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Art lovers and many others filled the old Wells Fargo Building on Feb. 14 in Lafayette.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Packed opening night For the Love of Art

By Pippa Fisher

The building was packed and there was a long line of people outside waiting to get into the opening of Jennifer Perlmutter's pop-up art gallery Feb. 14 at the old Wells Fargo building on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. And even the torrential rain didn't dampen people's enthusiasm.

The first exhibit entitled "For the Love of Art," appropriately named given that the opening day was Valentine's Day, was beautifully displayed in the lofty building – more spacious than Perlmutter's existing gallery.

Perlmutter is certainly happy with the success of the opening night. "I expected half the number," she said, noting that it was a diverse crowd of close to 300, with people coming from as far away as

Sacramento, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Napa. "There were small children, millennials and one lady who said that in 74 years of living in Lafayette she had never seen anything like this."

Wine was being served from the old teller counters, people could access the vault to see a fun exhibit and in another corner the Acalanes Jazz Quartet expertly entertained.

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More frequent bus service for Lamorinda arriving soon

By Sora O'Doherty

County Connection has announced more frequent weekday service on Route 6, which serves customers on a loop from the Orinda BART station, through Moraga to the Lafayette BART station and back, with selected runs also providing service to Orinda Village. Starting March 10, buses will run every 20 minutes during weekday morning and evening commute hours. Currently the buses run every 40 minutes during peak. Cash fares will increase to \$2.50, but will remain at \$2 with a Clipper card. Seniors and disabled persons can avail of half off of either the cash or clipper card fares.

Route 6 runs close to many schools in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette, and also provides direct access to Saint Mary's College. If you are waiting for a bus, you can see where it is and when it will arrive in real time on the Transit app, available for iPhone and Android phones, or on the County Connection website. Route 6 has a better than average on time performance rate of 91 percent, as compared with the systemwide average of around 87 percent, according to Melody Reeb, County Connection manager of planning.

Moraga Police Department swearing-in ceremony

By Vera Kochan

Police Chief Jon King couldn't have seemed prouder as he addressed his officers, their families and friends of the Moraga Police Department before the swearing-in ceremony Feb. 7 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Two officers were promoted to corporal, two joined the ranks as officers and one joined the ranks as a reserve officer. Also hired was a new police services technician.

King spoke briefly about each officer before they came to join him at the dais. He later personally presented each with a Certificate of Appointment. "I still read mine every morning before I come to work. It means a lot to me," he said.

Before the ceremony began, Moraga Vice Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus said, "It's certainly a great achievement for our new police officers. Moraga is recognized as one of the safest cities in the state, and it's because of the outstanding job our police department does, led by Chief King." She added, "For those that are joining our force, welcome to the family."

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg agreed, "Last year we saw a 21 percent decrease in crime thanks to your hard work."

The Law Enforcement Oath of Honor was administered by Moraga Town Clerk Marty McInturf before a standing-room-only crowd of well-wishers.

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Photo Vera Kochan

Officer Jeff Yanga and 4-year-old son, Micah

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