

Letters to the editor

Working together

The "Rheem Triangle" in Moraga has been renovated by the Moraga Garden Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Moraga Park Foundation, and Town staff. Darlene Haffner and Jessica Fleming spearheaded the beautification project for the Garden Club, John Haffner mobilized the Kiwanians, Kyle Salvin and Ruben Ochoa of the Public Works Department did invaluable work, and the Park Foundation provided the necessary funding. With the old vegetation gone, the new plants at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard will make that highly visible piece of public land look better than it ever has. This was an excellent example of cooperative volunteerism that is so important in a small town like Moraga. Congratulations to all.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Congrats to new council

I want to congratulate David Stromberg, Teresa Onoda and Renata Sos for their successful campaigns to be elected to the Moraga Town Council. I supported the three of them. I feel they bring the best understanding of the Town's current issues and would be the best at navigating through future challenges the Town will be facing. I also want to thank Ursula Schillings and Kendall Langan for running for the Council. Even though I did not support them I know it takes a lot of time and personal commitment to run for public office. We all are lucky to reside in the town of Moraga where so many want to be involved. If you are not currently involved in a Service Club or volunteering in some way to continue to make Moraga this special place to live, please find a way to get involved. It is incredible rewarding.

Barry Behr
Moraga

To Moraga voters

Thank you voters of Moraga for electing me to the Moraga Town Council. I am honored that you have reposed your trust and confidence in me to be your voice in the governance of our Town. I am humbled by the number of you who endorsed my candidacy and worked tirelessly for my election without having previously known me.

With my service on the Moraga Planning Commission and the Board of the Moraga Community Foundation, I have demonstrated my unwavering commitment to our Town. Protecting our open space from further intrusion and the risk of wildfire. Promoting smart and managed growth that favors new development in the Town's core areas. Supporting our existing businesses and adopting measures to streamline our administrative processes in order to attract new businesses to Moraga. Securing charitable donations to provide COVID-19 testing free of charge for our residents and staff at Moraga senior care facilities and to replace the bathroom building at the Moraga Commons with ADA-compliant facilities and an upgraded water fountain.

I commit to being open and making myself available to you. To listen to your thoughts and concerns and bring them to the Town Council. To make fiscally disciplined decisions to address our infrastructure needs and tackle our unfunded liabilities. You may not always agree with my votes on the Council, but I promise you that my decisions will be based on my objective analysis and assessment of all available information and my consideration of competing viewpoints within the context of what is in the best interests of Moraga.

Very truly yours,
David Stromberg
Moraga

Lamorinda AVA Virtual Wine Tasting event a prelude to tasting room opening

Submitted by Amy Schofield

One of America's newest Agriculture Viticultural Areas (AVA), Lamorinda, will host a virtual wine tasting in collaboration with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. Nov. 19. The virtual tasting is open to the public and highlights award-winning local wines, both red and white, from local producers including Thal Vineyards, Los Arabis Vineyards, Raisin d'Etire Vineyards, Deer Hill Vineyards, and Meadow View Wineries.

Thomas D'Amato, president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce says, "The Orinda Chamber of Commerce is always looking for fun member events that highlight the diversity of our member organizations. COVID has encouraged the

Chamber to think creatively on how to bring many of our in-person activities online. We are fortunate to live in the Lamorinda AVA region and so a virtual wine tasting event highlighting local wines was a natural choice."

"Lamorinda has a rich history in wine making with the first grapes grown in the region over 150 years ago," says president of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, Daniel Howsepian. "Lamorinda has continued to foster the growth of micro wineries and quality wines. Growing grapes in urban areas has seen many growers adopt a more environmentally conscious approach to grape growing and wine making with a focus on minimal intervention and water conservation practices. We are proud to showcase our wines and thankful that we don't need to

go to Napa for good wine!"

The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association announced that the Lamorinda AVA Wine Center was approved by the Lafayette Planning Commission and should open in 2021 in the former location of Napa Auto Parts on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. The LWGA considers this a crucial step in highlighting the quality and availability of local wines. The facility will contain a winery and a public tasting room.

Tasting wineries at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce virtual tasting are bonded members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. Membership is open to growers, makers, and supporters. Attendees to the tasting event will have the option to purchase additional wines at a discount after the event.

Tickets to the virtual wine tasting are limited and are available to purchase via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/orinda-chamber-of-commerce-virtual-wine-tasting-tickets-126370725241

Youth Ink 2021 submissions accepted starting Dec. 1


Submitted by Erika Rosenberg

The Orinda Junior Women's Club announced the new prompt for Youth Ink 2021, the annual creative writing contest open to all middle school students who live in or attend school in Orinda: Hope. Entrants do not have to adhere to the prompt, and imagination and creativity are encouraged. The club hopes this contest gives young adolescents the opportunity to experience literary arts and enjoy the creative writing

process. Impressive cash prizes of \$250 for first place, \$125 for second place, \$75 for third place, and gift certificates for 10 honorable mentions will be awarded. Youth Ink 2021 submissions will be accepted via email from Dec. 1 through Feb. 26 in order to be considered for an award. Full entry details will be on the Youth Ink 2021 submission forms, available through Orinda Intermediate School, several local private middle schools, the Orinda Public Library, and online by Dec. 1 at www.orindajuniors.org.

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