

More on Tap at Art & Wine in '16

As City Manager Steve Falk says, "We're fortunate to have such a great Chamber of Commerce in Lafayette. Jay Lifson and his small crew do an amazing job putting on this fun and safe event for all to enjoy."

But despite its growth to one of the largest annual festivals in Contra Costa County, it remains very much a local, community-based event strongly featuring local talent, wines, foods, artists and musicians and relying heavily on local volunteers.

The festival has four stages with continuous music – all free – featuring local musicians and bands, including many returning favorites such as Bob Athayde and

Friends, The Spazmatics and many others. Among the new local talent this year will be The Riplers, featuring local high school teacher Tom Duffy.

"I try to have a mix of bands that are crowd favorites (many of which have been performing for several years) and new bands that I feel will appeal to our guests," says one of the event chairs, Brian Aiello. "I think it's important to have both – people enjoy the familiar and will come to the festival with friends to see a favorite performer year after year; but presenting new bands that have not performed in the area keeps things fresh."

Most people recognize the festival is the place to go for art, but

be sure to check out the "Local Artist Alley," located on Lafayette Circle, featuring fine artists from Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga.

In addition to the many locally grown wines and beers and the more than 20 of Lafayette's top restaurants found within the festival, this year there will be many other festival food vendors and local food trucks. Nancy Clark is a returning vendor who owns Street Dogs, a hot dog food truck.

"We have been doing the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival for many years and we always look forward to coming back," she says. "People are so friendly and they come from all over the Bay Area. There is so much to do and see there - art, wine, food, music and just enjoying the day in beautiful downtown Lafayette!"

While the music, art, food and wine appeal to the adults, for the children it is the Kids' Zone, provided by Back Yard Carnivals, and a second Kids' Zone has been added. This year's new area on Mount Diablo will include two hamster ball pools and a gold mining game. The Kids' Zone in Fiesta Square will include a 90-foot slide this year.

The Kids' Stage will feature performances from the students

of the Lamorinda Theater Academy. The schedule for these performances and for all the musical line-up is available on the official Art & Wine festival website.

Not publicized but very much local and into the fun spirit of the whole event, Mark Shaw, an 18-year veteran Lafayette real estate broker who happens to have a talent and passion for entertaining, spends his Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. of the festival weekend chauffeuring restaurant-goers in the downtown area within the festival footprint. He is the one dressed as Frank Sinatra, driving a six-seater golf cart, known as the hospitality shuttle cart, serenading his passengers. This will be his third year doing it. He says that it is a big hit especially with the kids. Shaw says he enjoys, "Meeting new people, making more friends and getting to know the community."

And it is all about community. In talking to the many people it takes to put on a festival of this magnitude, it quickly becomes apparent that they depend heavily on a huge array of volunteers. But even beyond that Aiello says, "The commitment by the volunteers is great, but there is also a deep desire to make this a great event. I

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really don't know how the committee (about 40 people) evolved into such a caring group. It's so much more than a group of people that meet every once in a while to put on a show. We truly enjoy seeing, interacting with and encouraging each other. Quite a phenomenon." Volunteers are still needed, he said.

The 2016 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, in downtown Lafayette.

Lifson said of his favorite part of the festival: "Friday night we close the streets and build a village. At sunrise on Saturday, like magic the downtown has transformed into a charming street scene filled with amazing art and crafts. Monday morning, the streets are back to normal as if nothing ever happened. Love Lafayette but leave only your footprints!"

To volunteer or to find specific schedules and more information — including details of the sweepstakes prize, JetSuiteX tickets and the beautiful, locally handcrafted one-of-a-kind teardrop trailer raffle prize provided by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club — go to the official website www.lafayettefestival.com.

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tem or the development of a Long term vision for the town — would be ready to contribute financially to improvements.

Hester answered that this type of questioning was completely different than a satisfaction survey. Mayor Mike Metcalf added that the next steps would be to look into open space, storm drainage and other needs that are important to residents and get price tags on them. "And then see if people are ready to pay for it," he said.

Moraga

Moraga Survey

This roads program does not include the arterials such as Moraga Way, Moraga Road or Rheem Boulevard, streets that are badly impacted at this time on different segments.

Attracting more interesting businesses in Moraga is the topic that registers the lowest satisfaction while being of importance to residents.

The survey also assessed residents' information level and participation at events. Newspapers are in the lead with 60 percent of residents indicating they get their

information that way, and over 80 percent of residents feel that the information they get is accurate and impactful. The survey also shows a high level of involvement of residents in local events such as the Pear & Wine Festival (coming up on Saturday, Sept. 24).

The council members who listened to Hester's report on Aug. 24 were fast to ask him if residents who had indicated an issue was a high priority and needed improvement — such as the storm drain sys-

Business Bites

Compiled by Peggy Spear

New Development Director at Las Trampas



Victoria Gallagher is the new Development Director at Las Trampas School, Inc. in Lafayette.

Gallagher is originally from the Los Angeles area but says she fell in love with the East Bay after receiving her Bachelor's Degree in English from Saint Mary's College in Moraga. She

worked in fund development at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for seven years where she managed teams of fundraising hikers and thousands of walkers at Walnut Creek's Light the Night Walk.

After serving on the board of Las Trampas and working closely with former development director Kathy Merchant, Gallagher was compelled to come on board full-time when Merchant decided to shift into semi-retirement. Gallagher met the clients and family member that Las Trampas serves and knew that raising funds for the organization would be a rewarding new role.

Las Trampas supports adults with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and to lead full lives in their home, at work, and in the community. For more information, visit www.lastrampas.org.

Moraga's Employee of the Month



From left, Kevin Reneau, Moraga Rotary President; Cathi Corsi, Si Si's owner; Hannah Mattioda; Wendy Scheck, Moraga Chamber President. Photo provided

Hannah Mattioda, a barista and front counter customer service representative at Si Si's Cafe, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for August.

Mattioda has been serving Moraga customers for the past two years and has helped create the warm, friendly environment at the coffee establishment.

"Hannah is not only extremely reliable but also

has been just great in interacting with our customers," said Si Si's owner Cathy Corsi. "She keeps things organized and clean and always has time to have conversations with our customers. We are very lucky at Si Si's to have her working for us."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Mattioda a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to The Graze restaurant in Moraga. Mattioda will be presented with his award and gifts at the September 13 Moraga Rotary meeting at Saint Mary's College

Chamber Music

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

www.lafayettechamber.org (925) 284-7404

Ready for the Reservoir Run?

It's time to register for the popular Lafayette Reservoir Run, to be held Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016. For more information to participate or volunteer, visit the Lafayette Chamber's website at www.lafayettechamber.org

Coffee with the Mayor

Join us for Coffee with the Mayor with Mayor Mark Mitchell from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 23 in the Chamber Conference Room. This meeting is open to everyone. Please park on the street.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org (925) 323-6524

Click at Lunch

Learn the importance of digital strategies and social media at the Entrepreneur's Lunch & Learn event, with guest speaker Robin S. Fox. 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7 at Amoroma, 360 Park Street, Moraga. Email kathe@moragachamber.org to register. Cost is \$10.

Tee-up for a Good Cause

Don't miss the fifth annual Golf and Tennis Tournament and Fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 19 at the Moraga Country Club. For more information, visit with chamber website at www.moragachamber.com.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

www.orindachamber.org (925) 254-3909

Start Your Engines!

Don't forget Dancing with the Cars, a gala evening that supports local charities, on Friday, Sept. 9. The theme is "The Italian Job." Then on Saturday, Sept. 10, it's the Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Orinda Village. For more information, visit www.orindarotary.org.



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