

Historic Moraga Barn is a Community Asset for New Local Business

By Sophie Braccini



Greg Gaskin and Simran Parhar in front of the new headquarters of Gaskin Wealth Management in the historic Moraga Barn. Photo Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Barn is a valuable asset—at least that what Greg Gaskin is banking on.

He moved his company, Gaskin Wealth Management, into the historic space. A pragmatic capitalist with an appreciation for beauty and sustainability, the financial advisor, who had worked in Danville, had been on the look-out for a place closer to his Moraga home for some time. He wanted a place

for work, but also large enough to hold events and give back to the community. He's found it with this unique building, both a historical landmark and meets the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum certified structure.

Gaskin and his wife, Jenise, are both natives of the East Bay, and they have raised their two children in Moraga. Gaskin has been work-

ing as a professional wealth management and investment advisor for over 23 years, in Walnut Creek with Smith Barney, then opening his own firm in Danville in 2007.

Gaskin says that he manages market risks for his clients' investment portfolios, simply picking up the best performing investments, inside each asset class.

He easily gets into sports metaphors to explain his concept, saying that sports teams are simply ranked according to how well they perform. He says he uses the same philosophy with the performance of financial assets, utilizing the Point and Figure methodology that analyzes the performance of assets, comparing them to their peers.

This purely analytical approach has the benefit of getting away from the emotional aspect, says Gaskin, which gets in the way of sound investing. He adds that he has been able to keep his clients' assets outperforming the market for the past 10 years, whether they are invested in 401K plans, stocks or bonds.

When asked if the Barn is not a bit disproportionate to his needs, as right now only he and his assistant Simran Parhar occupy the three-story building, Gaskin says that he always wanted to own a place that would be big enough to hold events and give back to the community.

The ground floor of the Barn, with its high ceiling and immense bay windows, has always been a great place for gatherings, even after it stopped being a bar. Many remember the wonderful celebrations of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association, of the Moraga Garden Farms, or the local art exhibits. Gaskin says that he will continue the tradition, starting Saturday May 7 with a free financial seminar. "We will have one every first Saturdays of the month," he says.

And that is only the beginning. Walking through the building, Gaskin points at spaces that will become conference rooms; he moves through the back space and paints with words how a barbecue, a fountain and new landscaping are going to extend the appeal of the building for gatherings and parties. He imagines fundraising events for the Chamber of Commerce or the Campolindo Cougars football team. His son Kyle, now a police officer, was on that team until he graduated in 2008.

The business owner says he hasn't been all work and no play. He has enjoyed raising his two children and appreciated coaching their sports teams. He says that the unique space he bought will allow him to continue the community-building he found in the youth

sports.

Chris Avant, the former owner of the Barn, conceived and executed the renovation of the building with his firm, Canyon Construction. It was during a tour of the property with Avant that Gaskin realized what a special place it was, with its solar tiles, Austrian Bruckner Windows, geothermic piping that supports a radiant heat and cooling system, water catchment and storage, recycled features and green construction material. The benefits, Gaskin says, are not only the beauty of the place, but the very minimal utility bills he has to pay.

"I didn't even turn on the heat in January and February," he says. "It is that well insulated."

For more on the Barn, read the Lamorinda Weekly article "Moraga Barn: On Its Way To Platinum" (<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0110/pdf/Moraga-Barn-On-its-Way-to-Platinum.pdf>) in our June 27, 2007 edition.

Gaskin Wealth Management is located at 925 Country Club Drive, Moraga. Contact them at (925) 376-7335 or www.managemarket-risk.com.

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

business briefs

Something to Cheer About: New Beer Garden Coming to Town



Lamorinda Taphouse Photo provided

Something new is brewing in the old spot just vacated by the Lafayette Gallery at 3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite A, in Lafayette. The Lamorinda Taphouse Beer Garden and Bar is a local, craft beer

taphouse specializing in offering rare and unique craft beer. They plan to open sometime this summer. For more information, visit their Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/lamorindataphouse.com.

Get that Island Spirit as Way Side Inn Thrift Shop Goes Hawaiian

The volunteers at Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop are busy preparing for the "lazy, hazy days of summer-like" weather with the Bathing Suits/Hawaiiana event. This popular sale begins at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, "Mei" 3, and continues as long as the inventory lasts. The combined one-stop shopping spree offers a wide selection of bathing suits, cover ups for both adults and children, pareos, beach bags and swim accessories, all "suitable" for poolside and the beach time.



Check out Way Side Inn's "Hawaiiana" event. Photo provided

Hawaiiana shirts, purses, artwork, décor and books — all with that "island feel" — will also be available. The Way Side Inn Thrift Shop is located at 3521 Golden Gate Way in Lafayette.

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6 at the Concord Hilton.

Schumacker bought the business in 2001 after working for 13 years at Pepsi Cola as its Fleet Manager. Initially he started off with two mechanics and now has three, a service writer, and the help of Schumacker's wife, Janelle.

He has enjoyed tremendous success in Moraga, and received great reviews on Yelp. He works foreign and domestic vehicles and "does not take short-cuts with any cars," he says. A real plus of his job, he says, is that he also gets to see and work with his son every day and someday hopes to pass the business to him. For tickets and information about the event, call 925-323-6524



Ron Schumacker Photo provided

Learn About Pilates

Absolute Center in Lafayette is celebrating Pilates Day, 2016, with an open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12. Attendees can learn more about the history of Pilates, new approaches, and hear from Theo St. Francis, a competitive swimmer and MIT student who used Pilates to recover from a spinal cord injury. There will also be light refreshments and raffle prizes. Absolute Center is located at 3758 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 101, in Lafayette.

From the Chambers Lafayette

Coffee with the Mayor

Join us for "Coffee with the Mayor" with Mayor Mark Mitchell at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 22 in the Chamber Conference Room. This meeting is open to everyone. Please park on the street.

Chamber Mixer

The Lafayette Chamber Monthly Mixer will be held from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27 at Douglas Designs Plumbing, Tile & Lighting, located at 3535 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Ribbon Cuttings

A Ribbon Cutting celebration will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 at the Tail Haven Hotel & Day Lounge, 3399 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

A Ribbon Cutting celebration will be held at 10 a.m. May 26 for Oakbay Chiropractic-Lamorinda, located at 1080 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

Moraga Small Business of the Year

Ron Schumacker and his Moraga Motors will be recognized as Moraga's Small Business of the Year at the East Bay Leadership Council lunch and award ceremony on May

Moraga Community Fair

Booth registration is now open for the Moraga Community Faire which will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. Moraga Chamber members and any Moraga business may showcase at the faire with their own booth. Register at www.moragachamber.org.

Orinda Trivia Bee

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Rotary present the Orinda Trivia Bee on Friday, April 29 at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St Stephens Dr. Orinda. Cost is \$360 per team (up to six people per team), which includes a family style dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and the game begins at 7 p.m. sharp. Winners take a cash prize for the nonprofit of their choice. Reserve a table quickly, as only 16 tables are available. To purchase a table go to orindachamber.org, call 254-3909 or email info@orindachamber.org.

Cinco de Mayo Mixer

Save the date for a Cinco de Mayo-style mixer at Land Home Financial Services after hours on May 3 in Theater Square. For more information, contact the Orinda Chamber at (925) 254-3909.

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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