

LAMORINDA Business

business briefs

Bikram Yoga Heats it Up

1 Orinda Way, Suite. 2, 253.4416 – www.BikramLamorinda.com

Bikram Yoga studio in Orinda is re-opening with new owner Amy Lyall. Bikram Yoga is a Hatha Yoga practice that increases balance, strength and mental concentration. Each class is heated to 105 F with 50% humidity to increase muscle flexibility.

Robert Jenson Salon

999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette, 284-2860

Robert Jenson Salon Treats our Soldiers

The Stylists at Robert Jenson Salon invited a group of twenty active duty airmen and their spouses from Travis Air force Base for a Day of Beauty at the Robert Jenson Salon in Lafayette on March 28. These airmen include previously deployed soldiers and their spouses as well as a contingent of active duty airmen whose job it is to provide support for troops presently deployed in Iraq and airmen who will soon be going to Iraq.

“Our goal is strictly apolitical. We want each and every soldier who puts himself or herself in harms way, to know that we are very grateful for their service.”

Open House For Commercial Condominium Project

533 Moraga Road, Moraga, CM Realty - Matt Hastings 627-4326, David Schmayr 627-4325

On April 9th CM Realty held an open house for potential buyers and brokers. The event was very successful according to Dave Schmayr, “We welcomed a mixed of brokers, professionals and members of the community,” he said. “They got an opportunity to see all the possible options for the professional suites.”

Each suite will be customized according to clients’ requirements. Not only the finishes but also the inside layout will be customized, since, for example, a medical office may have different requirements than a law practice. Two suites have already been sold and other potential buyers are entering negotiation.



Professional condominiums nearing completion on Moraga Road Photo Sophie Braccini

News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette

www.lafayettechamber.org:

- Friday, April 18th - Coffee with the Mayor - 8:00am - Chamber Office
- Wednesday, April 23rd - New Member Reception - 4:30 pm - El Charro Restaurant, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Thursday, April 24th: Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting, 8:00 am - Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.
- Tuesday, May 20th - 6th Annual "Taste of Lafayette." The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation are once again teaming up for the "Taste of Lafayette" tour that lets participants sample the signature cuisine of Lafayette's finest eateries. 15-20 local restaurants and catering companies will participate. Proceeds from the event benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Services and Programs of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Tickets for the event will be available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at www.lafayettechamber.org or call 284-7404. Register now! This event sells out.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org:

- Saturday, May 10th Moraga. Community Faire from 11-4 p.m with nearly 50 Moraga businesses, retail, home-based, and office-based businesses. The Faire will feature a stage with entertainment all along the day. Children’s activities will be offered throughout the day. A wine booth will permit sampling of local wines and Moraga restaurants will sell food. Local artists will present their latest creations. The Sustainable Living part of the Faire will feature vendors and services in the area of construction, energy and finance. The event is part of the Moraga Beautiful Week that the Town has sponsored for 25 years. At this time, the Chamber still needs additional volunteers to help set up the Faire. Please call Ellen at 376-7306 or email her at elbeans@comcast.net with how you can help.
- Friday, May 16th 2:00PM, Terzetto’s, Road Closures Meeting. Come to brain storm ideas of what businesses can do to promote staying in Moraga during the summer and discovering how to Shop Moraga First. The reality is that traffic in and out of Moraga is going to be hampered throughout the summer. The business community has an opportunity to use this time to encourage Moraga residents to shop in Moraga. Please email Edy at Edy321@comcast.net and let her know you will attend.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda

www.orindachamber.org:

- Wednesday, April 23rd: Noon - 1:30 p.m. April Chamber & Rotary Club Luncheon Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Call 925-254-3909 for your reservation
- Saturday, May 3rd - Orinda Farmers' Market Opens, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Located on Orinda Way in Orinda Village in front of Rite Aid and Community Park.
- Friday, May 16th - May Cal Shakes Festival Night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Theater Square. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the City of Orinda celebrate the opening of the 2008 California Shakespeare Theater Season. The "Cal Shakes" plays represent everything fun and good about the East Bay arts scene. Come join the celebration, and pick up your new schedule for the 2008 performance schedules. Look for lots of fun, food and music.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact

Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or contact

Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.



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Theatre Square Presents: Parking Space Wars

By Sophie Braccini



Pati MacDonald, owner of Curves in Orinda Photo Sophie Braccini

Pati MacDonald is a fighter.

The owner of Curves in Orinda’s Theatre Square has been battling for her business and her customers for more than two years now. So when Douglas Parking LLC started renting parking spaces below Theatre Square to BART commuters and she saw the first and second floor of the parking garage filled with cars not belonging to customers, she started a petition to amend the rules.

Theatre Square, despite its central location and esthetic appeal, is a challenging place to do business. Only recently, Nino’s Bay Restaurant, which was open for less than a year, had to close its doors. For Douglas Parking too, revenues do not seem to be enough

since they advertise rental of parking spaces to commuters. The idea of a covered parking space, for \$70 a month, only a ramp away from Bart is appealing.

“I have nothing against these people,” says MacDonald, “but they are not customers here, they are not good for business at the Square, they shouldn’t be allowed to use the premium first and second floor parking spaces.” Patty got alarmed when her clients complained about the issue. They do not like to be forced to the depths of the third level when they come to exercise. In fact, they all signed her petition.

Even if they didn’t respond to MacDonald directly, the management of Douglas Parking said

they took her letter seriously and decided to check the situation in the garage. All of the first floor is marked “Visitor Only,” but according to the guard on duty this is to prevent Square employees from taking the prime parking spaces. All other users can stay there for as long as they want. There are only 18 spots on the first floor that have a time restriction posted, either 1 or 3 hours. David Douglas said he went to the garage himself and asked the guard that the 18 spots be controlled by chalk marking. “When I went again to check the situation a second time,” says Douglas, “there were several open spots available in the time restricted area for Curves or other Theatre Square customers.” He does not see the need for further restriction.

“We want parking to be as convenient as possible for people who shop here, exercise here and eat here,” responds MacDonald. She acknowledges that there has been some improvement in the parking since the notices were posted but still complains that her clients too often have to park “in the bowels” of the parking structure. “It’s good that BART riders can get covered parking here,” she concludes, “but let’s reserve the premium parking for those who are spending their money here.”

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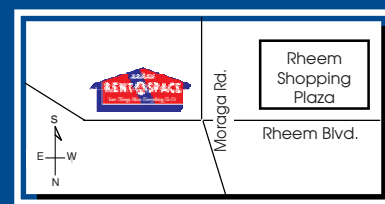
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