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business briefs

La Boulange to Settle in Lafayette Early 2010

A final contract has been signed with Bay Bread, the group that owns San Francisco French Bakeries and eateries called "La Boulange." Signing with a new tenant is all about retail strategy for Craig Semmelmeier, the retail real estate broker who found tenants for the Mercantile building along Mount Diablo Boulevard. Semmelmeier felt the property needed that kind of cafe business to complement and enhance the business dynamic of the building. La Boulange anticipates an opening at the beginning of 2010.

Chow Bella Offering Cooking Classes in Lafayette

Elaine Smit's business is booming, from catering to birthday parties to cooking classes. She will be expanding her range having secured a new location, Founders Grove in Lafayette, where she will manage cooking classes, birthday parties and special events this fall. "Located behind Lafayette Christian Church, Founders Grove is a beautiful building, recently remodeled by the church, now made available to the public for various events, such as weddings, receptions, meetings, etc...The kitchen is new, with great appliances, stove and three ovens. I couldn't have asked for a better location," says Smit. For more information and registration go to www.chowbella.net.

Rapid Response, (925) 671-4542

To assist businesses owners and employees with layoffs, the county's Rapid Response team provides free outplacement resources and services to help displaced workers get back to work with minimal downtime. The Rapid Response team urges businesses to contact them regarding employee layoffs as soon as possible. They will work with you to schedule an on-site presentation for your employees about job search, job training, academic and career assessment, career planning and other services available at EASTBAY Works One Stop Career Centers. Information about obtaining unemployment insurance and other organizations and agencies that can help workers smoothly transition back into the workforce is also provided. Contact your Rapid Response representative, Susie O'Bryant at or Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us for details.

New Marketing Director at Aegis,

950 Country Club Drive, Moraga

Aegis of Moraga made a recent addition to its management team. Virginia Sargent is the new Marketing Director, taking over for Candice Moses, a familiar face in the Lamorinda community. "I can't say I'm replacing Candice, but I'm thrilled to be following in her footsteps," said Sargent, who has entrepreneurial experience, as well as a corporate sales and marketing background. Sargent plans to continue the Aegis of Moraga tradition of supporting community activities, such as the annual Moraga Pear Festival, and hosting community meetings and events. Reach her at 925-377-7900.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Lafayette Art & Wine Festival on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 in Downtown Lafayette
- Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting on Friday September 25 a: 8:00 a.m. in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

Moraga

- Chamber meeting on Friday, September 25, 7:30 a.m.
at the Hacienda de las Flores

Orinda

- Orinda Restaurant Tour on Tuesday, September 29,
from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. The fun will start at Theater
Square with appetizers from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The Restaurant Tour itself is from 6:00 p.m. to
8:00 p.m. and will include favorite local restaurants,
with dessert from 8:00 pm. to 8:30 p.m. The event
benefits the Orinda Schools. Tickets should be
purchased in advance for \$30.00 per person; tickets at
the door will cost \$35.00. Purchase your ticket online at
www.orindachamber.org/OrindaRestaurantTour2009.htm.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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