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10th Annual
MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE & CAR SHOW
Saturday, May 14th
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Higgins Malette Orphanage



Original Rheem Hacienda with gate and driveway

Photos provided

Moraga's historic Hacienda de las Flores has seen many owners and many changes in its 100 years. A Centennial Celebration is planned for May 15.

Top Photo Andy Schreck

Hacienda de las Flores Turns 100

By Sophie Braccini

One hundred years ago the first building was erected on the site known today as the Hacienda de las Flores. That piece of land and that building have seen the rise and fall of many local families and enterprises. It is a piece of Moraga history, maybe to be transformed to yet something different for the future.

The community will celebrate its big anniversary on May

15 at a community celebration, quite befitting for a place that was once known as the Little Hearst Castle.

Elsie Mastick of the Moraga Historical Society remembers the day in the early 1960s when she modeled for a fundraising fashion show around the pool, by special permission of property owner Donald Rheem. The Hacienda de las Flores had been purchased in 1934 by the industrialist for his wife

Alice Rheem, who loved the scenic hills and wanted acreage for her horses. In fact, the 20-acre property included stables and racetracks close to what is now El Paraiso Court. Rheem was friends with William Randolph Hearst, and while his Hacienda may not have been on par with Hearst Castle, it was nonetheless known as the San Simeon of the East Bay.

... continued on page A11

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A14
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B8
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Food	B8
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D20

This Week Read About:

Lenox Project OK'd	...A2
Council Supports Bond	...A2
Taste of Lafayette	...A3
New Principal at AHS	...A3
Wight Expansion Denied	...A3
Hacienda Plan Falls Short	...A4
Merchants Faire Turns 10	...A5
Dog Days in Orinda	...A6
New Sign for Orinda Creek	...A6
Orinda Day of Action	...A7
MOFD Open House	...A8
Letters to the Editor	...A9
New Charging Stations	...A13

Civic News A1-A14

Corroded Culvert is Culprit in Sinkhole. — page A4

MOFD News A8

MOFD to sell Lorinda Lane property. — page A8

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Lafayette's Music Man Takes on New Gig

By Diane Claytor



Bob Athayde, Music Director at Stanley Middle School, spends his weekend nights performing at La Finestra Restaurant. Photo Diane Claytor

Bob Athayde lives and breathes music; it fills both his days and nights. He loves band music and orchestral music, jazz and pop. (When asked which he likes best, he responded, without hesitation, "Whatever I'm playing.") And Athayde doesn't ever seem to tire of it, which is good

considering he has spent the last 40 years teaching music to thousands of young people. And now his nights – at least his weekend nights – are spent entertaining diners at Lafayette's La Finestra Restaurant.

Ask him a question about music and Athayde doesn't just give a verbal explanation; he moves over to the piano where his fingers fly across the keyboard, demonstrating his point. Whether he's playing the piano or proudly talking about the students he's worked with as Lafayette's Stanley Middle School's Music Director for the past 30 years, his passion and enthusiasm are evident.

The Oakland native grew up around music. His parents and three siblings all played for fun. "But I'm the only one it really stuck with," Athayde said. At 9-years-old, he picked up the trumpet, playing through high school. "I listened to records and played along with them." He favored Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass and jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong — but played both rock and soul, performing with different groups at school dances, churches, "just about anywhere we could," he remembers fondly. The trumpet was great, Athayde said, but he discovered he really liked sounds consisting of more than one note at a time, something that couldn't be done on the trumpet. So "I started messing around with chords on the piano" and that soon became his instrument of choice.

... continued on page A11

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

SMC Professor Named New Poetry Editor of The New York Times. — Page B3



Sports C1-C3

Volleyball Teams Are Reaching for the Stars at NCS. — Page C1



Our Homes D1-D20

Annual Kitchen Tour Highlights What's Cooking in Hot Designs. — Page D1

