

#### Why Listing Your Home For Sale This Fall Makes Sense

- I. Demand Remains Stable to Strong
- 2. There Is Less Competition Now
- 3. The Market is Projected to Cool Off in 2019
- 4. There Will Never Be a Better Time To Move Up
- 5. It's Time to Move on With Your Life

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### ConnectOrinda launch continues downtown development effort

By Sora O'Doherty

tiple efforts to get all Orindans Oct. 13 at the Library plaza. Durinvolved in the process of improving the event, residents can particing the downtown area, consisting ipate in walking and biking tours of the Village, the Theater District and will have opportunities to ex-(also known as Crossroads), and press their views on downtown.

the area between them, including Refreshments will be served and

he ConnectOrinda launch the BART station – will be held there will be a modern-day scavparty – intended to offer mul- from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, enger hunt where participants will use cell phone cameras to compete. The briefing booklet for the project will be available, and there will also be maps and online surveys available to the public, including a map survey which will

allow respondents to comment on work with city staff to manage the specific areas of downtown.

working with the community to of the process is to identify projtation projects to improve down- port addressing six objectives: town Orinda. Last June, the city council selected Eisen-Letunic to

streetscape master plan, later re-The ConnectOrinda process is named ConnectOrinda. The goal identify streetscape and transpor- ects with broad community sup-

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#### Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe delivers second deposit to J&J By Sora O'Doherty

er to ownership of the oldest surviv- San Jose. In 1835, Mexico granted ing building in Contra Costa County 13,326 acres, El Rancho Laguna when FJMA President Kent Long de los Palos Colorados, to Joaquin handed over a check for \$25,000 to Moraga and his cousin Juan Ber-Matt Branagh of J&J Ranch Partners nal. Six years later in 1841, Joaquin LLC on Sept. 24. The FJMA paid Moraga built the house, which rethe first deposit of \$10,000 upon en- mained in private hands until it was tering into the Memoranda of Agree- purchased by J&J Ranch. The Ado- FJMA will be used to partially fund ment under which the developer be was made a historical landmark agreed to restore the building and in 1954 by the state of California. the Friends to purchase it and run it for the public benefit.

ing for nearly 10 years to secure \$50,000 in reserves to purchase the building's future. The Moraga the 1841 structure and surrounding Adobe is located on a hill in Orinda 2 acres. The deadline to complete above Del Rey Elementary School. the purchase is September 2021. The Adobe was built by Don Joa- For the next two years, FJMA will quin Moraga, the grandson of Jose pay \$50,000 each year, leaving a structure with restroom facilities nia, including furnishings and dem-

ga Adobe moved one step clos- explorer who founded the city of

Under the agreement with J&J, FJMA must pay a total of \$450,000 The FJMA has been work- plus demonstrate an additional

The Friends of the Joaquin Mora- Joaquin Moraga, the early Spanish \$315,000 balance. Long says that the group is pretty confident that they will be able to complete the purchase. They are currently in a position to pay all the scheduled deposits, and anticipate even greater contributions now that the project is truly underway.

All purchase money from the restoration of the Moraga Adobe; the balance of the restoration costs will be paid by J&J Ranch. As part of the agreement, the building will be restored to its 1848 configuration of five rooms, with adobe walls up to three feet thick. Later woodframe additions will be removed, and the original 1840s walls will be stabilized. A separate



Friends of the Joaqum Moraga Adobe with the presented big check

will also be built.

FJMA plans to create a museum and learning center focused on the Rancho days of early Califor-

Photo Cathy Dausman onstrations of daily life. Historic displays will tell the sometimes poignant stories of families like the Moragas, in addition to hosting rotating exhibits.

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