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## business briefs

**Lamorinda Music and Gifts - Grand Opening on July 31**  
81 Lafayette Circle - 385 0963 - www.lamorindamusic.com  
Colleen McCormick has been a Lafayette resident for 16 years and a science teacher with the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation for 10. But there is a passion for music that runs in the McCormick family, from both parents (Colleen and John) to the children Scotty (13) and Emily (16) who play at Acalanes. So it was only natural for Colleen to venture in that direction when she decided to start a business of her own with her husband's support. The concept of Lamorinda Music is two-fold: soundproof music studios for private lessons and group lessons for pre-schoolers, and a store to buy or rent all the band and orchestra instruments. All rental contracts can be transformed into purchase with complete transfer of the money invested in the rental. Being a mother, Colleen added some welcome convenience to her project such as a lounge and a terrace where parents will be able to wait comfortably for their offspring using wi-fi and sipping tea/coffee. The grand opening will be on Friday July 31 from 4 to 8 p.m. With neighboring business, Lafayette Health Club, Lamorinda Music and Gifts will be offering food and drinks, and of course a lot of live music.

**Local Builder Wolfgang Schilling Receives 2009 Piedmont Design Award, 81 Claremont Avenue, Orinda, 254-9145**  
The City of Piedmont recently announced their 2009 Design Award Winners. Included in the recipients was local builder, Wolfgang Schilling, in the category of "Best Remodel and Landscape". This is the second Piedmont Award for this general contractor in three years, having been awarded "Best Addition Award" in 2006. "It's nice to be recognized but the best prize of all has been the opportunity to work with great clients, excellent architects and visionary designers," said Schilling. This accomplished furniture maker, mill worker and general contractor loves creating home environments just as much today as when he started 35 years ago. Since moving to Orinda in 1972 with his wife and two children, Wolfgang has completed projects in the East Bay, South Bay, San Francisco, Solano and Marin counties, Tahoe area and Italy.

**Lafayette Car Wash Voted Best of the East Bay**  
3319 Mt Diablo Blvd - 283-1190 www.lafayettecarwash.com  
"We are trying to do all the things possible to make our customers happy and focus on quality," says Blake Wellen, commenting about Diablo Magazine's Best of the East Bay vote, "we want our clients to have a good experience from beginning to end." Part of this good experience is the greeting at the entry of the car wash, and the comfortable waiting area. Wellen credits his quality to his employees. "We have a very small turn over for our profession," says Wellen, "some of them have been on board for 17 years and we all share the same determination to clean all the little nooks and crannies because quality is what counts for customers." The Lafayette Car Wash can also pride itself in the recognition of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). In their "drought center tips" the agency wrote: "Lafayette Car Wash... has a system that recycles 50 to 60 percent of the water it uses, and all but the final rinse water is recycled. By improving the efficiency of the system over time, they are washing the same number of cars with about half the water, down to 25 gallons per car". The company uses biodegradable washing product as well, avoiding another nightmare of EBMUD, sending chemicals in the drainage systems that end up in our reservoirs and drinking water.

**A Majority of Lafayette Businesses Support Farmers' Market**  
At the beginning of the month the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce sent its members a questionnaire regarding the possibility of a farmers' market in Lafayette. Jay Lifson, CEO of the Chamber, shared the results:  
Do you think a Lafayette Farmer's Market will help or hurt our local business owners? 121 responses, 80.1% answered "help" and 16.5% answered "hurt"; 3.3% no response.  
Do you currently shop at a local Farmer's Market? 60.3% yes, 48% no.  
Do you think parking in Lafayette will be an issue on Thursday night? 47.9% yes, 48.7% no, 3.3% no response.  
Do you anticipate any traffic/circulation problems during the time the Farmer's Market is open (4pm-8pm)?  
43.8% yes, 53.7% no, 2.4% no response.  
If the Farmer's Market were to be held on a weekend day rather than an evening, would this change your opinion?  
42.9% yes, 53.7% no, 3.3% no response.  
Would you be inclined to visit a restaurant or local business before or after shopping at a Farmer's Market? 76.0% yes, 23.9% no.  
Are you in favor of a local Farmer's Market in Lafayette?  
82.6% yes, 16.5% no.  
Chamber members made some suggestions regarding "conditions of operation." Some recommended that parking arrangements be made with Safeway, or in the parking area at the new library. Others proposed that local businesses have a first-right-of-refusal on booth space. Some want to see adequate pay back to the town and local charities and want to make sure that the farmers clean up after themselves.

**Chambers of Commerce:**

- Lafayette**
- Business Issues Committee Meeting on Friday, July 24 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room.
  - The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce supports the Safety Fair on Sat. Aug. 1 at Stanley Middle School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (See page 2)
  - Rock the Plaza Concerts will start on Fridays - August 14, 21 & 28 at 6 p.m. on the Plaza Park.



**Moraga:**

- The July Chamber meeting will be held Friday, July 31st from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Fireside Room of the Hacienda. There will be a vote on the updated Bylaws by the membership. Mike Segrest, Moraga Town Manager, has been invited to be the guest speaker. He is hoping his schedule will clear, so he will be able to attend. Members are encouraged to check the new bylaws on the web site.

**Orinda:**

- Planning has started for the second Orinda Restaurant Tour. The Tour is a component of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's "Shop Orinda Campaign." The event is scheduled this year for Tuesday, September 29, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The fun will start at Theater Square and will include favorite local restaurants. The event benefits the Orinda Schools. Tickets should be purchased in advance for \$30.00 per person - with tickets at the door costing \$35.00. Purchase your ticket online at www.orindachamber.org/OrindaRestaurantTour2009.htm.

## Steve Lambert, Landscape Architect Extraordinaire

By Sophie Braccini



Steve Lambert in front of his pond Photo provided

In an otherwise morose time for construction businesses, Steve Lambert, founder of Garden Lights Landscape & Pool Development, is seeing his activity growing and getting back to the steady stream he was enjoying before the recession. He believes that the series of five awards that he recently received from the East Bay Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) is a testimony to what makes his success: the quality of the training and of the work of his very long time employees.

The Lamberts have lived in Orinda for 15 years and are raising their young family. Steve was raised in Walnut Creek and got a degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in landscape and design. His family roots go deep into the American soil. One of Steve's grandfathers owned a cotton plantation in Arkansas while the other was a truck farmer and a ranger. He lost his father at an early age and was raised by his mother, a school teacher, who was always growing "stuff" in a big garden. "I always love plants and horticulture," says Lambert, "when I finished Cal Poly I knew that some day I would have my own landscape company."

Lambert worked for two years at Seeno Construction as a landscape architect, grew into the business and decided, 19 years ago, to become his own boss. "When I started I already had a few clients," he said, "the hardest part was to find good employees. Today, Flavio has been with me for 14 years and Jose for 10, we are becoming a family."

When he started, Lambert felt there was a need for someone specialized in quality lighting. "It is an art to do lighting," he says, "you want to select the focal points of a garden, like a rock, a brick wall or a tree and magnify it. Then you consider the safety and the pathways." Lambert says that he is determined not to add to the lighting pollution of the surroundings; lighting is an art of nuance, of luminosity and shadows, not of too much intensity. "People often overdo the path lights for example," he adds, "if you light a nice rock near a path that can be enough there."

But Lambert would not limit himself to lighting, "I need it all," he says, "I enjoy working with water features and I would be depressed if I wouldn't plant plants." For 14 years the company has had a pool license. "Sometimes a remodeling can be the most interesting and challenging job," he says. The work that got him the "Best of the Best" Judges Awards given by CLCA was a garden in Oakland. "That specific job was the creation of a blue tile pool with a vanishing edge," says Lambert, "it was fun creating the look of a waterfall using blue tiles on the 8-foot supporting wall and then planting the base of the wall with materials that appear to be underwater." It is the third time that his company has won this top award.

But not all properties can accommodate a pool. In his Orinda home Lambert has built a pond. "In my garden pond we have 14 Koi fish," he explains, "the way we built

them and take advantage of their gardens. "Customers are a little more conservative in what they are requesting," notices Lambert, "but there are still some pretty extravagant ones." To his surprise, Lambert said he was recently asked to install

2 outdoor TVs in the area. For more information on Garden Lights visit their website at www.gardenlightslandscape.com. For more information on the California Landscape Contractors Association visit, www.CLCA.org.

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If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com) or call our office at 925-377-0977.