



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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June 2020

City, Fire District Gear up for Fire Season as Inspections Loom

By SIMAR KHANNA
Editor

As fears about the upcoming fire season rose like summer temperatures, local leaders took two major steps recently to address an outcry over fire safety and preparedness – or lack of it.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) saw unprecedented public participation April 29 when the board was considering hiring two more firefighters. More than 40 people showed up to express concerns about preparedness, 20 people sent in letters and 375 people signed a petition asking that more tax dollars be spent on fire safety, according to Melanie Light, chair of the Orinda Firewise Council, a prevention group.

The MOFD board decided not to hire more firefighters, marking a victory for those who wanted the district to make prevention a priority over hiring.

Then on May 5, the Orinda City Council unanimously approved creating a council subcommittee which will meet quarterly with the MOFD board, and Moraga officials if they chose to be included, to address fire prevention. It represented the first time the three entities could sit across the table to address fire prevention together.

Steve Danziger, MOFD board president, said the decision not to hire more firefighters was based on the potential affects the Covid-19 pandemic could have on the

district's budget.

"We felt given the financial situation right now, a lot of it is unknown. It's not a responsible time to add staff," Danziger said, adding that hiring the additional two firefighters would cost the district \$1 million a year. MOFD's budget accounts for 57 authorized firefighters with 17 on the job on any given day.

Light, who chairs the consortium of neighborhood organizations focused on fire reduction, said many residents are concerned the city and fire district have done very little to prevent fires even though a recent survey found fire safety as the top concern.

She said there needs to be an education program, a community clean-up day, signs limiting parking on narrow streets on high fire hazard days, and promotion of fuel-reduction programs.

Danziger said although 90 percent of its budget goes to pay firefighters, the fire district has managed to put significant resources toward prevention. For example, he said, the district this year hired three full-time fuel mitigation specialists and a crew supervisor.

The district also hired Fire Marshall Jeff Isaacs who, thanks to a \$15,000 state grant, is working on developing an in-

[SEE MOFD page 19]

Inside: June 15 inspection deadline. Here's what you need to know. Page 19.



KEN LIGHT

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District chopper crew works corner of Via Farallon and La Cuesta.

Fourth of July Organizers Plan Creative Celebrations

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

On your mark. Get set. Get ready to decorate big time for Orinda's July 4 events.

With the theme of Together (apart), there is a virtual reverse parade, decorating contests, virtual fun run, front-yard barbecues and Noise at Noon to acknowledge and honor local, essential workers/heroes.

"We hope all Orindans will use this opportunity to come Together (apart) to share in this special day," said Diane Lautz, co-chair of The Orinda Association's Fourth of July committee. "Our goal is to unite the community while keeping everyone safe and sheltered with social distancing."

Much of the celebration will be virtual at www.OrindaParade.com. This is the place to enter contests, view a photo gallery of decorations, find a link to Parades of the Past and participate in a Fun Run.

Everyone loves a parade and this year the Best Hometown Parade is an online video collage of past celebrations narrated by Steve

[SEE FOURTH page 4]

Go Grads!

It wasn't what they quite planned but Orinda students managed to celebrate the end of the school year in special ways. See our Miramonte Class of 2020 section. Also inside:

- How the district pulled off graduation, page 11
- One student's personal take, page 10
- On the "Quarantine" Generation, page 13

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Private Effort Launched to Test all Lamorinda Senior Care Residents, Staff

By PAUL KILDUFF
Staff Writer

An ongoing joint effort is underway in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette to test residents of senior care facilities who are 65 years old or older, as well as staffers, for Covid-19.

Sue Severson, one of the organizers of the campaign at senior care homes, said testing is the key to stopping the spread of Covid-19 – especially in Orinda. Seniors have been the hardest hit by the deadly virus and are considered the most vulnerable.



MIMI BOMMARITO

A message on an Orinda sidewalk says it all.

"It is critical to wipe out the Covid-19 hot spot in Orinda. We need to identify those most vulnerable senior citizens who are infected so we can get them treatment and prevent the virus from spreading to infect others," she said.

In April, four residents of the Orinda Care Center died from complications related to Covid-19. In addition, 28 residents and staff tested positive for the virus at the same senior care facility.

Spearheaded by Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth and her counterpart in Lafayette, Susan Candell, the testing campaign involves about 300 residents and staff at facilities in Lafayette and 360 in Moraga. Final numbers for Orindans who will be tested were not available at press time.

The facilities involved are Orinda Senior Village and Monteverde Senior Housing in Orinda; Merrill Gardens, Belle Terre, Eden Senior Housing and Chateau Lafayette in Lafayette, and Moraga Royale and Aegis in Moraga.

Residents and staff of the Orinda Care

[SEE COVID page 20]

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NEWS

Orinda BART to be Closed Weekends Through July 5

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Critical track components near the Orinda BART Station are being replaced, requiring weekend closures.

The Orinda BART station is scheduled to be closed June 6-7, June 20-21, and July 4-5. Free buses instead of trains will be available to carry passengers between Lafayette, Orinda and Rockridge stations.

In many cases, the tracks between the Lafayette and Rockridge stations date back to 1973 when BART started service on its main Contra Costa line. Using the bus service between stations during the interruption, riders can expect delays of 20 to 25 minutes.

Highway 24 overnight lane closures in Orinda are necessary to make way for construction equipment. They are temporary

and are expected to have minimal impact on drivers.

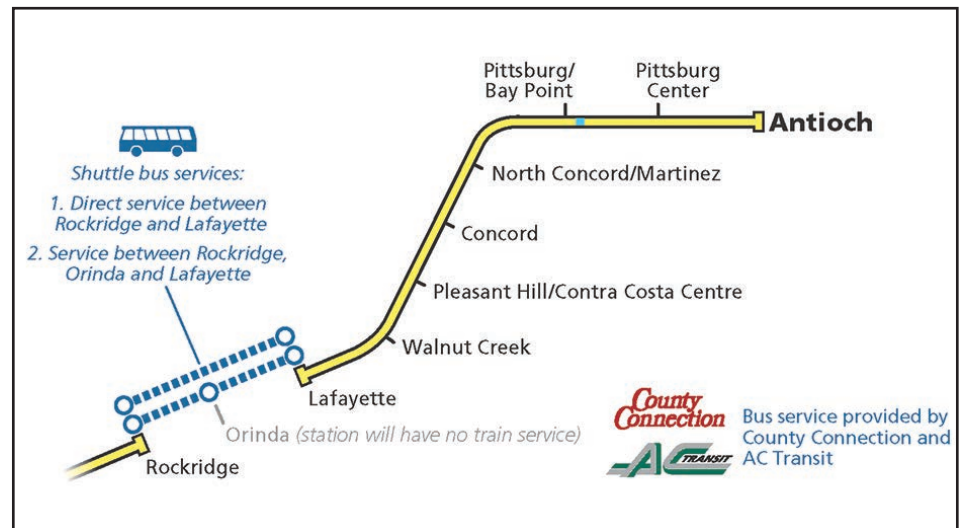
Working around the clock, BART crews will replace track switches which allow trains to move from line to line, install approximately 3,000 feet of new rails, replace about 300 wooden ties with concrete ones and replace 600 to 800 tons of rock ballast.

“This is a high-priority project,” said Chris Filippi, BART spokesman. “The result of this work will be a smoother and safer ride for thousands of riders on BART’s busiest line.

“It will also result in a quieter BART experience for neighbors.”

Measure RR, approved by BART District voters in 2016 is funding this rail replacement project.

Reach Kathy Bohanan Enzerink at kathy@theorindanews.com



City Council Approves New Accessory Dwelling Unit Rules

KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Conforming to California state law, the City Council unanimously approved height, size and setbacks limitations for Accessory Dwelling Units.

Ordinance 20-02, approved May 19, addresses streamlined, attached, detached and above- garage ADUs. The rules are complex and vary for each type of unit.

Streamlined ADUs include the junior, which is within an existing residence or a detached unit less than 800 adjusted square feet. There are fewer rules in this category, for example not requiring an additional parking space.

Detached studio or one-bedroom units cannot exceed 850 adjusted square feet and a two-bedroom unit is limited to 1,000 adjusted square feet. Detached units cannot be more than 16 feet high and no closer than 4 feet from the side or rear setbacks.

If building an ADU above a private garage, while adhering to the side and rear underlying zone setbacks, the height limit is 27 feet. Any portion which extends beyond the setbacks is subject to 16 feet high.

No impact fees will be imposed on ADUs smaller than 750 adjusted square feet. Impact fees for all other ADUs will be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.

A design review is not required under any circumstance, according to the state



KATHY ENZERINK
An accessory dwelling unit is under construction on Moraga Way.

mandate.

“They’ve made it very clear they don’t want us to adopt any ADU regulations that would trigger design review,” said Drummond Buckley, director of planning.

Previously the City Council had adopted an urgency ordinance effective Jan. 1 which allowed detached ADUs as large as 1,200 square feet and 27 feet tall if compliant with the underlying 10/15-foot zone setbacks.

“There is a hole in state law that someone could build an accessory structure at the 27-foot height and come back later and ask for a permit to make it an ADU,” Buckley said.

Councilwoman Inga Miller asked the planning department staff to come back with the accessory structure ordinance so, “we can look at that and make sure that ordinance isn’t abused.”

Vice Mayor Amy Worth said the ordinance allows residents ADUs for their families. “This is a very complex issue for all to understand,” she said.

This ordinance becomes effective 30 days after adoption and can be viewed at CityofOrinda.org.

Reach Kathy Bohanan Enzerink at kathy@theorindanews.com

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Orinda Celebrates Together
(Apart)



Carlos Baltodano

Congratulations to the graduating seniors of Miramonte High School and to all the graduates in the Orinda United School District! We are very proud of their success.

This has been a very strange and difficult year for students. As they chart a new course for the future, may they use the learned strength and resiliency skills to empower them.

We applaud the pronouncements from the students, friends and parents in the insert of this edition of The Orinda News. We thank the teachers, staff, principals, administration and parents for their continued support and encouragement throughout the year.

It has also been a tough year for our senior citizens, especially the residents in senior care homes who have been the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Statistics show these residents represent a majority of confirmed cases of infections.

Towards this end, Orinda and Lafayette Vice Mayors Amy Worth and Susan Candell have teamed up to lead the effort to provide free COVID-19 testing to those living in senior care homes in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga.

The Contra Costa Health Services department has been overwhelmed and does not have the resources to test all senior care facilities in the area, making this private effort critical. Kudos to Sue Severson of the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) who started a fundraising drive to purchase the needed test kits. To make a donation, go to www.orindacommunityfoundation.org.

Orindans opened their wallets to The Orinda Association (OA) during the #GivingTuesday global donation drive in response to the coronavirus. Money raised supports the Volunteer Emergency Support Program (VESP) of Seniors Around Town (SAT), which has proven essential during shelter in place.

SAT, a free transportation service for Orinda seniors, adapted the program during the COVID-19 crisis, offering assistance to homebound residents. This involved 49 volunteers who delivered groceries and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Driver **Patty Stanten** offers a ride to **Hal Hollister**.

made reassurance phone calls to 75 seniors.

Looking forward, safety protocol plans are being developed to restart medical rides for seniors on June 8. While there is a continuing concern of the coronavirus impact on the senior community, there is also a great need to provide transportation to medical appointments.

Meanwhile, the OA's Fourth of July committee is planning a celebration -- but differently! The theme is Orinda Celebrates Together (apart). Starting at 10:30 a.m. there is a video presentation (narrated by Steve Hardwood) of sights and sounds from past parades. At noon, it's planned to have five minutes of noise (get your noise makers) to celebrate essential workers, ourselves, and our community.

The committee is encouraging people to decorate their homes, dress in costume and submit photographs which could be highlighted in The Orinda News, online, or in a virtual celebration.

These are just some ideas being planned. Just because we can't have a parade, it doesn't mean we can't celebrate together (apart). As we look forward to September, the OA has decided to have a virtual Classic Car Show. Organizers are coming up with alternatives to this classic event. The Orinda Classic Car Show, which draws thousands of people to Orinda to enjoy vintage vehicles, provides needed revenue for many Orinda nonprofit organizations such as Seniors Around Town, Orinda Community Foundation, Lamorinda Arts Council and Orinda Historical Society. In the coming months, we will provide details on celebrating this event -- together (apart).

Seniors Around Town Update!

We're expecting to resume transportation to medical appointments for registered SAT Orinda seniors the week of June 8. For more information, please contact SAT @ 402-4506.

The Murphy Team

Leaders in Lamorinda Real Estate



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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)
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www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association
P.O. Box 97
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(current as of press time)



SAT – It's more than a ride!

EDITORIAL

Editorial

A June Like No Other

Graduations, weddings, outdoor parties, concerts in the park, June has always been one of my favorite months. But, as we all know, this June will be like no other. While couples will always find a way to have a joyful wedding and large outdoor gatherings can wait, celebrating the culmination of 12 years of schooling is an important and daunting task in this time of COVID-19.

Orinda residents, however, have certainly proven they are up to the challenge. I am amazed at the dedication of Miramonte High School's teachers, staff and parents who have gone above and beyond to find ways of making this year's graduation something special for the senior class. Between yard signs, special presents, burrito breakfasts and robes with special sashes, these caring adults have done all they can to make this a memorable time for our young people.

The seniors themselves have shown courage and determination as they deal with frustrations they never could have imagined a year ago. Miramonte Senior Class President Ashleigh Lightbody said it

best: "From our conception as 9/11 babies, we were born with resilience that lent us the grit to succeed in whatever situation we experience. The class of 2020 will overcome not only this global pandemic, but whatever else life decides to throw at us."

June will also see some changes locally as California prepares for a gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Hopefully, our local restaurants will find a safe way to increase their business as they, along with some retail stores, adopt new modifications allowing a modicum of reopening.

Unfortunately, one local business that is probably months away from any sort of opening is our beloved Orinda Theatre.

All of us at *The Orinda News* would like to express our very best wishes for success to all of our graduates at all levels – Miramonte, Holden High, Orinda Academy, Orinda Intermediate School and the district's four elementary schools: Glorietta, Wagner Ranch, Sleepy Hollow and Del Rey. We also look forward to patronizing our local businesses in the near future!

– Sally Hogarty,
Executive Editor

Letter to the Editor

Broad Goals Recommended for Orinda's Downtown Plan

OrindaVision is a volunteer group of local citizens who see the potential for significant improvement of downtown Orinda. Readers may contact us at www.orindavision.org. The vision is of a lively and intimate town center that provides better-designed places in which to work, shop and dine, a more pedestrian-friendly circulation pattern and the introduction of attractive and convenient in-town residential living. The vision embraces thoughtfully planned renewal of downtown that preserves its village character. We offer the following broad goals for the community's planning process ahead.

Goal No. 1: Preserve Orinda's history and sense of community. Complement its beautiful natural setting with better design in downtown. Reflect the existing community that values its strong brand as an established, beautiful, friendly, safe, stable, family-oriented place to live. Build upon and enhance Orinda's village character while preserving buildings of historic value. Preserve views of the hills from downtown. Protect downtown's heritage trees. Create access to San Pablo Creek and investigate the feasibility of its restoration in relation to adjoining land uses.

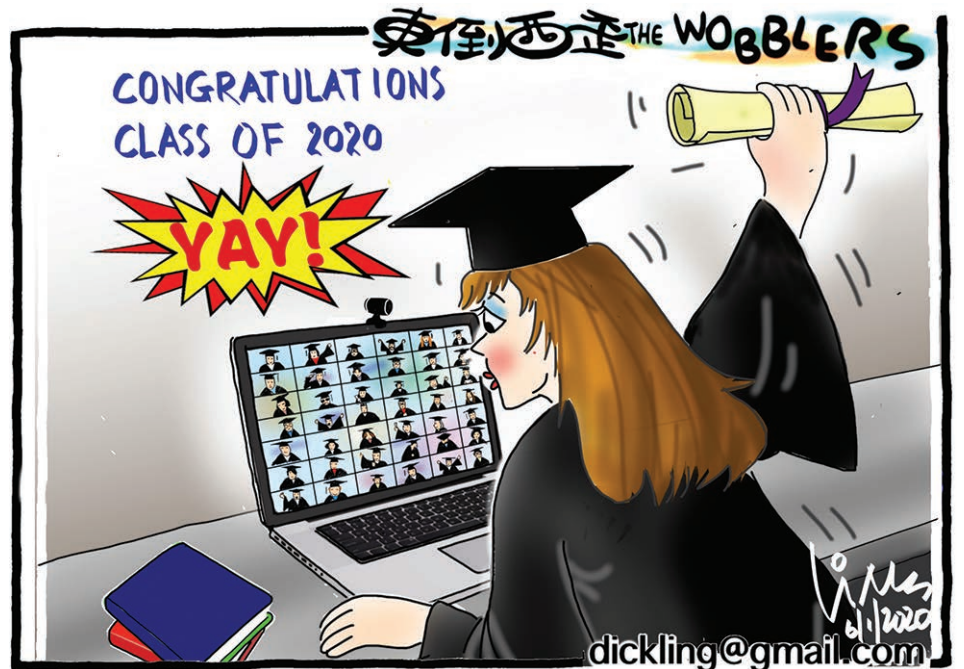
Goal No. 2: Generate vibrancy in downtown. Create a sense of place, a downtown that serves better as the heart of our community. Through comprehensive downtown

planning and city-led initiatives, give local residents more reasons to shop, dine, recreate, gather and obtain services in downtown. Plan for and incentivize a network of public spaces, pedestrian/bicyclist access and circulation, a more pleasant link to BART and more consistent streetscape design standards. Plan for more rational and attractive parking arrangements for the Theatre and Village Districts. Promote the development of in-town housing to bring more life to downtown. Engage in business development, guided to create a healthy mix of retail, services and restaurants to meet the needs of the community.

Goal No. 3: Renew downtown Orinda and improve the commercial environment. Create a cohesive, connected vision for downtown, providing better direction for commercial property owners. Update zoning codes to provide greater clarity and increase flexibility for downtown development. Incentivize desired development of targeted commercial zones.

Goal No. 4: Realize to a greater extent the potential of under-utilized downtown property. Protect Orinda's interests in potential future development of the 20-acre Orinda BART property by pursuing a joint planning effort with BART and Caltrans. Encourage and incentivize property owners to better-utilize creek-facing parcels.

– Arran Schultz, chair
Tom Trowbridge, co-founder
Peter Hasselman, co-founder



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◆ FOURTH from page 4

Harwood. Grand Marshall title for 2020 is shared by all local, essential workers and heroes.

Decorate, decorate, decorate! Submit photos of decorated homes, mailboxes, fences, vehicles and businesses to the online photo gallery. There are categories for costumed people, pets and entire blocks of decorated homes to enter as a unit. Homemade signs honoring local, essential workers and heroes are part of the contest. Photos should be submitted by July 1 to jill@aspenconsult.net.

"We're hoping neighbors will collaborate to decorate an entire block," said Bill Waterman, Fourth of July committee co-chair.

At noon, bring out pots, pans, cow bells, drums and any noise maker to join sirens and church bells for a celebration of noise.

"These five minutes of a cacophony of noise are to honor and celebrate our essential workers, our heroes, our city, our citizens and our commitment to staying together (apart) as we face down this pandemic," said Lautz.

Families, friends and neighbors are encouraged to participate in community-wide, front yard barbecues.

"We think the planned July 4 celebration is a wonderful way to help unite our community," said Lautz.

Reach Kathy Enzerink at kathy@theorindanews.com

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the July issue are due **June 8, 2020**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com) or Kathy Enzerink at 252-626-2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the July issue is **June 8, 2020**.

OUTDOORS



Seasoned Shopper
Market Opens with Drive-Thru Option
BARBARA KOBSAR

The Orinda farmers' market opened its 24th season May 9 as a year-round operation. Each season brings fresh-picked produce, and right now there is plenty of summer's best waiting for all the new-found home cooks. What's in season is the guide to meal planning and what's in season is always at the farmers' market.

June is National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month and reminds us to celebrate the bounty from local farms. Strawberries, cherries and blueberries are favorites with shoppers looking for a sweet nutritious treat. There are also figs, okra, asparagus, beans, greens, cucumbers and tomatoes ready to fill shopping baskets.

Cherries and apricots seem to disappear as quickly as they appear so enjoy them while they're in season. Other types of stone fruits like peaches and nectarines are available in white or yellow flesh varieties. Freestone varieties (the ones where the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Strawberries are ripe and ready at the market.

flesh is easily separated from the stone) are great for fresh eating and making pies and jams. Clingstones, where the flesh adheres to the stone, tend to have a firmer flesh and ideal for any "canners" out there.

There's something new at the market! Pre-ordered Good to Go boxes full of fresh-picked, in-season produce available at a drive-thru pickup. Details are at www.orindafarmersmarket.org or visit the market website at cccfm.org. The number of boxes available each Saturday is limited so get

your order in early.

Grilled Fruit

Peaches and nectarines are perfect for the grill. Cut in half, remove the stone and fill cavity with 1 teaspoon butter, 2 teaspoons brown sugar and cinnamon to taste. Place skin side down on medium hot grill to heat through and treat yourself to one of the juiciest, sweetest desserts ever.

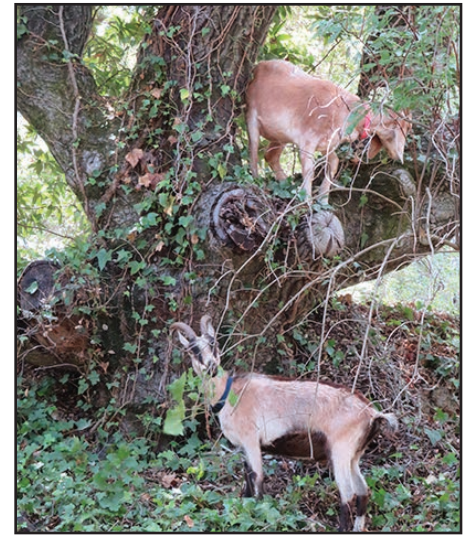
The Orinda farmers' market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and [Instagram@OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Get apricots while they last at the market.

They Goat This



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK

A dozen or so goats spread out on the hillside behind the Wall family home at Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Via. It will be a familiar sight this month as homeowners attempt to clear out weeds and brush, sending the hired caprine to dine at a different, overgrown locations.



STACI DESHASIER

(L-R) Volunteers **Sally Hogarty**, **Todd Trimble**, staff member **Dorothea Schmuck** and volunteer **Jill Gelster** have been spending Saturday mornings at the Orinda Farmers' Market helping people who pre-ordered produce boxes. The boxes can be pre-ordered online at orindafarmersmarket.org for pick up on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon.

Orinda
SATURDAY
Farmers' Market
At Orinda Village

SATURDAYS
9AM-1PM

Notice to our Community

Certified Farmers' Markets have been given essential status during the current crisis. Your market will operate with the following modifications:

- No samples will be available
- No communal seating areas or music
- Social Distancing will be enforced
- Face-covering is required

Your market has transitioned from a community gathering place to an essential food source. Come shop in the sun for food picked fresh, handled less! Please help by sending only one member of your household to shop.



"Good to Go" Pre-order a produce box for drive-thru pick-up!
www.orindafarmersmarket.org

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Hello Parks and Rec Family,
As you are aware, we were forced to cancel our original summer schedule due to the pandemic. However, we are working hard to create a new program within the guidelines of the health order. Our hope is to offer a variety of 1/2 day camps and programs for small stable groups of children. Please be on the lookout for future Parks and Rec updates and stay-tuned to our website, www.OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org

We Are In This Together
Stay Home - Save Lives



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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ARTS

Gallery: Painting With Wool, Photographs and Paintings of Bay Area Beauty

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council's June exhibit features John Brown, Tina and Rick Nelson, Teresa Onoda and Karl



Tina Nelson's *Girl in High Top*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stinson in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library.

At press time, it was unknown whether the gallery will be open to the public due to the shelter-in-place order. If the building is open in June in time for the artists to hang their show, the exhibit will go forward. If not, the exhibit will be rescheduled. Go to www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2 for updated scheduling. If permissible, an artist reception is scheduled 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. June 14.

Brown's history as a photographer began in high school when his math teacher introduced him to photography and gathered steam from there. As photographer for his yearbook at Tulane, he met his wife while taking her picture.

"Years ago, I spent a summer touring Europe taking photographs; there were a lot of beautiful things to see, relatively close together," said the Orinda resident. "Here in the U.S. things are much further apart. But in California, we are lucky that there

are many beautiful places within a three or four hour drive such as Yosemite, Tahoe, Point Lobos and Point Reyes."

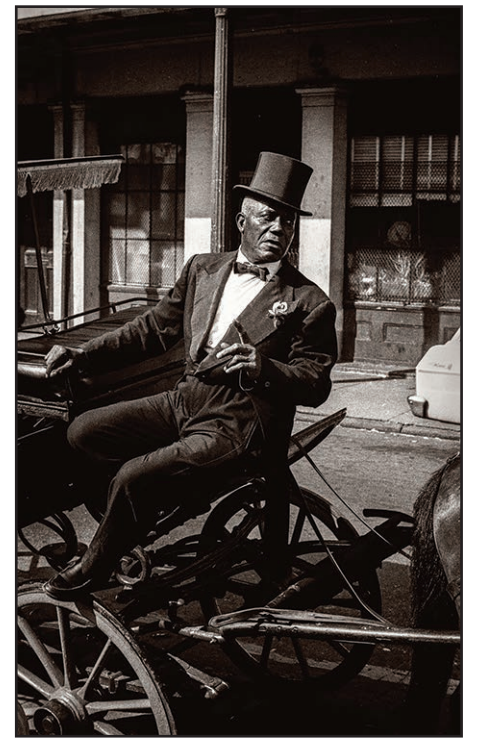
Landscapes are his primary focus as is evident in the 25 photographs he is exhibiting. They include animals, sunsets and sunrises, people, places, things, black and whites and several photographs from film. His sense of depth, composition and perspective draws viewers into *Lucerne*, a 20" x 30" pigment photograph on stretched canvas. See what he is up to at www.johnsbrown.com.

Tina Nelson, of Walnut Creek, is showing approximately a dozen works she describes as "Painting with Wool." Using 465 colors of wool from Washington, Tina Nelson often works from photographs hand stitching vibrant modern colors of wool onto linen.

Some of her favorite artists are Wayne Thiebaud, Edward Hopper and Richard Diebenkorn. This list sheds light on how she takes a 15th Century art form – embroidery – and awakens it to her 21st Century interpretation.

Looking at *Girl in the High Top*, a 17" x 20" hand-stitched wool on linen piece, it all makes sense. Taught by her mother, Nelson says crocheting and knitting are in her skill set as well as the dozen embroidery pieces to be displayed. She wants viewers to know and appreciate that beauty can be created in different ways – hand stitching wool onto linen is only one. View Tina Nelson's virtual exhibit of her Paintings With Wool at <https://bit.ly/2zGN7qk>.

Rick Nelson is showing about a dozen wood-turned pieces. Like his wife, Tina, he is pursuing more than one art form. As president of the Oakland Art Association, he often exhibits his photographs. In the Art Gallery at Orinda he says he is happy to find shelf space for his wood turnings.



John Brown's *Old New Orleans*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

His interest in woodworking began in high school and is now combined with his engineering background. He volunteers at the Mt. Diablo Woodturning Center in Pleasant Hill.

Rick Nelson's preference is for segmented wood turning where he concentrates on the shape, design and technique of what he is creating. His focus of late is developing different techniques to give illusions to his pieces. *Starburst*, a 17" x 5" turned wood vessel, is made of Peruvian walnut and maple. The dark walnut interspersed with white maple truly recalls a *Starburst*. View his virtual exhibit of his wood turnings at <https://bit.ly/2Au7UO8>.

Onoda, of Moraga, is a landscape painter, [SEE GALLERY page 7]

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David D. Earle

July 4th Orinda Celebrates Together (apart)

This year Orinda is celebrating July 4th differently: "Together (apart)"

Offered below are safe options which will allow us to celebrate, to remember, and to honor our essential heroes and our community.

Information and details for all events are at www.OrindaParade.com

PRE-July 4th

- Decorating Photo Contest for homes, mailboxes and more!**
Signs Honoring Local, Essential Heroes
- Virtual Run for a Reason** (see link below)

July 4th CELEBRATION

- Sharing the 4th across Orinda**
- 10:30 Orinda-wide Video Celebration**
narrated by Steve Harwood
- 11:00 Virtual July 4th Decorating Contest**
Virtual Reverse Parade: View Orinda decorations and costumes
- 12:00 Celebrate Local, Essential Heroes**
Five minutes of **NOISE!**
- 12:15 Front Yard BBQ**
Together (apart)

Celebrations End, The Memories Continue

Visit www.OrindaParade.com for complete event details



Rick Nelson's turned wooden vessel *Starburst*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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ARTS / PARKS

◆ GALLERY from page 6

meaning nature provides her a continually changing set of surprises, choices and challenges. Green hills, pear blossoms, California poppies and much more inspires

her theme, "Bay Area Beauty." She says this encompasses coastal area, rivers and streams, farmland, orchards and vineyards. While much of this beauty may soon be lost to development, Onoda is consciously working to capture it before it is gone.

The Old Fence Line 48" x 42" oil painting typifies her commitment to capturing such a landscape.

Lately, she sees many people walking in the places she habitually works *plein air* (painting out of doors). "Where they might take a photo or tell a friend what they've seen, I'll paint it," she says. We are reminded that stopping and appreciating what Mother Nature offers us is always a good idea. View her virtual exhibit at <https://bit.ly/2Lsj8F3> and more of her work at www.onodaart.com/.

Stinson lived in Orinda for 26 years before moving to Rossmoor. "Mark Twain's quote about travel is at the heart of my experience," said Stinson: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness."

Photographing people he meets while traveling internationally is his life-long passion. Stinson's exhibit, "People of the World," consists of 48 of his favorite color photographs; each sized 8" x 10" and labeled by location.

While the adage, "a picture is worth 1,000 words" may be true, Stinson says, "Each of my photographs comes with a story so I've included written stories next to about a third of them."

Enigmatic describes the effect of three



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teresa Onoda's *Dressed Up in White*.

in particular: *Himalayan Foothills Nepal, Sahara Desert Morocco* and *Varanasi India*.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org. The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. Call 925-254-2184 for information on hours or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

The Art Gallery at Wilder is closed through June. For updates, go to [www://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/) or email wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business. orinda@theorindanews.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Karl Stinson's *Varanasi India*.

Park District Rattlesnake Advisory

By Jennifer Vanya
East Bay Regional Park District

snake safety precautions when visiting regional parks.

With this year's early spring, park officials reported the re-emergence of snakes – most notably rattlesnakes – seen periodically along trails.

When the weather gets warm, snakes come out to explore their environment, which can lead to more encounters with humans and dogs. The East Bay Regional Park District is advising the public take

Safety Tips

Avoid hiking alone so you have help in case of an emergency. (Per local health orders, hike only with members of your immediate household during COVID-19).

Scan the ground ahead of you as you walk, jog, or ride. Stay on trails and avoid walking in tall grass.

[SEE SNAKES page 8]

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NEWS

Orindans Above Average in Completing 2020 US Census

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Orindans are ahead of the 2020 census curve with 79 percent respondents compared to the county and state with 68.7 and 60.2 percent respectively.

Due to COVID-19, the deadline for self-response is extended to Oct. 31. Mandated by the Constitution, the United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

How billions of dollars in federal funding flows into states and communities is determined, in part, by census results. It also determines how many seats each state gets in Congress. Apportionment and redistricting count deadlines from the U.S. Census Bureau have been extended to April 30 and July 31, 2021.

The census questionnaire, which takes about 10 minutes to complete online, asks how many people live or stay at an address on April 1 and their identity, sans a social security number.

While monitoring COVID-19, the bureau is adapting or delaying some of its operations to protect the health and safety

of staff and the public. In coordination with federal, state and local health officials, the U.S. Census Bureau began a phased restart of some 2020 Census field operations in mid-May. As soon as it is safe to do so, additional census offices and field operations will resume activities.

In 1790, approximately 650 U.S. marshals and assistants traveled by horseback and on foot to collect data in the original 13 states; the districts of Kentucky, Maine and Vermont plus the Southwest Territory which is now Tennessee. Answers were recorded on forms made of parchment and animal skins.

Fast forward to 2020. Everyone living in the United States and Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are counted.

The 2020 census questionnaire may be submitted via the postal service, by telephone and for the first time, the internet. Visit www.2020census.gov for census details and to submit the form online.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

April 1 through May 15

Calls for Service

Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
Accident Injury: 1 incident.
Battery: 1 incident.
Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents: Ivy Dr., Overhill Rd., Don Gabriel Way.
Burglary, Commercial: 3 incidents: Moraga Way, Village Sq, Camino Pablo.
Burglary, Residential: 6 incidents: Lost Valley Dr., La Vueta, Lomas Cantadas, Vista Del Orinda, El Toyonal, Theatre Sq.
Disturbing the Peace: 2 incidents.
Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
Fraud: 2 incidents.
Grand Theft: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Wilder Rd.
Identity Theft: 2 incidents.
Litter: 3 incidents.
Loitering: 1 incident.
Loud Music: 5 incidents.
Loud Noise: 2 incidents.
Loud Party: 4 incidents.
Missing Adult: 1 incident.
Petty Theft: 5 incidents: Lombardy Ln., Camino Pablo, Moraga Way, West Hill Way, Rheem Blvd.

Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents.
Prowler: 1 incident.
Reckless Driving: 11 incidents: Moraga Way (4), Camino Pablo, Alta Vista, Orinda Way, Martha Rd., Bheem Blvd., Wilder Rd., Valley View Dr.
Shoplifting: 3 incidents.
Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents.
Trespass: 2 incidents.
Vandalism: 6 incidents.
Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Barbara Rd.
Verbal Dispute: 2 incidents.

Arrest

Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com.

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◆ SNAKES from page 7

Look carefully around and under logs and rocks before sitting down.

Avoid placing hands or feet where you cannot see clearly.

Keep leashed pets on designated trails and away from snakes if they see one. (All dogs should be on-leash at all times, in all parks during COVID-19)

Bring plenty of water for yourself and your pets as drinking fountains are temporarily closed. Many parks do not have a direct water supply.

If You See a Rattlesnake

Leave it alone - do not try to capture or harm it. All park wildlife is protected by law. If you see a snake on a trail, wait for it to cross and do not approach. Then move carefully and slowly away.

What to Do if Bitten

If bitten by a rattlesnake, stay calm and send someone to call 911. Remain calm by lying down with the affected limb lower than the heart. Getting medical attention quickly is critical – do not spend time on tourniquets, “sucking,” or snake bite kits. If you are by yourself, walk calmly to the nearest source of help to dial 911. Do not run.

If bitten by any other kind of snake,



KEVIN DIXON

Beware of **rattlesnakes** along park trails in the East Bay Regional Park District.

wash the wound with soap and water or an antiseptic and seek medical attention.

If you are not sure what kind of snake bit you, check the bite for two puncture marks (in rare cases one puncture mark) associated with intense, burning pain. This is typical of a rattlesnake bite. Other snakebites may leave multiple teeth marks without associated burning pain.

Snakes are an important resource in the natural environment. They are prime controlling agents of rodents, insects and other reptile populations. Enjoy them from afar and leave them where they are found.

It is illegal to collect, kill or remove any plants or animals from the East Bay Regional Park District. Additional information is available at ebparks.org/SnakeSafety.

Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) Presents:



Saturday morning, August 15, 2020
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: NorCalKidsTri.org

ADVERTISEMENT

Congratulations

Class of 2020

Emily Aalbers
Ryan Aars
Amelia Adams-Brace
Shanna Afshar
Diego Aguilar
Tyler Akel
Nikolai Alcantara
Zahra Alexander
Hamid (Arsalan) Amir
Vivienne Arndt
William Attwood
Matthew Bakonyvari
Brant Ballantyne
Kokomi Banerjee
Caroline Barber
Sam Barbir
Grant Barmmer
Myles Bastani
Miranda Batt
Alexander Battersby
Nicholas Bea
Paisley Beck
Jack Behles
Charlotta Bell
Grace Bell
Cameron Berg
August Bernberg
Kate Bertenthal
Carolina Bertot
Gabriella Bertot
Leomond Bigjan
Hanna Bjornson
Nicholas Blair
Eleanor Blandford
Brodrick Bornstein
Michelle Bradley
Owen Brady
Addison Braitberg
Athena Braman-Pleasant
Park Briones
Willard Callister
Carter Camp
Fengyuan Cao
Lucia Capozzi
Braden Carter
Vivian Carter
Holly Carysforth
Matthew Caselle
Rudis Yair Castillo Herrera
Joseph Chalwin
Aidan Chan
Kaylin Chang
Olivia Chinn
Isabela Chow
Maximilian Chua
Zachary Cohen
Alexa Collins
Samuel Conescu
Elizabeth Cooke
Alexandra Council
Drew Cunningham
Tara Dao
Noah Davis
Gabrielle Decareau
Spencer Dennis
Leonardo Ding
Keelin Doherty
Josephine Doren
John Dunne
Karena Eberts
Katherine Eberts
Grant Edmister
Truman Ehrhorn-Lung
Keira Elliott
Nicholas Eng
Henry Engs
Kerem Eruyan
Caprielle Filippenko
Mackenzie Finegan
Nathan Fineman
Zachary Fineman
Elroy Flynn
Jojo Frank
Abigail Gardner
Ariella Garfinkle
Gianluca Gasparini
Cedric Gee
Jackson George
Josephine Ginsburg
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Max Goldman
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Alexis Gottschalk
Clara Grenning
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Ravi Sandhu
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Brandon Tse
Alexis Tucker
Dylan Tung
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Sarah Yan
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Jessica Youn
Chayse Yu
Ethan Yu
Chelsea Yuen
Jialei Zhang
Thomas Zwahlen

To the Orinda Intermediate Class of 2020--
Eighth grade cut short, yet memories remain plenty.
What we asked of you for your final quarter,
To keep on learning, without brick and mortar,
Was no easy feat, but you rose to the occasion,
Without protest or the need for persuasion.
You embraced a new approach to learning,
Despite the news there'd be no returning.
But of course! You're eager, curious, innovative,
Not afraid of tech...you're a digital native!
Sheltered in place without your peers,
Not typically recommended for the teenage years.
Yet you've proven your strength, resilience, and hope.
When many adults would easily have said, nope.
Though we're bummed to be missing this year's promotion.
I'd like for you to consider this notion:
Today is what's known, tomorrow's always a mystery,
Consider the fact that now you've made history.
So, please heed a message from life's amateur sleuth:
You will change the world, I know that's the truth!

Stacy Wayne, *Principal*
Orinda Intermediate School



*Go confidently in the
direction of your dreams!*

—Henry David Thoreau

STUDENTS

Student View: Anger, Sadness, Reflection About Senior Year

By NICOLE VAN STRALEN
Contributing Writer

When I first heard that Miramonte High School was closing for a couple of weeks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, I never imagined the closure would mark the end of my high school career.

My last day at Miramonte, March 12, was just like any other: I drove my younger brother and two of my neighbors to school. I saw my friends before class started. I passed by the same students in hallways. I sat through my classes. And I thought nothing of it. How did I live my last day of high school without even knowing it?

I've experienced so many emotions while stuck in quarantine – a weird mix of regret, sadness, happiness, contentment and nostalgia – but mostly, I feel anger.

I'm angry at the thought of the classes below me that will finish senior year properly,

angry at the classes above me that were able to graduate with no interruptions. It seems wrong that the Class of 2021 will take our spots as seniors in a couple of months when it feels like the Class of 2020 has unfinished business.

It feels selfish to complain about my high school career being cut short when I know there are people dying every single day from the coronavirus. However, it's hard for us seniors to get closure when those end-of-year traditions were almost in our grasp.

My lacrosse season along with baseball, softball, swimming, boys tennis, and boys volleyball didn't get a proper Senior Night or a proper end to our high school season. Nothing will make up for our time lost.

I've tried to stay positive, but I'm struggling. I keep returning to the thought that seniors everywhere lost what was supposed to be the best part of high school.

[SEE SENIORS page 12]



BETSY SHANDALOV

In August, before social distancing was the norm, Nicole Van Stralen (orange t-shirt) and her fellow "Senior Ladies" of the Class of 2020 decorated their cars in the school parking lot, part of the traditional first day of Senior Year at Miramonte High School.



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You are a great son,
brother, friend,
student and athlete!
Love,
Mom & Dad

AAUW Awards Four Scholarships

AAUW-OML
Contributed

The American Association of University Women (Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch) awarded college scholarships to four graduating high school seniors: Sophia Kofoed (Miramonte), Marielle Riesner-Hansson (Acalanes), Lynn Wolfe (Acalanes) and Kate Ye (Campolindo).

The selection criteria was academic excellence, community service, and leadership. The recipients were selected based on their applications, written essay, and in-person interviews, according to Marielle Bortz, publicity chair of the local AAUW branch.

Ye and Kofoed each received \$2,000 while Riesner-Hansson and Wolfe each received \$1,000.

Riesner-Hansson is lead Teen Wild Guide

at the Oakland Zoo and volunteers at the Moraga Veterinary Hospital and Hospice East Bay thrift shops.

Wolfe is Acalanes Asian American Club President and member of the school's Equity Board. She also worked with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation on a documentary about life in WWII internment camps. For the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, she documented artifacts created by Japanese Americans in internment camps.

Kofoed created the Brain Safety Alliance Committee and has advocated locally, regionally, and nationally for requiring that helmets be worn in women's lacrosse. She also participated in the Miramonte Peer Mentoring Program, Link Crew, Public Speaking and Debate Club.

Ye, a violin player, founded the non-profit Music for the Soul, and with the other

[SEE AAUW page 12]



Abigail Gardner

Abigail is a very joyful child. Known for her big smile, dimples and compassion for others. She loves musical theater and acting.

While at OIS she was a member of the chorus for all 3 years and participated in every musical. She also enjoys playing basketball, tennis and swim and hopes to join the cheer team at Miramonte this coming fall. She loves hands on science and making things (wood shop, makers, sewing) and was on this year's yearbook staff.

As a 7th grader she was a peer mentor and as an 8th grader a WEB (where everybody belongs) leader as well as active in the National Charity League - where she has participated in many hours of community service. Most of all, she is a kind and generous soul. With great pride and love, Mom, Dad and Ryan



Clara Grenning
Congrats Clara!
Love you,
Mom and Dad



Graduate



Dilan Narayani
Glorietta Class of 2020

We are so proud of you, Dilan! CONGRATS to you and all 2020 graduates. Enjoy your new adventures at OIS!
Love, Mom and Dad

STUDENTS

Graduation Takes Place With Caution, Creativity, Burritos

By MIMI BOMMARITO
Staff Writer

After a great deal of planning and deliberation, commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 for Orinda high school students were reconfigured to accommodate COVID-19 safety precautions.

Miramonte Principal Julie Parks announced May 8 that graduation for every high school in the Acalanes Union High School District will take place June 1.

“The commencement ceremonies will be held on campus and will follow a format that allows for tradition, celebration and adherence to safety protocols related to social distancing,” Parks announced in an electronic announcement to parents. “Many aspects of the graduation will be recorded in advance, but preserving the tradition of in-person diploma acceptance is essential.”

District officials decided students and their families will not be on campus for every facet of the ceremony.

“To ensure proper social distancing, students and their immediate family members will be invited to campus during a specific time frame to participate in a diploma presentation. Professional videographers will film every component of the ceremony and present it via live webcast. Photographers will also be on-site to capture the moment. The webcast will be recorded and available, in a condensed format, after graduation,” the district said.

Parks also devised a drive-thru celebration May 20, where seniors cruised through

the traffic circle one last time to pick up their cap and gown and a breakfast burrito to boot.

Typically, Miramonte seniors enjoyed a more celebratory senior breakfast in the cafeteria, accompanied by entertainment and followed by guest speakers in the auditorium, comprising a tradition known as “Post Senior Day.” Previous Miramonte graduates would address the senior class on various topics, ranging from useful to humorous, such as collegiate do’s and don’ts, and tales of life in the “real world.”

“Believe it or not, students said one thing they will really miss is the traffic jam leaving school every day,” said senior class parent advisor Michelle Goldsmith. “So we hoped to re-create that with this drive-thru event.”

Another popular event, “A Time of Reflection,” also known as Baccalaureate, went virtual this year in the form of a video. It traditionally presented a live and engaging two-hour program of student musical acts and speakers to a packed auditorium.

Initially, student support for a virtual or videotaped Baccalaureate was understandably lackluster, according to event co-chair Leslie O’Brien. “But, in the true spirit of the strength and maturity of this class, the students have rallied,” she said.

Plans for the video included original songs by seniors Elizabeth Becker and Bella Capozzi, and additional musical acts interspersed with heartfelt speeches and peppered commentary from students.

“The added bonus this year,” O’Brien said, “since we can’t meet in person, the students will have a video keepsake.”

O’Brien said the last-minute outpouring of student enthusiasm for concocting a “Plan B” for this beloved event fills her with pride and emotion. “With the new video format, we can incorporate even more students than before.”

The performance was set to be released online May 29, the original date of graduation.

Provided that social distancing guidelines have eased by the middle of summer, tentative plans are in the works for some sort of re-creation of Senior Ball July 25. The event was previously scheduled for May 9 at the Bentley Reserve in San Francisco.

Nicole Radlow, outgoing president of the Miramonte Parents’ Club, said, “It’s not as easy as you would think, crafting

[SEE GRADS page 12]




MIMI BOMMARITO

The Miramonte Senior lawn is missing it’s seniors. Note the sign: Stay Safe #Matstrong.



MIMI BOMMARITO

Empty corridors at Miramonte High School.



Brian Clark, Psy.D.
licensed clinical psychologist
PSY 25198

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TARA DAO
CLASS OF 2020

Congratulations Tara!!!

We are proud of you for completing your OIS journey with kindness, grace, and intellect! As 5SOS says, “Tomorrow never dies!” May you have many adventurous tomorrows while fully celebrating the gift of your todays.

We love you! ❤️ Mom, Dad & Chelsea

Congratulations on your 8th grade promotion! We are so very proud of you. It's been quite an adventure so far. We know the next few years will be equally exciting. Love Mom, Dad, Alpine and Calvin



Stella and William Hashimoto
Class of 2020



Cole Westphal
Orinda Intermediate School
Class of 2020

CONGRATULATIONS
COLE WESTPHAL

As you end this chapter at OIS, we cannot wait to celebrate your next chapter at De La Salle in the fall.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Beau,
Mimi & Gunner

STUDENTS

◆ GRADS from page 11

an entirely new, socially distant graduation ceremony for 320 students and their families. Kudos to Julie Parks and the other principals for putting in the time to devise this solution and find media partners to livestream the action. It may not be exactly the event our kids dreamed of, but at least they will have had a sense of ceremony and celebration.”

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



Allison Oxner
OIS Graduate

Congratulations Allie! Mom, Dad, and Jackson are so proud of you. Enjoy Campo and we can't wait to see where your path takes you.

◆ SENIORS from page 10

I often think back to what I was like freshman year. I was so eager to experience a fun and exciting high school life. Some days it feels impossible to keep my head up, when a small part of my freshman self is still inside me and wants that exciting end to high school.


The Class of 2020 was unable to have its goodbye rally, senior ball, senior ditch day, senior pranks, post senior day, graduation and senior sunrise – activities that we have been looking forward to since the first day of our freshman year.

One way I have found closure is by reflecting on my time spent at Miramonte. I've taken long walks down memory lane and vicariously relived my freshman, sophomore, and junior years. I wrote down my old class schedules, who my teachers were, which of my friends were in my classes and all of the memories I made.

By reminiscing on the good (and bad) times at Miramonte, I was able to recognize my growth. I believe that is the biggest thing to take away from this rollercoaster of events. The Class of 2020 has grown up together and has been through so much that it's important to recognize how much we've grown as individuals.

We managed to have a modified graduation and some of the traditions that accompany the end of the year. These activities were unlike any senior activities in Miramonte's past, which makes the Class of 2020's high school career the most unique.

Email comments to editor@theorindanews.com.



Carolina Bertot
Class of 2020
Orinda Intermediate School

Congratulations Carolina! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad




Gabriella Bertot
Class of 2020
Orinda Intermediate School

Congratulations Gabriella! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

CONGRATULATIONS HADLEY!

We love you to infinity and back!
xo, Mom, Dad + Harper




District Creates Task Force to Prepare for Next School Year

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

While the Orinda Union School District has begun preparing for the 2020-2021 school year, they are waiting to receive definite information from state and local governments and health sources about what protocols they must follow to keep students and staff safe in the fall. The educational program could include in-person learning at school, distance learning and/or a combination of the two.

OUSD is currently convening a 2020-2021 School Year Advisory Group comprised of teachers, staff, parents, administrators and students who will meet regularly to determine how to implement public



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUSD District Office

health recommendations in the district's reopened facilities. Topics include cleaning protocols, medically fragile children and staff, teacher training and support for distance learning among others.

For more information, go to www.orindaschools.org.

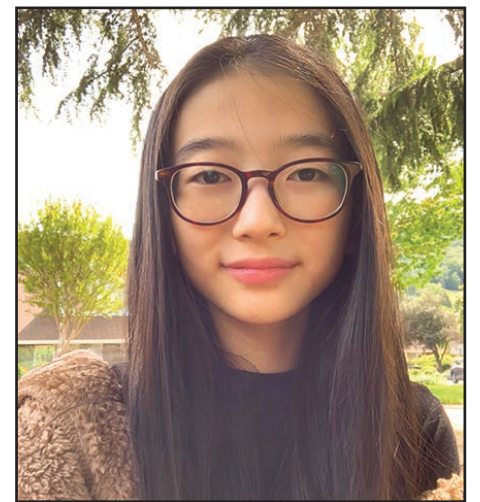
Youth Ink Winners Announced

Students Kaylin Chang, Emma Wong and Holly Craysforth are the winners of this year's Youth Ink creative writing contest.

Organized by the Orinda Junior Women's Club, the contest is open to middle school students who live in or attend school in Orinda. This year's prompt was "The Gift," though entrants could write on the theme of their choice.

First place went to Chang for her "Bright as the Sun." Wong took second place with "Jin's Gift" and Craysforth's third place win was entitled "East." The winners received cash prizes of \$250, \$125 and \$75, respectively.

The following students received honorable mentions: Carson Blair, Kaia Bonham, Josslyn Grover, Pateel Haroupian, Indie Lee, Jewel Mendiola, Hana Shukairy, Elise Vansant, Jason Wagner, and Jialei Zhang.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kaylin Chang, first place winner.

These students received gift certificates for Orinda Books.

Winners were selected by volunteer judges Sally Bolger, Cynthia Leslie-Bole, Michelle Meyers and Colleen Weems.

Contest sponsors who gave financial support were Friends of the Orinda Library, the Intuitive Writing Project, Lamorinda Arts Council and Orinda Community Foundation.

◆ AAUW from page 10

students in the group played concerts in senior homes and at fundraising events at Children's Hospital and California Wildfire Relief. She also founded the Campolindo badminton team and is communications director of Campolindo Peer Tutoring.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emma Wong, second place winner.



Mina Lim
Class of 2020
Orinda Intermediate School

Congrats Mina...
Onward to High School!

Be Bold
Be Brilliant
Be You

We LOVE You to the Moon and Back,
Dad, Mom, Bella, Chloe and the 4 Piggies

STUDENTS

Everyday  rinda
Redefining Everything

MIMI BOMMARITO



Sheltering in place does not help my innate tendency to procrastinate. Every day it gets easier to stamp a TBD label on just about anything. Timelines have been replaced by rabbit holes.

If I have One Errand on my calendar, it's a Big Day. I won't sleep well the night before, concerned that I could easily forget. When a deadline approaches, I don my imaginary blinders and laser focus like a NASA engineer, if only to tackle laundry or craft a grocery list. I have no problem leaving jobs half-done. The day I finally got around to making the required photo collage for my Miramonte senior, you'd think I'd just earned a PhD.

Seriously. What a sneaky transition. How can the bar be so low and so high at the same time?

When did it become adventuresome just to leave the house? As I back out of the driveway for my weekly trip to Trader Joe's, I feel the same heady rush from years ago once the babysitter arrived and Home Sweet Home grew smaller in the rearview. Days are spent waiting for that irresistible urge to organize my closets and cabinets to visit me, and for the equally compelling urge to trim my own hair.

The experts claim our inability to live efficient and productive lives right now can be attributed to parts of our brains literally shutting down, PG&E style, from trauma. Of course, the part of my brain that enjoys forwarding snarky quarantine funnies to every friend in my contact list, or trots out my Worst Faux Pas collection at 3 a.m. is thriving. The executive branch appears to have gone AWOL.

Understandable. Widespread unpredictability and loss of control is traumatic. I didn't live in New York during 9-11, so up until the quarantine, the most egregious hardship I endured was the cancellation of kid-friendly, afternoon television programming during the summer-long Nixon Impeachment Hearings of 1974.

"This is so unfair!" I wailed in frustration as White House counsel John Dean and Chairman Sam Ervin's boring seriousness filled the television screen, superseding the familiar faces of Gilligan, Captain James T. Kirk and Lurch.

What we all wouldn't give for those simpler "problems," from the standpoint of both a 9-year-old and the U.S. government. With the shuttering of schools across the nation and the cancellation of all events that typically attract large crowds, which currently includes commencement ceremonies, year-end parties and sports, parents sure could use a playbook for what to say.

Here's what *not* to say: "One day you'll laugh about this."

Unless you enjoy watching your pleasant family dinner suddenly disintegrate into a Smudge the Cat meme. (That's the one where an outraged Taylor Armstrong from *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* accusingly points a furious finger at a disdainful white cat, smugly eating salad.) This comment is especially offensive proclaimed by anyone who enjoyed both high school and college graduation festivities.

When discussing any aspect of 2020s evaporated senior year, it's best to stick to the proper format of how to address the bereaved. A heartfelt "I'm so sorry" is often the most palatable option. While it's true that death, food shortages, exhausted healthcare providers and financial ruin are heartbreaking byproducts of this strange pandemic, our young people worldwide are grieving a very real loss.

They quickly blew past the denial stage, the very first nightmarish Friday spent playing Parcheesi with their parents. They'll probably remain in the anger stage for a long time, until that glorious day they bond with a hot kindred spirit in a corner coffeeshop, sharing how their high school graduation season went straight into the toilet. And they all felt exactly the same emotions. I feel the goosebumps already.

Our seniors are admirably weathering this cosmic tablecloth being yanked out from under them. They miss their friends. The overused and trite phrase "taken for granted" suddenly acquired a piercing new significance. They grew up a little bit faster than planned.

My husband and I both had parents who were raised during The Great Depression. We ribbed my mother posthumously for her sticky note on a list of her magazine



MIMI BOMMARITO

A cheerful sign stands among empty tables at **Miramonte High School**.

subscriptions, reminding us to cancel and obtain a refund for the unused portion if she died before they came up for renewal.

My father-in-law was similarly roasted for rushing out to purchase 10 pounds of sugar when Fidel Castro overthrew the Cuban government.

Recalling this, my high school senior and I actually laughed together, at what her future children might think of her, coming of age with the "Quaranteen"

Generation, frantically bolting out to buy more toilet paper at the first sign of trouble.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



Cameron Lewis
Class of 2032

We couldn't be more proud of how well you did this year at Glorietta. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Jackson were the perfect pair to help you shine and we can't wait to see all the places you go, little man! Here's to the class of 2032!
Love, Mommy & Daddy



Congratulations to
Joseph Tarkoff
OIS 8th Grade
&
Ben Tarkoff
University of Alabama, MBA
We are so proud of you!
Mom & Dad and Family



Griffin Louis Kandell Paulino
Orinda Intermediate School

Congratulations on your graduations! We are so proud of you both! Love, Mom & Dad

2020 Graduates

Yael Rose Kandell Paulino
Del Rey Elementary School



Hudson Anderson Straub
Orinda Intermediate School Graduate

Excellent Achievement Hudson!!
Congrats!!!
Love, Mom, Dad, Roenigk, Carson & Zoe

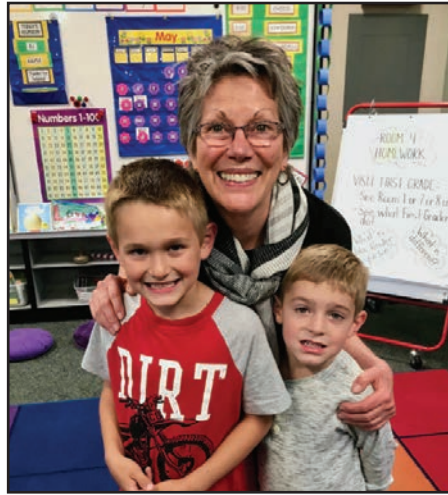
TEACHERS

Orinda Union School District Honors Six Teachers

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Teachers in the Orinda Union School District are known for their caring demeanor, consummate professionalism and dedication to their students. This year they have pushed the envelope even further as they continue to engage their students (and parents!) while sheltering-in-place.

OUSD recently announced the six 2020 site teachers of the year. Nominated by school site personnel, these outstanding educators are selected based on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A team of teacher leaders works with the various site principals to review all submitted nominations and selects the teacher who best exemplified these stan-



Janet Friend with a couple of her kindergartners from Glorietta.

dards at their school site.

This year's site teachers of the year are Janet Friend (Kindergarten – Glorietta); Anny Lackey (Physical Education – OIS); Tracee Schultz (First Grade – Sleepy Hollow); David Wilson (Art Teacher – more than one site) Alex Wise (Third Grade – Wagner Ranch) and Katie Sahn (Fourth-fifth Grade - Del Rey).

Hired in 1998, Janet Friend was born and raised in Muskegon, Michigan. She earned her teaching credential at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Friend moved to California via Hawaii, where she has lived for 46 years. She earned her M.A. in counseling from Saint Mary's College, as well as an administrative credential, and worked as a school counselor before coming to the classroom in 1998. She has been a teacher with OUSD for 22 years.

"Ms. Friend has brought such love, compassion, inspiration, and happiness to everyone she has taught, worked with, or had the opportunity to meet," said the staff at Glorietta. "We are so pleased to honor her this year as she prepares for her retirement

and sails off to Hilo, Hawaii."

Principal Stacy Wayne paid special tribute to OIS teacher of the year Anny Lackey by composing a poem. In clever rhymes, Wayne applauds Lackey's positive energy, enthusiasm and management techniques as she guides students through yoga, scooter handball and volley tennis to name just a few. Making PE fun for OIS students, Lackey practices what she preaches to her young charges gaining the respect of her colleagues. In between coaching sports, teaching, organizing lunchtime sports, she also took on the role of department chair and member of the Instructional Council.

"This tribute was easy; she deserves the acclaim... For Anny Lackey always brings her A game!" wrote Principal Wayne.

Tracee Schultz' uniqueness begins with the spelling of her first name. Using two



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OIS PE teacher **Anny Lackey**.

ees at the end instead of an "ey" or just "y," Tracee's name has always been easy for Sleepy Hollow Principal Patsy Templeton

[SEE TEACHERS page 16]

LEO KOGAN

Congrats to our smart, talented, charming, adventurous, always-hilarious son! You've crossed the bridge of middle school. Now off to high school you go. The best is yet to come!
Happy Graduation Day, Leo!

Water Polo Club Athletes Head to College



DANIEL TING

From Back left: **Peter Hillen** (United States Naval Academy), **Max Stryker** (UC Davis), **Jake Stone** (UC Berkeley), **Liam Ward** (Cal State Long Beach), **Shea Grosz** (Occidental), **Leo Berkman** (Brown), **Mason Chambliss** (UC Santa Barbara). From Front Left: **Katherine Hawkins** (Indiana University), **Abby Fleming** (Santa Clara University), **Zoe Crouch** (Indiana University)

Eleven graduating seniors from the Lamorinda Water Polo Club have committed to play water polo in college.

The student athletes join more than 200 Lamorinda Water Polo alumni who have gone on to play in successful NCAA water polo programs, according to the club.

The club's coaches include Guy Baker, executive director, James Lathrop, boys' director and 18U boys coach, and Kim Everist, girls director and 16U girls coach.

Lamorinda Water Polo Club offers year-round age-group programs and Splashball for boys and girls, age 5-18, and introductory water polo summer camps for kids age 5-12. Current news and updates on changing schedules due to Covid-19 are available at Lamorindawaterpolo.org.

Congratulations Kinder Grads!

We are so proud of you
Jake, Luca & Bowen
Love, Your Mom & Dad



Avery,

Congratulations on your 8th Grade Promotion!! We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. We look forward to your continued success and wish you much happiness.

Love you so so much!!
Mom, Dad, and the whole family!!

Keira Elliott



It has been our honor to watch you grow from a joyful, adventurous and loving girl into a smart, beautiful, caring and capable young woman. We wish you happiness and success on your next adventure, High School!

Love, Mom, Dad, Milla, Tamara, and Zane.



PEOPLE

Mindful Littles Founder Gordon Receives Local Jefferson Award

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

It started as a passion project with 15 Orinda families to teach children to be more compassionate. Four years later, Mindful Littles is a full-fledged nonprofit that has touched thousands of children and adults alike.

And now, Mindful Littles founder Tanuka Gordon is the latest recipient of a local Jefferson Award.

“It was unexpected but I am very grateful as it helps spread the word about our organization and its work with the children and adults of our community as we engage in caring and compassionate service,” said Gordon.

The award was presented by the sponsor KPIX. Jefferson Awards are given at both national and local levels to “ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.” Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and entrepreneur Samuel Beard founded the Jefferson Awards for Public Service to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service in 1972.

Gordon will be among 30 to 50 Bay Area honorees who will receive medals at a ceremony in January. Three other Orindans,

Kate Wiley, founder of Seniors Around Town, and Pam and Gary Schroeder, who started the nonprofit Pads for Pets, also received the award this year.

“Tanuka’s vision and passion for creating a better world through empowering youth and sparking compassionate action within their communities is inspiring,” said Travis Groft, a Mindful Littles program facilitator. “Her ability to accomplish this while securing the resources she needs to execute the heartfelt programs is unmatched by any leader with whom I have ever worked.”

Mindful Littles’ vision statement states: “Every child is empowered to create a peaceful, compassionate world starting with themselves, their homes and their community.” The organization’s mission is to teach children and families to be mindful and compassionate through meaningful service learning experiences. Their work concentrates on children pre-school to 5th grade. In three and one-half years they have served more than 4,500 young people.

“Mindful Littles’ programs are largely volunteer and youth-driven,” Gordon said. “We welcome adults and teens interested in building a kinder, more compassionate world through mindful community service. Middle and high school-aged teenagers assist our volunteer staff during our service learning programs and compassion workshops. Adults are a large part of the program too. The focus is on helping them practice mindful compassion habits so they are empowered to continue the work with youth when Mindful Littles staff isn’t there.

An example of their work was their response to the children of Paradise (Butte County) after the devastating 2018 fire. Mindful Littles facilitated service learning projects for more than 1,600 Orinda elementary school students to teach them about the fires, practice mindfulness and assemble peace and wellness kits for students in Paradise.

“Now we find ourselves in need of



SALLY HOGARTY

Mindful Littles Founder **Tanuka Gordon** addresses Orinda students to explain making peace kits for children impacted by a devastating fire in Paradise (Butte County).

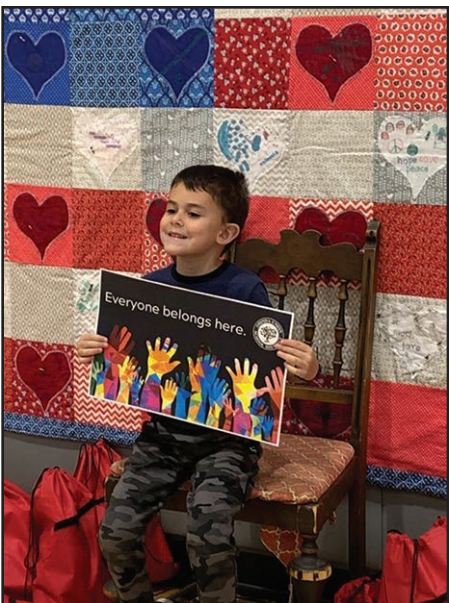
meaningful and creative ways to cope with anxiety facing the challenges of a global pandemic. We have made peace kits to support the essential workers on the front lines,” Gordon said.

“Another way anyone can help is to honor and show appreciation to our local businesses by crafting uplifting Signs of Positivity to post on their doors and windows, or expressions of care by making chalk drawings on driveways as Mindful Little participants have done,” she said.

Staffer Lisa Sadikman described how mindfulness came into use when her worried 8-year-old asked if she could get the coronavirus.

“My daughter and I did a breath practice to find calm, and sent loving-kindness wishes to ourselves, our family and friends and the world. Her fear didn’t disappear, but she did fall asleep peacefully.” Sadikman said. “It’s powerful what a few minutes of mindful breathing and focused, kind

[SEE GORDON page 21]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An Orinda youngster holds a sign at a diversity and inclusion program at Wagner Ranch Elementary School led by Mindful Littles. The event took place in March shortly before schools were closed because of the pandemic.



CONGRATULATIONS HADLEY!

We are so proud of you!
Love, Nana & Papa



STILL MELTING OUR HEARTS AFTER 14 YEARS. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FUTURE MATADOR! WE LOVE YOU, MAX! MOM, DAD & MIA



Max Goldman – OIS



Michelle Bradley

Sis, you are beautiful inside and out. We love you, Mom, Dad, Anthony, Dominic and Izzy.

BENJAMIN FORMAN

In the blink of an eye, you have grown into the most wonderful boy who is now headed to middle school! We are so proud of who you are – an incredibly kind, funny, bright, always learning, talented boy who we all love to the moon and back. You are the BEST!

*Happy graduation to our favorite Glorietta Gopher!
Love, Dad, Mom and Charlotte
xoxo*

TEACHERS / FITNESS

◆ TEACHERS from page 14

to spell. “That’s because I equate those two ees with ‘effective’ and ‘efficient,’ two fundamental characteristics we like to see in every educator,” said Templeton.

Schultz’s efficiency is easy to see as the first-grade teacher juggles her classes along



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tracee Schultz first-grade teacher at Sleepy Hollow.

with a Master’s program and piloting both new phonics and history/social studies programs. She is also one of the Sleepy Hollow site reps for the district wide BaySci committee as well as the Sleepy Hollow site leadership/grade level articulation team. Most recently, Schultz became a member of the Tech Lead reps for Distance Learning.

David Wilson was a classroom teacher at multiple sites in Orinda before becoming the Art Specialist in 2016. His positive attitude helps him build relationships and provide intuitive feedback to his students. It also helps that Wilson is a talented and passionate artist himself. “I feel very lucky to teach a subject that brings me so much fulfillment,” said Wilson.

According to the evaluation of his School Site Personnel team, “the essence of David Wilson is what makes a truly exceptional teacher. He has many superpowers, but one of them is to speak with you and make you feel so totally validated and heard.”

An inviting, child-friendly classroom greets students and visitors to Alex Wise’s space at Wagner Ranch. The third-grade



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Art Specialist teacher **David Wilson**.

instructor is known for her subtle, delightful sense of humor that keeps her young students attentive and engaged. According to her colleagues, there is almost a “club” atmosphere in her classroom and even a shared, secret language that she and her students have developed.

One of her many strengths incorporates technology in ways that improve the learning experience. “Ms. Wise’s students love how she teaches concepts in a fun, catchy manner that helps them remember what they have learned long after the lesson has

been taught,” wrote Wagner Ranch School Site Personnel.

During her nine years teaching in Orinda, Katie Sahn’s passion for students, dedication to best practices, and her vision for building strong learning communities for students and colleagues has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals. As her reputation grew, Sahn was called upon by the OUSD Superintendent and the Director of Curriculum to lead a district-wide grade level planning group. She planned professional development and worked alongside other 4th-grade teachers to ensure an aligned, quality curriculum for students across the district.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Del Rey teacher **Katie Sahn**.

“Ms. Sahn is always thinking of ways to instill a love of learning in her students, and she has a masterful way of knowing what students need and just how to provide it for them,” wrote Del Rey’s School Site Personnel Team.

In addition to receiving Del Rey’s Teacher of the Year Award, Katie Sahn was also selected as the Orinda Union School District Teacher of the Year. She will go on to represent OUSD in the Contra Costa County Office of Education’s Teachers of the Year program.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wagner Ranch teacher **Alex Wise**.



Glorietta, OIS, Miramonte
A tissue to wipe away tears
Minus this crazy pandemic
They’ve been 13 fabulous years!
Now Kyra’s off to Cal Poly
Well-worn paths must eventually part
Despite future trials, the past will
bring smiles
To those with the Matador heart.

**Congratulations
Kyra Elise Bommarito
Class of 2020**



**Congratulations
Sam Camp
Miramonte
Class of 2020**

May the Force be
with you on your
great adventure.

Love,
Mom & Dad

**Congratulations
Miramonte 2020 Grad
Ava Christine Fischler**

You have brought us so much joy since the day you were born. We are so proud of everything you have accomplished and all that you will be.

Enjoy your journey!
With all our love,
Mom, Dad & Ethan



Fitness Tip of the Month

Moderate Exercise...Fitness...Immunity

We can become very fit exercising moderately. Measured Variation is the key.

Keep track of the distance you are traversing, the difficulty level of your path, and the time that it takes to complete it. To increase your fitness level, keep two of these the same and try to increase one. Continue to do this for a week or so and then try using a different variable etc.. If you want to keep everything the same, add some resistance training for variation and strength.

You will gradually increase your fitness level, continue to boost your immune system and be injury free.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925-360-7051 or www.thelivingleanprogram.com.



**2020
GRADUATE**

ALEXA PRITCHARD
CAMPOLINO HIGH SCHOOL

Sparkle on, Alexa,
and watch out world!

CORONAVIRUS



ELANA O'LOSKEY



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK

Face masks are the new norm and they are anything but boring. From stylish to playing tribute to sports teams to the highly functional, face coverings seen around the village offer a kaleidoscope of colors and some level of safety while social distancing.



KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK

Morrison's Jewelers' David Berryhill can accommodate two customers while maintaining a 20-foot distance in the showroom. Shoppers are making appointments, especially for graduation gifts right now.



CIARA McDERMOTT
OIS GRADUATE

Congratulations on your graduation from OIS, and best of luck as you begin your high school journey. We're so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Julie, Ryan, Liam, and Colin.



Emily Boccarossa
Port Chester Senior High School, New York

Congratulations Emily! We are so proud of you. Wow, Penn State in the Fall! Miss you! Love, Aunt Maria & Uncle Bill

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Orinda Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Orinda - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your

situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

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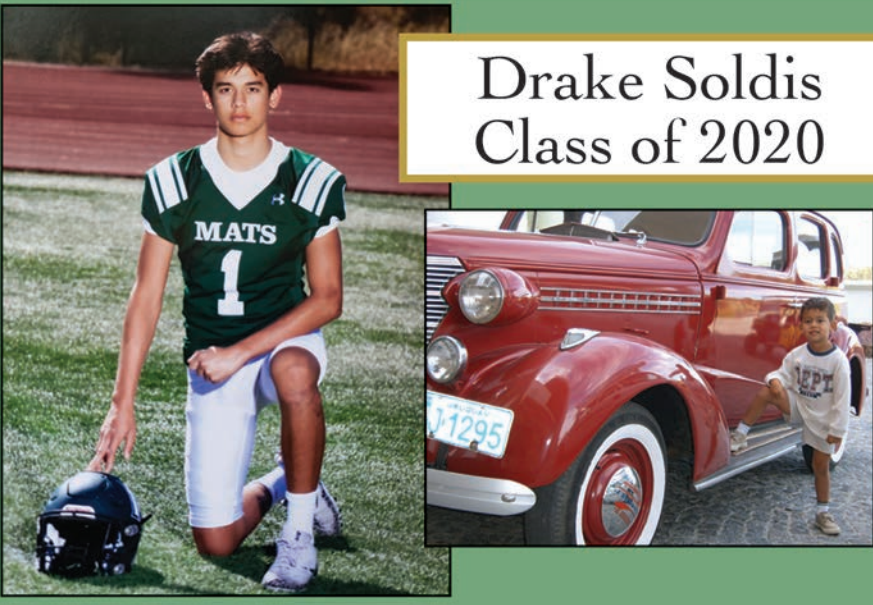


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NEWS

Fire Prevention: How Homeowners Need to Get Ready for MOFD Inspections



MELANIE LIGHT

The result of a weekend of work – trimming trees and removing dead wood – is ready to be chipped and hauled away on La Cuesta.

By MELANIE LIGHT
Contributing Writer

The sound of chainsaws and weed wackers ringing through Orinda streets and canyons signals people are spending days at home preparing for fire season, which is

almost upon us.

As you clean out gutters, sweep dead leaves off the roof, and clear out property to get it ready for summer, there are several great resources to meet the June 15 deadline for inspections by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD).

Some of the most combustible plants everyone should eliminate are bamboo, juniper, any kind of broom and rosemary. For tips on fire-resistant landscaping, go to the Firesafe Marin site (www.firesafemarin.org/landscaping).

MOFD has videos on how to manage trees and bushes. Go to www.mofd.org.

For information on the fire department's chipper program, call 925-258-4525.

The real trick is to find plants that are both firewise and deer proof. A quick call to your favorite local nursery can help.

The key to effective wildfire prevention is to remember everyone has to do their share. A firestorm spreads like a pandemic – to prevent harm to your neighbors, your own home needs to be fire safe.

While it may be impossible to reach that goal for every home in Orinda, we are only as safe as our active fuel mitigation efforts. A great resource for that is the Firewise program, a community organizing program in which neighborhoods form themselves into Firewise groups.

In Orinda, those groups have organized into an all-Orinda Firewise Council which has been advocating to the City Council and MOFD for more funding on wildfire prevention through a petition, letters and meetings.

As a group, you can get discounts on landscaping because of the volume of work, educate and support each other and possibly, benefit when your

homeowner's insurance renews. Plus, it is more fun and easier to do in a group.

The process of becoming a Firewise community is not hard and both the MOFD and the Orinda Firewise Council can help you through the process. Check out the steps on the MOFD website Firewise page and contact Joyce Arnon of the citizen-based Orinda Firewise Council Membership Committee at jarnon@aol.com.

Melanie Light is chair of the Orinda Firewise Council. She can be reached at info@melanielight.com.

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◆ MOFD from page 1

interactive website to provide fire safety outreach.

Danziger said probably the most important fire prevention idea is Chief Dave Winnacker's proposals to change the fire code, which among other things would set strict rules on building and landscaping. Some of Winnacker's proposals have irked residents who fear they would dramatically change the character of cities or be too costly.

"Rightly so people are questioning if we have to go this far and the chief believes we do," said Danziger. "You could be the most firewise homeowner possible but if your neighbor's house is overgrown, it's not going to matter if you get a firestorm. We need the community to buy in."

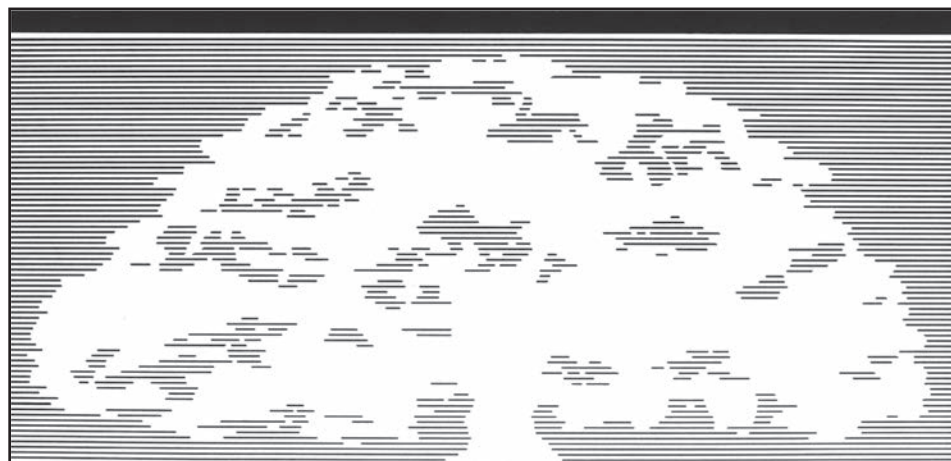
Danziger said the creation of the Orinda/Moraga/MOFD subcommittee will help open communication and build that buy-in.

A city report announcing the subcommittee pointed out, "Virtually every property owner in the city will need to analyze their property in accordance with current standards and implement best practices by next year. An extensive outreach and education program will be required. MOFD is planning such an effort, but the importance of this requires the city to use its means to make this summer season and the next the most successful ever."

Indeed, Winnacker said no matter how many firefighters the district has in its ranks, the key to prevention is what homeowners are willing to do. This includes trimming grass, cutting tree limbs, thinning brush and clearing brush.

"Now we need people to convert awareness into action," Winnacker said.

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



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The Real Estate Covid Update For Lamorinda!

Realtors throughout Lamorinda are continuing to work and sell homes during this time.

We are following strict guidelines for showing vacant and occupied homes.

Agents and buyers wear booties, gloves, masks and are restrained from touching any surfaces while showing homes.

We bring disinfectant and are required to clean surfaces inadvertently touched.

No Open Houses or Brokers tours are currently permitted at this time.

Surprisingly the local market is quite strong with buyers leaving San Francisco and heading to less densely populated areas.

Low interest rates are also fueling the current market!



Be Well! Stay safe ! And let us know if we can help.

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Songs for Residents at Senior Village

Every Thursday afternoon, vocal performer **Leslie O'Brien** entertains seniors from the parking lot and courtyard at the Orinda Village Senior Center. Recently she was accompanied by bassist **Terry Miller**. O'Brien and Miller performed a socially-distanced, courtyard

concert. Audience members often dance along and shout requests from their balconies.

— Mimi Bommarito
Staff Writer



MIMI BOMMARITO



MIMI BOMMARITO

◆ COVID from page 1

Center may also be tested depending on the amount of testing Contra Costa County's Health Services staff have already done there.

Each test costs \$56 to administer and organizations including the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) are raising money to pay for them. Orinda's fundraising goal is \$20,000. Donations can be made online at the OCF's website, OrindaFoundation.org.

Developed by LabCorps, the test requires a nasal swab to be administered by a medical professional wearing protective gear.

"Other cheaper and less intensive tests are available, but unfortunately they produce a lot of false negatives," said Severson. "A false negative means the test shows the person tested does not have Covid-19, when in fact they are infected, so they can still infect others. This can have deadly consequences in a senior care facility environment."

Severson's son, Dr. Chris Severson, an emergency room doctor at Kaiser Permanente's Walnut Creek Medical Center, is volunteering to administer the tests as is Susan Candell's husband, Dr. Brian Candell and his partner Dr. Yenjean Hwang.

Severson said if any qualified medical professionals want to help with the testing, they should get in touch with her via the Orinda Foundation.

Contra Costa County health officials began making Covid-19 testing available for all county residents last month.

Drive-through testing for all county resi-

dents – whether they have Covid-19 symptoms or not – is also available. The tests are conducted by Contra Costa County Health Services officials at five sites throughout the county. Tests require an appointment that can be made by calling 844-421-0804 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

The state is offering walk-up testing at sites in Walnut Creek, Pinole and Brentwood. These tests require an appointment.

There is no up-front cost for the testing and medical insurance is not needed. However, those who have health insurance will have their insurer billed for the test.

In other Contra Costa County Covid-19 news, the county last month unveiled an indicators dashboard showing the progress being made in slowing the spread of the virus. These indicators are being tracked by health officials to determine when additional activities can resume. To access the dashboard, go to www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/indicators-dashboard.

The latest information on California's ongoing response to Covid-19 can be obtained by taking part in virtual town hall meetings held by Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) at: <https://sd07.senate.ca.gov/covid19/telephone-town-hall>.

Orinda Assembly Rep. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan also has a Covid-19 resource page available at <https://a16.asmdc.org/coronavirus-updates>.

Paul Kilduff can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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THEATER / CALENDAR / CLASSIFIEDS

THE REEL LESS TRAVELED
FINDING THE LIGHT
Tom Westlake

Socialistically speaking, not much has changed since last month. Theaters are still closed but my offer stands: I will still be happy to make recommendations for films you can either rent, buy or stream.

As far as other options, the International Film Showcase (www.internationalshowcase.org) is continuing its virtual screening program which includes the finest in foreign films via streaming. Check out their website for the schedule.

Meanwhile, at the Orinda Theatre there is the ever-present struggle to maintain the 78-year-old landmark and keep it running, and it has never been as important as it is now.

Closed since March 16, the theater has been selling wine, popcorn and Red Vines licorice on Fridays to generate funds, according to owner Derek Zemrak. But that was not nearly enough to cover the fixed operating costs, which Zemrak says are \$15,000 a month.

On April 28, Zemrak started a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$10,000. He met the goal in less than four days, with money still coming in. To learn more, go to www.orindamovies.com.

The clouds will eventually part and the neon will burn brightly once again – and

when that happens, you'll be able to say that your donations played a significant part in it.

For those who want a little more immediate return on their investment, there's always Cine Cuvee. Like so many other restaurants or food delivery places, Cine Cuvee is jumping on the sidewalk pick-up bandwagon, offering a delightfully delicious package that includes a bottle of wine (and here you have a choice!), some of the best movie popcorn this side of the Caldecott Tunnel and a package of candy for \$20.

This offer is only available 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays so make sure you plan accordingly. Visit the Cine Cuvee facebook page for ordering details.

And so we soldier on, brave and defiant against that which would prevent us from enjoying a vital art form that will continue to survive, grow and improve. Remember, regardless of how much cinema has changed technically, the one commonality has always been the light. And it is toward that light that we must always strive, for that is where the true magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ GORDON from page 15

thoughts can do to soothe an anxious child – or adult.”

Rabbi Nicki Greninger said Mindful Littles has led two programs for her community, one for parents and children called “The Courage to be Different” and one for children about honoring seniors.

“It was a pleasure to collaborate with Tanuka in planning thoughtful, engaging lessons that were meaningful as well as being fun, interactive, and hands-on. I believe the lessons Mindful Littles brought to our community will stick with the children for a long time,” Greninger said.

Mindful Littles also creates programs for Girl and Cub Scout troops, sports teams and other youth organizations.

Gordon said Mindful Littles, which has received funds from foundations, private donations and by charging fees for services, hopes to expand nationally. To learn more,

go to mindfullittles.org.

Bobby Dodson can be reached at bobbydodson@comcast.net.

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Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

On the Calendar in June

- Orinda Library** Online events. Daily storytimes and events can be viewed at: [https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:\(5e2b7849df59234500450f71\)](https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5e2b7849df59234500450f71)).
- 4 **Orinda Books**, In a virtual event, a private live session for our Lamorinda community, author Molly Ball will discuss her new book, *Pelosi*, the first biography of the Speaker of the House in a decade. 4 p.m. Secure your place at this virtual event by purchasing the book by phone 925-254-7606, email (info@orindabooks.com) or online at orindabooks.com. Curbside pick-up or free delivery to Lamorinda & Rossmoor is available.
- 5 **Orinda Theatre/ Cine Cuvee** for pick up: a bottle of wine, popcorn and a package of candy for \$20. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visit the Cine Cuvee facebook page for ordering details. Also June 12, 19 and 26. See article this page.
- 6 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also June 13, 20 and 27. See article p. 5.
- 9 **Orinda Books**, A virtual event: Dallas Woodburn, in conversation with Orinda's own Vanessa Hua, SF Chronicle columnist and author of *A River of Stars & Deceit and Other Possibilities*, discusses Woodburn's new novel, *The Best Week That Never Happened*. 4 p.m. Call Orinda Books 925-254-7606 for more information or email info@orindabooks.com.
- 14 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** reception for John Brown, Tina and Rick Nelson, Teresa Onoda and Karl Stinson. Light refreshments will be served, 2:30 - 4:30 pm. See article p. 6.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE
City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.orindacity.org. [SEE CALENDAR page 22]

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CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings in June

While most clubs are not meeting during shelter-in-place, others offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info to find out.

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML). No general meeting this month. 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.

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 Zoom meeting. First Monday 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. <https://www.meetup.com/PacificDrumCircles>

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.

Lamorinda Movers. www.lamorindamovers.org or call Vicki Nakamura 925-708-1915. No meetings in June.

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. Third Thursday. For information, search Facebook for Lamorinda Republican Women Federated or go to www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at ejeuing@comcast.net or 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Until further notice, all weekly meetings will be conducted via Zoom video conferencing. 7-8:15 a.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>. We will resume our regular meetings at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: June 5: Dr. Essam Daod, Humanity Crew: Mental Health Interventions for Refugees and People in Crises. June 12: John Petersen, First Ever Rowing the Drake Passage! June 19: The Danes are Here! June 26: Fred Stambaugh, The Greatest Conspiracy Theory in the History of Pop Music.

7 p.m., September through June. Orinda residents socializing and giving back to the community. 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.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.

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

Orinda/Tábor (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, 4 p.m. Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at 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.

Road Runners. 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 information contact John Fazel, runmtns@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.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspensconsult.net

◆ CALENDAR from page 21

cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3-5 p.m., Library Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way. Call 925-788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way, Orinda. For agenda www.mofd.org/board/meetings.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspensconsult.net.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Join Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's June 12 Zoom meeting with **John Petersen** and learn about the historic cross of Drake's Passage.

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

Orinda Association. Second Monday, Zoom meeting, 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.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, 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.

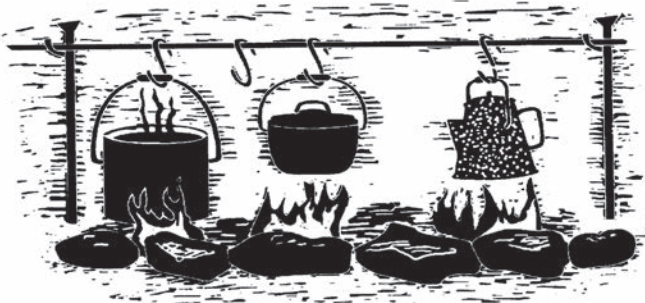
Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Mondays, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. First Tuesday,

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CAR TIME / BUSINESS BUZZ

CAR TIME

Quarantine Care

By JOHN VANEK



People are not using their cars much right now given many are still stuck at home. Some want to get in vehicles and venture out. Is it safe? The experts say home is the safest place to be during this public-health emergency. Traveling longer distances by car is not advisable unless it is urgent.

Obviously cars are on the road and local trailheads are all parked up. People are getting to the outdoors at their own discretion. How is that different than going for a ride in the country? If you want to take a drive, just use common sense and stick with the people you have been socially distancing with.

Disinfect surfaces inside your vehicle and vacuum the interior thoroughly. We're all much more concerned about keeping things germ-free these days, and rightly so. There are things you should and shouldn't use on the interior of your car. The liquid in Clorox wipes can damage organic surfaces and sensitive screens. Stay away from anything with bleach in it.

When you do get out on the road, be careful and watch out for speeders who feel it is necessary to put us all at risk. Don't be that person! Local law enforcement reports an immediate jump in the number of speeding tickets issued during the shelter-in-place.

There have been a few "parades of joy" that I have heard of with several vehicles traveling together celebrating everything from birthdays to Jesus, with passengers safely sheltering inside the vehicles.

Cars are meant to be driven; sitting still

isn't healthy for them. The battery will lose its charge and possibly go dead. Give all of your vehicles exercise at least once a week to keep the battery charged, tires round and fluids warm. Rotate all of the vehicles in your fleet, including vintage or classic cars. They need exercise as well.

If you feel like taking an extra step, take a look at the air filter and the cabin air filter. The cabin air filter is designed to filter the impurities from the air coming inside your car. It would be especially good to know that this filter is clean at this time. The directions on how to do so are in your glove box owner's manual.

Leaving your car out in the sun is very hard on its paint and its rubber trim. An interior that's left locked up and exposed to sun gets very hot every day, which can quickly lead to damaged upholstery and trim. Using a car cover will protect the paint and the interior. Go ahead and do the wash and wax while you have the time at home.

If you have a vehicle that you are not driving at all you can contact your insurance agent to suspend insurance. You can also look into credits or rebates on any of your cars that have reduced miles.

Once the quarantine is removed, it is still important to be a good consumer of automobile maintenance. Give your car, truck or SUV the love it needs.

John Vanek can be reached at John@orindamotors.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) At Farmers Insurance in Orinda's Village Square, **Antonio Banuelos-Cruz**, office manager; **Jessie Banuelos**, owner; **John Manrique** and **Roberto Zamora**, agency producers.

◆ BUZZ from page 24

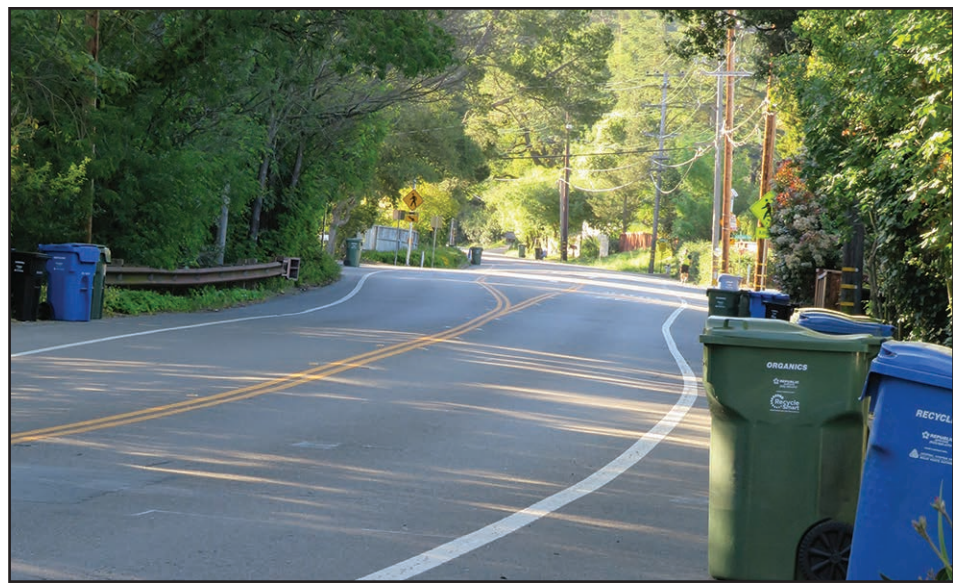
and bonus mom to three more, somehow Banuelos finds time to compete in cross fit competitions, enjoys hiking with girlfriends and cooking with her husband, Alden.

Farmers Insurance is at 324 Village Square, but for now the best way to reach them is by phone at 925-258-1010 or by email at jbanuelos@farmersagent.com. To learn more, go to www.jbi-advisors.com/team. They serve clients in Orinda, Walnut Creek, Oakland, Richmond and Hercules. Business hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment.

To send items for consideration, email [Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:Elana.O'Loskey@business.orinda@gmail.com).

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KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK

Orindans are staying home – as are their cars – as witnessed on Moraga Way, which is usually packed with vehicles heading north to Hwy. 24 and south to St. Mary's.

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McDonnell Nursery

Owner Dan McDonnell runs McDonnell Nursery with his daughter Sarah McDonnell and a dozen trusted employees. Dan’s father, Jack McDonnell, began the nursery in 1933, the lowest point in the Great Depression.

Half the banks in the U.S. had failed and 25 percent of Americans were unemployed. Dan’s grandfather was a grower of cut flowers, especially carnations, on land he owned at 51st and Telegraph in Oakland.

Dan said when his grandfather passed away in 1933 the family shifted to survival mode. Dan’s grandmother and her brother opened a florist shop and Jack, Dan’s father, started his nursery on the same land. That’s how the McDonnells survived the Great Depression. Both McDonnells say they fully expect the nursery to survive this pandemic.

They moved the nursery to the Orinda location in 1978. Sarah and her sister were raised next door and grew up in Orinda. Few local businesses have had the same phone number for more than 50 years, not to mention patrons spanning generations.

The combined experience of long-term employees who are familiar with Bay Area micro-climates paired with their specific knowledge base means no matter what garden questions come up, someone has tried-and-true answers and suggestions. Most staff members have knowledge about drought tolerant and deer resistant plants

because their entire career has been in the retail nursery business. Different staff members have developed specific areas of expertise such as perennials, succulents, roses, annuals, house plants, trees and shrubs.

Because the nursery has been in business for more than 85 years, the staff has developed relationships with growers and suppliers throughout the West Coast. Beginning this summer, customers can schedule professional garden consultations at their homes to help plan a new garden.

In addition, their gift shop provides all kinds of products, including seasonal displays. Delivery is free for orders over \$50 in Orinda and Moraga with competitive pricing for deliveries to most other East Bay locations.

McDonnell Nursery is at 196 Moraga Way. Call 925-254-3713, email info@mc-donnellnursery.com or go to www.mcdonnellnursery.com. Hours during COVID-19 are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wed. – Sun. After sheltering-in-place restrictions are lifted hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily.

Farmers Insurance Orinda

Jessie Banuelos, owner of Farmers Insurance Orinda, took her first customer service job for a Farmers agent in Orinda when she was a freshman at UC Berkeley. Insurance has been Banuelos’ career choice ever since.

Banuelos’s time in Orinda came full



KATHY ENZERINK

Father-daughter duo **Dan** and **Sarah McDonnell** run McDonnell Nursery.

circle in 2017 when she acquired the Farmers Insurance office in Village Square. For the past 20-plus years, she has focused on providing insurance to clients in the following categories: multi-family, HOAs, strip malls, office and industrial buildings, small business owners such as dentists, retail stores, restaurants and engineers.

Her staff consists of John Manrique and Roberto Zamora, agency producers, and Antonio Banuelos-Cruz, office manager. Every employee is licensed in property, casualty, life and health insurance. Banuelos is a designated Certified Insurance Counselor.

“We all continue our insurance education through training, classes and seminars,” said Banuelos. “For example, the right insurance coverage can save your paycheck

from being garnished for 10 years or having a lien placed on your property because you were underinsured.”

The agency is calling local business clients to review insurance policies to reduce premiums during COVID-19.

“If there are community events we can support with hands-on participation or donations, we welcome the opportunity to be there – just give us a call,” said Zamora.

Banuelos sits on the board of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) East Bay and is president-elect of the Women’s Auxiliary. Both organizations work together to support each other through collaboration, education and building business relationships. A mother of four grown young men

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

Orinda Motors Presents



The 16th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Goes Virtual in September – We Will Drive Again!

The Orinda Association is revising this year’s show, to make it a virtual event, but there will be lots of fun activities associated with the show this year including:

- **Orinda Classic Car Show Hosted Video:** Calling all car owners! We want your car entry in the show! All who enter their vehicles will be featured in a special video tribute hosted by Steve Harwood going out to more than 2000 show supporters.
- **OWNERS: YOUR ENTRY FEES WILL SUPPORT GREAT LOCAL CAUSES** - the Orinda Seniors Around Town Ride and food delivery program (SAT) and three other local charities (Orinda Community Foundation, Lamorinda Arts Council, and Orinda Historical Society).
- **Other great details to follow!**
- **So enter your car into this year’s show!**

Register all cars and motorcycles online today!

All vintage, modern or exotic cars are welcome, plus motorcycles of any years or makes and more!

Enter Your Car Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

We thank our partners and sponsors including: Alliant Insurance, Orinda Motors, Mechanics Bank, John Muir Health, Canopy Health, Clark Pest Control, Finola Fellner, Compass Real Estate, Clark Thompson, and many more.



1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL Coupe



1975 Porsche 911 Coupe



2005 Ford GT Coupe



Buzz Weldy with his 1965 Ford Mustang 2 Door Fastback