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From left: customer Tony Rago, stylist Nancy Taylor, customer Gil Lopez, owner Elroy Motta and stylist Bill McIntosh Photo Vera Kochan

## The Moraga Barber Shop, a town institution for over 50 years

By Vera Kochan

The word “barber” comes from the Latin word “barba” which means “beard.” According to the National Barber Museum in Winchester, Ohio, “The first barbering services were performed by Egyptians in 500 B.C. with instruments they had made from oyster shells or sharpened flint.”

Thankfully, The Moraga Barber Shop, located at 1431 Moraga Way, in the Moraga Shopping Center,

has been using up-to-date implements to cut hair at the same location for 54 years.

Historically, the colors of the barber shop pole emerged during the Middle Ages when the shops also served as medical houses. Barbers were also considered surgeons and dentists, because of the tools and instruments they possessed. And, due to the fact that most of the population was illiterate, signs outside of businesses bore pictures more often than not.

The red in a barber pole represents bloodletting, while the white was meant to signify the bandages used to wrap the wounds. The blue is said to represent the non-oxygenated blood in the veins.

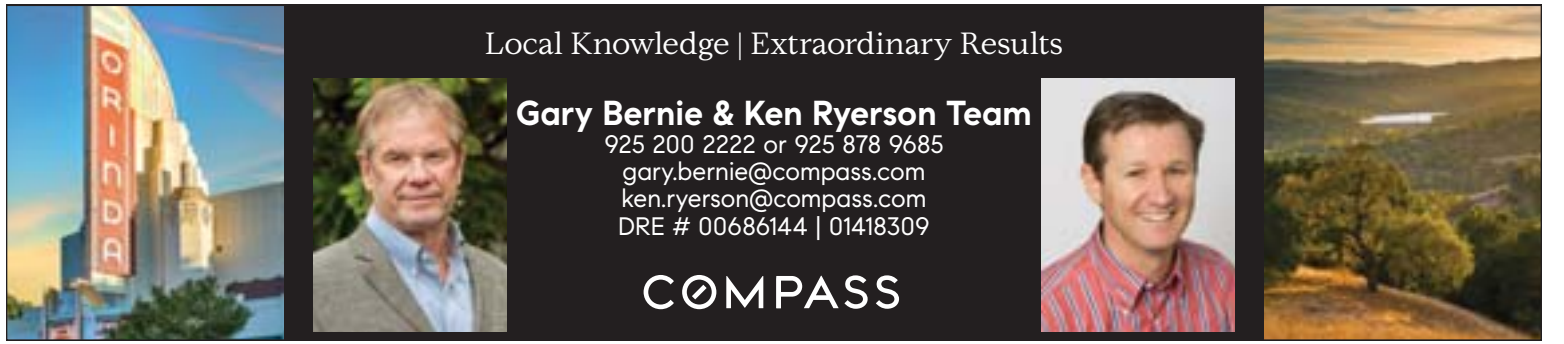
Moraga’s barber shop was originally owned by Jack Del Pozo, who started Jack’s Barber Shop in 1965. Second owner, Gary Cargile, purchased the business in 1985. The third and current owner, Elroy Motta bought the barber shop in 2000.

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**COMPASS**

## Strong participation in Springhill evacuation drill



Police supervise the second wave of evacuated cars during the March 23 drill. Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

In the dark and with rain falling at 6 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, well over 100 volunteers from 10 agencies shuffled into the gym at Acalanes High School to receive instructions for the emergency evacuation drill of Springhill Road. The Lafayette Police Department drone was at the ready, the mobile command center was set up and, with coffee and donuts on hand, everyone was ready and eager to get to work.

With the imagined scenario of wildfire approaching residences from Briones, the challenge was to get people out as effectively as possible. Lafayette’s drill comes on the heels of similar exercises in

Moraga and Orinda.

It was a deliberate decision to run this drill in the Springhill neighborhood. With only one road in and out, and nestled into the open space hillside of Briones, it is both lovely and potentially one of the most challenging areas in Lafayette for emergency services to evacuate in an emergency.

In the weeks prior to the drill Springhill Valley Homeowners Association President Paul Melmed and 10 volunteers went door-to-door visiting the roughly 250 homes, handing out informational fliers, largely helping the drive for Lafayette residents to sign up for Community Warning System alerts. During March alone, 209 residents registered to receive

CWS alerts. In the Springhill area 106 residents “opted in” to participate in the drill.

And at 7 a.m. those 106 residents received alerts to evacuate the area.

With volunteers fanned out along Springhill Road a fire truck led the first wave out. The road was closed at Pleasant Hill Road to west-bound traffic between 7 and 8 a.m. to allow the use of both lanes of the road in one direction only.

Fifteen minutes later a second wave came through with a simulation of 35 volunteers who were evacuated from the Girl Scout Camp all the way at the end of the road. As volunteers counted cars out, it appeared that a total of 98 vehicles took part in the drill. ... continued on Page A3

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