

Constructing a Local Legacy

By Cathy Tyson

When Peter Branagh, president of Branagh Development, and his wife Mona, owner of Pacific Bay Interiors, tragically died in a plane crash July 14 Lamorinda residents mourned their passing. Branagh construction projects throughout the area will remain as a testament to their vision of quality craftsmanship.

“Peter and Mona believed in quality craftsmanship and simple but elegant design that enhanced the lives of families who lived in the homes they built with passionate attention to detail,” said son Matt Branagh. “They loved to participate in the process of helping a family realize their dream. They designed their homes and other projects with the whole community in mind, working enthusiastically and carefully to balance development with preservation and the natural beauty of Lamorinda. They left big shoes to fill but the Branagh Development legacy will continue. We do what is best for the people we serve. Timeless design. Better living. Enduring quality. Proven value with generations of integrity.”

The projects were at various stages of development, some were built, others under construction and

some in the proposal stage. Completed projects in Lafayette include the 21 well-appointed homes surrounded by preserved mature oaks and laurel trees in the Hidden Oaks development off of Olympic Boulevard, the Branagh’s own lovely home in Happy Valley, Springhill Manor homes and more. A number of residential projects have been completed in Moraga as well.

Under construction is an office building on Risa Road and Mt. Diablo in Lafayette, and a single family home on Happy Valley Road. The largest Branagh project is approved, but on hold – 55 spacious condominium units in the Woodbury located behind the Veterans Building on the west end of town, along with nearby EcoVive West – an almost 10,000 square foot office building nearby and two single family homes on Prado Way. Branagh was also part of a group that purchased the historic 20-acre Moraga Adobe property in Orinda.

Beyond Lamorinda, Branagh was involved in a luxury mixed use condominium project in Walnut Creek and had extensive interest in commercial and residential developments in Pleasanton.



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- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
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1218 RIMMER DR
1224 RIMMER DR
1234 RIMMER DR
133 SHUHEY DR
89 SHUHEY DR
70 SHUHEY DR
24 CARR DR
39 BUCKINGHAM DR
1076 SANDERS DR
24 FRETAS DR
4 WANDER DR
149 WALFORD DR
108 WALFORD DR
4 SPARROW CT
11 KEITLEN
8 PIMENTEL CT
133 WESTCHESTER
15 BRECK CT
830 AUGUSTA DR
1144 LARCH AVE
1160 LARCH AVE
1027 LARCH AVE | 1024 LARCH AVE
1148 LARCH AVE
1204 LARCH AVE
1054 LARCH AVE
1090 LARCH AVE
6 LARCH LN
1843 JOSEPH DR
9 FLUETI DR
479 MORAGA RD
454 MORAGA RD
137 PASCO DR, BLDG
1426 DE LA CRUZ
107 NATALIE DR
257 SANDRINGHAM
238 SANDRINGHAM
235 SANDRINGHAM
1072 COUNTRY CLUB
1080 COUNTRY CLUB
398 BIRCHWOOD DR
248 BIRCHWOOD DR
13 DONALD DR
1924 ASCOT DR
1939 ASCOT DR
1977 ASCOT DR
2047 ASCOT DR
1958 ASCOT DR
2043 ASCOT DR
2135 ASCOT DR #28 | 2135 ASCOT DR #17
2135 ASCOT DR #20
2135 ASCOT DR #27
2135 ASCOT DR #28
2087 ASCOT DR #224
2087 ASCOT DR #124
2091 ASCOT DR
1018 RIVER ROCK LN
94 G ELDER
1409 CAMINO PERAL
1403 CAMINO PERAL
1418 CAMINO PERAL
1465 CAMINO PERAL
1437 CAMINO PERAL
1414 CAMINO PERAL
1475 CAMINO PERAL
1515 A CAMINO PERAL
234 VALLEY GLEN
180 VALLEY GLEN
203 VISTA GLEN PL
950 OAK VISTA
545 PALO ALTO PL
7 EL CAMINO FLORES
20 JUNIPER WAY
20 ROSS DR
3 WOODFORD DR | 19021 SCHUESTER DR
3428 BICKERSTAFF
67 LA CRESTA
895 STONEGATE CIR
31 COLORADO
210 CARMEL
529 OAKSHIRE PL
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2211 TICE VALLEY
1715 139TH ST
2277 STAR AVE
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Photo Cathy Tyson

First went the parking area, then the restaurant, now the Hungry Hunter Restaurant is officially demolished. The former home of prime rib and cheesecake at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard

will soon be the home of a 23-unit townhome project by Signature Properties on the one and a half acre site. Five three-story Craftsman style buildings will surround a central common area for residents. C. Tyson

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Questions with home care?

DEAR VANESSA:

My uncle has been diagnosed with Parkinson's for over a year, he has a slow progression, beginning of stage two and is showing symptoms that include slight tremors, slow movement, mild memory loss and speech problems. He is beginning to become depressed. We are the only family he has and we live out of state. Recently he has been beginning to withdraw and become less social. He lives alone and does not have many friends around anymore. What can we do to help with his ability to continue to be social? Are there any programs that he can become involved with that will encourage activity and more interaction with others? What else can we do as a family to help with the issues that may arise with the progression of this disease? Are there any community resources available for patients with Parkinson's? I believe Parkinson's should not keep the affected away from society/social interactions, and therefore I am seeking guidance from you regarding this sensitive situation. Thank you for all of your help. EDEN

DEAR EDEN:

Parkinson's symptoms manifest differently in different patients. Many patients experience some symptoms and not others, and even the pace at which the disease worsens varies on an individual basis. We are most familiar with the motor symptoms as they are the most evident signs of the disease from the outside; these symptoms include tremors, slowness of movement, impaired balance, and rigidity (these can hamper coordinated and effortless use of the body). There is an increased awareness of the importance of other symptoms that are called "non-motor" symptoms which can have a major impact on people. These include cognitive impairment, ranging from mild memory difficulties to dementia, and mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety. Also common are sleep difficulties, loss or sense of smell, speech and swallowing problems, unexplained pains, drooling, and low blood pressure when standing. Your uncle's speech may have been perceived by others as hesitant, slow, quiet, garbled and repetitive. These speech problems may have contributed to problems with social interactions which could isolate him. Many people develop negative impressions about individuals with Parkinson's, based solely on how they communicate. These perceptions limit opportunities for social interaction and full participation in society for those with the disease, reducing their quality of life. Have you talked to him about speech therapy? This non-drug treatment has been viewed as an intervention that can greatly enhance speech and overall quality of life. Consult with your uncle's physician and others involved in his overall treatment plan

Exercise and physical therapy are the most frequently recommended non-drug treatments for Parkinson's. Exercise programs can help your uncle stay active and relatively limber, and improve his balance and motor coordination. Ask his doctor regarding muscle-strengthening exercises. Exercise may have positive effects on some of the non-motor symptoms by reducing sleep dysfunction and improving emotional well-being. Occupational therapy can help your uncle in a variety of tasks that impact daily living and quality of life, from physical movement to handwriting to adaptation of utensils and other household items. Psychological therapy and counseling can be helpful to treat depression and anxiety; these intrinsic symptoms should not be left untreated.

As much as possible, your uncle should get among other people, if only by taking walks in public places or going out to shop. This kind of interaction provides an important sense of connectedness. This helps to sustain self-esteem and to take your uncle's mind off the Parkinson's for a while. If your uncle enjoyed being around other people before his diagnosis, he will still enjoy this interaction even if it becomes more difficult. Given his situation, hiring an in-home caregiver is a good option at this point. A Parkinson's diagnosis is a life-changing event for everyone affected. A caregiver/companion can provide social interaction for him; he or she can be involved in providing assistance or treatment to improve your uncle's life and help with the tasks of daily life that may become difficult or impossible. A caregiver serves an invaluable role as the doctor's day-to-day eyes and ears as well.

Here's a website that will help you find a support group and relevant Web resources: <http://www.michaeljfox.org/>. The Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale is another relevant resource: <http://www.thepi.org/>. It is America's only independent non-profit organization that combines research and patient care for Parkinson's Disease under one roof. Avenidas' Parkinson's Support Group provides a supportive environment in which persons with Parkinson's can share some of the difficult and discouraging issues involved in living with Parkinson's (<http://www.avenidas.org/services/health-wellness/support-groups>).

Coping with Parkinson's is a challenge but it can be managed. Parkinson's can't be cured but its symptoms can be treated. There is hope! VANESSA

Got Questions & Answers about Home Care is written by Vanessa Valerio, RN, VP and COO for Patient Care at Home Care Orinda. If you would like more information about senior care and how home care can help, please email Vanessa Valerio at vanessav@careindeed.com, call her at (925) 317-3080 or visit their website at www.homecareorinda.com/.

