

# Where Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

... continued from page E1



*Sky Hy Ranch, as seen from Moraga Road.*



*Sky Hy residents straddle the hillside between Lafayette and Moraga. Its high school students attend Campolindo.*



*Olympic Oaks in Lafayette*

Unincorporated though it is, Rothenberg said Baywood remains “Lafayette centric” through its shared police and fire service providers (Contra Costa County Sheriff and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, or ConFire) and Lafayette school district affiliation. Baywood residents are just minutes by car from Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Martinez, and the community maintains a “very active” yet “fair and benign” homeowners’ association, said Rothenberg.

That HOA administers common areas, provides upkeep on Baywood’s private streets and mailboxes, and maintains liability insurance. While Baywood “has always been gated,” Rothenberg said the gate simply “wasn’t a factor” in making the decision to move there. “The real appeal was aesthetic,” he said.

**Olympic Oaks** homes line the south side of Lafayette’s Olympic Boulevard at the foot of Pleasant Hill Road. Although these well-built homes back to a busy intersection, they offer easy access to Highway 24 and Walnut Creek, great curb appeal and floor plans with three or four bedrooms and multiple bathrooms. Home sizes range from 2,300 to 2,700 square feet. The predominantly shake-sided homes give Olympic Oaks community a “Northeast feel,” realtor Diane Reilly said. Many homes also feature a detached “cottage” room for in-laws or an au pair, she added.

Lafayette’s **Sky Hy Ranch** is a gated community of 28 custom-built homes sitting just below the crest of Moraga Road. “Many drivers pass by every day not knowing of its existence,” said Reilly. Lafayette Historical Society’s website explains that Sky Hy’s original ranch was a Spanish-style home custom built in 1941 and owned by Judge O.D. Hamlin.

Hamlin originally had a cabin on what was then a 200-acre parcel of land his family owned since 1871. A developer purchased 45 acres of land from Hamlin and sold lots to others to build custom spec homes between 1974 and 1980. Sky Hy children attend Lafayette Elementary School, Stanley Middle School and Campolindo High School.

Greg Wolff, Lafayette’s senior planner, said the city does not have a policy on gated communities in its municipal code and that the city “is largely built-out,” explaining most subdivisions at this stage would be smaller infill. “The Planning Commission would evaluate homes on those new lots for compatibility with the existing neighborhood,” he said.

**Northridge**, with just 13 homes, is the smallest of the gated communities Lamorinda Weekly explored. Its north hillside location overlooks Highway 24 and the Lafayette Reservoir can be seen in the distance from the entry gates. Northridge was rezoned and approved for subdivision in 1980, said Wolff. Calls to the Northridge homeowners’ association representative were unanswered.

... continued on page E6

## GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY

**Katie Larsen**

Agent

Larsen Insurance Agency Lafayette

3746 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 110

Lafayette

Phone: (415)665-2955 or (925)962-9065

lkatie@farmersagent.com

Auto • Home • Life  
Business  
Workers Compensation



**FARMERS**