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Tally Home: charming shop in quaint Orinda neighborhood

By Sora O'Doherty



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Four equestrian friends have decided to follow a retail dream by opening an Orinda shop for home décor called Tally Home. Megan Lindberg and Liz Peterson are both designers who grew up in Orinda, although Peterson now lives in Canyon. Anne Branagh, also from Orinda, is the bookkeeper, and Kerry Armidstead is the fourth partner, who shares in the running of the shop. Although Tally Home opened on May 1, its origins go back decades.

Lindberg's parents liked to collect antiques as a pastime as they traveled through Europe, especially in France and England. They favored the French Normandy style. They had planned

to build a second home in Pebble Beach. When Lindberg's mother developed cancer, she escaped into designing this home. Collecting was such a passion for her parents to do together, Lindberg says, and every piece has a story.

Sadly, Lindberg's mother died shortly after the house was finished, about 20 years ago. Lindberg's father established the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center in his wife's honor. The family wanted to assure that women experiencing breast cancer would have someplace to go and receive an immediate diagnosis, with state-of-the-art technology focusing strictly on breast health in a supportive environment. The Center is located in

Oakland, a subsidiary of Alta Bates hospital. Lindberg's father sold the Pebble Beach home about three years ago and put the furniture into storage. When the family thought about what to do with the collection, Lindberg says it felt right to sell the pieces and give one-half of the profits to Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. Pink ribbons on pieces in the shop indicate that half the proceeds of the sale of that item will go to the Center.

When the partners noticed that the shop in Orinda was going to be available, it seemed the perfect opportunity. Tally Home's inventory includes new items, and gift items, with a scattering of antique pieces, usually the larger furni-

ture. The partners remembered Phairs as the place to go for wedding gifts, baby gifts, or hostess gifts. They wanted to fill that niche, to be a place where you can purchase truly unique gifts. The shop also offers engraving.

In addition to furniture, the shop offers gift items, including some hand made by local artisans. Marcella Austenfeld creates jewelry inspired by Native American craftsmanship and culture and her native Canadian heritage. All of her pieces are crafted in her home studio in Orinda. Jen Hensley is a fabric designer, a mom of three and a graduate of Miramonte High School. Tally Home features items for the home created by

Hensley, including quilts, pillows and napkins.

A special event was held at the shop in memory of Carol Ann Read on July 12. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center co-sponsored the event. Half of the pink ribbon purchases and 15 percent of all other purchases were donated to the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Program. Tally Home may consider events to aid other charities in the future. Tally Home is located at 85 Orinda Way, close to Geppetto's Café. Summer hours are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays through August.

Lafayette business part of fundraiser for pet lifesaving equipment

By Nick Marnell

A foundation that provides pet resuscitation equipment for fire, police and other medical first responders, and bulletproof vests for police K-9 units, raised over \$150,000 in July to be allocated for

pet lifesaving equipment among fire and police agencies in California.

The Police and Working K-9 Foundation fundraiser took place at Oakland-based Pet Food Express

locations in California over the July 14-15 weekend. For a \$15 donation, customers washed their dogs at the company's self-service pet wash (no reports of bathed cats), and 100 percent of the proceeds went to the foundation to provide pet oxygen masks for medical first responders, as well as bulletproof vests for police K-9s.

The dog wash also aimed to raise awareness for California Senate Bill 1305, Emergency Medical Service Providers: Dogs and Cats. The bill, introduced by Sen. Steve Glazer of Orinda, would permit first responders to provide care to an injured domesticated animal at the scene of an emergency prior to transferring the animal to a veteri-



Capt. Chuck Wong of Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 4 demonstrates a pet oxygen mask with Kona, also a task force member. Photo provided

nary care facility. Currently, a veterinarian is the only person authorized to give lifesaving first aid to a pet.

Michael Donner, a retired firefighter from the Oakland Fire Department, stopped at the Lafayette Pet Food Express on July 15. "Our goal was to save lives first, property second," said Donner, regarding administering lifesaving care to an injured pet. "I never once thought, 'Gee, I'm not supposed to do that.' Rather, what can I do to save this animal?"

As to the allocation of the equipment purchased with the donations, "The equipment will go to whoever needs it most," said Louise Tully, foundation president. "We decide on the allocation by the needs of the departments in the cities and counties where the funds were raised. If a given department has everything that they need, we

try to help other cities nearby that may have budget challenges and not be as fortunate."

In Lamorinda, Fire Station 44 of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District is equipped with a pet oxygen mask, as is one district battalion chief office. "MOFD is committed to the best possible outcomes for the citizens of our district," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said.

Neither of the two Contra Costa County Fire Protection District stations in Lafayette has a pet oxygen mask kit, and not one of the three Lamorinda police departments has a K-9 unit.

Donations for the pet rescue equipment will be accepted at the Lafayette Pet Food Express counter until July 31. The Lafayette location collected more than \$2,500 during the July weekend event.

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