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Lafayette Little League Challenger Division

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810 Acalanes Rd	3644A Happy Valley Rd (3x)	3934 Leroy Way	1245 Panorama Dr (2x)	1164 Upper Happy Valley Rd
3637 Baker Ln	3654 Happy Valley Rd (4x)	33 Los Arabis Circle (2x)	1253 Panorama Dr	1178 Upper Happy Valley Rd
5 Black Forest Ct (2x)	3666 Happy Valley Rd	3940 Los Arabis Drive	3921 Quail Ridge Rd	1195 Upper Happy Valley Rd
1225 Cambridge Dr (2x)	3675 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	3963 Los Arabis Drive (4x)	3924 Quail Ridge Rd	1201 Upper Happy Valley Rd (4x)
110 Camellia Ln	3676 Happy Valley Rd	3980 Los Arabis Drive (2x)	1103 Rahara Dr (2x)	1203 Upper Happy Valley Rd
125 Camellia Ln (2x)	3683 Happy Valley Rd	3984 Los Arabis Drive	4 Rancho Diablo Rd	1216 Upper Happy Valley Rd
1140 Camino Vallecito	3702 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	4004 Los Arabis Drive	10 Rancho Diablo Rd (2x)	1223 Upper Happy Valley Rd (2x)
1207 Camino Vallecito (3x)	3724 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	4016 Los Arabis Drive	1268 Redwood Ln	1258 Upper Happy Valley Rd (2x)
3955 Canyon Rd	3788 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	4020 Los Arabis Drive	869 Revere Rd	1137 Vallecito Ct
4120 Canyon Rd	3790A Happy Valley Rd	4026 Los Arabis Drive	876 Revere Rd	1141 Vallecito Ct
4123 Canyon Rd	3794 Happy Valley Rd	4125 Los Arabis Drive (4x)	3717 Rose Ct	1145 Vallecito Ct
9 Chapel Dr	3820 Happy Valley Rd	4150 Los Arabis Drive (3x)	1231 Rose Ln (4x)	8 Valley High (2x)
26 Cossio Ct (2x)	3826 Happy Valley Rd	7 Maloyan Ln	3904 S. Peardale Dr	1061 Via Alta
3966 Cowan Rd (2x)	3828 Happy Valley Rd	4061 Marianne Dr	3936 S. Peardale Dr	1066 Via Baja
1162 Crescanta Ct	3829 Happy Valley Rd	3725 Meadow Ln	3940 S. Peardale Dr	1086 Via Media
30 Crest Rd (2x)	3838 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	3729 Meadow Ln (2x)	3943 S. Peardale Dr	1037 Via Nueva (3x)
32 Crest Rd	3840 Happy Valley Rd	1171 Monticello Rd	3953 S. Peardale Dr	1101 Via Roble
3716 Crestmont Pl (5x)	3890 Happy Valley Rd	1185 Monticello Rd	3969 S. Peardale Dr	115 Wilderness Ln
16 Deer Trail	3915 Happy Valley Rd	1215 Monticello Rd	4021 S. Tilden Ln	116 Wilderness Ln
33 Deer Trail (2x)	3921 Happy Valley Rd	2 Moss Ln	4025 S. Tilden Ln (2x)	15 Woodbury Highlands Ct #21
1030 Dolores Dr	4015 Happy Valley Rd (2x)	12 Moss Ln	4033 S. Tilden Ln	105 Woodbury Highlands Ct #25
1200 Estates Dr	4022 Happy Valley Rd	3932 N. Peardale Dr	3728 Saint Francis Dr	70 Woodbury Highlands Pl #20
3958 Franke Ln	4030 Happy Valley Rd	3978 N. Peardale Dr	3740 Saint Francis Dr	1001 Woodbury Rd #101 (2x)
1089 Glen Rd	4034 Happy Valley Rd	1141 N. Thompson Rd	3741 Saint Francis Dr	1001 Woodbury Rd #201 (2x)
1148 Glen Rd	4041 Happy Valley Rd	3678 Nordstrom Ln	7 Sessions Rd	1002 Woodbury Rd #202
1154 Glen Rd	4045 Happy Valley Rd (3x)	3687 Nordstrom Ln (2x)	10 Sessions Rd	1002 Woodbury Rd #302 (2x)
1168 Glen Rd (3x)	4090 Happy Valley Rd	3695 Nordstrom Ln	12 Sessions Rd	1008 Woodbury Rd #202
1182 Glen Rd	1126 Hidalgo Ct	9 Northridge Ln	1092 Sierra Vista Way	3926 Woodside Ct
1198 Glen Rd	9 Hidden Valley Rd (2x)	1087 Orchard Rd	3471 Sky Ln	3939 Woodside Ct
1204 Glen Rd (2x)	12 Hidden Valley Rd	3810 Palo Alto Drive	1019 Sunnybrook Dr	3944 Woodside Ct
634 Glorietta Blvd	4163 Hidden Valley Rd	3815 Palo Alto Drive	22 Toledo Ct (2x)	3951 Woodside Ct (2x)
644 Glorietta Blvd	1074 Laurel Dr	3842 Palo Alto Drive	1083 Upper Happy Valley Rd (3x)	3963 Woodside Ct (2x)
3629 Happy Valley Ln (2x)	1092 Laurel Dr (2x)	1242 Panorama Dr	1135 Upper Happy Valley Rd (3x)	

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PREMIER KITCHENS



Hello Lafayette!

April always feels like a fresh start. The days are longer, and you can feel the energy building across town.

In this issue, we feature the **Lafayette Little League Challenger Team**, a program that celebrates players of all abilities. We also honor **Carol Singer**, Lafayette's 2026 Citizen of the Year, whose decades of steady, thoughtful leadership have helped shape the parks, trails, and civic life we enjoy today.

As Earth Day reminds us to care for the place we call home, we share **Chuck**

Silva's gray water system, a smart, practical way to conserve resources right here in Lafayette. We also celebrate 170 years of **Lafayette United Methodist Church** — a living piece of Lafayette's history — and the presence it has been for generations of families.

And in this month's business spotlight, we feature and celebrate **Visiting Angels Walnut Creek**, highlighting the compassionate care and dignity they bring to local seniors and their families.

We hope you enjoy all of the stories we have the honor to share with you in this issue.



Our February Greet Lamorinda Lunch was at Town Bakery & Cafe in Moraga. Photo by Jodi Foucher

Your *Greet Lafayette* Team
Lamorinda@n2co.com
GreetLafayette.com

Greetings from Mayor Anduri



One of the many things I love about Lafayette is our commitment to the environment. April is Earth Month — a perfect time for each of us to consider what we personally can do to build a more sustainable community.

You can find information and inspiration at the Lafayette Earth Day Festival, which is organized by Sustainable Lafayette. Join us Sunday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lafayette Plaza to meet individuals, organizations and vendors committed to the environment. The Earth Day Festival is a very lively family event.

During 2026 and 2027, the City will encourage and support one simple habit that can make a big difference: placing more food scraps in the green cart instead of the landfill cart.

The City has worked closely with RecycleSmart, our local agency that manages garbage, recycling and composting, to determine that this one choice can make the biggest positive impact with the least effort. A study conducted by RecycleSmart in 2025 found that less than half of the food scraps Lafayette residents discard are being placed in the green cart. If we can increase the percentage of food scraps placed in the green cart to 75%, it would be equivalent to taking 200 cars off the road for a year — every year.

You will hear more about this effort, but Earth Month is the perfect time to start forming new habits.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for future topics for the Mayor's column at canduri@lovelafayette.org.

YOUR GREET LAFAYETTE CONTRIBUTORS & TEAM

Thank you to everyone who made this special issue possible!



Marci and Gavin Semain
Student Life



Laurel Anne Hill
LUMC



Chuck Silva
Learning & Education



Carol Singer
Meet Your Neighbor



Sia and Kareena
Pets With Personality



Jamie Polson
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Visiting Angels
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You Are Invited!

Join fellow business owners and professionals for networking opportunities. Lafayette and Moraga residents, along with *Greet* business partners, are invited to the following networking events.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Greet Happy Hour (5 - 7 pm)
Western Flyer Brewing,
3660 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Greet Networking Lunch (11:30 am - 1 pm)
Lou's Chicken Shop,
376 Park St., Moraga
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BY INVITATION

Greet Restaurant Tastings

Residents and participating business partners come together to make friends and enjoy delicious food! Residents can email Lamorinda@n2co.com to be added to the invite list.

Greet Gatherings

Select *Greet* business partners are invited to participate in conversations about different opportunities and developments throughout Lamorinda. Email Christine.Raymond@n2co.com to learn about becoming a business partner.

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The Challenger community gathers on Opening Day.

LAFAYETTE LITTLE LEAGUE'S CHALLENGER DIVISION

Building Community, Confidence, & Compassion

BY KATE BEROLZHEIMER
PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY



Skip Tague with his daughter. He and Andy Ratchford have coached the Challenger Giants since 2014.



The team huddles for a cheer.



Headed to first!

The Lafayette Little League Challenger Division is in full swing, offering individuals with physical or intellectual challenges the chance to play baseball in a supportive, welcoming environment. The 2026 season kicked off in March and is already bringing teamwork, skill-building, and fun to the field.

“My son, Gavin, adores being part of a TEAM,” says Marci Semain, Challenger parent and Lafayette Little League Fundraising and Sponsor Chair. “This opportunity wouldn’t be possible without Lafayette Little League.”

Each season, the Little League Challenger Division draws a roster of more than 20 players, serving athletes ages 4 to 18, or up to 22 if still enrolled in school. The Senior League Challenger Division welcomes players ages 15 and older, with no maximum age.

The program offers far more than the chance to play ball. Participants gain confidence, stay physically active, and form meaningful connections within the Lafayette community. A hallmark of the initiative is the “Buddy Program,” which pairs Challenger athletes with volunteer buddies, often peer athletes from the Little League Baseball or Softball program, who assist with batting, base running, and defense as needed.

Andy Ratchford, who has coached the Lafayette Challenger Giants alongside Skip Tague since 2014, notes that the program enriches everyone involved. “The Lafayette Little League does a great job of welcoming and embracing the Challenger program,” he says. “AAA and Major Team players and coaches help out with practices. It has also provided a great outlet for siblings and other local volunteers to get involved with a meaningful program.”

For many families, the Challenger program has become a cherished tradition. Skip Tague’s daughter has participated for 13 years, and despite finding baseball skills difficult, “she bubbles with enthusiasm during baseball season,” he says. Both Coach Tague and Coach Ratchford have daughters on the team, making it a family-centered experience. “The program has been a very special part of our family,” Ratchford reflects.

Learn more about the Challenger program at lafayettelittleleague.org and join the fun!

Special thanks to Realtor Brian Rochford of Rochford Real Estate for sponsoring our Student Life section.

“The Challenger program provides an inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.”

— COACH ANDY RATCHFORD



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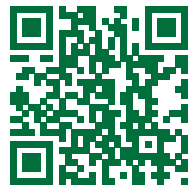
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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LAFAYETTE

Decades of Community Impact

BY CHERYL NOLL, PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LAFAYETTE

FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, the Community Foundation of Lafayette (CFL) has partnered with generous local donors like you and outstanding local nonprofits to improve lives throughout Lafayette and surrounding communities. Since its founding, CFL has awarded more than 500 grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to these deserving nonprofits. At the heart of CFL's mission is supporting organizations that enrich the lives of seniors, provide vital human services, celebrate arts and culture, and nurture youth through education and developmental programs.

CFL works hand-in-hand with these inspiring organizations, listening to their stories, understanding their challenges, and responding swiftly when needs arise. Through the Excellence Grants program, CFL helps dedicated partners continue their meaningful work. What sets CFL's approach apart is the time taken to truly know each one of these organizations. The passionate grants committee connects personally with every applicant, ensuring that donor generosity creates the greatest possible difference right here at home.

When community members support the Community Foundation, they join a network of caring individuals making real change possible. Each gift touches countless lives through trusted organizations like Trinity Center, which opens doors of opportunities and offers safety net services, case management, and housing support for adults experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Empowered Aging educates and partners with older adults and people with disabilities to best meet their unique needs. Pledge to Humanity mobilizes and encourages children and adults to volunteer and improve the quality of life for families and seniors through local and global initiatives.

Watch your mailbox for CFL's April Mailer and learn about the 2026 Excellence Grants cycle in detail. **Any gift made before May 1** will go directly to this year's grant cycle supporting these local champions of change.

CFL invites the community to help make Lafayette an even better place to call home. Together, lives are being changed throughout Lafayette and the surrounding communities.

You can mail your gift to Community Foundation of Lafayette, PO Box 221, Lafayette, CA 94549. Scan the QR Code to give online at CFLafayette.org and to sign up for CFL's newsletter where you will learn more about local nonprofit impact made possible because of generous Lafayette residents like yourself.



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Senior Care

ROOTED IN DIGNITY



Roshmi (left) with team members Julia and Martonie.

PHOTO BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY

When it comes to caring for aging loved ones, families in central Contra Costa County have a remarkable resource in Visiting Angels Walnut Creek. Led by owner Roshmi Mukherji, whose personal and professional journeys converge in this meaningful work, Visiting Angels has redefined what in-home senior care can look like, blending analytical precision with heartfelt compassion.

At its core, Visiting Angels is built on a simple but powerful belief: every senior deserves to age with dignity. The agency serves communities across the county, bringing what Roshmi describes as a “professional firm” approach to an industry that too often struggles with consistency and communication. Through her signature “Human Algorithm,” caregivers and clients are matched not just by availability or skill set, but by deep personality compatibility. The right connection makes all the difference.

The story behind Visiting Angels is as inspiring as the care it delivers. Growing up in Calcutta, Roshmi was shaped by a father whose empathy in business left a lasting impression. When she later immigrated to the United States as a young student, it was the local senior community that welcomed and supported her.

Today, her business is a heartfelt act of reciprocity, a way of honoring the generation that once looked out for her. When her own father passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by trusted caregivers, she witnessed firsthand the “gold

standard” of dignified care she now strives to provide to every family she serves.

With an MBA and an engineering background, Roshmi brings a rare combination of analytical rigor and emotional intelligence to her work. Her team — her “Angels” — is selected not only for their technical skills but for their kindness, professionalism, and genuine desire to build meaningful friendships with clients. Punctuality, attentiveness, and a commitment to the small details that make a senior feel truly seen are non-negotiables on her team.

Visiting Angels’ philosophy is rooted in collaboration over control. Rather than stepping in as an authority, the agency positions itself as a partner, handling the professional logistics so that family members can stop feeling like shift managers and return to simply being sons and daughters.

Looking ahead, Visiting Angels has ambitious plans to deepen its roots in the community, including partnerships with local nonprofits focused on senior care. The goal is nothing less than becoming a cornerstone of support for local seniors and their families.

For any family feeling overwhelmed and in need of a trusted, thoughtful partner in care, Visiting Angels Walnut Creek is ready to help.

Reach out today to learn more. Call Roshmi at 925-430-6711 or go to visitingangels.com.

During my father's battle with Alzheimer's, Visiting Angels were truly angels. They brought genuine compassion and professionalism into our home, caring for my father with incredible respect while supporting our entire household with warmth and grace. I'm forever grateful.

—KRISTEN BARLEEN



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9 Burton Vista Court	\$5,100,000	\$4,675,000	115	6	7+	8772	2.55
910 Carl Road	\$4,100,000	\$4,150,000	5	4	3+	3735	0.57
1 Green Acres Court	\$3,250,000	\$3,600,000	1	5	3.5	3438	0.3
872 Solana Drive	\$2,995,000	\$3,485,000	6	5	4.5	2964	0.44
315 Saranap Avenue	\$2,949,000	\$2,949,000	77	6	5	3934	0.46
3461 Stage Coach Drive	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000	0	5	3.5	3710	0.46
849 Sibert Court	\$2,795,000	\$2,860,000	4	6	4.5	3948	0.38
1362 Sunset Loop	\$2,749,000	\$2,820,000	7	5	5.5	3398	0.34
1076 N Thompson Road	\$2,550,000	\$2,430,000	10	4	3.5	3322	1.27
1600 Shangri La Court	\$2,495,000	\$2,300,000	61	5	3	3498	1.09
627 Burton Drive	\$1,998,000	\$2,270,000	0	4	2	2071	0.27
1834 Ivanhoe Avenue	\$2,345,000	\$2,250,000	3	5	4	4021	0.37
1414 Reliez Valley Road	\$1,899,000	\$2,100,000	11	3	2.5	2229	0.58
345 Shire Oaks Court	\$1,950,000	\$1,850,000	50	3	2.5	2271	0.32
3264 Withers Avenue	\$1,800,000	\$1,818,000	8	5	3	2548	0.29
3235 Camino Colorados	\$1,575,000	\$1,650,000	10	3	3	1582	0.23
2 Beaumont Court	\$1,575,000	\$1,575,000	0	6	3.5	3428	0.22
3326 Walnut Lane	\$1,595,000	\$1,565,000	32	4	2	1943	0.62
1375 El Curtola Boulevard	\$1,299,000	\$1,420,000	6	3	2	1394	0.62
1051 Buchan Drive	\$1,099,000	\$1,314,000	11	3	2	1458	0.23

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CAROL SINGER

LAFAYETTE'S 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



From left to right: City of Lafayette Vice Mayor John McCormick, Chamber Executive Director Sara Regan, 2026 Citizen of the Year Carol Singer, 2025 Citizen of the Year Ann Appert, Chamber Board President Jeremy Steel.

For more than 40 years, if there's been an important parks project, planning effort, or community conversation happening in Lafayette, chances are Carol Singer has been part of it.

This year, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has named Carol the 2026 Citizen of the Year, a well-deserved honor for someone whose steady, thoughtful leadership has helped shape our city in lasting ways.

A Lafayette resident for more than five decades, Carol is often described as one of the community's "quiet" but deeply influential volunteers. She studies the issues, listens carefully, and works collaboratively to find thoughtful solutions. As one nominator shared, she has "amassed an impressive list of activities important to the City's development and livability."

Carol is marking her 40th year of service on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, where she has served since 1986, including

multiple terms as chair. Her leadership has helped guide projects many residents enjoy every day — from Community Park and the Jennifer Russell Building to the Community Center Play Area and, most recently, Hamlin Nature Park. Over the years, she has also served on numerous ad hoc committees supporting park, trail, and recreation efforts across the city.

She is the only Lafayette resident to have served on both the General Plan Advisory Committee and the Downtown Specific Plan Committee, helping shape the city's long-term vision.

Beyond parks and planning, Carol has been active with the Lafayette Homeowners Council, the Friends of the Lafayette Library, and the Age-Friendly Action Plan. She is also known locally for her knowledge of campaign finance and her commitment to informed civic engagement. One community member called her "the most agreeable disagree-er," a reflection of her civility and respect in public discourse.

Originally from New Jersey, Carol came west to attend UC Berkeley, earning a degree in economics before building her life in Lafayette. When she wasn't volunteering, she could often be found backpacking the Sierra passes — and even the Alps and Dolomites — with her women's hiking group.

Carol's impact on Lafayette is both broad and lasting, and her recognition as Citizen of the Year is a well-earned honor.

A special thank you to Realtors Stella Tsakonas and Stephanie Mull for sponsoring the Meet Your Neighbor section.

Would you like to nominate someone for our Meet Your Neighbor section? Email Lamorinda@n2co.com.

SPRING CHICKENS

For Priyam Sawhney and her family, backyard chickens have done more than lay eggs. They've helped hatch a neighborhood business. | INTERVIEW WITH PRIYAM SAWHNEY



Sisters Sia (9, left) and Kareena (11) hold fresh eggs and one of their 10 chickens.

When did your family get chickens? Our family got our chickens in 2022. My daughter Kareena, now a fifth grader, hatched them in her first-grade classroom at Springhill. They needed a good home, so we decided to adopt them!

How many do you have? We have 10 chickens now! The oldest is Lily, and the youngest is Theo.

How do you take care of them? Kareena and our younger daughter, Sia, feed them daily and open and close the coop so they can roam freely. They also collect eggs each evening. Coop clean-up is done weekly. All family members help with this!

How many eggs do you collect? During the spring and summer, we collect eight to 10 per day. During the winter, production is two to three per day.

How did Kareena start selling eggs? She read a book about starting her own business and decided to give it a try with the eggs! She has signs up around the neighborhood and walks or bikes around to deliver them. If there is a delivery farther away, we drive her.

What has running the egg business taught her? Kareena says, "I've learned how to keep a spreadsheet with expenses and what money I get when I sell the eggs. It's also taught me how to budget for things I need to buy for the chickens."

Do you have other pets? We have two dogs and two bunnies. One dog is scared of the chickens, while the other one tries to play with them. The bunnies haven't met the chickens yet!

Special thanks to RecycleSmart, a valuable resource for residential recycling information, for sponsoring our Pets with Personality section.



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LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

170 Years of History, Faith, and Community

BY LAUREL ANNE HILL



Congregants celebrate the church's 170th anniversary, September 2025.

Lafayette United Methodist Church celebrated its 170th anniversary in September 2025, honoring a legacy that began in 1855 and continues to serve the community today.

The founder of the city of Lafayette and its first church was Elam Brown, a settler from the Midwest. In 1846, he led fourteen pioneer families to the Bay Area, purchased Rancho Acalanos — more than 3,300 acres — in 1847, and then moved his family into the Happy Valley area.

A group of citizens met informally in Elam's home to hold church services, and in 1855, organized the Lafayette Church. A building was constructed in 1857 on leased land, and the congregation later became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

When the lease expired, Elam donated a parcel of land so the church could be relocated. Later, in 1886, he sold the former Good Templar's Hall and property to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the congregation moved there. The bell and tower from the church were placed on the building, which became known as "The Church on the Hill."

The congregation sold The Church on the Hill in 1927 and completed its final move, this time to Moraga Road. They purchased Lafayette's third school building, constructed in 1893 with a bell tower, which provided space for an assembly hall (sanctuary) and classrooms. They replaced the flagpole on top of the belfry with a large cross, which still rises over the sanctuary today.

Mergers in the church's denomination led to a change of affiliation to the Methodist Church in 1939. From 1941 to 1943, construction of a new sanctuary took place. A parlor was added, providing a new facade to the front of the old school building. The bell tower remained a focal point.

In the early 1950s, ground was broken for a new two-story education building, followed by the construction of the Fellowship Hall in 1962. In 1968, the church became the Lafayette United Methodist Church.

The Lafayette Historical Society dedicated the original third school building and its prominent bell tower as a historical monument in 1973. This honor prohibited altering or destroying any more of the original structure. The church enlarged the sanctuary within the existing structure, enabling preservation of the original Gothic style and appearance of the chapel. The unified sanctuary was rededicated in 1984.



The church today, its historic bell tower preserved. The original bell was replaced with a new one in 2025.

In 1995, three adjacent rooms of the education building were modified and refurbished to accommodate the new self-sustaining Joyful Beginnings Preschool. Recently, the church received licensure for an after-school center on the second floor of its education building.

A community church from its inception, Lafayette United Methodist Church has retained its heritage as a center of worship, fellowship, teaching, and outreach. Today, its historic bell tower and preserved sanctuary stand as reminders of the church's deep roots and enduring presence in Lafayette. **Visit thelumc.org to learn more.**



Lafayette's third schoolhouse, built in 1893, still stands on Moraga Road. Photo courtesy Lafayette Historical Society

Special thanks to Aegis Living Moraga for sponsoring our Lafayette History section.

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EMPOWERING KIDS Small Hands Can Make a Big Impact

BY PASTOR JAIME POLSON AND EMILY AUSTIN AND SUSAN WENTWORTH, CO-DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, LOPC

EACH SUMMER AT

Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible Camp, faith and service come alive in powerful, kid-sized ways. What begins as a week of high-energy games, music, crafts, and Bible stories quickly grows into something more significant: a hands-on opportunity for children to make a real difference in the world.

Every year, our camp centers on a creative theme and partners with a nonprofit organization that compliments it. Through meaningful conversations, interactive lessons, and hearing from members of the non-profit, campers learn how leaders and organizations are working to build stronger, healthier communities. In recent summers, we've partnered with inspiring organizations such as Fotokids in Guatemala, SURGE for Water, and John Muir Land Trust.

Our campers don't just learn about these organizations — they actively support them. Over the past three summers, the fundraising efforts of more than 200 campers have raised over \$3,000 to further these causes. Along the way, children have become pen pals with kids abroad, discovering both the similarities and differences that connect us across cultures. They've explored what it means to care for God's creation, learning about conservation on both local and global levels. Most importantly, they've experienced the joy that comes from serving others.

Service at VBC isn't about pressure or obligation — it's about empowering kids to see that even small hands can make a big impact. Whether collecting donations, writing encouraging notes, or learning simple ways to protect our planet, each camper leaves knowing they are part of something meaningful.

We can't wait to continue this tradition in Summer 2026 at Rainforest Falls! Vacation Bible Camp at LOPC runs June 8–12 from 2–5pm. Kids ages 4 through completed 4th grade are invited to join the adventure.

Learn more and register today, go to lopc.org/vbcamp.



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EXTRA! EXTRA! Student Voices Lead the Way At Springhill

BY THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT

AT SPRINGHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, the headlines are written by students. The Springhill Newspaper Club gives young journalists the opportunity to share stories, spark creativity, and strengthen their school community, one issue at a time.

The club meets every Wednesday during lunch in the library or in the school's counseling space, The Peaceful Place, where Springhill's counselor partners with students. Together, they brainstorm ideas, conduct interviews, draft articles, and design layouts for four editions each year: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

What makes the club especially unique is its student leadership. At the start of each year, fifth graders campaign to serve as editor and are elected by their peers. This year, two editors were elected and given full independence to edit and design each issue, shaping everything from headlines to layout.

Kareena Sareen, one of the student editors, shared what she loves about her role: "We are here to help people get on Google Classroom and choose their topic. I love that everyone gets free rein on what they want to do, and that you can meet new people who share a love that you have with others."

The newspaper includes crosswords, student artwork, and local news. Students choose topics they believe will interest their classmates, using imagination and creativity to bring each issue to life.

Beyond strengthening reading and writing skills, the club builds critical thinking, collaboration, and empathy.



Springhill's Newspaper Club

Students learn to listen during interviews, consider different perspectives, revise thoughtfully, and meet deadlines together — all while writing for an authentic audience.

Maya Taylor, the other student editor, appreciates the creative freedom: "I love that there are no limits. You can use your imagination and decide how everything looks."

School counselor Jennifer Girard sees the deeper impact: "Students lead every step of the creative and editorial process. This newspaper is truly their voice, and they take great pride in leading it with responsibility and teamwork."

At Springhill, literacy builds confidence, leadership, and connection — and student voices truly make the news!

Special thanks to In the Deets and Konstructo for sponsoring our School Scene section.

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Chuck Silva with the gray water system he designed to irrigate his hillside landscape and conserve water.

is activated to empty it. The pump pushes the water through a series of filters and then out to the drip system year-round.

Optionally, fertilizer specially formulated for the poor hillside soil is metered in. The system is tied into street water and interacts with a standard sprinkler timer to provide additional watering. Our current system is the second prototype and continues to evolve with the goal of creating a “packaged” system for residential landscapes.

How much water do you save? The drip system uses about 300 emitters to water the lower yard and saves roughly 60 gallons per day — about 20,000 gallons per year.

What’s been most surprising or rewarding? Most surprising is the amount of lint and nasty detergent residue that clothes washers produce. Most of the research and changes to the system have centered around mitigating the effects of that one source. This source is also one of the largest producers of gray water in the home. What’s rewarding is that the system works.

Advice for neighbors interested in a gray water system? I would suggest if you are remodeling or building new, design a dual waste system into the home (separating black water and gray water) that is tied together in a convenient, hidden location outside the home. Ours is in a utility area on the side of the home. Doing this allows a gray water system to be added any time after construction is complete.



Gray water is filtered, then distributed to a drip system that irrigates the garden year-round. Fertilizer can also be metered in.

Special thanks to Realtor Ashley Battersby for sponsoring our Learning & Education section.

Do you have a Learning & Education story to share? Email us at Lamorinda@n2co.com.

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY

When Lafayette resident Chuck Silva retired from software engineering, he didn't stop designing. He turned his attention to conserving water in his own backyard.

What inspired you to use gray water? We were adding an addition to our home and completely rebuilding the existing home, and it became the ideal time to design gray water into the plans. Since I had worked in the landscape industry in Northern California during the droughts of 1976-77, I had personally seen what happened to most landscapes during that kind of event, which has become more frequent. Gray water could help mitigate those effects and allow for a lush landscape using less “new” water.

How does your system work? The gray water sources (showers, washer, vanities, bar sink, reverse osmosis discharge) are gravity-routed first to a self-cleaning rotary drum filter that removes lint and larger debris from the water and dumps it into a 60-gallon tank. When the tank fills, a pump

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