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business briefs



1,000 free Wonka Bars were given out last Saturday at Powell's Photo Andy Scheck

Powell's Celebrates its First Anniversary

3591 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, 299-9866

Powell's Sweet Shoppe celebrated its first birthday on Saturday, March 14. A year after they opened, they continue to cater to Lamorinda's collective sweet tooth. On Saturday, the store gave away 1,000 Wonka Bars and five people received a Golden Ticket giveaway reminiscent of Road Dahl's classic children's tale, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Each Golden Ticket entitles the winner to \$50.00 in gift certificates. Adding to the fun was face painting, live music, and the visiting guest of honor Mike Tee Vee, of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory fame, who signed photographs.

The Independent Speech Pathology Network ISPN moves to Moraga

1030 Country Club Drive, 247-0363

ISPN, the Independent Speech Pathology Network (also known as The Independent Therapists Network), was founded and directed by Speech and Language Pathologist Monique Eurich. For the first five years the therapist managed her business from her home office. "But as the business expanded there came a time when I needed to move to a real professional space." Eurich works as a therapist and has constructed a large network of other professional who can offer pediatric speech and language services all over the Bay Area. Eurich is one of few leading

experts providing specialized intervention for children with mild to profound Apraxia of Speech (AOS) and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (presently occurring at the rate of 1 in 150 children, 80% of which present with Apraxia of Speech). She prides herself on supporting and promoting early detection and Early Intervention, which is critical for the most successful outcomes, via outreach with pediatricians and pre-schools/private schools. "One of the unique features of this practice is its network of independent therapists, many of whom provide in-home treatments," says Eurich, "the in-home model is the best modality for expedited and successful treatment. I make every effort to connect families with therapists that have the specialized skills needed for their child as well for the individual needs of the family." But no two families are alike and sometimes therapists, including Eurich, may visit with children at their pre-school or private school as needs dictate.

E-Waste Recycling Event in Moraga

Moraga Hardware and Lumber, 1409 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center. 376-3600

Moraga Hardware will hold an e-waste collection day on March 22nd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E-Waste will be collected in the back of the building.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Manager Honored Among Top Managing Brokers in Nation

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Valerie Cook-Watkins, Managing Broker of the company's Orinda office, has earned the coveted President's Council awards for her office's success in 2008.

"I am thrilled that Valerie has been honored with this distinction, especially in light of today's trying economic conditions," said Joe Brown, President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.



Valerie Cook-Watkins

David Pierce, Prudential's 2008 Top Producer

David Pierce, Broker-Realtor with the Orinda Office of Prudential CA Realty, has earned that office's title of Top Producer for the Year 2008. Pierce, who joined Prudential in 1994, has over 20 years' experience in the Real Estate industry. His 2008 performance earned him a place among Prudential's Top Ten, a ranking encompassing 40 offices and more than 1,500 agents throughout Northern California. In addition to his accomplishments with Prudential, Pierce's pet project reflects his passion for music and he serves as a Director of the Friends of Big Band Jazz as well as delivering community service through the Orinda Rotary Club. Pierce has served, among other involvement, as President and Director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and is a State of CA Superior Court Special Master for Real Estate.



David Pierce

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Tri-Chamber Meeting: The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invited its neighbors from Orinda and Pleasant Hill for a networking session on March 11th. The meeting took place at the Absolute Center (which was also celebrating its 6th anniversary.) "We have a crowd of about 200 people," said Jay Lifson CEO of the Lafayette Chamber, "people are eager to reach out and love the opportunity to meet new people and invent new synergies." "I always come to these meetings," added Steve Snyder, mortgage consultant with RPM, "there are always cross-marketing opportunities."

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Seminar on Tuesday March 24 at 5:30 p.m., "How to Survive in Today's Economy." Mechanics Bank and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce present a free Business Forum featuring Brian Pretti and Raully Butler from Mechanics Bank and Keith Blakeney, local representative from SCORE. The event will be held at Mechanics Bank, 3640 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Reservations can be made by calling 925-962-6900 or at lafayetteevents@mechbank.com.

Business Issues Meeting, Friday, March 27 at 8 a.m. in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Chamber meeting, Hacienda de las Flores, Fireside Room, Friday, March 27, starting at 7:30 a.m. The meeting speaker will be John Harper, who will talk about efficient websites for small businesses. Many small businesses have nice websites, but very little new business is generated from them. Can anything be done to correct the situation? Learn how you can beat the competition by changing your Internet marketing with Harper, who has worked in the field of Internet marketing for years. He is a partner with HarperMees & Associates, a top producing team at Keller Williams Realty in Danville. He is director of Internet marketing and technology for the team. Last month, their website-www.harperMees.com received over 8300 visits.

The Community Faire will be held on Saturday May 9 from 11 to 4 p.m. It is a perfect opportunity for Moraga businesses, both retail and professional, as well as our non-profits and service clubs, to market and showcase their products and services. But the registration deadline is approaching, so don't delay. Get your registration forms on the Chamber website, www.moragachamber.org. Forms due by April 1.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Special Roundtable Coffee Business Idea Sharing Event Thursday, March 26 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Village Pizza, 19 AB Orinda Way, Orinda. Come hear what fellow Chamber members are doing differently in today's market and share what you are doing, as well. Enjoy coffee & pastries, too. Mark your calendar for this informative event. \$5.00 per person (paid at door).

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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