

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

Tour de Garage Aids Community Foundation

By Cathy Dausman



Sev and Margie Marsted toured the garage of Hays Englehart (on right).

Photo Andy Scheck

Garage, noun: a building or shed for housing a motor vehicle or vehicles – a humble definition, unless the structure has been reimagined. Lafayette Community Foundation’s Nov. 1 fundraising tour gave Lamorindans an inside look at several unique garage sites. For those who missed out, here is a recap of three revamped

spaces.

The Birdhouse:

Hays Englehart, a self-proclaimed gearhead geek is delighted to discuss his new 700-square-foot custom-built garage, saying it was “built like a fine watch.”

“This is not a shed,” he says emphatically.

ing home and allows Englehart’s wife to park her car inside and off the street.

Englehart chose Stevenson Construction for the four-month project, and praised his neighbors for being “so cool” during the work. Although elegant, the garage is definitely not fragile. “The foundation alone is four-foot-thick concrete,” he explains, with rebar-reinforced piers. The 14-foot ceilings allow clearance for the four-post car lift. Each overhead beam supports a 1,000-pound load. The walls are covered in 5/8 plywood, and every third 2-by-2 stud was upgraded to a 4-by-4.

Englehart says if there is a “big shake,” this is where he wants to be. The site has a sandblast cabinet and parts tank for motor work and 220 amp electrical services. The lighting is all LED. Englehart designed and installed his air compressor system, which he built using PVC schedule 40 pipe. He jokes he had the concrete floor sealed with Epoxy and colored dark red “to hide the blood.”

“Every house I’ve ever owned I’ve wanted a garage like this,” he says. The garage may have been clean on show day, but Englehart cannot wait to get his hands dirty. He plans to pull the T-bird’s engine and transmission immediately.

His granddaughter nicknamed the garage “The Birdhouse,” referencing the 1966 Thunderbird Englehart stores there. He also has a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle, vintage blue and silver Honda mini trail bike and an award-winning 1958 balloon tire Columbia bicycle. This is a second garage, which blends in with the exist-

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