

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Saturday, Sept. 15 10-7 PM

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Downtown Lafayette

Live Music on 4 Stages & 3 Kid Zones

www.lafayettefestival.com



Views from Painted Rock property.

Photo provided

A campaign to preserve Painted Rock

By Sophie Braccini

Piece by piece, the John Muir Land Trust is weaving a tapestry of protected open space throughout the East Bay, slowly expanding amongst the hills and between developments to preserve the local wildlife and its habitats. The new patch of land that was recently added to this network is not huge, but it is significant and strategically connected. On Sept. 5 the trust announced the start of the campaign to save Painted Rock in Moraga. After Carr Ranch two years ago at the eastern boundaries of the town, this time

it is right in the middle of town that a door will be opened to access 500 acres and more of connected wild habitat.

Looming over the town like a rogue billboard, the Painted Rock property gets its name from the long tradition that has sent hundreds of Campolindo High School students genially trespassing up the hill with cans of spray paint to script outrageous, funny and sometimes touching messages on the big round rock overlooking the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. It was Roger

Poynt's property, a resident who died unexpectedly four years ago, abandoning forever the plans he had made for the development of his dreams. His widow has agreed to sell the 84-acre hill to the JMLT for \$2 million.

Peggy Cabaniss, a JMLT board member and Moraga resident for over 40 years, explains that this acquisition is part of a strategy to keep Moraga a special community with access to pristine open space.

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The 14th Annual

Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 8th, 10am - 3pm

www.OrindaCarShow.com

Plan to Attend – Admission is FREE!

Lafayette Art and Wine - a monster of a street party!

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

It's almost Art and Wine time again – Lafayette's biggest community party, a weekend-long opportunity for residents to stroll along Mt. Diablo Boulevard without traffic, wine in hand, listening to great music and browsing unique art with friends.

"What started as an experiment in 1996 when we put a couple of booths along Golden Gate Way to see if we could attract visitors to our downtown, has become a significant event and the 'go-to' festival of the year," says Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Jay Lifson. "Like Mary Shelley, we have created a monster," he says. "And it's alive! It is a monster of a street party."

Scott Hampton, owner of Clocks Etc., was one of the founders of that original festival. He says he had no idea the festival would become as successful as it is today. His store will be participating this year again

as usual with a booth in "art alley." He says they have a large clock tower with hands that spin to land on a prize that winners can claim in his store.

The free festival, now in its 23rd year, is expecting around 80,000 visitors from around the area. With over 300 artist booths, three kid zones, four live stages and more than 20 cover bands – plus great food, wine and beer – there is no shortage of things to do.

But what do the locals think of the festival?

Tom Duffy of The Ripplers says he loves this event. "Even before we started performing at the festival, it was one of my favorite weekends of the year," he says. "The vibe, the food, the variety of great musicians and artists ... the big slide ... the time of the year – it all adds up to awesomeness!" Duffy recommends checking out Kristen Sanders' jewelry and the artwork of Molly Kars.

Residents all agree their favorite thing about the weekend is mingling with friends and family and the feeling of community.

Lafayette resident Susan Chritton agrees. "Much of our strolling time is taken with saying hello to people we haven't seen in a while," she says. Chritton and her husband have attended the festival every year since the very beginning, often joined by their adult children and their partners and friends.

Chritton's advice for a first-time festival-goer would be to slow down. "Have fun looking at all of the merchants, have a glass of wine and enjoy listening to the music."

Lafayette resident Jill Edwards recommends seeing the Spazmatics at the Bank of the West stage.

"My family has been in Lafayette for decades, and we have been coming to the festival ever since I can remember.

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