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business briefs



Photo Sophie Braccini

Santa Loves Lamorinda Businesses!

In Lafayette, Santa's message is simple: "Stay Home for the Holidays!" And support your local merchants, adds the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber and the Try Lafayette First (TLF) group have planned a city-wide party Saturday, Dec. 8 in downtown Lafayette with stage entertainment, local events and refreshments - and with the "big guy" himself. Santa's next stop that day will be in Moraga at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where he will be available for pictures (bring your camera to capture the moment). If you miss him this weekend, Santa will return to Moraga Saturday, Dec. 15 for free pictures and letter writing at 5A Rent A Space from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone knows that Santa is ubiquitous - how else could he deliver toys to everyone on the "nice list" in one night? - so he'll also be at Orinda Theatre Square every Friday from 2 to 7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Dec. 23. The Square's management asks that you bring an ornament for Santa's tree or an unwrapped, new toy to donate to Toys for Tots through Dec. 17.

Orinda Tire Store opens at 76 Gas Station
67 Moraga Way, Orinda
(925) 253-7799
www.orindatires.com

J.J. Abraham believes he has the best rate in the area for tires and service. "There is no hidden cost here," he said. "It's just the cost of the tires and my labor." The owner says he has all major 2012 American-made tires in stock and can give advice on the best tires for your specific car. He also offers free tire rotation with every purchase. A former aviation industry worker, this is Abraham's first business located in Orinda.

Mediation Expert Joins Lafayette Chamber
(925) 788-7198
dudley_braun@hotmail.com.

Mediation expert Dudley Braun recently joined the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. A former product marketing manager in the high tech software industry, Braun mediates civil conflicts, before or after law suits. "It is a very satisfying job; in general people come to me when they are very unhappy and when they leave they're very happy," says Braun, who recently worked on a case involving two companies, one providing services to the other. "One was dissatisfied by the service received and refused to pay; the other one threatened to sue." Braun met with the president of one firm and the vice-president of the other together and got them to resolve the issue. "It is a very private and confidential process," says Braun. "Sometimes emotions run very high, but most of the time it is very effective." Braun is approved in the Contra Costa court system, he volunteers for the small claims court in Walnut Creek.

Moraga's Employee of the Month for November

Robert Martin has been named November's Moraga Employee of the Month, an award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce. A familiar face in Moraga, Martin works as a Senior Associate at The UPS Store, and is an accredited Notary for the business. "Robert is just a great people person and he has a knack with connecting with our customers," said UPS Store owner Doug Meyer. "He is cheerful and energetic and makes everybody's day just a little bit brighter." Martin will receive a \$50 Safeway gift card and a \$50 gift certificate to Pennini's Restaurant in Moraga, which will be presented at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on Dec. 4.

Cloud 9 Organic Salon Re-Opens
1 Orinda Way, #3, Orinda (behind the Shell Station)
(925) 258-9811
www.cloud9organictherapy.com

Some call it the best mani/pedi in the area. Cloud 9 prides itself on being one of a kind; it promises to not only make your hands and feet beautiful, but that you'll leave the place relaxed and revived. The owner, Cindy Nguyen, guarantees the use of only organic products such as polishes and lotions. The salon also provides hair styling and waxing services.

CM Commercial Real Estate Named 2012 Fastest Growing Business
3575 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 212
(925) 283-6076

CM Commercial Real Estate of Lafayette was named one of 2012's fast growing businesses by the San Francisco Business Times. They want to acknowledge their friends and clients who have made this possible.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce
Lafayette

Annual Holiday Mixer from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Wells Fargo Bank, 3630 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
\$10 admission or free with three canned food items.

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 for Lan's Skin Care, 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga

The Chamber is accepting nominations for Business Person of the Year. Names can be emailed to Kathe Nelson at kathe@moragachamber.org. Votes to select among the nominees is scheduled in January and the awards dinner will be in February.

Orinda

Holiday Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 hosted by Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, Orinda. After the mixer, hop to Hilton House from 5:30 to 9 p.m. to enjoy food, music, fun and a special sale as part of the 11th Anniversary Holiday Party organized by Cindy Hilton and her staff. For more information visit, www.HiltonHouseDesigns.com.



From left, Moraga Rotary President Frank May, Robert Martin, UPS Store owner Doug Meyer, and Moraga Chamber of Commerce President Frank Melon. Photo Kevin Reneau

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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