



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Orindans Spring Into Action in Face of Virus

By SIMAR KHANNA  
Editor

In response to warnings from the White House to Contra Costa County Health Services, Orindans hunkered down as part of a Bay Area shelter in place order declared March 16.

All city meetings, school classes and public events were canceled as residents took measures to protect themselves against the coronavirus.

The Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees voted March 13 to cancel classes and all events through March 27. Spring Break is scheduled for March 30 to April 3.

The district said it had developed an on-line learning platform for teachers to use, allowing learning to take place from home.

Previously in a message to parents, Superintendent Carolyn Seaton posted that all school events involving more than 50 people would be canceled at least through March 27, including assemblies, field trips, dances, concerts and after-school sports.

Before canceling all meetings, the City Council initially had encouraged people to livestream its regularly scheduled March 17 meeting, view the agenda online, and email questions/comments ahead of time. For those attending, the city planned to space people apart and move people if necessary to an overflow room.

Seniors Around Town, the volunteer program that provides free rides to local seniors, sprung to action. On March 13 SAT launched two programs: One to deliver goods to seniors and the other to check in on them by phone.

SAT Program Coordinator Cathy Goshorn said 19 SAT volunteers immediately agreed to participate, reaching out to 24 seniors.

One group was set up to go shopping, run critical errands and drop off goods at the doorsteps of seniors' homes. Another was set up to call seniors, see how they are doing and offer reassurance "just to have

[SEE VIRUS page 5]



COURTESY OF DENNY WEIGAND  
Howard Jones and Karen Sturges, members of Orinda Road Runners soak in the beauty of a local trail.

## Road Runners on the Move Since '74

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

They get up to run at 5:45 a.m. four days a week (7:30 a.m. on the weekends) and among them are folks between 85 and 95 years old. That's the regimen of many who belong to the popular running group, the Orinda Road Runners.

Jerry Wendt and Bob Campbell started the club in 1974 when they were turning 40 and decided they should get back in shape. Road Runners quickly gained a following. Running was beginning to be a more popular sport due to American Frank Shorter winning the Olympic Marathon in 1972.

The group now boasts some 100 members, including five who are turning 85 this year. The oldest is 95. Members have participated in triathlons, marathons, long-distance bike rides and mountain-climbing treks.

Patty Hung has done the Boston Marathon 33 years in a row.

"The secret to a long productive life is to be active, surround yourself with friends, do things together and support one another. That's what we do," said longtime member John Fazel.

Norm Pease, who was named the 2019 Runner of the Year by the club, joined in 1982 and is still keeping the pace. He can't begin to calculate the miles he has run, but credits the club for keeping him at it.

"They are so supportive of one another — and interesting people too. We have coffee after our runs so really have become great friends. Many of us have traveled together to run all over the world."

In 1987 Laurie Reich joined the group as a way to train for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. For many years, she did the early morning run before she went to work.

[SEE RUNNERS page 15]

## Residents Would Likely Back Sales Tax Increase, Survey Finds

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

A survey of a sampling of Orinda voters found support for a one-cent, general-purpose sales tax increase but a "a half-cent sales tax has stronger and broader support compared with a full cent," according to a city report.

Conducted Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, the survey reached 436 residents, or 3 percent of registered voters who are "likely to participate in the November 2020 election." As of Feb. 10, 2019, Orinda had 14,020 registered voters, nearly 50-percent of whom are Democrats.

Participants were asked to give opinions on the increased sales tax, wildfire prevention, emergency response, road repairs and other topics.

The City Council had planned to discuss the survey on March 17 but the meeting was postponed until at least April over health

[SEE TAX page 16]

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## Council Expected to Set ADU Rules

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

The City Council could soon make some binding decisions on the hot-button issue of granny units after receiving the Planning Commission's recommendations in March.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, the city had set a public hearing on accessory

dwelling units (ADUs) for April 7, with the council preparing to adopt rules.

Last year, a detached unit could be built to a maximum 1,200 square feet and up to 27 feet high subject to existing setback zones. At the March 3 City Council meeting, residents voiced concerns about establishing smaller units, requiring discretionary review for larger units and not

[SEE ADU page 14]

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# Miramonte Boosters 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

The Miramonte Boosters Club will induct Steve Harwood, Garth Haynes, Brett Jackson, Bill Maze, Megan Reid, Heather White and Paul Yriberri (posthumously) into the 2020 Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony in October.

Steve Harwood is well-known as the “Voice of the Matadors” for sports events and banquets spanning the past three decades. He currently announces Mats boys’ and girls’ basketball and baseball games. Harwood served as president of the Miramonte Boosters Club and has made significant financial contributions to Miramonte sports including a new speaker system for the baseball field. Previously, he has received both Orinda Citizen and Volunteer of the Year honors.

Garth Haynes, ’76, was the star of the 1975-1976 FAL basketball championship team and ranks in the top 10 in Miramonte single season scoring and rebounding. Nationally, he was in the top 50 tennis singles players and won the NCS Singles Championship in 1976. He competed globally from 1981-1984 and coached tennis at Pepperdine and the College of San Mateo. Haynes continues to compete in US Tennis Association (USTA) events.

Brett Jackson, ’06, is considered one of Miramonte’s all-time baseball greats. He was a first-team All-DFAL selection twice, the 2005 All-CIF shortstop and played on

North Coast Section title teams. He won several awards playing for Cal Berkeley in what was then the Pac-10. Jackson was named Baseball America First Team All American, played for Team USA at the 2009 Pan Am Games. Professionally, he played for the Cubs, Diamondbacks and Giants before retiring in 2015.

William Maze, ’74, played varsity basketball and was ranked the top 16-year-old tennis player in the country. He won the 1973 North Coast Section Singles Championship, was a three-time All-American at Stanford and played doubles with John McEnroe. Maze played on a professional tennis tour and competed in four Grand Slam tournaments. He is in the NorCal Tennis Hall of Fame and has been the UC Davis women’s tennis teams head coach for 25 years.

Megan Reid, ’14, was an all-league player in varsity soccer, water polo, basketball and track. She was named the Diablo Foothill League Soccer Player of the Year in 2011 and 2014, played on the Lamorinda club soccer team and was selected MVP of the Denmark Cup. Recruited by Division 1 schools for both basketball and soccer, she decided to focus on one sport, playing soccer at the University of Virginia.

Heather White, ’06, holds multiple Matador swimming records. She was the North Coast Section 200 Individual Medley Champion from 2004-2006 and was the *Contra Costa Times* 2006 Swimmer of

the Year. White became an All-American swimmer at UC Berkeley and is ranked in the top 10 on Cal’s all-time performance charts in both the 200 and 400 IMs and the 200 Backstroke. She competed at the 2008 US Olympic Swimming Trials.

Paul Yriberri, ’66, lettered in and coached football, wrestling and baseball at Miramonte. He coached junior varsity football, was a varsity defensive coordinator and helped the Matadors win seven league football titles and three North Coast Section 2A titles. Yriberri taught physiology and biology and is the first to be inducted as a coach and athlete. He died suddenly in 2007. The football field was renamed Paul Yriberri Field in 2018.

The Miramonte High School Boosters Club donates funds to supply team equipment for sports, pay salaries for support personnel, weight-room supplies and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Steve Harwood announces a Miramonte basketball game.

capital expenditures. For more information, visit [www.miramonteboostersclub.com](http://www.miramonteboostersclub.com).

Reach Kathy Enzerink at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com)

## Second Annual Trail Challenge Set

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Following last year’s successful event, Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Parks and Rec directors look forward to seeing even more local residents discover the plethora of trails in the area during the Second Annual Lamorinda Trail Challenge.

The free, self-guided program allows participants to complete the challenge by one of two ways: Go the Distance or Complete the Objectives.

Go the Distance participants track the distance they hike on Lamorinda trails and submit a log showing a completed total of 26.2 miles. Those choosing the objective approach must complete five of eight objec-

tives listed in the guide. Objectives include identifying native wildflowers, pitching in to clean up trash along trails, hiking to a creek or just having a picnic.

A kick-off party is currently planned for 11 a.m. May 2 at Orinda Library Plaza, 26 Orinda Way. Ian Baird, president of the Orinda Hiking Club, is scheduled to discuss the benefits of regular nature hikes.

Maps and guidebooks will be available at the kick-off party. If, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the kick-off party is canceled, participants can download the maps and guidebooks at [www.lovelafayette.org/trails](http://www.lovelafayette.org/trails), [www.moragarec.com](http://www.moragarec.com) or [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

## Lamorinda Idol Auditions to be Virtual

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

In response to the coronavirus outbreak, Lamorinda Idol has made changes to its popular singing contest.

According to event chairman Steve Harwood, the contest will be conducted virtually with participants submitting performance videos rather than taking part in group auditions.

“Without live auditions, workshops, live performances and judges’ feedback, many of the elements that made for a growth opportunity for the participants will be lost,” said Harwood. “However, by providing the opportunity for young people to make their video, there is some growth element.

Moreover, it presents a fun activity for those who are housebound during the crisis. We look forward to a full range of activities in 2021.”

Singers and groups must still register through the Lamorinda Arts website, [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).

More information on audition videos is available on the website. To register, participants should click on the “For Singers” icon.

Registration is open through April 22. At that time, registrants will be advised how to submit their video and how the balance of the program will be conducted.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Staying Safe and Connected



Carlos Baltodano

The coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our lives and redefining how we interact with each other. Schools and large gatherings are being postponed or cancelled. In the interest of caution, the annual Orinda Citizen of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award ceremony scheduled for March 22 was postponed.

Representatives of the Orinda Country Club, the location for the event, decided that in the interest of public safety large gatherings were not appropriate at this time. The event, jointly sponsored by the Orinda Association (OA) and the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) will hopefully be held in October. More information will be forthcoming in the coming months.

Thank you to the many people who registered to join in the gala to honor the exceptional residents who will be recognized this year.

The awards dinner is a testament to the old-fashioned sense of community here in Orinda, something I had the chance to

experience in a new way recently.

Last month, members of the OA Board of Directors decided to personally deliver additional copies of *The Orinda News* to some key locations in town. (For 35 years it has been mailed free to 9,000 Orinda households). This decision gave me the pleasure of stopping by at Mechanics Bank, Peet's Coffee, Compass Realty, Sen. Steve Glazer's office, Mash Gas & Food, Starbucks, Republic of Cake, Shelby's and the sales office at Wilder.

I got a chance to talk at length with Mechanics Bank's Branch Manager Ally Fattore. While I was in the area, I decided to drop off a copy at MidMod Exchange at Theatre Square, which was featured last month in the Business Buzz column.

While I was at it, I dropped in at the office of Mo Mashoon of Mash Petroleum, Inc. While he was not in, I was able to meet his wife, Ericka, who was very welcoming. What an unexpected surprise to see their office. It has marble stairs and entry way,

[SEE PRESIDENT page 4]

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way  
(Library Plaza)  
Phone: 254-0800  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

The Orinda Association  
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Fitness Tip of the Month

Take Your Fitness to the Next Level

There is a direct correlation between increased fitness and immunity. We can become more fit by systematically taking our workout to the next level. Increase the INTENSITY, DURATION or BOTH. If you are able to walk a mile in 30 minutes, try to walk it in 28 minutes.

Systematically increase the intensity or duration of what you are doing over time. This is how you build up your fitness and your immunity. This applies to all workouts.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

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- VOLUNTEER as a driver
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The Living Lean Program made a significant impact on my health and quality of life.

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– Diane

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# Editorial

## Rising to the Occasion

Our current ever-changing situation has the feel of a science fiction movie as dire news and new restrictions on movements fill the airways hourly. Social distancing is one thing but being confined to



DEREK ZEMRAK

Words of wisdom grace the temporarily shuttered Orinda Theatre.

your home is something else again. Mental health experts warn that isolation can be detrimental not only to mental but also physical health.

As the impact of the coronavirus outbreak suddenly takes hold, the Orinda community shows how people need to look after one another. Many people are checking on older or more vulnerable neighbors to be sure they're safe.

The incredible volunteer drivers for Seniors Around Town have eagerly donated their time to shop and drop off food supplies and medication to homebound seniors. While all but the most necessary free rides have been canceled, drivers still take seniors to dialysis and other required medical appointments. Thank you all for caring so much about others.

While we're all being told to stay home, health experts and the Centers for Disease Control recommend we do get fresh air and exercise – just not in close proximity to others. So, please get out there and enjoy our beautiful trail systems and the transformation of our area with spring blossoms everywhere.

Those bright white and pink blossoms are a reminder that new life is just around the corner.

– Sally Hogarty, Executive Editor

## Letters to the Editor

### Double Standard Over Roads

The article “Sales-Tax Survey Results Expected at Mid-March Council Meeting” (*The Orinda News*, March, 2020) reports on some Nextdoor postings which deserve comment.

Gary Gallaher's posting "... They should be made public only if they are brought up to the standard of public roads" fails to take account of the fact that many private roads were in better or equal condition to the public cul-de-sacs that private and public road residents were all forced to upgrade via road bond taxes.

Why should private road residents now have to bring their roads up to any better standards? Why such a double standard for people paying the same taxes?

Mr. Gallaher's post goes on to say "... Most of us do not use the 'private' roads anywhere near as much as 'private' road owners use the public roads we all pay for." Where is the logic here? Residents of a private cul-de-sac and those of a public cul-de-sac off the same public collector road use the collector similarly, and neither likely uses the other's cul-de-sac. Yet the private residents are forced to help pay for fixing the public cul-de-sac while the public residents don't help pay for the one classified as private.

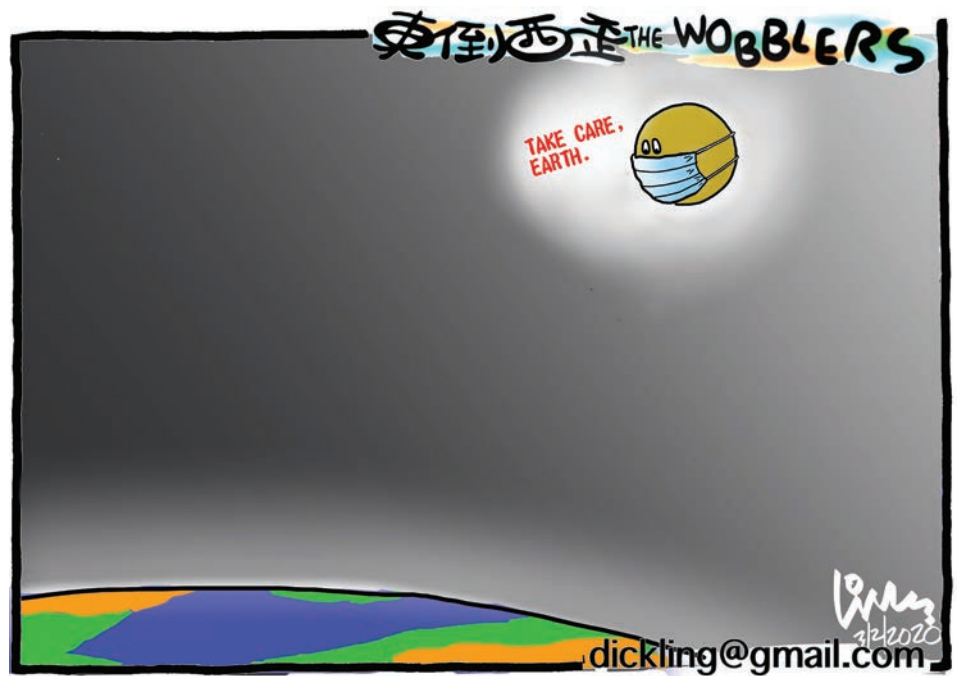
Garbage trucks damage both the private and public cul-de-sac, yet the city only fixes the public one. Surely even a child would detect something logically and morally wrong with the very different treatment of people paying identical taxes.

Regarding Mary Gilles' question as to whether there is an easily accessible map of private roads, the information is contained in [http://orindaroadfacts.info/orinda\\_street\\_data](http://orindaroadfacts.info/orinda_street_data).

Finally, JK Kim's apparent assertion that "some of the private roads in the city are nothing more than long driveways to a home" may be correct in a few cases (and these roads probably shouldn't be adopted), but the vast majority of private roads seeking public adoption have similar numbers of homes to those on public roads they are taxed to support.

While 97 out of 204 of the private streets have five or fewer homes on them, there are also 52 public streets with five or fewer homes. My road, Canyon View Drive, has 17 homes, and is larger than many public cul-de-sacs maintained by my taxes.

To add further insult, our residents must self-fund the replacement of culverts under Canyon View that directly drain water from public Diablo View Drive above. The city's



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incomplete and fragmented drainage system upgrade plan draft shows no remedy for such forced subsidization of public-serving drainage on the backs of private property owners.

– Joel Libove

### ◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

exquisite Persian rugs in every office and is beautifully and tastefully appointed.

The experience of delivering *The Orinda News* was a flashback to the late 1950s, when as a 10-year-old I would get up at five in the morning to deliver the *S.F. Call Bulletin* in the Mission District. It brought back childhood memories.

This month's *The Orinda News* includes

a donation envelope for Seniors Around Town (SAT) which provides free transportation to Orinda's seniors by local residents. Ridership has increased 63 percent over the past two years.

As the motto indicates, "It's more than a ride." The drivers become like an extended family to the seniors. About one-third of Orinda's adult population are seniors and a great number of them are in need of transportation to medical and other appointments.

The need for a no-cost ride program is great, and the SAT meets that need. So please, take a moment to consider investing in this life altering program. Your investment makes a difference and contributes to our sense of community.

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com). Letters to Editor for the May issue are due April 8, 2020.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)). The deadline for the May issue is April 8, 2020.



COMMUNITY

# Seniors Around Town Founder Wiley Receives Local Jefferson Award

By SIMAR KHANNA  
Editor

The founder of Orinda's innovative program that connects volunteer drivers with senior citizens who need rides is the latest recipient of a prestigious award.

Kate Wiley, who started Seniors Around Town (SAT) 15 years ago with a state transportation grant, won April's local Jefferson Award sponsored by the television station KPIX. She will be among 30 to 50 Bay Area recipients who will be featured on the television station and receive medals at a ceremony in January. Wiley joins fellow Orinda residents Pam and Gary Schroeder who received the award in March.

In fact, it was Pam Schroeder who nominated Wiley for the award, noting in the nomination form, "Her commitment to the program and the needs of the seniors shines through with her positive and gracious attitude."

Schroeder pointed out how during last

year's power outages Wiley "went well beyond expectations to visit elderly riders to check in on them. Kate visited one woman, living alone in her dark, cold house without a phone, and was the woman's only visitor for two days."

SAT connects senior citizens with volunteers who drive them to medical and personal appointments. While the appointments may be out of town, the program prides itself on the fact that those receiving and providing the service are Orinda residents. This, Wiley said, has been the secret to success and creates long-lasting relationships.

The program started in 2005 with 25 rides and, last year, provided 1,421. Currently, the program averages 115 rides a month with 120 registered riders and 70 active drivers. Now funded by the Orinda Association, SAT runs on an annual \$35,000 budget and has three part-time employees.

Wiley said she hopes the recognition will help encourage more people to sign

up as volunteer drivers because demand for the service continues to increase as does its scope.

"It's an excellent opportunity to get the word out, not only in our community, but to the broader community showing how they can set up their own program like this," said Wiley, who has lived in Orinda since 1985 with her husband Rich Wiley. "It's a reminder to anyone who wants to give directly back that they can."

During the power outages Wiley said she realized senior citizens were particularly vulnerable. As a result, SAT worked with local safety agencies to develop the Volunteer Emergency Support Program (VESP) to have volunteers check on and assist seniors during emergencies. Volunteers would get groceries and pick up prescriptions for home-bound seniors living alone, for example. It turned out to be a fortuitous decision, with volunteers doing exactly that following the coronavirus outbreak.

"We learned it is important to have an accurate database of our riders, where they live, their circumstances, and map them out so police and fire have an up-to-the-minute current database of who they need to help," Wiley said. "Because we have such an in-depth relationship with our drivers, we can identify who to call and ask if they are interested in being part of VESP."

The SAT crew plans to use geographic mapping to connect seniors with volunteers who live nearby as well.

"We have to crank it up because fire season will be here soon. We're very aware that we've only got about five or six months to really get this going," Wiley said.

Simar Khanna can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Kate Wiley, founder of Seniors Around Town, received a local Jefferson Award.



CINDY POWELL

A cameraman films Kate Wiley and Cathy Goshorn on Seniors Around Town's efforts to help the elderly during the coronavirus crisis. The organization was featured in a news story on KPIX, which also awarded Wiley with a local Jefferson Award.

## ◆ VIRUS from page 1

some connections," Goshorn said.

Goshorn said the mood among clients was generally positive and appreciative. "We see the need, and know we are only able to do this because of our volunteers and their willingness to jump in," she said.

Like the rest of the Bay Area, Orinda became a virtual ghost town with activities coming to a halt.

The Orinda Association and the Orinda Community Foundation postponed the Citizen of the Year and the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award dinner scheduled for March 22. A new date has not been set but organizers are considering sometime later this year.

The same was true for the Annual Wildlife and Olive Festival that had been planned for April 18.

"The well-being of everyone in our community is of paramount importance, and we will reschedule the festival as soon as we are able to," posted Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area on their web site.

The Three-Quarter Century Club canceled its May 20 event.

At first, in response to a call for social distancing, the Orinda Theatre reduced by 50 percent the number of tickets that would be sold to allow for an empty seat between patrons. But following the shelter in place recommendation, theatre officials decided to close until at least April 7.

The theatre also postponed its March

15 Live at the Orinda performance of Natalie Douglas as well as Chris Mann's performance on April 5, promising to honor tickets when concerts are rescheduled.

With the constantly changing situation surrounding the virus, people are encouraged to check web sites or call organizers to confirm events.

Check *The Orinda News* home page on how to protect against the virus and other updates at [www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com).

Simar Khanna can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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## Club Meetings in April

Due to the ever-changing situation with COVID-19, check with clubs before attending to see if meetings/events are taking place.

**American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML).** No general meeting this month. However, usually the third Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

**Diablo Star Chapter #214.** Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Lodge, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.** Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).

**Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.

**Guided Meditation.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.

**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

**Lamorinda Drum Circle** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning to drum in a small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

**Lamorinda Meditation Community.** Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdoms Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: [gcmooze@gmail.com](mailto:gcmooze@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Movers.** [www.lamorindamovers.org](http://www.lamorindamovers.org) or call Vicki Nakamura 925-708-1915.

**Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting information.

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated.** [SEE CLUBS page 10]

## Volunteers Needed to Collect Leaves

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

Calling all volunteer nature sleuths: The first weekend in May is your opportunity to collect and record locations of symptomatic bay leaves for the East Bay Sudden Oak Death Blitz.

Volunteers attend a one-hour training and collection materials distribution session 10 a.m. May 2 in the Gallery Room at the Orinda Library. Email Bill Hudson at [wllhh2@ymail.com](mailto:wllhh2@ymail.com) to confirm training is happening. They then collect bay leaves during the weekend, as time allows, and record the detailed GPS location of each

sampled tree. Collected specimens will be analyzed at a lab in Berkeley.

Sudden Oak Death, a serious and exotic disease, is threatening the survival of tanoak and several other oak species in California. Timely detection of the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, often found on bay leaves and generally precedes oak infections, is key for a successful, proactive attempt to slow down the SOD epidemic.

For more information on Sudden Oak Death Blitz, go to [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org).

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).



## POLICE BLOTTER

Feb. 9 through March 7

### Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 15 incidents.  
Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.  
Accident Injury: 1 incident.  
Accident Property: 4 incidents.  
Alarm, False: 89 incidents.  
Animal Control PD Support: 1 incident.  
Assault, Simple: 1 incident.  
Bank Robbery: 1 incident.  
Barking Dog: 1 incident.  
Battery: 3 incidents.  
Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents.  
Burglary, Residential: 6 incidents.  
Child Molest: 1 incident.  
Civil Disturbance: 5 incidents.  
CVC Moving Violation: 62 incidents.  
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 106 incidents.  
Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.  
Failure to Obey: 1 incident.  
Fraud: 4 incidents.  
Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident.  
Juvenile Disturbance: 1 incident.  
Medical Hospital: 6 incidents.  
Mentally Ill Commit: 2 incidents.  
Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 1 incident.  
Ordinance Violation: 4 incidents.  
Outside Assist: 33 incidents.  
Parking Detail: 29 incidents.  
Patrol Request: 121 incidents.  
Petty Theft: 7 incidents.  
Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.  
Phone Harass: 1 incident.  
Public Nuisance: 1 incident.  
Rape: 1 incident.  
Reckless Driving: 4 incidents.  
Robbery: 1 incident.  
School Check: 49 incidents.

Security Check: 57 incidents.  
Service to Citizen: 157 incidents.  
Shoplifting: 1 incident.  
Suspicious Circumstances: 10 incidents.  
Suspicious Subject: 14 incidents.  
Suspicious Subject Stop: 11 incidents.  
Suspicious Vehicle: 8 incidents.  
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 14 incidents.  
Threats: 1 incident.  
Tow: 1 incident.  
Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 4 incidents.  
Traffic Hazard: 7 incidents.  
Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.  
Vacation House Check: 11 incidents.  
Vandalism: 1 incident.  
Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.  
Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.  
Violation of Domestic Order: 1 incident.  
Walk Through: 13 incidents.  
Welfare Check: 14 incidents.

### Arrest

DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.  
Recovery of Stolen Vehicle: 2 recoveries.  
Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests.

### BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

— Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).



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*Due to the coronavirus, this event may be rescheduled. Email the address above or go to the OCF website for up-to-date information.*

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(L-R) Orinda Community Foundation Board Member **Richard Westin**, 2018 Citizens of the Year **Andy Amstutz** and Orinda Association Board President **Carlos Baltodano** at the awards ceremony in March 2019.

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Smiley Nail Spa  
[SEE SUPPORTERS page 10]



(L-R) Driver **Pamela Schroeder**, rider **Wen-Shee Lee**, driver **Cathy Cordova** and **Tom Nelson** enjoyed the Seniors Around Town holiday luncheon. The annual event is a way to say thank you to the volunteer riders and celebrate the senior riders who reply on the free ride service.

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Nurtury Preschool  
Robert & Carol Nykodym  
Oakland Strokes Rowing Club  
Oakwood Athletic Club  
Gary Nye & Ann O'Connell-Nye  
Annette O'Connor  
Old Firehouse School  
Sherlee Oliva  
Orinda Academy  
Orinda Books  
Orinda Chamber of Commerce  
**Orinda Classic Car Show**  
**Orinda Community Foundation**  
Orinda Farmers Market  
Orinda Florist  
Orinda Garden Club  
**Orinda Motors, Inc.**  
Orinda Optometry Group  
**Orinda Park & Recreation Foundation**  
**Orinda Parks and Rec**

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 9

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Winifred Smith  
Lionel & Ann Sorenson  
Catherine Soso  
Dorothy Speetzen  
Jeffrey & Michele Spitulnik  
Patricia Stanten  
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Eleanor Sylvester  
Hugh and Sharon Tama  
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Ted & Lida Urban  
Jen Villafane & Caroline Utz  
Barbara & Milton Vail  
Dorothy & John Van De Poel  
Joseph Vanderliet  
Victoria Robinson-Smith  
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Village Associates – April Matthews  
Village Associates – Hillary Murphy  
Village Associates – Karen Murphy

Village Associates – Ann Sharf  
Village Associates – Amy Rose Smith  
Village Associates – Molly Smith  
Village Associates – Steve Stahle  
Village Associates – Carol Stevenson  
Village Associates – Clark Thompson  
Village Inn Café  
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Chandler Visher  
Theresa & Charles Vitt  
Jim & Sylvia Vivrette  
Katalin Voros & Wayne Phillips  
William & Joanna Wagner  
Mary Jane & Len Walde  
Sharon Wall  
Kira & Jeff Wampler  
Marie and Bill Waterman  
Brian & Anita Waters  
Lucinda Watson  
Sheila Wendt  
James & Althea Werson

Greta Westeson  
Steve & Meredith Westfall  
Richard Weston  
Mark Whatley & Danuta Zaroda  
Arlene & Jeffrey White  
Donna White  
Michael Whitfield  
Barbara Whitgob  
Jack Wickware  
Andrea Wilcox-Black  
Kate and Rich Wiley  
Amelia Wilson  
Raymond & Dorothy Wilson  
Ron & Carol Wilson

Wilson  
Jim Wiltshire  
Cheryl and Jay Wingo  
J. Roger Wood  
Tom & Amy Worth  
Gary & Vicky Yancy  
Peter & Kay Yanev  
Derek Yung  
Joe Zablocki  
Zamboni's Pizza Productions LLC  
Mark & Jane Zuercher



Drummer **Sam Haese** was one of the many musicians who performed patriotic tunes as part of the Orinda All-Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band in last year's Fourth of July parade.

◆ CLUBS from page 6

Third Thursday. For more information, search Facebook for Lamorinda Republican Women Federated or go to [www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org](http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org). Contact Elsie Euing at [ejeuing@comcast.net](mailto:ejeuing@comcast.net) or 925-254-8617.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). Meetings: April 3: Synergy Theater, Walnut Creek's Premiere Improv Group; April 17: Professor Carl Guarneri, PhD, President Lincoln's Informer. April 24: Spike Speicher, Member Presentation.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters.** Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.

**Montelindo Garden Club.** Third Friday, Sept. through May. Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Meeting: April 17 Beautiful balconies and perfect patios with Alix Friedman, Director of Community Outreach for the Sloat Garden Center, Pleasant Hill. Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., at 9:30.

**Orinda Association.** Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza level, May Room, 925-254-0800.

**Orinda Garden Club,** 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org).

**Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.

**Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Open to public on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

**Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Mondays, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club.** First Tuesday, 7 p.m., September through June. Orinda residents socializing and giving back to the community. [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM.** First Thursday, except holidays. Family

dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, [www.orindalodge.org](http://www.orindalodge.org).

**Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org). Annual Spring Egg Hunt April 11. This free spring tradition is geared for toddlers, kindergartners, first and second graders. Prizes, treats and food available from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Egg hunt starts promptly at 11 a.m. Photos with Easter Bunny available. April 29 Supervisor Andersen will be speaking at the Orinda Rotary Club lunch meeting.

**Orinda Satellite Rotary Club.** Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.

**Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting. For more information, 925-254-8260.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council** – First Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org) with questions.

**Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.. Call Jean Barnhart at 925-254-3881 or go to [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

**Road Runners.** Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepetos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country. Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information contact John Fazel, [runmnts@prodigy.net](mailto:runmnts@prodigy.net).

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174.** Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net)

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LAMORINDA arts COUNCIL

**Auditions**  
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The Lamorinda Idol singing program includes workshops, multiple performance opportunities, parties and the Finals at the Orinda Theatre Sunday, August 16, 2020.

Register for auditions at [www.LamorindaArts.org](http://www.LamorindaArts.org) March 21 - April 22, 2020.

Registration is open to all Lamorinda students or residents. Groups can include members outside Lamorinda.

For inquiries, email us at [idol@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:idol@lamorindaarts.org)

At the Finals, cash prizes are awarded for winners in each category.

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade soloist - \$200  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$300  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$500  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$750  
K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$200  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$300  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$500  
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ARTS

# Galleries Closed for Now, New Exhibitions Waiting in the Wings

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library will be closed through April 7. If the Bay Area's shelter in place is lifted, the April exhibit will be installed on or near that date.

The artist reception has been rescheduled for 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. April 26 if restrictions are lifted. For up-to-date information on gallery exhibits go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits/>.

At the Wilder gallery, the current exhibit of Joel Tesch's paintings will remain in place through the end of the month. No artist reception is scheduled in April.

The work of John Anderle, which was scheduled for April at Wilder, has been rescheduled for August.

The library gallery, once it reopens, is set to display "Out of Africa" photographs by Maggie Boscoe, David Fleisig, Pam Hall, Jeff Halliday and Maureen Rosati-Wee, along with the Bay Area Studio

Artists group show entitled "Inspired By."

Boscoe, Orinda resident and Lamorinda Arts Council co-curator of the library gallery, organized the exhibit. She said so many people told her Africa was their favorite place to visit that she had to find out why. All group members agree with Hemingway who said, "I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up that I was not happy."

Each member of the group has been on different trips to Africa at different times. Most of the five-member group's 72 photographs – all 8" x 10" in matte finish – portray exotic birds and animals with a few portraits and landscapes.

*I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar* recalls an unforgettable moment while Boscoe was on safari. "I've used a bit of whimsy in my titles," she said.

Fleisig of Berkeley said, "I've been on three African safaris. I was and still am fascinated by being off road and seeing

wonderful wildlife in its natural environment." Fleisig's *Serengeti Cheetah* was shot within the Serengeti National Park, a vast savanna spanning 12,000 square miles.

Halliday of Orinda is fascinated by the birds of Africa. When you view his *African Darter* photograph portraying this water bird's 47 inch wingspan you'll understand why. It is also dubbed "snakebird" (*slanghals* in Afrikaans) because it typically swims underwater with only its neck and head sticking out. This gives the bird the appearance of a swimming snake. It frequents fresh and brackish waters close to fresh vegetation in sub-Saharan Africa and Iraq.

Rosati-Wee of Orinda said she dreamed for many years of visiting Botswana because the country has done such a wonderful job preserving its wildlife. She also wanted to see and photograph the colorful landscape in different areas of Namibia. Her *Botswana Leopard* photograph is an up-close and personal look at this solitary, stealthy and shy animal. "When I finally went, I was so taken aback with the beauty of Africa and its people that I returned a second time to share this beautiful continent with my entire family," said Rosati-Wee.

Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) is a group of painters who have been showing work and painting together since 2010. They work in an eclectic mix of subject matter ranging from figurative to landscapes, from realism to expressionism. Boring is not in their vocabulary.

Their theme for this show, "Inspired By" is meant to reflect the inspirational forces in the lives of each artist. This includes great cooks, nature's wonders, fighters for freedom, the beauty of a garden, love of

[SEE GALLERIES page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
*Father and First Born* by Suzun Almquist.



*Serengeti Cheetah.*

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AROUND TOWN



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Ruth Stanton's *Blue* is an acrylic on canvas.

◆ GALLERIES from page 11

family, the sound of the ocean and icons of our time.

Suzun Almquist's 20" x 20" *Father and First Born* is surprising as it is an acrylic painting reminiscent of a pen and ink drawing or photograph because of its monochromatic palette. Ruth Stanton's 40" x 30" acrylic painting entitled *Blue* serves up a wallop of gorgeous blues.

Other BASA artists participating in the show include: Jeanette Crawford Baird of Walnut Creek, a self-described representational artist who paints in oil and acrylic; Lassie Colebourn of Lafayette who draws in pen and ink and also works in acrylic using a bold color palette in a post-Impressionist style; Ellen Reintjes of Walnut Creek who paints stories inspired by her favorite activities including raising dogs, watching birds and enjoying family and friends; Joanne Taeuffer of Berkeley who uses paintings to tell stories with thick creamy brush strokes and simple compositions; Sharon Tama of Orinda who works in acrylic focused on representational and abstract subjects often inspired by her grandchildren and is also an illustrator, and Marcy Wheeler of Walnut Creek, a career artist and painting instructor who paints figurative and landscape subjects.

To learn more about BASA, go to <https://bayareastudioartists.com/>. To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).

The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In light of the virus, check <http://ccclib.org/> for updates, or call 925-254-2184.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business. [orinda@gmail.com](mailto:orinda@gmail.com).

## How Orinda Gained a Passion for Classic Cars During the Decades



SALLY HOGARTY

John Vanek of Orinda Motors helped launch Orinda's Classic Car Show event.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Falling in love with a 1966 Mustang as a 5-year-old, watching in amazement as a 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 Skyliner retracted its hard top into the back of the vehicle, cruising down Richmond's main street in a '57 T-bird, these are a few of John Vanek's favorite things.

"Classic cars have always fascinated me," said Vanek. "My brother Dave and I worked on cars together, and by 15, I worked in a shop fixing them. When Dave started racing, I became a member of his race team. As a 16-year-old, it was all pretty exciting."

Vanek followed his brother to the Z Doctor, a popular repair shop at the time, and

worked there for 25 years until the business closed in 2004. Looking for a new position, Vanek applied at Orinda Motors (OM). That was 15 years ago. Since then he has turned what he loves to do – fix classic cars – into a popular component of Orinda Motors.

"When I began at Orinda Motors in 2004, we didn't work on classic cars. But I spoke with our owner Allen Pennebaker about including them," Vanek said. "He had me and mechanic Greg Sisk, who both loved these cars and knew how to fix them, so Allen agreed to give it a go."

As part of the promotion for the new Classic Car Center, Vanek took out an ad in *Drive Magazine*. He reached out to OM customers to photograph their cars

[SEE CARS page 13]

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STUDENTS

# Creative Writers in Search of Expression Publish Student Magazine

By MATHEW LIN  
Contributing Writer

*Writer's Mag*, a creative writing club at Miramonte High School, is gearing up for the second annual publication of its creative writing magazine celebrating art and writing submissions from the student body.

The club was co-founded by juniors Chaya Tong and Scarlett Mosher. The two met during their sophomore year and quickly found they both shared a passion for creative writing – an art that is not taught within the standard English curriculum. Undaunted, the pair collaborated with English teacher Donia Gousios to create “a place for creative writers at Miramonte.”

Since its founding, the club has grown to accommodate about a dozen aspiring young writers. During the first semester of the year, the group works together on a variety of writing prompts and invites guest speakers during lunches.

Following the winter finals, the focus of the club shifts from creative writing to a more editorial aspect. Before publication, the club has to apply for grants, find sponsorships, and sell ad space to raise funds.

This year, *Writer's Mag* raised upwards of \$2,000. Tong says the philosophy behind this fundraising is to keep the publication accessible. “We distribute the magazine for free; after all, art should be free and something everyone can enjoy. The pamphlet is

placed in the wellness center and library, and we send a copy to all of our sponsors.”

During the submission period, Miramonte students can provide both art and poetry, along with prose works of 250 words or less. Each selected work is paired with an art piece in the final product; an 18-sheet pamphlet printed on magazine paper in full color.

Submissions for the 2020 publication closed Feb. 7. The club worked with San-Leandro printer 404 Creates to publish the final product which will be available this month after the spring break.

“I love creative writing because it gives me the opportunity to express myself,” said Tong. “I’ve loved drawing, theater, writing, music; all these give me an outlet to express myself that I can’t get through other mediums like sports.”

Tong and Mosher plan to enlarge the club to accommodate more freshman and sophomores. In addition, they are considering inviting guest speakers to the theater and starting a blog to publish Miramonte students’ work year-round.

“We really want to make sure the magazine stays continuous after we leave,” said Mosher. “Creative writing and poetry has been my passion since fifth grade, and *Writer's Mag* provides a valuable space for young writers that should be preserved.”

*Mathew Lin is a student at Miramonte High School. To comment on this story, email editor@theorindanews.com.*



ALEX NEIHAUS

The 2020 roster of Miramonte High School's creative writing club includes, from the left to right, **Alexandra Finegan, Scarlett Mosher, Miriam Yee, Reese Whipple, Mia Singleton, Olivia Eukel and Chaya Tong.** Club members not pictured are Tenley Thompson, Katie Kaiser and Danielle Kelly.

◆ CARS from page 12

for the ad. Orinda resident Chip Herman responded.

“We put Chip’s car and several others together on our lot to take the photo, and we remarked how it looked like a car show,” said Vanek. “I didn’t think any more about it until a week later Chip stopped by and asked if I really wanted to do a car show. He had just retired and was looking for a hobby and this seemed like the perfect idea.”

In 2005, the Orinda Classic Car Show became a reality donating its small proceeds to The Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town ride program. Since then, the event has grown into a much-lauded show throughout the Bay Area with proceeds benefiting not only Seniors Around Town but a host of local nonprofits.

This year’s car show, which features a special exhibit of super and exotic cars, takes place Sept. 12. For more information or to register your classic car, go to [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

The annual car show grew in tandem with Orinda Motors’ Classic Car Center. Specializing in 1950s through 1970s


American cars, such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, Plymouth/Dodge, Orinda Motors has become a respected destination for these much-loved vehicles.

“We concentrate on these big American cars because we have the expertise to fix them,” said Vanek. “Other shops specialize in other makes but at Orinda Motors, our crew in the Classic Car Center – Joel Patrick, Greg Sisk, Vincent Poehnelt, Xavier Francisco and project manager Hans Hiller – have a wealth of experience with these cars. And we all love what we do. That makes all the difference.”

According to Vanek, classic cars are not easy to fix and looking for the right part takes a great deal of research. “It’s like putting together a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces missing. I feel like we’re historians at times but with the Internet and the power of Google, we can get the job done.”

Vanek notes that new cars are a lot more predictable, but with classic cars, there’s a lot of roadblocks. “You have to really persevere. I call it Inspector Clouseau time.”

*Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).*

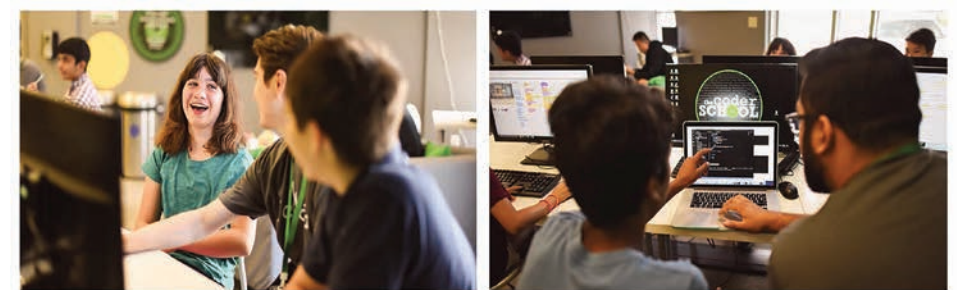


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AROUND TOWN

# Everyday Orinda

## Ron Pickett: That's Edu-tainment

MIMI BOMMARITO



Imagine if *Everyday Orinda* became a Netflix series or, better yet, a musical. The one character who could play himself would be Ron Pickett, the charismatic vocal music and theatrical director at Glorietta and Wagner Ranch elementary schools for the past two decades.

I'm no Julie Andrews but our Orinda hills have been alive with the sound of music, thanks to the tireless fundraising of the

Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and parent donations. Given the financial precariousness of this situation, our community is, once again, four-leaf clover lucky to have the loyalty and continuity of a skilled and passionate instructor for all these many years.

Pickett's holiday concerts not only require waterproof mascara but also load school coffers with daily attendance money when 97.4 percent of the student body can no longer bolt early for vacations.

His high standards and attention to script detail draw such talent out of his cast of fourth- and fifth-grade actors in the annual musical that friends and family need not even the slightest of arm twisting or guilt shaming to attend. A professional actor for over 35 years, Pickett knows his showbiz.

Even though we are contemporaries, it is still hard for me to call him Ron. Instead, I will forever think of him fondly as the enigmatic Mr. Pickett, like so many of the graduates he inspired at Glorietta and Wagner Ranch. Many remain in contact with him over the years, assisting with musicals, studying voice or perhaps seeking career advice.

Much like the pastoral beauty of our Orinda hills, or when a forgotten lunch is only a frantic text away, I think sometimes we get so accustomed to something being there that we forget to step back and appreciate our gifts. Take Pickett for example. Here we have a music and theater teacher

who not only talks the talk in the classroom, but sings the tune, delivers the lines and walks the walk, exactly on cue, in a professional capacity. Often it's an "either/or" situation, but our community has an educator who commands both.

Unfortunately, the walking of the walk grew almost impossible for him last year. The Archvillain Arthritis entered stage left and overtook our hero. But after a recent hip replacement surgery, Pickett is on the mend and cautiously resuming normal physical activity.

Rehearsals began in January for *Shrek Junior*, what was this year's spring musical until the coronavirus turned the world upside down. Pickett also teaches a full schedule of vocal music classes and Ensemble Choir at Wagner Ranch and Glorietta, and private voice lessons in his studio. Pickett has won Bay Area acting awards and has starred in numerous local theater productions.

All of this makes him a busy man, with

little down time. Which is why he usually gets right to business when class or rehearsals begin.

Pickett grew up in Walnut Creek, the youngest of three brothers, in the golden days before social media and Broadway Plaza. After graduating from Las Lomas High School, he studied at Diablo Valley College, later transferring to Brigham Young University.

As a student in the Music, Theater and Dance program he earned a place with the university's select musical touring group *The Young Ambassadors*. This prestigious group performed in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and across the United States. He earned his teaching credential from Chapman University.

Recalling his college days, Pickett "was supposed to go to New York and become famous." He explained, "A theater dignitary from Shakespeare's *Old Globe Theater* once visited our class. All the students went around the room individually stating their graduation plans, which all included NYC and Broadway fame."

"When it was my turn, I proudly stated that I planned to become a teacher."

He remembers an audible gasp. Later, he was summoned to the top professor's office to be lectured on his response. This professor had great hopes for his success in New York.

"But what I really wanted was to give back the joy that had been given to me," he said, "I knew I could be a great teacher."



PHOTO BY MIMI BOMMARITO  
Director **Ron Pickett** counsels **Dilan Narayani**, helping the fifth-grade actor to understand the motivations of his character, the ogre Shrek.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at [mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com](mailto:mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com).

"April was fantastic to work with, we recommend her to everyone we know!"

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### ◆ ADU from page 1

challenging the state with its attempt to rule the city's land use.

Effective Jan. 1, the state set new limits for the size, height and setbacks for ADUs. In advance of the new rules, the City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance Dec. 19, allowing taller structures with larger setbacks than proposed by the state.

The state allows cities to set the detached building size to a minimum 850 square feet for a one-bedroom unit and 1,000 square feet for a two-bedroom unit. The lowest maximum height is 16-feet for all units and requires cities to allow ADUs within 4 feet of side and rear property lines.

Orinda's urgency ordinance adopted identical size allowances but allowed for taller units – 27 feet if the building meets the 10/15-foot side and 15-foot rear setbacks. A structure built between the city and state setbacks is restricted to 16-feet in height.

The Planning Commission recommends a 16-foot height limit for all ADUs.

If the Planning Commission's recommendations are adopted, Orinda homeowners could build a two-bedroom dwelling, with a maximum 1,000 square foot footprint and up to 16-feet high as close as four feet from a side or rear property line.

If the council maintains the 27-foot height limit, a two-story detached structure with a maximum 1,000 square foot footprint may be built as long as it adheres to the 10- and 15-foot setbacks.

An ADU could also be built atop an attached garage, subject only to the height and size limitations. A 27-foot detached ADU would not be allowed closer to a property line than the stated setbacks.

For the latest on the scheduling of city meetings and agendas, go to [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Reach Kathy Enzerink at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **RUNNERS** from page 1

“It was a high pressure job and being in the out of doors and exercising helped me prepare for it,” she said.

Reich’s special memories include doing the Kilimanjaro climb with Norm and Janet Pease to celebrate Janet’s 50th birthday. Other climbs include Mount Elburs in Russia, Mount Whitney and Mount Shasta. Her travels with club members include walking across England, Morocco and Greece.

Here at home, Reich is now walking with the Saturday group as is her husband, Rudy. He said, “We start out together and sort ourselves out to the speed we are going. In the end, we all regroup at one of our coffee shops in the Lamorinda area. I’m 86 now so this suits me better as I’ve had to quit my biking career which was how I began with the Road Runners in 1999.”

Tom Sturges joined the group in 1984 and admits he doesn’t run as far or as fast as before. “In fact many of us older ones are now walking, but we’re out there. In the past, I’ve run 24 marathons. Other Road Runners helped me train for these. Running long distances with them made it much easier.”

Kim Overaa said some of her best memories are training for marathons. “You would never think you could run one — and then you could. Training is the key,” she said.

“Actually, what got me started with Road

Runners was that I wanted to do a triathlon,” Overaa recalls. “I could swim and bike but didn’t know how to run. My friend Steve Israel said I could learn with Road Runners, so I joined. Another plus — I met my husband there.”

Overaa said the group does more than “just running around Lamorinda” There are lots of parties, member Karen Larsen is starting a book club, and most importantly, she said, they look out for each other. “If someone is sick or has a problem, everyone rallies around to help. It’s a close-knit group.”

It was a farm in Iowa where John Fazel began running as a kid. “I’d tell my mother I was going for a run and she would ask, ‘How far?’ To my answer of around the block she’d then ask, ‘Which one, 4 miles or 6?’ I ran in high school and college and was running by myself when I moved to Orinda. I’d go around the BART parking lot in a one-mile loop because it was lit at night so I could do it after work. One day I ran around the community park and saw people having a group party to celebrate runners going to the Boston Marathon. I joined then and there.”

Bikers are now included in the mix. Debbie Miller has done the ride to raise money for AIDS 10 times and raised thousands for this cause.

Road Runners have also been involved in a number of local projects. They started the Orinda Trail Council in 1984 and the Orinda Hiking club was an offshoot of that,



COURTESY OF DENNY WEIGAND

**Bob Montgomery** overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge after a hike.

according to Fazel. They’ve helped build trails in the Orinda Oaks Park and many trails for the Regional Park District and EBMUD. They also put on the Miramonte Foot Feat race for 10 years to raise money for the Miramonte Booster Club.

“That was way back when we had kids there,” Fazel recalls. “This evolved into the 4th of July Fun Run.”

Membership is easy: Just show up at one of the runs. The cost is \$20 a year per person/family but newcomers are welcome to try out the club for free.

Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem).

For more information, contact John Fazel, [runmnts@prodigy.net](mailto:runmnts@prodigy.net).

Reach Bobbie Dodson at [bobbiedodson@comcast.net](mailto:bobbiedodson@comcast.net).

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COURTESY OF DENNY WEIGAND

Five of the women Road Runners: **Linda Wendt, Betsy Barsarmian-Teman, Carol Lowitz, Sam Louras** and **Caron Larkin**.



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- April 8 – Wisdom Workshop: Meditation and Personal Development; 10:30 a.m. - noon; Barcode #3175; FREE**
- April 11 – Spring Egg Hunt, Orinda Community Center Park, 11 a.m.**
- April 22 - Wisdom Workshop: Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body; 10:30 a.m. -noon; Barcode #3176; FREE**
- April 25 – Orinda Action Day, [www.orindafoundation.org](http://www.orindafoundation.org)**
- April 29 – Senior Trip: Cornerstone Garden Tour/Lunch at Palooza Eatery; 8:45 a.m. -5 p.m.; Barcode: 3221; \$68**

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28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center  
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



### Carefree Moves

Cynthia Nolan, a 40-year Orinda resident, was active in a lot of school programs and sport teams while her three sons attended school. When her last son went off to college, she began a 10-year career staging homes for resale. She purchased Carefree Moves (CM) 12 years ago when it was a small business.

Nolan grew CM into an all-woman company specializing in helping people pack-up for a move and then unpack into their new home. CM was nominated by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) for Outstanding Woman-Owned Small Business; they are insured, bonded and green.

The 20 team members she has assembled are meticulous about carrying out the protocol she has developed. She said that’s because she ensures they have had training as professional sorters, organizers, packers and unpackers.

A typical move includes helping a client organize what they want to keep, toss, sell, consign, auction off or dispose. Once this is completed, the entire house is packed with boxes labeled and ready for the moving van to deliver to the new residence.

Next, the same crew meets the moving van at the new residence where they begin unpacking. They assist in placing all furniture and accessories, and setting up the kitchen, bedrooms (the beds will be made) and bathrooms. Every cabinet, closet, cupboard and drawer is accounted for.

Then, it’s time to break down all the boxes and packing supplies so they can be

removed and recycled. The crew’s final task is to prepare homemade soup and bread to welcome the clients to the first night in their new home.

A wide range of East Bay clients have called on CM when it’s time to move: Golden State Warrior families; professional musicians; young families from afar with two working parents and no time; baby boomers who are downsizing; and people relocating to a retirement community are just a few examples.

When not working, Nolan said she traded her tennis racket for a fly rod. To find out more about CM, call 925-330-1988, email [hello@carefreemoves.net](mailto:hello@carefreemoves.net) or visit [www.carefreemoves.net](http://www.carefreemoves.net).

### Chroma Realty, Co-Work Lamorinda

Kristina McCann recently celebrated her first year in business after launching Chroma Realty and Co-Work Lamorinda at a ribbon-cutting event hosted by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

Having spent 20 years in real estate, McCann said she knew what kind of culture she wanted to foster in founding her own agency.

“I wanted Chroma’s focus to be agent-centric, community-forward, technology driven, supporting the arts and all about building community,” she said.

Chroma was the lead sponsor in the annual Art of Mixology fundraiser benefitting the Lamorinda Arts Council in Orinda Theatre Square last fall. Her “People First, Houses Second” culture is immediately



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ruby Kingston, Kristine Quezada, Holly Webster, Coleen Coupe, Mary Nelson (left to right) and (top row) Cynthia Nolan, owner of Carefree Moves, take a break from packing boxes at a recent move.

recognizable when walking into the office space which pulls visitors into color, art and awareness of community activities.

Co-Work Lamorinda is McCann’s



ELANA O’LOSKEY

Kristina McCann of Chroma Realty and Co-Work Lamorinda and John McCormick, president of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, celebrated McCann’s one-year anniversary at a March 5 ribbon cutting ceremony.

unique, no-cost answer to giving back. It’s for locals who lack an office but need one. She describes the space as an upgraded coffee shop for entrepreneurs, telecommuters, small business owners, nonprofits, volunteers and anyone trying to go out on their own. People can reserve the conference room, lounge/TV room or quiet room for free.

It is open 24/7 and includes free coffee, WiFi, print capabilities and snacks. In 2019, it served six nonprofits, nine mom’s movie nights and four parties. Visit [www.coworklamo.com](http://www.coworklamo.com) to learn more.

When not working, McCann says she enjoys spending time with her 5-year-old daughter on road trips and any travel involving sunshine and turquoise waters.

Chroma Realty is at 935 Moraga Road, Suite 210, Lafayette. Call 925-567-4326, email at [kristina@chromarealty.com](mailto:kristina@chromarealty.com) or visit [www.chromarealty.com](http://www.chromarealty.com).

Elana O’Loskey at be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).

### ◆ TAX from page 1

concerns related to the coronavirus.

The survey was conducted to gauge voter interest in a potential sales tax ballot measure. In 2012, Orindans voted to increase their sales tax by half a percent – to 8.75 percent – until 2022. In November voters could be asked to extend that increase, let it expire or increase it to a full cent.

The increase would provide \$2.4 million annually to the city’s coffers.

According to the language used in the survey, the additional funds are slated to help maintain essential city services, including:

- Ongoing repairs/ maintenance to public roads and storm drains;
- Restoring wildlife habitat and recreation along San Pablo Creek, and;
- Emergency/natural disaster preparedness, including wildfire prevention/evacuation planning.

Democrats, voters between the ages of 18-54 and those with annual incomes of

more than \$250,000 are more likely to support the measure, the survey concluded.

Among the reasons people gave for supporting the tax ranged from, “Infrastructure needs repairing/needs to be maintained” at 45 percent to the “city needs the money,” at 2 percent.

Those who opposed the tax noted “Taxes already high/been paying too much,” at 54 percent to “It will hurt local businesses/people will shop elsewhere” at 1 percent.

Orinda’s 8.75 percent sales tax compares to Lafayette’s 8.25 percent and Moraga’s 9.25 percent. Based on \$10,000 spent annually for durable goods, the tax difference between the cities ranges from \$825 to \$925.

Voters could also decide whether an approved sales tax should include a sunset clause after 10 years.

Survey questions and results can be found at [www.CityofOrinda.org](http://www.CityofOrinda.org).

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).



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