

Stat Med

An oasis of urgent care between Berkeley and Walnut Creek

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Dr. Armando Samaniego, Terri Fadelli R.N., and Dr. Stuart Shikora.

Photo Sophie Braccini

A month ago Dr. Armando Samaniego and his partners opened the first Lamorinda urgent care facility in Lafayette, Stat Med. The clinic is open seven days a week, including holidays, with expert emergency medical staff ready to address any urgent medical need or to simply give a flu shot on the weekend.

“Our clinic is set up to handle any urgent condition people might have that is not a life threatening emergency,” explains Samaniego, who has been an emergency room physician for more than 25 years. The rule of thumb: if you have to call 911 and need to be transported by an ambulance, you should go to an emergency room; if you are driving your own car, downtown Lafayette is closer and the new facility is staffed with the same quality professionals, without a long wait. “We are very good at screening and triage because that’s what we’ve done in the emergency rooms all these years,” adds Samaniego. “If you come here and the situation requires hospitalization, we will get you started and initiate the transfer.”

Located on Dewing Avenue just off Mount Diablo Boulevard, the clinic has ample parking. Exam rooms are stocked with the same equipment as emergency rooms. Stat Med shares the ground floor of the building with the existing radiology practice of Dr. Brad Piatt, so patients have access to x-rays, ultrasounds or even MRIs.

Piatt and Samaniego got to know each other when their sons played on the Campolindo High School football team together (they graduated in 2012); the son of Stat Med’s registered nurse, Terri Fadelli, also played football at Campo. The group also includes Dr. Stuart Shikora, of Orinda, and Dr. Allen Read, who lives in Walnut Creek. Stat Med is a tight knit team of emergency specialists, all members of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, with additional specialties, such as trauma care.

“Emergency rooms today see a lot of patients who just cannot get another type of care and the consequence is that they are often crowded,” says Samaniego. “Stat Med is also here for last minute medical needs, such as prescription refills, sports physicals, or travel medicine, when the primary care physicians’ offices are closed or backed up.”

During its first few weeks the staff treated patients with abdominal pains, allergic reactions, fractures, wounds requiring stitches, asthma, fevers, pneumonia and urinary tract infections, to name a few. Weekends and holidays have been especially busy. “Over the holidays we had several people visiting from out of town who came directly to the clinic,” says Fadelli. “People from Texas, Florida or Indiana said that they are used to urgent care clinics, where they go all the time when they are in need of immediate treatment that’s not life

threatening.”

Samaniego prepared carefully when starting the business. Knowing that being an entrepreneur was not the same thing as being a doctor, although he had been running departments, he decided to get a business degree. “First I looked at local business schools like Saint Mary’s, but my med school roommate convinced me to go to Irvine, which offers an executive health care MBA,” he says. It was no small commitment, but he made it work.

“The primary care physicians are overwhelmed, the ERs are overwhelmed, so I think there is a real niche for a service like ours here,” Samaniego adds. He plans to continue his physician duties in addition to running the business, because his first love is taking care of people. “What I enjoy here is that I spend more time one on one with the patients, and it is a great opportunity to provide a service to the community,” he says.

Stat Med, at 970 Dewing Ave., Suite 100-B, accepts all major insurance, including Medicare, and is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. For more information, visit statmed.com or call (925) 297-6396.

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

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business briefs

Golden Palace Opens in Moraga

581 Moraga Rd., Moraga
(925) 631-0284



Golden Palace's new team, from left: Ting Han, Jay Liu (owner and sushi chef), Krystal Chang, Je Paul Sing (chef), Norman Sison. Photo Sophie Braccini

Local restaurant goers will recognize the familiar face of sushi chef Jay Liu, formerly from Asia Palace, at the newest Asian restaurant in Moraga, Golden Palace. Liu learned his trade at the popular Moraga Center restaurant, before opening this location across from the Rheem Center on Moraga Road. “I wanted to own my own business,” says Liu, who is originally from Shanghai. “This looked like a good opportunity to start our first restaurant with my wife, Krystal Chang.” They convinced Asia Palace’s chef Je Paul Sing to join them, as well as Norman Sison who works in the front of the house. The restaurant’s style is reminiscent of Asia Palace, with a fusion of sushi and traditional Chinese dishes. Liu claims to get all his fish from Japan and buys fresh fruits and vegetables daily, using high quality organic products. The sushi menu features favorites as well as new creations, while the Chinese menu is classic, with some creative new dishes added such as fried red snapper and seaweed that makes a tasty and spectacular composition. The restaurant and kitchen are quite large and the interior has modern simple décor.

Local Real Estate Agents Serve Lamorinda’s Over-50 Population

DL Real Estate – Pacific Union

2 Theater Square, Suite 117, Orinda
(925) 285-8556

Debbie Johnston and Lisa Geary recently received the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation, equipping them with special knowledge to manage the sale of a home for the most rapidly growing demographic in Lamorinda – those over age 50. Possessed with the skills and experience to assist with the financial and emotional challenges a client can face when selling a long-held family home, DL Real Estate Advisor’s mission is to provide education, support and solutions to transitioning adults. Johnston and Geary are hosting two free seminars at 11 a.m. Feb. 5 and at 10 a.m. Feb. 8 at the Orinda Community Center, Room 8 to help educate the over-50 population about the complex decisions that must be made when considering a move. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call (925) 285-8556 or email Debbie.johnston@pacunion.com.

Moraga employee of the month

After serving in various roles during her eight years at the Moraga Country Club, Christina French was selected as the Moraga Employee of the Month for January by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Moraga.



French, who began her work at the club in 2006, is one of the most popular employees at MCC, originally serving as a hostess in the club’s restaurant and working in membership assistance. Currently an accounting manager, she oversees the club’s database and photo program. “Christina is one of our most valuable employees who is always ready to chip in when needed and can assist almost of our departments because of her knowledge and her past history with the club,” said MCC General Manager Frank Melon. “Everybody here at the club loves dealing with her because she always has a smile on her face and just has great people skills.” The Rotary and Chamber will present French with her award, and a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift certificate to Asia Palace Restaurant in Moraga at an upcoming Moraga Rotary luncheon in February.

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News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Mixer at Town Hall Theatre at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, 3535 School St.
"Facebook Content Creation: Easy Steps to Create Engaging Posts" at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Entrepreneur’s Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 in the chamber conference room.

Ribbon Cutting at Westamerica Bank at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 at 3515 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21 in the chamber conference room

Moraga

First Business Meeting of the year from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Attendees will have an opportunity to present information about their businesses and hear a presentation about green business.

Ribbon Cutting and Open House at Filice Insurance at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at 1150 Moraga Way.

Save the date for the Business Person of the Year award dinner at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24 at the Moraga Country Club. RSVP to Kathe@mora-gachamber.org; \$25 per person.

Orinda

Save the date for the Live at the Orinda Comedy Night starting at 7 p.m. March 7 at the Orinda Theatre. For tickets and event information, visit Orindachamber.org or call (925) 254-3909.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com