



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Fun and Frolic on the Fourth of July



SALLY HOGARTY

Orindan **Mel Silva** took the lead as the Grand Marshal at last year's parade, pulled by his team of cross-bred Belgian and stock horses. This year's Grand Marshals are Ann Cristofferson and Bobbie Landers (see story on page 9). They will be joined in the parade by an assortment of musical acts and community organizations, including **Meadow Swim & Tennis Club** (R) and other spirited swim teams. Complete Fourth of July parade and celebration information can be found on pages 9-12.



SALLY HOGARTY

Emergency Forum Aims to Prepare Residents for Devastating Fire

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Are Orindans prepared for a catastrophic fire? And if so, how prepared are they?

Those seem to be the most pressing questions on people's minds these days, and they were the topic of a recent emergency preparedness forum led by key players who could provide answers.

In a hall packed with more than 70 attendees, the forum focused on the worst-

case scenario for a wildfire in Orinda. Hosted by the Orinda Association, the May 23 forum featured Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel and Duncan Seibert, program manager of Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team and chair of the Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Commission.

"The threat that we are primarily concerned about is a catastrophic regional wildfire emanating out of the wilderness of the Briones watershed to our north, carried by a Diablo wind in the fall, a north or northeast wind," said Winnacker. "Those winds are not necessarily characterized by high temperature, which is something of a misnomer in the public's perception. Ambient temperatures are not a critical element in fire spread. Low humidity and high winds are."

Typically, Diablo winds occur in the fall, but due to climate change, the winds are

now preceding the rainy season. "Last year, when the Camp Fire burned, that area was expected to have five inches of precipitation as of that date. Had those sparks come off those power lines after three, four or five inches of precipitation had fallen for the season, they would have landed in a puddle and there wouldn't have been a fire," said Winnacker.

Using Orindan John Radke's work with the Center for Catastrophic Risk Management and UC Berkeley data, MOFD created models of fires starting at Bear Creek Road and Happy Valley at the eastern end of Briones Reservoir with 30 mph winds and low fuel moisture.

"What that model shows is in about four hours most of Sleepy Hollow and the Downs would be consumed by fire and the primary evacuation route from the Downs will be impacted by direct flame impingement and therefore be closed to traffic. That's a pretty scary scenario," said

Winnacker. "So the next thing done, armed with 37 years of data that goes down to the individual species of vegetation, is to make recommendations for mitigation work within 30 feet of the shoulder on both sides of Bear Creek Road."

With all conditions being equal, the new model shows that the fire will not jump Bear Creek. "What would have been a catastrophic fire running through about 1,000 homes in North Orinda and down through Sleepy Hollow instead becomes an interesting column of smoke and the loss of some grass range land that will regrow with the onset of the next rains," said Winnacker.

This second model is what MOFD, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Contra Costa Fire Department are working toward with the North Orinda Fuel Break. "This will create an interruption in the continuity of the fuel on the northern edge of the district that will buy us time to prevent

[SEE FIRE page 3]

Missed it?

A video from the evening, "Emergency Evacuation Preparedness in Orinda," is available for viewing on the websites of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (www.mofd.org) and The Orinda Association (www.OrindaAssociation.org).

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Acalanes Halts Out-of-District Student Transfers

By SIMAR KHANNA
Editor

For the first time in some 20 years the Acalanes Union High School District is shutting its doors to students outside its boundaries.

Starting with the next school year, the district will no longer accept interdistrict transfers. Current transfer students and children of employees — about 200 of them — who live outside the district will continue to be enrolled. Moving forward, the only out-of-district students allowed will be children of employees.

The decision is entirely financial, said John Nickerson, superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District.

"We don't get additional funding for them," Nickerson said.

Acalanes is considered a "basic aid" district by the state meaning its revenue from local property taxes exceeds what it would receive from the state for per student education funding. Because the cities in the Acalanes district have seen an uptick in property taxes, the state has reduced its share of education funding.

"Why this becomes an issue for us is that we no longer receive funding from the state on a per pupil basis," Nickerson said. "Historically, the district had 200 to 400 transfers at any given time. We received funding from the state for those students. But for the last four years we haven't received any funding from the state for these students, and we don't anticipate we would receive any funding next year because our property tax slightly exceeds per pupil funding from the state."

Nickerson said his district spends \$14,000 on average for each student each year and has about 5,700 students. It is difficult, Nickerson said, to pinpoint exactly how much the district would save by eliminating transfers.

Per pupil spending has gone up due to a variety of reasons in the past five years, ranging from increases in the district's required contribution to the state pension systems, modest increases in total com-

pensation for staff, increases in special education costs, and standard inflationary shifts in cost of service, Nickerson said.

The increases in costs, he said, have ex-

[SEE ACALANES page 15]

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AROUND TOWN

Cycling Workshop Teaches Safety and Skills



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and Orinda City Council sponsored Orinda's first bicycle safety education program on May 11 on the blacktop at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. The fun-filled event, open to children and their parents, was taught by Bike East Bay and came on the heels of Bike to Work Day. More than 30 children received hands-on educational experience in cycling, equipping them with the skills needed to safely ride a bike in the community, with an emphasis on biking as a form of multimodal transportation. Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Chair Laura Bisesto says she is "thrilled by the enthusiasm for this inaugural class and looks forward to proposing this as an annual event." To learn more about Bike East Bay and other cycling workshops in nearby areas, go to <https://bikeeastbay.org>.

Residents Get Another Chance to View ConnectOrinda Proposals

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Garden Room in the Orinda Library was buzzing with conversation as more than 50 community members attended a ConnectOrinda Celebration May 28.

According to Senior Planner Adam Foster, "Feedback on the boards presented was generally positive and the board graphics drew a lot of public interest." Planning Department personnel were kept busy answering questions. The goal of the celebration was to obtain final community comments.

People got a chance to review printed design guidelines provided by the Planning Department and the project consultant on view for the project. A single set of near and longer-term projects with broad community support culled from earlier input was presented in large print with color graphics. These printed guidelines were divided into Village District and Theatre District locations. They are on display in the corridor of Orinda Community Center until July 4.

The main objectives of the project include:

- Connect the two sides of downtown for all users;
- Support future pedestrian access along San Pablo Creek;
- Preserve Orinda's unique sense of place;

- Produce grant-eligible projects that can be funded;
- Beautify downtown Orinda;
- Build consensus for the final plan through robust community engagement.

The project, also known as the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan, launched Oct. 13. On Jan. 29, the city held another workshop where extensive community input was received. In March that information was reviewed and refined into selected projects. On June 4 a project update meeting provided a formal opportunity for public comment as well as a forum for the City Council to provide feedback to staff and project consultant.

The Planning Dept. received City Council direction for the proposed projects and draft downtown streetscape design guidelines. Planning Dept. staff and consultant team are working on a final draft of the Connect Orinda Downtown Streetscape which will be presented for City Council consideration in September.

For more information about ConnectOrinda, contact Senior Planner Adam Foster, afoster@cityoforinda.org, call 925-253-4238 or visit www.cityoforinda.org/connectorinda.

Reach Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.

Riding for a Cause: Cyclist, 72, Raising Funds for Breast Cancer

By Lynn Kalmar
Assistant Editor

For the fourth year in a row, Rick Perez, 72, will set off on Laura's Ride, pedaling from Vancouver, Canada, to Tijuana, Mexico, to raise funds in support of patients fighting breast cancer and to help advance breast cancer research through the Lazarek Cancer Foundation.

Inspired by his friend Laura Barton, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2015, Perez completed his first ride in 2016, cycling from Santa Monica to Ft. Augustus.

[SEE PEREZ page 17]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda cyclist Rick Perez makes a quick stop on a bridge over the Hudson River as part of last year's ride from Quebec City to Key West.



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
Independence: It's More Than Parades
and Fireworks**



Carlos Baltodano

July is the month of parades and fireworks to mark our independence. On July Fourth, Orinda will be celebrating with its very own "Best Home Town Parade." As we enjoy these festivities, let's keep in mind some of the important and exciting activities that the City Council is engaged in on our behalf.

If you can make a Tuesday night available, you may find attending a City Council meeting very worthwhile and educational. You have to look no further than the June 4 City Council meeting to appreciate the depth of issues that impact our community, as the lengthy agenda indicated.

A city official called the agenda a "meaty" one, and he was right. The session began with a special meeting to discuss the GHAD (Geological Hazard Abatement District) established in Wilder to provide prudent management of open space.

Wilder has 1,300 acres of open space, including wetlands that need careful maintenance and management. Attendees learned from the property owner's representative that out of the 240 lots, 100 homes along with all the fields have been completed, and 85 of them are occupied.

The Garden and Art Center formally opened June 2. More than half the auditorium was filled with Wilder residents reminding us that Wilder is very much part of our community and that its residents will always be interested in city issues.

Another item on the agenda was the new Accessory Structure (ADU) Title 17 Amendments and introduction of a new ordinance. These are the new rules for what used to be called granny-units or mother-in-law units. ADUs are allowed in most residential lots. While the rules are more flexible, there are certain requirements to

meet city standards. For additional information and questions, contact m Patel@cityoforinda.org.

Up next: The city approved a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Zander Drive. This item was supported at the hearing by many residents in the area who cited the need for additional safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

The other significant item of interest was the discussion of the ConnectOrinda Streetscape Master Plan Project. This project started in mid 2018, and the planning process is expected to be completed by September.

The Planning Department, under the direction of the city manager and City Council, has been trying to identify projects with broad community support. There have been numerous meetings, presentations and surveys within the past year to garner public input. The most recent event was on May 28 at the Library Auditorium.

The project began as a way to beautify downtown and has evolved with strong community input. Some of the ideas identified are connecting the two sides of downtown and supporting future pedestrian access along San Pablo Creek. The Planning staff and the City Manager need to be commended for their efforts to maximize public engagement in the process and producing grant-eligible projects that can be funded.

The City Council thanked and directed staff to concentrate on the "Near Term Projects "that can be funded by the city or through grants." It's refreshing to see that a tangible improvement, no matter how small, may occur in the short term. It's a wonderful thought that a planning study may actually become more than a report to be forgotten.

[SEE PRESIDENT page 17]

◆ FIRE from page 1

a fire from spreading into the populated areas that we are concerned with," said Winnacker.

However, the North Orinda Fuel Break only addresses the ground component of fire. Fire also spreads through three-dimensional ember paths, flaming objects that can be blown miles in advance of the main body of the fire.

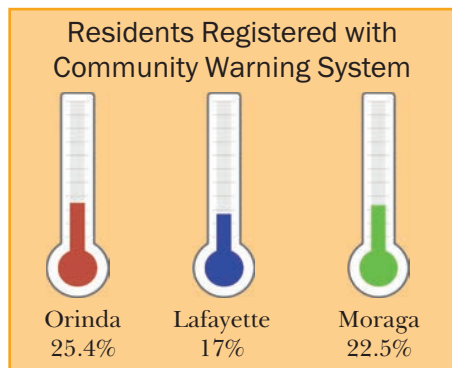
"When those embers come to ground, if

they land on receptive fuel beds, a pile of leaves, on a lot with dead grass, a gutter that's filled with some form of dry matter, it can create a fire in its own right which can grow to be just as dangerous as the main fire. There is no fuel break that can stop the spread of three-dimensional ember paths," says Winnacker.

The only way to stop the spread of three-dimensional ember paths is to create defensible space. "Every resident must do defensible space work both to remove fuel immediately adjacent to your house, which will elevate the ground component, but also along your entire property. The entire parcel has to be cleared so that if an ember lands, it is less likely to start another fire."

The process of making your home defensible is straightforward. "Take a lap around your house right next to the perimeter and foundation. Check if there are accumulations of dead grass, dried leaves, dead or

[SEE FIRE page 5]



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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.

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Editorial

A Reason to Celebrate

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared that the 13 American colonies were no longer subject to the British monarchy and were now free, united and independent states. So excited by the vote and the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail saying that this day would be “celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other.”

While much has changed since that day, our now 50 states have certainly remained independent. In fact, it almost seems as if we are two independent countries, one red and one blue.

We differ vastly on immigration policies, women’s rights and even First Amendment safeguards. The latter, which includes free speech and freedom of the press, has become more complicated in this Internet age. Are bloggers considered press? What about the freelance journalists who leak police investigation

documents, such as Bryan Carmody’s story on SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi’s death?

But despite our many differences, we are still one country, imperfect though it may seem at times, and that is something to celebrate.

Orinda will certainly commemorate the Fourth of July as “the great anniversary festival” John Adams referred to, minus the guns and bonfires of course. We hope to see you at the annual parade sponsored by The Orinda Association where we will celebrate our differences and our similarities. For a complete list of Fourth of July activities, see pages 9-12.

I’d also like to thank reader Michael Linney for pointing out that last month’s editorial on being fire safe did not include a most important piece of information – signing up for the county’s Community Warning System (cococws.us). While Nixle was mentioned, CWS is the primary warning system used by first responders in our area. So, in addition to Nixle, please sign up for CWS.

– Sally Hogarty, Executive Editor

Letters to the Editor

Fire Prevention Needs to be a Priority for Our Local Leaders

Last month’s editorial “It’s Up to All of Us to Be Fire Safe” and Chris Kniel’s letter “Climate is the Crisis, not Housing” makes me ask: What is our local government doing about this?

If the Oakland Hills fire was not a wake-up call (“we” did nothing), then the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa and the 2018 Camp Fire, which destroyed the town of Paradise, should have mobilized not just “all of us” but our local government, which is responsible for our safety. It did not.

The City Council just approved its priority list for the next two years and it included, out of a total annual budget in excess of \$20 million, \$50,000 a year for vegetation removal (an average of 2 cents a day per household.)

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) is more proactive but not enough. Out of a \$28 million budget, \$700,000 is allocated to “fire prevention.” But this includes \$600,000 in salaries and benefits to a fire marshall, a fire inspector/plans examiner, a fuels mitigation program manager, an emergency preparedness coordinator, and 4.5 part-time aides (who may do some fuel mitigation). Then there is \$25,000 for grading (maintaining) fire trails and finally \$25,000 for “exterior hazard removal.” Chief Dave Winnacker has done a great job securing the fuel break grant from the state, but this is a one-time offer.

We need a long-term fuel mitigation

process we should have started 20 years ago after the Oakland Hills fire. But how would we fund it?

When the Orinda Council talked us into joining with Moraga to form MOFD, we were promised that Orinda tax dollars would be used exclusively for services in Orinda. The only guarantee that this would happen was that we would be electing local representatives to the MOFD Board. Have those representatives kept the promise of how our tax dollars are being used and has the Orinda Council kept track of their promise? No.

This year, \$16 million Orinda taxpayer dollars went to MOFD. It cost MOFD \$13 million to operate Orinda’s three stations, including overhead. The other \$3 million went to subsidize the cost of operating Moraga’s two stations. This is not a new problem. It existed from the day MOFD went into operation in 1997. But none of our elected officials have ever addressed it. There have always been more important issues. Maybe, before Orinda becomes the next Paradise, our elected representatives should move this up the priority list.

– Steve Cohn

Food Truck Event a Bad Deal

It is unfortunate that the Orinda City Council sided with the out-of-town food truck operator, Taste of the World (“TOW”), and gave away a three-year right to have the food truck event on Thursdays.

The council should have accepted the



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compromise proposed by our local restaurants and the Chamber of Commerce and moved the event to Tuesdays. TOW indicated that Tuesdays were acceptable. Moreover, Tuesdays would coordinate with the Community Park events.

To make matters worse, the rent being charged to TOW is a giveaway. Information that TOW presented to the council at the Oct. 3, 2017 meeting, as reported in the staff report, stated that “each event has overall attendance of between 500 and 600 persons per night, with an average of 85-94 “tickets” (transactions) per truck, which translates to about \$1,500 per truck per event.” There are seven trucks. Assuming

four weeks per month, that is a gross of \$42,000 per month. Surely, a substantial portion of those dollars would otherwise have gone to local restaurants.

Yet the council accepted staff’s proposal to reduce the monthly rent paid by TOW from \$560 to \$400. The food trucks will not have to pay rent for November through March, although our local restaurants, of course, pay rent year-round.

The city never tried to learn how much of the gross goes to TOW (which pays the rent) and how much is retained by the individual food truck operators. Yet it is customary for a party in the position of the

[SEE LETTERS page 17]

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SAFETY

◆ **FIRE** from page 3

decadent plants such as rosemary. With those sorts of things next to your house, you are creating conditions for a fire to start right next to your house,” said Winnacker. “No matter what your house is made of, if there is direct flame impingement on it, eventually it will burn.”

The next step is to go around your house a second time, but looking at the eaves. Are there collections of dead materials, specifically pine needles and leaves in the valleys of your roof and your gutters. If you have those on your roof, you are creating a second fuel bed on your house itself. That’s not a fire that we’re going to be able to put out under these circumstances,” adds Winnacker. Most of the qualities that make plants drought resistant also make them very dangerous from a fire standpoint.

Nagel spoke about the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS is one of the nation’s most modern and effective all-hazard public warning systems. It uses a countywide telephone notification system, in addition to Twitter, Facebook and email to alert residents to possible hazards. In the event of an evacuation, “this is what we use to tell you to go. You need to sign up for it. It’s a simple process. You go to the website, you click on the buttons and fill out the information. It’s that simple,” said Nagel.

As of May 21, 25.4 percent (4661 registrants) of Orinda, 22.5 percent (3614 registrants) of Moraga and 17 percent (4062 registrants) of Lafayette had signed up for the system.

“Another way to look at this is 75 percent are not, so we will continue our efforts in stressing the importance of our ability and method of communicating to you,” said Nagel.

In addition to CWS, Nixle (www.nixle.com) also aids emergency services in getting alerts to people. “We use Nixle for road closures, police activities, and when the fire district does controlled burns. There’s 9,347 texts and 3,369 emails for Orinda signed up on Nixle,” said Nagel. “The population of Orinda is about 20,000, so we have some work to do and we will keep at it.”

Seibert focused on emergency preparation – what can be done now to make recovery from a disaster easier. He helped write the Lamorinda Resident’s Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, which every Orinda resident should have received in the mail. “Critically important for all of us are the evacuation pages,” said Seibert.

These pages of evacuation tips include sections on what to do now, what to do when there is a red flag warning and what to do at the time of evacuation. “Do the

things you can do now that you won’t be able to do when you need them done. Do them now because you have lots of time now. You won’t have lots of time when there’s a fire,” added Seibert.

The first thing to do is get a go-bag ready and place it near your car so you can grab it on the way out and have your essentials: ID, credit cards, some cash and important documents like medical prescriptions. “For animals you have to do the same thing. Your animals need their essentials: medications and a little bit of food,” said Seibert.

Another thing to think about is your insurance – do you have enough insurance to cover time out of your home in the case of a disaster? Seibert says, “How many days out of your home will the insurance pay for you to stay in a hotel?”

In the big wine country wildfires, they haven’t even started reconstruction on a lot of those homes. The people in Paradise will be out of their homes for three to four years. “Could you afford to pay for a hotel for three to four years while your home is being rebuilt? Your insurance will probably pay for 18 months to two years. Check your policies,” added Seibert.

When there are red flag warnings, plan accordingly. “Don’t leave your car in the garage if there’s a red flag warning. If you have a gate, open the gate and leave it open,” said Seibert. “Park your car in your driveway heading out to the street. You don’t want to be backing out into a line of traffic. You want to go forward into it. It’s much safer and much easier. Make sure you have 3/4 of a tank of gas because gas stations without power can’t pump gas.”

In the case that your home is destroyed, you will have an easier time if you have photographic proof of your possessions. “Take your cell phone and walk through your house and photograph everything. Take a video and talk to it. Say ‘that grandfather clock came from my parents, they bought it in 1908’ and so forth,” said Seibert. “That’s how you prove that you had it so your insurance will cover it. If you can’t prove you had it, it becomes very dicey.”

“The conditions that have created historically bad fires on a periodic basis are now a recurring annual event,” said Winnacker. “Our exposure to the potential of one of these large scale fires is here and it’s here to stay.”

For more information, visit www.mofd.org, www.lamorindacert.org, www.cw-salerts.com, and www.nixle.com. A video from the evening is available for viewing on the MOFD and Orinda Association websites.

David Dierks can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.

MOFD Opens Station 43 in North Orinda



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After 33 months in a temporary station, the crew for Station 43 of the Moraga Orinda Fire District moved into its new home at 20 Via Las Cruces, Orinda, holding a grand opening on Saturday, June 15. The new station replaces an aging structure built in 1952 that did not meet the design criteria of the National Fire Protection Association and was in need of seismic upgrades. The two-story building in North Orinda is the first new station built in the district since 2005.

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CAR TIME / CRIME

CAR TIME

Are We Ready to Hit the Road?



By JOHN VANEK

Summer is here, and if we plan on taking the trusty family hauler on a road trip, we need to make sure it is ready. We also need to make sure we are prepared for all situations.

The goal is to properly maintain the vehicle and avoid problems. Cars are machines and, despite the best efforts, they can breakdown. Here are some tips on preparing for a possible breakdown.

The first step is take your vehicle into your local shop for a pre-trip inspection. Please, please, I mean please do not wait until the day before your trip to do this. Your vehicle may need attention that you were not aware of. A short time frame will only add unwanted stress to you and your car-care provider.

I recommend scheduling this pre-trip ritual about one week before your planned departure. When you travel you will most likely be faced with higher altitudes and higher temperatures that can accelerate battery failure. For instance a battery may operate fine in Orinda but fail in consistent temperatures over 100 degrees while in Lake Tahoe. A simple battery load test will confirm the battery's condition.

The next tip is to make sure you are ready for a breakdown. You should have a game plan before you hit the road. Do you have a road service plan such as AAA? Do you know who to call in case you get stuck on the road? A common failure is a flat tire. Do you know where the spare tire and jack are? This information is in the owner's

manual in the glove box. Do you know the condition of the spare tire? Does the spare tire have air in it?

What if you think you have a flat tire? You should safely pull over. Do not apply heavy brakes or make quick steering movements. Carefully steer your car off of the roadway and apply the brakes smoothly. It is important not to drive a car too long on a flat tire because it could cause damage to your wheel. But if you do not have a safe place to pull over it is better to drive to a safe place and risk damage.

What to do if your car breaks down? The first thing to keep in mind is safety. As soon as you feel there is a problem, you should immediately look for a safe place to pull over. Now is the time to put your "breakdown plan" into motion.

What to do if your car overheats? If you notice your temperature gauge is reading high or overheating, you must make an immediate decision to pull over. Some cars have a light instead of a gauge. If you see your temp gauge is heading toward the right or your temp light is on, you must safely pull over immediately. If you continue to drive a car that is overheating you will cause damage to your engine. There is no good reason to open the hood at this point. You should not touch anything under the hood for at least an hour.

John Vanek is the manager of Orinda Motors, Inc. Reach him at john@orindamotors.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

April 28 through June 8

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 23 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Accident Injury: 3 incidents.
- Accident Property: 11 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 137 incidents.
- Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
- Barking Dog: 1 incident.
- Battery: 1 incident.
- Burglary, Auto: 5 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 4 incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident.
- Civil Matter: 10 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 100 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 47 incidents.
- Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident.
- Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
- Fire/EMS Response: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 5 incidents.
- Grand Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 3 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 1 incident.
- Lost Property: 4 incidents.
- Loud Music: 7 incidents.
- Loud Noise: 9 incidents.
- Loud Party: 3 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 2 incidents.
- Missing Adult: 2 incidents.
- Motorist Assist: 1 incident.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 7 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 19 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 23 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 18 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 5 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 6 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 2 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 17 incidents.
- Robbery: 1 incident.
- School Check: 5 incidents.
- Security Check: 6 incidents.

- Service to Citizen: 158 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents.
- Shots Heard: 1 incident.
- Surveillance: 1 incident.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 15 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 15 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 12 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 8 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 13 incidents.
- Threats: 1 incident.
- Tow: 7 incidents.
- Traffic Control: 1 incident.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 4 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 15 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
- Vacation House Check: 8 incidents.
- Vandalism: 2 incidents.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 4 incidents.
- Walk Through: 4 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 11 incidents.

Arrest

- Burglary: 3 arrests.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
- Impersonation: 1 arrest.
- Possession Drugs for Sale: 1 arrest.
- Possession Stolen Property: 1 arrest.
- Shoplifting: 1 arrest.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

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



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THEATER

‘Timely, Urgent Story’ Takes Stage at Bruns Amphitheater this Month

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

California Shakespeare Theater’s Artistic Director Eric Ting directs Tony Kushner’s much anticipated adaptation of *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht, the company’s first production of this playwright’s work running at the Bruns Amphitheater July 3-21.

Ting explores the nature of goodness in this comic political masterpiece translated by Wendy Arons. According to Ting, the play is a fable for modern times exploring the lengths to which one must go to keep clean in a dirty world.

The play asks in a city defined by “haves”

and “have-nots,” can a good person stay good even as their fortunes rise? And what does it even mean to be good?

“Without question, it’s a timely story, an urgent story that feels very much a conversation of where we are politically, socially, environmentally,” says Ting. “The question it asks is (in sometimes ridiculous ways) — can one person really make a difference? And what are the consequences of those actions?”

Ting praises Kushner, who is best known for his work *Angels in America* (a play in two parts: *Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*). The writer has also penned *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Homebody/Kabul* and the book for the musical *Caroline*,

or *Change*.

Kushner is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, an Emmy Award, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards, two Evening Standard Awards, an Olivier Award, two Oscar nominations, an Arts Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a PEN/Laura Pels Award.

“In Kushner’s extraordinary hands, Brecht’s exploration of human decency becomes something delightful, something contemporary, something deeply searching and deeply human,” says Ting.

Critically-acclaimed Bay Area composer Min Kahng makes his Cal Shakes debut with original music for the play. Kahng draws his inspiration from a wide variety of sources including hip hop and Peking Opera.

Making her Cal Shakes debut is Bay Area native Francesca Fernandez McKenzie, who leads the cast. Joining McKenzie are Bay Area and Cal Shakes veterans including Lance Gardner, Margo Hall, Victor Talmadge, Anthony Fusco and Dean Linnard.

New to the Bruns Amphitheater are a number Bay Area locals and regional theater veterans including Armando McClain, Lily Tung Crystal, J Jha, Phil Wong, Monica Lin and Sharon Shao.

All shows are at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. Single tickets for *The Good Person of Szechwan* are \$20 to \$94 with discounts available for seniors, youth,



CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
Bertolt Brecht comes to Cal Shakes for the first time with *The Good Person of Szechwan*, helmed by Artistic Director **Eric Ting**.

students, full time K-12 educators, military families, persons age 30 and under, and groups. For information or to charge tickets by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing is available at www.calshakes.org.

Reach Kathryn G. McCarty at KGMcCarty.com.

Comic Mayhem in Store with Village Players’ Next Production

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) bring the second production of their 36th season to the stage starting July 19 with John Bishop’s *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

The action takes place in a remote Westchester estate as the creative team of a new musical assemble for a backer’s audition in the winter of 1940.

“I enjoy the many layers of intrigue that slowly get peeled away by the outrageous comedy of the production,” says director Edwin Peabody.

Peabody, last seen in OrSVP’s 2018 production of *Good Morning Bill*, said he is excited to work on this production.



CHARLIE JARRETT
Edwin Peabody directed and starred in last year’s OrSVP production of *Good Morning, Bill*.

“This is a show about theater, and hits closer to my life than most shows. It both mocks and pays homage to the many performers, directors, writers and producers that populate my life,” says Peabody. “I’m looking forward to the journey through rehearsals, where I get the privilege of watching the cast gel and warm to each other as they create these hilarious and indelible characters.”

Contrary to its title, the show is not a musical. It revolves around the cast and producers of a musical (the composer, lyricist, actors and director) summoned to a large house in the middle of nowhere to impress a potential backer.

When a blizzard cuts them off from the rest of the world, comic mayhem follows as the infamous Stage Door Slasher makes an appearance and bodies start piling up. In this whodunit the list of suspects dwindles as the show progresses.

Performances of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* run July 19 through Aug. 10, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance Aug. 8 at 8 p.m.

OrSVP is completely volunteer run and no one at the theater is paid. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of theater and would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225.

David Dierks can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.



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Orinda Starlight Village Players
Present

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

by
John Bishop

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Sunday, Aug. 4, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8, 8:00 p.m.
At the Outdoor Amphitheater, Orinda Community Center Park
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid). Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10

Mailing Address: Orinda Starlight Village Players,
4946 Santa Rita Rd., Richmond, CA 94803
www.orsvp.org
Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Starlight Dinner Theater Offer
Bring a receipt from an Orinda restaurant to the theater and get two regular theater tickets for the price of one. (Restaurant receipt must be from the same night as the performance. One discount per party.)

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Orinda Garden Club Shines at de Young's Bouquets to Art

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The creations of four Orinda floral designers shared a world-class stage last month when thousands of people streamed through the de Young Museums 35th Anniversary Bouquets to Art (BTA) exhibit.

The success of the event, which took place June 4-9, is due in part to its creative challenge: floral artists from far and wide are invited to peruse the museum's permanent collection and create a floral interpretation of the artwork that sparks their interest. According to Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF) Communications Associate Shaquille Heath, 48,000 people visited BTA in 2018.

It all began at the de Young in 1985 with 45 exhibitors who chose 46 artworks (one designer chose two) to create inspired floral arrangements referential to the artwork. In 2019, there were 115 floral artists, including the three from the Orinda Garden Club (OGC). The late Dee Seifert not only initiated OGC's involvement in the event 35 years ago but participated in it herself.

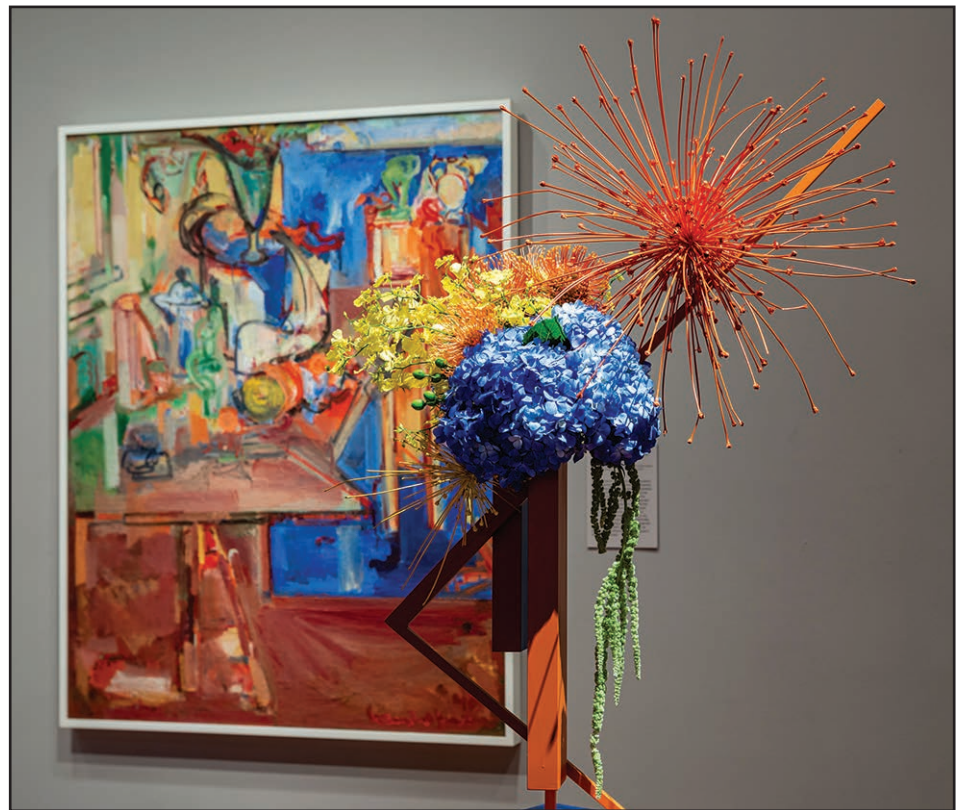
Phoebe Kahl and Diana Kennedy chose to create a floral design to complement Wayne Thiebaud's *Hill Street* (1987) because of its subject, colors and luminescence in Gallery 14.

Gail Emmons' floral design interprets the forms incised in *Petroglyph*, a 2nd century AD artifact in Gallery 20.

Mari Tischenko's angular design bursting with color was inspired by Hans Hoffmann's *Still Life with Fruit and Coffeepot* (1940).

"One of my favorite aspects of the Bouquets to Art is digesting, studying, feeling the art piece that I am given. I love to learn everything I can about the artist," says Tischenko. "I then enjoy isolating key parts of the piece — zeroing in on specific lines, color, spatial compositions. I try to deconstruct the paintings and then use those parts to translate into my own floral interpretation."

Proceeds from the event help underwrite exhibitions, conservation and education projects at FAMSF. It is presented by the San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Arts Museums. The de Young Museum is in Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden



DREW ALTIZER

Orinda Garden Club member **Mari Tischenko** created a floral tribute to Hans Hoffmann's *Still Life with Fruit and Coffeepot*, inspired by his planes of bold color and geometric line.

Drive, San Francisco. Learn more at <https://deyoung.famsf.org/bouquets-to-art>.

Read more about the designs and the inspiration behind them online at www.TheOrindaNews.com.

TheOrindaNews.com.

Reach Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.



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On the Calendar in July

- 1 **ConnectOrinda** View colorful graphics of ConnectOrinda project guidelines on Orinda Community Center walls through July 4 at 28 Orinda Way, near entrance way to Orinda Auditorium. See article p. 2.
- 2 **Orinda Books**, Find Waldo in Orinda Contest begins. During the month of July, kids can search for Waldo at participating Orinda stores, fill their passports with stamps, and enter the contest to win lots of Waldo books. Passports are ready to be picked up at the store now! The Find Waldo adventure ends with a pizza party Aug. 3 at 3 p.m. when winners will be announced and prizes distributed.*
- 3 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Also, July 8, 15, 22 and 29.*
- 3 **Cal Shakes**, presents *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht, Bruns Amphitheater, through July 21. 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Box Office 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org. See article p. 7.
- 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, July 13, 20, and 27. See article p. 19.
- 7 **Orinda Books**, 1 p.m. Summer Arts & Crafts Program. Also July 13, 20 and 27.*
- 7 **Orinda Library Art Gallery**, 2:30 p.m. artist reception featuring works by Jeanette Crawford Baird, Joanne Taeuffer, Kath Balamuth and Elaine and Rob Drew. See article p. 13.
- 7 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park presents *Flashback*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 9 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, July 11, 18 and 25.*
- 9 **Orinda Parks and Rec Movie in the Park**, Sunset, *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*.
- 9 **Orinda Theatre**, 7 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *Viva Las Vegas* lamorindatheatre.com. See article p. 14.
- 11 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The World Affairs Book Group will discuss *How Democracies Die*, by Levitsky & Ziblatt.*
- 13 **International Film Showcase** presents *Secret Ingredient*. One week engagement at the Rheem Theatre. www.internationalshowcase.org. See article p. 14.
- 13 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park present *Lamorinda Idol*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Also, July 8, 15, 22 and 29.*
- 13 **Orinda Parks and Rec Movie in the Park**, Sunset, *A Dog's Way Home*.
- 13 **Orinda Starlight Village Players**, 8:30 p.m. presents John Bishop's *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Runs through Aug. 10, Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Aug. 4, 4 p.m.; [SEE CALENDAR page 12]

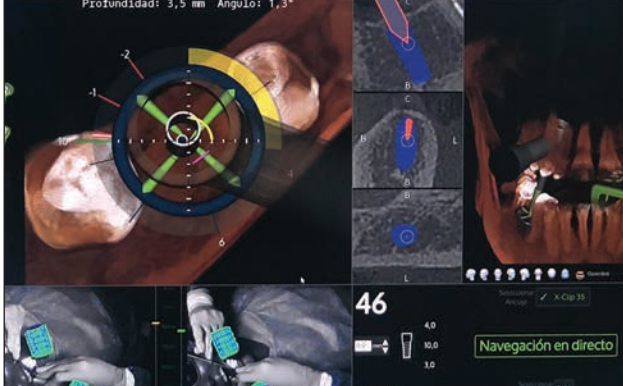


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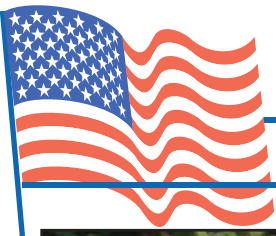
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Both of this year's Grand Marshals made lasting contributions to Orinda and its residents. **Ann Christofferson** was instrumental in establishing the Community Center, while **Bobbie Landers** (shown with fellow City Councilmember **Dick Heggie**) helped to organize The Orinda Association's first annual Fourth of July parade.

Pioneering Icons to Lead This Year's Best Hometown Parade

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Director

You often hear it before you see it. The wail of the bagpipes, the beat of the drums, the patter of many tiny, and not so tiny, feet on the pavement. Then, around the corner comes the colorful, joyous collection of people, floats and cars known as Orinda's annual hometown parade.

While "hometown" might seem a quaint

word to describe a parade in a wealthy suburb bordering the sprawling metropolis of the greater Bay Area, it perfectly fits this hometown event which attracts thousands of participants.

This year's Grand Marshals, Ann Christofferson and Bobbie Landers, harken back to the pioneers who put on Orinda's first parades. In 1976, Christofferson, an Orinda Association board member, headed a group of volunteers determined to start a community center in Orinda and commemorate our country's bicentennial at the same time. The energetic volunteers organized a Fourth of July parade, which included a street dance in front of Phair's Department Store. Funds raised benefited a proposed community center.

The OA had raised \$65,000 many years before for a local community center, and current board members were adding to that amount in the hopes of purchasing the Orinda School, which had been declared surplus property by the Orinda Union School District (OUSD).

The school district, however, wasn't convinced a community center was the best option for the historic site. A short-term rental was finally agreed upon with Christofferson and many other volunteers fixing the roof and repairing the facility to accommodate classes. The classes proved so popular that OUSD agreed to a lease/option to buy arrangement with The OA.

[SEE PARADE page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda's All Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band was a tradition in the making at an early Fourth of July parade in the 1980s. Seen here in front of the Orinda Theatre with the scaffolding for the future Theatre Square in the background.

ORINDA 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Best Hometown Parade

- 7:30 – 10 a.m. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast
Library Plaza at 26 Orinda Way
- 7:55 a.m. Flag-raising Ceremony
VFW Post #8063 raises the colors of our flag in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way
- 8 a.m. Fun Run For A Reason
Choose between a 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile timed run through scenic Orinda and EBMUD watershed.
- 8:45 a.m. Parade Participants Arrive for Assembly
Meet in BART parking lot on East Side of Camino Pablo
- 9 a.m. Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale
in the Library Breezeway, 26 Orinda Way, Plaza Level
EFO Big Band
Volunteer big band will entertain crowds in front of the Orinda Theatre
- 9:30 a.m. Parade Line-Up Begins
Parade participants travel from East BART parking lot to Wells Fargo at 80 Moraga Way
- 10:00 a.m. Parade Begins
Orinda Theatre District to Orinda Village District
- 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Park Activities
Free Park activities at the conclusion of the parade.
 - ★ Delicious Food and Beverage Booths
 - ★ Live Music
 - ★ Petting Zoo and Many Children's Activities
 - ★ Community Non-Profit Booths



For more information, please visit www.OrindaParade.com or call (925) 254-0800



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FOURTH OF JULY

★ Know Before You Go ★

- ★ Street parking will not be available along the parade route on Moraga Way or on Orinda Way. All other street parking is available, as well as Orinda BART's west parking lot. For handicapped parking, drivers may drop passengers off in front of the Community Center on Orinda Way until 9 a.m.
- ★ Street closures are planned from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. including: The Westbound Highway 24 on ramp (East side of Camino Pablo); Moraga Way from Wells Fargo Bank to the Davis Road intersection; a portion of Santa Maria and all of Orinda Way. Highway 24 access for both on and off ramps will remain available at St. Stephens Drive.
- ★ Volunteers from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will serve as Parade Route Monitors, helping to keep the parade moving and to ensure safety.
- ★ Porta potties, provided by Republic Services, will be on the North side of town in the Community Center parking lot and the East BART parking lot.
- ★ Are you a senior who needs seating at the parade? Village Associates Realtors and First Republic Bank are sponsoring a special place for you. To reserve space, call the Orinda Association at 925-254-0800.
- ★ Need more info? Visit OrindaParade.com or www.OrindaAssociation.org for updated information.



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Boy Scouts ensured flags were held high as they marched down Orinda Way in 2018.

After the Parade, Loads of Fun Planned at Community Center Park

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

When the last colorful float has passed and the last notes of the Orinda All-Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band have faded at the Fourth of July Parade, it's time to head over to Community Center Park for a plethora of activities.

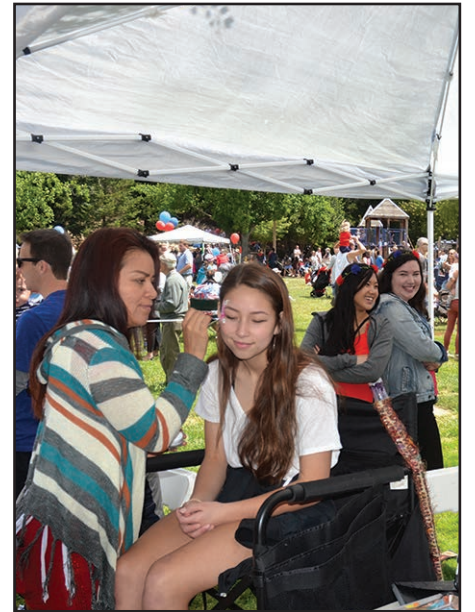
This year, the Orinda Association has collaborated with the Parks and Rec Department to organize lots of fun activities, music and food for all ages. Parks and Rec Director Todd Trimble and his staff have been busy for months organizing the popular event which begins at 11:30 a.m. with classic and contemporary rock songs by Three Day Weekend.

Children will find plenty to occupy their time including a jump house with a slide and a petting zoo. Caricaturist Big Al returns to thrill people with his creations while balloon twisters will create a variety of objects and animals. Of course, those wanting to sport some facial art can visit one of the face painting booths.

To add to the fun, children's activities, including arts and crafts, will take place at non-profit booths such as Lamorinda 4H Rocketry, Global Leadership Initiatives for Youth, GLIFY and Friends of the Orinda Creeks.

Young scientists will want to make a stop at the 4H rocket making booth. "The kids make rockets with paper and colored duct tape and get to launch them," says Lamorinda 4H volunteer Scott Stewart. "If made correctly they can go over 200 feet high. The kids love this because they can be very creative and get a cool looking rocket to take home."

Adjacent to the park, City Council members, representatives from the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, Republican and Democratic parties, Contra Costa County Clean Water Program and many more local clubs and organizations will welcome visitors to



SALLY HOGARTY

Face painters kept parade goers looking festive at last year's celebration in the park.

their booths. A speed boat, to be auctioned by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, will be on display as well.

Trimble urges everyone to "bring your family, your friends, your pooch, a picnic and don your favorite red, white and blue attire for the day. There also will be food to buy such as hot dogs, American and Czech beer, water and soft drinks, and Lord's Ice Cream."

The busy Parks and Rec director also notes the support from Orinda's Department of Public Works and the Police Department, along with the "invaluable" help from Orinda Association Parade Chairpersons Bill Waterman and Diane Lautz, as well as Kathy Enzerink and Cindy Powell.

"The Fourth of July is an Orinda tradition that not only celebrates Independence Day but also celebrates and creates 'community.' It is a happy day of events that truly has something for everyone," Trimble says.

Reach Bobbie Dodson at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.

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FOURTH OF JULY

13 Musical Groups Lined up to Entertain Throughtout the Day

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Whether it's hot jazz, an old-fashioned fiddle band or patriotic anthems that move you, the Fourth of July parade has it all and then some.

Thirteen musical groups will display their myriad talents before, during and after the parade, which begins at 10 a.m. in front of the Wells Fargo Bank on the Theatre District of Orinda.

Lewiston Jazz, a Berkeley-based instrumental quintet, starts things off before the parade on the Village District with jazz melodies, modal harmonies and funk grooves. On the Theatre side, the impressive young musicians in the EFO (Educational Foundation of Orinda) Big Band will entertain with big-band favorites in front of the Orinda Theatre.

The traditional call of the bagpipes signals the start of the parade thanks to Jonas Pauliukonis and his band of bagpipers and drums. Interspersed between the floats and classic cars, the wide-ranging musical entertainment continues including the popular MJ's Brass Boppers. The New Orleans-style band often is accompanied by the incredible Polly Pepper Stilt Walkers.

The Saints, St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band that is, will also energize parade-goers with their authentic New Orleans traditional jazz. Billed as the only authentic New Orleans Traditional Jazz Funeral and Mardi Gras Marching Band west of New Orleans, these feisty musicians play a variety of Zydeco, gospel, soul, blues, jazz and even country. Also playing New Orleans-style music is the Spirit of 29, which specializes in 1920's and '30's jazz popularized by Louis Armstrong.

For those who enjoy a more traditional

marching band, the award-winning Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps will display their marching precision and spirited musical renditions accompanied by their delightful tall flags' unit executing intricate dance maneuvers.

The always popular Orinda All-Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band will play early in the parade and again at the end when these dedicated volunteers appropriately conclude the parade with anthems from the various armed forces.

The abundance of young talent in the area will be evident as three local groups return to the parade. Under the leadership of James Fiatarone, the students of ALMA will share their prodigious talents as well as the young people from the Peter Pan Foundation. Dedicated to inspiring children of all ages to reach their full potential, the foundation will have a number of its members in theatrical costumes performing songs from hit musicals. Also marching are the Lamorinda Idol singers.

The East Bay Banjo Band has been a staple in the Orinda parade for many years, and this year is no exception. Dedicated to playing "happy" banjo music, the group has been around for more than 50 years.

Following the parade, you can get your groove on and pump up the heat with 3 Day Weekend in the Orinda Community Center Park. The 10-member party band will continue the Fourth of July celebration with a high energy mix of Motown, Funk, R&B and classic rock from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The band features musicians from the East Bay and San Francisco including vocalist and Orinda resident Ali Wegener.

"It's always special performing in our local park on the Fourth of July," says Wegener, who has lived in Orinda for 17 years. "It's such a wonderful commu-



SALLY HOGARTY

First formed over 50 years ago, the **East Bay Banjo Band** always lends a cheerful twang to the best hometown parade.

nity and a great place to raise a family. It's so beautiful here and the people are awesome."

According to Wegener, audiences can expect to hear the rocking melodies of Chicago, the Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, The B52s and much more.

"We play lots of great music that is fun to dance to. We've got singers, a horn sec-

tion, full rhythm and we have fun," says Wegener.

For more information, call The Orinda Association at 925-254-0800 or go online to www.orindaassociation.org or www.orindaparade.com.

Kathryn G. McCarty contributed to this article. Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Blue Devils Color Guard** will return to the parade again this year, twirling their flags to the rhythm of the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps.

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July 9 – FREE Concert in the Park, Flashback (70's & 80's), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 11 – FREE Movie in the Park, Lego Movie 2, begins at dusk

July 16 – FREE Concert in the Park, Lamorinda Idol (Variety), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 18 – FREE Movie in the Park, A Dog's Way Home, begins at dusk

July 23 – FREE Concert in the Park, Dirty Cello (Blues), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 25 – FREE Movie in the Park, Incredibles 2, begins at dusk

July 28 – FREE Concert in the Park, Opera in the Park, 5-7 p.m.

July 30 – FREE Concert in the Park, Vintage Juke-box (Swing Era Jazz), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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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FOURTH OF JULY



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- Co-Chairs:** Diane Lutz, Bill Waterman
- Co-Chairs, Decorations:** Dora Chacon and Melissa Karakash
- Co-Chairs, Volunteers:** Anil Comelo and Cara Hoxie
- Co-Chairs, Fundraising/Sponsors:** Bill Waterman, Kathy Enzerink
- Chair, Sound Systems:** Steve Harwood
- Announcers:** Steve Harwood, Bill Cosden, Scott Butler
- Chair, Music/Bands:** Cindy Powell
- Co-Chairs, Parade Operations:** April Stevens, Claire Roberts, Andy Radlow
- Chair, Pole Banners:** Susan Meyer
- Website:** David Dierks
- Co-Chairs, Publicity:** Sally Hogarty, Kathy Enzerink
- OA Float:** Boaz Levanda
- Chair, July 4 Run for a Reason:** Meghan Frey
- Chair, Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast:** Rich Shearer

◆ CALENDAR from page 8

- Aug. 8, 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.
- 23 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park presents Dirty Cello, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 24 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Random Readers will read and discuss *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende.*
- 25 **Orinda Parks and Rec Movies in the Park**, Sunset, *Incredibles 2*.
- 28 **Rotary Club of Orinda & Solo Opera**, 5 p.m. 11th Annual Opera in the Park at the Orinda Community Park. Free admission. For more info, cmroeder@comcast.net and www.soloopera.org.
- Orinda Idol**, 3 p.m. performance for finalists and runners-up at the Fourth Bore Bar and Grill, Theater Square.
- 30 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park present Vintage Jukebox, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 30 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon for Caroline Kurtz presents *A Road*

Called Down on Both Sides, her memoir that chronicles her childhood in Ethiopia to which she returned as an adult teacher. \$12. Call 925-254-7606 to make a reservation. *

* Orinda Books is located 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.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 of the month, 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@aspenconsult.net

◆ PARADE from page 9

“It was quite a time. We all just pitched in and did whatever needed to be done,” says Christofferson. “I’m so grateful to the OA for purchasing that seven-acre parcel. Without them, we wouldn’t have a community center or park, and the current library is also on that seven-acre parcel.”

Years later, another OA board member would put her own mark on Orinda with a parade. Landers remembered the sense of togetherness and pride she always felt at the Fourth of July parade in her hometown of Glen Ellyn, Illinois and thought such an event might work well in Orinda.

She and fellow board members, Dick Heggie and Bill Gross had been working tirelessly on incorporating Orinda into a city and thought a parade would be a fun way to educate residents on the pros and cons of establishing a local government. So, in 1984 they organized what would become the first of 35 annual parades in Orinda. Whether it was the parade, or all the other work done to encourage incorporation, Orindans voted on March 14, 1985 to become a city with Heggie as mayor and Landers, Joseph Harb, William Dabel and Aldo Guidotti as the first city council.

Sponsored by The Orinda Association since that fateful July 4, 1984, the parade continues to be a homegrown affair with parade entrants ranging from local Rotary Clubs to pre-schools to swim clubs to local families happily walking or tricycling the parade route.

Favorite entries returning this year include: Blue Devils C Corps Marching Band, New Orleans-style Brass Boppers, Peter Pan Foundation’s high school students in Disney costumes and, of course, the gorgeous classic cars and crazy swim team floats.

Lots of music will keep the parade energized starting and ending with the Orinda All Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band. (See page 11 for more information on both the music in the parade and in the park.)

Starting at 10 a.m. in front of the Wells Fargo Bank on the theatre side of Orinda, the parade winds its way under the freeway to the Orinda Community Center, where covered seating is available for seniors. Call 925-254-0800 to reserve a



SALLY HOGARTY
Crowds cheered for the float for **Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church** in last year’s parade.

spot. Joining the two grand marshals will be five junior marshals ranging from 3-12 years of age.

Early risers might want to begin the Independence Day celebration with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. Providing plenty of energy for the fun day, the breakfast runs from 7:30 – 10 a.m. The flag raising ceremony, performed by VFW Post 8063, takes place in front of the Community Center at 7:55 a.m. with the Fourth of July Run for a Reason starting at 8 a.m. (go to <https://raceroster.com/events/2019/21862/4th-of-july-run-for-reason>).

The Friends of the Orinda Library opens its popular book sale at 9 a.m. with the parade at 10 a.m. and a plethora of activities and music running from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Community Center Park (see story page 10).

For more information, check out the parade website at www.orindaparade.com and be sure you read “Know Before You Go” on page 10 and a complete calendar of Fourth of July events on page 9.

Fourth of July T-shirts and caps can be purchased prior to the parade at The Orinda Association (OA) office on the lower level of the Orinda Library. They will also be available at Parade Headquarters in front of the Community Center on July 4. The OA is accepting U.S. flag sponsors. Call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org for more information.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

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LIBRARY

Gallery: Illuminating Illustrations and the Art of Wandering

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Maggie Boscoe, Lamorinda Arts Council curator, invites the public to what she describes as, "A calm oasis known as the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library."

While summertime activities swirl all around, the July gallery offers a quiet alternative filled with creative work of painters Jeanette Crawford Baird and Joanne Taeuffer, illustrations and their books by Elaine and Rob Drew, plus paintings and painted wine bottles by Kath Balamuth.

There is an artists' reception 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. July 7 where light refreshments will be served. All the artists have a theme for their exhibit and will be available to answer questions.

Joanne Taeuffer of Berkeley began studying painting and speaking French about two decades ago. The two pursuits came together when she learned about something her instructor insists is inherent in the French culture: Baudelaire's 1863 conception of the *flâneur*. Its literal translation is to wander with no purpose. Thus Taeuffer and Baird's theme for this show was born, Becoming a 21st Century *Flâneur*.

Anyone who knows Baudelaire's oeuvre would agree that his definition of a *flâneur* contains hidden depths. One definition in

vogue today is the modern urban spectator who walks, strolls, observes and above all avoids artificial busyness.

Here is Taeuffer's best advice on how to become a 21st century *flâneur*: "1. Take a breath. 2. Give permission not to have purpose in what you are doing. 3. Go anywhere, slow down and try to see what you see, not what you think you ought to see. Think of this as 'deep seeing,' similar to 'deep listening.' There's looking, and there's seeing. A 21st century *flâneur* slows down and sees."

Summer is the perfect time to slow down, listen to music or take a swim. It calls to us in two of the 22 acrylic-on-canvas works Taeuffer is exhibiting, *Rockin' Out On The Bay* (36" x 48") and *Suiting Up* (30" x 40"). She is keenly interested in painting portraits with nuanced gestures that tell a story — no easy task. Depicting the quirky, the humorous and the surprising with lots of color keeps her busy. To learn more about what a 21st century *flâneur* paints, visit www.joannetaeuffer.com.

Baird, of Walnut Creek, has been painting for 12 years. "The French Impressionists were *flâneurs*," says Baird, "because they strolled the boulevards in Paris observing everyday life in a new way and then painted what they observed."

Baird wants people to know that her work reflects a deep belief that people see and experience life through different filters

or lenses. She says someone else's view isn't the only way to experience something; it can be seen differently by you. Her experience of summertime on the beach is one of repose and the centeredness nature can bring, something she works to portray in her paintings.

Speaking of summer, Baird's 30" x 40" *Path To The Beach*, — one of 22 oil paintings on canvas she is exhibiting — will make you want to wiggle your toes in warm sand.

Baird and Taeuffer are passionate about France and its culture. "Stepping away from the canvas to travel to see the world from a different viewpoint is how I keep my work fresh," says Baird. Go to www.jeanettebaird.com to see what she's working on and you'll know where she's been.

The Drews, of Pleasanton, are known for working together on books and illustrations. Elaine Drew's theme for her part of the show is illumination, as in the different forms and media that illustration can take. Rob Drew studied physics at the California Institute of Technology but his dual interest in astronomy and Greek mythology led Elaine to illustration. He wrote *Tales in the Night Sky* as an approachable introduction for families to star gazing, each constellation telling a story. When he needed an illustrator, Elaine rose to the task.

Last year, Elaine published *Courting Trouble*, a romantic comedy set in England in the year 801. Thus began a very big job that is so inspiring she expects it to keep her busy for years — creating illustrations for her novel.

She is showing four watercolor paintings and seven giclée prints that went into *Tales of the Night Sky*. She is also showing six [SEE GALLERY page 19]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A wine bottle is the artist's canvas in Kath Balamuth's *My Chickadee*, part of her Bala Bottles series.

Friends of the Orinda Library Donation Room Closed until July 4

The Orinda Library has too much of a good thing. Thanks to several recent large gifts, the donation and sorting rooms are overflowing. Library volunteers need time to process the materials. Those intending to donate books are being asked to wait until after the library's big Fourth of July sale. Meanwhile, if anyone is in need of a great book to take to the beach, the library can set you up!

The Orinda Library in July

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The library, 26 Orinda Way, will be closed July 4.

- Maker Monday.** 1 p.m. Whether it's Legos, a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children. Also, July 8, 15 and 22.
- Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Stories and songs for 1 to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. Room 8 in the Community Center. Also July 9, 16 and 23.
- Baby Storytime.** 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for newborns and pre-walkers (0 to roughly 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice. Families with older siblings please attend Toddler Storytime. No registration required. In Gallery Room. Also, July 3, 9, 10, 17, 16, 23 and 24.
- Paws to Read.** 3:30. Children in grades 1-5 can practice reading skills with a friendly dog. To sign up for a session please call or visit the library. Also July 9, 16 and 23. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- Orinda Writers' Group.** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers. Share two pages of your writing (any genre)

and get feedback from a supportive group. Group Study Room A. Also July 23.

- Computer Help.** 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Receive computing help from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus is on beginning users. Also, July 11, 18 and 25.
- Try it Truck.** 5:30 p.m. Get hands on experience with tools and technology. Solve problems with math, science and creativity. Come to the Garden Room patio for this engineering lab on wheels. No registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library
- Mystery Book Club.** 3 p.m. This month's selection is *Celine* by Peter Heller. Library Study Room A.
- The First Martians... Will Be Us!** 6:30 p.m. Sixty years ago, we had only faraway, grainy images of the Red Planet, and lots of fantasy and science fiction stories about aliens that might live there. Come and learn about what NASA has discovered.
- Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 p.m. Grown-up stories that are intriguing, humorous, thoughtful and entertaining Features a local storyteller with an open mic opportunity following.

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

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Opera in the Park Returns July 28

The Rotary Club of Orinda and Solo Opera are teaming up again this summer to bring top notch opera to Community Center Park. The free performance is 5 to 7 p.m. July 28 and showcases eight celebrated singers: sopranos Liisa Dávila and Diane Squires; mezzo-sopranos Silvie Jensen and Katja Heuzeroth; tenors Chester Pidduck and Stephen Cannon; and baritones William O'Neill and Bradley Kynard; with accompaniment by pianist Chun Mei Wilson. The concert will feature a mix of arias, duets, ensembles and musical theater favorites, including works from *Faust*, *Carmen*, *Porgy and Bess*, *La Bohème*, and *West Side Story*, with short explanations to introduce the stories behind the operas. Concert goers

are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics for open seating on the grass. All ages welcome. Orinda senior residents may call Seniors Around Town at 925-402-4506 to reserve a shaded seat. For more information about the performance, go to www.soloopera.org or contact cmroeder@comcast.net.



Mezzo-soprano **Katja Heuzeroth** is among the performers this year.

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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

STARS COME OUT IN THE SKY AND ON THE SCREEN THIS MONTH

Tom Westlake

I had initially thought that there might not be a column this month (or, at the very best, not so much of one) insofar as there was not as much to report. Certainly we still had (have) the Classic Film Showcase as well as the International Film Showcase but with the recent sale of the Rheem, that meant the Moraga Movers needed to put their program on hold, at least for the nonce. Let's hope they find a new home – or reclaim the old one. The movies they showed were always a delight.

The good news, however is plentiful as we not only have our regular programs but summer's Movies Under the Stars returns to the Orinda Park.

Starting July 11 (well after the smoke from the Fourth has cleared), you will be able to view *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*, and I guess the most surprising thing I can think of to say is how popular the first one was!

It would be easy enough to dismiss both the first and this one as nothing more than cash grabs but due to the high technical work that had to have gone into these films, not to mention the witty writing and voice talents (Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Jonah Hill among many others.) you, and the whole family, will find yourself engaged at the high adventure, this time from an alien invasion. It will start when dusk falls so make sure to get there early and stake out your patch of grass.

On that same day at the nearby Orinda Theatre, the Film Classics Showcase will present *Viva Las Vegas* starring the legendary Elvis Presley. In the film, he's a race car driver trying to put together enough money for a new engine, but to many, this one rises above all of his other films, mostly due to the presence of Ann-Margaret.

Most of the women who shared screen time with the King were little more than window dressing. Ann-Margaret was an already established talent (just a year earlier she had co-starred with Dick Van Dyke in *Bye, Bye Birdie* – an irony in itself as it echoed many aspects of Presley's life) and she manages to hold her own, matching Presley in nearly every regard, so you might say that there's double the talent on display. In any case, you'll be able to judge for yourself at 7 p.m. July 11. Free admission.

Bouncing back to the Rheem again, the International Film Showcase presents a film that, just by the impression left by the trailer, would be difficult to pin down, genre-wise. *Secret Ingredient* is a timely film insofar as it deals with a substance that's in the news these days, mostly due to its welcome (in many states) legalization.

In Greece, however, where this film hails from, marijuana is still very much a black-market drug and so, when the central character finds a stash of it and uses it for an entirely decent reason, the rightful owners are not at all subtle about their desire to get it back. Part *Breaking Bad*, part poignant human drama, part dark comedy, this is a film that warrants lengthy conversations. It will begin a possible two-week run at the Rheem starting on July 13. For more information and previews of this and coming attractions, please go to www.internationalshowcase.org.

Jogging our way back to Orinda Park again (and that's quite a jog but at least it's mostly downhill), we will spread out our blankets and unfold our lawn chairs for the next in the Cinema Under the Stars series with the 2019 film *A Dog's Way Home*.

Every generation needs a film like this and even though it's a familiar story – and you read variants of this story happening all the time in real life – it doesn't dilute its impact. This time, it's a female dog traveling across America for about 400 miles, and I don't think I'd be spoiling too much to say it's a journey fraught with peril, laughter, hope and all that other stuff that makes these movies special. It will show at the fall of dusk at the Orinda Park on July 18.

Next and, lastly, we once again find ourselves at the park, this time to witness the wonder that is *Incredibles 2* and as a long-time comic book collector, I cannot begin to tell you how delightful this film is.

It's a Pixar film and that alone should tell you that it's finely tuned in every regard, especially in the way it references nearly every comic book cliché imaginable, from reversed gender roles to mind control to domestic strife to heinous villains bent on world domination. It would also be worth your while to view the first one beforehand, if for no other reason than to see how Pixar has evolved and improved over the years, especially because this one takes place very soon after the first one, even though they came out nearly 14 years apart. So be there on July 25 and prepare to be amazed.

I encourage everyone to check out www.orindamovies.com for last-minute surprises and additions as well as www.caiff.org for the upcoming California Independent Film Festival which runs Aug. 23 to 31. Until then, stay in the dark (or if you're going to the park, wait until dark) for that's where the reel magic lies.

Reach Tom Westlake at poppinjay@earthlink.net

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STUDENTS

Creative Writing Contest Winners



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Audrey Lambert



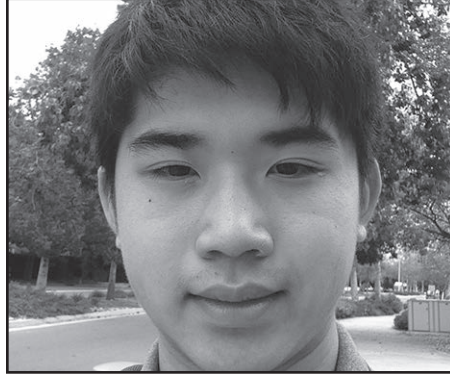
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julia Lima



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chaya Tong



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Lin

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

An abundance of writing talent marked the 2019 Poul Anderson Creative Writing contest as judges strived to select the top works from a bevy of well-written selections.

“We were completely blown away by the creativity and eloquence of every single submission,” said Elizabeth Perlman, one of the judges. “Every submission was moving and inspiring in its own way.”

After careful reading and discussion of the 42 entries, the judges selected the following works for top honors, which includes a \$500 prize:

Poetry - “A Newfound Mantra” by Julia Lima, Miramonte High School, Grade 11;

Essay/Memoir/Biography - “Cold September” by Chaya Tong, Miramonte High School, Grade 10;

Science Fiction/Fantasy - “A Means to an End” by Michael Lin, Miramonte High School, Grade 10;

Short Story - “Love in Color” by Audrey Lambert, Miramonte High School, Grade 10.

The following selections received Honorable Mention:

Poetry - “The Pineapple” by Mateo Robles, Miramonte High School, Grade 10;

Essay/Memoir/Biography - “Normal” by Tony Greif, Orinda Academy, Grade 12; “Ode to Tea” by Dana Kazmierowski, Miramonte High School, Grade 12;

Science Fiction/Fantasy - “Solstice” by Anika Grimsrud, Miramonte High School, Grade 11;

Short Story - “Astronaut Minnie” by Emma Rust, Miramonte High School, Grade 12.

To read the 2019 winners’ entries, go to [SEE WRITING page 17]

◆ ACALANES from page 1

ceeded state funding levels as well as the local property tax funding level. The district projects deficit spending in the 2018-2019 school year at just under \$2 million, and next year’s deficit is projected even higher, Nickerson said.

“The district is deploying its reserve to prevent cuts in programs. Acceptance of transfer students would result in high deficits and more rapid deployment of reserves,” he said.

The elimination of new transfer students, however, will not result in a staff reduction, Nickerson said. There will be fewer teachers next school year as the result of attrition, but not because of layoffs.

The new policy will impact the families of existing transfer students whose siblings will no longer be able to attend the same school. Nickerson acknowledged many families were upset by the decision.

Nickerson said officials considered how the decision would impact diversity at Acalanes but concluded it would result in less than 1 percent of change in students of color.

Sarah Morgan is a teacher/librarian at Campolindo High School and communications and membership chair of the Acalanes Education Association, the district’s teachers’ union. She lives in the Mount Diablo Unified School District but was able to have her daughter attend Campolindo through an interdistrict transfer.

“To have a successful school you need the funds. So if we’re not getting ADA (average daily attendance funds) from the state anymore, and we’re basic aid, then it doesn’t make a lot of financial sense to have kids in our school who we’re taking away from other districts,” Morgan said, pointing out that the home districts of transfer

students also lose out on funding when students transfer.

“We’re educating them for free and their home schools are not getting funds for them either,” she said.

Acalanes sees transfer requests from many surrounding communities, including Concord, Martinez, Oakland and Richmond.

In the 2018-2019 school year, 74 students from the West Contra Costa Unified School District were enrolled in Acalanes, according to Marcus Walton, district spokesman. The West County district has a total of 28,000 students.

Walton said families request transfers for a number of reasons, including parents’ jobs and commutes. Whatever the reason, Walton said, his district is prepared to offer the high-quality education families are looking for.

“We welcome them back,” Walton said.

Reach Simar Khanna at editor@TheOrindaNews.com.

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Five Graduate from Holden High School

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Friday, June 7, five seniors graduated from Orinda’s Holden High School: **Calvin van Eckhardt, Laela Balch, Andrew Bracken, Anya Upson** and **Peri Gould**. Mawiyah Johnson, the school’s marketing and fundraising manager, says, “We’re so proud of the fact that every Holden student leaves with a solid plan for their post high school life.”

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EVERYDAY ORINDA

Everyday  rinda
Game of Strokes
Summer. Is. Coming.

MIMI BOMMARITO



I'm late to the game. *Game of Thrones*, that is. I've somehow become a binge-watcher, a term I never envisioned owning. As I routinely put my entire life on hold each night to view as many episodes as possible, it makes sense: When I sat down to write about a beloved Orinda summertime tradition, rec swimming, all that echoed in my head was the majestic *Game of Thrones* theme song.

Recalling how Arya's death masks eerily resemble swim caps, it dawned on me – the annual OMPA (Orinda-Moraga Pool Association) swim meet actually IS like *Game of Thrones*. Every August since 1957, the memberships of nine local swim clubs converge at the King's Landing of pools, the Soda Aquatics Center on the Campolindo High School campus, right down the road from Casterly – I mean Painted – Rock.

The premises fill to capacity with lithe swimmer bodies – uniformed, goggled and scurrying in all directions. Devoted parents lumber behind the younger ones like the protective Brienne of Tarth, ensuring their charges make it safely to the Clerk of the Course on time, towel draped ceremoniously over one shoulder till they meet again, after the race, to congratulate or console.

Large, colorful tents adorned with mascots and banners dot the surrounding grassy sports fields. Still more colorfully festooned tents provide shade to the fanatic, cheering crowds in the poolside bleachers. Merchants peddle their wares: Cockles, clams and oysters are replaced by swim suits, toys and airbrush tattoos.

Many battles are fought at this annual competition. Obviously, every exciting race is a battle. But frazzled swim parents are fighting so many more: the Battle of the Early Morning Wake-up Call, the Battle of the Improperly Flipped Swim Cap, the Battle of the Necessary Sunscreen Application, the Battle Over the Last Remaining Parking Spot, and, of course, the ever-popular Battle of the I'm Not Buying You Another \$7 Shaved Ice.

And let us not forget our cast of characters:

House Orinda Country Club. OCC's mascot is a shark. Their swimmers outnumber the White Walkers and slaughter everybody. I write this good-naturedly, as it's long been accepted that the real battle amongst the swim clubs at OMPA every year is for second place. I would never last long in House Lannister with that attitude.

House Sleepy Hollow. They have dragons. Okay, technically their "Legend" mascot is a Sea Monster, but isn't that

just an aquatic version of a dragon? All female coaches should definitely be called Khaleesi.

House Meadow. Cersei with her bottomless goblet of wine would fit in well with my old mom gang here. Except that, you know, we'd all be sort of scared she'd kill someone over a DQ. Meadow's mascot is a dolphin. Not the most intimidating of sea creatures, but smart. Like Samwell Tarley.

House Orinda Park Pool, the OPP Sting Rays. Wise and faithful about applying sunscreen, they respect the Unburnt. This also applies to grilled cheese sandwiches from their cool treehouse snack bar.

House Moraga Valley Pool. The MVP Marlins know as well as anyone else, if you fail to remove wet items from a swim bag, you will always find Reek.

House Miramonte Swim Club. The Gators are also similar to swampy dragons. Small but mighty, they remain a force to be reckoned with, like the Night's Watch.

House Moraga Country Club. At evening meets, after the sun sets and the temperature suddenly plummets from "pleasant" to "North of the Wall," swimmers are grateful for the Waves' hot tub. Like OCC, it's also a country club, so we can order beverages on site instead of lugging our grog from home, as long as one remembers to bring along their pouch of gold.

House Campo Cabana Club. CCC's mascot is also the Marlins. Spoiler Alert: If we can have two Aegon Targaryens, I suppose we can have two marlins.

House Moraga Ranch. I'm surprised no one in the Seven Kingdoms faced death by piranhas. Perhaps in the sequel.

Any and all of these local swim clubs would be happy to provide tours and answer membership questions for those interested in joining. Rec swimming can get a little competitive at times, but it does seem undoubtedly safer than jousting.

Regarding the competitive aspect, at this juncture, like Tyrion, I'll impart my personal opinion, and try to pan it off as something "a wise soul once said."

Swimming, being a very precise sport with races calculated down to the nano-second, gives young athletes a marvelous opportunity to compete with their own personal best time, instead of whether they finish first, fourth or 24th.

The camaraderie of being a team member and all the summertime bonding activities provided a much-needed source of structure, as well as daily exercise and entertainment, for my family when the kids

[SEE EVERYDAY page 18]

◆ LETTERS from page 4

city as landlord to receive a portion of the rent received from the party in the position of TOW as tenant when the tenant sublets the landlord's premises to a third party.

As a symbolic gesture equivalent to poking a finger in the eye of (or making some other finger gesture towards) our local businesses, two days after the council meeting, one of the food trucks was a pizza truck – parked directly across from Village Pizza.

I acknowledge that the food truck event is as much about being a community get-together as it is a dining experience. Nevertheless, the council should not be enabling unfair competition by TOW against our small, local businesses that have served our community so well for many years.

The council and city manager have a right to terminate and/or amend the contract at any time. They should do so and change the day of the week to Tuesday.

– Nick Waranoff

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

If you are attending the Fourth of July Parade and Celebration, the Community Center will be open and displaying the project boards with each ConnectOrinda project's forecasted costs and possible funding source.

Take the time to see the project boards. To offer input, email afoster@cityoforinda.org. As you enjoy the July festivities, keep in mind the myriad issues that will have an impact in our community.

◆ WRITING from page 15

www.theorindanews.com.

Named in honor of science fiction writer and Orinda resident Poul Anderson and sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, the annual contest is open to students who reside in and/or attend high school in Orinda. For more information, go to www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

◆ PEREZ from page 2

tine, Fla., followed by rides from Quebec City, Canada, to Key West, Fla., in 2017 and from Astoria, Ore., to Portsmouth, N.H. in 2018.

Having traveled across the southern states, the northern states, as well as the East Coast, Perez is looking to complete his journey through the United States with this 1,800-mile ride down the West Coast.

More importantly, the cyclist says he wants to continue in his mission to support the Lazarex Cancer Foundation, which offers financial assistance directly to advanced-stage cancer patients, enabling them to access potentially life-saving treatments available through FDA clinical trials. He says he also hopes to spread awareness about the importance of breast cancer screenings and early detection, as well as clinical trials as a treatment option.

Last year, Perez raised more than \$8,500 for the foundation and this year his goal is \$10,000.

Perez will begin his ride July 14 and plans to arrive in Tijuana on Aug. 20. To donate in support of Laura's Ride or to follow Perez on his trip, go to <http://laurasride.org/>.

Reach Lynn Kalmar at assistanteditor@theorindanews.com.

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BOOKS

◆ BUZZ from page 20

ranked 63rd in the world at the height of his competitive career. Sandesh's father competed in the Olympics, represented Nepal on the national team in three world championships and earned a bronze medal in the U.S. Open.

Drath, who grew up in Orinda, is a fourth degree black belt; Gurung senior was his first international level coach. At the end of his competitive career Drath was ranked 112th in the world for his weight class. He was the alternate to represent the U.S. national team in the world championship and has five national medals, while placing in the top eight of his weight class for over a decade.

Kris Uy, who trained with Drath as a youth, is now Drath's training partner and an instructor. He was the heavy weight national team member for the Philippines and was undefeated nationally for seven years straight. He won the Swedish Open and at the height of his career was ranked 23rd in the world for his weight class. All instructors cross train in a variety of ways including boxing, wrestling, judo and more.

The delivery of what is taught, says Studio Administrator Jason Alvelais, is done in a very structured and precise way. "For example, instructors are well versed in age-appropriate modification of the training for young children's classes. There the emphasis is to use their training as a vehicle for life skills development. They learn character habits that eventually turn into life skill sets they will carry with them for the rest of their lives," says Alvelais.

The studio is at 1 Orinda Way, Suite 6. For more information call 925-386-6310,

email lmastkd@gmail.com or go to <https://tkdlmas.com> for class schedules.

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

◆ EVERYDAY from page 17

were young. Adolescents are provided with employment opportunities through coaching, childcare and swim lessons.

I forgave the sport for all of the volunteer obligations saddled onto the parents. The teams of chain-dragging White Walkers understood that dragon wasn't going to hoist itself out of the frozen lake. The benefits far outweighed the work involved. I can say this only because, like childbirth, one forgets the pain and remembers only the joy.

Finally, I am well aware that *Game of Thrones* is a violent and totally inappropriate show for children, and I am in no way suggesting they view it – this little flight of fancy is only for the adults. But if anyone has ever appreciated the speeches of John Snow motivating his troops, they will understand the kindling of spirit and the esteem-building power when children from 5 to 18 unite and work toward a common goal.

At the end of July, when one sees all the vehicles in town adorned with clever aquatic mascots and motivational window decoration, you'll know why: (Cue theme song.) Summer. Is. Coming. August 2-4, 2019. Free of charge and general public welcome.

Reach Mimi Bommarito at mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com

Between the Lines
Best Bets for Summer Reading

Maria Roden, Orinda Books



It's that time of year again when our reading habits shift gear a little. The newspapers, Sunday supplements and public radio have all been doing their bit with lists of summer reads, and at Orinda Books, we have been busy helping customers choose books to take with them to the cabin, the pool, or on that long flight (and wait at the gate).

There is an assumption that we all want something different this time of year and of course this can mean different things to different people. For some, it's simply the top selling page-turner. This hands-down is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (we have sold over 200 copies) but *Rules for Visiting* by Jessica Kane Francis and *Normal People* by Sally Rooney are more recent releases that are hot at the moment, too.

For others, it's a biography or political book they have not had the time to dedicate to during their busy working week. Our history table at the store is piled high with extensively researched and beautifully written tomes including *The British Are Coming* by Rick Atkinson, *The Pioneers* by David McCullough, *Our Man* by George Packer and Stephen Budiansky's *Oliver Wendell Homes*. All should satisfy most non-fiction buffs.

We are frequently asked for suggestions for novels or memoirs set in the country a customer is visiting. Some of our favorites here include *My Family and Other Ani-*

mals by Gerald Durrell set on the Greek Island of Corfu in the 1930s and *In A Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson which chronicles the authors trip to Australia. Both are hilarious and informative.

For Italy, we love *The Italian Party* by Christina Lynch set in 1950s Sienna and for France, Peter Mayle is always a good bet, but we also recommend *A Bite Sized History of France* by Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell, and any of the short novels by Antoine Laurain. His latest *Vintage 1954* is funny, charming and at 200 pages just perfect for slipping in your hand luggage.

My first thoughts when anyone utters the phrase "summer reading" are of my 17-year-old self lying on my stomach on a crowded beach slavered in far-too-low factor sun oil, with a fat, rather low brow novel resting on the sand (the spine about to give in, pages yellowing from the heat and grease marks on the cover).

After half an hour or so, I would flip over, the book became a sun shield for my face and I continued reading and getting a tan on my front. Except I never got that tan (I burned easily) and invariably the book fell apart before I finished it from a combination of salt water, sand and bending the binding back too far in an attempt to keep it on the page I was reading.

And half the time I wasn't actually reading the book at all but pretending to as I self-consciously scanned the beach for good-looking boys or other female bodies to compare to my own. But that was me back in the '70s escaping the rain and dreary skies of Manchester, England, and roasting on the shores of the Mediterranean. Those fat mass-market "airport books" are far too hard to read these days with their tiny print and my choice of reading has changed. Today the sunbathing is out and any reading is done under an umbrella in the shade with a wide-brimmed hat.

So what's in my summer reading pile? I can't wait to read *On Earth We are Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong, *Underworld* by Robert Macfarlane, *Black Death at The Gold Gate* by David K. Randall and Alexandra Fuller's latest memoir - *Travel Light, Move Fast*. Her first *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* was a beautifully written account of her childhood growing up in Rhodesia. Happy summer reading everyone! We'd love to hear what's on your list.



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AROUND TOWN



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Fire up the Grill for Fruits and Vegetables

BARBARA KOBSAR



Best hint for grilling all types of fruit is to use indirect heat (heat produced around the edge of the grill or when the coals have begun to die out) so the natural sugars in the fruit do not burn. You want the fruits caramelized for flavor. A little sprinkle of cinnamon, lemon juice or brown sugar near the end of the cooking time is a plus. Let cool for a few minutes before eating or use in crumbles, salads, salsas or filled with a dollop of ice cream or goat cheese.

Five Favorite Fruits For Grilling

Peaches: Cut in half lengthwise, remove the pit and brush lightly with melted butter or oil. Place cut side down on grill, cook for about 6 minutes. Turn and cook about 2 more minutes.

Apricots: Cut in half and remove pit. Small fruits (like apricots, grapes) are easier to grill if placed on a skewer so that they lay flat. Baste with butter, place on grill cut side down and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Turn and cook 1 minute more.

Pears: Cut in half lengthwise, remove stem and seeds. Lightly coat with butter and cook for 4 to 5 minutes, turning once.

Figs: Cut in half lengthwise and coat the cut side with a little olive oil. Place cut side down on grill and cook 5 to 6 minutes.

Melons: Two methods work well here. Slice the melon (firm fleshed work best) into thick 1-inch slices and remove the inner ring of seeds. Brush with butter or oil and place on grill. Cook 5 to 6 minutes turning frequently. Or cut melon into 1-inch cube pieces, brush with oil or butter and place on skewers to cook for 3 to 4 minutes.

Vegetables are grilled over direct medium heat (they're sturdier than fruits). Some of the moisture in the vegetables evaporates as they're grilled and produces a vegetable with more intense flavor.

Five Favorite Vegetables For Grilling

Corn: Pull back husks (do not remove) and remove silk. Fold husks back up on corn and tie with kitchen string. Place in a sink of water and soak for 20 to 30 minutes. Shake off water and place on grill for about 20 minutes, turning every 5 minutes or so.

Eggplant: Trim ends off eggplant and slice (crosswise or lengthwise) into ½ inch thick pieces. Sprinkle with salt, place in colander and let drain for about an hour. Blot on paper towels. Brush with oil and grill 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Bell Peppers: Cut peppers in half lengthwise and remove stem, seeds and white rib areas. Brush with olive oil and cook for 5 to 6 minutes, turning once. Grill until peppers just start to shrivel and have a little char on them.

Onion: Remove papery outer layer and cut onion into one half inch thick slices. Brush with oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook for 7 to 8 minutes, turning once using tongs.

Tomatoes: Cut tomatoes in half crosswise. Hold over a bowl and remove some of the pulp and seeds. Brush tomato with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and place cut side down on grill. Cook about 4 minutes. Remove to serving plate using a spatula to turn them cut side up and sprinkle with chopped fresh basil.

The Orinda market is open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. For more information, go to www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the Jam Stand at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market (CCCFM) Association Board of Directors.

◆ GALLERY from page 13

gouache paintings inspired by *Courting Trouble* as well as gouache paintings that make up a four-page cartoon based on one of the tales in the book. Visit Elaine's website, an illustrated blog, at <https://courtingtrouble.blogspot.com>.

Balamuth, of Orinda, received a BA in Design from UC Berkeley. "I nibbled around the edges of the art world by owning and operating an art store in Orinda (1985-1997). Now, in my eighth decade, I consider myself an 'emerging artist' and plan to continue learning and creating art for the rest of my life — or as long as I am

able," says Balamuth.

She is showing 20 works including paintings from her Succulent Succulents Series, first shown in October 2018, along with her new series of painted wine bottles. Keep up with Balamuth at www.kathbalamuth.com.

The gallery is at 26 Orinda Way and open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on July 4. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

Reach Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.

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Fitness Tip of the Month

Evolution and Fitness

The process of becoming fit is conceptually simple and applies to everybody. It spans the spectrum of people, from the sick and frail to professional athletes. Age and/or condition are irrelevant because the process is individualized. It is simply an evolutionary process which takes place in the presence of a challenge that our bodies are not currently capable of handling. When faced with this challenge, multiple times our bodies evolve, develop muscle, lose fat, increase cardiovascular capabilities, whatever is needed. So if you want an effective workout, no matter your age or your fitness level, start trying to do something you can't do.



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

Lamorinda Arts Council to Open Art Gallery at Wilder

The Art Gallery at Wilder opens July 6 with its first artist reception. In cooperation with the city, Lamorinda Arts Council board member **Denise Nomura**, right, is handling curation of the monthly exhibits with the help of Aniston-Maylee Breslin. The first featured artist is Judy Chamberlin of Walnut Creek, known for her large-scale oil and acrylic paintings including figurative work such as portraits, animals and murals plus expressive biomorphic abstracts. The solo show sets the tone for future exhibits which are scheduled to rotate on the first of every month. A public artist reception takes place on July 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The gallery is at 20 Orinda Fields Lane. For more information regarding Lamorinda Arts Council or to donate toward curation of the Art Gallery at Wilder, go to www.lamorindaarts.org or email info@lamorindaarts.org.



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live lean

living lean.



by Sheena

What's More Effective for Fat Loss than Counting Calories? Not Counting Calories!

Simply reducing calories is

- Deprivational and makes us hungrier for more fattening foods later
- Doesn't focus on providing us with the vitamins and nutrients we need to be healthy
- Doesn't provide us with the lean protein we need to build muscle and keep our metabolism optimized
- Doesn't ensure that we are consuming the types of carbohydrates that keep our blood sugar regulated and that don't get stored as fat but used as fuel

Diets only work for a few pounds and a very short duration of time.

Personal Training and Nutrition
Orinda and Lafayette

Check out our Yelp Reviews at

www.livingleanprogram.com



Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



Fire Ready: Fire Fuel Reduction Management

Tim Opdyke is a third-generation Orindan with 20 years of experience as a firefighter so he knows a bit about what fires do from the ground up and how to stop them.

He opened Fire Ready (FR) in May with offices in Orinda because he has kids at Miramonte High School. Few people would disagree that there is a real threat of fire in Lamorinda. Opdyke offers resources and crews staffed by experienced local experts who understand how to create defensible spaces to help save houses.

He recommends that in general annual grasses and weeds be trimmed by the end of the rainy season. After that, throughout the year people need to open up their thick understory, canopy of trees and perennial shrubs. Good timing for this is in the months of December, January and February



ELANA O’LOSKEY
Fire Ready owner **Tim Opdyke** works with his team to assess fire risk and provide fuel reduction for individual homes.

as it’s easier to do the work in cool weather.

Fire season begins at the end of the rainy season, anywhere from April through May. Some city ordinances list specific dates when abatement work must be completed; for example, in Orinda it is June 15. It seems most people’s resources for clearing their property in preparation for fire season consists of what Opdyke calls “mow and blow” gardeners for weed removal or tree experts who want to take out trees. He believes those practices are inadequate preparation whereas what FR offers is comprehensive.

FR gives homeowners an individual consultation of their property and a bid to get the work done. The plan could include cutting back weeds, grass and vegetation, reducing fire fuel laddering, removing combustible material, trimming or removing trees, checking exterior vents, eaves and decks and cleaning roofs and gutters. They keep track of local ordinances to ensure home owners are in compliance.

Opdyke says he wants people to know about the National Fire Protection Association’s Firewise USA program which teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together to take action to prevent losses. Visit www.nfpa.org for more information.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, created an app called Ready For Wildfire. It provides alerts on active wildfires and is available at the App store and on Google Play. Find out more at www.readyforwildfire.org.



ELANA O’LOSKEY
Young students of Taekwondo exchange bows with their instructor **John Drath**, owner of the Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio in Orinda.

For more information on Fire Ready, call 925-222-5939, email fireready@fireready.co/ or go to <https://fireready.co/>.

Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio

On any Thursday night from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., you’ll find owner/operator John Drath and one of his adult women black belt assistant instructors teaching a free drop-in self-defense class for women at the Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio (LMAS) in Orinda.

Their aim is to develop each woman’s physical arsenal of technique and movement as well as heightened environmental awareness techniques and knowledge of proven defense safety.

They say their goal in providing a fun and safe place for women to learn self defense is that each woman feels empowered and confident. The only requirement is filling out a release form and wearing appropriate

athletic clothing that allows for martial arts movement and exercise.

Drath says he and his team operate under the motto “Be the change you want to see.”

LMAS has offered Taekwondo classes in a spacious studio for children and adults, daytime and evening, year round since 2002. Drath and staff members have primary experience in Olympic style Taekwondo. All have extensive experience competing in world-class martial arts organizations and leagues sanctioned by the Olympic committee. The committee has competitions and teams from more than 300 countries. Tens of thousands of competitors all over the world train and compete each year to represent their countries in international competition.

Head instructor Master Sandesh Gurung is a fourth degree black belt and represented Nepal on its national team and was

[SEE BUZZ page 18]

Orinda Motors Presents



The 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,

September 6th, 5:30pm

“DANCING WITH THE CARS”

Produced by Orinda Rotary/Presented by Mechanics Bank

Saturday,

September 7th, 10am–3pm

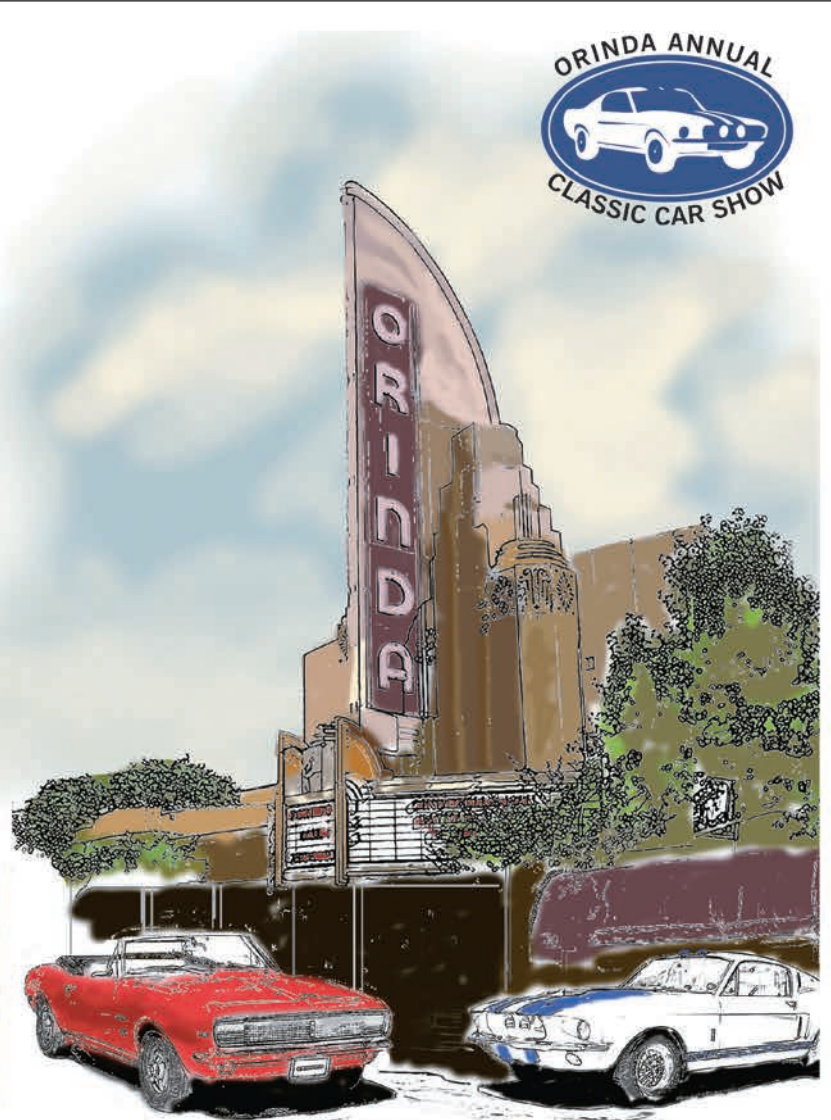
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW Exhibitors’ Sponsor Alliant Insurance

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!
Register online today!

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.