



**Independent, locally owned and operated!**

www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977

Published September 12th, 2012  
**business briefs**



From left, Pennini's owner Patrick Vahey, Employee of the Month Matthew Poirier, Rotary President Frank May and Moraga Chamber of Commerce President Frank Melon. Photo provided

style. Favoring west coast casual, the Stenzels offer tops and bottoms including jeans, as well as jackets, shoes, and belts.

**Matthew Poirier Named Moraga Employee of the Month**

Pennini's popular food service manager, Matthew Poirier, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for August. Poirier is the sixth recipient of the monthly employee award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce, and has worked at Pennini's for the past six years. He manages a staff of 12 food servers and is well known for his cheerful approach and his ability to relate to the wide variety of customers, from new Saint Mary's students to customers who have been coming to the restaurant for well over a decade. "Matthew has a genuine commitment to make sure our customers receive quality food and service," said Pennini's owner Patrick Vahey. "He is a real team player and has played a major role in our outreach to the Saint Mary's student body. Our customers really think highly of him and I view him as my right hand man." In winning the award, the Rotary and Chamber will award Poirier a \$50 gift card to Safeway as well as a \$50 gift certificate to Ace Hardware in Moraga.

**East Bay Small Business Symposium**

The East Bay Small Business Initiative will present a symposium September 18 to support small business owners, from start-ups to mature companies, as they grow and move their businesses to the next level. Topics will include Business Growth Tools, B-to-B Networking, and Strategic Resources. Small business resource providers in financing, marketing, planning, employee recruitment and training will be present. Featured speaker Ed Baxter of Baxter Media will talk about "Finding Your Story." Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with the three-hour program beginning at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Avenue in Danville. For reservations and more info, visit [www.ebsmallbusiness.com](http://www.ebsmallbusiness.com). No charge for small business attendees.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce  
 Lafayette**

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. September 13 for the new office grand opening of Pacific Union Real Estate, 201 Lafayette Circle #100.

The 17th Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival (with music, too) will take over Downtown Lafayette on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16. There is still time to volunteer and have fun with your fellow Chamber members and neighbors. Contact the Chamber.

Ribbon Cutting at Itrim Thursday, September 20 at 5 p.m., 973 Moraga Road.

Social Media Strategies Workshop Series by Robin Fox. Learn about Personal Branding in a LinkedIn World Wednesday, September 19 starting at 8 a.m. in the Lafayette Library Art and Science Classroom. Online registration

at [bit.ly/LafayetteChamber](http://bit.ly/LafayetteChamber). Free for Moraga and Lafayette Chamber members.

#### Moraga

Chamber regular members meeting Friday, September 28 at the Hacienda de las Flores starting at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins, and followed by a discussion from 8 to 9 a.m. about the issues that will be on the November ballot and might impact business owners.

#### Orinda

The Fifth Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 18, conducted by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) in the Theatre District of downtown Orinda. Each restaurant and winery on the tour will provide a small portion that best represents their establishment at no additional cost to event ticket holders. Advanced tickets: \$40; \$45 for tickets purchased at the door. Attendees will also enjoy art (30 artists will display their work), live music, free massage, valet parking and more. Visit [Orindachamber.org](http://Orindachamber.org) for more details and purchase tickets.

Reach the reporter at: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

[back](#)

Copyright © Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga CA