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Jonathon Flinn, ConFire

Photos Nick Marnell Kim Jackson, AMR

Mark DeWeese, MOFD

Jerry Lee, MOFD



Athan Koutsoubinas, ConFire, gets his shot.

# First responders receive first round of COVID-19 vaccine

### By Nick Marnell

More than 350 first responders received the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 28 at a drive-in event hosted in Concord by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The clinic is one of four

staged by Contra Costa Health Services, which plans to inoculate fire service employees and other patient contact employees in the county by Jan. 7 as part of its Tier 1A distribution phase.

Patients who were given the vaccine were ordered to remain in their cars for 15 minutes before departing the premises. "We did not anticipate any adverse reactions, and we have received no reports of any," district spokesman Steve Hill said.

The health department says there is a minimum 28-day waiting period before patients can receive the second and final round of the vaccine. "At this point, we are not sure when that shot will be available, Hill said.



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# El Charro in Lafayette closes its doors after 73 years

#### By Pippa Fisher

In an announcement on social media, Lafayette's long-established Mexican restaurant shared that it would be closing its doors for good.

Although rumors had swirled for several weeks, the owners of El Charro made the announcement via their Facebook page Dec. 29 saying, "It is with heavy hearts that we announce El Charro Mexican Dining, a Lafayette community staple of 70+ years, will be permanently closed beginning this Friday, January

Very quickly hundreds of comments appeared on the page; memories of happy times spent at the restaurant with many saying they remember eating there from childhood onward and that the news is "devastating."

Demand during the last two days for takeout was a clear indication of how much the place meant to locals, as people lined up around the block Dec. 30 for a final order of chips and El Charro's special blue cheese garlic dip, waiting in some cases for over three hours as the kitchen was so overwhelmed.



Loyal customers called the news of El Charro's imminent closure "devastating" as large numbers waited in line Dec. 30 for a final chance to enjoy the Mexican food.

Photo Pippa Fisher

**Civic News** A1-A8

City of Lafayette resumes **Business Assistance Program** -- Page A2

Fire Districts

Plan released - Page A7

Community Wildfire Protection restrictions

Life in Lamorinda

Local farmers markets find ways to survive during

extended - Page B1



**Sports** Status of high school sports programs remains

in flux - Page C1



**Our Homes** Cynthia Brian offers gardening tips for 2021 - Page D1





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# Lafayette resumes its Business Assistance Program

#### By Pippa Fisher

The City of Lafayette is once again offering one-on-one help to its local businesses and nonprofits in navigating through the maze of loans and funds to help them identify which assistance programs might be available to them.

With recent approval by Congress of a second stimulus package, the city announced the restarting of its Business Assistance Program effective

Townsend Public Affairs, the city's consultants, helped more than 100 local busi-

nesses and nonprofits in the first phase of this program, offering guidance for both federal and state programs.

"Restarting the BAP for our businesses and nonprofits is a great way to start off 2021," says Mayor Susan Candell, who hopes the partnerships formed between the city and these groups will be as successful as the previous cycles when stimulus money was available. "Helping businesses and nonprofits navigate the process with excellent guidance from Townsend and Associates is a win-win for Lafayette, and we as a city are glad to help," says Candell.

Participants need to register with the city and will be expected to verify that they are a Lafayette business or nonprofit. Once qualified, LBA will connect with business owners to evaluate their goals and desired outcomes in order to identify which programs they might be eligible for. Further details can be found on the city website.

The mayor and Townsend Public Affairs will be hosting a webinar at 10 a.m. Jan. 6 to provide more information about the new funding and to highlight the services offered by the BAP.

#### Local businesses seek financial support from the community

Local business owners are turning to the community for help as they struggle financially during the coronavirus pandemic, utilizing crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe as a way to stay afloat. Karen Gaskins, owner of the small Lafayette business, Ms. Karen's Place, where she specializes in children's haircuts, has had her business shuttered for months, but according to the GoFundMe account created by organizer Lindsay Klein, Gaskins has had to pay rent this entire time. Although she was briefly able to reopen, taking careful precautions to protect her clients and herself, she will now be shut again due to the county's new rules for at least the next month.

"I have served the community with love for all my children in the Lamorinda area for 18 years," Gaskins said. "It's been a honor to watch your children grow and be a part of their lives and I'd love to continue to do so in the future!"

Klein is urging the community to "help this wonderful woman during this difficult time."

For information on how to help, visit: www.gofundme.com/f/help-ms-karen-stay-afloat?utm\_source= customer&utm\_medium=copy\_link&utm\_campaign=p\_cp\_guide\_do& memberId=7218096

Registration for this webinar through the city website is required. www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-strong/lafayette-business-assistance

# Dr. Fauci talks with Lafayette council member, says light at end of tunnel



Screen shot provided

Dr. Anthony Fauci talks with Council Member Cam Burks Dec. 22

By Pippa Fisher

'Twas the night before Christmas ...

otherwise known as Dr. Anthony Fauci Day in Lafayette.

The honor was bestowed on the fa-

mous doctor and director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases during a Dec. 22 one-onone virtual chat with Council Member Cam Burks, to mark Fauci's 80th birthday on Dec. 24. Fauci, who has become a household name across the country for his leadership during the pandemic, said he was honored to accept.

Burks congratulated Fauci on receiving his first vaccination shot earlier that day, which he said was uplifting to see, and took the opportunity to let Fauci know that in Lafayette residents are adhering to safety guidelines, saying he was proud of the community.

Acknowledging the reality of "COVID fatigue," Fauci nonetheless encouraged the community to keep it up, noting, "You've done a very good job in keeping your community safe to the extent that you can." And he reminded viewers of the light at the end of the tunnel – the vaccine, which he indicated should be more widely available to all by March or April.

Responding to a question from Burks about the length of immunity the vaccine might offer, Fauci said that was not yet known but said he believed that if 70-85% of the population gets vaccinated it would essentially put an end to this outbreak. "If we will subsequently need booster shots to keep the immunity up, so be it, that's not so bad," he said.

# Sustainable inclusion project a win-win-win

### By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette school kids are channeling their creative talents, learning leadership skills, and making the community more welcoming and inclusive all

while keeping a significant amount of trash out of landfill. And all of this is a result of an idea to repurpose all those Measure L signs.

It was an idea that first came to Lafayette School District Governing Board President Rob

Sturm following his 2016 election campaign when faced with the many signs he had bought and the question of what to do with them.

"Sustainability is a big deal for me and it pained me to see so many of these signs becom-

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ing landfill," said Sturm. "It occurred that the signs could easily be reused as a children's art project with whitewashing."

Sturm said his children enjoyed making welcoming signs and planting them in the neighborhood back in 2016.

Now the idea is being enthusiastically welcomed as a way to keep hundreds of the district's Parcel Tax Measure L signs from becoming landfill following the March election.

... continued on Page A5



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Photo provided

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Marechal Duncan at the Historical Society in February 2019.

#### By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette lost a beloved member of the community with the recent passing of Marechal Duncan at age 98.

It wasn't just that his many years of volunteerism, benefiting many different organizations have made the community a much better place, although they have, but it is the man himself – his wit, his charm, and his humorwho touched so many lives, that so many will miss.

"Marechal enlivened every event he organized and attended, and that included a large number of events," says Former Mayor Don Tatzin. "With a calm manner, Marechal earned the fondness and commanded the respect of citizens because he knew what he was talking about, brought good ideas, and was kind and courteous to everyone."

Duncan was recognized for his many areas of community service by being named Lafayette Citizen of the Year in 2015.

Born in 1922 in Massachusetts, at 1 year old he moved with his family to San Diego, where he grew up, joining the navy following his high school graduation. After Pearl Harbor he served in the Guadalcanal campaign. He earned numerous medals and citations including three Bronze Stars.

Duncan attended the University of California at Berkeley and later earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. He went on to work for several companies including Motorola for 28

He married Doris Paulson in 1947, and together they moved to Lafayette in 1955, buying a house in the Silver Springs neighborhood. He threw himself into community involvement, serving as an LMYA coach, and a Scout

leader with Troop 204 while their children were young.

He was a founding member of the Lafayette Community Foundation where he established the group's Liaison Committee for Seniors. A true history buff, with a love for Lafayette's historic fire truck Old Betsy, he served from 1991 until 2019 on the Lafayette Historical Society board, and he co-chaired the Lafayette Sesquicentennial celebration. Additionally he was a founding member of the original Lafayette Toastmaster's Club and was a past president of the Silver Springs Homeowners Association. He was a member of SIRS Branch 8 and a Master Mason. Duncan served on Lafayette's Open Space Task Force and the Senior Needs Assessment Committee.

"Marechal was the embodiment of what it means to Love Lafayette," says Mary McCosker, executive director of the Lafayette Historical Society. "During his life he was involved in so many activities that benefited so many parts of the community." And McCosker adds that he was always such a charming, friendly person with a dry sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye.

Former Mayor Anne Grodin who was, with Duncan, one of the founders of the Lafayette Community Foundation, explains how Duncan became involved in an ad hoc committee formed back in 1997 to brainstorm ideas for a new library.

"The Historical Society had long wanted a place to display all their historical artifacts but did not have the ability to raise funds to build and maintain a home of their own," says Grodin. "By joining forces the two groups were the foundation of the movement to get a new library in Lafayette.'

... continued on Page A5



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Lafayette Public Meetings

#### **City Council**

Regular Meeting Monday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel: http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

#### **Planning Commission** Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

### **Design Review**

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. Zoom Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives

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**Town Council** Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. **Planning Commission: TBA** Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Jan 19, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.

www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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# Council recommends garbage collection rate hike



Garbage collection in Moraga Dec. 29

Photo Nick Marnell

#### By Nick Marnell

The Moraga Town Council Dec. 9 quietly recommended a 6.75% garbage collection rate increase for residents starting in March. The recommendation passed unanimously with no council discussion or public input.

Solid waste disposal in Moraga is managed by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, a joint powers authority operating as RecycleSmart. The authority contracts with Republic Services to collect trash and recyclables from homes and businesses, and with Mt. Diablo Recycling to package the recycled product and sell or otherwise dispose of it. The JPA negotiates rates annually with the contractors for five Contra Costa County municipalities and unincorporated portions of the county.

Moraga Council Member

Renata Sos sits on the RecycleSmart board of directors.

"The rates set for each jurisdiction are based on a variety of jurisdiction-specific factors such as garbage vehicle impact fees that are collected by the jurisdiction, rate increases in prior years, rates charged by neighboring jurisdictions, and reserve levels that are used as a hedge against significant future rate increases," Sos said.

Every year, Republic must submit to the JPA a rate request application. "Republic's compensation from the rate application is allocated out to the member agencies based on their annual tonnage, annual route hours and number of accounts," said Ken Etherington, RecycleSmart executive director.

The rate application is a complex document including 36 spreadsheets that cover laments, tonnage, and revenue requirements for the upcoming year. The application shows that in the last fiscal year, Republic collected more than 4,450 tons of solid waste in Moraga from residential and commercial properties, plus 4,800 tons of organic waste and 2,900 tons of recyclable material. Those were the lowest tonnage figures of the member JPA municipalities.

Republic states in its application that the 2021 revenue requirement for Moraga is \$4.59 million, also the lowest among JPA municipalities. Etherington broke down the Moraga total at \$2.97 million for hauler compensation, \$842,000 in vehicle impact fees, \$174,000 in recycling costs and \$602,000 in franchise fees and other expenses.

Under the proposed 2021 agreement, in order for Republic to reach its revenue requirement, monthly rates for Moraga residential service would rise to \$41.10 for a 32gallon container, and commercial rates would increase between \$15.07 and \$45.21, depending on the level of service. Though Moraga produces the lowest solid waste tonnage among the JPA member municipalities, the town's container rate is second highest, behind only Orinda's.

The municipalities will enter into year seven of a 10year franchise agreement with the contractors. The RecycleSmart board plans to adopt the 2021 rates at a public hearing Jan. 28, with the new rates to be effective March 1.

# **Expansion in the works for Moraga Country Club**



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Moraga Country Club prepares to expand

#### By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Country Club received a green light during the Planning Commission's Dec. 7 meeting for a request to expand its facilities. Included in the plans is a new 6,600-square-foot fitness facility, a new 4,300-square-foot courtside grille, a sports court to include bocce ball and pickleball courts, additional parking and upgraded landscaping.

Commission members gave high marks to MCC for one of the most comprehensive applications ever turned in for review and consideration.

The MCC was originally developed in 1974, approximately six months before

Moraga became incorporated. It included homes, a clubhouse, golf course, swimming pool and tennis courts. In 2011-12, the original clubhouse and pool were demolished to make way for a new pool and a 20,271-square-foot two-story clubhouse which features a reception desk/lobby, lounge, golf pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, restaurant, bar, kitchen, banquet and conference rooms, and administration space for staff. All of these and future amenities/facilities will continue to be available to MCC residents

and members only. The proposal includes a demolition of the existing 1,200-square-foot tennis shop

in order to construct the new

fitness facility, courtside grille and an 860-square-foot recreation pavilion adjacent to the existing clubhouse on opposite sides of the swimming

The courtside grille would lead from the pool deck down to the adjacent sport courts and have two levels. The main deck would include a bar, dining room and kitchen with a wraparound outdoor terrace. The grille does not intend to hold any outdoor events, live music venues or performances. It would offer food, beverages and alcohol service.

The single-level fitness club building would contain a weight/fitness machine room, a workout studio, a children's activity room, restrooms, and reception area with administrative office.

The new recreation pavilion will be located below the clubhouse complex at the tennis court level and contain a lobby, restrooms, and provide equipment rental for members using the sport court facilities.

The project's architect has designed the three new facilities in a way that is complimentary to the clubhouse's Mediterranean Revival style. This was done intentionally to create a campus-like setting that is contextual with the existing building. Project planners hope to begin the expansion in early summer of 2021.





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# Happy New Year!

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and safe 2021!

I inda Ehrich

925.698.1452 Linda@LindaEhrich.com DRE #01330298



### **Marechal Duncan**

... continued from Page A3

Grodin says he was always helping others and had the vision to see what was needed in his hometown. "More importantly he had the ability to make things happen – always with hard work and humor," says Grodin, noting that his years of service to so many different organizations are hard to fathom.

He was passionate about helping seniors age in place and, as a member of the Lafayette Community Foundation's Liaison Committee for Seniors, he played a large part in establishing the annual Senior Symposium – a resource fair for seniors – co-chairing the first event over 12 years ago.

Lamorinda Village Board Member Don Jenkins, who also devotes his time to helping seniors age in place

says that Duncan was his role model. "The way that he cared for his wife was an inspiration to all of us as we try to care for one another as we age in our wonderful community," says Jenkins.

Jenkins recalls first meeting Duncan in 1999 during the creation of the Lafayette Community Foundation, serving with him on the board of directors. He says that in the monthly board meetings, as they all worked to get the Lafayette Library created, built and funded, "Marechal was usually the last to speak on an issue if he chose to speak. When he did speak he used humor, wisdom and conciseness to make his point."

For over 10 years until recently Duncan never missed a Community Liaison Meeting. Judy Carney, the meeting organizer, remembers how he loved hearing about

everything going on around the city.

Carney remembers that Duncan never missed a Pearl Harbor Commemoration Day. "He always reminded us about it. And every year he would tell us, and the very thought brought tears to his eyes," says Carney. "Everyone who came in contact with Marechal knew that he cared about doing the right thing for all Americans. He knew he fought for a reason. He was a very proud Vet. To me he was the essence of the Greatest Generation."

Like Jenkins, Carney recalls that Duncan always liked to speak last at meetings and that he would close each meeting by reminding those in attendance, "What you do today will be history tomorrow."

It is clear that Duncan will always be at the heart of Lafayette history.

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# Sustainable inclusion project



Lucy, with her father Francisco Silva, holds up her finished sign.

... continued from Page A2

Additionally the Chamber of Commerce has given the Res Run signs for repurposing, adding to already donated signs leftover from Prop 22.

According to Sturm, "The concept is to have our LafSD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees arrange for local children to decorate the signs with DEI symbols, artwork and/or welcoming words and

then replant the signs within our community to validate that all people are welcomed and valued in Lafayette."

In charge of this project is Susan Wiggen, head of Rapport – a Lafayette group that serves as the hub for the various Lafayette School District parent organizations. Wiggen explains that the point of this initiative is to empower the children to take on leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She says that at the elementary level the District DEI committee brought No Place for Hate – a self-directed program intended to help members Photo provided of school communities – to the district, then to princi-

pals. The middle school has the SLAM (Student Leaders' Anti-racism Movement) program involving 60 student leaders working with Dr. Lori Watson.

"Although each school is organizing these groups in a different manner, one idea is to really empower our student leaders to help with the antiracism, etc., messaging," says

Springhill Elementary School fifth-grader Lucy Silva appreciates the No Place for Hate program.

Lucy explains, "I joined the No Place for Hate committee because I think the world can use more kindness, I believe Black Lives Matter, and I think that making these signs for everyone to see helps everyone

feel like they belong." Wiggen believes that this particular project is a great example of a simple way to empower children's voices, in addition to helping keep valuable, reusable signs out of landfills. "The kids get a sense of pride and ownership while spreading crucial messages around diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our community by repurposing signs that would likely end up in landfills," she says. "And they do this while having fun!"

Sturm describes these creative projects with meaningful, teaching moments as a "win-win-win."

Rapport is working with DEI parent volunteers to distribute the old signs to the students. They hope to have some signs finished during the winter break and to do the bulk of them in early January.

After that the welcoming signs will be appearing around town.

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#### **Orinda Public Meetings City Council**

**Special Meetings:** Wednesday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16, 9 a.m. By Teleconference Only

#### **Regular Meeting:**

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. By

#### Teleconference Only **Planning Commission**

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

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# **Experienced team moves forward with Orinda governance**



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amy Worth takes the helm of Orinda as mayor for the fifth time.

#### By Sora O'Doherty

Mayor Amy Worth commenced her fifth term as mayor of Orinda in 2020, assisted by Vice Mayor Dennis Fay. Fay is new to the city council, but served for many years on the recently disbanded Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission, including as chair of the CIOC. Serving on the CIOC since its inception was where he met city council member Darlene Gee, also a transportation engineer like Fay, who just completed her term

Both Worth and Fay have priorities that they would like to accomplish in the

coming year, and both agree that the most pressing problem Orinda faces is the threat of wildfire. Although 2020 will primarily be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a year that really honed the community's priorities for the coming year, Worth said, and mitigating the risk of wildfire is uppermost in the minds of residents. Worth emphasizes that the city must operate in a fiscally responsible way, and cannot have a deficit. The new oversight commission, provisionally titled the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission, will be tasked with developing programs for wildfire safety, as well as continuing the work on Orinda's roads and drains, which Worth said is a "forever problem, given the terrain we have in Orinda, mainly clay soil that con-

tracts and expands." Fay emphasized that Orinda isn't changing anything, but is adding something new to what the city council has to deal with. Most important, he said, is implementing Measure R, the new sales tax approved by Orinda voters in the November general election. "The thing we really need to do," Fay said, "is get as quickly as possible

into the wildfire aspects, starting with expanding the chipper program. Next, we need to fill out the commission," he continued, whose first chore will be to develop a wildfire protection plan that prioritizes how to spend the revenue from the new tax. "MOFD has a general plan," Fay said, "which is a very good starting point to figure out what things might be productive, and prioritize those things." He also wants the commission to explore other things, for example, the use of technology, and for the city to partner with the county to think about wildfire fuels in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County that surround Orinda.

Next in priority, according to Fay, is tackling critical public drains that need to be repaired so Orinda doesn't have another Miner Road sinkhole situation. Fay explained that the public roads are now fixed, and, in his opinion, there is sufficient other revenue to maintain them, including revenue from the gas tax and garbage truck impact fees. He imagines that spending Measure R funds on road upkeep will become necessary in about

10 years. Both Worth and Fay agreed that the next priority is completing the downtown Orinda planning process. Worth said, this is a really good time to be working on the downtown. During the pandemic, she said, "people feel safe in their local communities, they want to be in their downtown." Worth did all her holiday shopping in Orinda. She emphasized how important it is for the community to support local businesses and restaurants. She urged residents to use this time to go through their wardrobes, and bring items to the dry cleaners in town who are suffering badly during the pandemic. She also talked about fundraisers by the Rotary, Miramonte High School and other groups that feature drive-through takeout dinners. Fay explained that once the downtown plan is finished, the city council will have to take certain actions to implement it, such as amending the general plan and updating zoning. Fay added that although the county health department has the most important role in controlling COVID-19, the city had to deal with how the pandemic affects the city's revenues, which caused the city to have to lay off staff. He noted that the pandemic affected residents and local businesses, such as the Orinda Theatre. He would like to promote individual actions to keep core things going in Orinda, such as purchasing takeout meals from local restaurants.

Both the new mayor and new vice mayor also expressed the need for greater efforts to promote diversity and prevent discrimination in Orinda. Fay said that he was looking forward to the mayor appointing people to serve on a police oversight commission. Worth is one of two city council members who meet regularly with the Orinda Union School District board as part of a subcommittee designed to strengthen the ways in which both organizations can foster those

Both Worth and Fay spoke about how the city had quickly pivoted to virtual business at the beginning of the pandemic, and Worth was pleased with how the public participated in virtual city council meetings, as well as how well the cities that make up Lamorinda work together.

Fay has two years remaining on his term and is happy to talk to anyone who wants to talk to him. He invites people to call (his phone number is on the Orinda website) or email, and promises that if an email is directed to him, as opposed to the entire city council, he will answer it personally.

Worth, whose term also ends in December 2022, was first elected to the city council in 1998, and has now served for over two decades. Former mayors Darlene Gee and Inga Miller were both reelected in November, and the remaining council member, Nick Kosla's term also expires at the end of 2022.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

# MOFD releases draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan

#### By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District presented a draft of its Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a guide to help district residents develop an understanding of wildfire and wildfire management. The plan identifies and prioritizes areas within the district for fuel mitigation efforts, and recommends ways to reduce the fire risk in those high-risk communities.

At the Dec. 16 district

meeting, Fire Chief Dave Winnacker explained that the problem of accumulated fuels in the district has taken a long time to develop – more than 100 years in the making. Building homes in areas that had been grazed or allowed to burn, and then surrounding those homes with nonnative vegetation, exacerbated the problem.

"It's going to take years to address this," Winnacker said. "The work required places a demand on resources that will outstrip availability." The chief said the mitiga-

tion efforts will be prioritized starting with the most serious areas and where the community as a whole will achieve the greatest return on investment. "The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will guide that work," Winnacker

The 65-page document covers the wildfire risk in the district, strategies for reducing that risk, district priorities and the district action plan to

tackle those priorities. "The purpose of the Moraga-Orinda Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to protect human life and reduce the loss of property, critical infrastructure, and natural resources due to wildfire," states the introduction to the document.

In order to address the subtleties and complexities of each district community, MOFD will hold three public workshops to go over the plan details and take public feedback. The first meeting is scheduled for Orinda Jan. 21, followed by Canyon Jan. 28 and Moraga Feb. 4. Meetings will be held at 6 p.m. as online teleconferences.

Having a Community Wildfire Protection Plan also qualifies the district for priority funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the Healthy Forests Initiative, a federal initiative established in 2003 to help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fires.

# Changes in the MOFD executive and management ranks



**Craig Jorgens** 

By Nick Marnell

Photo provided

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District reshuffled its executive team in December and also announced the elevation of a fire captain to battalion chief.

After serving an unprecedented two consecutive years as district president, Stephen Danziger stepped aside for Craig Jorgens, who was elected to the post for the first time. The board of directors chose Jorgens by a 4-1 margin, with director Greg Baitx casting the lone vote against. Baitx declined to comment on the reason for his negative vote, though the two directors have sparred at previous meetings over fulltime staffing of the Fire Station 45 ambulance, which Baitx favored and Jorgens op-

Jorgens takes over one of the most high-profile independent special districts in Contra Costa County. Accord-

ing to the county auditorcontroller, MOFD is apportioned 21.22% of a district resident's taxpayer dollars, and the district's \$29.8 million budget for this fiscal year is larger than the operating budgets of Moraga and Orinda combined.

"As the MOFD board president this term, I'm looking forward to working with our community, firefighters, and fire prevention personnel to allocate this money to support the fire suppression, fire prevention, and the emergency services that keep our community safe," Jorgens

In district operations, Fire Chief Dave Winnacker promoted 11-year MOFD veteran Lucas Lambert from captain to battalion chief.

"Lucas is a tremendously talented member whose engagement on a number of internal and external projects and programs stands out amidst an organization full of hard working high achievers. We look forward to seeing

this same enthusiasm and capability applied on a larger scale in his new position," Winnacker said.

Lambert will supervise the district operations division. Battalion chiefs Steve Gehling and Jerry Lee, along with Lambert, report directly to the fire chief.

#### **Fire District Public Meetings**

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** 

**Board of Directors** 

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire **Board of Directors** Tuesday, Jan., 19, 1:00 p.m.



# Coyote crime wave subsides over the holidays

#### By Nick Marnell

After three high-profile attacks on humans by a renegade covote this year, reported coyote sightings diminished over the holiday season. One local resident caught sight of a coyote Jan. 3 running in downtown Lafayette, but no further attacks were reported.

A bloodthirsty coyote was determined through DNA evidence to have bitten three individuals in Lamorinda since July, with two of the victims reporting various wounds, but none considered extremely serious. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to search for the coyote, and the animal will be killed when captured.

Capt. Patrick Foy of the department's law enforcement division offered tips if you encounter an aggressive coyote.

"No. 1, if you have small children or small pets, pick them up. Shout as loudly as you can, and stomp at the animal if it continues to approach. If it does bite, hit it as hard as you can with whatever you can find nearby,"

Foy said. CDFW says that coyotes

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Moraga Way/Villa Ln.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Reckless Driving
Rimer Dr./Camino Pablo

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

Rheem Theater

Fraud Credit Card

Petty Theft

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary 1400 Block St. Marys Rd.

50 Block Ashbrook Pl.

Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Excessive Speed Bank of America (2)

are by nature fearful of humans, but if the animals have access to human food or garbage, they lose their caution and fear.

"Wild animals don't need your handouts. They need your respect," reads a banner atop a page on the department website.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

#### **Public Safety**

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Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

**Moraga Police Department:** 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049 **Orinda Police Department**: 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820 Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident **Summary** Report

Dec. 13 - Dec. 19 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Suspicious Circumstances 6 10 Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Pubic/School Assembly Check 35 Supplemental Report

Vacation House Check **Vehicle violations** Auto Burglary 3100 Block Camino Diablo Reckless Driving Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd., Mor 3300 Block Mildred Ln. Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24 Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd. Tc - Property Damage 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Other criminal activity Computer Fraud 700 Block Los Palos Dr. Fraud Credit Card 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Grand Theft 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) Grand Theft Bicycle 1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Identity Theft 3300 Block Carlyle Terrace (2) Petty Theft 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. 3300 Block N Lucille Ln.

3300 Block Moraga Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3) Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic 1000 Block Carol Ln. Sierra Vista Way/Deer Hill Rd. Disturbing The Peace Saranap Ave./El Curtola Blvd. Loud Noise

1000 Block Buchan Dr. 1000 Block Glen Rd. Loud Party Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd. Public Nuisance 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Animal Services Call **Bart Lafayette Station** 

Covid19 Violation Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd. Harassment 3200 Block Marlene Dr. El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd.

K9 Outside Assist Request 4500 Block Appian Way, Eso Ordinance Violation 1000 Block Windsor Dr. 3300 Block Mildred Ln. (2)

3300 Block Ameno Dr. 10 Block White Oak Dr. 900 Block Anita Ct. Unwanted Guest 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) Violation Custody Order Police Department

Violation Restraining Ord 1000 Block Carol Ln. Moraga Police Department

**Incident** Summary Report

Dec. 15 - Dec. 28 Alarms

Vehicle violations

McCaulous

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Traffic Suspicious Circumstances
Suspicious Subject
Suspicious Vehicle
Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check Pubic/School Assembly Check

Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.



Safeway Residential Burglary 200 Block N Sandringham Nuisance to the Community Loud Music 10 Block Kimberly Dr. 100 Block Draeger Dr. Loud Noise 10 Block Wimpole St. Public Nuisance 20 Block Reynolds Ct. Vandalism 1000 Block Sanders Dr. Other criminal activity Covid19 Violation Moraga Commons Park Drunk In Public Taco Bell Fireworks 100 Block Miramonte Dr. Harassment St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way Ordinance Violation Moraga Commons Park Threats

St. Marys College



Orinda Police Department **Incident Summary Report** will be back next time

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The year 2020 was, like for many others, a difficult year for Lamorinda Weekly. We are also thankful to our team of writers, editors, photographers and producers who all made adjustments to sustain our model of bringing news and life stories to the Lamorinda community and to stay open. We hope normality will return in 2021.

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

# Orinda, Moraga farmers markets thrive during pandemic



www.lamorindaweekly.com

**Orinda Farmers Market** 

#### By Sora O'Doherty

The year 2020 was when the Orinda farmers market went to year-round operation. When the change was introduced, no one expected 2020 to be the year of the great pandemic. But shoppers at both the Orinda and Moraga markets welcomed the opportunity to buy fresh, local foods directly from vendors in a safe, outdoor envi-

Both markets are now open all year, Orinda on Saturday mornings and Moraga on Sunday mornings. A visit shows that local shoppers are still actively attending both markets to buy both fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, meat and eggs, as well as prepared food of many varieties, including cheeses, jams, dried fruits, honey, popcorn, and restaurant stands with offerings ranging from crepes to tamales. Both markets also boast tempting bakeries, with breads and pas-

This year, in the face of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, the Orinda market began offering a food box service, known as Good to Go Boxes. These preordered boxes include a seasonal mix of produce, to include vegetables and fruit. All products are from Orinda Farmers Market growers.

In addition, to the preselected boxes, shoppers can now select the foods they wish to purchase with a smartphone app called Tap4Markets. Orders must be placed by Thursday for the weekend markets, and the producers get paid directly by virtual checkout. All orders are then available for contactless curbside pickup between 10 and 11 a.m. in

front of the Orinda Community Center. There is a nominal service fee per order. Amaya De-Shasier has been working for the Orinda farmers market since the box program started, about six months ago. She says that it has been quite successful and that it makes money for the farmers, which is so important during the pandemic.

Omar Sidiq has also been at the Orinda market for about six months. He works at Donna's Tamales, a business from Martinez selling tamales, burritos, salsa and chips. He said that business continues to be pretty good at the Orinda market. The Upper Crust Baking Company comes down from Davis. Employee Luara Wilson says that business is good for the bakery, which has been at the Orinda market for three years. La Crepe a Moi is a Berkeley restaurant that serves both the Orinda and the Moraga market, and does great business at both serving readyto-eat crepes, both savory and

Few vendors have dropped out of the markets, but there are a couple of new ones. In Orinda, it is the first year for Pete's Gold Honey. Beekeepers Peter and Jill Kemel run the family business, with hives in Concord and San Ramon. The two beekeepers have three children, whom they are teaching the art of beekeeping. They sell their all-wildflower honey at the farmers markets in Orinda and also Walnut Creek. Another husband-andwife team, Katia Berberi and Steve Drapeau, started selling Anne's Toum, their Lebanese Gariic Sauce, at the Moraga market recently, and have been selling out each week. The



**Moraga Farmers Market** 



Pre-ordered boxes ready for pickup at the Orinda Farmers Market

company is named after Katia's mom, who passed away suddenly last year, and uses her recipe which she learned from Katia's father's Labanese family. One little girl comes each week, crying, "Dip, dip!" Her

Photos Sora O'Doherty

father says that she eats the garlic sauce like yogurt.

Both markets have vendors of fresh seafood, Billingsgate Four Star Seafood in Orinda says that business is brisk, and From the Sea to You in Moraga. Danny Guzman, the Moraga fish vendor, says that they are blessed to be busier than before the pandemic. Their fish comes from Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, with some from Alaska and Hawaii

Andrew Artadi of Great Valley Poultry says that although business is slower than usual, people keep coming steadily. Maria Ramos, and employee of J&J Farms, said that before COVID they did more markets. All of the farmers markets at Kaiser Hospitals have been closed, and even in Moraga she said that they cannot have more than 10 shoppers in their space at one time. But the customers are really good she added, very respectful. J&J also runs a farm stand in Hughson, California.

Anjelica Colliard, the market manager in Moraga, says that the market is thriving as a safe way for people to get food and be in their community. Both the customers and vendors are thankful for the market, she added. Only a few of the older vendors have left, and some younger vendors have joined the market, according to Colliard.

The Orinda farmers market is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Orinda Community Park. The Moraga farmers market is open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road.

#### Single Family Home Customers – 2021 Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

Your pickup will be on the same day as your regular garbage service but by a separate truck.

Customers in the cities and unincorporated areas of Danville Week of Jan 4-8 and Walnut Creek, plus Alamo, Diablo, and Blackhawk. Customers in the cities and unincorporated areas of Week of Jan 11-15 Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda. Week of Jan 18-22 Customers who missed prior tree collection. Cut and place in organics cart; or call (925) 685-47 **AFTER Jan 22** for on-call, organics-only cleanup.

#### Tree Pickup Do's & Don'ts

Remove lights, ornaments, and tinsel from branches before placing

Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular garbage

collection day during your city's tree collection weel Cut in half all trees that are 8 feet or over in height.

Flocked trees can be collected curbside for a fee or be included in your once-a-year on-call garbage cleanup, but must be scheduled in advance. Call (925) 685-4711. If cut to fit inside with the lid closed, flocked trees may be placed in your landfill cart.

Do not leave stands (whether plastic, metal, or wood) on the tree. Trees with items still attached cannot be picked up.

Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular garbage collection day, during your city's assigned week.

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# Baked jalapeño poppers the perfect starter for the New Year



Chorizo-Jalapeño Poppers

#### By Susie Iventosch

A friend served these tasty baked jalapeño poppers for hors d'oeuvres one night and we thoroughly enjoyed them. The novelty of adding chorizo to the cheese filling and wrapping them in bacon made them pretty darn irresistible. When we made them, we added some grated sharp cheddar cheese and a sprinkling of Tajin seasoning and we loved that addition, too.

Lately, the jalapeños have been pretty big in the markets

Photo Susie Iventosch

and this recipe makes 20 poppers from 10 good-sized peppers. If you find smaller peppers, you can make more than 20 with this recipe.

When it comes to the chorizo, Cacique makes pork, beef or soy versions, which are available at most grocers, and Jennie-O offers a turkey chorizo as well. But, you can also make your own chorizo by adding chili pepper, cumin, coriander, oregano, garlic, onion and lime juice to any kind of ground meat. I've made my own with elk and venison, too.

We like turkey and duck bacon best, and those are usu-

ally precooked, so if you use them, reduce the baking time by a few minutes.

#### Chorizo-Jalapeño Poppers

Ingredients

10 jalapeño peppers, cut in half lengthwise, seeds and veins removed

10 oz. chorizo (pork, beef, turkey or soy)

4 oz. sharp white or yellow cheddar cheese, grated

8 oz. cream cheese

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 teaspoon Tajin Classic Seasoning (or lime chili seasoning)

10 strips of thin-cut bacon (pork, turkey, or duck), cut in half length-wise **DIRECTIONS** 

Preheat oven to 400 F. Prepare a baking sheet with cooking spray.

Cook chorizo in a pan over medium heat until crumbled and cooked through. Sop up any pools of extra fat with paper towels. (Turkey or soy chorizo will have very little fat, but beef and pork will have quite a bit.) Set chorizo aside to cool.

Cut jalapeños in half, leaving the stem intact, if possible. Scoop out seeds and veins and lay peppers out on the baking sheet with the cavity side facing up.

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese with a fork or electric beater until creamy and soft. Stir in grated cheddar, cooked chorizo, garlic and Tajin. (If you want an easy version, add cooked and crumbled bacon to this mixture, but otherwise, wait to wrap the filled peppers with the bacon strips.)

Fill cavities of the cleaned jalapeño halves with the cream cheese mixture. Fill all the way up to the top. Now, for the bacon you can either wrap it around each stuffed jalapeño half, or you can cut a strip just the length of the jalapeño and lay it over the top of the filling. Using either method, gently press it into

the filling to keep it in place, and if wrapping the bacon around the pepper, tuck the last part of the strip of bacon under the first part to help keep it secure.

\*You can also just mix precooked, crumbled bacon to the filling for an easy version. See above.

Bake at 400 F for approximately 15-20 minutes, or until the bacon is cooked and the cheese filling is bubbly and beginning to turn a nice golden-brown.

Serve hot!

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



# Santa and his elf bring much joy to Rheem Valley Manor neighborhood



Elf Jeff Stone and Santa Ryan Aull with his two youngest elves, Zoe, 10 months and Carter, 2 1/2 years.



Photos Sophie Aull

Photos Rheem Valley Manor residents greet Santa and his elf.

**By Diane Claytor** 

Before heading back to the North Pole to clean up his workshop, or traveling to the warm beaches of Florida for a well-deserved rest, Santa made one more trip through Moraga's Rheem Valley Manor on Christmas morning. He parked his sleigh on Fernwood and rode around with one of his favorite elves in a pristine, bright yellow 1932 Ford truck, delighting neighborhood kids of all ages.

The two Moraga resi-

dents, Santa Ryan Aull and elf Jeff Stone, agreed that this was one of the most joyous experiences of their lives. "We came back feeling so good," Stone stated.

The quickly planned neighborhood treat was the idea of Aull's wife, Sophie. She has a friend in San Diego whose husband drove around their housing development dressed as Santa, waving at kids. Seeing the pictures prompted Sophie Aull to convince her husband and his friend to do something simi-

lar. "Our wives agreed and before you knew it, we were elf and Santa driving around," Stone said.

They decided on the route: Rheem Valley Manor because that's where both the Aull and Stone families live and where they have many friends. They picked the time: from 11 a.m. to noon on Christmas, "because families would be together and it's before nap time and after presents, so would fit into a nice window," Sophie Aull explained.

Costumes were obtained; Santa's came from a family member, the elf's was purchased. The beautifully restored 88-year-old truck belongs to Stone. Local friends were notified when Sophie Aull sent a text, announcing there was a rumor going around that Santa was planning a neighborhood appearance.

At the designated time, Aull and Stone boarded their "sleigh." Ryan Aull, concerned that no one would know they were coming, suggested Stone honk the horn. He started with short beeps and the more they drove, the more he leaned on the horn, Stone said. "We started seeing people peeking through blinds and shutters," Ryan Aull described, "and then all of a sudden, the door would open and families would come running out." Stone added, "You could just see the excitement on the kids' faces. It was really powerful."

Lafayette resident Kim Roth, spending Christmas at her Rheem Valley Manor childhood home, reported Santa's visit was "the absolute highlight of our toddler's day. He talked about it constantly and we watched the video I took three times before bed that night."

In real life, both Sophie and Ryan Aull work at Salesforce and Stone owns Diamond Construction, a residential construction company.

All three might now consider adding the title of "magician" to their resumes; as one social media poster proclaimed, "It was a little magician a difficult year," while another declared, "And just like that, I believe."

### Family Focus

# Thinking More Positively

#### By Margie Ryerson, MFT

"Happiness depends on your mindset and attitude."~ Roy T. Bennett, "The Light in the Heart"

Here's to a happier new year in 2021! Trying to find happiness in the midst of turmoil, loss, and worry has tested our coping skills to the limit in 2020. For many, it has been difficult to think very positively and sustain this attitude at times during the past year. But each small step we take can contribute to lifting our spirits, so this column offers a few suggestions toward that end.

First, though, a caveat: If you or anyone in your family suffers from clinical depression or extreme anxiety, you will probably have difficulty controlling sad and negative thoughts. You won't be in a position to think more positively until you have been on a medication regimen and in cognitive behavioral therapy, the recommended treatments for these conditions. It would be detrimental for anyone to expect you to think a certain way until you are physiologically and psychologically ready.

But for those who don't have underlying conditions that interfere, increasing positive thinking is an important step in achieving more happiness and enjoyment in life. We all know people who have naturally opti-

mistic, upbeat natures. But most of us have to strive to achieve this state of mind.

Many families have established the practice of expressing gratitude at the dinner table and at other times. It is so helpful for children to acquire this positive habit at an early age. The hope is that, throughout their lives, they'll have a way to lift themselves up when they may tend to spiral down.

Will, a 30-year-old single sales manager, has been in therapy to work on changing his pessimistic, glass-half-empty orientation that has caused him to be chronically unhappy. And, of course, Will doesn't attract friends or romantic partners very easily, since it's difficult to be around someone who is perpetually negative and cynical. The lack of social companionship feeds into Will's pessimism, and he has been trapped in a cycle of hopelessness. He is already on an anti-depressant that has helped him, and he doesn't want to increase his dosage.

Throughout this pandemic, Will has lived alone and worked from home with little contact with others. He was concerned about being unhappy before the pandemic, even when he was able to be around people at work, go to the gym, and go out and socialize. But now he feels acute loneliness and disconnection from others.

Will is a product of an upbringing where he was encouraged to succeed in academics and sports. Growing up, he was happier and more self-confident. All good, except that he didn't develop himself beyond his accomplishments. He didn't need to think much about his personal qualities and strengths. Now that he is just one of many high-performing employees, Will can't rely on his former means of achieving contentment.

During this pandemic and so many other challenges, we have all had to call upon our inner strength while we experience more worry, limitations, and longing for our former lives. We are likely spending more time with ourselves than before, especially those who live alone. It's important to look for ways to be able to boost our own spirits.

In order to turn around negative thinking, which had become habitual in Will's case, it helps to track these thoughts. I asked Will to journal each negative thought about himself that he could. Awareness is key to taking control. Then over time, I asked Will to write a counter to each of these thoughts as he went along. He didn't have to come up with praise for himself, although if genuine, this would have been great. But the idea was to find evidence to reduce the level of negativity. This process of actively documenting self-criticisms can help disrupt

automatic thought patterns. And

while making these shifts won't automatically lead to happiness, it will at least set the stage for allowing in some positivity.

allowing in some positivity.

For example, when Will told himself that he would never find a girlfriend, he put down that he did have a successful (until the end) long-term relationship in the past – so he must have done something right. When Will told himself that he wasn't as smart as many of his team members, he countered with the fact that he had received a promotion twice in the past four years.

Another helpful exercise is to think of what you would tell a good friend who was relating his or her own self-critical assessments. Would you agree that, yes, your friend should feel bad about himself or herself? Or would you help your friend look for evidence to the contrary? Typically, we can do this easily and naturally for a friend, so why not for ourselves? Is this even fair to have one standard for our friend and another, more exacting one for ourselves?

A cognitive tool that is very helpful in keeping us present (mindful), less anxious, more at peace and therefore happier, is avoiding anticipatory worry. For example, Will made himself very unhappy by projecting into the future how lonely and unfulfilling his life would be, based on his current status. Of course, in reality he has no way

of knowing how his future will look. His worrying only serves to give him a sense of hopelessness, which discourages building his resolve to take positive action. Going forward, we can try to avoid getting caught up in negative "what-ifs" for the future and concentrate instead on

making our present better.

We've all been blindsided by circumstances beyond our control this past year. Of course, there are times when we are going to be sad and disheartened or worried or scared, no matter what. We can't always try to think more positively. But it's important that we support ourselves and our loved ones as best we can during these unusual times, and consciously trying to adjust our perspective can help.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship and Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating.

# ~ Celebrations ~

### Local couple celebrates 60 years together

Gloria and Dick Marchick celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a Zoom party on Friday, Dec. 18. Dick, originally from Cheyenne, Wyo., and Gloria, a St. Louis native met at Washington University, St. Louis where he was a medical student and she was getting a master's degree and teaching. In 1966 they relocated to the Bay Area where Dick practiced Obstetrics & Gynecology in Berkeley and Gloria taught and headed the ESL Program for the Acalanes Union High School District Adult Education department. Both are retired.

They have been residents of Orinda for 47 years where they reared their three children, Patti Kogan, David Marchick and Sarah Marchick. Patti and Mark Kogan live in Orinda, Sarah Marchick and Rob Hallman live in Rockridge, and David Marchick and Pam Kurland live in Washington, DC. The Marchicks have six grandchildren.



www.lamorindaweekly.com



The marquee at the Orinda Theatre was lit up in honor of their anniversary and gifted by their children. In spite of COVID, the celebrating lasted two days. When asked what the secret to a long marriage is, Gloria said, "We were going to get divorced but neither of us wanted the kids so we just stuck it out!"

# IIIn Metmot

### John Michael Reidenbach

Oct. 23, 1944 – Dec. 2, 2020



Tohn Michael Reidenbach, born Oct. **J** 23, 1944, passed away Dec. 2. Mike is survived by his siblings Sandy, Patty, and Jim, his wife Patty, his three children Peter, David, and Sarah, his seven grandchildren Finley, Fisher, Joe, Dane, Samantha, Kelly, and Maisie, and his beloved cat, Stinky.

Mike excelled at giving and taking care of others. Raised in Berkeley by parents Nancy Gilliland and John Reidenbach, Mike was the oldest of four children and went on to excel academically at Stanford and Hastings Law, and professionally at the Alameda District Attorney's office, as legal counsel

at Pacific Gas & Electric for over 40 years, through his self-built insurance company that he ran alongside his son, by becoming a published author, as a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and by serving as Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves

Mike was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian. He treasured collaborating with his BNI friends at their weekly meetings. He was at his happiest rowing a boat on a family vacation at the lake. He was a family man who spent a lifetime trying to do better and better, so he could take care of his family and friends better and better. He strived, worked, and dreamed every day of his life, while also finding time for lifting weights, starting businesses, and being Scotty's body double in a Star Trek movie. Mike especially loved his grandkids, and we will always remember him holding them in his arms as babies, goofing off with and cuddling them as toddlers, and taking pride in giving them thoughtful gifts on every occasion. He lived with the extraordinary enrichment that comes from a generous heart. We are thankful that, after a life of hustle, our dad finally gets to rest. Due to the pandemic, his service will be private but a celebration will be planned for the future. We encourage you to celebrate him in your own way; a glass of red or an act of unsolicited kindness would be appropriate. Memories and condolences are welcome at: michael-reidenbach.forevermissed.com

Donations can be made in his honor to the nonprofit that he sat on the board of: The Cohen Bray house and the Victorian Preservation Center at: https://www.cohenbrayhouse.org

Our family spent Christmas at this historic home every year.

Mike was exceptional, accomplished, devoted, and very loved. Rest in peace, Pops. Thank you for everything that you have done for us. We love you so much, and we'll take care of Stinky.

**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.

# Lafayette 'Men's Book Club' fights food insecurity

Funds 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in distress



Men's Book Club founder and president Ross Goodheart hands off a check for \$7,200 to Elana Sissions, annual fund manager for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. With matching funds, the contribution resulted in 28,000 meals for Contra Costa County residents in need.

#### Submitted by Jeff Album

The Lafayette "Men's Book Club" – an informal group of 48 local dads who know each other through their wives and children – does not read many books. None, in fact. More likely, you will find them in a backyard pitching horseshoes, drinking beer and eating barbecue.

But with pandemic restrictions advising households not to comingle, the MBC opted to come together this holiday season in a different way; by opening their purse strings, seeking corporate matches, and tackling the problem of food insecurity.

"We raised \$7,200 from a few of our members," said Ross Goodheart, MBC's founder and president. "When we turned that over to the Food Bank

of Contra Costa and Solano, they were able to win matching funds, allowing us to net \$14,400, enough to purchase 28,800 meals."

Ross, a market trader with a local financial firm, notes that MBC members volunteer annually at the Food Bank's Concord warehouse, doing so since the club's inauguration in 2010. He readily admits his self-anointed title of president is tongue-in-cheek, but none of the other members seem to mind and the MBC doesn't exactly have rules.

"My only demand is that members answer my email invitations, whether to get together or to volunteer or make a contribution," said Ross. "The answer can be yes or no, but if you don't bother to respond, as another president might say, 'you're fired."

# **Moraga Lions and Muffin People honor volunteers** during pandemic



Photo provided

From left: Lion Bill Hansen, Lion Rich Laufenberg, Jack Dice (Muffin People), Lion Ray Casabonne and Lion Dan Hagan

#### Submitted by Bob Murtagh

In 1988 several members of the Men's Club at St. Monica Catholic Church in Moraga volunteered to collect from the food stores in Moraga to supply St. Mary's Center, Oakland. It soon became obvious that more food was needed so collection was expanded to

six days a week. In the beginning much of the donations were bakery products. One day at St. Mary's Center, upon seeing their van, one of the women clients called out, "Here come the Muffin Men," and the name stuck. As the program grew to include not just St. Mary's but also St. Vincent de Paul dining room and the Emeryville Community Assistance Program, more volunteers were needed and ladies joined the ranks, so the name became the Muffin People. Each of the three sites provide meals and food products to hundreds of needy individuals and families every day.

Presently the Muffin People collect all manor of food stuffs from all three Lamorinda Safeways, Trader Joe's, Diablo Foods, and Whole Foods in Lafayette as well as Lunardii's in

Walnut Creek. It is estimated that the total value of the donated food exceeds more than \$1.4 million annually. Trader Joe's in Lafayette donates about \$850,000 each year.

Jack Dice, of St. Monica Men's Club, is the program coordinator and schedules the daily pickups. Since four of his drivers, Ray Casabonne, Rich Laufenberg, Dan Hagan and Bill Hansen, are members of the Lamorinda Lions Club, the Lions decided to assist this program by giving a small gift of encouragement and appreciation to the heroes who work these food banks. During Christmas week Messrs. Dice and Casabonne awarded the staff and volunteers at St. Mary's Center, St. Vincent de Paul and ECAP with 65 gift bags to recognize their service during these difficult times.

Lion Bill Ridle, the Lions District Governor for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has recently presented an award to the Lamorinda Lions Club and these four Lions for their efforts in preventing hunger.

For more information about the Muffin People, contact Jack Dice at (925) 376-7189. For more information about the Lamorinda Lions, contact Ray Casabonne at (925) 376-3078.

#### Not to be missed



#### Not to be missed



### Not to be missed



### Not to be missed



#### ART

**Art Embrace Words** . Missing your creative tribe? No need for that you are invited to join lovers of the spoken word and visual art by signing up to be part of our Jan. 31 Zoom Webinar as an audience member, visual artist or emerging writer. You can also view live recordings of five 2020 webinars. The Q&A portions reveal a lot about each presenter's creative process. Other 2021 dates are: March 28, May 30, July 25, Sept. 26 and Oct. 31. All this is available at http://lamorindaarts.org/art -embraces-words.

Virtual Art Gallery at Wilder. The Lamorinda Arts Council is pleased to present Rashmi Rajesh's 12 watercolor and oil paintings to ring in the New Year. Rajesh, of San Ramon, is a self-taught artist who was drawing pencil sketches at a very young age in India. As an adult she relied on her drawing skills again as she pursued first acrylics, then oil paint and watercolors. You'll find florals, landscapes, abstracts, and still life works in her show. To keep her work fresh, she experiments with different techniques and subject matter. She hopes her work sparks some kind of connection for viewers because for her, connecting people together is one of the beautiful qualities of art. View the online gallery of artwork images and the artist's video at www.LamorindaARTS.org/WIlder; visit the artist's website at

Virtual Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. To welcome in the 2021 New Year, join us for a peek at rare and protected animals of Africa. Maggie Boscoe, David Fleisig, Pam Hall, Jeffrey Halliday and Maureen

www.rashmisartcarte.com.

Rosati-Wee present photographs taken on safari in national parks. The list includes Hwange, Zambia, Kafue, Botswana and Okavango Delta parks. Their exhibit includes images and a video of exotic animals, birds and landscapes encountered on their travels. Boscoe quotes Karen Blixen, author of "Out of Africa," as to what it's like to be on safari: "There is something about safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you have drunk half a bottle of champagne bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive." Go to https://lamorindaarts.org/ online-galleries for this unique look at another part of the world.

#### MUSIC

**Gold Coast Chamber Players** continu etheir virtual concerts in 2021 with an ambitious series of six new programs. The 2020 Fall Series, Bach Shorts, featured leading Bay Area cellists in an intimate exploration of Bach's Cello Suites. Main Stage Concerts, which begins this month, celebrates love and diversity. Virtual links remain available for one week following the concert date. Cello/bass duo 2LOW from the San Francisco Symphony begins the 2021 Main Stage Concerts with music by Handel, Bottesini and Rossini. Special guests, soprano Isabel Yang and pianist Keisuke Nakagoshi provide the "plus" for the title, 2LOW+ on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 4 p.m. Purchase online at www.GCCPmusic.com or by calling (925) 283-3728.

### LITERATURE

Women Lit Presents Ann Patchett on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 6 to 7 p.m., at baybookfest.org, Virtual Event, Berkeley. Join Pulitzer prize finalist Ann Patchett and Women Lit Jan. 13 for a live event where you'll have the chance to engage with the author in real time. Cost: \$15 - \$30 (with book bundle). For more info see https://www.baybookfest.org/women-lit-events/ or call 510-550-4804 or email info@baybookfest.org.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents
Jerald Walker & Kevin Cartwright:
Zoom Event: How to Make a Slave
and Other Essays on Thursday, Jan
28, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Online
webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King
Jr Way, Berkeley. Jerald Walker
and Kevin Cartwright will appear
via Zoom and discuss Walker's
new book, "How to Make a Slave,"
and answer questions. Cost:
Suggested Donation \$5-\$20. For
more info see http://www.kpfa.org.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Claire Wasserman and her father, Steve Wasserman will discuss her new book "Ladies Get Paid" and answer questions on Monday, Jan 25, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Online webinar, 1929 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Cost: suggested donation \$5-\$20. For more info see https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ claire-wasserman-and-dad-stevewasserman-ladies-get-paid-tickets-130905918125 or call 510-967-4495.

#### OTHER

American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch. (AAUW-0ML) General meeting Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m., via Zoom webinar, California Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, speaking on current legislation in Sacramento affecting women and girls. Registration required at AAUW-OML's website oml-ca.aauw.net.

#### **GARDEN**

Lafayette Garden Club Monthly General Meeting program begins Thursday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. online via Zoom webinar. Join us as a guest at no charge. Myths in the Garden presented by Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, who has held professorships at the University of Washington and Washington State University and is the author of "The Informed Gardener" and other books. She is our first speaker of the New Year, please join us for this interesting PowerPoint presentation to learn about Myths in the Garden. Prior to the start of the Zoom meeting we hope to provide information for attendees to read and follow during the presentation. For details on how to join this presentation and membership information please email MaryanneKain@comcast.net

The Montelindo Garden Club January meeting begins Friday Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Inviting pollinators in; Speaker: Janet Sluis, who is a well-known horticulturist specializing in organic, low water, regionally appropriate, easy-care plants. She is the Sunset Western Garden Collection's curator and plant expert. Sluis will speak about what people can do to address declining bird and insect populations by selecting appropriate plants and trees, including those that will provide year-round habitat and food sources. To request a Zoom link to attend this meeting, email:

montelindogarden@aol.com

The Orinda Garden Club, along with several other Bay Area garden clubs, together are sponsoring a free, virtual symposium: Bay Visions 2021: "The Power of Plants Will Protect the Bay." Please join us for this discussion on Jan. 13, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., for an inspiring look at adaption, regeneration, and the powerful role plants play in mitigating the challenges facing San Francisco Bay. Speakers include Karina Nielsen, professor and director, Estuary & Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University; Dr. Katharyn Boyer, biology professor at San Francisco State University's Estuary & Ocean Science Center; and Josie Iselin, author of "The Curious World of Seaweed." Register (for free) here: www.eventbrite.com/e/bay-visionstickets-127648342629

We invite you to join our Zoom meeting of the Walnut Creek Garden Club on Jan. 11. Our business meeting starts at 10 a.m., and our speaker presentation will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. We are pleased to announce that Brian Kemble, curator at Ruth Bancroft Gardens since 1980, will showcase the iconic plants of the Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Kemble is highly regarded in the horticultural world and is a prolific writer and lecturer on drought tolerant plants. His column "On the Dry Side" has appeared in several local newspapers. To join us, please contact our Co-President, Maureen Little at mslittle44@gmail.com for your zoom invitation.

> Please submit events: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

# Lamorinda's Religious Services

# ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH All are welcome to our on-line services

Sunday Service 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
See website and join us through Zoom
www.christianscienceorinda.org





### Lafayette United Methodist Church

Go to to our YouTube Channel:

for small-batch, home-grown, curated worship playlists and more inspiration



Sundays at 9 a.m. or any time you wish!

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722



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

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/

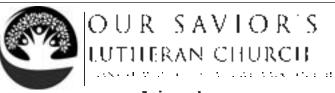


Sunday Worship Services are accessible at our website at about 10:15 a.m. each Sunday (after they have premiered on Facebook).

Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

# St. Anselm's Episcopal Church An Open, Affirming & Loving Community Virtual service at Sun. 9:00 AM

If someone would like to be added to our Zoom invitation please call 925-284-7420 or email cathy.w@stanselms.ws 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, www.stanselms.ws



Join us!

9:30 AM Sunday Livestream at OSLC.NET 11:00 AM SUNDAY DRIVE IN WORSHIP Anytime on our YouTube Channel.

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

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# MORINDA

# Status of high school sports remains in flux

#### By Jon Kingdon

The California Interscholastic Federation announced on July 29 that for the 2020-21 school year, due to the coronavirus, there would be a modified season of sport schedules for the 10 CIF sections, 1,705 schools and over 800,000 athletes. The "fall" season was to begin team practices on Dec. 14 and the spring season on Feb. 22. With the COVID-19 numbers increasing so rapidly, the state of California and the CIF announced that the school's athletic teams would not be able to begin practicing until Jan. 25 at the earliest.

The changes, forced on the athletic programs and businesses, are based on the colored tiers set by the state: Purple, the most restrictive to Red and Orange to Yellow, the least restrictive. Cross Country is one of the few sports that would be allowed in the purple tier. Football and other close contact sports would only be permitted in the orange tier. Gov. Gavin Newsom also stated that the state will roll back or move forward within these tiers after each week.

It was not until mid-December that the state and the CIF updated their guidelines based on the colored tiers. "All that happened right before our winter break," said Campolindo's Athletic Director Raymond Meadows. "The consensus was that here was a rough guideline of a plan to follow and they postponed all competitions until Jan. 25."

Everyone is waiting on tenterhooks to find out the state's new directives on high school sports, which were to be released on Jan. 4 (after press time). Acalanes High

School's athletic director Randy Takahasi is looking forward to getting some direction. "The shelter in place stalled a lot of plans," he said. "There are a lot of meetings that will be happening next week so the state and the CIF will get more guidance on what we're looking at. We have been told that whatever the counties have in place is going to be trumped by whatever the state has in place."

When practices were scheduled to begin in December, there was a concern that there would be major logistical issues with so many sports overlapping. Since starting dates have been moved to late January, it has made things that much more difficult. With so many things being held in abeyance, it was Tim Kruger, Las Lomas' athletic director who summed up succinctly in an email to the league's other athletic directors the frustration they are all going through: "There is so much to do and there is nothing to

Because we're all still waiting, it's daunting to look at how we are going to have the opportunity to do things," said Meadows. "All our coaches and the administrators are flexible and on the same page in that we are going to do whatever it takes to work things out. Things may look drastically different when we do get back. It may mean limiting practice times or cutting practice times and just having to do things a little bit differently than what we did in the past. That is going to be the case for everybody."

What's most frustrating is that they are all flying blind. "It's all been really

challenging, just not knowing," Takahashi said. "We're so used to having a start date and an end date and knowing when the playoffs were going to happen. There is just so much that is in flux that it's hard for those in charge to put out information as well."

According to Takahashi, it's going to be the virus numbers in January and February that may tell the story as to where things are going: "During Christmas and New Year's people are still going to be out and about. We know that is going to happen so we may see a jump in the virus numbers mid-January from what the numbers are. As a rule, people tend to stay at home in January and February. That might help the situation, but it is yet to be seen."

What needs to be determined is how late a start date can be established for each of the sports. It's possible that some spring sports can start earlier in terms of the color tiers. If things were only that easy, Meadows said. "There are weather considerations that need to be taken into account. The question then becomes, how do we arrange things if we keep pushing these start dates back further and still fit it all in within the calendar year?"

Many of the high schools around the state are facing financial pressures. With the booster programs for each of the Lamorinda high schools, it is not as urgent a situation as it is for many of the other high schools. "Financially we are in pretty good shape since we don't rely on gate money as much as other schools," Takahashi said. "We have a very strong booster program that is very helpful. We're going to have to revisit

our budgets based on what changes are made to the seasons so that we will have a good plan in place. Our coaches know that we will need to streamline things because some families may not have the resources to pay for things such as equipment and other items this year so we want to be sensitive to that too. We never want to put families in a position where they're having to make sacrifices at home or feeling guilty about not being able to do so."

It has already been established that there will be no state level playoffs this year. As to whether there will be North Coast Sectional tournaments, that is still to be determined. It's simply a matter of keeping the eye on

the prize as everyone waits to hear the state's new direc-

"Nobody wants to cancel any sports, which is the message that we have been given by North Coast and CIF," Meadows said. "It's been a struggle for everyone but we're trying to stay positive and I keep telling everyone that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are doing our best to try and figure out ways to give our studentathletes something that will resemble a season."

Takahashi has taken the same approach: "The emphasis really is going to be on getting kids participating so that even if the seasons get shortened any more, our goal will still be to give our kids the opportunity to play."



Cooper Alford on the water

#### **Correction**

In the Dec. 23 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Rowing through the pandemic," the last quote in the last paragraph of the article -There were days where I got in the boat and had a feeling that made me forget everything. Where I could look down the gunnel at my friends and realize that we had never rowed that good before and yell and laugh at our success. Where we would get to the end of the estuary, look out at the sun setting beautifully over the San Francisco skyline and just enjoy life, only to row all the way back to the boathouse moments later." – was incorrectly attributed to Matty Shepherd, when the quote should have been attributed to Campolindo senior Cooper Alford. We apologize for the error.

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# Million-yard swim marathon fundraiser concludes successfully



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Photo provided

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step and you eat an elephant a bite at a time. In January, David Miller took the first of approximately 740,000 strokes in his quest to swim a million yards before the end of the year. His goal was to raise \$50,000 for the Cancer Research Institute. After averaging 4,000 yards, each day, five days a week, Miller accomplished both missions on Dec. 27.

Coming into this last day, reaching the magic number of \$50,000 appeared to be unattainable. "This morning, we only had \$38,200 donated," Miller said. "However, at 9 a.m., we got an anonymous donation of \$10,000 which put us just \$1,800 short of our goal. We put that out on our social media and before I started swimming, we had

reached the \$50,000 mark. As of now, donations have reached \$51,490. Contributions can still be made at www.swimamillion.org. Just hit the "Donate Button."

This last day was not a solitary effort for Miller. There were 33 other lanes that were used by individuals and couples who donated \$250 each to gain the privilege of swimming with Miller to the finish line. There were also several spectators cheering them on. Campolindo graduate and Olympic medalist Kim Vandenberg, who currently lives in Southern California, was in town and swam alongside Miller. "When I learned that Kim was going to be in the area for the holidays, I invited her to swim with us," Miller said. "She brought along her mother and grandmother and it was perfect with three generations of her family swimming alongside me."

There was only one drawback for Miller with Vandenberg swimming in the next lane: "Kim swam half as fast as she normally does and still swam twice as fast as me.

"The event was a wonderful, warm and emotional finale to a long and complicated year but even the fear of COVID couldn't suppress the enthusiasm of all those present," Miller said.

As Miller approaches his 60th birthday, what will be his next challenge? "I haven't convinced myself of anything in particular," Miller said, "but there's always something in the back of my mind. I'll figure it out soon."

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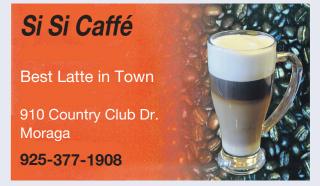
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# Lamorinda OUR HOME

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 14 Issue 23 Wednesday, January 6, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

### Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Garden trends for 2021



Add acanthus to your landscape for lush greenery and interesting spring floral spikes.

#### By Cynthia Brian

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right!"~ Oprah Winfrey

Hellooooo 2021! We have been holding our collective breaths for the past 10 months desperately anticipating a new beginning with a new year.

Are you feeling a renewed enthusiasm for living? Are you ready to dig in? Every year the Garden Media Group



Climbing sweet peas will brighten any trellis or fence.

releases information on what trends are formulating for the next season of horticulture, with 2021 being dubbed "The Great Reset," which is aptly titled given that we are still sheltering in place, connecting with loved ones and friends mostly online and by phone. The world is connected through this shared experience of a global pandemic as we impart information to help one another cope and prosper.

The year 2020 was deemed the year where gardens, open spaces and nature, in general, became a priority for maintaining



Purple society garlic is deer-resistant and blooms in winter.

wellness in body, mind and spirit. Roomier homes with large backyards or acreage were in high demand as social distancing developed into the norm. Gardens became the bridge to building confidence and resilience while connecting communities and neighborhoods.

In 2021, the great outdoors will become even more critical as classes of all creeds move outside. Expect to experience yoga, dance, workouts, art, cooking, entertainment, and activities for kids scheduled in outdoor ... continued on Page D4 spaces.

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#### **Recent Sales**

- 37 Oak Rd, Orinda
- 371 Calle La Montana, Moraga,
- 1295 Shakespeare Dr, Concord
- I Aghalee Rd, Orinda
- 234 El Toyonal Rd, Orinda
- 15 Candlestick Rd, Orinda
- 34 La Cuesta Rd, Orinda
- 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
- 14 Berkeley Ave, Orinda
- 1571 1st Ave, Walnut Creek
- 42 Knox Dr, Lafayette
- 5316 Woodgrove Ct, Concord
- 70 Coral Dr, Orinda
- 59 Canyon Green Way, San Ramon
- 112 Spring Rd, Orinda
- 10 Rheem Blvd, Orinda
- 25 Longridge Rd, Orinda
- 807 Paseo Roble Ct, Walnut Creek
- 1128 Sanders Dr, Moraga
- 9 La Fond Ln, Orinda
- 516 Estancia Ct, San Ramon
- 21 Greenwood Ct, Orinda
- 3256 Greenhills Dr, Lafayette

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Page: D2 OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

### Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	24	\$840,000	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	19	\$472,500	\$1,835,000
ORINDA	35	\$305,000	\$3,700,000

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**

- 3539 Boyer Circle, \$1,642,000, 4 Bdrms, 2464 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-17-20, Previous Sale: \$875,000, 10-24-13
- 918 Dewing Avenue #A, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 11-17-20, Previous Sale: \$790,000, 03-20-17
- 940 Dewing Avenue #A, \$840,000, 2 Bdrms, 1260 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-13-20
- 3190 Diablo View Road, \$1,507,000, 4 Bdrms, 3024 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 11-12-20, Previous Sale: \$1,155,000, 12-11-13
- 3954 El Nido Ranch Road, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3459 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 07-14-14
- 3220 Greenhills Drive, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2956 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$480,000, 07-01-87
- 3230 Greenhills Drive, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4899 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 09-26-12
- 23 Greentree Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3486 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-09-20 3702 Happy Valley Road, \$3,924,000, 5 Bdrms, 4079 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-23-20, Previous Sale: \$3,550,000, 08-04-17
- 3720 Highland Court, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1988 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$990,000, 11-04-15
- 1000 Howard Hills Road, \$1,057,000, 4 Bdrms, 2507 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 11-25-20 1581 Huston Road, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 3199 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-20-20, Previous Sale: \$605,000, 06-05-07
- 2 Middle Road, \$1,905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 08-11-15
- 1146 Nogales Street, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 3171 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-13-20
- 1148 Oak Hill Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-19-20, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 01-17-18
- 3891 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 3528 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-20-20
- 1982 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 3361 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 11-03-20, Previous Sale: \$235,000, 03-31-98
- 3164 Somerset Place, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2194 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-16-20
- 3179 Stanley Boulevard, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-20-20
- 3259 Surmont Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2962 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$1,493,500, 12-23-15
- 3371 Sweet Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1732 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-19-20
- 1223 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3865 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$2,835,000, 06-13-12
- 15 Via La Cumbre, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 3090 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$880,000, 09-08-03
- 2970 Windtree Court, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3502 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,203,000, 09-29-10

#### **MORAGA**

- 117 Ascot Court #B, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-24-20, Previous Sale: \$412,000, 12-09-16
- 1921 Ascot Drive, \$825,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-12-20
- 818 Augusta Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$915,000, 12-07-16
- 1355 Camino Pablo, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3250 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-17-20, Previous Sale: \$335,000, 02-01-89
- 3736 Campolindo Drive, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-19-20 44 Cumberland Lane, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$222,000, 11-11-20
- 148 Draeger Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1402 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-13-20
- 11 Francisca Drive, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$359,000, 10-12-99
- 15 Gloria Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2421 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-10-20
- 23 Indian Wells Street, \$1,835,000, 4 Bdrms, \$122 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 06-26-18

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### Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Garden trends for 2021



Pick a few sprigs of narcissus to perfume an entire room.

... continued from Page D1

Research indicates that over 16 million people started gardening for the first time during the pandemic and many of them are under the age of 35. More than half of American adults are spending at least two additional hours outside today than before the outbreak started. In 2021, gardening will become a part of everyday life and will infiltrate school curriculums. Currently, 67% of adults are growing or plan to grow edibles. Berries are the most prevalent plus 52% of people are growing vegetables, 33% growing herbs, and 31% growing fruit.

#### What's trending up for 2021?

- Increased online sales of plants and garden products which offer convenience, speed, and safety.
- Parks, trails, and open spaces will

become an integral part of daily life.

- Interiorscaping will become a new buzzword as stores and businesses bring the outdoors in.
- Greater demand for houseplants for every room, especially home offices.
- Tropical plants will grace new "garden rooms" indoors.
- Certified wildlife habitats and pollinator gardens are spreading.
- Educational courses, how-to videos, and garden consultants will become routine learning tools.
- A surge in home cooking and the fear of food scarcity means growing one's own fruits, vegetables, and herbs is a necessity.
- Canning and preserving food for the future will be re-popularized.
- Children will be introduced at a younger

age to the treasures of nature.

- Miniature plants to grow on windowsills, under grow lights, or under glass for those living in small apartments without yards will be more readily available.
- We will live with nature and protect our eco-systems to save lives.

The benefits of gardening are innumerable and will grow even more fashionable. Increased health, decreased stress, improved wellness, and stronger bodies through garden chores will lead to happier more balanced lifestyles.

In 2021, we will embrace nature as part of our being. Nature is not something "out there" in the wilderness. Nature will thrive in our backyards, on rooftops, balconies, porches and windowsills. Our very existence will depend on creating a sustainable balance between humans and all creation.

My hope is that we will all finally understand that there are no mistakes in the garden. Failure is fertilizer to grow anew. Just garden.

Happy New Year with revived cheer. Let's get it right!



The bright shiny foliage of Naked Lady adds green to a bare yard.

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Best Wishes to you and your family in the New Year!

\*2021 home sale mentioning this ad

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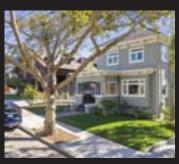


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**3619 Lincoln Way** Represented Sellers



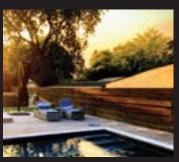
**246 Valleton Ln**Represented Buyers



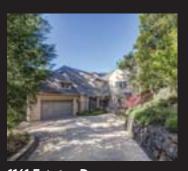
**3468 Midvale Ave** Represented Buyers



**2 Jack Tree Knoll** Represented Sellers



**17 Cedarbrook Ct** Represented Sellers



**1161 Estates Dr** Represented Sellers



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



# Happy New Year!

# Make the Right Move in 2021.

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# ARRIVING SOON



#### INTAMORINDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Regional Director Ron Mintz

925.872.0968 ron@vanguardproperties.com DRE# 01095341

VANGUARDPROPERTIES.COM



#### Lamorinda home sales recorded

#### MORAGA ... continued

 $267\ Lakefield\ Place,\ \$1,350,000,\ 5\ Bdrms,\ 2424\ SqFt,\ 1968\ YrBlt,\ 11-17-20$ 82\ Marie Place,\ \\$1,385,000,\ 4\ Bdrms,\ 2203\ SqFt,\ 1967\ YrBlt,\ 11-20-20,

Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 08-15-19

73 Miramonte Drive, \$646,500, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-24-20, Previous Sale: \$555,000, 09-01-20

262 Paseo Bernal, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-02-20, Previous Sale: \$679,000, 06-13-05

1855 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,101,500, 2 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-19-20, Previous Sale: \$895,000, 11-09-18

1866 School Street, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$795,000, 04-26-11

817 Villa Lane #4, \$472,500, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$336,000, 09-08-14

17 Wandel Drive, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$868,500, 07-05-13

1052 Wickham Drive, \$1,532,500, 4 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$1,201,000, 06-28-07

#### **ORINDA**

38 Brookwood Road, \$1,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 1517 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$720,000, 11-01-13

14 Camino Sobrante, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2518 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-20-20, Previous Sale: \$1,048,000, 08-06-14

2 Casa Vieja, \$2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 4186 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 11-09-20, Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 09-27-12

39 Charles Hill Road, \$1,517,000, 5 Bdrms, 3720 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-18-20

48 Charles Hill Road, \$3,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 4738 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 11-13-20

73 Claremont Avenue, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-23-20, Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-03-02

41 Donald Drive, \$3,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3469 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 05-10-19

14 Eastwood Drive, \$1,252,000, 4 Bdrms, 1632 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$310,000, 01-01-89

44 El Camino Moraga, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-20-20

10 El Toyonal, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1157 SqFt, 1924 YrBlt, 11-18-20

34 El Toyonal, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-18-20

1 Estabueno Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2303 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-03-20

10 Gardiner Court, \$3,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 5306 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$3,050,000, 11-02-04

353 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2916 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-17-20, Previous Sale: \$585,000, 07-21-99

22 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-13-20

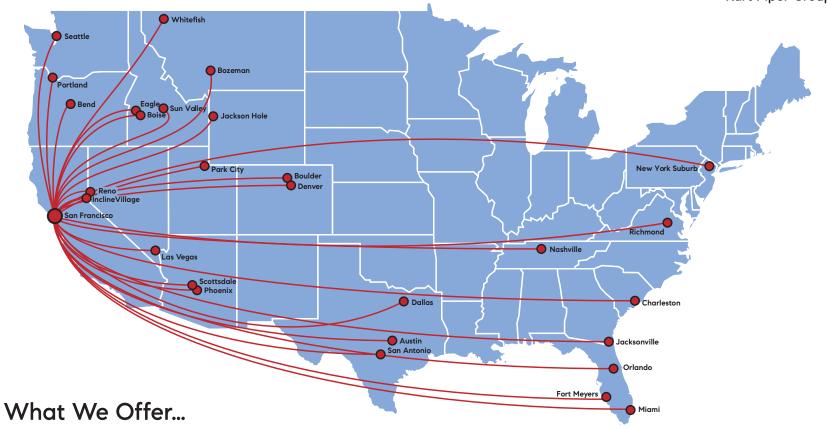
34 La Cresta Road, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2367 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-24-20

21 Los Arboles, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 3736 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-24-20

5 Madrone Place, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1859 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-25-20, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-28-20

# Moving out of California? We have you covered.





#### **Departure Services**

- · Home price evaluation
- · Rental price evaluation
- · Managing pre-sale improvements
- · Assistance with vendor management and maintenance
- · Recommendations on staging
- · Professional photography
- · Inspections and disclosure assistance
- · Online and social media marketing
- · Postcards and print marketing
- · Managing all showings of your home

#### **Destination Services**

Introduction to relocation Realtor® to provide the following services

- · Area and lifestyle counseling
- Pre-decision counseling
- Tailored community tours
- · Assistance with mortgage pre-approval
- Homefinding purchase or rental
- Purchase/rental offer and negotiations
- Recommend inspectors and vendors
- Neighborhood and community liaison
- Personal follow-up and client relations



Barb Brawner & Kurt Piper

Contact the Kurt Piper Group for a confidential conversation.

Kurt Piper: 925.818.8000



Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com kurtpipergroup.com DRE 01130308



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# Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for January

**DETACH** ornaments, lights, and tinsel from your Christmas trees and leave them on the curb on your garbage pickup day. Flocked trees can be cut up and put in the green bins.

**BEWARE** of wild boars on the rampage. Boars are causing major damage to landscapes and are a danger to people and pets. Fish and Game offers information. For local assistance with wildlife control including boars, coyotes, turkeys, deer, and more, contact licensed and insured Full Boar Depredation, https://www.fullboar-llc.com.

**LOWER** your anxiety with the Japanese practice of shrinrin-yoku or forest bathing. Take a walk in nature and you'll immediately experience relaxation.

**REMOVE** wrapping from any holiday gifted plants to allow for drainage.

**PRUNE** deciduous fruit trees, bushes, flowering shrubs and cane berries. Roses can be heavily pruned toward the end of the month.

**SPRAY** your second application of a dormant spray aimed to kill the many overwintering insects and diseases after you have pruned.



Damage to a lawn from the wild boars invading neighborhoods.

Photos Cynthia Brian

**PICK** a few sprigs of narcissus to perfume an entire room.

**PLANT** all bare root fruit trees, perennials, berries and vines. They cost less and will adapt quickly to their new home.

ADD acanthus to your landscape for lush greenery and interesting spring floral spikes.

**BUY** healthy meal kits with farm-fresh ingredients from Sun Basket if you aren't growing your own. https://bit.ly/2DipPsT

**BUILD** a river rock dry creek to direct runoff rainwater.

ORDER bare-root roses from your local nursery or find beautiful, fragrant cultivars at www.DavidAustin.com.

BRIGHTEN your winter landscape with sweet peas, society garlic, and guara (which looks like floating butterflies).

**CONTINUE** wearing your mask, social distancing, and washing your hands.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing! Cheers for 2021!





Cynthia Brian wears a glitter mask outdoors for the 2021 New Year!

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

#### Lamorinda home sales recorded

#### ORINDA ... continued

- 46 Martha Road, \$2,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2648 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-12-20, Previous Sale: \$915,000, 05-14-03
- 432 Miner Road, \$1,640,000, 3 Bdrms, 2193 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-25-20, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 10-26-18
- 191 Moraga Way, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1369 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-23-20, Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-20-20
- 8 Nobi Lane, \$2,320,000, 5 Bdrms, 2874 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$660,000, 09-01-91
- 37 Oak Road, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 4672 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 11-23-20, Previous Sale: \$1,447,500, 04-21-11
- 282 Orchard Road, \$305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-17-20, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 01-11-10
- 31 Orinda View Road, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3519 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-19-20
- 2 Rabble Road, \$3,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 5363 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 09-15-15
- 34 Sanborn Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2500 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$907,000, 05-06-14
- 32 Scenic Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-13-20, Previous Sale: \$1,055,000, 06-18-10
- 56 Sunnyside Lane, \$2,300,000, 6 Bdrms, 3138 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-19-20
- 521 Tahos Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2614 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 10-02-15
- 46 Valley Drive, \$1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 2658 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-18-20, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-10-14
- 38 Valley Drive, \$2,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 11-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,485,000, 07-12-12
- 28 Via Callados, \$1,920,000, 5 Bdrms, 3288 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 11-12-20, Previous Sale: \$1,665,000, 08-08-18
- 18 Wild Lilac Way, \$2,163,000, 4 Bdrms, 3006 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
- 57 Windy Creek Way, \$2,282,000, 3 Bdrms, 3643 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 11-10-20, Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15



23 Dutton Ave San Leandro

John Notch owner Cell 510-703-6956

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1638 Grand View Drive | Berkeley | Offered for \$1,940,000

This 4,783 square foot 5BD/3.5BA beauty spans four levels and looks down on Berkeley from its hillside perch. The adjoining guest cottage is nearly 700 square feet with its own full bathroom.

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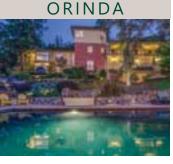
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### LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM



Gated estate on secluded cul-desac w/ views of San Pablo reservoir, San Francisco Bay, & the mountains of Marin.

\$6,250,000



#### 33 Dias Dorados

Lovingly restored Spanish-Mediterranean 6 bed/ 6 bath/ 2 half bath home w/ guesthouse on 1.67 gated acres.

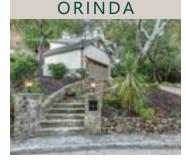
\$4,350,000



#### 56 Via Floreado

Exceptional 5 bed/ 4.5 bath 4248 sqft home on .54 acres w/ updated kitchen & panoramic views of Orinda. Minutes from Hwy 24.

\$2,595,000

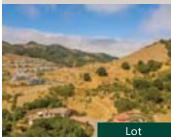


#### 42 Oak Road

Spacious 4 bed + bonus room/ 3 bath 2860 sqft home on .28 acres. Close to town, BART & Hwy 24. Excellent schools!

\$1,595,000

# ORINDA



#### 20 Oak Court

One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views!

\$875,000



#### 67 Brookwood Road # 3

Rarely available 2 bed/ 1 bath first floor condo in charming Orinda Oaks, close to BART, shops, theater & restaurants

\$550,000



#### 8 Via San Inigo

Beautiful 4 bed/ 3 bath home w/ great commute, flat yard space, solar panels, electric car charger & views!

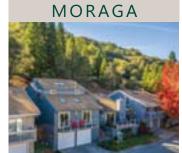
\$6,000/ Monthly



#### 4 Los Dedos Road

Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath home located in Orinda Country Club. Includes laundry room & separate work shop.

\$5,495/ Monthly



#### 124 Greenbriar

3 bed/ 2 bath 2486 saft home updated throughout in Moraga Country Club. Garage holds 2 cars plus a golf cart.

\$1,349,500



#### 21 Hidden Valley Road

Custom 4 bed/ 3 bath 3679 sqft home on .48 acres minutes from commute, BART, shopping, & top rated schools.

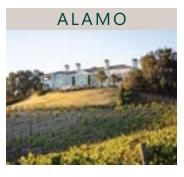
\$2,750,000



#### 1000 Dewing Avenue #307

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath 1568 sqft condo close to vibrant downtown Lafayette w/ private patio & in-closet laundry.

\$1,185,000



#### 10 Serenity Lane

Majestic gated 12 bed/ 13 bath/ 3 half bath chateau w/ vineyard, 20 showcase car barn, & trophy club

\$19,500,000

# The Village Associates:

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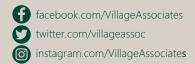
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