the Wildlife Safety Committee

“Just because we haven’t had a devastating wildfire here, we should not feel immune.”

Especially fortunate this year has been Lafayette, which experienced only one vegetation fire. Apparently the October 2019 Pleasant Fire, which destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club and prompted the evacuation of thousands near Highway 24, got the attention of city residents.

“As we near the traditional height of the fire season here in Contra Costa County, it is obvious this has already been an exceptionally challenging one across the region and the western U.S.,” Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said. “Here at home we have had, thus far, good fortune in spite of a significant uptick in vegetation fires. We make our own luck, however, and the combined efforts of our fire agencies and our residents have helped protect us all.”

This is not the time to take anything for granted, Hill said, as the county is one red flag warning away from a major catastrophe.

“There is more unburnt fuel on the ground in the county than in any recent year,” Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said. “The moisture levels of that fuel are historically low. With a combination of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds, we are at tremendous risk for a devastating wildfire.”

Broschard doubled down on the need for citizen awareness. “We can’t do it alone and so we are counting on every resident’s continued vigilance to help see us through what can still be a very dangerous remaining few weeks of fire season 2020,” he said.

On that note, the district Fire Prevention Bureau is helping neighborhoods organize the first Lafayette Firewise Community.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
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Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
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Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 20 - Oct. 3

Alarms	51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	117
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	15
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	47
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	13
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
800 Block Bell St.	
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)	
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.	
Exhibition Of Speed	
Old Tunnel Rd./Windsor Dr.	

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Police Department
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)
30 Block Lafayette Cir.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Reckless Driving
Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./Brook St.
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hope Ln./St Marys Rd.
Village Center/Sundale Rd.
15t St./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tanglewood Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)

Vehicle Theft
3600 Block Walnut St.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
400 Block Helen Ave.
1200 Block Panorama Dr.

Grand Theft
20 Block Ruth Ct.
800 Block Rosedale Ave.
Identity Theft
Police Department
700 Block Los Palos Dr.

Misc Burglary
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
Petty Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
3700 Block St Francis Dr.
Robbery Armed
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Bacon Ct./Bacon Way
Disturbance-fight
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace
Buchan Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.
Old Tunnel Rd./El Curtola Blvd.
Loud Noise
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Frankie Ln./Frankie Ln.
1700 Block Toyon Rd.

900 Block Hough Ave.
20 Block Cosso Ct.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd.
Loud Party
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Oliver Ct.

Phone Harass
40 Block Prado Way
Public Nuisance
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Golden Gate Way/2Nd St.
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.

Vandalism
Police Department
10 Block Hidden Valley Rd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
Noahs New York Bagels
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
H&S Violation
900 Block Hough Ave.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Eb 80/Gilman
Mentally Ill Violent
700 Block Silver Crest Ct.

Trespass
Old Tunnel Rd./Leland Dr.
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
3400 Block School St.
Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Warner Ct.
Violation Restraining Order
900 Block Hough Ave.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 22 - Oct. 5

Alarms	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	19
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	1

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.
Quarter Dr./Moraga Way Ln.
Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (4)
Camino Pablo/Oxford Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln. (2)

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Tc - No Details
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Moraga Commons Park

Other criminal activity
Forgery
1200 Block Rimer Dr.
Panhandling
Wells Fargo
Petty Theft
100 Block Shuey Dr.
100 Block Brookline
Residential Burglary
30 Block Sherwood Ct.
Warrant Arrest
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Not Available
Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Camelford Ct.
Drunk In Public
10 Block Moraga Valley Ln.
Loud Music
Canyon Club Brewery (2)
100 Block Ascot Ct.

Loud Noise
Not Available
Donald Dr./Laird Dr.
Loud Party
800 Block Miramonte Dr.
Other
Fireworks
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.
Camino Pablo/Tharp Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Public Assembly Check
Los Perales Elementary School
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Safeway
Violation Dom Viol Order
50 Block Miramonte Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 4 - Oct. 10

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	22
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	21
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	4
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	4
Vehicle violations	
Reckless Driving	
St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
Other criminal activity	
Burglary	
400 Block Camino Sobrante	
Grand Theft	
100 Block Canon Dr.	
Panhandling	
Safeway	
Post Office	
Residential Burglary	
30 Block Marston Rd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.	
Loud Noise	
80 Block Brookwood Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
20 Block Bryant Way	
Vandalism	
40 Block Ivy Dr.	

California 2020 Proposition guide

Information provided by CalMatters

Proposition 14: Stem cell research

The basics

What would Proposition 14 do?

Have California continue funding stem cell research, by borrowing up to \$5.5 billion.

Prop. 14 would generate the money to keep open the state's own stem cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and expand its research capacity. That would include dedicating \$1.5 billion for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, epilepsy, and other brain and central nervous system diseases. The rest of the money would go for other research, medical training, building new research facilities and expanding treatment access.

The state would sell investors bonds worth \$5.5 billion, and taxpayers would then pay back that money, with interest, over the next 30 years. Estimated cost: \$7.8 billion.

Why am I voting on this?

It may seem like eons ago in political years, but in the early 2000s a political war had erupted over embryonic stem cell research.

Think of the stem cells that make up human embryos are blank slates — uniquely useful to researchers, they haven't yet differentiated to form vastly different parts of the body. To maintain a cell supply, scientists must destroy lab-created human embryos, typically produced for in-vitro fertilization. Pro-life advocates likened this to abortion, leading then-President George W. Bush to ban federal funding for research using new embryonic stem cells.

Touting possible cures for diseases from Parkinson's to paralysis, Californians

opted in 2004 to fill the federal void by borrowing \$3 billion to create California's own stem cell agency. Now that money is drying up. Without a fresh infusion, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine will cease to exist.

Supporters say

The institute's stem cell research has led to clinical trials, biotech jobs, and research toward treatments or cures for ailments affecting half of California families. The primary beneficiaries of the institute's grants are University of California labs and hospitals. The state also has collected royalties on successful stem-cell developments, and would continue to do so on future breakthroughs.

Opponents say

We gave it a try, but funding stem cell research didn't lead to the kind of life-saving cures voters hoped for in 2004. The federal government no longer bans federal dollars from supporting embryonic stem cell research, which was the reason California got involved in the first place. Plus the institute, one of the few state agencies not overseen by the Legislature, has had issues in the past with conflict of interest.

Who's for it:

- University of California Board of Regents
- The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
- The Latino Cancer Institute
- Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California
- Gov. Gavin Newsom
- California Institute for Regenerate Medicine Board of Directors

Who's against it:

- Jeff Sheehy, board member of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

Proposition 15: Business property taxes

The basics

What would Proposition 15 do?

Hike property taxes on big businesses, raising billions for schools and local governments.

Now, owners pay property taxes based on the price they originally paid for that real estate — typically a lot less than what it's worth today. If this measure passes, property taxes for many large businesses would be elevated to the property's current, probably higher, market value. That would net \$6.5 to \$11.5 billion — 60% for cities, counties and special districts, and 40% for schools and community colleges.

Not (directly) affected: homeowners, and businesses with under \$3 million in California property. Farm land would be exempt. An analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office wasn't able to determine whether the buildings and other improvements on that land would be too.

Why am I voting on this?

Back in 1978, California voters famously passed Proposition 13 — a huge permanent tax cut for landowners. It amended the state constitution to reset property taxes based on the purchase price of a

home or business, and capped how much the tax could increase each year after that.

To strip businesses of this protection, a majority of voters must approve Prop. 15 — amending the constitution again.

Supporters say

Prop. 13 has provided a massive break to some of the state's larger businesses. If this passes, a small fraction of those would pay the vast majority of the higher taxes. All that money would go to cities, counties and school districts — and these days, they could really use it.

Opponents say

It would be senseless to pass one of the biggest tax increases in California history in the middle of a cataclysmically bad recession. And while small businesses are technically exempt, large landlords may end up passing the costs to some of their tenants and customers.

Who's for it:

- Joe Biden and Gov. Gavin Newsom
- California Teachers Association
- California Democratic Party
- Mark Zuckerberg

Who's against it:

- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Retailers Association
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- California NAACP

and Asian American applicants. Some advocates warn that reinstating affirmative action invariably would mean a decline in Asian American enrollment.

Supporters say

What's past shouldn't be prologue. California is far more diverse than it was in the mid-1990s, when a Republican governor backed propositions to banish affirmative action and deny undocumented immigrants access to public services. Structural racism exists and to preach a color-blind philosophy is to be blind to the impacts of racism. Instead, for example, principals should be able to specifically seek to employ qualified Latino teachers in a school where most teachers are white but most students are Latino. Public universities should be able to consider a student's race as one of numerous admissions factors, including grades and school work. As for the growth in Latino admissions at the UCs, that's good news, but affirmative action could have led to those increases much sooner.

Opponents say

Allowing schools and government offices to make decisions based on race, ethnicity or sex is its own kind of prejudice. Equal rights mean everyone is treated equally. The claim that America is systemically racist is a false narrative that "fuels racial paranoia, division and hatred." The state already has made strides in diversity. And it's legal now to give preference to students who really need it — those who grew up in low-income families. As for who gets into the public universities, the fault lies with inadequate K-12 schooling.

Who's for it:

- California Community Colleges and the California State University
- Gov. Gavin Newsom
- University of California
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Who's against it:

- Californians for Equal Rights
- Chinese American Civic Alliance
- Students for Fair Admissions
- California Republican Party

Proposition 17: Letting parolees vote

The basics

What would Proposition 17 do?

Allow people on parole in California to vote.

The prop also would allow parolees to run for office if they're registered to vote and haven't been convicted of perjury or bribery.

California now prohibits state prisoners and parolees from voting. People serving their sentences in county jails can vote, unless they're transferring to a state or federal prison, or they're serving time for a parole violation. Sixteen other states and the District of Columbia allow people to vote once they've finished their prison sentences. Vermont and Maine let people vote while still in prison.

Why am I voting on this?

The Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, approved placing this amendment to the state constitution on your ballot.

Supporters say

Civic engagement will lead to fewer parolees committing other crimes; it allows them to help remove the stigma of their past. People who complete their prison sentences deserve the right to participate in a democracy.

Opponents say

Parole is an opportunity for violent offenders to prove they've been rehabilitated. Voting is a right that offenders should receive once they demonstrate they have been rehabilitated; not before.

Who's for it:

- League of Women Voters in California
- Gov. Gavin Newsom
- Californians for Safety and Justice
- Democratic Assemblymember Kevin McCarty of Sacramento, who introduced the constitutional amendment

Who's against it:

- Crime Victims United of California
- Election Integrity Project California

Proposition 18: Voting at age 17

The basics

What would Proposition 18 do?

Allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary and special elections if they will be 18 and eligible by the next general election.

Currently, voters must be 18 to participate in any local, state or federal election. This constitutional amendment would also pave the way for 17-year-olds who qualify to vote under this proposition to seek office, because the law says only registered voters can run for elected positions. Estimated cost: Between \$200,000 and \$1 million at the county level every two years. Statewide one-time costs are expected to be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Why am I voting on this?

The Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, placed this constitutional amendment on your ballot. It was the sixth time state lawmakers had considered the idea, but the first time it has reached voters. Nationwide, at least 19 states and Washington D.C. allow 17-year-olds who would be eligible for the next general election to vote early.

Proposition 19: Portable property tax break

The basics

What would Proposition 19 do?

Give Californians 55 or older a big property tax break when buying a new home. To fund that new tax break, it would curtail a separate tax break Californians may receive on homes inherited from parents and grandparents.

Typically when Californians buy a new home, their property taxes shoot way up. That's because property taxes here are based mostly on the value of your home when you bought it — not its current market value. Baby Boomers who bought that bungalow down the street right after Woodstock are paying way less in property taxes than the tech yuppies who bought an identical bungalow last year.

This prop would allow the Boomer couple to buy a new house anywhere in the state and retain relatively low property taxes.

Also under current law, a Californian who inherits a Malibu estate can rent it out on Airbnb yet still pay property tax locked in at the parents' rates. Under this prop? If adult heirs want to keep their artificially low property tax bill, they'll need to live in their inherited digs.

New revenue from closing the inheritance tax break could generate billions for schools, local governments and the state. A big chunk would go to firefighters.

Why am I voting on this?

Because Realtors really, really, really want you to pass it. They floated a very similar initiative two years ago, which California

voters rejected overwhelmingly. But that initiative didn't close the inheritance tax break, so according to a nonpartisan analysis, it would have cost local governments billions.

In the broader sense, you're voting on this because almost any change to property taxes in California has to come through a constitutional amendment, which requires a ballot measure. The Realtors and firefighters' union, two powerful state interest groups, convinced lawmakers to put this one on the 2020 ballot.

Supporters say

Prop. 19 will incentivize seniors stuck in oversized homes to downsize, freeing up inventory in the state's ridiculously expensive housing market. Closing the inheritance tax break will provide a budget boost to local governments and state firefighting efforts, at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has depleted public coffers.

Opponents say

This is a giveaway to Realtors, who are twisting public policy to boost their commissions. Plus, adult children should have the right to do whatever they want with the property they inherited — without facing a crushing tax burden.

Who's for it:

- California Association of Realtors
- California Professional Firefighters
- Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Democratic Party
- California Nurses Association

Who's against it:

- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- Sen. Patricia Bates (R-Laguna Hills)



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Essential to the argument of reinstating affirmative action is the concern that Black, Latino and Native American Students have seen their access to the University of California harmed. The data on the matter is complex, giving fodder to both opponents and backers of Prop 16 to select the data that best fits their arguments.

Since affirmative action was banned, the sheer number of Black and Latino students admitted as freshmen to the UC has quadrupled. But while Black and Latino students make up 60% of California's high school enrollment, they comprise just 28% of UC freshmen admits in 2019.

Getting into a UC has gotten tougher for all applicants, but Black, Latino and Native American students have seen their admissions rates plunge more than white

Letters to the editor

A vote for Gina Dawson

When my wife of 18 years, Gina Dawson, expressed interest in running for City Council, I knew immediately her skills and energy were the right match for Lafayette and our growing challenges.

I've enjoyed working with Gina saving 272 oak trees along our parks and trails after co-starting Save Lafayette Trees. From that effort, we established the Lafayette Gas Safety Task Force with the CPUC and PG&E to help identify and improve local gas pipeline safety concerns which would be otherwise unidentified and unaddressed. Lafayette is safer because of her efforts.

Gina is a marvel at spending hours studying detailed issues, understanding laws, building relationships on both sides of an issue, and implementing meaningful action plans. Her success is aided by her kindness to all, a deep sense of fairness, and an unwillingness to accept acts of societal and environmental injustice.

I urge you to vote for Gina and the attributes she'll bring to City Council: openness, honesty, tenacity, creativity, consensus-building, transparency, fairness, and a focus on making Lafayette a diverse and welcoming town for all residents. Please vote for Gina Dawson. Michael Dawson co-founder, Save Lafayette Trees Lafayette Gas Safety Task Force

Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council

I grew up in Moraga, graduated from Campolindo High School, and now live in Moraga with Chuck and our four children.

I live down the street from Renata and her family. She often stops to chat on the sidewalk as we're both walking our dogs. I've gotten to know Renata through those conversations and by observing her and listening to her comments at community events and the Council meetings I have attended.

When dealing with Council issues, I trust Renata to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community. She listens attentively when members of the public speak at council meetings, and actually hears what they have to say. She can put herself in others' shoes and sees things from a range of perspectives. She explains her decisions in ways that not only are authentic and understandable, but make clear that she's given them a lot of thought. That gives me comfort that her decisions are sound, now and in the future.

I believe that Renata is as committed as I am to keeping this a safe and inclusive community and leaving it that way for generations to come. Please vote for Renata on November 3rd. Chuck and Kim Anderson Moraga

Do not be fooled by Measure R

Measure R is a road maintenance tax masquerading as a fire prevention tax. The City plan is to ultimately spend 80-90% of this tax's proceeds for the maintenance of Orinda's roads and storm drains. In the first four (4) years, out of

\$10 million in tax revenues, the City plans to only spend \$1.5-3 million on fire prevention. After that, even less!

At this time, in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century, along with the persistent financial disruption, it is not prudent to embark upon a new 20-year, \$60 million tax plan. The existing sales tax is still effective for an additional two (2) years. As some are suggesting, it is NOT expiring immediately. The \$1.2 million per year is twice what the City plans to spend on fire prevention. Additionally, there is another \$2 million available to the City, from other taxes and fees, for critical road and storm drain repairs over the next two years.

Now is not the time to initiate a new 1% sales tax, which will be in effect for 20 years. We need a tax dedicated to fire prevention, which can significantly reduce the fuel load from our hills. A \$150 parcel tax would generate over \$1 million a year; twice what the City was going to spend from the sales tax. Also, the City would legally be required to spend it on fuel reduction.

It is far more judicious to invest in a short-term tax of 3-5 years. At the duration of the tax, we can once again re-evaluate the most crucial needs of the city. Many things change in 20 years, and it is very short sighted to be locked into a long term tax with no flexibility for future needs.

Vote no on Measure R.

Joan Daoro Orinda

Why I oppose Measure R

I oppose Measure R for many reasons but foremost is my distrust of our city government. I have observed our councils for nearly 30 years. I have the following observations.

- The councils always use "spin" to influence voting. A transparent government should not use marketing techniques. Using our fear of wildfire should not be the means to pass a general tax that will be used predominantly on public storm drains.

- The council does not ask the citizen's preference. Although the polling did consider extending the current 1/2 cent tax for only ten years, someone decided to double it to one cent for twenty years with no explanation.

- The council does not hold meetings where dialog is allowed, to hear the citizens desires and explain the issues. Democracy requires all voices to be heard. Instead, the citizens are limited to a 3 minute speech and questions raised are not answered. They thank you and move on.

- There is usually no discussion or objections to flawed or questionable assertions in a staff report. Staff is always commended for their excellent work.

- Even when citizens make reasonable alternative suggestions these are not discussed. They are simply ignored as though never made.

Despite current "assurances" future councils over the next 20 years may choose to spend measure R funds in ways we do not want. Past councils have spent our money on a variety of non-essential

expensive projects. Future ones will too, unless we prevent them. The current 1/2 cent sales tax does not expire till 2023 and the city could use these funds to provide fuel reduction and necessary infrastructure repairs for the next two years. The reserve fund has \$10 million and has increased by \$1 million for the last four years.

I am unwilling to make a twenty year commitment during a pandemic whose economic consequences are not yet known. Had the council proposed shorter taxes that could only be spent for specific purposes I would have supported them. I summarize with "it's the WRONG TAX at the WRONG TIME".

Charles Porges Orinda

No time for a change in the sales tax

The 20-year Measure R Sales Tax is a "general" tax, meaning allocation of the \$60 million dollars accrued over the next 20 years from this tax will be used at the discretion of the City Council. This is a doubling of the previous general tax, which is still good for two more years – so my first question is, why do we need THIS tax THIS year?

Something about this tax does not smell right to me.

While our Orinda City Council has the possibility of a complete changing of the guard every two years, we in fact have a few entrenched members who have to-date allocated almost no significant funds to fire prevention. This, in spite of a "heads up" from the Oakland fire 29 years ago and of the fact that over a decade ago CalFire designated a major portion of Orinda a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. We are breathing the smoke from fires burning in areas not different from ours.

The obvious (and kindest) answer to "why this year" is that money is needed to initiate fire prevention measures. So why didn't the Council start eight years ago when we voted in a General Sales Tax, or 3 years ago when the Tubbs fire killed 22, or two years ago when the Camp fire killed 86, or at the beginning of the summer when MOFD discontinued the chipper program, using the \$100,000 per month the existing sales tax generates? The City can use this tax for whatever feels most important, such as roads, storm drain maintenance, or fire safety measures. In spite of clear warnings and smoke from fires nearby right now, our City Council has spent virtually none of this tax we all pay for fire safety.

There is no guarantee, no transparency of intent, and especially no history showing us that doubling the sales tax will be spent in any particular area, much less fire safety.

I am voting No on the Measure R Sales Tax this year. Rose Anne Critchfield Orinda

Prop 15 is Good for Contra Costa

When people buy a new home, the property is reassessed and the property tax increases. Corporations change ownership all the time, but due to loopholes in

the law, their property does not get reassessed. This gives an unfair advantage to older corporations, letting them pay lower taxes now and into the future.

Prop 15 will close the big business property tax loophole and reassess non-residential properties (worth over \$3 million) on a regular basis. This will increase tax revenue for each local community to help finance our needs such as road and storm drain repairs and emergency services.

Even though the assessed value will go up for older nonresidential properties, the RATE will remain lower than most other states (1% in California, 2.56% in Dallas, 2.57% in Phoenix.)

Protect homeowners and renters while reinvesting in our communities. Vote YES on Prop 15. www.Yes15.org Ashley Coates Moraga

Reelect Jorgens for MOFD

We need Craig Jorgens to remain on the Board of the Moraga Orinda Fire District. Craig understands that MOFD needs to serve the needs of Orinda and Moraga, including emergency medical response, fighting fires, and reducing our exposure to wildfires. Craig has a deep commitment to making our town more resilient to a wildfire. Craig understands the huge potential of new technology and has the right tech skills to understand how high tech can detect a fire and warn us. Craig used similar skills in his previous service on the Orinda Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, where he identified the potential of a new paving technique – Full Depth Recycling – and led the city to adopt it, achieving both improved durability and reduced costs. Craig also is a businessman who understands the need for clear objectives and financial/managerial reporting to ensure that they are met. On the MOFD Board, he identified major errors in accounting that have now been corrected and has been a force for finding better ways for the District to achieve its goals.

Craig is exactly the representative we need on the MOFD Board. Please join me in voting for Jorgens. Richard Nelson Orinda

Vote for Anduri

It is with immense gratitude that I again see Carl Anduri's name on our City Council ballot. It is obvious that, unlike most of us ordinary folks, Carl thrives on knotty challenges. His ability to arrive at healing compromise is historic and exactly what Lafayette needs as our community faces a unique era impacting our personal health, economy, and our sense of moral wellbeing.

Mei Sun Li Former City of Lafayette Senior Services Manager, originator of the Lafayette Spirit Van program, and 44 year resident of Lafayette

... continued on Page A12

VOTE FOR GINA DAWSON

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Gina has been an effective advocate for public safety in Lafayette and I know that her analytical skills and care for our community will be an essential addition to our next City Council.

Mike Anderson, Mayor, City of Lafayette

I think her expertise, integrity and proven excellence of service are just what this City needs.

Avon Wilson, Former Mayor, City of Lafayette



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Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A11

Gee for Council

When Darlene Gee called me four years ago to ask if I'd endorse her candidacy for Orinda City Council, my immediate response was "of course." It was such an obvious choice on her part and for the voters. Having known Darlene for over 20 years, I have no hesitation in throwing my full support behind her. Her professional experience as a civil engineer coupled with her civic service on behalf of all Orindans make her the logical choice then and now. Her work on the council these past four years has shown what her friends have known all along. Darlene is a smart, hard-working, and thoughtful decision maker; she does her homework, asks the right questions, and seeks to find common ground, all of which are the very attributes we need in civic leadership today. Please join me in voting to re-elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council.
Pat Rudebusch
Orinda

Measure R: What's the Plan?

The City Council says that because the Measure R Sales Tax is a "general" tax which the City can spend any way it wants to, that it cannot say how it "plans" to spend our \$60 million over the next 20 years. That we have to trust this Council and the next ten generations of councils (changing every two years) to do the right thing.

I believe that accepting this level of trust, at this time, would be misplaced so I am voting NO on Measure R and am asking you to do the same.

The City says it is going to spend the money on a combination of fire prevention, road maintenance and storm drains. But it will not say how much it will spend on each or if it has other funds available to do the job (which it does; over \$3 million per year plus \$10 million in reserves).

One of the reasons it cannot / will not say what it will spend the \$60 million on is that it either has no plan (fire prevention) or incomplete plans (road and storm drain maintenance). What it is asking for is a twenty year blank check so it can develop plans for these tasks.

The City does not need this "new" tax right now in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century along with its unknown economic repercussions. The existing tax, generating \$1.2 million per year for two more years, can be used for anything, including fire prevention. Why is the City Council not spending any of that money on fire prevention now? Why should we believe they will start doing it if we double the tax? Why would they threaten to spend nothing on fire prevention unless we do double the tax to \$2.4 million when they only plan to spend \$500-750,000 on fire prevention?

This is the wrong tax at the wrong time. Let the Council come back when it has a plan and use existing funds until then.

Vote NO on Measure R.
Steve Cohn
Orinda

Yes on Measure R

Orinda, we have just had the driest winter in at least 12 years in Orinda. And it looks like we are facing many more years of hotter and drier weather. We are also witnessing the devastating effects of this on communities across California and the entire West Coast. We need to take action NOW and start to fix a problem that has grown (literally) over the last 50 years in Orinda--too many dangerous trees and shrubs. The Measure R sales tax will begin to make a significant dent in this problem immediately. The first years of the tax will be primarily dedicated to fire fuel reduction, which is our biggest hazard right now. This mitigation work will include All residents (including those who live on private roads). When we've tackled that, the money will be available for maintenance (trees grow back) as well as fixing collapsing storm drains and keeping up road maintenance. Property taxes in Orinda do not provide sufficient funding (due to Prop 13) to do this necessary work. Measure R will ensure that we protect our community. Let's all support Measure R on the November 3rd ballot.
Abe Mintz
Member Orinda Finance Advisory Committee

Vote yes on Measure R

Driving through the streets of Orinda I am always thankful to be in such a beautiful place surrounded by lush trees and rolling hills. We need to protect this great environment by taking responsibility for its management. Measure R is designed to do just that. It will help reduce the fire risk by providing funds to reduce overgrown vegetation and overhanging branches and trees and will help keep evacuation routes clear. It will allow Orinda to expand the chipper program to help residents clear their lots of brush and overgrown shrubbery. Long term it will also provide money to replace failing storm drains and keep the roads in good condition.

This tax money stays in Orinda and will be used only for Orinda. It will provide much needed support for the current and ongoing maintenance of the city. I urge you to vote yes on Measure R.

Nancy Booth
Orinda

Please join us: Vote Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council

Since Renata and her family inspired us to move Moraga in 2004, we have witnessed the many ways in which she demonstrates her commitment to our community: coaching youth sports, and serving on the Moraga Planning Commission, Community Foundation and Town Council.

Renata is a truthful and open-minded leader. She plays well with others and brings out the best in them to establish and achieve shared goals. Renata understands the functions of different governance structures that affect our community -- the town, its school dis-

tricts, the county, and the state. She knows "what is ours to do" as a town and how to engage representatives of the other jurisdictions to seek win-win solutions. She is committed to fiscally responsible and transparent governance, and exercised that commitment on state, local, business, and nonprofit boards and on the Town Council. Renata always does her homework. She has high aspirations for our town and is also a realist who works to craft consensus. She will work to preserve the town's strengths, which include its semi-rural character; and, to effectively address its needs, which include a more vibrant, varied, inclusive, and sustainable business climate. Please join us in voting for Renata on Nov. 3. Sonja Schoenwald and Keller Strother Moraga

Vote yes on Measure R

There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding Measure R on your ballot in the upcoming election; what it is and is not, what it does and does not do plus why we need it. Approving it will remove the existing 1/2 cent sales tax measure previously approved by the voters and replaces it with a 1 cent sales tax. It is neither a parcel tax nor a bond measure. When you make a taxable purchase in Orinda the tax you pay will increase by 1/2 cent. That does not seem like will generate much funding to use except that when you buy a "big ticket" item in another city [like a new car] the tax paid comes back Orinda for our use. The previous 1/2 sales tax increase generated about a million dollars plus per year and is how we had the funds to start fixing our public roads. Then two bond measures passed and repairs began in earnest.

The repair Plan/program is a success and by the end of this [2020] construction season will have taken the roads from "failed/poor" to "very good" with some "excellent". By this time next year all the bond money will have been spent doing what was promised; fixing roads and the shallow drains under them. Why do we need another tax even one as modest as R? During the review of the Plan two problems became apparent; first, there was no funding for maintenance of the work done and second, no funding to repair/replace the deep drains under the main roads [like Miner Road] add to these the need to fund for fire fuels mitigation to help prevent the kind disaster that has become too common in CA the last two years.

Measure R provides a stable source of funds [about \$3 million plus] to address all three of the above needs. We have made a significant investment [over \$53 million] in the infrastructure and quality of life of our City and now it is time to protect our investment. Vote yes on Measure R!
Terry Murphy
Orinda

Alternative to Measure R

Background: Eight years ago Orinda voters approved a General Sales Tax which the City can use for what it deems im-

portant. Measure R doubles that tax, and extends it 20 years, which ultimately would total \$60 million (including inflation). A July Staff report recommends spending between \$40,000 to \$60,000/month for Fire Prevention. Orinda currently has \$10 million (of which \$3 million is Unspent Sales Tax revenue) in reserves (of which a fraction could be used for Fire Prevention, until a March ballot measure for a \$150/year Parcel Tax for 5 years could be put in place).

Advantages of a 5-year Parcel Tax versus Doubling and Extending Sales Tax for 20 years: 1) A parcel tax would commit households to a total of \$750 for a 5-year period, compared to the total of \$9,000 (over 20 years- including inflation) that doubling and extending the sales tax would; 2) Most importantly, Measure R includes NO Requirement that any of taxes be spent on Fire Prevention, while the Parcel Tax would be dedicated Solely to Fire Prevention; 3) Parcel Tax would raise more money, and do so more quickly, to address Fire Prevention; and 4) Reduce the risk of future City Councils using additional sales tax receipts for other purpose(s) than being dedicated to Fire Prevention.

Conclusion: A parcel tax requires the extra effort of a 2/3's vote, rather than a simple majority. Orinda has consistently supported 2/3's tax initiatives. Examples being the Library Parcel Tax, the current sales tax, and the 2012 and 2016 Road Bonds. Voting No on R, and proceeding with a 5-year parcel tax initiative would raise more money, do it faster, and assure that the monies would be used solely for Fire Prevention.

Bill Cosden
Orinda

Cam for Council

I write in support of Cam Burks, who is running for the Lafayette City Council. Cam is the only incumbent amongst the four candidates seeking election. Cam has worked tirelessly on behalf of the city, and all residents. He is not afraid to make his opinion known, and he does not duck controversial issues. I admire his work ethic, his willingness to seek out the opinions of residents and his tenacity in representing us. I know many who have contributed to this community over the years who feel the same way.

We very much admire that Cam is raising his family, holding down a demanding full-time job, and devoting much time to our city. We should all be so fortunate as to have him elected to another term, and he has my whole-hearted support. Please join me in voting Cam Burks for another term on the city council.
Bill Fraser
Lafayette

... continued on Page A13

Re-Elect John JEX Fire Board (MOFD)



My Promise to the Moraga Community:

- 1) Focus more on Fire Prevention while still providing State-of-the-art Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- 2) Be a Budget Watchdog to ensure transparency and responsible use of MOFD funds to maximize community benefit.
- 3) Utilize Advanced Technology to leverage MOFD's physical assets and well-trained personnel.

John JEX

Community Leaders and Hundreds of Residents support John JEX for MOFD!

(Titles for identification only. Partial list of supporters.)

Steven Glazer - CA State Senator
Candace Anderson - President, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Brad Barber - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President
Chris Conrad - Chair, Ascot Highlands Firewise Committee
Darlene Gee - Mayor, City of Orinda
Marna Eyring - Moraga Education Foundation, Founding Boardmember
Dennis Fay - City of Orinda Councilmember, MOFD liaison

Gene Gottfried - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President
Craig Jorgens - Moraga Orinda Fire District Board
Chuck Larsen - Chair, Rheem Valley Firewise Neighborhood
Melanie Light - Chair, Orinda Firewise Council and Founder, Lamorinda Firewise Neighborhoods
Mike Metcalf - Former Moraga Town Mayor
Brent Meyers - Smart Moraga
Anne Obsitnik - Co-Chair, The Bluffs Firewise Neighborhood

"I greatly value the accounting expertise and financial conservatism that John Jex has brought to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and its Board. I strongly support Jex's re-election to the MOFD Board."

Richard J. "Dick" Olsen
Former Director of MOFD Board, Moraga Citizen of the Year, Former President of the County Fire Commissioners Association

"John Jex strongly supports fire prevention and the best interests of our community. Join me to Re-Elect John Jex to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board (MOFD), who votes to protect Moraga's citizens, not outside special interests."

Anne Obsitnik, Co-Chair The Bluffs Firewise Neighborhood

"I value John Jex's experience and focus on fiscal responsibility, which is one of the key responsibilities for the MOFD Board. Join me in voting for John Jex."

Steve Woehleke, Moraga Town Council

Dick Olsen - Former Director of MOFD Board, Moraga Citizen of the Year, Former President of the County Fire Commissioners Association
Chris Severson - Acalanes High School District Board
Dave Trotter - President, Moraga Community Foundation and Former Moraga Town Mayor
Steve Woehleke - Moraga Town Council
Peggy Woehleke - Moraga Park Foundation

VoteJEX.com

Paid for by Vote Jex for MOFD 2020 FPPC #pending

Letters to the editor

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No on R

The Measure R Sales Tax measure is placed on the ballot as a “general” tax; as such, it would need only a majority vote for approval. Despite the fact that the City Council therefore cannot legally say how the \$60 million that will be raised by this ‘general’ sales tax over the next 20 years will be spent, at a recent candidate forum one City Council member actually stated that this revenue will in fact be ‘front-loaded’ toward fire prevention/mitigation. This statement runs counter to the City’s own ‘Needs Report’ which showed the vast majority of the funds would be used other than for fire safety (which ‘Needs Report’ this candidate termed ‘misinformation’ at the forum). The problem here is that not only has the City Counsel apparently changed its collective mind on use of funds but also that any statement making this changed plan publicly known will once again run counter to this tax being a “general tax.”

The Measure R sales tax, which would double the sales tax rate and live on for 20 years, had been masquerading as a fire safety measure but all along has also been masquerading as a “general tax”.

I am hoping that the City Council, and all subsequent City Councils over the next 20 years, doesn’t change its mind, once again, when what is needed right now (look out your window) is a true fire safety tax that all Orindans can count on in the future. What the City is asking for is a 20-year year blank check so it can decide that some other use of your money is more important.

I am voting NO on Measure R and am asking you to do the same.

It has been almost 30 years since the devastating Oakland/Berkeley Hills firestorm, and the City has spent virtually nothing on fire safety or fire preparedness.

The City does not need this new, doubled 20-year sales tax right now -- in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century with unknown economic repercussions -- especially since the City currently has a multi-million dollar fund on hand and our present

sales tax, currently generating revenue, doesn’t expire until March of 2023.

This is the wrong tax at the wrong time.

Vote NO on Measure R.

Bob Finch
Orinda

Jex and Jorgens and MOFD financials

As a Moraga resident, I have read with interest letters to the editor during this last month. Several of them mentioned the financial challenges MOFD is facing now and in the years ahead. I decided to examine for myself the financial statements and budgets available on the MOFD website. I verified what others have commented regarding the implications of MOFD being burdened by a huge long-term debt of almost \$50 million. This includes unfunded pension benefits and other employee benefits. There is also almost \$17 million of debt for pension obligation bonds and debt incurred for capital projects. The debt service for these obligations required a payment of \$4.3 million last year which is 17% of the property taxes received for the district last year.

Servicing these obligations and payments of salaries and other employee benefits limit what the district has left to spend on other community fire prevention projects. We need to pay attention to Directors Jex and Jorgens who have repeatedly addressed these issues during the last four years, and seem to be centering their platform during this election on the continual balance. Without their continued direction and focus on solving these issues, MOFD could run into serious financial problems.

Ken Shin
Moraga

Experience Matters, David Stromberg for Moraga Town Council

I strongly support David Stromberg for Moraga Town Council. In my time working with David on Moraga’s Planning Commission, I have wit-

nessed his fair minded and principled approach to decision making. Time and again, David’s knowledge of Moraga’s General Plan and Municipal Code have proved invaluable in helping the Commission navigate the challenging issues that have been brought before us.

At our recent Planning Commission meetings on the Moraga Center Specific Plan, David took an active role in communicating the concerns he has heard from Moraga’s residents regarding safety, aesthetics, traffic congestion, urban open space and recreation opportunities. In doing so, David helped to lead the Commission to a framework for the Moraga Center that will ensure that when development does occur, it will be safe, smart, and reflective of Moraga’s historic character.

With two seats on the Council being vacated and a third up for hopeful reelection, Moraga needs experienced leaders to help our Town navigate the difficult issues on the horizon. I know David has what it takes to help move Moraga forward.

Please visit David’s website, www.Stromberg2020.com, for more information on why David Stromberg is a leader Moraga needs on the Town Council.

Kerry Hillis
Planning Commissioner and Moraga Community Foundation Board Member

Anduri for Council

Seventeen years ago I attended a Lafayette city council meeting seeking a proclamation approving an effort by Lafayette residents to raise funds needed to build a school in Afghanistan that girls would attend. I was not seeking funds nor help from the city, simply the council’s support. Some questioned why we should help people living in Afghanistan. The request was continued to another meeting. Several days later I asked the clerk to drop my request from the calendar. I certainly didn’t need more stress in my life and frankly didn’t care whether they approved or not. Upon learning it was being dropped, Carl Anduri called

urging me to leave it on the calendar. He knew then what I didn’t. The issue of whether we should care about the welfare of others wherever they live was worth debating. The motion passed four to one. Since then both Carl and his wife, Sharon, have, along with hundreds in Lamorinda, actively supported our work in Afghanistan. We need more compassionate and caring leaders willing to stand up for what’s right. Carl proved then and over the years that he is one. He will have my vote.

Budd MacKenzie
Trust in Education, Lafayette

A vote for Farschad Farzan

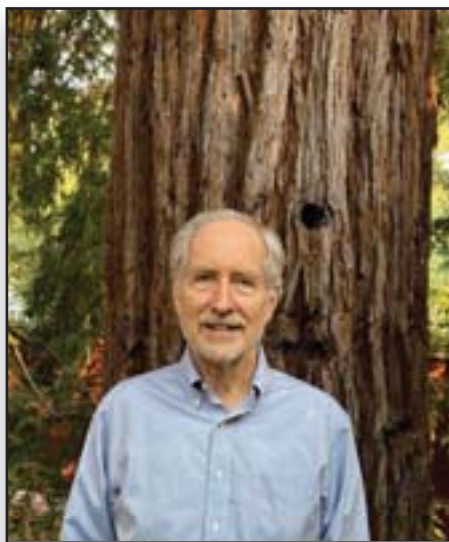
One candidate truly shines for Lafayette City Council – Planning Commission Vice Chair Farschad Farzan. If you have had the pleasure to watch any of the candidate events (Chamber of Commerce, Inclusive Lafayette, Lafayette Homeowners Council), you will see that he is intelligent, compelling, and has outstanding ideas for our city. As a current Commissioner, Farschad is up to speed on all current projects, and will bring valuable planning expertise to Council. In light of the increasing number of lawsuits facing the city, his career as a practicing attorney and litigator is a strength we absolutely need.

What I like best about Farschad, after reading many reports from Planning Commission, is that he is willing to roll up his sleeves and thoroughly tackle the issues. I would be honored to work with Farschad on Council because he is an independent thinker who consistently shows he can work collaboratively with a positive attitude.

With so many big issues facing Lafayette, we need Councilmembers who don’t back down from tough issues or legal threats, and Farschad is exactly that candidate. Please vote for Farschad Farzan for Lafayette City Council.

Susan Candell
Vice Mayor, City of Lafayette

... continued on Page A14



PROVEN EXPERIENCE
to deal with our most pressing challenges:

- ▶ Proactively manage the development of our downtown corridor, including affordable housing
- ▶ Protect our hillsides, ridgelines and open space
- ▶ Deal with the causes and effects of climate change, including planning for wildfire evacuation
- ▶ Promote inclusiveness and equity
- ▶ Revitalize our downtown in the wake of the pandemic
- ▶ Improve traffic flow and parking
- ▶ Prudently manage our City's limited resources

- Lafayette City Council: Councilmember, 2002-2012; Mayor, 2005 and 2011
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Commissioner, 1997-2002; Chair, 2001 and 2002
- Served on numerous Lafayette task forces and committees, including the Hillside Task Force, the Open Space Task Force, the Environmental Task Force (Co-Chair), the Senior Housing Task Force (Co-Chair), the Park Theater Task Force and the Roads Task Force (Co-Chair)

Carl Anduri

Lafayette City Council

“Carl and I served together on our City Council. He cares deeply about our community and its future. I know Lafayette will be in good hands with Carl’s proven leadership.”

- Mike Anderson, Mayor, Lafayette

“We need Carl’s proven experience, judgment and vision on the Council. He will be, once again, a great Councilmember for our entire community.”

- Anne Grodin, Former Mayor and Lafayette Citizen of the Year

Please Join Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support Carl!

ELECTED/APPOINTED LEADERS

Candace Andersen, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 2
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, State Assemblymember, 16th Assembly District
John Coleman, Board Member, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Steven Bliss, Councilmember
Cam Burks, Councilmember
Teresa Geringer, Councilmember

Brandt Andersson, Former Mayor
Carol Federighi, Former Mayor
Judy Garvens, Former Mayor
Anne Grodin, Former Mayor
Erling Horn, Former Mayor
Don Tatzin, Former Mayor
Avon Wilson, Former Mayor

Kristina Sturm, Chair, Planning Commission
Geoff Bellenger, Chair, Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
Terry Ann Black, Chair, Senior Services Commission
Carl DiGiorgio, Chair, Transportation & Circulation Commission
Anne Wondolowski, Chair, Community Center Foundation

Gary Huisingsh, Planning Commissioner
Karen Maggio, Planning Commissioner
Greg Mason, Planning Commissioner
Tom Chastain, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Patricia Curtin, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Rick Humann, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Will Lovitt, Former Chair, Planning Commission
Jamie Harris, Former Planning Commissioner
Joe Dougherty, Vice Chair, Parks Trails and Recreation Commission
Alison Hill, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner
Mark Poole, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner
Carol Singer, Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner
Abigail Fateman, Former Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner
Richard Craig, Transportation and Circulation Commissioner
Gayle Taylor, Transportation and Circulation Commissioner
Ruth McCahan, Senior Services Commissioner
Carol Yates, Emergency Preparedness Commissioner
Jeff Gilman, Vice Chair, Creeks Committee
David Clark, Member, Creeks Committee
Ronald Hufft, Member, Creeks Committee
Susan Price Callister, Board Member, Community Center Foundation
Sue Cross, Board Member, Community Center Foundation
Nancy Hu, Vice Chair, Environmental Task Force
Bart Carr, Member, Environmental Task Force
Steve Richard, Former Member, Environmental Task Force
Linda Staaf, Former Member, Environmental Task Force
Janet Thomas, Former Member, Environmental Task Force
Susan Dannenfeler, Former Member, Public Art Committee

Rob Sturm, Member, Lafayette School Board
Ann Appert, Former Member, Lafayette School Board
Roger Falcone, Former Member, Lafayette School Board
Mary McCosker, Former Member, Lafayette School Board
Tom Mulvaney, Former Member, Acalanes UHSD Board

ORGANIZATION LEADERS

John McCormick, President, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Bill Bucher, President, Lafayette Homeowners Council
George Burt, Past President, Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association
Dennis Garrison, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Chris Lane, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Kathy Merchant, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Matt Pease, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Caesar Perales, Executive Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Jesse Wellen, Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Danielle Gallagher, Past President, Springhill Parent Faculty Club

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Janet and Rick Cronk, Lafayette Citizens of the Year
Marchal Duncan, Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Lynn Hiden, Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Robin and Dick Holt, Lafayette Citizens of the Year
Don Jenkins, Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Budd MacKenzie, Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Karen Mulvaney, Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Larry Blodgett, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year
Steve Cortese, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year
Jennifer Perlmutter, Lafayette Businessperson of the Year
Bob Athayde
Patty Battersby
Joe and Lucy Beck
Bill and Betty Brown
Jeff Black
Karen Blodgett
Lorinda Carson
Larry Challacombe
Michele Chalmers
Dianne and Jim Chandler
Phil Chernin
Sereta Churchill
Kathy Daly
Francine Donner
Ann Drevno
Tom Duckworth
Jeff Eyet
Pat Falcone
Beth Ferree and John Eaton
Jim Fitzsimmons and Kris Torske
Sean Gallagher
Danielle Gogo-Gallagher
David Gold
Marshall Grodin
John Hall
Martha Harris
Dave Hiden
Jeanie and Jimmy Hill
Mary Ann Hoisington
Barbara Hollenbach and Bill Abbott
Patricia Horn
Linda Jenkins
Cody Keller
Liz and Matt Keyser

John Kiefer
Kristin and Ken Kisner
Wei-Tai Kwok and Violet Hsu
Todd and Betty LaPorte
Bill Lau
Mei Sun Li
Jay Lifson
Sharon Lingane
Lynn MacMichael and Howard Weamer
Michael Marchetti
Bruce Marlowe
Kathleen and Richard Marshall
Byrne and Oystein Mathisen
Daryl McCosker
Jan McHale
Mike Merchant
Gordon and Nancy Mills
Suzanne Muraki
Carol Murota and Neil Zelin
Courtney Murphree
Terry Neifing and Doug Sterne
Earl Piermattei
Ellen Reintjes
Annette and Wil Roberge
James Rockafellow
Jennifer Rosen
Bob Russell
Jeane and Roger Samuelsen
Katrina and Rick Silvani
Beryl and Ivor Silver
Dave Smith
Karen and Pete Smyth
Richard Staaf
Dale and Carol Statley
Alice and Gary Stern
Martha Strook
Tony Suh
Ramsay Thomas
Frank Tinley
Tracy and Donn Walklet
Joan West
Barbara and Mark Wille
Avon and George Wilson
Diane and Fred Wilt
Hugh and Mary Anne Winig
Mary-Jane Wood

Partial list. Titles for identification only.

“There is a reason people who served with and worked with Carl are supporting him -- they know his experience and leadership will make Lafayette a better place to live for all of us.”

- Teresa Geringer, Councilmember, Lafayette

Learn more about the issues at:

www.anduri2020.com

Paid for by Anduri for Lafayette City Council 2020 FPPC #1430748

Letters to the editor

Step up to fight climate change

I am writing to talk about the severity of climate change and the great effect it has taken on our lives already. While we are fortunate enough to not have fires here in Lamorinda, smoke is an issue that can't be ignored. I have been looking into the effects of smoke and the fires lately, and I came upon some very disturbing and interesting information. In an NPR podcast called "The Science of Wildfire smoke," NOAA research chemist Jessica Gilman states that smoke is made up of gasses and small particles called PM 2.5s. These small particles come from biomass such as burned up trees, tires, and brush. They are 2.5 micrometers or smaller (hence the name) and are therefore 50 times smaller than a grain of salt. These particles can travel easily through wind and, when inhaled, hit the back of the throat or deep into the lungs. Although small, these can cause serious lung problems. Smoke is most dangerous at night when the boundary layer- the atmospheric layer closest to the ground, condenses, pushing smoke down with it. This is even worse because fires produce the most smoke at night as they die down due to cooler temperatures and higher humidity levels. According to Gilman, as the smoke travels in the wind 80% of the US will see effects of the smoke. For the smoke to be removed from the atmosphere it must be rained out. Soot, caused by fires, emits radiation from the sun after it goes down- contributing to global warming. Pollutants cause more fires which cause more pollutants, creating a cycle of harm that has lead to, and will lead to more hurricanes, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, ex-

inction, and, you guessed it, fires. Let's drive less, recycle more, and most importantly, I implore you to elect leaders that care about this crisis, because it is not the far-away issue that we like to think it is. Our lives have already been affected by it, and it will only be worse for future generations unless we step up right now.
Molly Strohmeier
Lafayette

Anduri for City Council

I am writing to urge all Lafayette voters to cast a vote for Carl Anduri for the Lafayette City Council. Carl has the background, experience, and temperament we need.

I had the pleasure not only of serving ten years with Carl on the City Council from 2002 to 2012 but also serving four years with Carl on the Planning Commission. Carl listened and was always prepared, thoughtful, collegial and civil.

In addition to the Planning Commission and City Council, Carl gave his time to numerous committees, including the Hillside, Open Space, Environmental, Senior Housing, Park Theater and Roads task forces.

Despite choosing not to run for re-election in 2012 due to the demands of his legal career, he has continued to follow City issues and, as he is now retired, is eager to serve us on the Council again. We are fortunate to have a person of his caliber running. Vote for Carl Anduri for City Council!
Carol Federighi
Past Mayor, Lafayette

Onoda for Moraga Town Council

As long-time advocates for open space preservation, we urge Moragans to support Teresa Onoda for Town

... continued from Page A13

Council. No other resident has worked harder—and in so many capacities—to preserve Moraga's ridgelines, hillsides, wildlife and scenic beauty. As a Councilmember (2014-2018) Onoda supported tough new hillside/ridgeline regulations, helped defeat a massive housing project in Bollinger Canyon and opposed the Moraga Way City Ventures project that now blocks public views of a protected ridgeline.

As a Planning Commissioner in 2013, Onoda helped create Commons West Park, sparing that land from a developer's plan to bury it under eight feet of excess construction fill. Before that, she spent years helping organize the successful campaign to stop the Palos Colorados golf course, which ultimately saved 200 acres from the bulldozer and generated millions in developer fees for the Town.

Beyond her exceptional open-space record, Onoda has championed Moraga's youth programs, adopted gun-safety regulations, increased collaboration with Saint Mary's College and been the driving force behind Moraga's recent public art installations. We ask Moragans to embrace this opportunity to have Onoda back on the Council. She'll again dedicate herself to making Moraga the best it can be.

Dick Immel, Chair of the 1986 Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) Initiative Committee
Suzanne Jones, Founder, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space

WHO IS PETT?????

I have no vested interest in Ms. Onoda's candidacy for Moraga's Town Council.

That said, I believe we all have a vested interest in political honesty and transparency, especially here in

our local Moraga politics.

The sudden appearance of the "Oh No Not Onoda" roadside signs prompted me to find out more about the sponsoring organization and to better understand why they oppose her candidacy (beyond their "Move Forward, Not Back").

My research revealed nothing about this organization. To the best of my knowledge, "PETT-People for the Ethical Treatment of Taxpayers" simply does not exist, beyond the wording on their signs.

If there are valid reasons to question and/or challenge any candidate's suitability for office, the opposing organization has the obligation to provide voters with information to help them make better, educated decisions. To borrow from the vernacular, these signs are nothing more than a shot from the grassy knoll.

Having lived in Moraga for nearly 50 years, all I can say is that we're better than this and I find PETT's actions to be unseemly and dishonest.

Paul Cohune
Moraga

NO to R now, YES to a Redo

I do not normally oppose what appear to be progressive taxation, but in this case

I have to. Measure R is a poorly structured 20 year tax increase that is in serious need of revision. As the East Bay Times, and the San Francisco Chronicle point out, measure R is very poorly designed and they recommend a NO vote. So do I.

Voting NO on R does not stop the city or Orinda from resubmitting a well-designed measure in 2022 with effective input from the entire Orinda community. The city has a sufficient revenue stream with the tax already in place that expires in 2023 providing sufficient funds for the current road and drainage plans. For the immediate and important needs of fire mitigation, part of the \$11,000,000 reserve grown over the past four years can be used today – now!

A Redo of R is Orinda's best plan for addressing the needs of fire mitigation along with a unified program for all of Orinda's infrastructure needs in drainage and roads. R needs a plan. I am certain that the citizens of Orinda can work with the city council and staff to develop a specific and sensible one. Then we can all be on board to a YES on the revised R.

Bill Abriel
Orinda resident 20 years

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Natesmith4mofd.com

NATHAN SMITH

THE EXPERIENCE WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

Nathan Smith has served for 9 years as a firefighter/paramedic with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. He has a degree in economics and worked 13 years in business in Silicon Valley. Nathan has served on the front lines of the devastating Carr Fire and the Covid crisis. We need leaders like Nathan Smith who understand the threats from wildfires and medical emergencies. He will protect our communities and prudently manage District funds.

Nate Smith is Endorsed by

STEVEN DANZIGER
current MOFD Board of Director President

KATHLEEN CONROY FAMULENER
former MOFD Board of Director

MARK AYERS
Chevron Refinery Chief Officer (retired)

STEPHEN HEALY
MOFD Fire Chief 2013-17 (retired)

KATHY LEONARD
MOFD Fire Marshal (retired)

VICTORIA SMITH
Former Orinda Mayor

Please join your Firefighters in supporting

NATHAN SMITH

for Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors, District 2

BECAUSE EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Letters to the editor

Supporting Teresa Onoda for Town Council

As a born and raised Moragan, a small business owner, and now a husband and father-of-two Moraga resident, I feel attuned to the values of our community. Unbeknownst to me while growing up here, many of these values have been championed by Teresa Onoda herself. Once upon a time, she was even a chaperone to my older brother's miners' camp field trip when he was a student at in elementary school.

Many of these values upheld by Teresa as priorities, highlight respect and responsibility. Respect to our residents, responsibility to the environment and (of greater impact to myself) responsibility to our local businesses. She recognizes how relationships are two-way, and how we must take care of the things that are important to us. She puts forth the effort to connect with people; and she draws on her expertise as a professional artist to provide leadership in maintaining the aesthetic of Moraga, especially its natural beauty.

Teresa, as a longstanding member of our community, will always put her best foot forward when it comes to protecting our Moraga way of life. Learn about her more for yourself at <https://teresaformoraga.com/> Evan Lowe Moraga

No more negative signs

Signs placed along our Moraga public streets during a Council election campaign expressing "No" on a candidate have absolutely no legitimate place in our Town. The latest example is the signs expressing opposition to Teresa Onoda. This ugly kind of behavior is the mark of persons who place greater value in denigrating a candidate rather than in putting themselves publicly on the line in support of another candidate. To all Moraga voters who find this behavior as abhorrent as I do, please help me to end this practice by showing resoundingly on November 3 that it doesn't work.

Colleen Lund
53 year Moraga resident

Anduri for City Council

Election Season SPECIAL POLICY

Letters to the Editor Letters related to a candidate running for office should be a maximum of 200 words so that we will have room to publish as many letters as possible. Letters regarding ballot measures will remain up to 350 words maximum. Deadline is now NOON on Thursday prior to the issue date.

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

Vision, Integrity, Reason, Calm, Civility, Collaboration...these are the attributes Carl Anduri will bring to the Council. As we've seen in his past service, Carl will be a voice for all Lafayette...every neighborhood's concerns, listening openly to all perspectives. Carl's ability to approach complex issues with balance, an open mind and fiscal integrity has been proven by his long history of civic leadership. His extensive career as an attorney will help ground Council decisions on a fact-based, sustainable footing. His legal expertise will be invaluable when navigating complicated legislative initiatives in the Sacramento pipeline. I can't recall a time, in all my years in Lafayette, when the need for grace, quiet intelligence, historical perspective combined with innovative thinking has been more essential. Times are changing, communities are transforming and changing to meet these times, the diversity of the population is, and should be, changing. Lafayette needs Carl's voice at the table, and for this reason I am proud to endorse his candidacy.

Kathy Merchant
Lafayette resident for 36 years

Save Lafayette from "Save Lafayette"

On September 23, 2020, Save Lafayette filed a lawsuit against the city of Lafayette over its approval of the Terraces proposal. The lawsuit will almost certainly fail—nearly every argument made in the lawsuit has been repeatedly refuted by city staff—but it encapsulates Save Lafayette's pattern of promoting easily refutable falsehoods based on wishful thinking.

Save Lafayette rose to prominence by forcing the city to vote on Measure L, the 2018 ballot measure for a smaller proposal featuring 44 single-family homes at the Deer Hill site, and then campaigning against it. The city and the developer had negotiated this proposal as a compromise with clear terms: if the 44-unit project was not approved, then the original 315-unit proposal would return. New state laws would make it very difficult to legally deny.

... continued from Page A14

Save Lafayette dismissed this argument as a "vague threat" and asserted that the city could force a referendum vote or deny the Terraces project based on its 2013 environmental review findings. Residents voted against Measure L and, as promised, the developer resumed the process of getting the 315-unit Terraces of Lafayette proposal approved.

Almost immediately, Save Lafayette began spreading new misinformation and questionable legal interpretations. Most blatantly, they claim that Lafayette has built enough affordable housing to satisfy state mandates—we undeniably have not. More subtly, they twist the words of state laws like CEQA and the Housing Accountability Act beyond recognition from the actual written text of those bills. They've conspiratorially accused Lafayette's city staff, independent consultants, and regional first responders of presenting "one-sided advocacy in favor of the project." Of course, Save Lafayette is itself an advocacy group that exists primarily to oppose development at the Deer Hill site.

The Housing Accountability Act is clear: to deny the proposal, Lafayette needed to show that the Terraces would create an unmitigable, specific, quantifiable impact upon the public health and safety, based on a preponderance of objective evidence. Four out of five council members agreed that this threshold could not be met and voted to approve the project.

Save Lafayette's stubborn crusade against any development on the Deer Hill site backfired spectacularly—had they simply listened to the same staff and councilmembers that they ironically accuse of misunderstanding the law and betraying residents' best interests, the Homes at Deer Hill would likely be under construction today. Instead, the group's refusal to compromise or impartially engage with state laws they don't like has paved the way for a development seven times larger.

Going forward, we must approach housing development in Lafayette with a shared understanding of legal reality and a willingness to compromise. We cannot ignore state laws or mislead ourselves about what

they mean, even if we disagree with them. We must build responsibly, but we cannot reflexively attack evidence that doesn't match our biases. We gain nothing from undermining our public officials and questioning their credibility.

Save Lafayette's conspiratorial accusations, self-defeating confirmation bias, and frivolous, expensive lawsuits will only hurt Lafayette, not save us.
Jeremy Levine
Chris Mickas
Inclusive Lafayette

Special thanks to our firefighters



Photo provided

Firefighters battled a grass fire Oct. 11 near Irvine Drive in Moraga.

"Thanks to all the firefighters that quickly snuffed the blaze in Moraga. Hauling fire hoses up steep hillsides was amazing to watch and we felt great appreciation. Such a relief." ~ Mike Huston and Marcia Cho

Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

I am proud of my City Council contributions and the progress we have made in repairing our roads, delivering City services more efficiently, and adding new community facilities.

To learn more about my continued priorities and goals for Orinda, please visit my campaign website at: darlenegeeforcouncil.com.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Maintain and enhance the roads and drainage rehabilitation momentum the City has achieved over the last seven years.
- ✓ Develop long-term maintenance plans that are financially secured.

“Darlene has been a significant contributor to our progress and success with Orinda's roads and drainage rehabilitation. Her expertise and commitment to improving our infrastructure is why we need Darlene on the City Council.

Terry Murphy, Former Chair
Orinda Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ Maximize fire prevention and fuel mitigation efforts in Orinda - working closely with our Fire Chief.
- ✓ Increase emergency services planning, interagency coordination, and state legislative efforts for fire protection funding and insurance.

“Darlene's initiation of a joint subcommittee between Orinda, Moraga and MOFD has furthered our fire prevention coordination. She has demonstrated a real commitment to protecting our community.

Craig Jorgens
MOFD Director, District 5

DOWNTOWN

- ✓ Complete the Downtown Precise Plan, including well-grounded economic analysis studies.
- ✓ Advance communications with downtown property owners to facilitate opportunities.

“Darlene Gee and Inga Miller have followed through on their promises with their support of high priority for downtown improvement. They deserve our endorsement again in 2020.

Arran Schultz, Chair
Tom Trowbridge, Former Chair OrindaVision

✓ VOTE DARLENE GEE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2020, FPPC 1428111

Lamorinda families back in the swing at outdoor playgrounds



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Playgrounds around Lamorinda are once again open, with restrictions, and many families are happy to have somewhere for their children to run around and play.

With some progress made locally in the fight against COVID-19, the county moved up in the four-tiered, color-coded reopening guidelines, into the red zone Sept. 29, and with that came the reopening of outdoor playgrounds.

A couple of local residents, Kat Young and Laura

Cuneo, chatted as their children played Oct. 6 in the Moraga Commons. Both said they felt comfortable that the playground was safe. Young said it was their first day back visiting the playground since before the pandemic.

“At this point it is risk versus reward,” said Cuneo. She added that her 2-year-old hardly knew what to do on the play equipment. “He was only just old enough to become interested in playgrounds right before they all shut,” she observed as the little guy stood somewhat hesitantly on the steps.

Each playground must post guidelines. Face masks are required for everyone 2 years of age or older, and children and adults from different households must maintain a physical distance of six feet or more. Hands should be washed and sanitized before and after using the playground, and no eating or drinking is permitted to ensure face masks are worn at all times.

The reopening only applies to fully outdoor, publicly accessible facilities.

Laura Cuneo's 2-year-old son takes a turn on Moraga Commons playground equipment Oct. 6, after its reopening with restrictions.

Civility and respect mark Lafayette city council forums

... continued from Page A2

The Lafayette Homeowners Council held its traditional forum, usually held at the Veterans Memorial Center, via Zoom on Oct. 1, moderated by Board President Bill Bucher.

Last, but not least, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley held a forum Oct. 6 moderated by Sharon Burke.

While questions tended more toward commerce and how best to support local

businesses at the Chamber's forum, the discussion hosted by Inclusive Lafayette and Sustainable Lafayette focused on making Lafayette more bike and pedestrian friendly, along with housing issues – the Terraces, zoning, affordability and the definition of ‘semi-rural.’

LHC questions included discussions on desired outcomes of the General Plan Advisory Committee, how best to handle downtown development while meeting state

housing requirements, and questions on schools, and bike safety. And while the LWV forum touched on many of the same issues it included discussion on the city's potential role in the restoration of the Park Theater, traffic in the Pleasant Hill Road corridor, police funding and a discussion about the conflict of interest ordinance passed by the city council in 2018.

Levine says feedback was positive following the Lafayette Forward event, with

over 50 household participating via Zoom live and many more viewing after the event. The numbers were similar for the LHC forum according to Bucher.

The tenor of every meeting was one of civility and respect and, in fact, the candidates appeared to agree on most, if not all, issues.

Bucher and Levine agree that Lafayette has a strong field of candidates. “Good thoughts by all four candidates,” said Bucher after the

forum.

“I'm happy that the entire field has indicated they would like to promote more housing development in our downtown corridor,” said Levine. “I'm also excited by the candidates' enthusiastic support for improving biking and walking infrastructure. All of the candidates demonstrated that they hold nuanced positions on complex issues about Lafayette's future, and they clearly care deeply about listening to our community.”

Recordings of the forums can be found at the links listed below:

Chamber of Commerce forum:

<https://lafayettechamber.org/lafayette-city-council-meet-the-candidates/>

Inclusive Lafayette/Sustainable Lafayette forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEu2QDwmBwQ&fbclid=IwAR1KiBfVvpLJq9Ogen2yHBlad8QgZtCwDbsEOttbdMznuiNENqJzYfYuRt0Q>

LHC forum:

<https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/>

LWV forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfOEKjYivYo>

At long last, restoration of Moraga Adobe begins



Photo Sora O'Doherty

20th Century additions to the rear of the Moraga Adobe are being removed and discarded as J&J Ranch begins the promised restoration of the historic site.

... continued from Page A7

According to the MOU, the Friends needed to meet certain purchase goals, and each goal has been met on time. Thus far, \$135,000 of the total purchase price of \$500,000 has been paid. The final payment of \$365,000 is due next September. For a number of years, the Friends have had a major annual fundraiser, the Fandango, but the event had to be canceled this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, fundraising continues, including a paver purchase program available on the Friends website. The Friends are also committed to raising an additional half-million dollars as an endowment to provide for ongoing costs of

maintaining the Adobe.

Jeff Boero, FJMA Secretary, recently toured the works with architect and FJMA member James Wright. J&J Ranch is grading around the lot, removing some of the brush, and has also begun the deconstruction of the 1941 addition to the home, removing the wood frame additions put up by the Irvine family. According to Boero, the developers have been enormously cooperative in the effort to restore the Adobe and make it available for public access. J&J is working with preservation architect, Michael Garavaglia.

Boero is excited about artifact retrieval from the site, although the builder is now

grading with heavy equipment. Boero says that in 2009 developers commissioned a report they were asked to do as part of the planning approval process identify items of historical significance and interest.

According to Boero, the report concluded that there were more than likely additional items of interest to be found on the property. He has contacted Saint Mary's College's school of archaeology, and would love to get them involved to do further research in the correct fashion. Boero hopes that all finds will be curated and ultimately displayed at the adobe.



Re-Elect Cam Burks to the Lafayette City Council

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Rob Combi, Bill Fraser, Bill Freda, Chris Nichols, Kevin Reilly, Don Stanners, Peter Zolintakis

Lynn's Top Five After the fire

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

As I watch the unprecedented fire storms surrounding us in NorCal affecting us all, it seems fitting to write this column focusing on what to do in the event you or your loved ones experience loss during these times.

While I very sincerely hope this hasn't been anything you've had to experience, here are some practical steps you can take (and some you can initiate before a catastrophic event befalls you):

1) Call your insurance company and reach out to your insurance agents immediately when a loss is incurred. Have your policy numbers and copies of declaration pages detailing your coverages handy, if possible. You should put your insurance company and agents' phone numbers in your cell phone contacts. In the notes section you can put your policy numbers. They can also help you navigate federal and state resources, including FEMA and other organizations you should reach out to. However, be prepared to rely on your own resources and reserves until all of these other coverages are sorted out and available to you. And this historic moment should prompt all of us to upload as much of this information to a secure online vault as possible. Most financial planning firms have this valuable resource available to you as part of their services. Other documents such as tax returns, copies of drivers' licenses, passports, credit card information and estate planning documents should be current and uploaded as well.

2) Provide visual confirmation of what you owned before the loss. If you don't have that documentation, write detailed observations and descriptions of your property and possessions while they are still at the top of your mind. Download available pictures and videos of your property, especially any you have taken where you walked the property, described your home and unattached structures, opened all your cupboards and drawers and described contents. And by the way, this is a great project for your kids. They are bored to

bits at home, stressed out and looking for something interesting to do. Ask them to create a video with you while you discuss and describe your belongings and property.

3) Consider and determine all your rebuild or move options. If you are serious about rebuilding, waste no time in locating a team of architects and building engineers to get the journey started. These professionals will be invaluable to you. They will be able to address issues such as permits, hazardous waste removal, foundation challenges, and rebuilding to current code. You don't want to be in a long line of others going through this process if you can avoid it by reaching out and arranging professionals as soon as you can. As overwhelming as this will be, just moving forward and taking these actionable steps is a key component to recovery.

4) Whether you decide to rebuild or not, understand what having a mortgage means when you receive funding from your insurance company as you submit claims. It may surprise you to learn that the insurance company won't just write you a check for your loss – they need to work with your lender. Marina Devoulin of Marina Associates Insurance Agency in Santa Rosa tells me that because your home is collateral for your mortgage(s), thus checks are made out in the name of the insured AND the lender. "Insureds can then arrange or negotiate with the mortgagee to release funds as enough of the home (collateral) is rebuilt. All of this is entirely reasonable, otherwise, insureds could, ostensibly, walk away with the insurance proceeds and leave the lender with an empty lot! Alternatively, the insured can pay off the mortgagee (any way they want) and have complete, unfettered access to the policy proceeds."

5) Tax Planning issues will need to be considered and may be of benefit. Linda LaHonta, CPA, with her tax practice in Walnut Creek, told me that there are income tax laws to help us deal with catastrophic loss. "A casualty loss can result from the damage, destruction,

or loss of your property from any sudden, unexpected, or unusual event such as a flood, hurricane, tornado, fire, earthquake, or volcanic eruption. This loss is taken in the year that the loss occurs. Any insurance reimbursement must be considered when calculating a loss so all of this information might not be available at the time you must file your tax return. You can amend your return to include any loss calculation not previously reported. Furthermore, a casualty loss that is due to a federally declared disaster eligible for FEMA assistance can be taken in either the year that the loss occurs or the immediately preceding year. You can amend your return to take this in the prior year." She also recommends utilizing the robust IRS website: www.irs.gov under "News – Tax Relief Under Disaster Situations." Look into IRS publications 547, 584 and 2194 all of which address specific circumstances and guidelines. Additionally, the IRS Website "Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Businesses" provides data including any waiver or extension of filing and payment deadlines for those affected by Federally Declared Disasters. The California Franchise Tax Board follows federal guidelines with respect to these types of revised dead-



Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject(s) discussed. All information is derived from sources deemed to be reliable. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change.

lines.

As there are so many matters you will face in the event of a catastrophic loss, one of the very first calls you should place is to your valued Certified Financial Planner™ and team who are uniquely qualified to help you with the choices and actions you'll be facing, includ-

ing collaborating with your other professionals as you work through the myriad of issues and decisions that await. Let's use this historic moment to remind ourselves of some lessons that can be learned and take appropriate actions so that we can be prepared and sleep easier.

Lack of consensus on school reopening

... continued from Page A1

Three Del Rey kindergarten teachers, Kathy Simon, Scott Adams and Kelly Hones, wrote to the board with four requests: that the return date to school be postponed until Jan. 18, allowing students to return from the Thanksgiving and winter holidays and isolate for two weeks before coming into school; that temperature checks be administered by teachers before the start of class; that poorly ventilated classrooms be equipped with industrial grade air purifiers; and that safe and realistic systems for student interactions outside the classroom during drop-off, pickup, playtime and snack time, be established. Kristan Torres, Megan Cooperman, DeEtte Baise and Kendra Valentine, also Del Rey teachers, urged that a mid-January return to school be considered to allow teachers to prepare for the return to classrooms and provide time to complete November report cards.

Belinda Adams-Walker wrote to the board on behalf of 30 teachers and staff of Del Rey, Glorietta, and the teachers on special assignment and specialists. She began by saying that they wrote with heaviness in their hearts and tremendous anxiety, being extremely concerned about the decision to return to in-person learning. Return to school is not a matter for a vote of preference, they said, but rather a health emergency. "Our entire community must face the fact that COVID is still widespread and that returning to school at this time simply is not safe for the community, students, staff, or for family members of students and staff."

Board member Carol Brown wondered if there

should be another track to bring special education children back into special day classes, adding that she worries a lot about those children. Carrie Nerheim, Director of Student Services, responded that they have identified students to bring back first, and are working on all the pieces, such as PPE, sanitizing, and room configuration. "They won't start with a full day," she said. "We don't want to overwhelm them." She proposed starting with a 3.5- to 4-hour schedule.

Board member Liz Daoust spoke at length about the tremendous difficulty of facing the decision of returning children to school. "I can't really think of a time in my life when I have been so constantly conflicted by something; I feel sometimes I spend my whole world thinking about this and how we should move forward, and talking to people, reading research, talking to doctors. I wish that the path were more defined, but it's not and we have to accept that."

Although she believes that everyone is working hard to make choices that are safe, smart and responsive, she said, "It's really, really hard, it's scary, and we're all in it together."

Daoust spoke of her desperate wish to get kids back in school, including her three daughters, but concluded that she definitely has reservations and that the process feels rushed.

Carol Brown described this as "an extraordinarily painful and extraordinarily chaotic time." She noted, "We have to decide, and we cannot please everybody. We just need to move forward with thought and gratitude and compassion because what we are tasked with

is safety, wellbeing and learning of our children." She said she very much appreciated the tone of emails to the board expressing thankfulness and understanding.

The Moraga School District board meeting regarding school reopening was scheduled for Oct. 13, after press time. The Lafayette School District governing board is scheduled to meet on Oct. 14.



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Local high school district pressured to return students to the classroom

By Sophie Braccini

As Contra Costa COVID-19 metrics improved, school districts were allowed to re-open schools to students as early as Oct. 13. But, according to the Acalanes Union High School District's staff, the transition could not be immediately implemented and would require additional weeks of planning.

The district's hybrid model that invites half of the students at a time on campus, was proposed for implementation at the beginning of the second semester, starting Jan. 5, 2021. However, parents, students and some board members want to bring the kids back to school sooner. They claim that the lack of live interaction among peers and with teachers is taking an unacceptable toll on the well-being of the students.

Contra Costa health officials published COVID figures showing improvement throughout the county, and in particular in the Lamorinda/Walnut Creek area. AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson explained at the Oct. 7 meeting that stable cohorts of 14 students are now the safe option to teach in-person on campus. He noted that creating stable cohorts of 14 students is easier for elementary schools, but more complex when students have different electives, and different levels in the core subjects.

Due to this, Aida Glimme, the AUHSD curriculum and

instruction associate superintendent, suggested to the board to phase in the return to campus, with no full implementation of the hybrid model until Jan. 5, noting that they first need to get parents' commitment on whether or not their child will return to school, and negotiate with teachers and obtain an accurate figure of who will come back, including those with medical issues who will not be able to teach in-person.

Board members Dr. Chris Severson and Preston Nibley, the student representative, made a powerful argument for a students' return to school as soon as possible. Nibley read poignant testimonies from the hundreds of comments the district received about returning to school. Nibley said that he had been shocked to realize how much his peers were distraught by the loneliness created by distance learning, how their motivation had collapsed, and by how many times he read the word depression.

Severson, who works with COVID patients, stated that the times are full of uncertainties and fears, but that with proper anticipation and preparation people can be kept safe. He asked for a return to school as early as possible. Warren Heffelfinger, an AUHSD parent, said that students were suffering and parents were outraged with the delays imposed by the district for returning to in-person teaching.

Board member Kristin Connelly suggested a strategy to come back faster that is being used in some Southern California districts where two groups of students, one in school and one online, are taught simultaneously by one teacher. Glimme said that staff had contacted such districts and that the results had been catastrophic as the teachers are not viewed properly and cannot interact normally with either group. Staff will nonetheless revisit that possibility.

Glimme acknowledged that the grades this quarter have dropped and that more students are receiving grades below C than ever before. Glimme is herself a mother of students wanting to go back to school, but she maintained that a period of planning was unavoidable. She believes that if the move to hybrid was made now, the disruption would be greater than any benefits.

In the coming weeks students will be invited to come back to campus for after-school academic and social-emotional support, Academy, and will be offered quiet learning spaces on campus with access to technology and support. Severson, and the other board members asked that more activities be offered to students on campus in the coming weeks. Parents will receive a survey asking their position on the return of their student(s) to in-person instruction. The next board meeting will be on Oct. 21.

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Saint Mary's Visiting Writers offer community lecture



Marie Mutsuki Mockett

Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Every year the Saint Mary's College Master of Fine Art in Creative Writing invites visiting writers to mentor master students and give lessons on campus. Some of these craft lectures and readings are open to the community, online, during the school year, such as author Marie Mutsuki Mockett, who will discuss a very timely topic on Zoom at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11: How to write about disaster.

The visiting professor is a local author born to an American father and a Japanese mother. Writing is her profession, whether through teaching or writing books. Mockett's first bestseller was the memoir "Where the Dead Pause, The Japanese Say Goodbye: A Journey" where she examines how the Japanese cope with grief and tragedy, and is set against the backdrop of the 2011 disastrous earthquake and the tsunami that ensued; Mockett's family temple is located 25

miles from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The memoir was a finalist for the 2016 PEN Open Book Award, Indies Choice Best Book for Nonfiction and the Northern California Book Award for Creative Nonfiction.

The topic of Mockett's lecture at Saint Mary's was proposed in 2019, before the time of COVID and devastating wildfires. She explains that writing fiction and non-fiction alike in times of disaster is a way to not only process the emotions that arise, but also to get a better grip on reality. For her when she was confronted with the Fukushima catastrophe and its impact on her family, telling her story was what allowed her to comprehend the new reality she was finding herself in, to heighten her awareness, and to move on to live life in a different way.

Her new book, "American Harvest," is set in seven agricultural and heartland states. It was a finalist for the Lukas Prize for Nonfiction.

Krista Varela Posell who works for and is a graduate of the MFA program adds that the lecture will also focus on examples of disaster writing, and what the writer's responsibility is in his or her work during times of disaster.

The lecture is part of the two-year MFA program that Saint Mary's has offered to budding authors for more than 15 years. The program continues this year, running at almost full capacity, a maximum of 48 students, in spite of the fact that all classes are online. Posell says that the program includes a wide variety of students aged 20 to 70 who form cohorts that become lifelong small communities of writers supporting each other. Some end up teaching, others writing full time, or, like herself, managing university programs.

The creative writing MFA will not admit new students until the fall of 2021. More information about the lecture can be found at www.stmarys-ca.edu/creative-writing-reading-series-with-marie-mockett

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Comfort food for cooler fall days



Photo Susie Iventosch

Turkey or Pork Tenderloin with roasted cabbage, onions, apples and sage

By Susie Iventosch

This dish says “autumn”! Turkey or pork tenderloin roasted with apples, cabbage and onions is comfort food for cooler fall days. A touch of sage and country Dijon complement the sweet nature of the roasted apples and veggies. As I was pouring the extra sauce over the tenderloin, I couldn’t help but think what

a fantastic soup base it would be. If you want to double the marinade, cook it with tenderloin you’ll have a great start on your next soup project.

Even though I used both red and green cabbage, (for the additional color) I recommend using only the green cabbage. The red cabbage didn’t really go with the other flavors as well as the green cabbage did. It’s funny, be-

cause I make salads all the time with both red and green cabbage, and I love them together, but once cooked, the

red cabbage is not as sweet as the green in my opinion. If you want to add a little more color to the dish, you could

use half red and half yellow onions.

Turkey or Pork Tenderloin with roasted cabbage, onions, apples and sage

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

Meat and Veggies:

2 lbs. turkey or pork tenderloin

2 tablespoons country Dijon mustard (to spread on tenderloin)

2 large Honeycrisp apples (or similar), cored and sliced, but leaves skins on

2 medium yellow onions, cut into wedges

1/4 head green cabbage, cut into thin wedges

Marinade:

1/4 cup olive oil

2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

1/4 cup dry white wine (or dry sherry)

1 tablespoons coarse-grain, country Dijon

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon black pepper

2-4 leaves fresh sage, snipped into small bits

Garnish:

6 sprigs fresh sage

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray a roasting pan or casserole dish with cooking spray.

Place onions, apples and cabbage in the prepared pan and toss with 2-3 tablespoons of the marinade. Place tenderloin in the center of the dish and spread 1-2 tablespoons country Dijon over the top. Drizzle remaining marinade over tenderloin and veggies, to use all of the marinade.

Bake for approximately 45 minutes, or until meat thermometer reads 140-145 F for pork and 165 F for turkey.

Slice tenderloin and serve alongside roasted produce. Drizzle baking juices over the top of everything.

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>



Assessing the financial stability of colleges

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

COVID-19 related stresses are likely to hit hardest those institutions that were already weakened by existing market challenges, such as fewer state revenues earmarked for education and less affluent student populations seeking a college education. The good news is that upwards of 80% of U.S. colleges will not close their doors; but many are going through budget cuts and adjustments. For example, the transition to online learning is not easy or inexpensive.

It pays to do your research into the financial health of schools when putting together a well-matched college list. Since a college’s website is designed primarily as a marketing tool to recruit you, they are unlikely to tell you about their

financial woes. Instead, ask colleges direct questions and ask for the documentation that backs up the responses – ‘trust, but verify’ as the saying goes.

Many researchers are working hard to develop tools to evaluate college fiscal health. Dr. Scott Galloway, a professor at NYU, developed his own methodology to show how colleges have been impacted by the pandemic. He assigned each school a rating of ‘Struggle, Perish, Survive or Thrive’. For those of you who do not want to pour over spreadsheets and tables, some of his basic findings were not surprising. Smaller schools, those with fewer than 1,000 students, less selective schools, those that admit greater than 80% of applicants, and very rural colleges are the most likely to perish or at least struggle.

Last year, Forbes introduced a methodology with nine criteria and gave each school a grade. One of the nine measures that is both easy to understand and find is admission yield, the percentage of accepted students who decide to enroll. The higher the yield, the more likely the school will continue to fill a freshman class for years to come. The more selective colleges have very high yields.

Other easy to find and valuable indicators of a college’s fiscal viability and educational value include retention rate, the number of students who return as sophomores, and the 4-year graduation rate. I like to see at least a 90% retention rate and at least a 65% graduation rate.

Given most colleges will stay open, at least for the foreseeable future, the budget cuts and readjustments are of

greater concern. I like to enter the college’s name in a search engine to check out state and local media coverage. Take note if a school is experiencing an operating deficit or announces that it is cutting faculty, graduate student stipends or eliminating programs and majors. Are they cutting the major you plan to select or a program of special appeal to you? I recommend going back to the basics – create a college list that is an academic, social and financial fit. Ask does a school offer sustained evidence of strength in your major(s) of interest, can you imagine making friends with the students who attend, does the location appeal to you and can you afford the college? Addressing these basics, along with the added research into financial viability will keep you on track for college success.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She helps students choose majors and programs of interest, develops best match college lists, offers personalized essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds to maximize scholarship opportunities and financial aid awards. Call (925) 385-0562 or visit Elizabeth at her website (www.doingcollege.com) to learn more.

Rise in cyberbullying among adolescents during COVID-19



BigStock images

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga town council recently declared October to be Bullying Prevention and Moraga iKind Project Month. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has been the catalyst for a 70% increase in cyberbullying during shelter-in-place orders, according to Verywell Family, a website that provides infor-

mation gathered from health professionals.

For many children and teens their contact with each other over the past seven months has largely been done virtually. Accustomed to a regimen of online classes, they continue to remain on the internet to socialize with the outside world. A 2019 study from the Cyberbullying Re-

search Center found that students who are idle or bored spend an hour or more online.

Licensed marriage and family therapist, Margie Ryerson, (www.margiererson.com), who is also a Lamorinda Weekly contributing writer states, “Parents should be aware that every form of social media provides potential access to cyberbullies. Some common social media sites where bullying occurs are: Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Ask.fm, Kik, WhatsApp and Pinterest.”

A major crisis, such as a global pandemic, creates stress, confusion, anxiety and depression in adults as well as children. Over a prolonged period of time it can lead to misunderstandings, acting out or lashing out at others and risk-taking behavior. Ryerson lists a number of triggers that can lead to cyber bullying as: the need for power and con-

trol; retaliation for pain they’ve experience from others (revenge); boredom; lack of empathy toward others; relationship problems with family/friends; the need to elevate their self-esteem; and its addictive nature which provides a temporary lift and protection in that it’s anonymous.

According to the Alameda Police Department, it is important for parents to take an active part in what their children are doing online. Approve every app on your child’s phone and stay up-to-date with popular apps for teens. Have an open dialog with children about appropriate phone, app and social media usage. Also, remind them that once “send” is clicked there is no way to take it back.

“Parents can be more restrictive in light of the higher incidence of cyberbullying,” Ryerson says. “While it’s important for parents to have

discussions about cyberbullying and what their children can do, teens won’t necessarily share with parents when they are receiving harmful, nasty comments. Besides limiting use of screens for social media purposes, parents can encourage texts, FaceTime and phone exchanges for their children so that communication is personal and safe.” Ryerson also suggests that parents can visit Google’s Family Link for computer use and Apple’s Screen Time and Family Sharing links for iPhone.

Probably one of the easiest methods for parents to monitor a portion of their child’s social media activity is to have them hand over their devices at a predetermined time each evening. This not only helps to limit online usage, it is an opportunity for everyone to get a good night’s sleep.

Cycle Recycle donation drive begins again



Photo courtesy Waterside Workshops

Submitted by Bobbie Preston

For the 23rd year, Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups. To date, over 3,600 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School’s Earn-A-Bike program, The Bike Charity Institute of Alamo, Keeping our Promise, which supports Afghan immigrants that served the U.S. government in Afghanistan, Waterside Workshops in Berkeley, and the Lake Merritt Community Cabins.

Waterside Workshops, new

recipients of the Cycle Recycle, provide job training, wrap-around support, and outdoor recreation for over 250 low income and disconnected youth from across the East Bay each year. In addition, its bicycle mechanics and bicycle reuse program teach youth interns professional bike repair, sales and customer service, refurbishing used bicycles, which are redistributed back to the community as affordable, sustainable transportation. Once fixed up, bikes are distributed through its earn-a-bike program for low-income teenagers, through partner organizations that serve low-income youth and adults, or are sold in its used bicycle shop to generate funds for the free community programs. Each year, Waterside Workshops refurbish, reuse, or recycle over 1,500 unwanted bicycles.

Lake Merritt Community Cabins is a transitional housing site for previously homeless adult men and women, as permanent housing is arranged for them. Bicycles will allow them to get to job sites inaccessible by public transportation.

New and/or used adult or children’s bikes – in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston’s home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga from Oct. 17 through the month of November only. No skateboards, trike, or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

Moraga Rotary fundraiser and e-waste collection success



Photos provided

Campolindo Interact Club members and Troop 246 Boy Scouts help hand out meal orders at “Dinner with Rotary” at La Finestra restaurant in Moraga. From left: Interactor Katelyn Shipman, Scouts Nitin Ravikumar, Aiden Goldstein, Sam Storrs and Jack Elder.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

La Finestra restaurant in the Moraga Shopping Center, owned by Rotarian Jeff Assadi, produced delicious hot spaghetti, meatballs, and tossed salad dinners for more than 285 happy local citizens Sept. 24 for “Dinner with Rotary,” which was organized and promoted by Moraga Rotary Club. Several Moraga Rotarians were handing out the orders in a socially distanced way, and were assisted by members of the Campolindo Interact Club and Boy Scout Troop 246, both sponsored by Moraga Rotary. Rather than cooking their own dinner that night, the firefighters at the MOFD Rheem fire station on Moraga Road enjoyed their “Dinner with Rotary.”

Moraga Rotary President Brian South was very happy with the large community support of the dinner, and patrons were pleased with the quality of the food and value offered. Some comments included: “Tonight’s dinner was amazing. ... our dinner was delicious ... a good food deal at a fair price ... nice to see Boy Scouts and kids helping out with the orders ... Job well done.” South said that a similar event in mid-November is being planned, and that reservation details will be posted at moragarotary.org soon.

Funds raised by this event will largely be used to continue to support school safety projects, including security cameras at local schools. The security camera project was initially funded by donations at “A Nite at the Races,” the Moraga Rotary dinner/party/fundraiser held in early March. Installation of security cameras at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School has already started. In 2019, Moraga Rotary also raised \$12,000 toward the purchase of radio communication devices for all teachers in MSD, which have all been distributed.

Moraga Rotary also conducted its 22nd semiannual e-waste/document shredding collection in late September at the Moraga Shopping Center. The chairman and original organizer of the event, Rotarian Rich Render, said, “Yesterday will probably turn out to be the most successful event we ever

had. Lines of cars forever. Had to cut them off at 4:10 p.m. The contractor had to make three truck trips back to his warehouse because we had so much.” Rotarians were assisted by Boy Scouts from Troop 246. Render is planning another e-waste/document shredding collection in the spring 2021, and he thanked the Bruzzone family, owners of the Moraga Shopping Center, for supporting and publicizing this collection fundraiser service project. All the material was safely disposed of according to California requirements by the licensed contractor that Rotary has used since inception of the project in 2009.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the five Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on most Tuesdays online via Zoom due to the pandemic. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate their worthy causes, please visit the website at moragarotary.org, or call Brian South, President, at (925) 888-7052.



Rotarian Roger Gregory takes a break at the 22nd e-waste collection conducted by Moraga Rotary.



Moraga Rotary President Brian South (center) with Rotarians Rich Render (left) and Debbie Roessler (right) at “Dinner with Rotary.”

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.

The Peter Pan Foundation hopes to keep the magic and music alive



Photo provided

Peter Pan Foundation members gather for a celebration prior to the pandemic.

Submitted by Gina Campo

The Peter Pan Foundation, a Lafayette nonprofit since 2007, has been finding creative solutions to continue sharing their hearts and talents with the communities who need them most. While its regular in-person visits to UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, in-home wish reveals for Make-A-Wish kids and numerous other philanthropic and community service activities have been halted, they continue spreading their love and light by making performance videos, virtual visits and creating online activities.

Sadly, the organization has been hit especially hard by the pandemic. It has not been able to generate any revenue that funds its service endeavors

and covers fixed operating expenses. The organization relies on two big stage musical theatre productions and donations throughout the year for income and was required to cancel all 2020 scheduled productions.

It is at risk of losing its home building on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and has kicked off a Save Our Home campaign in the hopes of raising the funds needed to keep the foundation going. Their goal is to raise \$75,000 by the end of the year.

“The PPF home is a place where I feel safe, accepted and truly happy,” said Zac Faber, 15 of Lafayette. “It’s a place where I can make a difference in my community and the world.”

Donations can be made at www.peterpanfoundation.org

Lafayette Troop 224 Scouts are staying healthy while having fun



Photo provided

Submitted by Chan Whiting

During the pandemic, the Scouts of Troop 224 are living up to their mantra, “Be prepared!” With creativity, the Troop continues to be active, achieving rank advancements, earning merit badges and celebrating these achievements virtually. While many in-person activities have had to be canceled, the Troop chose to test their mettle with a challenging 50-mile backpacking trip through the beauty of Lake Tahoe’s Desolation Wilderness, using strict social distancing measures and COVID-19 testing prior to departure.

All scouts carried their own 30-plus pound packs, with tent, sleeping bag, food and 10 essential survival items for the adventure. Younger Scouts joined for a shorter version, fishing in the lakes and using their rope tying skills to build temporary structures along the way. Despite social distancing, camaraderie and enthusiasm were high.

“It was hard but super rewarding,” related Khozema Shipchandler, who attended along with his son, Juzer. “Beautiful scenery, rewarding journey ... great group of boys and girls. The food was fantastic! And we

learned how to keep it away from bears!” Zac Robb, senior Scout, echoed similar sentiments: “Amazing views as we climbed to the top of the passes, where you could see plenty of lakes and beautiful wildlife,” and, “Hikes were long and hard but it was a great experience that I would gladly do again.”

Troop 224 welcomes both boys and girls. Although girls officially have their own troop and leadership, the girls and boys troops, 224B and 224G, are linked and do many activities together. The Troops are committed to using a combination of virtual platforms and/or social distancing to keep everyone safe during this global pandemic, while continuing to provide a healthy and stimulating set of activities, building character and having them be prepared for life.

Troop 224 was established in 1953 and meets at the Hut (behind Happy Valley Elementary School’s gymnasium). It will hold a virtual open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 16. A Fishing event at Heather Farms is planned for late November. Contact Troop 224 for information on these events or to join the Troop (struchenadams123@gmail.com, <https://www.troop224lafayette.com/>).

Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new art exhibit, "Spaces, Inside and Out" which will run from Oct. 16 – Dec. 24. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Starting in November it will be open Thursday thru Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. There will be a virtual Open House on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to meet the featured artists and ask them questions about their art. Find the link to join the Open House reception on the Moraga Art Gallery website: <https://moragaartgallery.com>.

Valley Art Gallery announces a new show featuring Catherine Fasciato – oils, and Nancy Meaden – ceramics which will run through Nov. 7. Meet the artists Saturday, Oct. 3 from noon to 5 p.m.. Valley Art Gallery 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek www.valleyartgallery.org, (925) 935-4311 or valleyartgallery@gmail.com

Call for Writers, Artists & Art Lovers! You are invited to participate in the LAC's virtual Art Embraces Words webinar. It is scheduled via Zoom from 2 to 3:30 pm. Oct. 18. Emerging writers read from their work at 10 minute intervals interspersed with visual artwork from local artists. Participating artists will be introduced and answer questions about their work.

Portions of the event will be recorded and uploaded to social media. In this way art still 'embraces' the words. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/> to sign up as an Audience member or apply to participate as a writer or an artist. Final AEW Zoom webinar program is scheduled on Nov. 15.

THEATER

Shotgun Players presents "Citizen Brain" Oct. 16-17, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. both days; Oct. 18 at 5 p.m.; Oct. 23-24 at 7 p.m. both days; Oct. 25 at 5 p.m.; Oct. 30-31 at 7 p.m. both days; Nov. 1 at 5 p.m.; Nov. 6 - 7 at 7 p.m. both days; Nov. 8 at 5 p.m., on Zoom, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Berkeley's favorite intellectual comedian and provocateur is back with an all new show! Cost: \$0-\$40. For more info see <https://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/citizen-brain> or call 510-841-6500 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) return in October with a new Zoom Murder Mystery fundraising event. Kelly Hansen stars as one of the suspects, Medisa Oggorn, in Halloween Haunts, Jaunts and Murder. For more information or to make reservations, visit www.orsvp.org or email info@orsvp.org.

As Saint Mary's celebrates 50 years of women students, the Performing Arts Theatre Program proudly presents Clare Barron's "Dance Nation," a fierce, funny new play about girlhood, ambition and desire. Guest Artist Daniel Larlham directs the production, which will be livestreamed from the LeFevre Theatre stage Oct. 22 - 24, at 8 p.m. E-tickets: Purchase tickets online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/dancenation at least 30 minutes prior to performance. \$8 SMC students; \$12 SMC faculty and staff, non-SMC students; \$15 general.

Literature

November events at Orinda Books. Monday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. via ZOOM: Jess Walter, the best-selling author of Beautiful Ruins, will introduce his new novel, "The Cold Millions." This event is in partnership with the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation Distinguished Speaker Series. Buy the book in store, online (info@orindabooks.com) or by phone - 925-254-7606. After purchase, you'll receive a link to the Zoom event. November Artist of the Month at Orinda Books: Juanita Hagberg – enjoy her contemporary abstract and plein air impressions on our gallery wall in November.

Saint Mary's College School of Liberal Arts presents Viet Thanh Nguyen: Race and Our Moment of Crisis. Wed., Oct.28,

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. location: online. Race and Our Moment of Crisis: 45 Years After the Viet Nam War. A virtual talk and question and answer session with Pulitzer Prize winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen, MacArthur Genius, Guggenheim Fellow, and now the first Asian American to join the Pulitzer Board. Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen's novel "The Sympathizer" is a New York Times best seller and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Register at www.stmarys-ca.edu/viet-thanh-nguyen-talk-and-qa

Prayer Garden open to all for quiet meditation at Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. Everyone seeking a better sense of peace will find a welcoming haven in a lovely outdoor setting. Pray, read, meditate. Books and periodicals with a spiritual perspective on current issues are free to all. Attendant on site from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but all are welcome any time during daylight hours.

Other

Lafayette Physical Therapy is hosting a free Community Health Day on Nov. 11 (by appointment). We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways and it is putting a strain on our health. LPT is offering a day of Complimentary Consultation appointments on Nov. 11. Make

Not to be missed

an appointment to meet with a licensed physical therapist to discuss your concerns and see if physical therapy and/or deep tissue laser therapy is a good option for you. Free deep tissue laser therapy demos available during the appointment. Call (925) 284-6150 to book your complimentary consultation. Lafayette Physical Therapy, Inc. 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette.

Las Trampas Campus Virtual Tour. Monthly tours show visitors the progress on the building project and introduce them to the various members of the team who are making the dream of our participants a reality. Our next tour will be on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. Contact Sandra Cockrell at scockrell@lastrampas.org or 925-310-2362.

Free help with medicare plan changes for 2021. HICAP is a program of Contra Costa County Aging and Adult Services. HICAP is here to help you to figure out how these changes affect your coverage in 2021, so that you can make informed decisions.

Visit www.cchicap.org for information on how to register for FREE one-on-one counseling, online talks, and updated Medicare plan information, or call (925) 602-4163.

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ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
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Please submit events:
calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Brady Aiello: From Acalanes to Oregon ... to the NFL



Brady Aiello

By Jon Kingdon

Transitioning to college from high school is hard enough. It becomes that much more onerous when you opt to play on a football team as well. It becomes exponentially more difficult when you are competing at a Division I school. Brady Aiello, an Acalanes graduate, took on the academic and athletic challenges head on by attending and graduating from the University of Oregon. Though not drafted in the NFL, Brady Aiello has already been through two team's training camps and is currently trying out with various NFL teams.

Aiello grew up in Lafayette swimming, playing football, basketball and baseball. His first exposure to football was playing in the MOL flag football league. As a freshman at Acalanes, he moved to his ultimate position of offensive tackle, though he took a hiatus from football his sophomore year: "I wanted to focus more on swimming at the time so football took a back seat until I was convinced by Coach Mike Ivankovich to come back out for football."

High school football prospects are rated from one to five stars. After sitting out his sophomore season, Aiello was starting from scratch,

Ivankovich said: "He did not have any stars in the beginning so he was behind in the recruiting game, but the tools were there. A legitimate prospect needs three elements: height/weight/speed, playing ability and the academics. Brady had the profile and the academics along with the intangibles. He is a great athlete, articulate, intelligent, super loyal to his teammates and was very humble."

Ivankovich, who is currently teaching and coaching at Las Lomas High School, saw potential in Aiello that he did not see in himself: "I sat down with Brady and his parents before his junior year. I told them that he could become a Division I football player. I don't think that he had really considered that, though he really had the size, athleticism, intelligence, and intensity to play at that level. I told him that if he were willing to go all in on trying to do it then I would go all in on with him. He worked really hard for me and my defensive coordinator Michael Ross-Nathans and we worked on things that I knew that recruiters would want to see."

At the conclusion of his senior year, Aiello had developed into a four-star prospect having earned MaxPreps Division III first-team all-state honors as well as All-West Region recognition by PrepStar. It was not the recognition that Aiello found most satisfying about playing at Acalanes: "Even though we did not win any championships at Acalanes, the overall experience was the best takeaway. It was like Friday night lights, playing with my friends and it was always fun competing against Campolindo."

The recruiting process was a family experience for Aiello: "My father (Brian)

would drive me to all of the camps and other football events and my mom (Jennifer) played a huge factor in the whole recruiting scheme. She would send mail to all the coaches and direct message them on social media. Without Coach Ivankovich convincing me that I could play Division I football, none of this would have ever happened."

Aiello always had the height – maxing out at 6'7" – but putting on the weight was another story. From his junior year in high school, he went from 235 to 265 to 285 to 295 and finally to 315 pounds his senior year at Oregon. He did everything the right way, Ivankovich said: "He was a healthy eater and did it the right way. He didn't just eat lots of food or force down supplements. Brady ate healthy and trained intelligently. He also ran 4.8 in the 40-yard dash his senior year at Acalanes."

Yet, it took time for Aiello's name to come to the attention of the Division I schools: "After my junior year, there were a number of camps that I went to, like the NIKE NFTC camp, the Rivals Yahoo camp and a Washington State satellite camp in the East Bay. A couple of weeks later, I was offered a football scholarship by Washington State and once the word got out that they had offered me a scholarship, the word spread and it seemed like every single day another coach would come by to visit with me at school."

It became Ivankovich's job to keep things under control for Aiello: "As a senior, it was just a flood with the recruiters for Brady. Every day there would be two or three guys lined up to meet with him. When he made a re-



Photos GoDucks.com/Eric Evans Photography

cruting visit to Oregon, they made the whole production to make him feel welcome, offered him a scholarship and he soon made the commitment to attend Oregon. After committing to Oregon, he shut it down, not taking trips or engaging with other schools. He was very true to Oregon."

There were three things about Oregon that most appealed to Aiello: geography, facilities and academics. "Oregon had just come off a national championship and that was a strong factor," he said. "I liked being able to get out of California and check out a whole new state and not be so far away where I could not see my family a lot. It was just a seven-hour drive from Lafayette and my parents were able to come up to every single home game that I played."

It was hard to look past the athletic facilities at the University of Oregon, much of which has been funded by Phil Knight and Nike: "When I went up to their summer camp, I was able to check out the campus and the facilities and it definitely blew me away," Aiello said. "Oregon has set the bar for every

school regarding facilities. For example, the weight room has hard wood floors, using wood that has only a 4% acceptance rate. It was all first class."

Aiello was redshirted (sitting out the season but maintaining his athletic eligibility) as a freshman which helped in the adjustment to college: "At first it was a challenge to have to do everything on your own and then balancing it with football. It was all new to me, but I soon got into the swing of things. The whole transition of doing everything on your own and the schedule is a lot more complex when you get to college and play football, which is a complete job in and of itself. Not playing in the games did decrease the stress level my first year in college. Oregon had great academics and a beautiful campus, and I had a great time studying business."

Aiello graduated in four years with a degree in General Business. Aiello showed up well prepared for the academic rigors of college: "Acalanes really prepared me; it's a great school academically and I never felt behind the eight ball in college."

... continued on Page C2

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Brady Aiello – From Acalanes to Oregon ... to the NFL

... continued from Page C1

It was a big adjustment to play for Oregon, but Coach Ivankovich really prepared me to play at that level. Technique wise, I was definitely ready.”

In his four years at Oregon, Aiello played in three bowl games: the Las Vegas Bowl, the Redbox Bowl and as a senior, the Rose Bowl, defeating Wisconsin 28-27.

Aiello would start at four different positions for the Ducks:

left and right tackle, right guard, and even tight end (catching a touchdown pass). Another highlight for Aiello was having the Ducks come in second for the Joe Moore Award which goes to the best offensive line unit in the country. Winning the Rose Bowl and defeating the 11th ranked University of Utah in Salt Lake were also memorable moments for Aiello.

The National Football League is Aiello’s next challenge.

Having originally signed with the Minnesota Vikings, Aiello has spent time with the Cleveland Browns and has had tryouts with the Washington Redskins and the New Orleans Saints. As with everything else, the NFL pays more than lip service to the coronavirus. Teams used to fly players into their city, work them out and either sign them or send them home, but it’s a far more extended process these days, according to Aiello:

“I’m now in New Orleans for a tryout. They have put me up in a hotel and I’m not allowed to go anywhere for three days, getting a COVID test each day before I am allowed to show up at their facility.”

At some point, Aiello is anticipating a career in medical sales having made connections through Oregon that he anticipates will help him throughout his career.

From Acalanes through Oregon, it’s been years of

growth for Aiello: “I’m a much more mature person. I did not have to work that hard for things prior to college, but going through college and college football, it taught me the meaning of hard work and dedication and having discipline and not straying away from anything. I learned the values of hard work and discipline. You are the only one that is responsible for the rest of your life.”

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 14, 2020



The Real Estate Quarter in Review ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Sheltering with Mother Nature

By Cynthia Brian



Eat apples right from the tree.

Photos Cynthia Brian

“Too blessed to be stressed!” ~ Bumper sticker

Are you feeling more in touch with Mother Earth as we near the beginning of eight months of stay-at-home mandates because of Covid-19? Or are you feeling antsy, stressed, and out-of-sorts? Retreating to our landscapes was initially a salve to the pain of the coronavirus, social unrest, and political nastiness as we encountered improved air quality, quieter skies, and increased bird activity. Then the California fires arrived bringing choking smoke, scorching heat, and black ash. An additional layer of frazzle to our daily lives multiplied because we were unable to spend time in our gardens or outdoors for any reason.

In normal times, I work in the garden daily. It is an extension of my home, a serene, yet wild place where I am most creative and 100% myself. Every morning I walk through my property, a mug of java in hand, giving thanks for the beauty, solitude, and bounty of my magical oasis. Getting my hands in the dirt soothes my soul. I lose track of time as I weed, prune, trim, fertilize, water, and bite into a crunchy apple straight off the tree. I come up with the best ideas for

my books, columns, radio shows and lectures. Before they float away with the wind, I race to write my thoughts down.

As a fire prevention strategy, I have been clearing the brush and understory plants from my creeks when the air permits. If you live near open space, hills or creeks, make sure to take time to remove dead trees, limbs and brush as we have at least another month of fire season. Leave a couple of small brush piles as habitat for owls. Owls dine on a smorgasbord of voles, mice, rats, and other rodents that wreak havoc in the garden. A family of owls can devour several thousand rodents during the nesting season with the young eating as many as four per night. Add a nesting box 15 feet off the ground to a branch of an older tree. When you invite owls into your landscape, you won't have to use harmful poisons, plus their hooting sound is calming.

Since sheltering in Mother Nature has been impossible these past two months, I find myself exhausted, jittery, tense, and concerned for the future of our country and our planet. For me, this means getting creative about the sensory experience that being outdoors provides and bringing those familiar feelings and scents indoors. If we can't be 'in' Mother Nature, let's shelter 'with' Mother Nature.

Here are some things you can do to relieve stress, feel energized, and rebalanced:

1. **TAP** into the sounds of nature on your favorite radio network. Listening to the trickling of a creek, the rushing of a river, or the pounding of ocean waves is relaxing.

... continued on Page D18



Pick beets and radishes as needed.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	50	\$190,000	\$5,850,000
MORAGA	16	\$420,000	\$3,365,000
ORINDA	22	\$790,000	\$3,000,000

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

- 3205 Andreasen Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3205 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,437,000, 03-17-15
- 3495 Black Hawk Road, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2731 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,401,000, 12-12-14
- 608 Burton Drive, \$2,405,000, 4 Bdrms, 3097 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 04-02-16
- 972 Carol Lane, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1861 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$710,000, 11-05-03
- 21 Chapel Drive, \$190,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 02-02-18
- 2460 Cherry Hills Drive, \$1,177,500, 4 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-31-20,
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 06-17-16
- 916 Colina Court, \$869,000, 2 Bdrms, 813 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-02-20,
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 09-18-09
- 3116 Del Oceano Drive, \$1,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-17-20
- 1305 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-21-20,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 07-11-17
- 648 Glenside Drive, \$3,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 5716 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 08-31-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,600,000, 08-16-17
- 3644 Happy Valley Road #A, \$2,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 3405 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,984,000, 08-05-13
- 3838 Happy Valley Road, \$3,071,500, 4 Bdrms, 3065 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 08-26-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,587,000, 09-04-14
- 4015 Happy Valley Road, \$4,510,000, 5 Bdrms, 6011 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 08-26-20,
Previous Sale: \$4,495,000, 06-28-20
- 614 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-26-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,128,000, 06-08-12
- 10 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 09-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 05-29-13
- 20 Jennifer Highlands Court, \$1,607,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 08-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 07-24-18
- 3357 Kincheloe Court, \$5,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 5352 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 08-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,912,500, 04-04-02
- 3186 Kingsley Place, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,600,500, 06-16-05
- 703 Las Trampas Road, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 07-13-00
- 1055 Lorinda Lane, \$2,706,500, 4 Bdrms, 4094 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 08-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 07-25-07
- 750 Los Palos Drive, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 3682 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 09-01-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 06-30-14
- 3226 Lucas Circle, \$1,845,000, 4 Bdrms, 2297 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,487,500, 02-24-16
- 3261 Marlene Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 09-04-20,
Previous Sale: \$590,000, 03-18-16

... continued on Page D4



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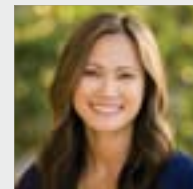
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236 Calle La Montana	Moraga	\$1,550,000	Rep. Seller
3 Corte Bombero	Orinda	\$1,200,000	Rep. Buyer
1069 Via Alta	Lafayette	\$2,130,000	Rep. Buyer
72 Corte Yolanda	Moraga	\$1,650,000	Rep. Seller
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... continued from Page D2

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- 506 Mcbride Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2253 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,189,000, 10-22-19
- 1119 Oak Hill Road, \$1,685,000, 4 Bdrms, 2531 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,176,000, 07-08-16
- 1161 Oleander Drive, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1011 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$220,000, 06-01-86
- 1094 Orchard Road, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1494 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-28-20
- 1261 Panorama Drive, \$2,861,000, 5 Bdrms, 5497 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,855,000, 10-10-19
- 1188 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2007 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 09-04-20,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 08-04-10
- 3600 Powell Drive, \$2,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 3513 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 08-31-20
- 934 Raintree Place, \$1,808,000, 4 Bdrms, 2715 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 09-04-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 06-03-16
- 1514 Rancho View Drive, \$1,740,000, 3 Bdrms, 2942 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 08-28-20
- 1845 Reliez Valley Road #A, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1870 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-25-20
- 1750 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2804 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$905,000, 03-25-09
- 1985 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3078 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-01-20
- 1261 Rose Lane, \$3,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4945 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 08-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,535,000, 12-21-18
- 3541 South Silver Springs Road, \$3,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3414 SqFt,
1956 YrBlt, 08-19-20, Previous Sale: \$152,500, 11-01-78
- 1624 Silver Dell Road, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2578 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-01-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 12-23-19
- 1037 Silverhill Drive, \$1,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 2963 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-19-20,
Previous Sale: \$135,000, 03-01-87
- 16 Silverhill Way, \$1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3473 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 09-04-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 04-18-12
- 631 Sky Hy Court, \$2,141,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 08-20-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,626,000, 12-16-14
- 3216 Sharon Court, \$1,620,000, 3 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 03-25-13
- 51 Silverwood Drive, \$2,337,000, 4 Bdrms, 3376 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 09-13-12
- 27 Southampton Place, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2924 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-25-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,394,000, 08-08-17
- 3540 Springhill Road, \$3,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3920 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 08-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$4,500,000, 08-07-17
- 1019 Sunnybrook Drive #4, \$1,560,000, 2 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1943 YrBlt, 08-19-20
- 1239 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,399,000, 6 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 08-18-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 06-16-06
- 1225 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 3713 SqFt,
1978 YrBlt, 08-24-20
- 1038 Via Roble, \$1,890,000, 4 Bdrms, 3256 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-31-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 06-24-16
- 1001 Woodbury Road #101, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 08-19-20

... continued on Page D12

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Brittany Hogan

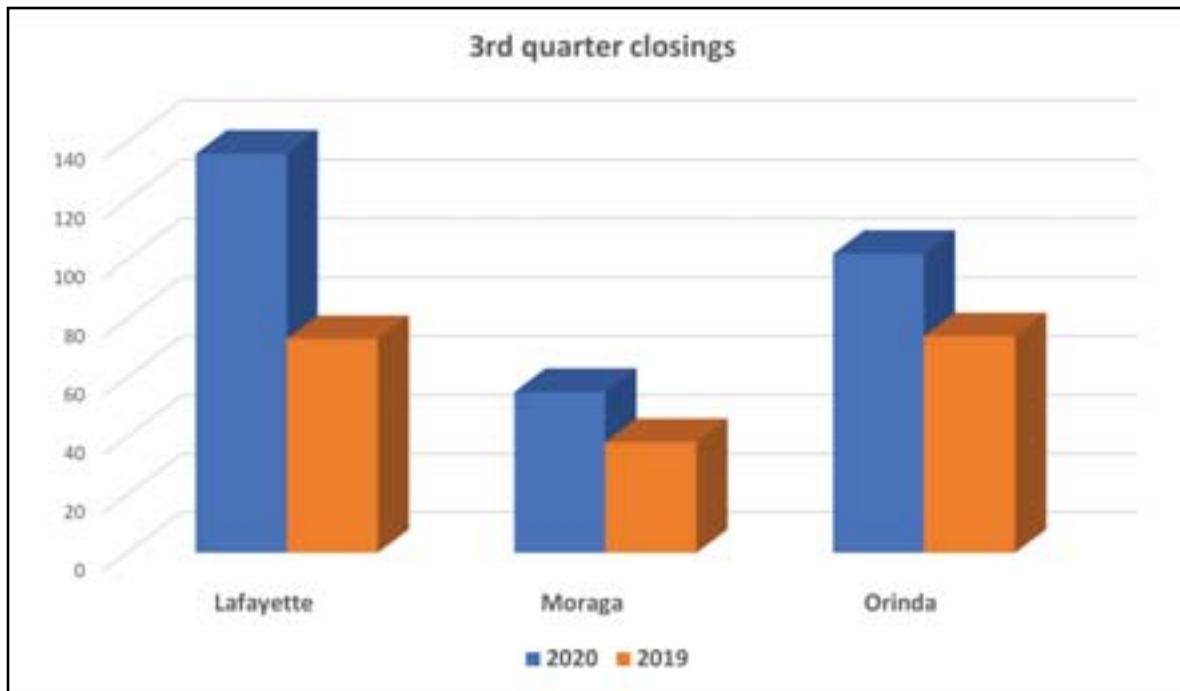
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COMPASS



The Real Estate Quarter in Review



By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The third quarter of 2020 showed tremendous activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate versus the year ago quarter. This activity continues to be based upon both a buildup from the lower amount of second quarter closings and an exodus of people moving from San Francisco and the Peninsula to the East Bay.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 136 single-family homes closed in Lafayette, which was a huge increase from the 73 that closed in the third quarter of 2019. Sales prices ranged from \$840,938 to \$5.85 million. The average number of days on market was 19 versus 30 for the same period in 2019. The average sales price was \$1,972,380. In this same quarter in 2019 it was \$1,716,517.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 55, well above the 38 in 3Q2019. Prices ranged from \$930,000 to \$3.365 million. The average sales price was \$1,588,132, which was a 10% increase from a year ago when it was \$1,443,253. The average marketing time was 17 days, down from 25 days a

year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 102, a big increase from 74 the same period a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$970,000 to \$4.125 million with an average price of \$1,900,069, far above \$1,651,117 in 3Q2019. It took an average of 24 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter. One year ago it took about 37 days.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$719.40 – the highest ever for a quarter. In the 2019 summer quarter it was \$607.09. In 2018 it was \$638.11. Moraga homes sold for \$637.23, up from \$607.47. In Orinda it was \$684.33 – way up from 3Q2019 when it was \$617.98.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was right at 101.3% of the final asking price. In Moraga, it was just under 102.4% of asking and in Orinda it was just over 102.2%. In many cases, there were still multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 97 of the 136 closings sold at

the list price or above. In Moraga, 38 of the 55 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 70 of 102.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had eight resale closings. They were priced from \$659,000 to \$1.395 million; Moraga had 25, up from 17 a year ago and from 25 in the same period two years ago. Sales prices ranged from \$345,000 to \$1.375 million. Moraga Country Club had five attached home sales – \$907,500 to \$1.375 million. Orinda had one townhome sell at \$1.35 million in Orindawoods and one condo sell on Brookwood at \$635,000.

As of Oct. 8, there were 96 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 69 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single family detached homes range from \$949,000 to \$8.5 million. It should be pointed out that there are no “Potential Short Sales” or foreclosures that are currently pending.

It is interesting to note that of the 96 pending sales in the area, 28 received acceptable offers in the first week of October. That is an average of four per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level – especially once the children are back on campuses.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low when looking at the available homes in Lafayette where there are 60 on the market as of Oct. 8 and there were 53 at this time one year ago.

In Moraga, buyers have their choice of only 27 properties, up from 24 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has decreased to 43 currently available from 56 one year ago.

Current asking prices range from \$469,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$25 million for a Lafayette property.

... continued on Page D13

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34 kids attended
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BRE# 01301392





New!

432 Miner Road, Orinda

Orinda Country Club Renovated Farmhouse
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,990 SqFt | .54 Acres
Listing Price \$1,580,000

Coming Soon in Orinda!



Walk To 12 Years of School From This
Turnkey Del Rey Neighborhood Home

Coming Soon in Orinda!



3/4 Acre Property in the Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood
A Rare Find in Today's Market

Pending | Represented Sellers



393 Camino Sobrante, Orinda

4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 4,167 SqFt | .35 Acres
Listing Price \$2,795,000



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License# 01498053 | www.mollyslist.com

Sold | Represented Buyers



146 Canon Drive, Orinda

3 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 2,798 SqFt | .23 Acres
Listing Price \$1,795,000



93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA



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LAMORINDA EXPERTS - GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



Orinda
20 Hacienda Circle \$3,825,000
 1.3-acre lot adjacent to Orinda Country Club's 13th hole
 Melanie Snow /Laura Abrams
 925-360-0344/510-697-3225
 20haciendacircle.com Lic#00878893/01272382



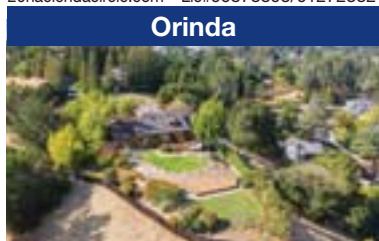
Orinda
3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000
 A Nature Embraced Oases
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
 www.3ValleyViewLn.com Lic #01390784



Orinda
53 Tappan Lane \$2,995,000
 Modern exterior, renovated pool, wine cellar, breathtaking views
 Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
 53tappanlane.com Lic #00878893



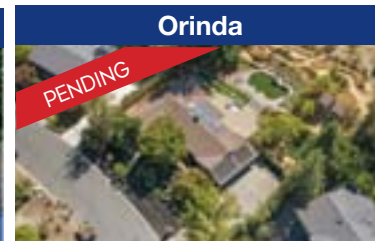
Lafayette
1 Dead Horse Canyon Rd \$2,495,000
 Ultimate Shelter in Place Home!
 Barn serves as ADU
 Suzanne Geoffrion/Dick Holt
 925.699.4832/925.297.9150
 1deadhorsecanyon.com Lic#01878803/ 00827803



Orinda
8 Nobi Lane \$2,359,000
 Hidden Glorietta Jewel. Custom built on 1.06 ac. 5 Bed/3 bath
 Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
 www.8nobilane.com Lic #00878893



Orinda
37 Oak Road \$2,299,500
 Majestic Sanctuary. 5beds/4baths, 4672 sqft
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
 Lic #01390784



Orinda
59 Martha Rd. \$2,225,000
 Rare 1.48 acre in Glorietta.
 Nancy Booth / Soraya Golesorkhi
 925-212-8867/ 925-808-8390
 www.59MarthaRd.com Lic#01341390/01771736



Lafayette
568 Merriewood Drive \$2,150,000
 BURTON VALLEY neighborhood! 4Bd/2Ba, 23-acre flat lot, pool.
 Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
 568merriewood.com Lic #00878893



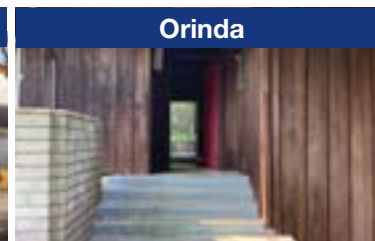
Moraga
4 Haven Court \$1,895,000
 Spectacular single-story on quiet cul-de-sac. 4 Bed/2.5BA on .31 ac lot
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 www.4havencourt.com Lic #00878893



Moraga
11 Francisca Dr. \$925,000
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 2,095 sq. ft for under a million!
 Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390
 sg@soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736



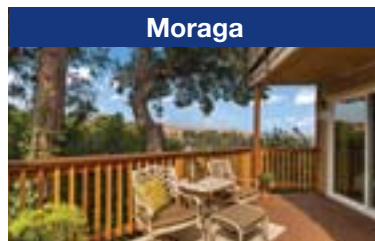
Walnut Creek
1112 Chiltern Dr. \$899,000
 3 Bd/2.5 BA
 2,055 Sq. ft with large patio!
 Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832
 Lic #01878803



Orinda
34 El Toyonal \$799,000
 3Bd/2BA on 0.38 ac lot
 Mid-Century Modern Fixer!
 Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257
 Lic #01251227



Concord
1021 Stimel Dr \$795,000
 Peaceful location bordering Len Hester Park, close to Iron Horse Trail. 6 BD/2BA, large yard.
 Laura Abrams 510-697-3225
 Lic#01272382



Moraga
1965 Ascot Dr., #3 \$539,000
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 1965AscotDr3.com Lic #01480008/00959101



Walnut Creek
1500 Golden Rain Rd., #4 \$330,000
 LEVEL-IN 1BR | 1BA gem in Rossmoor!
 Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte
 925-324-6246/925-708-1396
 1500GoldenRainRd4.com Lic #01480008/00959101



Pleasant Hill
507 Masefield call agent for price
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 Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832
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5 bd | 4 ba | 4152 sqft | .72 acre | \$2,695,000

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D4

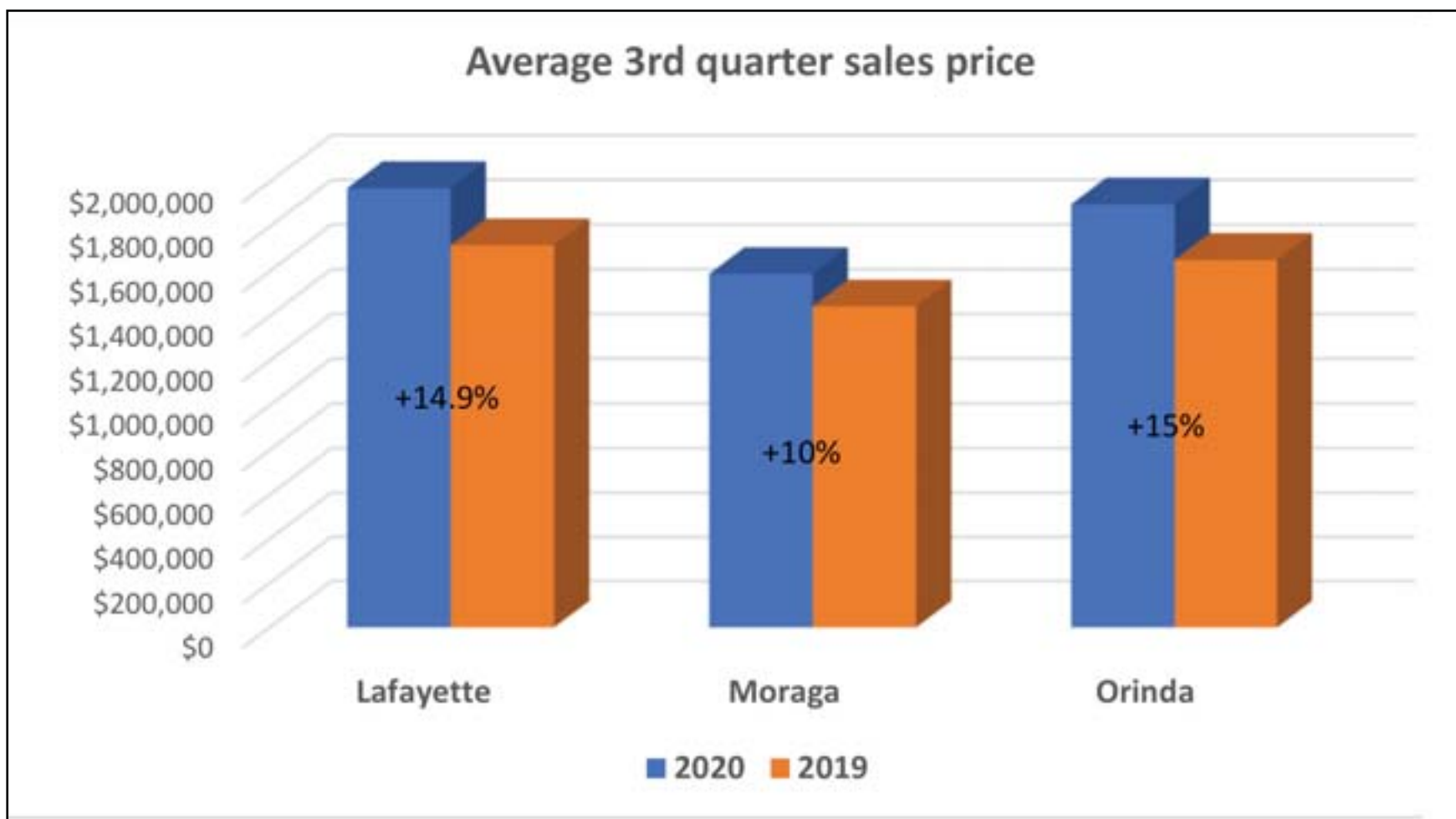
MORAGA

105 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,116,000, 05-11-18
2063 Ascot Drive #214, \$420,000, 2 Bdrms, 1082 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-31-20, Previous Sale: \$211,000, 10-02-12
25 Broadmoor Street, \$930,000, 2 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 09-01-20, Previous Sale: \$768,000, 05-12-16
1473 Camino Peral, \$730,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-01-20, Previous Sale: \$495,000, 06-19-07
32 Carr Drive, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2713 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-26-20, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 07-01-14
165 Danefield Place, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-17-20
103 Devin Drive, \$1,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 2849 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 11-06-17
212 Fronteras Drive, \$2,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 3773 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-27-20
95 Hardie Drive, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2137 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-03-20, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 02-25-05
1062 Larch Avenue, \$3,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 3986 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 08-21-20, Previous Sale: \$2,625,000, 09-06-16
26 Merrill Circle, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3710 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-20-20, Previous Sale: \$825,000, 02-26-99
123 Oxford Drive, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 1617 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 09-04-20
3 Roberts Court, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2162 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 09-04-20, Previous Sale: \$814,500, 05-25-11
1867 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,460,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 09-01-20, Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 10-22-04
1143 Sanders Drive, \$1,305,000, 2 Bdrms, 2113 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-27-20, Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 11-16-17
149 Tharp Drive, \$1,235,000, 4 Bdrms, 1879 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-04-20

ORINDA

18 Charles Hill Road, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3981 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 08-28-20, Previous Sale: \$2,425,000, 04-02-14
55 Claremont Avenue, \$1,270,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-25-20, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 12-11-17
105 Donna Maria Way, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-24-20
5 Dover Court, \$1,433,000, 3 Bdrms, 2161 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-19-20, Previous Sale: \$465,000, 12-02-98
6 Duncan Court, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3810 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 08-20-20
356 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 1971 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-03-20, Previous Sale: \$735,000, 07-02-08
650 Kite Hill Road, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2854 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 08-17-20, Previous Sale: \$1,705,000, 05-11-16
8 La Plaza Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2789 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 08-20-20, Previous Sale: \$1,850,000, 06-01-18
62 Mira Loma Road, \$1,511,000, 4 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-25-20, Previous Sale: \$370,000, 06-01-92
191 Moraga Way, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1369 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-25-20, Previous Sale: \$325,000, 10-01-89
51 Rheem Boulevard, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3258 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,084,091, 04-01-10
30 Rio Vista, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1673 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 08-31-20, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 07-28-03
10 Rita Way, \$1,746,000, 3 Bdrms, 2215 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-21-20, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 08-12-14
11 Sandy Court, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3364 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 08-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,850,000, 06-06-06
118 Scenic Drive, \$1,810,000, 4 Bdrms, 2274 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 09-03-20
112 Spring Road, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1310 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-31-20, Previous Sale: \$760,000, 03-21-14
8 Tappan Court, \$2,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 08-28-20
20 Wild Lilac Way, \$2,522,500, 4 Bdrms, 4194 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-25-20, Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
22 Wild Lilac Way, \$2,563,000, 4 Bdrms, 4194 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-21-20, Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
53 Windy Creek Way, \$2,056,500, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-31-20, Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15
55 Windy Creek Way, \$2,299,500, 5 Bdrms, 4229 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-31-20, Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15
59 Windy Creek Way, \$2,011,500, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-17-20, Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15

The Real Estate Quarter in Review



... continued from Page D6

At the high end, 89 homes closed above \$2 million in the three communities combined during the quarter. This is also a record for a quarter. In the year ago period there were 36.

There are 60 currently available above this amount—32 in Lafayette, 26 in Orinda, and two in Moraga.

Interest rates are at historical lows and during the pandemic a lot of people have relocated further from their jobs due to the reductions in the need to commute as often or at all.

There has been a large increase in Oakland and San Francisco agents representing buyers in their purchase of Lamorinda homes. Going forward through the end of the year, activity will likely remain strong and a low supply and high demand should continue to push the market higher.

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632 Terra California Drive #1 | Rossmoor
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,637 SF | Offered for \$989,000

Located in the heart of Rossmoor with views of the golf course and surrounding hills, this stunning one-level condo offers 2 spacious bedrooms, 2 updated full baths, a remodeled eat-in kitchen, separate den & dining room, laundry room, and an attached garage with inside entry.

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Leslie Lomond

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leslie.lomond@compass.com
DRE 01968517



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Minutes from Del Rey and Miramonte schools. Single story, spacious modern home has 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 car garage. Updated kitchen, Hardwood floors. 20,050 sq.ft. lot. View deck, draught tolerant terraced gardens with peach, apple, tomato, zucchini, figs and more.

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\$1,725,000

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SOLD
4 offers

929 Hough Avenue, Lafayette
List Price \$1,350,000



SOLD
18 offers!

20 Crestmont Drive, Oakland
List Price \$995,000



SOLD
off market

162 Northcreek Circle, Walnut Creek
List Price \$760,000



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SOLD

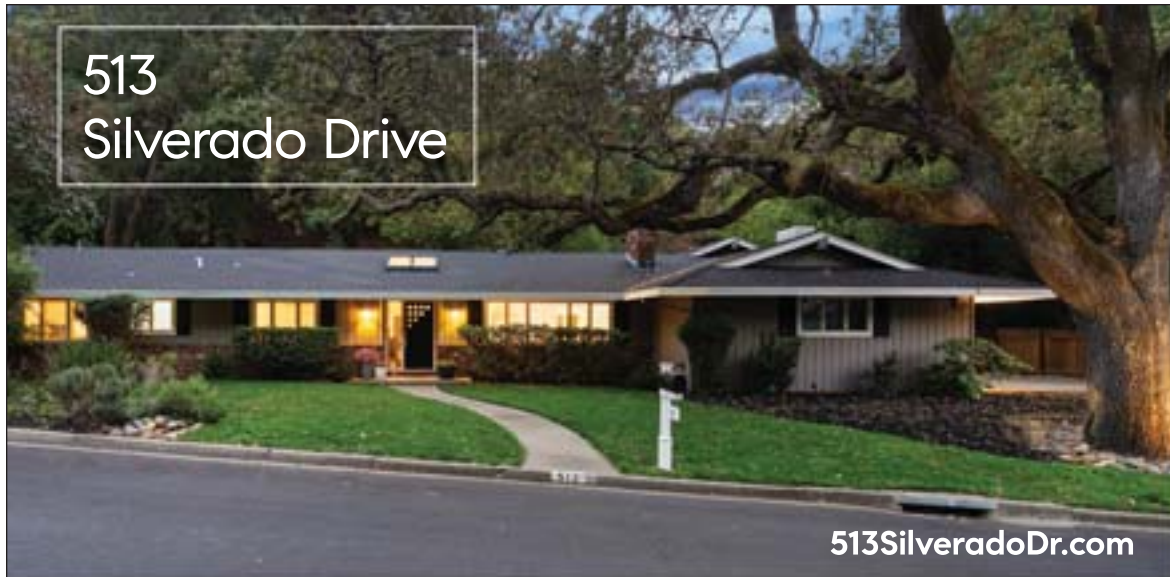
"Striking a Chord in Our Community"

Ariel photo courtesy of Taylor Photography Group



184 Alice Lane, Orinda | List Price \$2,995,000

513
Silverado Drive



513SilveradoDr.com



Burton Valley, Lafayette

5 bedrooms | 3 1/2 bathrooms | 2724 ± sq ft | OFFERED \$1,999,000

This beautiful five bedroom, three and one half bathroom, 2700 +/- sq ft home is perfectly situated on a spectacular flat oversized lot in the heart of Burton Valley. A fabulous traditional floor plan allows for lovely formal rooms, a dramatic kitchen/nook family room combo with vaulted ceilings and walls of glass.

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Erin McCain

415.370.8874

erinsmccoin.com

#01410378

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Sheltering with Mother Nature



Make a bouquet of fall flowers, including Black-eyed Susan and echinacea.

... continued from Page D1

Or tune in to the cooing doves or the whistling cockatiels. Nature sounds quiet our beating hearts and quiets our blood pressure.

2. **CREATE** a bedtime spray that will alter your emotional and physiological mood. Gather fragrant roses petals and lavender in a glass jar. Pour boiling water over the petals, cover, and allow to sit in the sun for several hours to make a floral tea. Add a couple of drops of alcohol, strain the petals, and pour the clear liquid into a sprayer. Spray your pillow before going to bed. Lavender alleviates tension and the fragrance of roses stimulates your immune system. You'll



Photos Cynthia Brian

Bright red leaves of a pistache tree flanks succulents.

slumber soundly. Experiment with other florals. Jasmine mitigates anxiety and bergamot increases positivity while reducing stress.

3. **EAT** fresh. Harvest fruits, herbs, and vegetables as needed. Instead of picking a bushel of tomatoes, only pick what you need immediately. Apples, figs, beets, radishes, arugula, eggplant, and peppers are ripe.

4. **PICK** a bouquet of fall blooming flowers such as Black-eyed Susan or echinacea to lessen anxiety. Add a small branch of pistache as it turns red. Just seeing fresh flowers and colorful leaves intensifies luxury and joy.

... continued on next Page

... continued from Page D16

5. **ADD** a small, desktop fountain to your office. Watching the movement of the water and hearing the tinkling helps bring the outdoors in.
6. **LOOK** at photos of nature. Everywhere I go, I snap pictures of nature scenes that inspire me. When I'm feeling blue, I check out the green.
7. **COLLECT** reminders of the outdoors to showcase indoors. Turkeys are leaving their beautiful feathers in yards as they peck at the autumn seeds. Pinecones and acorns are dropping as squirrels stash treasures for winter. Make a fall arrangement to touch and admire.
8. **PAINT** a pumpkin with glitter and glamour. We'll have the second full moon of the month on Oct. 31. Bring on the sparkle!
9. **PLACE** a pot of mums on your patio, porch, or balcony to admire through a window.
10. **BUY** any book from my website at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store> and besides the extra seeds and goodies you will receive, I will send you a free musical CD to help you relax and re-balance.

... continued on Page D18



Take pictures of relaxing scenes. This is fall at my friend's home.

ARRIVING SOON IN LAMORINDA



VANGUARD PROPERTIES

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR RON MINTZ

e: ron@vanguardproperties.com

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

Sheltering with Mother Nature



Paint a pumpkin with glitter and sparkles.

Despite what our current leader says, the coronavirus will not be going away anytime soon. We must continue to only listen to the scientists and heed the warnings of the medical establishment who have the training to understand these dire circumstances. The pandemic does not favor a political party. It recognizes no boundaries. We must be vigilant, diligent, savvy, and continue to wear masks, employ social distancing, and shelter-in-place as much as possible. When the air is clear, spend time outside. Hike, bike, walk, stroll, run, swim and garden.

The leaves are starting to change into their glorious fall wardrobe.



Clear brush and dead limbs to protect against fire danger, but leave habitat for owls.

Autumn is a prime time for planting, but don't risk your health on red-alert or spare-the-air days. There is plenty of time to plant bulbs, trees, and reseed or install lawns as temperatures will be warm into November.

We live in a beautiful area and are indeed too blessed to be stressed. Vote for decency and respect as you shelter with Mother Nature. I wish you peace, tranquility, and good health as we weather these disasters together.

Savor a sunset. Happy growing.



MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

Annual Fall Sale Through October 31st

Free Plants with Purchase

Moraga Garden Center
located at the Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-1810

9am-5pm
7 days a week



On a clear fall day, Cynthia Brian sits on her pergola.

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 c, celebrating 21 years of service to the community. www.BetheSTARYouAre.org. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy copies of her best-selling books and receive extra freebies including a FREE relaxation CD., Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! series at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com

McDonnell Nursery

October Sale!

family owned since 1933

25% off Perennials, Trees and Shrubs
Also find special pricing on
select garden decor.



www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



10 La Punta

Gated estate on secluded cul-de-sac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin. **\$6,250,000**

ORINDA



41 Donald Drive

Modern 3929 sqft 4 bed/ 4.5 bath Farmhouse on .77 acre private lot by Blueline Construction w/ pool & sauna. **\$3,375,000**

ORINDA



31 Orinda View Road

Custom 4 bed/ 4 bath home built by local builder, John French, tucked away on expansive .87 acre gated lot. Views! **\$2,495,000**

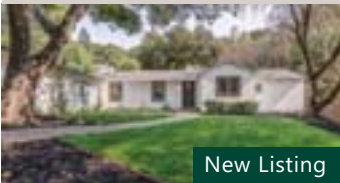
ORINDA



28 Via Callados

Stunning 5 bed + office/ 2.5 bath 3641 sqft contemporary on .60 acres. Close to Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club. **\$1,995,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

432 Miner Road

Orinda Country Club newly renovated 2290 sqft Farmhouse on .54 acres w/ chef's kitchen & hardwood floors. **\$1,580,000**

ORINDA



48 La Vuelta

Stunning mid century 4 bed/ 3 bath contemporary in the heart of the exclusive Orinda Country Club neighborhood. **\$1,165,000**

MORAGA

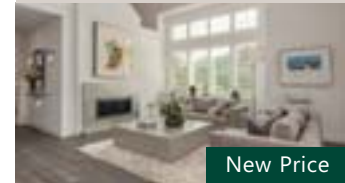


New Listing

8 Southard Court

Mediterranean-style 5 bed/ 4 bath 4152 sqft home situated on majestic estate setting of level, lush .72 acres. **\$2,695,000**

LAFAYETTE

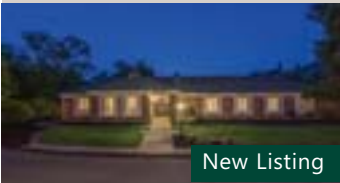


New Price

1004 Woodbury Road 301

One level 3 bed/ 3 bath penthouse in Lafayette's ultra exclusive Woodbury. Designer upgrades throughout! **\$2,345,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

2970 Windtree Drive

Quintessential Lafayette charm in this stunning 5 bed + home office/ 3 bath w/ over 3500 sqft, on a level .55 acre lot. **\$2,295,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3402 Black Hawk Road

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath in coveted Springhill w/ updated kitchen & baths, dual pane windows & new asphalt driveway. **\$1,485,000**

LAFAYETTE



3265 Wooded Creek Lane

Single level 4 bed/ 2 bath home on .36 acre flat lot within walking distance to Springhill Elementary & Acalanes High. **\$1,195,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

2681 West Newell Ave

Renovated 4 bed/ 3 bath charmer in sought after Saranap neighborhood on level quarter acre on cul-de-sac. **\$1,650,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Price

541 Monarch Ridge Drive

Fabulous 2 bed/ 2.5 bath end unit townhome in Summit Ridge w/ loft family room/office, vaulted ceilings, & views. **\$829,000**

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

32 Warhol Way

Stylish upgraded 3 bed/ 2.5 bath 1676 sqft townhome including fully remodeled kitchen & hardwood floors. **\$775,000**

MARTINEZ



New Listing

233 Briar Drive

Updated 3 bed/ 2.5 bath 2121 sqft home including high ceilings, large living room, & oversized master closet. **\$895,000**

BRIONES



1051 Boca Canada Road

Gorgeous 3 bed/ 2 bath country home on 9.91 acres including 8-stall barn w/ paddocks leading to arena. Views for days! **\$1,995,000**

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

John Nash

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Village

ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

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