

White Barn Home opens on Lafayette Circle



Photo Renee Sweeney

Daughter Kylie (left) and Mother Kim Berry at their new Lafayette store.

By Jenn Freedman

March 16, taking over the former Farmyard Darlings space on Lafayette Circle

White Barn Home opened on

across from Lafayette Square. Former Farmyard Darlings co-owner, Kim Berry, is teaming up with her daughter, Kylie, on this new venture to bring modern country living to Lamorinda.

“Our goal is to make your home your favorite place to be ... your happy place,” Kim Berry says. The store features new modern farmhouse decor with white as the backdrop. The concept is to source primarily from local vendors, with handmade decor styles and White Barn Home’s own furniture designs with plenty of floor samples to choose from. In addition, White Barn Home can customize styles to fit your home.

The store is collaborating with local businesses to cu-

rate a unique modern feel, like Lafayette’s Amphora Nueva olive oils and vinegars, soaps from Alhambra Valley in Martinez, dough bowl candles from Brentwood’s Spindola Farm & Co., Collective Hearts jewelry in Marin, and more. “Our number one goal when opening White Barn Home was to partner and source with as many local businesses as possible. We believe strongly in supporting our local community,” Kim Berry explains.

While Kim focuses on the decor aesthetic and store experience, Kylie manages the marketing, social media, and parts of the sourcing research. Kylie is currently a marketing major in the Carson College of Business at Washington State University.

The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the latest assortment and inspiration, follow them on Instagram @white_barn_home.

Orchard Nursery celebrates 75 years of community involvement

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Soon after, the rapid growth of the surrounding communities allowed the store to expand, and the classic Lord & Burnham greenhouse was added for the floral department.

Owner Tom Courtright bought the nursery, which covers 4.5 acres, in 1972. “We’re thankful for the community we’re in. The Lamorinda area is a great place to have a business,” Courtright said, adding about the 75th anniversary celebration, “We celebrated fairly quietly, but had a very nice crowd. It’s pretty significant that we’ve been here so long – and plan to be here another 50 or 75 years.” The nursery gave away free tote bags to the first 500 customers. In all, he estimates over 2,000 people visited on the day.

“It’s been a fun ride. Even

after my 50 years here, I still enjoy coming to work in the morning,” said Courtright, who is considering retirement. “My daughter [Vice-President Kathy Courtright Rondini] and the management team has taken over more of the day-to-day operations.”

One of the longest tenured employees at Orchard, Chris Martinez, shared that the staff there has a family feel, with the loyalty of the workers matching the warmth and appreciation that owner Courtright shows them.

Courtright said, “We’ve been very fortunate to have some great employees stick with us for a long time. It’s not the highest paying industry, so they must enjoy what they do.”

As an attendee at many International Garden Conferences, Courtright has toured over 15 countries and

gone to garden centers all over the world, always bringing home fresh ideas to Orchard Nursery. They’ve done concerts at the ‘Lazy K’ house, evenings in the nursery with wine and hors d’oeuvres, and many other events.

Remarking on the Harvest Festival, Courtright says, “We brought the idea home from the East Coast, where they celebrated the fall season in the nurseries and put it to use here. Where we used to sell firewood out the back of Orchard, I never thought we’d be selling pumpkins.” Laughing, he adds, “Now we sell thousands of them!”

The Courtrights currently reside in Lafayette, but are considering moving to Livermore where Courtright’s wife owns and runs a nursery.

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