

# business briefs

## Mechanics Bank Opens in Lafayette 3640 Mt. Diablo Boulevard



It may have looked like "old home week" to some Lafayette businesses and residents when Mechanics Bank opened its new Lafayette Office on Monday, July 21. The 103-year old bank's newest office across from Trader Joe's features plenty of familiar faces. The office will be managed by vice president Debbie Cooper, who formerly worked as the service manager at Mt. Diablo Bank. Before that, Cooper managed the Lafayette office of Bank of America. At Mechanics Bank, she will be joined by Magda Pieracki, another veteran of Mt. Diablo Bank who first worked with Cooper at Bank of America. Both are happy to be back in their element as community bankers. In addition to individual and small business banking products, Mechanics Bank has a full range of corporate banking products—including treasury management, commercial lending, commercial real estate lending and equipment leasing—and also a full range of wealth management, investment and trust services.

**Correction to Business Briefs,** July 9: Kiko Caicedo says: "Our company Bunu, LLC is a licensee of the Ironman name which along with the "Mdot" logo (the red letter M with the dot over it) is owned by the World Triathlon Corporation not Bunu, LLC."

## Orinda Physical Therapy Center is on the Move 1 Bates Blvd. #100, Orinda, 254-8755

The Center has been in business for 50 yrs in Orinda. After 35 yrs. at 12 Camino Encinas, they are relocating to 1 Bates Blvd. #100, still in Orinda. For more information please contact orindaPT@yahoo.com

## Tim Floyd Moves to Wells Fargo

Home Mortgage Consultant -Wells Fargo Home Mortgage  
1277 Treat Blvd #150, Walnut Creek, 287.6926 - www.wfhm.com/wfhm/timothy-floyd  
A Top Performer at Washington Mutual, Floyd was informed of his company closing its Wholesale and Retail Home Mortgage offices throughout the United States after returning from a Top Performer trip in the Bahamas that they were sponsoring. Floyd decided to go to work for Wells Fargo instead, because of its stability and stellar reputation. "My personal opinion is that we are currently in the eye of the storm with this financial crisis," says Floyd. The lack of available funds and restricted rules can make it difficult for potential borrowers who want to invest in real estate. "My team is uniquely positioned to provide solutions for most borrowers today," says Floyd. "We are a direct lender to VA, FHA, CALPERS, CALHFA and have access to down payment assistant programs for 1st time homebuyers that qualify. Those borrowers with substantial down payments and sufficient income will find a variety of premium loan programs to choose from."

## Chambers of Commerce:

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, www.lafayettechamber.org**

- Monday, July 28 - 2nd Public Hearing to discuss Sales Tax - Community Center
- Thursday, July 31 - Business Issues Committee - 8:00am - Chamber Office
- Lafayette Art & Wine Festival September 20th & 21st. The festival has become a major attraction for residents from Central Contra Costa County and the Bay Area.



Lafayette Art & Wine Festival 2007

**Moraga Chamber of Commerce, www.moragachamber.org:**

- The August Chamber meeting day and time has changed. Chamber members and their families are invited to participate to a Barbeque on Tuesday August 26th at the Moraga Commons Park, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce, www.orindachamber.org**

- Chamber Breakfast Meeting 8:00 a.m. - August 28th at Shelby's Restaurant -Theater Square. Cost \$10.00 at the door. The guest speaker will be Tom Chen of the Subcommittee for Emergency Preparedness. He will address the topic: "Is Orinda Ready?"

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

or call our office at 925-377-0977.

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## Reflexology Sets Foot in Moraga.

By Sophie Braccini



Foot massage by Mr. Dang (Jim)

What could inspire the mother of a two year old child to open a Reflexology Studio in Moraga? If you ask that question to Tiana Hou, a young immigrant from Northern China, she will tell you that it was advice from her family and personal experience that led her to her first business venture.

A recent business graduate from Cal State, Hou had taken a leave of absence from her former employer, Bank of America, to spend more time with daughter. When it was time to go back to work, the bank had no opportunities available near her Lafayette home. With a new baby Hou didn't want a long commute. She consulted her family and brain-stormed about what kind of business she wanted to get involved in.

"The sense of well-

being is evolving in our community," says Alex, Hou's husband. "People are looking for complementary medicine and natural preventive and healing care." Hou had researched that field herself and had been very interested in Inga Dougans' book, "The Art of Reflexology." She experienced Reflexology first hand herself when long periods of standing had caused her severe pain. "Reflexology can release serious conditions," she believes, "it helped me with my pain. I use it routinely also to release stress, enhance blood circulation, promote detoxification and balance my body energy flow." Hou believes that Reflexology is very beneficial to relationships, since most conflicts are rooted in unreleased tensions.

The Moraga Reflexol-

ogy Studio officially opened on July 1st. It is located at 361 Rheem Blvd., between the new 24H Fitness and Round Table Pizza. The cozy studio features lounging armchairs in which clients recline while a masseuse takes care of their feet. The treatment is usually an hour long and starts with an herbal foot bath. While the feet soak, a head, neck and shoulder massage is performed before the foot treatment itself. Hou works with three licensed and experienced reflexologists: Mr. Li, Mr. Dang and Ms. Yang. Full body massages are offered as well. For an appointment, call 377-0685. Other reference books include: "The Complete Guide to Foot Reflexology," by Kevin and Barbara Kunz and "Feet First," by Laura Norman.

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