

Published December 7th, 2011

business briefs



Allen Pennebaker Photo Sophie Braccini

New Gift and Toy Store Coming Soon to Moraga

L Silhouettes Gift Shop
518 Center Street (in the Rheem Center)

It took ten minutes for the Planning Commission to approve Guadalupe Torres' application to open a retail gift shop in the Rheem Center next to Royal Siam. L Silhouettes Gift Shop will sell gifts, including toys and jewelry, and offer gift-wrapping services. The proposed hours of operation are 10am- 6pm, seven days a week. Torres plans to open before the holidays. Dave Schnayer, representing Kimco Realty Corporation, said that the Torres' have extensive retail experience as managers, but that this store is their first personal venture. "They are putting their heart and soul into this," he said, "I wish them success."

Grand Opening!

Flying A Gas Station
22 Bryant Way, Orinda
(by the eastbound entrance to Highway 24)

Allen Pennebaker, the owner of Orinda Motors, seemed to be in several places at one time for the Grand Opening Celebration of his new Flying A Gasoline of Orinda

on Friday the 1st and Saturday the 2nd of December. "This is a very busy day," said Pennebaker on Saturday afternoon, "a lot of people have been coming and they love that we are the cheapest gas in Orinda and that we will pump it for them." Flying A's gas stations almost disappeared in the sixties and only recently the company that owns that name, Royal Petroleum, decided to re-start a network in the Bay Area. "I love that logo," said Pennebaker, "at the time we decided to start a gas station in Orinda this opportunity became available and we jumped on it." Joseph Torbati manages the station's detailing service: "Allen found me at a detail shop somewhere else," said Torbati, "here I do not have to be too fast and turn high volume; I can do the work my way, using a tooth brush when necessary."

New Optometry Center in Orinda
Visual Entrée Optometry
2 Theatre Square, Suite 114, Orinda
386-0258, www.visualentreeoptometry.com

What does 'Entrée' have to do with optometry? A lot, according to Dr. Stephanie Lee who opened a new complete service optometry center in Orinda this fall. In her new facility, with the help of her sister Jessica, who is an Optician, Lee provides a full range of optometric services including comprehensive eye examinations and contact lens fittings. Additionally, she can advise interested clients on preventative and maintenance care through nutrition. "Systemic health issues such as uncontrolled imbalances of blood pressure, blood sugar, and blood cholesterol levels can all impact eye health and in some cases lead to severe vision loss," she says, "prevention is the best prognosis and utilizes new technologies to detect changes earlier. Maintaining a healthy body is an initial step towards good eye health."

Santa's Secret Wrapping Room
5A Rent-a-Space
455 Moraga Road, Ste. F

From December 1st through 23rd, in Santa's Secret Wrapping Room, 5A offers free colorful paper, ribbons, tape and everything needed to wrap holiday gifts; they also provides coloring and fun activities for children. The hours are 9am-5pm daily. On Sunday, December 18th, Santa will come to 5A for free pictures, a holiday photo frame, cocoa, treats, fun events and crafts, 11am-3pm.

Mark Your Calendar for ROC's 2nd Anniversary
2 Theater Square, Orinda

On Saturday, December 10th Republic of Cake proprietors Peter McNiff and Chih-Chung Fang invite the community to come and celebrate their second 'birthday.' The party will take place 2- 4pm with music, fun, a bouncy house and, of course, a variety of their famous cupcakes.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce
Lafayette

Wednesday, December 14, Holiday Mixer at Bank of the West, 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 5:30-7pm. There will be food, fun, beverages and the big holiday raffle.

Moraga

On November 18 Edy Schwartz gave her farewell address as President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Schwartz was president for four years and under her mandate the membership grew from 25 to 150 members. "It is the people who gave their time that made the difference," she said. Schwartz is foremost a community organizer; according to many volunteers she has drafted, "It is hard to say no to Edy!" Under her leadership were born multiple initiatives, including Lamorinda's first shop-local campaign, the Community Faire and a new synergy with St. Mary's College. Schwartz believes it is time to pass the baton. "Different people with different abilities are needed at different times," she says, "I am a community person, now the Chamber needs to be led by a more business-oriented individual, and we are very fortunate that Frank Melon, the Executive Director of the Moraga Country Club, stepped up."

Orinda

Thursday, December 8th, Chamber Holiday Mixer at Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, 5:30-7pm.

Mark Your 2012 Calendar ...The Chamber's Orinda Country Club Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, February 24, noon to 1:30pm at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. The cost is \$30 per person. The luncheon's speaker will be award-winning weekend anchor for NBC Bay Area News, and Orinda resident, Diane Dwyer.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

[back](#)

Copyright © Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga CA