

Springbook — a user manual to help family members move forward in a loved one’s absence

By Vera Kochan



Photos courtesy Dustie Robeson

Moraga resident Dustie Robeson developed Springbook to guide families after a loved one's passing

Is your family prepared to handle your estate and all that it entails in the event of your incapacitation or passing? Surprisingly, many are not.

Enter: Springbook. The brainchild of Moraga resident Dustie Robeson, who's had 16

years of experience as a professional home organizer, Springbook is “a comprehensive information collection system that ensures no one is left guessing their way through an already emotional, overwhelming, and difficult time.”

The user manual gives your loved ones all the information they will need to settle your affairs. Filled out correctly it will provide information such as access to your phone, computers, safe, and spare keys. It should include the information on how to locate all your assets, liabilities, insurance policies, and it should provide informed medical advice for your children. The information can help them to contact your employer's benefits administrator and human resources. Fill the user manual with information on how to close your online accounts and subscriptions, and how to find essential documents like deeds,

military discharge paperwork, Social Security cards, and car titles.

Robeson decided to call her business Springbook after an encounter with a friend's father who had purchased something similar and gave it the facetious name of “Death Book”. Wanting to make her version more cheerful, “Springbook” was born.

“I wasn't depressed while I was working on this,” stated Robeson. “It was very comforting, and I like creating order out of chaos. I'm on a mission to bring the conversation to light.” She laughed, “I'm a real hit at parties.”

According to a Gallup poll from 2016, only 44% of Americans reported having a will that indicates how their estate should be distributed after their death. A survey conducted by AARP in 2017, revealed that nearly 60% of American adults do not have a will or other estate planning documents

in place. A 2021 survey conducted by Caring.com found that 67% of American adults do not have a will, and that among adults with children under the age of 18, 78% do not have a will.

Robeson understands that the topic of death can be a difficult one to discuss, “Kids are uncomfortable, because it sounds like they're being greedy, and parents are uncomfortable, because they're not ready to disclose everything to their kids. You shouldn't wait to do this when you're old. A good time to get organized is when you send your kids to college -- this is when you should do estate planning. It's not something that's just for older people, and you should embed that in your children. Springbook fills a gap in the legal estate planning process.”

Robeson added, “Unfortunately an estate plan, if you have one, won't be enough to make the transition easy on



your loved ones. Legal documents are absolutely essential, but they lack the specificity heirs need when they actually walk into their loved one's home following a death and have to start locating assets and insurance policies, selling cars, contacting online accounts, caring for pets, planning a memorial service, and so much more. Having the

authority to do this is one thing, but being able to do it efficiently and easily is something altogether different, and that is what Springbook provides.”

Springbook comes with a binder kit and Digital Springbook Documents with directions. For more information call: (925) 878-5385 or visit: www.myspringbook.com.

Street rehab construction contract

... continued from Page 4

Project bid documents were advertised through various sources on March 9, with six bids received and opened on April 11. With the town's Engineer's Estimate of \$5,354,273, Bay Cities

Paving & Grading, Inc. from Concord, California (a family-owned business since 1946), was the lowest bidder, coming in at \$5,346,177. The total project budget will be \$5,755,983 after staff eliminated some costs from the construction

contract and added a 10% contingency of \$534,617.

According to Knapp's April 24 staff report, during the street rehab process, repairs are expected for some gutters, curbs, sidewalks, and related “sidewalk

areas”. Residents can also expect the repair of storm drains under several streets to “increase the pavement's longevity. Existing traffic striping and signage was to be replaced in kind, if damaged or missing. Separately, the town is

working on the designs for multiple safety improvement projects where some work limits are overlapping some portions of the Project.”

The Town Council voted 3-0 (Council Members Kerry Hillis and David Shapiro were ab-

sent) to adopt the resolution awarding the street rehabilitation construction contract to Bay Cities. Staff executed the contract immediately - construction is expected to begin in June.

SHOP MORAGA

MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING

HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST

925-247-0092

MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair
Light Carpentry Drywall Repair

For a Quick Preliminary Estimate Email Photos of Project to: Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

MORAGA MOTORS

since 1981 in Moraga. Located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair Foreign and Domestic

2016 Moraga Small Business of the Year

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692
www.moragamotors.com

25% OFF

ON SELECT UNITS FOR 2 MONTHS FROM 5/1/2024 - 5/31/2024

RENTSPACE

WE SELL BOXES, WARDROBE BOXES, LOCKS, FURNITURE COVERS & OTHER PACKING SUPPLIES

455 MORAGA RD. SUITE F (925) 643-2026 www.5Aspace.com

HOURS OF OPERATION MON-SAT 9AM -6PM SUN 10AM-4PM

A good neighbor has your back.

Mark Hoogs, Agent
Insurance Lic#: OM08809
629 Moraga Road
Moraga, CA 94556
Bus: 925-254-3344

Life's a combination of good days and bad. I have your back for both. And who has my back? The company more people have trusted for 90 years. **CALL ME TODAY.**

State Farm

1606040 State Farm Bloomington, IL

Member of Moraga Chamber of Commerce

shop Moraga first.com

MAKE LIFE EASY SHOP LOCAL
SHOPMORAGAFIRST.COM

MORAGA RETREAT CARE HOMES

residential assisted living for seniors

professional staff, resident-centered care
private rooms, home-made meals, medication management
unparalleled attention to detail

MORAGARETREAT.COM (925) 376-2273

EAST BAY TREE SERVICE INC.

- Tree removal,
- Stump removal,
- Juniper removal to meet fire regulations.

We take: **VISA**

Licensed #805794, Insured & bonded

Call 925-377-8733 for FREE Estimate

Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

Si Si Caffé

Best Latte in Town

910 Country Club Dr. Moraga

925-377-1908

Shop Local support your business community

Watch for Shop Orinda May 22. Call for Advertising 925.377.0977

\$50 off for new clients

Hall of Taxes

Peggy Hall, Enrolled Agent
Over 30 years experience

Stephen Hall, MBA, CTEC

Specializing in complex tax situations for individuals and small businesses.

Moraga (925) 388-1040
www.HallofTaxes.com • peggy@halloftaxes.com