



MICHAEL VERBRUGGE
CONSTRUCTION INC.
General Contractor

925.631.1055 www.MVCRemodeling.com

Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.
All forms residential remodel/repair.



"A little bit of myself goes into every job."

Lic# 681593
Michael Verbrugge,
President,
Moraga Resident





Clean | Courteous | Conscientious
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References
Full design team resources available

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
www.clarkthompson.com
ct@clarkthompson.com

CalBRE #: 00903367




Giving Dreams an Address

County Animal Services in Transition

... continued from page A1

Not so, says Stefani Buzzard, president of No Kill Contra Costa, an advocacy group critical of the operation of the Martinez shelter. "It's a conveyor belt to death," she said.

Buzzard prefers the county hire a director who is not entrenched in the traditional shelter model. She would like the director to comprehensively implement the No Kill equation, which includes reducing the number of animals coming into the shelter, improving the care of animals at the shelter and increasing the number of positive outcomes. "A 90 percent save rate is realistic," she said, referring to the percentage of shelter animals adopted, returned to their owners or acquired by rescue groups, or neutered and released, as with feral cats.

She outlined some of the programs she would implement to achieve that rate. "Double the number of volunteers," said Buzzard. "Make the animals more adoptable with better training. More public outreach. And build better relationships with rescue organizations."

Nathan Winograd, director of the Oakland-based No Kill Advocacy



The outcome that everyone desires: Maya is headed to a new home.

Photo Andy Scheck

Center, noted that the Austin, Texas public shelter, serving a population similar in size to Contra Costa County, with an intake of 18,000 animals a year, reports a 90 percent save rate. "It's because of the decisions made by the people running it," he said. He stressed the need for the department to be proactive with the public, especially at the time of intake. "Before accepting a surrender, ask what the problem is," said Winograd. "It may be a problem that can be fixed."

"The No Kill movement says there is a home for every animal," said Noell Crosse, Animal Services humane education coordinator. "I agree with the No Kill frustration, that no healthy or treatable animal should die. But what is healthy and treatable? If a dog stops eating, starts biting the walls, rescue groups don't want it. I don't know what the answer is."

Crosse pointed to the importance of public education. "We're not a petting zoo," she said. "Call us what we really are: the dog pound. I want people to know that this is not the place to send their animals. A life in a shelter is not the life that animals were meant to lead."

"Our field staff takes every opportunity to support citizens' maintaining their pets as opposed to surrendering them," said deputy director Rick Golphin. But he explained that the department cannot turn away animals, with pit bull and Chihuahua breeds totaling nearly 50 percent of the dog intake. Those breeds are rarely accepted by rescue groups.

"The most successful shelters have a major partner to address that group of animals that the rescue groups don't take," said Golphin, highlighting the Reno shelter, which teams with the Nevada Humane Society to assist with adoptions. "I pre-

fer to stay away from terms like No Kill," he said. "Just do the best job that you can do."

The Animal Services department is charged with both protecting the public and taking care of animals as humanely and ethically as possible. A staff of 78, including veterinary technicians, field officers and administration, plus over 250 volunteers, carry out the department responsibilities from a 38,000 square foot center in Martinez and a satellite shelter in Pinole. Animal Services reported a 2014 intake of 11,000 cats and dogs, down from 15,000 five years ago, along with a save rate of 69 percent last year, up from 59 percent in 2010. "We deal with a serious animal overpopulation, and we have got to stop society from looking at animals as disposable commodities," said Glenn Howell, who retired in January after managing the department for 11 years.

Howell, rehired as interim director, encouraged the incoming director to be open and to keep up the positive momentum. "We do many things very well," he said. "Our highly regarded medical program is second to none. And I'm proud of our expanded field service."

County administrator David Twa and the human resources department continue to vet applicants for Animal Services director. "There are no set criteria," said Twa. "We've received applications from a wide range of candidates who embrace diverse approaches to animal services." He also stressed the need for increased public education and outreach, a standard agreed upon by nearly every person interviewed for this article.

"If Contra Costa County hires the right director who, rather than blaming the public, engages the public, the department will succeed," said Winograd.

Compost Bins

Available for the reduced price of **\$62!** Tax & shipping included



Turn your yard waste and kitchen scraps into nutrient-rich compost with the easy-to-use Soilsaver Composter. Register for a FREE workshop online.

Order today!
www.recyclesmart.org



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

Offer available to residents of Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and unincorporated Central Contra Costa County. Sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority and the City of San Ramon. *As long as supplies last.

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Installation, Service & Repair




www.cahvac.com
(877) 482-2496
HVAC 4 YOU
www.paces: 925-270-5282
CA Lic# 92391

YOUR COMFORT SPECIALIST

Heating • Air Conditioning • Installation and Repair
Maintenance Agreements • Free Estimates
Serving Contra Costa County • CA Licensed & Insured

925-689-7017



Hundreds of Bay Area families choose Home Care Assistance.

Trust our award-winning care to suit your family's needs. We're the best!

24/7 Live-In Care Specialists. We offer around-the-clock care for a reasonable price despite recent overtime laws.

Brain Health Experts. We are the only home care agency that offers Cognitive Therapeutics, a research-backed activities program that promotes brain health and vitality in our clients.

Lamorinda's Best Caregivers. Each has at least 2 years experience and undergoes extensive training and screening, including a DOJ background check, drug test and proprietary psychological exam designed to test for honesty and conscientiousness.

Meet Jill. Jill Cabeceiras is the client care manager for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help you and your family!



Call Jill to schedule your free consultation today!
925-820-8390 • HomeCareAssistance.com
190-G Alamo Plaza, Alamo, CA 94507



NEED HELP AT HOME?

for yourself or a loved one?

Errands • Driving • Appointments • Shopping • Cooking
Technology • Finances • Holiday • Pet Care • Organizing

925-285-6272

Lamorinda Comforts of Home
LOCAL • BONDED • INSURED
www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com

