

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE
Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
Email: ct@clarkthompson.com

Search the MLS: www.clarkthompson.com



computer technical support
repairs • training • websites

FREE 1/2 Hour Computer Service Call

If you're a Lamorinda resident or business, we'd like to introduce our award-winning services to you at no cost and with no obligation. We'll come to your home or business and provide you with technical service, training or a consultation, so you can get to know us.

schedule your appointment!
call (925) 283-5666

Offer applies to new Lamorinda clients only. Exp. March 31, 2010. With This coupon only.

NEW Location!
925.283.5666
Nerd4Rent.com
990 Moraga Road, Ste B, Lafayette
(next door to Campana Music)



Computer Consulting & Training
Service plans starting as low as 49 cents per day!

One Game You Won't Want to Miss: Lafayette-Opoly

By Sophie Braccini



The LASF committee working on Lafayette-opoly (L to R): Gina Dawson, Mary Bakos and Barbara Serwin
Photo Sophie Braccini

The idea came, one day, to Mary Bakos as she was looking for something special for the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation's (LASF) annual event: a special edition Monopoly game, to be sold as a fund raiser, on which actual Lafayette businesses would be featured. Since the end of last year, the small committee formed by Bakos, LASF President Barbara Serwin, and Gina Dawson has been contacting businesses to make this happen. "We wanted to give businesses more of an opportunity to advertise their presence and their

support of our schools," says Serwin, "and we have been overwhelmed by their support."

The first task of the group was to find more than 40 sponsors. "What was fun was to brainstorm which businesses would best fit in each category," says Bakos. For Tony Eichers, General Manager of the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa, the most natural square to sponsor was 'The Park.' "This is one of the most expensive pieces of real estate on the board," says Eichers, an LASF supporter, "nothing would

have been a better fit for our beautiful hotel."

"We wanted to be the 'Start' point on the game," says Diablo Foods' Connie Collier, "because our store is where your day should start." The daughter of founder Ed Stokes, who has put her kids through the Lafayette schools and is also a supporter of LASF, Collier says she plans to sell the game in the store.

The Lafayette Park Hotel and Diablo Foods were among the first businesses contacted by LASF, who knew they could count on their most faithful supporters. "Mike Reardon at Oakwood Athletic Club was also an enthusiastic early supporter," says Serwin. Besides purchasing a square, the Club's General Manager proposed organizing a "game-day" at the Club to kick-

off the game sales and inform people of what LASF accomplishes.

But large and established businesses are not the only ones to contribute to the game (look for a square featuring your friendly neighborhood newspaper). Colleen McCormick of Lamorinda Music decided, with her husband John, to put her new business on the board. "It allows local small businesses to help LASF in a way that increases awareness for their business and serves as a reminder for people to shop locally," says McCormick, "Lafayette-opoly will be a wonderful keepsake for our children as they play the game in years to come with their own children and share stories about growing up in this charming community."

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lif-

son thinks that the board game will become a collector's item one day. "The Lafayette Chamber bought square number one," says Lifson, "LASF has found a unique, fun way to fundraise. The businesses buying a square will pay for the production costs and most of the money paid to buy the games will be resources going straight to our schools."

That concept fuels the energy of LASF's committee as they work hard to make this happen. "The company that will manufacture the game, Pride Distributors, Inc., developed the 'Your Town-opoly' program as a fundraiser for community organizations more than ten years ago," says Bakos, "the concept is that we order a fixed number of games which they will produce, then we sell them for the amount we want." The group is

thinking about ordering 1,500 to 2000 games that will be sold at \$30 apiece. Selling of the squares to businesses should be complete by the end of March; then production will start and the actual games should arrive over the summer, "In time for back-to-school," says Dawson. LASF anticipates distributing the games through the five Lafayette public schools, as well as at some local businesses and on its website, www.lasf.org.

One big item has not been purchased yet; the cover of the game. Dawson, Bakos and Serwin plan to contact prominent community entities that have the desire and the means to support the Foundation at a significant level. Businesses interested in sponsorship should contact Dawson at gdawson@gmail.com or Bakos at mlbakos@yahoo.com.

business briefs

'Live at the Orinda' a Great Success

On the evening of March 5th, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce invited the community to a champagne-filled night of comedy at the Orinda Theatre. It was a first, and the force behind the event, Chamber Board Member Rick Kattenburg, was a bit anxious that evening. "We had a fantastic night," reported a very satisfied Kattenburg, "we had 650 in attendance and all the people I talked to thought that it was fantastic." Some of your neighbors from the Lamorinda Weekly who attended the event had nothing but praise to share. "We both haven't laughed that much in ages. We especially loved the jokes teasing Orinda," said staff writer Cathy Tyson, who went with her husband, "the Chamber must be thrilled." Staff writer Andrea Firth added, "My husband and I had a great time. It was great fun to laugh so much." Kattenburg admits that the evening was a lot of work to put together. "The idea came up because my son is close to the child of Tommy T. (owner of the Tommy T's Comedy Clubs)," says Kattenburg, "we looked for humor that would relate to the crowd and were delighted when the comedians poked fun at us." Kattenburg believes that the evening was a success thanks to the dedication of the Chamber Board who never counted their hours working on the project. "We made about \$7,000," said Kattenburg, "and we'll be pleased to give a part of it to EFO (the Educational Foundation of Orinda)." Kattenburg promises that the March 5th show will be followed by many others: "Next year it's going to be even better," he promised.



Dan St. Paul on stage

New Realtors

Alain Pinel Realtors is proud to announce the addition of Amy Rose Smith, Rochelle Williams and Erin McCoin to its team in the Orinda Office. Amy joins APR with a wealth of practical knowledge of the East Bay. Having worked as a Registered Client Analyst for Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. in London, New York and Los Angeles, Amy learned to appreciate the simplicity and beauty of her home town of Orinda. In 2007, Amy returned to Orinda where she now lives with her husband and three daughters. Williams and McCoin joins APR as a team from the prestigious firms of McGuire R.E. and Pacific Union R.E. where they represented buyers and sellers in San Francisco. After moving their families to Lafayette, they joined the local APR office and have launched the Lamorinda Living Team, specializing in representing buyers and sellers in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. McCoin and Williams have over a decade of Real Estate experience between them. Amy Rose Smith can be reached at 438.2020 or AmyRoseSmith@apr.com. McCoin and Williams can be reached at 258.1111 or emccoin@apr.com.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Tri-City Chamber Night at the Town Hall Theater Saturday, March 20 at 7:15 p.m.

Town Hall Theatre, one of newest members of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, would like to invite the members of the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Chambers and their guests to a performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a romantic comedy by Oscar Wilde. As an added treat, Parkmon Vineyards will be offering a premium wine tasting with a \$15 donation to Town Hall. Parkmon wines are grown right in Moraga by Dave Parker, founding member of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. Chamber members and their guests will receive the special rate of \$25/ticket - call the box office at 283-1557 to reserve your seats.

Lafayette

- Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. for Stone Creek Insurance Agency, 3738 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #304
- The Pleasant Hill Chamber is having its Business Showcase on March 25th and booth space is now available to the members of the Lafayette Chamber at the Pleasant Hill Chamber Member Rate. Be part of this business experience as it enters its fourth decade. For more information contact the Pleasant Hill Chamber at 925-687-0700 and ask for Celina or check the web site at <http://www.pleasanthillchamber.com/>.


Moraga

- Chamber Meeting Fri., March 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores. The report of the Chamber 2010 goals will be presented.
- Registration forms for the May 8 Community Faire are now online at moragachamber.org. Registration deadline is April 24th, 2010. The Faire will include a classic car show; the Chamber would like to encourage owners of restored classic cars that live in Lamorinda to contact Andrew at lilducci@aol.com.
- For the first time the Faire will produce banners that will advertise the faire throughout town. The Chamber is offering banner sponsorship to businesses that would like to see their names on it. The cost is \$175 and the deadline for registration is April 9. Interested parties should contact Gloria at 247-4473 or glorianoggle@yahoo.com


If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

DRIVEWAY NEED REPAIRING?

Call the
Resurfacing Experts!



Driveways
Private Roads
Tennis & Sports Courts
Parking Lots
Seal Coating
ADA Ramps & Stalls



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LUCAS PAVING, INC.
925-283-8027

Lic # 195560

QUALITY • INTEGRITY • EXPERT WORKMANSHIP

UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST

REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

Marine - Commercial - Residential
Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone



M.R.S.
Fine Old World Craftsmanship
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.

3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2
(925) 962-0579

Experience You Can Trust!



Loretta J. Barra
Realtor
(925) 212-9228
(925) 253-4642
LJBarra@aol.com



1137 Vallecito Court, Lafayette
Enchanting Lafayette Happy Valley home. 5 BD/3.5BA over 4,000 sq.ft., 3 car garage, fully gated, high-end finishes, end of cul-de-sac. Asking price \$2,495,000.
Call for more information or a showing.

Virtual tour at www.LorettaBarra.com

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR FURNACE DOWN!

CASH AND INCENTIVES UP TO \$3,375 WHEN YOU INSTALL A NEW 95% HIGH EFFICIENCY FURNACE IN YOUR HOME*

DON'T WAIT - START SAVING \$\$ ON YOUR UTILITY BILL NOW!


Financing Available* (*See Dealer for Details)

FREE ESTIMATES ON INSTALLATIONS

ACS Air Conditioning Systems
www.ACSystemsInc.com • License# 632329
SERVING LAMORINDA FOR 40 YEARS

(925) 676-2103

\$79 FURNACE MAINTENANCE with this coupon
Expires 3/31/2010. Call for details.



Turn to the Experts