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business briefs



John Wintersteen Photo Sophie Braccini

Business Rumors

The rumor of a Dollar-type store moving in at Moraga's Rheem Center has surfaced again. A threat to some, who see it as attracting low-end merchandising to Moraga; an opportunity for others, who hate to see empty store fronts in the Center and believe that additional sales tax is always good where ever it comes from - all part of the speculation that surrounds the Center. "There are many different stores that ask questions about possibilities in the Rheem Center," says Moraga Town manager Mike Segrest, "that does not mean that they will ever send in an application." Segrest confirms that the town received an inquiry from such a store, but that no application has been filed. In the meantime, there is hope that the Moraga Pet Shoppe will stay in the Center. Jorge Quintero has not given his keys back, as he planned to do at the end of June. He is waiting for Kimco, Inc., the company that manages the center, to respond to his final offer. In June, Kimco announced a new partnership with BIG Shopping Centers, an Israeli publicly-traded company, creating a joint venture to acquire a portfolio of 15 neighborhood shopping centers. Those centers were previously owned by Prudential and Kimco, and it is believed that Rheem is part of the deal. Kimco will continue to manage and lease the centers.

Orinda Taxi is moving to new offices in Orinda. After about three years in operation, Julian Juricevic is moving his crew to 15 Altarinda Road #204, in Orinda. The phone number remains the same: 253-8294.

Save The Date! Empowerment of

Women Forum on October 19

Mechanics Bank and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce have designed an evening of discussions and presentations for women currently working or looking to get back into the workforce. Women from the profit and non-profit sector will be featured in a panel discussion that should appeal to a wide variety of women. The event will be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on Mount Diablo Blvd. from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For more information contact Barbara Gilmore (Lafayette Chamber) at 284-7404 or Debbie Cooper (Mechanics Bank) at 962-6900.

News from the three

Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Business Issues/Government Affairs

Committee at the Chamber of Commerce

office on July 30th from 8 to 9 a.m.; open meeting.

- Jazz concert, Rock the Plaza (at intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.) on

Friday, August 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. No cost

- just bring a picnic and enjoy. Band to be determined.

Moraga

- On Tuesday evening, July 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Moraga Chamber will hold its evening mixer at the Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College. The College is treating the Chamber to good food and wine along with a chance to meet some of the faculty and staff and hear about programs that support the Moraga Chamber businesses through the College. Orinda

- Save the date for the 3rd Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour on Tuesday, Sep 28. The event will start with appetizers from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed with the sampling of downtown restaurants from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.; finally deserts will be served in Theater Square from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Chamber Mixer

Members of the three Lamorinda Chambers of Commerce were the guests of the Veterans Memorial on July 14 along with the members of the Walnut Creek and Spanish Chambers of Commerce. As usual for chamber mixers, the food was great, provided by local restaurants and catering services. The great networking opportunity was coupled this time with a mission: guests were asked to bring a donation for the Marine Corp Care Veterans. John Wintersteen, of the Marine Corps League in Lafayette, provided a list of the items requested by our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The group sends hundreds of packages to soldiers stationed in war zone. To contribute to this effort, you can join Wintersteen at steenmarine@yahoo.com.



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