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When Lamorinda recycles, one man's trash becomes another man's treasure

By Vera Kochan

Where do Lamorinda's recyclables wind up once the blue bins are emptied into a trash truck each week? It lands at Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery in Pittsburg, Calif. (with the help of partners such as Republic Services and RecycleSmart).

Started in the 1930s by the Garaventa family in Concord, the facility currently serves over 250,000 residents and thousands of businesses, promising to "reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, and recover." Their company philosophy states, "Every day at Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery we commit our people and our systems to elevating the environment, economic, and community value of every material stream we collect and process. We call our philosophy Community Resource Optimization."

MDRR's CEO Kish Rajan and General Manager Jim Nejedly gave this reporter a crash course in recycling methodology and a tour of the facility's already processed inventory. According to Rajan, the 40-acre site handles 1,500 tons each day with the help of 360 employees. Their 100 all-renewable diesel trucks operate in the Pittsburg, Concord and Oakley area, and the single stream recycling from Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, and Danville area is delivered by Republic Services.

They accept all colors of glass and prefer that the lids are separated from the containers; aluminum cans, foil, cookie sheets, tin cans, etc. should be clean;

... continued on Page 15

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	Page 12
Not to be missed	Page 10
How to contact us	Page 10
Classified	Page 10
Community Service	Page 12
Obituaries	Page 12-13
Shop Orinda	Page 15



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4.8% hike in refuse collection rates approved for Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Most Orinda residents will be paying an extra \$2.50 to \$2.85 a month in garbage rates, in accordance with a raise in collection rates approved by the City Council on Jan. 23. The increase allows Recycle Smart, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to charge the higher rates from March 1 through Feb. 28, 2025. Orinda is represented on the JPA by council members Inga Miller and Janet Riley. With the increase, commercial monthly rates will go up by \$33.22 to \$49.83. Although the increases are described as monthly, services are actually billed quarterly.

Recycle Smart will be selecting a new trash hauler, but the process will take a couple of years. Riley said that during the process, the JPA wanted to avoid a price spike when the new hauler takes over, perhaps in 2027. Council Member Latika Malkani was reassured that the rate hike was consistent with what the JPA consultants had recommended, including a 3.3% rise in operating costs and a 1.37% rise in reserves. Malkani also thanked Reilly and Miller for performing this time-consuming assignment.

Mayor Darlene Gee

added her thanks to Miller and Riley, and said that the rate hike "seems quite reasonable."

"Everything goes up at least a little every year," she added, and this increase "seems proportionately tolerable."

Malkani asked if complaints are down, and was assured that since the end of October, things have been a lot better because Republic Services brought in a national vice president to oversee local operations.

There was no public comment on the rate increase.

Lafayette council streamlines transportation projects for future funding

By Lou Fancher

Raising public awareness of and to have a conversation about potential transportation projects so appropriate and timely funding can be sought was the purpose of a presentation at the Jan. 22 council meeting by Transportation Program Manager Patrick Golier.

City staff sought council input because citywide projects needed to be efficiently communicated so that staff is able to anticipate grant opportunities far enough in advance of funding deadlines. Relatively short timelines between a grant program's call-

for-projects and the application due date limit the ability of the staff to vet potential projects through public processes on a case-by-case basis. In the report, they suggested that having a number and variety of identified future projects that may be candidates for when grant programs are announced would be helpful, if not essential to obtaining transportation funding for unfunded projects identified in 2024's Transportation Work Plan. He emphasized that none of the discussion of the six projects he planned to introduce

in the meeting precluded the usual public engagement process that must follow, should any of the projects receive future funding.

The six projects include the EBMUD Aqueduct Pathway Project; updates to Lafayette's Walkways and Bicycle Master Plans; Traffic Signal Design and Construction at Deer Hill Road/Oak Hill Road; a traffic study involving right-turn on red restrictions along Mt. Diablo Boulevard.; construction of St. Mary's Drop-Off and Sidewalk Gap Closure Project;

... continued on Page 3

Civic News

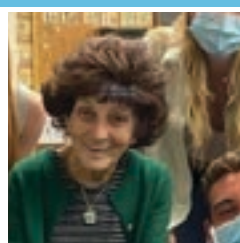
El Curtola bridge protests continue, sparking continued safety concerns – Page 2

Public Safety

Orinda Red Flag Day parking restrictions discussed – Page 7

Life in Lamorinda

"I am not an entertainer, I am a teacher," Campolindo teacher retires – Page 9



Sports

Floyd Burnsed named Coach of the Year – Page 14



Our Homes

Lamorinda Weekly's Gardening Goddess outlines gardening goals for the new year – Page OH1



OH1-OH12



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 Phone: (925) 284-1968
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 www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings
City Council

Regular Meeting: Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

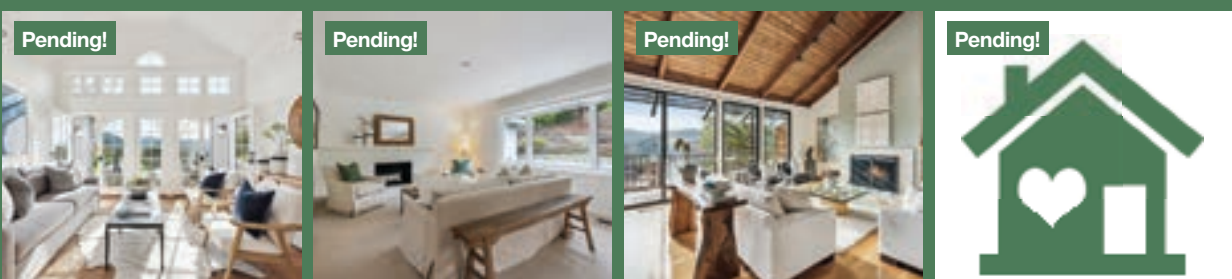
Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 5, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
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El Curtola bridge protests spark safety and legal concerns

By Lou Fancher

Combining public safety concerns, confusing responsibility channels between state, regional, and local government agencies, and hot-button issues such as the First Amendment and peaceful assembly, the El Curtola bridge over Highway 24

has become a high-voltage topic in Lafayette. At the Jan. 22 city council meeting, City Manager Nirop Srivatsa delivered a report on demonstrations and protests held on the bridge since 2020. In a review of the item's history, Srivatsa

and residents commenting during the meeting said narrow sidewalks and the slim roadway increase the danger of public gatherings and the signs and flags affixed to the bridge's protective chain-link fencing are distractions to motorists on Highway 24 below.

Srivatsa said city staff and the police department anticipate ongoing gatherings and demonstrations will increase, given the presidential election later this year.

Srivatsa reiterated that the State of California owns the bridge, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintains the bridge, with the one exception being that the city has one maintenance agreement to maintain the surfacing, which includes the sidewalks. Notably, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is charged with enforcing the laws and regulations of the State of California relating to gatherings on the El Curtola Blvd/Highway 2024 overpass.

The city has previously been asked whether its sign ordinance or any other code regulation might apply to protests on the bridge. City attorney Mala Subramanian confirmed in past meetings that the city's ordinances and regulations would not apply to state property such as a freeway facility. At the Feb. 22 meeting, Subramanian reviewed the city's responsibilities and limitations: the signs

or anything affixed to the bridge are the state's responsibility to remove; the CHP must enforce the laws and regulations, not local law enforcement officers; and Caltrans must clear signs, banners, and flags (other than the American flag, which was granted an exception in a well-documented federal court case). The jurisdiction of the three agencies precludes and prohibits several actions of the city, such as real-time removal of objects and ticketing protesters, other than issuing tickets for violations involving illegal parking on or near the bridge.

Srivatsa said increased activity since October 2023 shows the bridge has been the site of new demonstrations. Drivers have been seen and reported as driving onto the shoulder of the freeway, with one case where a motorist stopped his vehicle in a lane amid moving traffic and made efforts to engage with protesters. City staff in the past and now, have contacted Caltrans to determine how the agency is enforcing its laws.

While waiting this year for a response to the most recent inquiry and with considerable concern expressed in letters and email sent to the city council, Srivatsa said she has placed an urgent call to state Sen. Steve Glazer's office with a request that he facilitate a meeting between the city, Caltrans and the CHP.

Last time, the city

had adopted a resolution and sent a request to Caltrans to monitor the situation. "For about 3-4 months the police chief was receiving accident data (for Highway 24)," she said. Reaching out to Glazer's office again, she said, "I received a phone call from the branch chief of Caltrans' public affairs and community engagement who said she had received the voice mail message and would speak to the director about what steps Caltrans can take."

During council members' discussion, Mayor Gina Dawson expressed appreciation for the effort made by city staff to discuss the matter with Sen. Glazer and underscored the importance of the growing public safety concerns. Council Member Susan Candell referenced past meetings during which placing an opaque material to block the visibility of protest items and people protesting on the bridge was discussed. She asked staff to pull previous designs deemed too complicated to install at the time for review and a discussion of new options that may be possible in 2024.

Vice Mayor Wei-Tai Kwok, after reading through the "multiyear history and public comment on the bridge," wondered if the CHP would defer to local police action on their behalf. Srivatsa said that in 2020 and 2021, incidents of altercations and people blocking access to the

bridge occurred and local police were out enforcing the law as a health and safety matter. Deferring the legalities to her colleague, Subramanian said real time enforcement is largely the purview of the state, Caltrans and CHP, and other than the city noise ordinance, code enforcement is the city's only actionable law enforcement at the current time.

In public comments, Garret Harley said the five-plus-year issue brought to his mind the protests after 9-11 and said "any time there are protesters, you get counter protesters." He said things falling from the bridge have caused hazards on the roadway. In the matter of protest, such action labeled "courtesy work" is hard to define, he suggested and asked if the state could give the city "a clear picture of the civil case law governing this kind of thing, and allocate what department should be responsible for enforcing it."

Another member of the community suggested the state and Caltrans participate in creating a public gathering application process for holding protests. The hope would be that traffic control could, as a result, be "organized and nice and neat."

A third person participating virtually emphasized the public safety issues for both pedestrians and drivers on the bridge, not just motorists on the highway. She said there was no local law enforcement during an MLK Day protest and had concerns about parking rules not being followed and safety issues she predicted will rise as the election moves closer.

Returning the matter to council, Council Member Carl Anduri said it was "shameful" that Caltrans and CHP "shirked their responsibility to take action unless something happens on the freeway." He called the situation absurd and frustrating. He believes no protests should be allowed on the bridge, and said, "Nobody should be out there with flags, banners, marching, or protests."

Kwok thanked the community for providing input. He said it was important the public understand the matter is a safety issue related to public gatherings and not to be misinterpreted as messaging or taking a stance on political topics.

The council unanimously approved staff's recommendation to meet with legislators and state agencies to ensure motorist safety on Highway 24 and the enforcement of state laws and regulations.

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Residents gather on rainy Saturday to work together on Two Parks

Submitted by Grace Dixon



Photo Scientific Art Studio

The early morning chill and constant rainfall on Jan. 20 did not dampen the neighborhood's collaboration on two park designs. Residents age 0-85 years joined together in the spirit of mutual respect and shared love for Leigh Creekside Park and Gazebo Park.

City Parks Director Jonathan Katayangi welcomed the large crowd into a 600-square-foot tent, and more neighbors gathered outside under umbrellas. Scientific Art Studio (SAS), the design team for these two projects, began the workshop with Creative Director Ron Holthuysen.

SAS designed the artful playgrounds at San Francisco Zoo, Oakland Zoo, Bay Area Discovery Museum Lookout Cove, and more. As raindrops tapped nonstop overhead, Holthuysen invited members of the public to share their hopes for the two parks. He emphasized the studio's preference for natural-looking play environments and natural materials, a sentiment shared by key stakeholders and the commu-

nity. Members of the public then offered constructive feedback and ideas, including a request that East Bay Regional Parks District repair the adjacent connecting trail.

After more than 10 years, the key stakeholders agreed that a small front section of Leigh Creekside Park, between the pathway and Moraga Boulevard, may be re-designed as a nature-inspired play area for children up to 4 years old. They also agreed that the larger, active play environment for 5- to 8-year-olds will shift to a creekside portion of the Gazebo parking lot.

One 85-year-old park neighbor said, "I think change is inevitable and I have no problem with what is going on. I think it is wonderful. ... I think it will be a better thing. One of the things that never changes is change." The workshop concluded with SAS's Jon Betthausen and Xilou Wang distributing dot stickers for audience members to place on the displayed play element images they preferred from other SAS projects.

Both properties are city-owned, but these designs require community donations. All Ages Recreation Downtown (AARD) is a Lafayette-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit actively fundraising for these two new park designs. The deadline to raise the remaining \$50,000 needed for Phase 1 is quickly approaching this October. To make a tax-deductible donation or to volunteer to help, visit allagesplay.org.

Mayor Gina Dawson, Council Member Carl Anduri, East Bay Regional Park District's Dee Rosario, and Lafayette's Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission also attended the workshop. The Community Foundation of Lafayette and All Ages Recreation Downtown brought children's activities, multiple tents, and seven teen volunteers to help kids play and craft.

The second parks design workshop date is to be determined. To stay informed, sign up at www.lovelafayette.org/two-parks to receive email updates from the City of Lafayette.

Lafayette council streamlines transportation projects for future funding

... continued from Page 1

and the Pleasant Hill Road Center-Median Multi-Use Pathway Project. Each project involves funding for different phases, such as to initiate studies, or move into design stages, or to complete construction of approved designs, among others.

Council Member Carl Anduri voiced concern about downtown corridor mobility and safety planning that he believes should be more complete before investing council discussion and staff time into the unfunded projects. Public comments primarily addressed the center-median pathway project,

with people suggesting the project needed more clarification as to location, design, and other details before being included on the project list. Prioritizing and eliminating some of the projects to better focus on fewer projects most important to the city and its residents received support from a person participating virtually.

Mayor Gina Dawson said prioritizing the list in consideration of staff's limited time as was suggested by the public speaker was advisable. Council Member Teresa Gerringer and Anduri said it would be premature to approve the entire list without more time for the coun-

cil to study and hold conversations about the Pleasant Hill pathway project. That project was removed from the list.

The EBMUD Aqueduct Pathway Project was determined by the council to be a priority, and council invited the engineering department to determine the prioritization of the remaining four projects based on which are best positioned for grant opportunities as they arise. The council unanimously approved a motion to support the staff's request to move forward with funding requests when they become available.

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Council gets update on Corliss Drive public safety improvements

By Vera Kochan

Corliss Drive public safety improvements with regards to Safe Routes to School (Los Perales Elementary) has been on the town's radar since 2004, thanks to local residents who are concerned about the hazards pedestrians

and cyclists face on a daily basis – specifically, the dangers involving the northern part of Corliss Drive from Warfield Drive to where the street converts to Sullivan Drive stretching to Arroyo Drive.

In 2004, Moraga installed a raised concrete sidewalk on the eastern portion of Corliss Drive between Camino Ricardo and Wakefield Drive. In 2010, the same type of sidewalk was installed on a portion of Corliss Drive from Wakefield Drive north to Warfield Drive.

The current request for improvements by residents has already gone through two phases with the help of professional services from Traffic Engineering Lead Nate Levine of Sandis Engineers, Surveyors and Planners, contracted by the town in December 2022. To date, the project has involved site investigation, survey, and data gathering as well as public outreach to establish community-based public safety improvement options.

Several design options/alternatives were presented during a community Zoom meeting in September 2023. Option 1 – Quick Build Alternative with

at pavement grade, delineated shoulder multi-use lane (paint & plastic). Option 2 – At pavement grade, delineated shoulder multi-use lane (with asphalt berm and plastic vertical delineators). Option 3A – Raised concrete sidewalk. Option 3B – Raised concrete sidewalk and buffered bike lane. Option 4 – Separated raised multi-use path. Option 5 – At pavement grade multi-use pathway (one-way vehicle traffic).

According to a Jan. 23 staff report to the town council by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, “Based on the community input provided, the most desired public safety measure is Option 3A (construction of a Raised Concrete Sidewalk along the outer radius of the Corliss Drive/Sullivan Drive curve). The next desired public safety measure is Option 2 (installation of an At Pavement Grade, Delineated Shoulder Multi-Use Lane with an Asphalt Berm and Plastic Vertical Delineators along the outer radius of the Corliss Drive/Sullivan Drive curve).” Option 3A carries with it a preliminary construction cost estimate of \$1.4 million and may be implemented within 1.5

to 3 years if funding is available.

The report went on to explain the reasoning behind the residents' choices. “Community members expressed a preference for raised concrete facilities over roadway-grade facilities to provide the desired safety and security for pedestrians and school children. Adjacent property owners expressed a desire to implement an aesthetically pleasing project that maintains on-street vehicle parking and private landscaping. These residents preferred the raised concrete sidewalk or at-grade multi-use lane with an asphalt berm.”

During the council meeting, Moraga Police Chief Jon King spoke in favor of Option 3A, stating, “It's the one that would get the kids off the street. Also, while we're impinging upon the neighbors and taking a piece of the right-of-way, we are leaving them their on-street parking, which also actually provides another safety barrier between a moving vehicle and the sidewalk.”

Town Manager Scott Mitnick discussed the various construction funding strategies such as the Transportation Development Act (TDA)



Photo Courtesy Moraga Public Works Department

Students currently walk in the street or step up onto landscaping on their way to and from school.

Grant, gas tax, Measure J, Measure K, Development Impact Fees (LFFA), Reserves, General Fund, and other grants.

The town council decided to have staff explore interim options such as no parking signs, striping and Flex-Posts before committing to a specific option later. They also requested that the affected residents be consulted with regards to the interim option.

Council members additionally directed staff to continue to pursue the raised concrete sidewalk within the town's right-of-way along the outer radius of the Corliss Drive/Sullivan Drive curve (Option 3A), as the preferred public safety improvement project; di-

rected the town manager to develop a funding strategy to fund the project; and adopt a proposed resolution authorizing the town engineer to apply for a Fiscal Year 2024-25, TDA improvement grant to fund a portion of the project.

With a vote of 3 (yes) to 2 (no), Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke and Council Member Renata Sos explained that they don't wish to continue to burden staff on a project that may not succeed without additional infusion of the town's funds. However, all members were in agreement when it came to thanking staff for all of the time and work that has thus far been devoted to the project.

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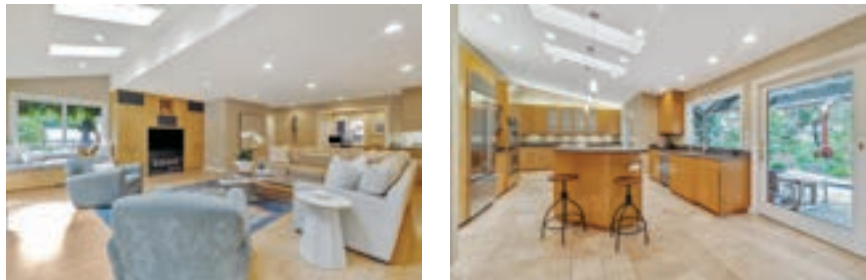
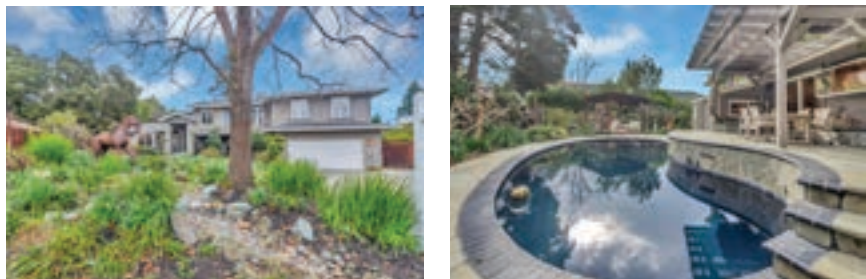
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Moraga town manager unwinds by building cities with Legos

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

Town Manager Scott Mitnick with his (from left) Lego business card holder, monthly calendar, White House, and 1891 Town Hall.

Not only is Moraga's town council loaded with talented individuals who are painters, woodworkers, potters and vintners, Town Manager Scott Mitnick has a talent for building just about anything with Legos.

On display in Mitnick's office is a multi-story replica of an 1891

town hall complete with a tiny man on the top floor balcony surveying the implied city below him. Mitnick insists that the figure is a city manager, while this reporter argues that it's a mayor. In this case only, this reporter defers to the builder of the building and his imagination. Mitnick likes to

build from Lego kits that he's purchased, and at the moment he's in the process of constructing the “city series” stating, “My dream is to complete all of the buildings so I can have my own downtown. I've done five or six so far; there are over a dozen. I've always been a 'city series' guy, because it's connected to what I do for a living.”

He was approximately 8 years old when he was gifted his first box of Legos, which were only red and white with some movable windows and black tires (in case a vehicle was in the making). Those early Legos came with no instructions, and kids were expected to use their imaginations, which was usually limited to building a house, given the contents of the box.

... continued on next Page

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Park and Recreation Commission:
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Proponents of Measure D get council member endorsement

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's voters can expect to see Measure D on their March 5 ballot. The Measure, by the Moraga School District, hopes to win at least a 55% voter approval to authorize funding for capital improvement projects and technology upgrades within all of the elementary and middle school campuses.

According to a ballot measure summary included in Town Manager Scott Mitnick's Jan. 23 staff report, the intent is "To improve Moraga's local elementary/middle schools by upgrading science/technology/engi-

neering classrooms/labs; replacing leaking roofs/unsafe windows; preventing classroom overcrowding; and updating classrooms/technology for 21st-century learning, shall Moraga School District's measure be adopted authorizing \$52 million in bonds at legal rates, levying \$30 per \$100,000 assessed value while bonds are outstanding (averaging \$3 million raised annually) with citizen oversight, annual audits, no funds for administrators, and providing local funding that cannot be taken by the state?"

A more detailed breakdown of MSD's scope of projects that are necessary include: upgrading /constructing science, technology, engineering classrooms and labs; upgrading/constructing art and music classrooms; replacing/repairing leaking/aging roofs and unsafe windows; installing additional or expanding existing restrooms; installing sustainable athletic fields and physical education facilities; installing solar panels; updating classroom computer technology; updating classroom equip-

ment; improving drainage on roofs and around classrooms to prevent flood damage; improving security cameras and other surveillance systems in addition to installing more safety equipment; and providing updated kitchens and food prep areas.

More items on the school facility project list involve: repairing and replacing aging plumbing and electrical systems; providing multi-use rooms as wellness centers; constructing/modernizing indoor/outdoor eating

spaces; preventing classroom overcrowding by constructing/expanding facilities; providing additional state-mandated pre-kindergarten classrooms for students 4 to 5 years old; providing additional kindergarten classrooms; installing new building finishes such as walls, floors and doors; making all necessary ADA upgrades; and improving grounds by providing appropriate pathways, hallways, drop off areas, lighting, and landscaping.

Chair of the Committee for Safe and Modern Moraga Schools – Yes on "D," Ana Moon, and Moraga School District Superintendent Dr. Julie Parks gave a brief presentation reminding everyone that a big reason why families move into town is for the excellent schools.

When it came time to offer an endorsement of Measure D, the town council did so unanimously and without hesitation.

Legos ...continued



Photo Scott Mitnick

At least a dozen of the many Lego projects Mitnick has completed

... continued from Page 4

Legos were invented in 1932, in Denmark. Lego is a Danish phrase for "leg godt," meaning "play well" in English. As the toy became more popular through the years, the pieces began to come in a variety of colors, "Lego people" were added, and eventually more complicated kits were sold that included everything, along with easy-to-follow directions, to make whatever was pictured on the box. Rare kits can sell for upwards of nearly \$3,000 in today's market.

"It's a great thing – the ability by yourself, or with a loved one, to build something from scratch,"

stated Mitnick. "With Legos, it's not just the end result, it's the process along the way that's just as gratifying. It's the therapeutic aspect of it, and I wish I had more time to do it."

Mitnick's best guess at completed projects is "a few dozen – not as many as I would like." And, while the kits from his younger days were gifts, he likes to buy his own now. "When I was visiting the White House, I bought the kit version in their gift shop."

When asked if his hobby drives his wife nuts, he replied, "Not really, although, there are times that she gets mad at me because I spend too much time on it."

Trying to include Mia in the fun, Mitnick recently bought her a Lego flower bouquet kit to work on together. He was thrilled to see that she'd finished it on her own and put the "bouquet" in a glass vase to display. Even his two sons have gotten into their dad's hobby and occasionally join in on a project.

At last count, Mitnick thinks there are about a dozen Lego projects displayed in every room of their house. From a Volkswagen "Beetle" and vintage van replica, to a Frank Lloyd Wright house or various whimsical structures, all of them are from kits, but he'd like one day to construct something of his own creation again, just like when he was a kid.

Mitnick and family have visited the many Lego theme parks "upwards of eight to 10 times in three countries including the 'mother ship' in Billund, Denmark. I'm not fanatical, it's just fun. People of all ages, genders, and perspectives can do it. You have to be patient, and you have to be organized. You have to be accurate, or you could make a mistake that could make you take

apart most of your work." In the long run, is there really a downside to that?

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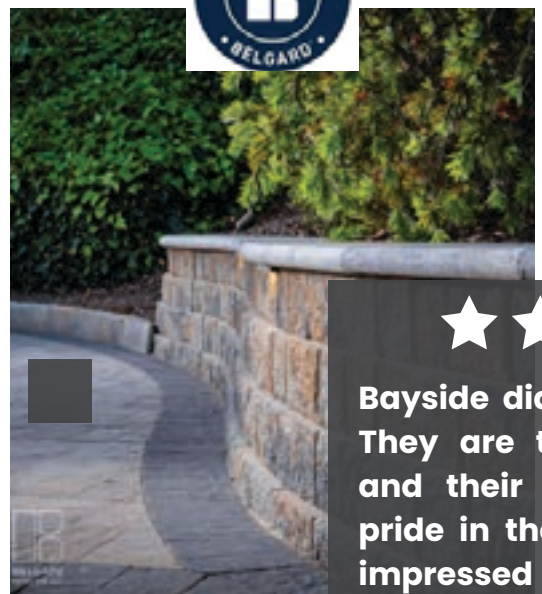


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Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

Orinda Public Meetings
City Council Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way
Planning Commission
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way

Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley retires

By Sora O'Doherty

Drummond Buckley, who has worked in the Orinda Planning Department for many years, is leaving. He is winding up his career in Orinda at the same time as one of his biggest projects, the Wilder development, is also wrapping up after decades in development.

After a difficult history, Wilder now boasts 245 home sites, almost all of which have completed homes, as well as five community ball fields, a community park, an Art and Garden Center for use by the public, a network of walking, bicycle, and equestrian trails, and over 1,300 acres of open space. In addition there is a public clubhouse and a private swimming and fitness facility.

After obtaining a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA, Buckley began his career working for the city of Santa Monica. In 1995 he

took a job with Bay Area Environmental Consulting, but found that he missed working in the public sector. He came to Orinda as an associate senior planner with a deal that allowed him to work only on Wilder.

Wilder at that time was a cattle ranch, and the farmer who leased the land was named Hank Hill in Wilder is named after him, which was one of Buckley's contributions. The other was the inspiration for the name, Wilder. At a brainstorming session, Buckley said the word he associated with the valley was wilderness, which morphed into Wilder as the name of the new development.

Buckley remembers the scale of the project as monumental, as the valley was re-engineered and millions of cubic yards of earth were moved. Just the grading of the valley was a multi-year project. In fact, Buckley remembers that the television show, Dirty Jobs, did an episode on Wilder and its clay soil.

But in 2006-07, the sales office at Wilder couldn't sell any lots. With the great recession of 2008, the Wilder project was shut down and the whole team was unemployed for six months. Buckley was actually out of a job for over a year, and finally accepted work in Afghanistan as a military base planner.

The dangerous work paid well. An attack on the base where he was working killed six or seven people and injured 20 people who were sitting in the dining room when an explosion blew off the wall near

the place Buckley usually sat. On that occasion, he would have been there, but for the fact that he was waiting for others. "That really impacted me," he said. "Any decision could be fatal."

After that, Buckley took work with the city of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. He enjoyed his time there, not caged on a military base and able to drive wherever he wanted. He worked on a big shopping center.

However, a contact from Wilder let him know that Orinda was looking for a planning director, and in 2016 he returned to the United States to fill the position.

Buckley's knowledge of the history of Wilder is encyclopedic. The first development agreement in 1990 featured a golf course and conference center, but the DA was completely redone, eliminating the golf course and conference center. Buckley recalls that the city councils that have dealt with Wilder were very sophisticated, and that the DA allowed a public entity, the city of Orinda, to negotiate with a developer.

The city's vision wasn't always popular, however, and at one point there was a local initiative because Orinda residents disagreed with decisions by the city council on Wilder. In 2005 the first amendment to the DA completely rewrote the agreement.

According to Buckley, the city received many benefits from the development at Wilder, including a swap deal that provided the land for the Orinda library and land for affordable housing, \$10,000 to-



Drummond Buckley

Photo Sora O'Doherty

wards low income housing, the Wilder play fields, and the Art & Garden Center. Wilder owners pay a community facilities tax, with money going to fund the Orinda Police Department.

Last year Buckley and his team submitted a successful 6th Housing Element (HE) to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The Housing Element combined many of the factors that the city has been long considering in terms of downtown development and the Downtown Precise Plan. Buckley discussed why the Caltrans site, which the HE had relied on, was rejected by HCD.

Caltrans, Buckley says, is notorious for not decertifying surplus land, like the site along Highway 24 that has been vacant for 50 years. The site had originally been intended for an interchange from Highway 24 to a new highway to

Moraga. Although the plan for that highway was abandoned, the land has remained unused. Now, Buckley added, there are concerns about contamination and Caltrans will not decertify the land until it is cleaned up by the city, which does not have the requisite \$10,000 for the cleanup.

Buckley plans to divide his time between Washington state and Bogota, Colombia. He looks forward to focusing on his photography hobby and taking some university level courses. He would have left sooner, but admits that City Manager David Biggs persuaded him to stay longer. As it happens, Biggs himself has announced that he will not be renewing his existing employment agreement with Orinda, which ends June 30. Biggs told the council that his decision is based on family needs and plans to relocate to Southern California.

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Outgoing City Manager's report focuses on recent crime

By Sora O'Doherty

David Biggs, who recently announced that he would not be renewing his contract with the city of Orinda as City Manager, gave his report to the City Council early in their Jan. 23 meeting to address a recent crime that occurred in the city, and to allow the Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan to speak about it. The incident was an armed robbery at the Orinda branch of Wells Fargo Bank, which happened coincidentally to occur on the same day as a bank robbery at the Lafayette Wells Fargo branch.

Biggs called upon the OPD Chief to talk about crime in the city. Sullivan noted that the robbery in Orinda did not occur inside the bank, but in the bank parking lot, and the robbery inside Lafayette branch was completely unrelated. "Unfortunately," he said, "these things do happen occasionally, but Orinda is extremely safe." He added, "There have been more semi-trucks stuck in Orinda than robberies this year."

... continued on Page 7

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Outgoing City Manager's report focuses on recent crime

... continued from Page 6

Crime statistics are usually gone over in February or March, Sullivan said, but crime numbers in Orinda have gone down.

The chief wanted to clarify that contrary to social media reports, the victim in Orinda was not surrounded by suspects, but by one person in particular, although there were additional people in a vehicle. And he wanted to urge residents to report anything they believe is suspicious by calling the police, not

by putting it on social media.

Biggs added that some people may be reluctant to call 911, but advised that the best course of action is to telephone the OPD non-emergency number. The chief noted that residents calling the non-emergency line, (925) 646-2441, may get through even faster than calling 911 from a cell phone. There is a phone tree, he explained, but it's quick, and the response time is usually two to three minutes. He advised residents to

watch for unusual things, giving the example of your neighbor's garage door being open when it is usually closed, and the neighbors are not at home.

Additionally, Sullivan promised to expand coffee with the cops, perhaps moving to a monthly event. He reminded people to never leave anything in their vehicles. He said he was strongly for a town hall on crime and what residents can do to prevent crime, as well as supporting neighborhood watch programs.

The council also approved an executive search path for replacing Biggs as city manager, while engaging in some good-natured digs about his priorities, choosing his wife and family over his position with the city.

Biggs, who will be with the city for an additional five months, noted that it was a tough decision. "I have really enjoyed my time in Orinda," Biggs responded, "and I'd like to believe that I'm too young to really retire,"

but he explained that his son and his wife and their children have moved to Los Angeles, and Biggs and his wife plan to move also to be closer to them.

Council considers whether red flag day parking restrictions are too much

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda residents shared their opinions on signage and parking prohibitions on red flag days with the City Council on Jan. 23. The council accepted the input and deferred making any decisions on the issue, asking staff to do some further research and bring the matter back at a later date.

Assistant Engineer Kevin McCourt presented the staff report and gave a brief history of the program. He explained that fire season is now from June to November, and although there may be as many as 20 to 30 red flag days per year, over the past two years there have been only about 14 events, with only one last year.

The red flag day parking program was originally started as a pilot, then put into place on a permanent basis on El Toyonal. The program prohibits street parking on red flag days when the danger of fire is severe and evacuations may be required. After the pilot program was successfully implemented, the city council requested staff to expand the program based on the evacuation routes for northern Orinda.

In July 2022 the council approved red flag sign installations on key evacuation routes. Since then, according to the staff report, issues have been raised regarding the need for red flag day restrictions on

Dalewood, the number and types of signs on Miner Road and other streets in the expanded area, the criteria used to expand the program, and how evacuation routes are defined. The current evacuation routes were established as part of the Safety Element update approved Jan. 31, 2023.

In public comment on the expanded program, the first commenter opined that the program should be terminated and existing signs should be removed. Flipping the signs on red flag days is a waste of staff time and placing signs where parking at any time is impossible were also cited as a waste of time and money.

Liz Boyle raised the issue of signs being flipped on Dalewood on Christmas Eve, when there was no fire danger. "I don't know how it happened," she said, but it took days to get the sign flipped back up, and other signs were flipped on Happy Valley and Sundown Terrace in late December.

Lisa Rudolf stated that while she didn't "want to beat a dead horse," the red flag warning signs had been requested by residents on El Toyonal following a community forum, but she said that there was no forum and Dalewood residents did not request the signs. "Very few people park on Dalewood," she

added, "and if there is a fire heading towards Dalewood there won't be any cars parked there."

... continued on Page 8



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Con Fire begins next phase of shaded fuel break

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) kicked off the next phase in its 11-mile shaded fuel break program with a presentation held Jan. 25. Funded by a \$3 million California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the shaded fuel break across southern Lafayette and Walnut Creek will afford protection from wildfires in densely populated wildland-urban interface and hard to access grassland areas before they are able to threaten homes, businesses and other properties. The entire project area encompasses 268 acres of open space in the East Bay. The tentative completion date is late 2025. It builds on a \$6.3 million fuel break project that was completed in 2021 by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. - David Scholz



Photo courtesy Con Fire

Council considers whether red flag day parking restrictions are too much

... continued from Page 7

Sandy Pearson of Miner Road said she was a strong supporter of the program, especially on El Toyonal. However, she suggested that perhaps Honey Hill Road, Charles Hill Road, and others should not be included. She said that no one parks on these streets, and there has never been a parking problem. She noted that there are now a large number of signs. While on El Toyonal there are 28 signs over two miles, she said that Honey Hill has 40 signs in just half a mile. "You can see three to four signs in an area where there is virtually no place to pull off the road," she added.

Council Member Inga Miller noted that it is very hard when the city makes something different, but she wanted to look at the big picture. "How do we prevent fire? How do we evacuate if there is a fire?" she asked. "Evacuation is within our control," she said, "and it is a matter of

life and death." She pointed out that tragedy struck on very wide roads in Lahaina, and brought some photographs she had taken in Bronson Canyon, an area of Los Angeles that resembles Orinda, and has red flag day restrictions.

Council Member Brandyn Iverson said that it was very frustrating when the signs were going up. "I hope we can prioritize safety and evacuation," she said, "and when something doesn't make sense, we can not waste taxpayer dollars with signs that don't actually keep anybody safer." She suggested that the city add "one more layer of common sense, so that we don't repeat mistakes," but also said that fire safety must be the priority and "we can't have a town hall street by street."

Council Member Janet Riley agreed that the number one goal is evacuation, and suggested that the number of signs could be reduced,

even if that might affect the legality of enforcing the parking restrictions. Council Member Latika Malkani agreed that further conversation was required, and suggested that the issue be discussed in the 2x2 meeting between the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the city. She also said that she didn't care if someone doesn't pay a citation fine, but that citations have a deterrent effect.

Mayor Darlene Gee said that she is willing to revisit the criteria used to implement the red flag day restrictions. "We all know what we are trying to achieve," she said, adding, "We don't care about the citations; what we are trying to prevent is a catastrophe. We need to work with staff, to assure the community that we can work on this." Concluding that "I don't want us to grab signs tomorrow, but to revisit the issue." The mayor asked staff to bring the matter back before the council at a later day, with the agreement of the council.



Lamorinda CERT Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2024 7:00 pm

Special Abilities Kids/Adults in Disasters



In the past fifteen years Danielle Bell has immersed herself in the study of Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, Biomedical & Holistic approaches to meeting the needs of the mind, body, and spirit. After finishing her master's program she also acquired her family marriage license to support those who are navigating challenges and what she refers to as kids/adults with "Special Abilities."

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Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Jan. 7- Jan. 20

Alarms	53
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	75
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	18
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	31
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Public/School Assembly Check	11
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	16
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	1200 Block El Curtola Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Identity Theft	School St./Moraga Rd.
Police Department	
Reckless Driving	Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
	Pleasant Hill Cir./Acalanes Ave.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
	Acalanes Rd./Wb Sr 24
	Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.
	Glorietta Blvd./Acalanes Rd.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tc - Property Damage	
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Condit Rd.
	Santa Maria Wy/St Marys Rd.
	Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
	Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	900 Block Moraga Rd.

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary	1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Computer Fraud	1400 Block Edwards Ct.
Fraud False Pretenses	1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Grand Theft	3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Panhandling	1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Petty Theft	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Bl A
	3200 Block Ameno Dr.
	Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
	90 Block Carolyn Ct.
	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Hampton Rd.

Petty Theft From Veh
1100 Block Nogales St.
3100 Block Quandt Rd.

Residential Burglary
1000 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
1000 Block Leland Dr.

Robbery - Bank
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 3100 Block Lucas Dr.
Disturbing The Peace 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.
3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.
Las Trampas Rd./Glenside Rd.
80 Block Lafayette Cir. (2)

Public Nuisance
3500 Block Silver Springs Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Eb Sr 24 At El Curtola Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Vandalism
3700 Block St Francis Dr.
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.

Other
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Battery
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

Fire/Ems Response Info
900 Block Dewing Ave.

H&S Violation
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

Litter
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Mentally Ill Violent
3400 Block Monroe Ave.

Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
Police Department

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 16 - Jan. 21

Alarms	3
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	37
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	0
Service to Citizen	13
Patrol Req./Security Check	6
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations


Accident Property	3300 Block Johnson Rd., Laf
Excessive Speed	
	Moraga Country Club (2)
	Moraga Way/School St. (2)
	Country Club Dr/Canyon Rd.
	Agusta Dr./St Andrews Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Safeway	300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
	Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	Not Available
Residential Burglary	3800 Block Campolindo Dr.
Nuisance to the Community	Disturbance-domestic 10 Block Waterloo Pl.
	1900 Block St. Marys Rd.
Loud Music	Canyon Club Brewery

400 Block Redfield Pl.
Loud Noise
10 Block Thune Ave.
Loud Party
Not Available
10 Block Miramonte Dr.

Other
Child Abuse
Campolindo High School
Loitering
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Trespass
200 Block Corliss Dr.
Trespass W/ Vehicle
Coral Dr./Moraga Way, Ori



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 31 - Jan. 13

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	73
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	40
Patrol Req./Security Check	7
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	16
Vacation House Check	9
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury	Van Tassel Ln./Lombardy Ln.
Accident Property	20 Block Bryant Way
	Valley View Dr./Don Gabriel Way
Dui Misd	20 Block Camino Sobrante
Reckless Driving	Camino Pablo/North Ln.
	Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
Tc - Property Damage	Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
Vehicle Theft	10 Block Hidden Ln.
	40 Block Berkeley Ave.
	4300 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary	Camino Pablo
	Orinda Way
Fraud False Pretenses	Police Department
Grand Theft	Camino Pablo
	Camino Pablo/El Toyonal
	Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
Petty Theft Purse Snatch	Camino Sobrante
Residential Burglary	30 Block Fallen Leaf Terrace
	300 Block Dalewood Dr.
Shoplift	Orinda Way
	Camino Pablo
Warrant Arrest	Camino Sobrante
	Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way

Nuisance to the Community

Vandalism	600 Block Miner Rd.
	Orinda Way

Other

Dependent Adult Abuse	20 Block Normandy Ln.
Failure To Obey	Camino Pablo/Wb 24
Mentally Ill	20 Block Dolores Way

Retired Campolindo Spanish teacher's desire to help students 'over rough spots' continues

By David Scholz



Photo courtesy "The Claw"

Campolindo High School's student leadership surrounds Lola Danielli, who rides a scooter donated by English teachers Jake and Jamie Donohoe.

After nearly 60 years in the classroom, Lola Danielli arguably saw it all – the good, the bad, and the gray area. The Acalanes Union High School District board recently pulled the plug on the popular Campolindo High School Spanish teacher's job after 58 years, but it wasn't her choice. Hoping to work a couple more years, she was shown the door. "It's about money," she lamented. Danielli, for all the bells and whistles out there, took an old school approach and pushed her

students a little harder. "I had more success teaching the old-fashioned way, and I had so many parents tell me 'Thank you,'" Danielli said. "I am not an entertainer, I am a teacher," she added. Technology's role in education was among the big changes she encountered. "I taught for years, and all my kids were able to take the AP class," she continued. "You don't need a computer to learn a foreign language." For all the benefits of technology that one might claim, one aspect

that she saw engulf the classroom environment in recent years was an increasing amount of unethical behavior on the part of students. "Cheating is rampant," she said, citing the prevalence of students using cell phones to look up vocabulary and then pass the information on to their peers. So Danielli took pride in not merely teaching Spanish to her students, but values too. "I think it is important that we teach values as much as the subject matter," she said. "If you cheat in high

school, it is going to cost you in life." While seeing kids as more proactive these days and more inclined to argue with teachers, something that didn't happen when she was a student, Danielli took away fond memories of the kids who came through her classroom. She thought shifts in student behavior could be the result of changes in the composition of families these days, with both parents working to make ends meet, especially with ever increasing costs of homes. Among the favorite field trips that she used to take with her students was a special dinner out in San Francisco, and each time there seemed to be no shortage of parents willing to serve as drivers. But over time, that generosity changed. "It is a different world," she said. As years took their toll on her, especially the pain she felt in her legs, she was blessed to be gifted the use of a scooter in 2021 to get around campus. Taking pride in her commitment to the profession, Danielli regularly arrived on campus at 6:45 a.m., inviting students in to get warm, and stayed late, her classroom light still on between 5 and 6 p.m. For those teachers who will follow her, Danielli emphasized they need to have a passion for teaching. "If you are doing it just to put bread and butter on the table, you will burn out immediately," she said. "It is not the money; the rewards are internal."

It's through her passion that she saw her students develop academically. "There is nothing more gratifying than when a student comes to me and says, 'I got it, I got it,'" said Danielli. Since leaving the classroom, she concedes, "I feel like I am wasting away; I am not producing." Aches and pains are more prevalent now. But she is hopeful that Ygna-

cio Valley High School, looming just across the street from her Concord residence, may be that spark she desires, if only to be a tutor for its students. "Any kids who want to learn, I can't guarantee they will get an A, but I will get them over the rough spots," said Danielli. "If a kid wants to learn, I would love to be part of that process."

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The Park Theater Trust (TPTT) successfully purchased the Park Theater cinema for the community in 2021. TPTT's mission is to restore and operate Lafayette's iconic Park Theater building and revitalize it into an accessible and inclusive, community-centered cinema, arts, and culture hub with programming that includes critically acclaimed films, throwback favorites, and engaging non-film events.

The Park Theater Trust is a proud member of The League of Historic American Theaters, Arthouse Convergence, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.



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Art

Valley Art Gallery announces: "Enchanted Wilderness": Watercolors by Karen Kramer, Feb. 6 - March 16. Free, open to the public. Open Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at other times by appointment 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

MUSIC

The Sunday Paper at the Town Hall Theatre on Sunday, March 10 from 2 to 6 p.m. The Sunday Paper is known for their crisp, tight sound with former and current members of Tower Of Power, Cold Blood, Sly & The Family Stone, and Santana. \$45 Early Bird Special until Feb. 1, \$55 after Feb. 1. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. For tickets go to https://SundayPaperMarch10.eventbrite.com.

Step into the glitz and glamour of the Roaring '20s and join the Campolindo High School Music Boosters for an evening filled with live music from the talented Campo Jazz Band on March 2 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Perpetua's in Lafayette. Get ready to dance the night away and dress to impress in your finest 1920s attire, or whatever makes you happy! You can brush up on your moves with an optional dance lesson or indulge in appetizers and a delicious buffet dinner and dessert, sip on refreshing drinks, and dive into the excitement of our raffle and silent auction. Funds raised will aid in purchasing sheet music, cover coaching fees, instrument repairs, and make musical trips and tours a reality. Tickets on sale at www.campomusic.org.

Town Hall Theatre Company present: Sing-Along Series: Hairspray. Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. www.townhalltheatre.com/sing-along-hairspray

Theatre

Diablo Ballet continues its 30th Season with the romantic Sleeping Beauty's Wedding, a world premiere ballet by Penny Saunders, and an encore presentation of Gerald Arpino's festive

Confetti. Leshar Center for the Arts, located at 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Performances are: Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 pm. Single tickets are on sale now (\$28 - \$57) with senior and youth pricing available. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesher-artscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

Literature

Calling all kids who like to draw! The Friends of the Lafayette Library Book-mark Contest is happening again! The contest is open to all Lafayette Students in grades K-8th. Entry forms may be obtained from your school library and at the main desk of the Lafayette Library. The deadline for the entries is Friday March 1. Each winner will receive a gift certificate for a local bookstore and the Friends Corner Book Shop, and a complimentary framing of the winning bookmark by Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Our Awards ceremony will take place April 25. All winning bookmarks will be printed and given to patrons of the Lafayette Library, Friends Corner Book Shop and the individual school libraries. For more information contact: Kae865@hotmail.com

Sweet Thursday hosts Bianca Bosker, writer of Get the Picture, on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the DTCH at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. In Get the Picture, Bosker throws herself into the nerve center of art and the people who live for it: galleries, collectors, curators, and, of course, artists themselves - the kind who work multiple jobs to afford their studios while scrabbling to get eyes on their art. The program is free, but registration is required at tinyurl.com/sweet-Feb2024. The doors will open at 6:30 for coffee and sweets and Orinda Books will be on-site selling copies of the book. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library.

Other

Contra Costa Shark Tank Youth Competition. Introducing the first Contra Costa Shark Tank Youth Competition! Win \$1,000 to launch or grow your business. The competition is a

Not to be missed

fun way to promote youth entrepreneurship among Kindergarten through 12th grade students in Contra Costa County. When young people succeed as entrepreneurs, they improve their own lives while also contributing to the economic development of their local communities. Visit www.contracostashark-tank.org to learn more. Winners selected by a panel of judges on Feb. 6 at the Lafayette Library.

Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center 4th Annual Drive-Thru Crab Feed. Order online by Sunday, Feb. 4. www.xenophontrc.org

Orinda Scout Troop 303 invites children ages 11-18 to Open Houses on Monday, Feb. 12 and Monday, March 25. Scouts learn valuable life skills, organize and lead outings, can participate in summer camp experiences, and mentor younger scouts—all while exploring interests and hobbies with friends. Both meetings will be held at 66 St. Stephen's Drive in Orinda and begin at 7:30 pm. For more information, please email troop303g@gmail.com or visit our website at www.troopweb-host.org/Troop303Orinda for details.

Wine and Tapas Speaker Series host a conversation on the power of pilgrimage as a method to enrich life's journey. Often a tool used by religious pilgrims the world over, this model can reframe our local journeys to add in intentionality and depth. Michael Drell of the Graduate Theological Union, not only brings years of international experience to the conversation, he has applied the wisdom of this practice to journeys to the Mission District, local arts and culture. Sunday, Feb. 4, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Creekside Commons 1035 Carol Lane. Donations welcome at the door, bring a drink or small plate to share.

Have you always wanted to try ballet but always felt intimidated by it? If so, come try one FREE session in a no judgement, highly supportive environment to start learning about what a great discipline ballet can be for your body, mind, and spirit. Classes offered in two different levels beginning Feb. 5 on Mondays and Fridays, 10 to 11:15 a.m. at

1018 Almanor Lane, Lafayette. All ages welcome. Please email ycf-dance@gmail.com for more details.

Contribute your family recipes to Moraga's 50th Anniversary Community Cookbook. This cookbook will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the town and will be a keepsake for your family for years to come. Be a part of history! Visit https://cc.recipes/moraga. Recipes are due Feb. 28. Cookbooks will be available to purchase beginning summer of 2024.

Garden

Lafayette Garden Club monthly meeting begins on Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m. for social time and nibbles before a short business meeting at 10 a.m. At 10:30, club member Wendi Shively will moderate a panel discussion on How Landscapes Can Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change in Our Community. The panel will be made up of Pamela Berstler of G3 - Green Gardens Group, Heather Cooley of the Pacific Institute, and Wei-Tai Kwok of the Climate Reality Project and a Lafayette City Council Member. The Club meets at the Lafayette Veterans Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. It is free to attend. Please visit www.lafayettegardenclub.com for more information.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its free monthly meeting on Monday Feb. 12 at the The Gardens at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by a brief meeting, social time and an educational program, Complimentary tea, coffee. Program: Soil, our water and our world. The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr, Walnut Creek. The public is welcome to attend the meeting and to become a part of the Walnut Creek Garden club! For more information, please visit: www.WalnutCreekGardenClub.org

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Terrine features a flavorful stack of glorious grilled vegetables

By Susie Iventosch



Grilled Vegetable Terrine

Photos Susie Iventosch

This recipe calls for an assortment of wonderful veggies that all come together with a Mediter-

ranean flair. It's colorful and pretty to look at and delicious to eat. The first thing you should know

about this recipe, is that you can use whatever roasted or grilled veggies you like best. We love it

with eggplant, zucchini, mushrooms, red bell pepper and red onions, but really any veggie you can grill would work, including tomatoes, summer squash, carrots, and even spinach.

The second thing to know is that every barbecue cooks slightly differently, so you may have to play with the amount of time each vegetable needs to cook. And, of course, each kind of veggie and the thickness of

the veggie slices can also affect cooking time.

The key is to slice them fairly thin (about 1/4-inch thick) and cook the veggies to al dente whichever way you do it, either directly on the barbecue grill or in aluminum pans. We like to do some of each, so the veggies mostly cook in the pan, but then the zucchini and eggplant are nice to finish directly on the grill for those iconic stripes. Then stack them, with layers of goat cheese in between. You can also use grated Parmesan or

thinly sliced mozzarella. Finally, bake the assembled terrine in the oven just to heat through, or just serve it cold or at room temperature, since the veggies are really cooked after grilling them.

If you don't have a terrine dish, you can easily make this in a bread loaf pan, so don't run out and buy a special pan just for this recipe! And, if you don't want to grill the veggies, you can roast them at 400 F until al dente.

Grilled Veggie Terrine

Ingredients

(Serves 6 as a side dish)

- 1 large eggplant, thinly sliced lengthwise
- 2 large zucchini, thinly sliced lengthwise
- 2 red bell peppers, core and stem removed cut into pieces about 2x3 inches
- 1 large red onion, sliced
- 8 large cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 2 oz. goat cheese, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 6 basil leaves, thinly sliced
- Salt, pepper, and lemon pepper to taste
- For garnish: fresh oregano sprig, parsley sprig or basil

DIRECTIONS

Preheat grill medium heat. Line your terrine or bread pan with foil. Spray the foil with cooking spray.

Next, spray two to three aluminum tins with cooking spray, or brush with olive oil to prevent the veggies from sticking. You can also use aluminum foil if you don't have trays.

Lay the onions and bell peppers in one tray and the mushrooms, zucchini and eggplant in another tray. Lightly brush the veggies with olive oil on both sides and season with salt, pepper, and lemon pepper (or your favorite seasoning).

Cook the veggies on the barbecue until they are al dente. If you want to give them some color and grill stripes, lay them directly on the grill for the last few minutes.

Onions take the longest to cook, followed by bell peppers, eggplant, zucchini, and mushrooms. Since no two grills seem to cook the exact same, you may have to adjust these times and the grill temp, but in general cook each veggie for the following amount of time:

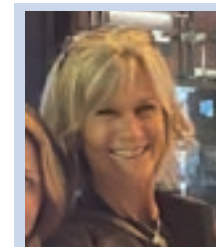
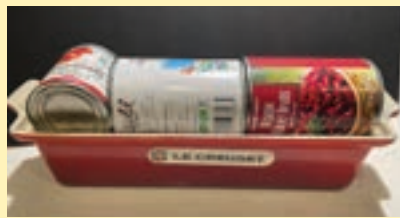
Red Onions: 5-6 minutes per side; Red Bell Peppers: 3-4 minutes per side

Eggplant: 3-4 minutes per side; Zucchini: 2-3 minutes per side; Mushrooms: 2-3 minutes per side

Once the veggies are cooked, stack the veggies in the prepared terrine or loaf pan, preferably starting with the veggies you'd like to see on top when you serve it at the bottom of the pan, because it's easier to get the terrine out of the dish by inverting it on a platter. Lay the cheese in between whichever layer of veggies you want to. Sprinkle basil intermittently throughout the layers. Press down on the top of the entire terrine with your hands or a spatula to slightly compress the layers. Cover the terrine with foil. Place heavy cans of beans or tomato sauce on top to help pack down the veggies. Refrigerate until ready to heat and serve. Can refrigerate for several days ahead of time.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 F and bake the terrine, covered for about 25 minutes or until heated through. Remove from oven and allow to sit for 10-15 minutes.

Invert onto your serving platter and discard the foil. Garnish with a sprig of oregano or parsley. Slice into 1 1/2-inch slices and serve.



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>

'The Teachers' Lounge' a fascinating drama behind closed doors

By Sophie Braccini



large group of children playing in such a simple and realistic way that it adds to the magical effect of the film, completely capturing the audience's attention.

Nothing awful results in the end, so this movie is a family movie and could lead to very interesting discussions

with children, especially between the ages of 9 to 14 years old.

"The Teachers Lounge" opens in Orinda for at least one week starting on Feb. 9. It is brought to Lamorinda by the local nonprofit, the International Film Showcase. Tickets at www.orindamovies.com/

The International Film Showcase brings to Orinda a very personal and interesting movie set in today's Germany inside the confines of a school, a perfect metaphor of society as a whole, with its denunciations, injustices, racism, cruelty, and manipulation.. This wonderfully mastered drama is intense, featuring a remarkable set of actors, including the children's incredibly true-to-life performances. This movie is selected to represent Germany at the 2024 Oscars.

First, money is stolen from a classroom, then a second incident happens in the teachers' lounge, a place where students do not have access. In a school that has a reputation for excellence, the two events quickly create and intensify the tension between the teachers, the students, the parents, and the administration. At the center of the case, a young seventh-grade professor, Carla Nowak, tries to find the truth. She is idealistic, believing in justice and in teaching impartiality

and objectivity to her students.

Her convictions, her values, and what she does to uncover the truth snowballs, putting her in a situation that becomes more and more untenable. There is the administration, for whom "Better to commit an injustice than to countenance disorder," as Goethe wrote in 1793; her colleagues who are more interested in protecting themselves; the parents easily getting outraged and overreacting; the students with a mix of vulnerabilities, cunning behavior, and beautiful solidarity.

As complex as society itself, the school is that system where no one is really bad, but where dynamics could lead to real human catastrophes.

This film is technically excellent and wonderfully mastered. It was co-written by its director, İlker Çatak. This is her fourth film. The rhythm is fast and the tension mounts rapidly and inexorably. The cast of actors led by Leonie Benesch, very believable as Carla, and including a



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The daffodils are coming, the daffodils are coming

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



The volunteer planting crew

Photo provided

Get ready for spring and daffodils along Moraga Way adjacent to Moraga Country Club. This year's crop will include flowers from 1,400 additional bulbs.

Each fall the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley adds bulbs to the fields

of daffodils in Moraga as part of their efforts to enhance the lives of children, families and seniors, in this case through beautiful spring flowers.

The volunteers ranged from the very young to the "somewhat

mature" with many in-between, including a strong contingent from Scout Troop 212. Joan Bruzzone donated 700 of the bulbs and actively participated. All had fun on the beautiful sunny day (after rains had softened the soil).

Moraga Park Director receives a donation from Moraga Rotary

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo provided

Mackenzie Brady, Town Park & Recreation Director, receives a \$10,000 donation from Moraga Rotary, for general use at the Commons picnic area. From left: Jennifer Brophy, president of Moraga Rotary; Mackenzie Brady; and Roger Gregory, past president of Moraga Rotary

Mackenzie Brady, Director of Moraga's Park & Recreation Department, was giving a presentation about town activities at a recent meeting of Moraga Rotary Club, and was surprised to receive a check to the town for \$10,000 for use at the Moraga Commons Park. Last year, Moraga Rotary had been working to ob-

tain a matching grant for this donation from Rotary District sources, but was not successful. With the town receiving about \$28,000 in donations from Moraga Rotary earlier, the Club has now provided about \$38,000 to help improve the picnic and other areas of the park.

Moraga Rotary is a

56-year-old service club within Rotary International, and meets most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org or call (925) 330-9260.

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 story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.



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Bountiful Book Bonanza

Submitted by Mackenzie Preisler



Students hold the donation check

Photo provided

Mrs. Martinsen's AIM class has done it again. Burton Valley's annual Book Bonanza was a complete success. Each year, the students of room 37 choose a charity to support. This year they decided to donate to Youth Homes, a charity that helps foster children in the Bay Area. They provide living quarters, extra-curricular activities, and all of the necessities to make sure that their current and former foster youth and young adults are safe and happy.

For three weeks, the students collected gently used children's books. Once they finished collecting, the students started pricing the books, ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Finally, after lots of hard work and lots of effort, the Book Bonanza was

ready. The classroom was remodeled into a big book store, and on Dec. 13, the Book Bonanza was opened. Each class got a designated time to go shopping; students and members of the community could also shop before and after school and during recesses. Along with books, the students sold book-marks, raffle tickets, and Rainbow Loom, as well as sports cards, origami, and clay jewelry. They also had a signed Lady Gaga shirt, and a signed copy of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." The winning bid for the shirt was \$300, and the book went for a whopping bid of \$200. The book sales ended on Dec. 15. The students were very proud of their work.

The classroom was buzzing with excitement when Mrs. Martinsen

counted up the total amount of money. "We've made over \$4,000!" she exclaimed. The class erupted in cheers. They broke the record for most money raised by over \$500. Not only that but they also broke the record for most books donated by the students at BVE. The leftover books were donated to Title 1 Schools in West Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa WIC program.

The students were filled with joy when they presented their \$4,129.96 check to Victoria Johnston from Youth Homes. Mrs. Martinsen and her AIM class are very grateful to the Burton Valley Community for all of the donations to make their Book Bonanza fundraiser possible!

A Sweet Note of Thanks

from Graig Crosley, President, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley

Thank you Lamorinda Community for supporting the Holiday See's Candies Rheem Center Shop run by the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley. We were very pleased to continue the tradition of offering quality See's Candies in conjunction with easy parking, short lines, customized gift wrapping and convenient shipping options.

As in previous years, all profits will be reinvested in local community charities, with an emphasis on children and families. Your supporting participation enables the club to

continue our sustained commitment to projects such as Diapers for Infants, School Backpacks for Kids, Refrigerators for Food Pantries, Youth Music Education Programs, Summer Camp Scholarships and Child Abuse Awareness. We also help support the work of local aid agencies through funding and active participation.

Through our direct contributions and service projects, the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley continues to focus on having a positive and meaningful community impact.

Letters to the editor

Wildier issues

Sora O'Doherty wrote that on Jan. 9 the City Council voted that the Wildier Owners Association provide a shuttle service at a significant expense to the 245 families living in the Wildier community, who already pay Wildier association dues of over nine thousand dollars annually. Ironically, they agreed to relieve Wildier's insolvent developers from its obligations.

The shuttle must run during both morning and evening rush hours and on demand and to operate from Wildier to the playing fields, to downtown, to BART and back. As O'Doherty noted, decades have passed since this requirement was written — before the abundance of electric and hybrid cars in Orinda, before the pandemic, before people began working from home, before empty spaces in the BART lot. In the WOA's survey of residents, 94% of respondents said they have no use for a shuttle.

The Planning Commission had met four weeks earlier and had voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the shuttle requirement be eliminated as a needless expense. One commissioner said, "I have done shuttle bus projects and, in this day and age, it is very old thinking and it won't work."

Nevertheless, the City Council ignored the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation and voted that Wildier's 245 families maintain a shuttle when the City Council demands it.

The city requires only Wildier residents to pay for maintaining the Arts and Garden Center and the five playing fields on Wildier Road, open to all Orindans, yet profitably rented out by the city. The city now wants to increase the burden on 245 families. This time it wants us to maintain and operate a shuttle for anyone desiring to travel from downtown/BART to and from these same facilities.

Why is the City Council treating the Wildier community differently from the rest of Orinda? Why insist that 245 families assume expenses for amenities used by all families in Orinda? If the City Council agrees to relieve Wildier's insolvent developers, who are not Orinda residents, from its obligations, why do they insist on such unequal treatment for the 245 families that are their own constituents?

Kathleen Finch
Orinda

Sunday library hours

I read with interest your front-page article on Jan. 17, 2024 regarding the Contra Costa County Library system refusing to allow our local libraries to be open on Sundays. First, I would point out that not only Orinda and Lafayette had Sunday hours before the pandemic, but Moraga also was open on Sunday afternoons, because the Friends of the Moraga Library funded those hours. Since the pandemic, the County has continued to refuse Sunday openings for our patrons, despite the fact that the Friends are again willing to underwrite the staff costs. The County's insistence that unless all branches are open on Sundays, then no branches should be open seems punitive, rather than equitable. As noted in your article, at least "by opening up some branches on Sundays, the libraries would be available to everyone in the county." I encourage all Lamorinda library patrons to contact County Librarian Alison McKee with your requests for Sunday openings: alison.mckee@library.cccounty.us Thank you,

Sally Whittaker
President
Friends of the Moraga Library

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence — we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

In Memory

Lynn Curtis

April 29, 1947 – Dec. 25, 2023



Lynn Curtis, a well-known artist who lived in Orinda, passed away on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, in Chico, CA. She will be profoundly missed by her many close friends and by her family: husband Kerry; daughter Becky, her husband Paul Vilevac, and their children Jake and Chloe; daughter Lisa, her husband Tom Moore, and their children Spencer and Tyler; and son Chris, his wife Laura, and their children Olivia and Jane.

Not long after Lynn's father, Jack, returned from Army service in Europe in WW2, he and Lynn's mother, Ruth (Scott), made a home in Rydal, PA. Jack and Ruth Walton owned and ran the Scott family's Rydal Flower Gardens for five decades. Ruth Lynn Walton, "Lynn," was born in Abington, PA on April 29, 1947. She grew up spending many hours wandering in the greenhouses and fields. Those familiar with Lynn's artwork will see evidence of her childhood in the images she created during her long career.

After graduation from Abington High School, Lynn studied for a year at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, then transferred to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia in a joint degree program with the University of Pennsylvania. She met Kerry in 1969 at a party in Philadelphia hosted by one of her art school friends. Kerry and Lynn embarked on a whirlwind romance – they dated, became engaged, got married, and moved to San Francisco – all in five months! They found an apartment across the street from Golden Gate Park, where Lynn was able to renew her wandering among gardens and landscapes. She continued painting and became active in artists' groups.

In 1971, Becky was born in San Francisco, and a search for a "forever home" ended at the house on Overhill Road in Orinda. Lisa was born in 1974 in Berkeley. Lynn combined her painting with the roles of Mom, homemaker, and chief cook (thousands of 7 p.m. meals with fresh ingredients). She joined the Artists' Cooperative in San Francisco and displayed her work in various shows.

In 1980, Kerry was transferred by Bank of America to London, where Lynn found a big home for the family, equipped with an artist's studio and a darkroom. She was thus able to continue her artistic work with only a brief interruption. With Becky and Lisa being bused door-to-door to the American school all day, Lynn was able to resume her creative work, including exploring the museums, galleries, and shops in London. Near the end of the family's stay in London, Chris was born, so they returned home in 1982 with a two-month-old baby in a basket – a family of five.

After her return in 1982 to Orinda, Lynn's artwork naturally took a back seat to being a (wonderful) Mom. In her "spare time," she served as president of San Francisco Women Artists for a year. She sold many paintings through her numerous art exhibitions and participation in East Bay Open Studios. She was also instrumental in starting ballet classes for adults at the community center. Her work over the decades has taken many forms: paintings, drawings, photography, prints, movies, writing, poetry, and curating art shows for various organizations including the Commonwealth Club of California. As one person recently said of Lynn and her art, "If she were a self-promoter, she'd be famous." Well, she certainly was not any kind of self-promoter, being modest and kind. But she *is* famous to the many who loved and admired her.

Lynn was laid to rest on Dec. 30 at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 12 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Parkinson's Foundation or the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

In Memory

Margaret Diane Walters



Margaret Diane Walters (Maggie or Margo Hill) passed away in the afternoon of Jan. 3, following a brief and unexpected illness in Walnut Creek, California. Maggie was 77 years old and a loving mother, devoted grandmother as well as an accomplished artist.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, as Margaret Hill, Maggie grew up in Chicago, Illinois, and attended Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. After forming life-long friendships at college, Maggie pursued her interests in French and art, studying in Paris and earning her Masters in Art and Design in London. Maggie settled in England and had two daughters with her husband, Robert Bruce Walters.

In the mid-1990s, Maggie returned to the United States with her daughters, where she settled in California and became intimately involved in the holistic health therapy and art communities. Her involvement in holistic health included work in CranioSacral therapy and massage therapy/touch therapy with Alzheimer's clients, in addition to authoring a book called "Finding the Bloom of the Cactus Generation." With respect to the art community, Maggie was a founding member of the Lafayette Art Gallery and the Moraga Art Gallery, as well as a board member of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. She participated in many other fine art events in the Lamorinda/San Francisco Bay Area, including ProArts and Open Studios.

Maggie was an avid traveler – visiting Peru, China, Bali, Australia, Tibet, Nepal, Colombia, and Europe, among other destinations. Maggie's interest in other cultures was depicted in her artwork, as it evolved from sketches to watercolors and plein air to oils and acrylics, with still-life and models. Maggie's most recent interest is demonstrated in her work with silk in various mediums, including paintings, coasters, journals, magnets, and scarves, among other items. The vibrancy of the dyes is what drew her to this modified batik style art.

Maggie enjoyed spending her summers at her lake home in Minnesota, close to where her mother grew up in Lisbon, North Dakota. In recent years, Maggie has also been involved in the art community in Minnesota, including the Cormorant Area Art Club and Art of the Lakes in Battle Lake.

In addition to art and travel, Maggie enjoyed spending time with her family, especially with her three grandchildren. Maggie will be remembered as kind, creative, community-centered and family-oriented. Maggie leaves behind her two daughters, Diana Walters and Caroline Walters Schneiderei, her son-in-law Michael Schneiderei, her three grandchildren, Imogen, Oliver, and Lucas, and her dog, Toffee. She will be deeply missed by her family and community.

A memorial for Maggie will be held at St. Stephens Church (66 St Stephens Dr, Orinda, CA) on Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. to be followed by a reception at the Moraga Art Gallery (432 Center St, Moraga).

In Memory

Tommy "Tom" Roy Hensley

Nov. 20, 1936 – Jan. 10, 2024



Tommy "Tom" Roy Hensley, cherished husband, loving father and grandfather passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Jan. 10. Born on Nov. 20, 1936, in Seminole, Oklahoma, Tom was a beacon of strength and kindness in his community.

Tom's journey of service began with active duty in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1962, a period that shaped much of his character and instilled in him a sense of discipline and commitment.

Following his service, he pursued and obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering from Oregon State University. His academic achievements led him to a fulfilling career with the U.S. Forest Service.

In 1978, Tom helped his wife, Carolie, fulfill her dream of opening a quilt shop in Lafayette, CA. Through hard work and dedication together, they opened The Cotton Patch. After retiring from the Forest Service, they co-founded C&T Publishing. Both companies are still in business today.

Tom loved to play golf and to fish. He was an excellent bridge player. He liked tending to his garden and fruit trees. A dedicated sports fan, he loved the Forty-Niners and Giants. His all-time favorite fan activity was attending his grandkids' football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and basketball games.

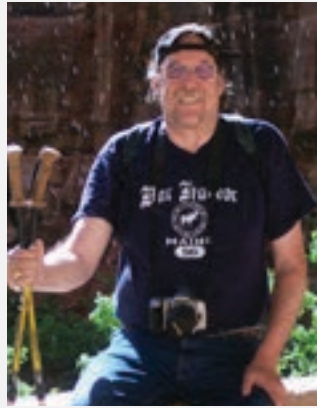
Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Carolie, sons, Tony and Todd, daughters-in-law, Julie and Jennifer, and adored grandchildren Tom, Mark, Will and Emily. His life was a testament to his ability to balance a successful career, a vibrant personal life, and a deep commitment to his family and community.

Friends and family are invited to attend a celebration of Tom's life on Friday, Feb. 2 at 1-4 p.m. at Creekside Club Room, 1010 Golden Rain Road (Rossmoor), Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

In Memory

Cecil "Chip" Barnes IV

July 18, 1947 – Jan. 4, 2024



Cecil "Chip" Barnes 76, passed away peacefully, Thursday Jan. 4, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his wife Jacqueline, son Cecil "Chris" and his sister Marni. He was born in Chicago Illinois in 1947, the oldest of three children of Loretta Van Rie Barnes and Cecil Barnes III. As a young child his family moved to California and Chip spent most of his life in the Bay Area.

On Nov. 12, 1983, Chip married Jacqueline Margaret Hocking in England. Together they lived in San Francisco where their sons were born. In 1992 the family moved to Moraga, California, which Chip called home for the last 32 years. Chip treasured family gatherings, especially the holidays where his love of family was so evident.

From an early age Chip became involved in theater. He found his calling backstage at the Palo Alto Children's Theater, demonstrating an aptitude for creative lighting design and discovering a joy that he would carry with him throughout his life. He was the lighting director and board operator at the theater for the better part of a decade and it is also where he made some of his closest life-long friends.

In 1970, Chip graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bailey College of Science and Mathematics. He was at the forefront of the emerging wave of computer technology. From there he traded his "hippie beads" for a necktie and went to work at Stanford Research Institute. One day he was informed that the mathematical problems that he was working on were more than theoretical, they were aimed at improving the bombing ranges in Vietnam. After realizing the nature of the work he was doing, he became disillusioned and left the job. Chip went on to have a creative and rewarding career in computer engineering, software programming and systems analysis, including helping Bank of America pioneer their first ATM and online banking platform. Over the years he received many accolades for his ingenious solutions to complicated problems and his patient ability to explain complex processes in an accessible manner.

His open-mindedness and search for understanding led him to travel widely and to learn from every place and every person that he encountered along his path. He was always willing to try something new and wanted to discover things for himself. Chip earned his solo pilot license to fly small planes, was a certified scuba diver and raced his Shields class sailboat in the bay as an active member at the Sausalito Yacht Club. Later in life he was a regular at Burning Man where he loved mixing with the varied types of people who gravitated to that creative utopian experiment. It was there that he also found an appreciative audience for his "Gobbling Heads" computer art animation, an endlessly repeating randomized display that delights in its simplicity and ridiculousness. Chip was also an enthusiastic amateur photographer who always carried his camera with him on his adventures. Two exhibitions of his photographs were staged at the Moraga library as part of their rotating artist series.

Chip was a man who led with his heart and his family was the center of his orbit. He was an amazing husband, father, and brother. He retained lifelong friends and was always eagerly planning trips to go off-roading, biking, camping, or fiddle with electronics. Chip really loved watching his son Cecil "Chris" play Varsity Soccer for Miramonte High School. Chip took it upon himself to film the 2004-2005 season when the team won the DFAL Championship and in 2005-2006 when the team rose to win the NCS Championship. Chip enthusiastically documented the team's accomplishments, one of the many ways which demonstrates his dedication to his family and community. Every morning Chip enjoyed a cup of coffee with his friends at SiSi Caffe in Moraga where he was a loyal customer ever since their opening 25 years ago.

He was curious and adventurous from the get go and many people, friends and strangers alike, were the blessed recipients of his attentive and loving nature. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Jacqueline Barnes, their son Cecil "Chris" Barnes V, his daughter in law Angelica Giannoulatu-Destouni and his sister Marni Barnes. He was preceded in death by his son James and sister Melanie.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Chip's honor to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

A memorial will take place in Palo Alto on Saturday April 6, 2024, for information please call Marni at 650-326-6866.

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 200 words) to story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

New Orinda business offers home accessories from Genuine Goodness site

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Mother Gwen Callan and daughters Lisa Hoskins and Stefanie Murphy have teamed up to offer home accessories at gcd provisions, operating out of the same premises as Genuine Goodness in Orinda Village.

Mother and daughters team Gwen Callan, Lisa Hoskins and Stefanie Murphy have opened gcd provisions, sharing space with Diane Eames, owner of the Genuine Goodness restaurant at 21 Orinda Way in Orinda

Village. The team were introduced to the Orinda City Council on Dec. 5 as one of the new businesses in Orinda. They also participated in the Holiday Market hosted by Ben Zarrin of Paymun Real Estate Design &

Development.

The idea for gcd provisions started percolating last January, and they opened in May. Eames has expanded Genuine Goodness into the space next door, using it for catered events

and some lunch seating, leaving plenty of room for home accessories. Eames suggested to Murphy that she bring down some items. "We thought, OK, we'll try it!" said Callan, and they have found it to be the perfect partnership.

Hoskins said, "We've been kind of wanting to do something in Orinda. We have very deep roots in the East Bay; Stefanie and I were born and raised in Danville and now live in Orinda," and they are delighted to be a women-owned business.

Callan was previously part owner of a design concepts business in Alamo. She does interior design, tapping some of the accessory resources. She's done a lot of architectural design and full design work and has found that accessories are hard to stock.

Hoskins noted that there really isn't a local spot in Orinda to find high quality accessories and unique home décor items, and gcd provisions hopes to fill that

gap by sourcing furnishings, rugs and some furniture. She explained that most of their products come from carefully curated small artisans.

Callan says, "We try to find things that are unique and made from natural materials that can be reused or repurposed." They favor handcrafted items. Hoskins added that they have some wonderful African pieces, such as glass beads and hand-made bronze bells, which were very difficult to get. Some of their most popular serving ware pieces are bamboo salad bowls imported from Sweden.

Callan believes that items should be purchased for a certain use, "but some items just bring you joy." She suggests that if you are tired of an item, you might be able to repurpose it.

Hoskins noted that the women love partnering with the community to help causes, for example, breast cancer, and the Children's Health Guild, hosting events at the Orinda

Country Club. Hoskins volunteers for almost every charity and was in charge of the Grateful Gatherings gala.

Hoskins has an MBA and Murphy has a background in merchandising for Pottery Barn.

Callan, who holds an art history degree, is an interior designer and member of the American Society of Interior Designers. She usually works with an architect, or a landscape architect, and sometimes does design work on remodels. She says that she works from an architectural viewpoint, focusing on backgrounds first. Her goal, she says, is "trying to beautify the interior and make it function better and make the clients happier." Although she now does mostly residential, she previously worked in hospitality design (apartment buildings) in San Jose and San Mateo, but professes that her heart is in residential. The award-winning designer has been featured in Lux Magazine.

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Accolades for Lamorinda football led by Acalanes coach, Floyd Burnsed

By Jon Kingdon

How do you top winning the state high school football championship? For Acalanes' head football coach, it was being named the Bay Area News Group Coach of the Year and the California State Football Coach of the Year by Cal-Hi Sports. In a 19-year stint at Miramonte, beginning in 1982, Floyd Burnsed's teams won 154 games, 10 league titles and four North Coast Section championships. Despite the four NCS championships, this year's state championship was Burnsed's first appearance in such a game for the simple reason that the state championship games did not begin until 2006. Since taking the

reins at Acalanes in 2016, Burnsed now has a combined career record of 212-98-2. Burnsed accepted the award with typical understatement and then passed on the credit to his players. "It's a nice honor," Burnsed said. "Our kids played well, and the main thing is that they took ownership of the team and when a team does that, they hold each other accountable and are then playing for each other and that makes a huge difference." Despite Acalanes losing their first three games, Burnsed never lost his confidence in the team. "These were non-league games, and we

were not really game planning for these teams, and we hadn't really settled on who would be starting," Burnsed said. "It's great to play tough non-league teams because you actually find out about your team. When you play teams like that, that's when you find out where the chips lie." There were many others that Burnsed shared the credit with. "We wouldn't have been where we were without our staff," Burnsed said. "David Ortega and his assistants did a really good job on defense, making nice adjustments. Joel Isaac ran the offense for us, and he did a great job with film study and putting in the game plan. Bill Hansen and Randy Henderson did really well with our freshmen and JV teams (respectively)." Burnsed also ac-

knowledged the support the team got from the school, the student body, and the Lafayette community: "We had a nice crowd that came down to Mission Viejo for the championship game. They bought into the program and really enjoyed it." The 76-year-old Burnsed decides after each season if he will continue to coach or retire, and he has already confirmed that he will be returning to Acalanes next year. A year before, Burnsed had his hip replaced after going through a lot of discomfort. "I'm in great shape now," Burnsed said. "I'm back 100% and I feel great. We're already putting next year's roster together and we have already scheduled Nevada's state runner up (Galena) for a home game on next year's schedule."



Photo Chris Malmquist

Floyd Burnsed at state championship game

Correction: In the article, "Saint Mary's Basketball – a tale of two seasons," published in Jan. 17 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, team member Mitchell Saxen was mistakenly identified as James Saxen. We apologize for this error.

Diablo Athletic League Lamorinda recognized athletes fall 2023

Football			GIRLS VOLLEYBALL			CROSS COUNTRY - GIRLS		
Trevor Rogers - SR	MVP Offense	Acalanes	Jade Profilio - SR	2nd Team	Acalanes	Olivia Williams - SR	1st Team	Acalanes
Niko White - JR 1st	Team Offense	Acalanes	Hannah Bjornson - SR	MVP	Campolindo	Nevis Murphy - Soph	1st Team	Acalanes
Sully Bailey - SR 1st	Team Offense	Acalanes	Rachel Andre - SR	1st Team	Campolindo	Megan Yee - SR	2nd Team	Acalanes
Drew McKenzie - JR	1st Team Offense	Acalanes	Mia Wallach - Soph	1st Team	Campolindo	Shea Volkmer - SR	1st Team	Campolindo
Jack Giorgianni - SR	1st Team Defense	Acalanes	Aveya Stone - JR	2nd Team	Campolindo	Kate Kabenina - SR	1st Team	Campolindo
Henry Hagel - SR	2nd Team Offense	Acalanes	Nicole Tuszyński - SR	1st Team	Miramonte	Daisy Penney - SR	1st Team	Campolindo
Andrew Tresser - JR	2nd Team Offense	Acalanes	Amanda Roch - JR	2nd Team	Miramonte	Amalia Contreras - Frosh	2nd Team	Campolindo
Brady Morrow - SR	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes	Sena Hens - Frosh	2nd Team	Miramonte	Sloan Pullen - JR	2nd Team	Campolindo
Paul Kuhner - SR	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes				Grace Bell - SR	2nd Team	Miramonte
Everett Glass - SR	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes	WATER POLO GIRLS					
Jake Boselli - SR	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes	Ella del Rosario - Soph	1st Team	Acalanes	CROSS COUNTRY - BOYS		
Deonte Littlejohn - Soph	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes	Brooklyn Plomp - SR	1st Team	Acalanes	Alex Thomasson - SR	1st Team	Campolindo
Timmy Daugherty - SR	1st Team Offense	Campolindo	Wendy Heffelfinger - SR	2nd Team	Acalanes	Cody De La Cruz - Soph	2nd Team	Campolindo
Frank Anderson - SR	1st Team Offense	Campolindo	Liv Hoppe - SR	2nd Team	Acalanes	Clark Gregory - Frosh	2nd Team	Campolindo
Crosby Kelkly - Soph	1st Team Defense	Campolindo	Adelyn Jorciza - Frosh	2nd Team Goalie	Acalanes	Asher Patel - SR	1st Team	Miramonte
Jake Spencer - SR	1st Team Defense	Campolindo	Sydney Kring - Soph	Outstanding Goalie	Campolindo	Logan Letulle - Soph	1st Team	Miramonte
Sebo McRea - SR	1st Team Defense	Campolindo	London Menard - SR	1st Team	Campolindo	James Jenkins - JR	2nd Team	Miramonte
Max O'Balle - SR	2nd Team Offense	Campolindo	Ana Pieper - SR	1st Team	Campolindo			
Micah Parker - Soph	2nd Team Offense	Campolindo	Nikki Frazier - JR	2nd Team	Campolindo	TENNIS - GIRLS		
Bryce McLaverty - SR	2nd Team Offense	Campolindo	Sammy Frazier - JR	2nd Team	Campolindo	Aamena Shipchandler - Soph		
Isaiah Ortiz - SR	2nd Team Offense	Campolindo	Rosalie Hassett - SR	Co-MVP	Miramonte	2nd Team Singles	Acalanes	
Shane Harris - SR	2nd Team Defense	Campolindo	Tali Stryker - SR	Co-MVP	Miramonte	Sophia Raldugina-Zhu - JR		
James Erickson - SR	2nd Team Defense	Campolindo	Ally Larsen - JR	1st Team	Miramonte	1st Team Singles	Campolindo	
Landon Gilmore - JR	2nd Team Defense	Campolindo	Ali Sagara - JR	1st Team	Miramonte	Annie Cooper - SR, Nola Coae - JR		
Gabriel Roman - SR	1st Team Offense	Miramonte	Bea Hearey - JR	2nd Team	Miramonte	1st Team Doubles	Campolindo	
Nick Blair - SR	2nd Team Offense	Miramonte	Audrina Kang - JR	2nd Team	Miramonte	Dilara Basegmez - SR		
Finn McManus - SR	2nd Team Offense	Miramonte				2nd Team Singles	Campolindo	
Andrew Davenport - JR	2nd Team Defense	Miramonte	WATER POLO - BOYS			Natalie Zebley - SR, Alyssa Muller - SR		
Luke Milmore - JR	2nd Team Defense	Miramonte	Joey Cecchin - SR	Outstanding Goalie	Campolindo	2nd Team Doubles	Campolindo	
			Dylan King - JR	1st Team	Campolindo	Caitlin Chan - Soph		
Girls Flag Football			Hayden O'Hare - JR	1st Team	Campolindo	1st Team Singles	Miramonte	
Kelly Todhunter - SR	MVP Offense	Acalanes	Will Vranesh - SR	1st Team	Campolindo	Emily Suh - JR, Maddie Essner - FR		
Ella Thomason - SR	1st Team Offense	Acalanes	Ellis Culleton - Frosh	2nd Team	Campolindo	1st Team Doubles	Miramonte	
Alana Brinkman - SR	1st Team Defense	Acalanes	Will Maguy - Frosh	2nd Team	Campolindo	Maddie Silveira - Soph		
Jenna Steele - SR	1st Team Defense	Acalanes	Cade O'Hare - Frosh	2nd Team	Campolindo	2nd Team Singles	Miramonte	
Monica Dikova - SR	2nd Team Offense	Acalanes	Dante Vattuone - SR	2nd Team	Campolindo	Nicole Hui - SR		
Addie McShane - JR	2nd Team Defense	Acalanes	Henry Engs - SR	MVP	Miramonte	2nd Team Singles	Miramonte	
Addie Martin - SR	3rd Team Offense	Acalanes	Grant Kurtz - SR	1st Team	Miramonte	Nicole Guo - SR		
Maya Shoenhair - Soph	3rd Team Defense	Acalanes	Oliver Sherwood - SR	1st Team	Miramonte	2nd Team Singles	Miramonte	
Grace Allen - JR	1st Team Offense	Campolindo	Patrick Stice - JR	1st Team	Miramonte	GOLF - GIRLS HONOR SCHOOL		
Molly Dougherty - SR	1st Team Defense	Campolindo	Tristan Tucker - Soph	1st Team	Miramonte	Haley Chelemedos - JR	1st Team	Acalanes
Zoe Lehrman - Frosh	3rd Team Offense	Campolindo	Brock Bliss - Soph	2nd Team	Miramonte	Campbell Evans - JR	1st Team	Acalanes
Isabelle Maher - Frosh	3rd Team Defense	Campolindo	Jackson Cherry - Soph	2nd Team	Miramonte	Hana Chelemedos - JR	2nd Team	Acalanes
			Ben Lucas - JR	2nd Team	Miramonte	Jasmine Malekazaci - JR	2nd Team	Campolindo
						Paige Sovocool - Soph	1st Team	Miramonte
						Antong Cao - SR	2nd Team	Miramonte

Lamorinda recycling

... continued from Page 1

plastics No. 1 to No. 7, detergent bottles, lids and caps, water jugs, and more also belong in the blue bin; a wide assortment of paper from telephone books and computer paper, to junk mail, magazines, and newspapers, just to name a few, are perfect for recycling. However, the one culprit in the form of corrugated, used pizza boxes should always go into the green bin. The oils from pizza boxes cause unnecessary contamination and damage throughout the recycling process. "Greasy pizza boxes contaminate clean recycling and are expensive for the recycling industries," states the recyclingmore.com website. "It's estimated that contamination costs recyclers \$700 million per year due to damaged machin-

ery, the cost of disposing of non-recyclable materials, and wasted time." MDRR also collects approximately 600 pounds a week in household batteries from places such as CVS's small green buckets which are located near most of the stores' entrances for customer convenience. All too often, residents throw damaged garden hoses (which belong in the black landfill bins) into the blue bins. On average, 25% of what comes to the plant under the guise of recycling winds up in landfills. Rajan explained that the "reuse" pickup day (held twice a year) is a great way for people to get rid of items in the home that they no longer want, but could be reused by someone else (provided things are in working order). These reusable

items go to an onsite warehouse location where nonprofit organizations can collect things for reuse by homeless shelters or others less fortunate. The trucks that come by neighborhoods on "reuse" days should have the company logos on them and their drivers will be in uniform. Trucks with no recycle logos or uniformed personnel should be reported, as they are not part of the program. During RecycleSmart's 2022 Reuse program, 37,373 households were visited, 3.4 million pounds of items were collected and donated, and 165,000 pounds of books were collected for redistribution. When it comes to sorting plastics from the non-desirable items, Nejedly explained that a conveyor belt carries the items past a machine la-

beled NRT (National Recovery Technologies) that operates as an optical sorter. When it spots an item that doesn't belong, an air cannon blasts the item off the conveyor belt and into a separate bin. Other equipment can spot the wrong items along a conveyor belt route and use claws much like those in arcade games to grab the offending piece. Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) is separated from other paper which goes through a processing machine "much like watching lasagna being made," said Rajan. He visited a recycled paper plant and watched while the paper was saturated with water that turned it into a mushy pulp. After additional processing the finished product came out the other end looking like sheets of pasta. Tin and metal are

highly recyclable and is bought by a company in Washington state. Due to California's strict environmental regulations many forms of recycling are no longer allowed and are outsourced. According to Nejedly, all of MDRR's glass is sold to the Gallo Glass Company in Modesto, whose parent company is E. & J. Gallo Winery. Gallo makes its own glass bottles using up to 75% of recycled glass. Their glass processing plant goes through 150 thousand tons of recycled glass a year, and manufactures 2 million bottles a day for its own private use. The company is on track to build a future Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery Park thanks to an agreement with the city of Pittsburg to improve services through the use of new innovations. A

first step is to comply with California's upcoming regulations with regards to zero emissions vehicles. Also in the works are collection vehicles that are able to detect if there is a "contamination" in the blue recycle bin. In other words, a significantly large enough item that belongs in one of the other bins. If it happens on a regular basis, a citation could be in the resident's future. "People want to recycle more and are trying to be more conscientious about what they put in," Rajan said optimistically, "but you can't use your recycle can just because your garbage can is full just to get rid of it." For more information visit: mdrr.com.

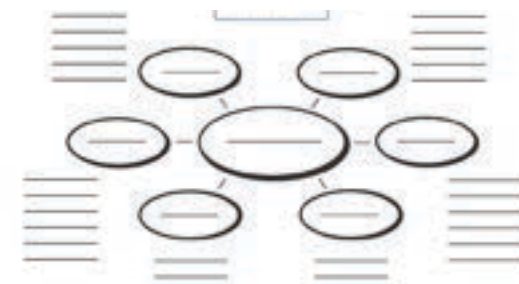
MOLLYSLIST



Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 25 Wednesday, January 31, 2024



Mind Maps to organize your self

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Garden goals for 2024

By Cynthia Brian

Photos Cynthia Brian



Ranunculus adds color and texture in February gardens.

Hope and faith flower from the cheerful seeds of the old year to the sprouting garden of the new year's dawn. ~Terri Guillemets

By February, most of the resolutions made on Jan. 1 have been waylaid. Our dreams of losing weight, becoming more organized, and being better might have already turned into nightmares. If we want to be triumphant in life, we need to make conscientious changes, or else we are doomed to stagnation. February is the perfect month to create our year's gardening goals. If we do a little at a time, step by step, and commit to success, we will achieve our landscaping goals.



A bee sucks nectar from a blooming rosemary bush.

There is a saying, "By the inch, it's a cinch." Choose one or two goals per month and make it happen. The only way to predict the future is to create it. To become a better gardener, we need to be flexible, adopt innovative ideas, and learn from our mistakes. Whatever your level of gardening expertise, you will benefit from several of these suggestions. Get going, get growing.

1. Keep Track

Whether you write in a notebook or create a digital diary, journaling about what's happening in your landscape will be a valuable resource.



Camellias begin to bloom.

2. Be Inquisitive

Don't be afraid to go to your local nursery to ask questions. Talk to gardeners you admire: your grandmother, a neighbor, or even a total stranger. There are no dumb questions. Gardeners are flattered to share their knowledge.

3. Grow the world.

Whether it's planting an emerging specimen or experimenting with garden art, try something new. Go global and experience a specimen from another part of the planet.

... continued on Page OH10

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,350,000	\$8,995,000
MORAGA	5	\$800,000	\$2,000,000
ORINDA	6	\$1,270,000	\$3,600,000

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

1028 Dyer Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1269 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-26-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 12-19-17

4090 Happy Valley Road, \$8,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 5435 SqFt,

1948 YrBlt, 12-21-23, Previous Sale: \$3,650,000, 05-28-04

1056 Manzana Place, \$2,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3472 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 12-19-23

3645 Mosswood Drive, \$1,565,000, 4 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-22-23

3260 Silverado Court, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1831 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 12-26-23

MORAGA

14 Berkshire Street, \$1,555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 12-20-23

1379 Camino Peral #B, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 12-22-23,

Previous Sale: \$737,500, 10-28-20

92 Courter Lane, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2996 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 12-19-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,008,500, 10-10-00

25 Francisca Drive, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 12-29-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,254,000, 01-14-22

192 Miramonte Drive, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 12-27-23,

Previous Sale: \$286,000, 03-28-00

ORINDA

7 Bel Air Drive, \$3,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2515 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-21-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,875,000, 05-18-23

25 Broadview Terrace, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1290 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-27-23

105 Crane Terrace, \$2,151,000, 4 Bdrms, 3008 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 12-29-23

16 Donald Drive, \$2,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2406 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-29-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,705,000, 05-30-18

67 La Cuesta Road, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-29-23,

Previous Sale: \$865,000, 11-14-07

218 The Knolls, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 12-29-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-18-23

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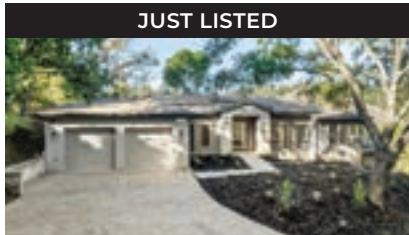


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DRE# 01932119

LORI LEGLER

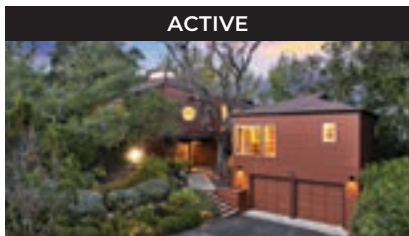


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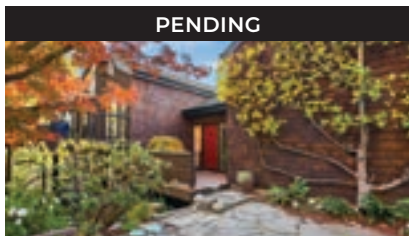
JUST LISTED

1161 OLEANDER DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$4,580,000
JULIE DEL SANTO | 925.818.5500



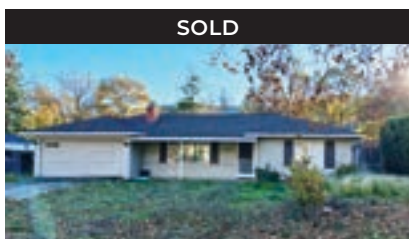
ACTIVE

8 MOUNTAIN VIEW LANE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$2,775,000
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PENDING

601 WATCHWOOD ROAD, ORINDA
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SOLD

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RACHEL DREYER



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DRE# 01994561



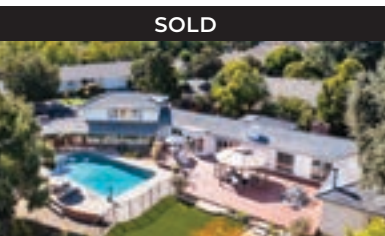
ACTIVE

89 DAIRY CREEK LANE, ORINDA
OFFERED AT \$4,999,000
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PENDING

1089 GLEN ROAD, LAFAYETTE
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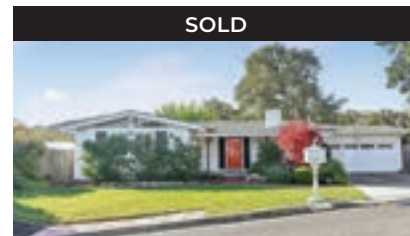
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1046 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY RD, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$5,275,000
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



PENDING

3212 LOS PALOS CIRCLE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000
L. LEGLER & C. HATA | 925.286.1244



SOLD

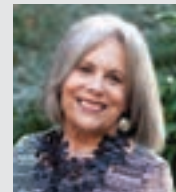
3351 BETTY LANE, LAFAYETTE
SOLD FOR \$1,300,000
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Mind Maps: A Powerful Organizing Tool for Planning

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO Efficiency Matters, LLC

What I have discovered with many of my clients is that they are often overwhelmed with managing the multiple tasks needed to organize projects, manage to-do lists, plan a trip ... you name it. The brain can only hold so many thoughts at the same time, so how do you sort it all out?

I have successfully been using a tool called mind mapping for years. A mind map is a powerful visual planning tool that allows you to capture all your ideas at once, sort them out, and eliminate the overwhelming confusion. A mind map gets information out of your brain and can be a creative and logical means of note taking that literally “maps out your ideas.” This powerful tool uses both the left and right brain thinking tools, which helps with clarity, structure, and organization of your thoughts.

There are so many ways to use a mind map, such as planning a vacation, planning your week, your remodel, your garage organization project, brainstorming ideas and projects both short and long term ... the possibilities are limitless.

The best way to explain how to use a mind map is to show you. You can find many types of mind maps on the internet. Here is the mind map that I use and give to all of my clients (I’ve included a link to a printable copy at the end of the article):



This kind of mind map is often called a spider map.

The center of a mind map looks a little bit like a spider with many legs; the body is the main topic with the multiple legs leading to the related subtopics.

The circles that are around the main circle are the subtopics. I like to prioritize the subtopics by using the top right circle first then working clockwise. The lines below each subtopic list the related tasks that need to be completed.

... continued on Page OH8

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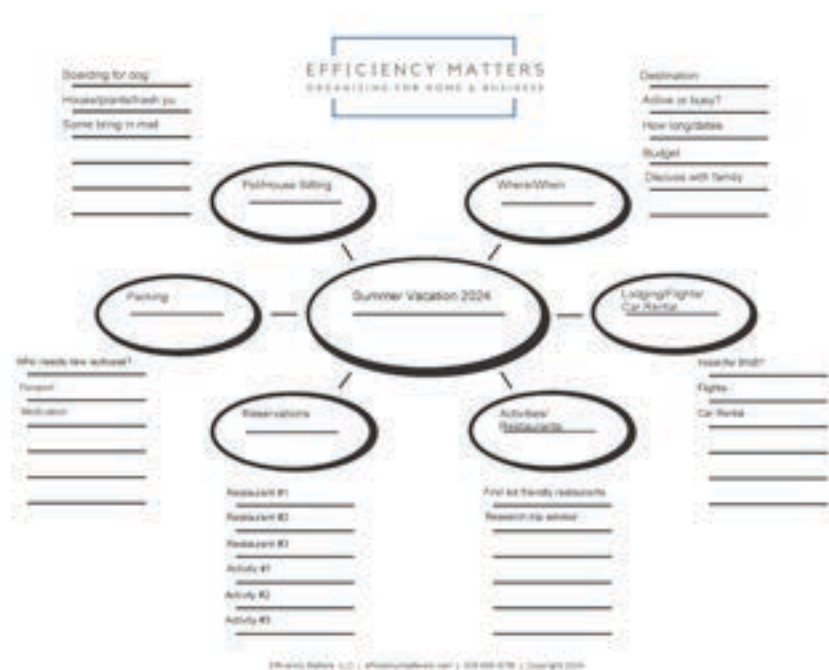
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Mind Maps: A Powerful Organizing Tool for Planning

... continued from Page OH4

Here is an example of how a mind map might be used to plan a family vacation.



Images Efficiency Matters

In the main subject circle, I have written “summer vacation”. Starting with the top right, I have listed my subtopics (prioritizing them clockwise).

Here are the subtopics and tasks I created for this example:

WHERE-WHEN Fill the lines with questions to discuss with the family such as:

Destination choices, relaxing or active vacation, how long do we want to stay, what is our budget, coordinate all family members schedule to decide on a date that works for everyone (good luck with that).

LODGING-AIR-CAR RENTAL This is where you will start researching flights, hotels/airbnb, and car rentals.

ACTIVITIES/RESTAURANTS Make a list of possible activities that are available at the destination. You may want to put detailed notes here such as websites, street address, costs involved.

RESERVATIONS Now that everyone has decided on the activities and restaurants you want, you will make the actual reservations. This can be added to the itinerary (if you are the type of person who puts together an itinerary).

PACKING Make notes of the items you want to make sure you don't forget. These items are special to this trip and wouldn't necessarily be on a typical packing list. You might want to make a separate mind map for this subtopic to help with packing.

PET/HOUSE SITTING You will want to make plans for your pets, house (plants) and mail. Having this on your mind map will help you remember all these important details.

The benefit of the mind map is that you transfer all of the many thoughts from your brain when you write it down in an organized way. Otherwise, all these details are swimming around your brain all the time and inevitably important things get missed.

Another way to use the mind map is to fill one out at the beginning of the week. It might look something like this:

MAIN CIRCLE: WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2024

CIRCLE TOPIC #1 - ERRANDS - grocery shopping, dry cleaning, post office, return packages.

CIRCLE TOPIC #2 - KIDS - Susie needs new basketball shoes, Joey needs supplies for school project.

CIRCLE TOPIC #3 - WORK - Finish presentation, follow up client leads, create 9 closet designs.

CIRCLE TOPIC #4 - FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Start vacation conversations, plan date night, sign up for family pickleball, make sure everyone's schedules are coordinated.

CIRCLE TOPIC #5 - HOUSE PROJECTS - Call electrician to fix outlet, put away holiday decor, cover outdoor furniture.

CIRCLE TOPIC #6 - LONG TERM PROJECTS - Call about summer camps, start researching a new car, start planning a garage organization project.

Here is a link to the version of a mind map that I use and I give to all of my clients; www.efficiencymattersllc.com/mindmap.

Send me an email at jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com if you have any questions. I'm always here to help!

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com





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Join us for a sip & learn on February 8th at 6pm in Lafayette to learn about the pros and cons of choosing to buy vs. renovate in Lamorinda.

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- Should you renovate your home or buy something new?
- How to plan a successful renovation and avoid pitfalls
- Popular finishes
- Construction costs and staying on budget
- What to look for when selecting a contractor

Details & Registration

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Photos Cynthia Brian

Garden goals for 2024



Aged chicken and rabbit manure are gold for the garden.



By composting you save the planet and your garden.



Hard prune roses now for a spring flourish of flowers.

... continued from Page OH1

4. Keep on Learning

To educate means to draw forth. Take a class, read a book, join a garden club, attend a lecture, watch a documentary, or surf the internet. Whatever gives you pleasure in learning, go to a place of discovery and growth. Educate yourself.

5. Be a mentor

Many gardeners developed their passion for the earth (including myself) by following a parent, friend, or relative through the garden. Share your knowledge through example and offer your insights to neighbors and friends, and especially to inquisitive children.

6. Take a Stroll

Walk through your garden every day to witness the changes. You don't have to necessarily do anything more than enjoy the serenity. By actively seeing and listening to your garden, you'll be able to spot problems, find the perfect location for the new birdhouse, and receive the benefits of natural exercise.

7. Embrace Composting

Nothing will enhance your garden more than regularly adding organic matter to your soil. Composting is so simple once you get in the habit. I keep a five-gallon bucket inside my garage and right outside my kitchen. Add coffee grinds, eggshells, tea bags, shredded newsprint, wood ashes, vegetable scraps, and anything biodegradable. Lawn clippings, leaves, wood shavings, and weeds can all be mixed into a compost pile or bin. Don't include meat, dog and cat excrement, or diseased plants. If you have chickens or rabbits, their droppings are gold for the garden. Chicken manure needs to be aged for two to three years or it will burn your plants. Turn your compost pile every few months and when it smells earthy and crumbles like chocolate cake, spread it around your plants.

8. Make a list

When you make a weekly to-do list of what you need to do in your garden, you can do a little each day, and check off the tasks as you have the time. You'll feel exhilarated by accomplishing one or two small chores in an hour here and an hour there. No need to spend the entire weekend laboring in the yard. Instead, take time for a barbecue or sit under a tree with a good

book to relax and enjoy nature.

9. Mulch for Garden Health

By maintaining a three-inch covering of mulch, you'll reduce erosion, maintain ground temperature, suppress weeds, conserve water, and prevent disease. Leaves, pine needles, shredded bark, wood chips, and even gravel offer these benefits while beautifying and unifying the look of your landscape.

10. Take Pictures

Having the advanced cameras in our smartphones, it is easy to photograph our gardens. Take photos in every season for better record keeping as well as to document the years. It's amazing how quickly our gardens change and evolve. My library now holds over 40,000 photos from my garden!

11. Treasure Trees

In 2023, the U.S. Forest Service reported that 36.3 million trees died in California in 2022 from drought, insects, and disease. Care for the trees you already have and if you have the space, plant a tree that you've always wanted. Trees combat global warming, absorb CO2, provide oxygen, clean our air, cool our environments, conserve energy, prevent erosion, supply nourishment, offer play spaces, grant shade, and increase the value of our land.

12. Bee Friendly

Make your garden attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, and bats and you'll enjoy a healthy, happy landscape. Provide pollen-rich food, shelter, water, and landing places for beneficial visitors.

13. Forget Perfection

My motto has always been "failure is fertilizer." There are no mistakes in the garden. If you plant something and it doesn't grow, don't lament. Throw the plant on the compost pile and grow a new garden. Keep in mind that Mother Nature is always in charge. The birds, bees, wind, and wildlife will always be introducing something to your design that you did not plan. Strive for excellence but deep six the idea of 'perfection' or you'll be deeply disappointed.

Gardening is good for you. Gardening boosts morale, lowers your grocery bill, and is a free fitness center. Sprout a new year's garden with hope, faith, and garden goals. A garden's best crop is happiness. Plant some today.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



For brilliant, bright pink color, plant Chinese fringe flower. Photo Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian in her ocean happy place.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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. Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

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New Listing!



8 Hidden Lane, Orinda | Open Sun 9-11am

5 Bd | 3 Ba | 4495 Sqft | \$2,250,000

Beautiful 5bd/3ba, 4495 sqft home w/ wrap-around Sleepy Hollow views and is move-in ready!

New Listing!



12 Eastwood Drive, Orinda | Open Sun 1-4pm

3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2620 Sqft | \$2,190,000

Don't miss this beautifully expanded, high-quality 3bd/3ba home w/ all the space you've been looking for!

New Listing!



17 Fallen Leaf Court, Lafayette | Open Sun 12-3pm

5 Bd + Study | 5.5 Ba | 4789 Sqft | \$4,495,000

Rare, single-level! 5bd/5.5ba family home nestled on a cul-de-sac in one of Reliez Valley's most coveted neighborhoods!

New Listing!



858 Mountain View Drive, Lafayette | Open Sun 1-4pm

5 Bd + Office | 3.5 Ba | 4280 Sqft | \$2,800,000

Breathtaking views from private Lafayette home. 5bd+office+bonus/3.5ba. Huge 3 car garage. 4280sqft. 2ac lot.

New Listing!



15 Billington Court, Lafayette | Open Sun 1-4pm

4+ Bd | 3.5 Ba | 3243 Sqft | \$2,195,000

Stunning contemporary 4+bd/3.5ba home that combines understated elegance w/ quality finishes + tranquil views of native oaks.

New Listing!



3489 Morga Blvd, Lafayette | Open Sun 12-3pm

3 Bd + Office | 2 Ba | 1694 Sqft | \$1,395,000

Charming single-level cottage in Lafayette's trail neighborhood features 3bd + office/2ba, high-end appliances, & spacious backyard!



211 Corliss Drive, Moraga | By Appointment Only

5 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2538 Sqft | \$1,699,000

Fabulous family home nestled on prime private .42 acre in sought after Rheem Valley Orchards neighborhood!

New Lease!



110 Maureen Court, Pleasant Hill | By Appointment Only

3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1715 Sqft | \$4,500/mo.

Cute rancher on a huge lot on a cul-de-sac in the Strandwood neighborhood. Wood floors and updated kitchen w/ newer appliances.



1409A Spruce Street, Berkeley | Open Sun 2-4:30pm

1 Bd | 1 Ba | 645 Sqft | \$575,000

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