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Connected Horse clients – a couple, both patient and caregiver, affected by a dementia diagnosis – enjoy their interaction with a non-judgmental equine in Orinda. Photo Elaine Chan

‘Connected Horse’ program offers sense of control

By Sophie Braccini

When Gloria and Richard participated in a Connected Horse six-week session it was not about a wild riding adventure; they did not even climb on the horses. The experience was about connecting with a non-judgmental equine, and sharing a moment of peace – even enlightenment – with the animal and each other. The couple, one of whom is dealing with dementia, found a place to be present

together and happy. Paula Hertel and Nancy Schier Anzelmo, who developed the therapeutic program which was validated at both Stanford University and UC Davis, are currently offering the program in Lamorinda and will soon expand it to Alameda County.

Hertel, who is a social worker with 30 years of experience working in senior housing memory care units with older adults

and their families, was struck by the fact that the number of people diagnosed early with dementia is growing and that most of the time someone in their immediate family becomes the caregiver. “And now what?” she asks. Yes, there are groups and books dealing with this diagnosis, but it is often very scary and overwhelming, with the disease suddenly taking over everything and redefining relationships. ... continued on page A12

Advertising



Letters to the Editor	A11
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4

10th Annual **Senior Symposium**

Saturday, August 4
8:30 am - Noon
Acalanes High School — *Please Note New Location*
For more information and to register in advance for a chance to win one of the raffle prizes, visit <http://www.lafayettecf.org>

Attendance is FREE

Deer Hill Road, rezoned

By Pippa Fisher



Deer Hill Road

Photo City of Lafayette

In a unanimous vote at its July 9 meeting, minus Vice Mayor Cam Burks who was absent, the Lafayette City Council voted to rezone the controversial land along Deer Hill Road to R-65, bringing the parcel into compliance with Lafayette’s general plan and al-

lowing 1.5-acre lots at 3233 Deer Hill Road.

The rezoning will allow a future development application of up to 14 single-family homes and an equal number of accessory dwelling units on the property.

Following the defeat of Measure L, the

proposition that would have rezoned the land to low-density allowing the development of 44 homes, a dog park, a tot lot, a sports field and extra parking, the parcel reverted to APO (administrative and professional offices) zoning and needed to be brought into conformance with the city’s general plan.

Also since the defeat of Measure L, the developer, O’Brien Land Company has asked the city to resume processing the original application for the 315-apartment complex known as the Terraces, which had been suspended in 2014 in favor of the lower density 44-unit Homes at Deer Hill. Since the Terraces application was deemed complete, although not approved, the new low-density zoning does not apply. City staff has resumed processing this application where it left off and is currently reviewing the environmental impact reports.

The council voted at the meeting not to extend the 45-day development moratorium, which it had enacted at a special meeting on June 13.

There was plenty of public comment, with most urging caution in next steps.

Burks is encouraged that residents are involved and voicing opinions, saying that this continues to be an incredibly important matter for the property owner and the community at large.

“Along with this public input, I’m confident that city staff and appropriate commissions will provide the council with comprehensive and accurate information to enable us to make our decisions,” Burks said later.

To help city leaders navigate the twists and turns of the saga of this 22-acre, privately owned land parcel, the council brought in the independent legal counsel of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy and Bass. Council Member Ivor Samson reported during the meeting that the San Francisco-based company is retained for a period not to exceed July 28.

The saga is set to continue. As Mayor Don Tatzin has said on several prior occasions, whatever happens in the end will be determined in court.

Civic News A1-A12

Orinda rejects temporary events regulation – page A6.

Fire Districts A8

Management changes at ConFire – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Finding the perfect nanny match – page B1.



Sports C1-C4

Campo grad John Torchio heads to Wisconsin – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Recovering from the North Bay fire – page D1.

