

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Presents
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Plaza Park in Downtown Lafayette
A benefit for the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.
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FJMA's Kent Long presented a signed contract and check for \$10,000 to John French, treasurer of J & J Ranch LLC, on April 18 to purchase the Moraga Adobe in Orinda, along with 2.3 acres of adjacent land. The check was the first installment of FJMA's \$500,000 payment to J & J.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Adobe Deal Sealed

New details on terms of Moraga Adobe purchase released

By Laurie Snyder

A new page in the narrative of the Moraga Adobe was added by the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe and J & J Ranch, LLC at a joint press conference April 18. Held high on an Orinda hill under a spectacular blue spring sky, the event gave those attending a rare chance to go behind the adobe's protective fencing

to learn about long-term plans for the site.

FJMA and J & J announced April 3 that they had reached agreement for FJMA to purchase the adobe and 2.3 acres of adjacent land for \$500,000, which will enable conservation of the "view shed" – an area in front of the home from which Orinda's earliest settlers looked out over the area's rolling hills

and valleys. According to Orinda planning director Emmanuel Ursu, "Per the agreement, Lot 12 will be shifted southeasterly out of the view shed of the adobe. The lot on which the adobe is situated will become larger and both Lots 12 and 13 become smaller. The project still contains 13 home sites."

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"The public is demanding this kind of thinking. They expect us to be smarter than we have been." Read Fire News, page A9

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PROPERTY RIGHTS OR HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR LAFAYETTE ADOBE?

Property Rights or Historic Preservation for Lafayette Adobe?

\$2 million teardown?

By Cathy Tyson

Controversy swirls around one of the few remaining Monterey Colonial Revival adobe homes in Lafayette. The four bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home sits on a level 1.8 acre lot with a lily pond, guest house and white picket fence. It was listed for sale in November, 2012 for \$2.2 million and closed at \$1.95 million on Dec. 31, according to public records. A group of supporters have launched a Facebook page called "Save Lafayette's History" to rally around the 3,000 square foot home, built in 1936 on Las Huertas Road.

The original land is composed of two lots, created in 1916 as part of Rancho Laguna De Los Palos Colorados. Lot one was purchased in 1935, fronts Las Huertas Road and is a generally square shaped; lot two, purchased in 1952, is an irregular rectangle along the back of lot one bordered by Las Trampas Road. ... continued on page A3



Photo Cathy Tyson

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Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

Move Over, Hollywood

Moraga may soon be known for more than pears and wine.



Sports

C1-C3

Get caught up on boys' volleyball and lacrosse in Sports.



Our Homes

D1-D12

Bring Back the Natives and Mow No Mo'!

