



Sean Carroll
Loan Officer
925.275.3129
seanc@bankofcommercemortgage.com
CA DRE # 01077654

bank of commerce mortgage bank of choice.™

Is a Reverse Mortgage Right for You?

- Retirement Income | Government Insured | No payments
- Tax free proceeds | Pay off debt | Estate Planning
- Pay off existing mortgage | No income or credit documentation
- Limited time \$0 origination fee - \$6,000 savings
- Call for additional advantages and our free brochure!

Call today to see how much you can qualify for and additional details!

Home equity is required. Equal Housing Lender. CA Dept of Real Estate License #01218426

BEDELL investment counseling
A Relationship of Trust Since 1975

Celebrating 35 Years in Business!
Achieve your financial goals with our help

Portfolio Management
Individual Stocks and Bonds
Old Fashioned Customer Service

800-783-0344

www.bedellinvest.com



Michael Frazier
Vice-President, Portfolio Manager
and Moraga Resident



Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Next meeting(s):
January 10th, 6:30pm
Finance Committee Meeting, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Appoints 2011 Officers

Olsen nominated for vacant LAFCO seat

By Lucy Amaral

At its December 15 meeting, Frank Sperling, Dick Olsen and John Wyro were sworn in as members of the Board of Directors for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). The oath of office was administered by the Honorable John Kennedy, Judge of the Superior Court, Contra Costa County. All three are returning members of the Board. Sperling and Olsen ran unopposed and were appointed in lieu of election. For Division 4, Wyro ran against Orinda resident, Bob Jungbluth in the November elections. Each member will serve a four-year term on the board.

The Board of Directors also appointed its Officers for the 2011

year. Beginning January 1, Wyro will assume the position of President, Fred Weil was appointed Vice President, Brook Mancinelli will be Secretary and Olsen will act as Treasurer. Sperling, the 2010 Board President, will move to general member. Sperling said that as president, Wyro will preside over the Board of Directors meetings, handle press inquiries and make statements on behalf of the entire Board. Weil, as vice president, would step in for the President when Wyro is not available. And, as a matter of course, Weil is the presumptive next President for the following year.

During this meeting the

Board nominated Olsen to run for the Special District seat on the Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) Board of Directors. This vacancy was created by the departure of former LAFCO board member David Piepho. Each Special District, such as MOFD, is allowed to nominate one board member to be considered for the position.

LAFCO, a regulatory agency, is charged by the state to oversee (among other items) the boundaries of cities, towns and Special Districts (such as MOFD), as well as water and sewer districts to ensure orderly growth. Currently, the LAFCO Board consists of two city

members selected by the cities in the County, two County members selected by the Board of Supervisors, two Special District members selected by the Independent Special Districts in the County, and one public member selected by the other six LAFCO Commissioners.

The election will be held Monday, January 24 during the quarterly meeting of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association. Olsen, if elected, will serve out Piepho's current term which, according to the LAFCO's website, ends in May of 2012.

When asked about his objectives for serving on LAFCO's Board, Olsen said that given his ex-

tensive background in the areas of fire and emergency medical services, he believes he can make major, constructive contributions to any efforts LAFCO may undertake in response to the current fiscal crisis many County and City fire service agencies are facing.

"It is my (and the MOFD Board's) desire that any and all actions that LAFCO might take in the future in response to that crisis will, in fact, result in improving fire and emergency medical services county-wide and will not in any way degrade the superior service levels that the residents and taxpayers of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District currently enjoy," said Olsen.

◆ New Owners
◆ New Attitude
◆ 30 Years in the Industry!

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorindaflors.com

LAMORINDA FLOORS
Kamastan GALLERY

business briefs

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977

Better Homes and Gardens
999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette
Come and meet owner Mart Johnson at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on January 13, 5pm.

Risk Concepts Insurance Brokers
3732 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
Balloons will mark the place for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on January 18, 4pm. Come and meet owners Kelly and Mike Robertson.

Farmyard Darlings Takes Root at Mt. Diablo Nursery
Mt. Diablo Nursery & Garden
3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, 283-3830
Lafayette residents Kim Berry and Carole Sinclair are cowgirls at heart with a passion for discovering vintage collectibles from all over Northern California. They recently held a reception and sale at Mt Diablo Nursery, in Harry's House Gift Shop (named after the nursery's founder, Harry Ide). The event was so successful that nursery owners Marcia and Garth Jacober and Farmyard Darlings agreed to a continuing exhibit,



Kim Berry and Carole Sinclair by an antique car. Photo courtesy Farmyard Darlings

the theme of which will change every month. Berry and Sinclair were both raised with horses, one in La Jolla and one in Alamo. They both moved to Lafayette for the schools and met at a common friend's Christmas party. "It was love at first sight," said Sinclair, "we are kindred spirits." Both women had been collecting one-of-a-kind treasures that they reclaimed and had in their homes. Friends started asking them to find similar items for their own homes and they expanded both their hunting grounds and client base. They found another kindred spirit in Marcia Jacober, who runs Harry's House Gift Shop

where she sells unique accessories. The association of the Darlings and the Nursery made a lot of sense. Garth Jacober said, "There is a lot of interest in the community for what they sell and we love to have interesting, changing things in the store." Every second Friday of each month there will be a reception to present the theme for the month, said Berry. The next event will be on Friday, January 14th.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

- No Mixer in January for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Save the date of February 9 for the first mixer of 2011 at Wells Fargo Bank from 5:30 to 7 pm.
- Shop Lafayette Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 11 at 12:30pm in the Chamber Conference Room
- Green Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 19 at 12:00pm in Chamber Conference Room. BYOL! (Bring your own lunch)
- Entrepreneur's Club on Thursday, Jan-

uary 20 at 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room

Moraga
• California Independent Film Festival Comes to Moraga from January 28th through February 3rd. Between one and three thousand people will attend this film festival, which should benefit the business community in many ways. There are many ways to be involved. Email Beau Behan, Manager of The New Rheem Theatre at beau@caiff.org for more information or if you want to be part of the fun of helping with this event. Check the website, www.CAIFF.com for updates.

Orinda
• Orinda Chamber Luncheon on Friday, January 28, 2011 from noon-1:30 pm at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. RSVP: Highly recommended. To purchase tickets online go to the Chamber's web site at orindachamber.org. The cost is \$30.00 per person. The guest Speaker is Tom Franier, co-owner of Semifreddi's Bakery. He will be talking about "Slow Capitalism."

...not a creature was stirring, not even a...

Mona Miller, DVM

This year has seen the highest wild rodent populations in recent history, due to the cycle of a wet winter/spring and a cool summer, which allows more vegetation to flourish and remain through summer for longer. Voles, rats and ground squirrels have surged in numbers. These creatures have relatively short lifespans and achieve reproductive maturity early on, with short gestation periods. Thus, hundreds of offspring can be born during a single year.

The use of poisons to kill rodents (rodenticides) can be dangerous to any mammal (think pet dog, cat, even rabbit or rat who is allowed outside). There are four

types of rodenticides, and all can be deadly to the animal that ingests the poison. The most common type is an anti-coagulant, a chemical that prevents blood from clotting. This results in internal bleeding within 2 to 5 days of ingestion. Symptoms are variable and dependent upon where in the body the bleeding is occurring. For instance, bleeding into joints will appear as limping. Likewise, difficulty breathing, distention of the stomach area, bloody vomit or diarrhea, and bruises on skin, eyes or mouth can also be symptoms; as well as general weakness or not eating. The antidote treatment to this type is Vitamin K medication. If bleeding has

already started, then emergency medicine is vital for success, involving special blood tests to diagnose the clotting disorder, as well as blood or plasma transfusions to provide immediate clotting factors or proteins to "band-aid" the problem for 24 hours until the Vitamin K becomes effective. If you suspect or know that your dog has ingested rat bait, do not wait until bleeding has started before seeing your veterinarian. The sooner that Vitamin K is administered, the sooner the clotting factors can start to build up again, and prevent internal hemorrhage.

The second most common rat/mouse poison is Cholecalciferol, which acts as a Vitamin D analog and increases blood levels of calcium and phosphorus. Once these levels become too high, kidney failure will develop within 2 to 4 days after ingestion of the poison. This requires emergency and intensive care, and prognosis is variable. There is no antidote, so treatment is based on supportive care for the kidneys and to dilute out the high calcium in the bloodstream.

The third rodenticide is Bromethalin, which results in swelling of the brain within 2 to 24 hours of ingestion. Symptoms will be neurologic, including weakness and wobbliness, muscle tremors,

seizures and paralysis. Treatment is supportive and intensive and requires in-hospitalization care for 3 to 6 days, if recovery occurs.

The fourth rodenticide is commonly used as gopher bait – the zinc phosphide group. This poison releases toxic phosphine gas in the stomach when ingested, and secondary liver disease. Symptoms include stomach bloat, vomit, abdominal pain and shock.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested any rodenticide, you should seek immediate veterinary care. Additionally, it is helpful to your vet if you bring the poison package with you, to determine the active ingredient.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son and two cats. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to MonaSDVM@aol.com.



Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"

Member:
ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS
Moraga
925-376-4602
1030 Country Club Drive

\$40 off
mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

Advertising

Warning! Do Not Set Up A Living Trust Until You Read This FREE Report That Reveals The Biggest Mistakes People Make With Their Trusts!

Do You Have A Living Trust, Or Are You Thinking About Setting One Up? Either Way, You Must Read The FREE Report Called, "How To Avoid Making The 6 Biggest Mistakes When Setting Up A Living Trust!" This Report Reveals The Truth

About Living Trusts. Call Toll-Free 1-800-251-4298, 24 Hrs., For A Free Recorded Message To Get The Copy Of The Report That Could Save You Thousands in needless expenses! Call NOW, while this is fresh on your mind, and discover what you're missing!