



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Town of Moraga
 Community
GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Residents of the Town of Moraga are invited to hold garage sales at their homes, join with their neighbors to hold block sales, or get together with their community group to hold a group sale. A \$15 registration fee gets your garage sale in the Garage Sale Guide. Guides with maps will be available at the Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga Library, Town Offices, and Online starting May 15.

moragarec.com or 925-888-7036

Moraga community faire – get ready for May 12



Pony rides at last year's faire

Photo Jaya Griggs

The spring faire at Rheem has become a tradition that attracts crowds from all over the area. Kathe Nelson, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce executive director, says that the 12th Annual Community Faire and Classic Car show will feature not only the popular pony rides, climbing wall, food, classic cars, and Lamorinda wines and craft beers, but also music from local school and area bands, and many new booths and vendors. She is sure that there will truly be something there for everyone.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. The Kids Zone is a must at the fair and all attractions are included in the \$5 per child ticket. Other free activities include

the Bands winners.

The Moraga Community Faire and Car Show is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

– S. Braccini

visit to the ever-growing, amazing classic car exhibit, featuring over 70 classic cars, games, booths and live entertainment. The Moraga Police Department will be hosting bike safety training, so families are encouraged to ride their bikes to the fair and can take advantage of a free bike valet.

Food trucks will be at the event, so visitors can enjoy a great lunch at the fair, and relax with a glass of local wine or beer. Over 50 local artists, businesses and organizations are part of the fair and give visitors an opportunity to rediscover the economic vitality and the creativity of their community.

Live entertainment will be presented all afternoon from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band to local Battle of



Total Clean

would like to thank our dedicated employees
 Eva Garcia, Martha Beltran and Flor Canales

20 Years of Dedicated Service!

Plans to open La Finestra Restaurant at the Hacienda move forward

By Sophie Braccini



Jeff Assadi dreams of the Hacienda de las Flores

Photo provided

Despite a somewhat confusing process, the town council approved authorizing the town manager to enter lease negotiations to rent the Hacienda de las Flores to restaurant operator Jeff Assadi. The opportunity appears to be a perfect situation to finally make the town-owned park an open amenity for the entire community, as well as less of a cost center. If everything goes according to plan, the new La Finestra Restaurant should open in early November.

At the April 17 special meeting, members of the subcommittee that proposed the lease were quizzed, especially by Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus, who said she had first thought that the committee had exceeded its mandate. The group composed of Moraga residents, staff members and two council members had been tasked to develop a request for proposals that the town would approve and send to the market to get different offers to rent part of the historic building to a restaurant. Instead the committee decided to forgo the RFP and asked the town to start negotiating with Assadi.

Korpus asked for some explanation. Wendy Scheck, Moraga resident, member of the committee and publisher of Lamorinda Weekly, explained that the committee had completed the drafting of the

RFP with then interim parks and recreation director Carlene McCarty, when Assadi walked in the door. At first the committee told him that the RFP was going to be approved by the council and that he could respond to it at that time. But then Assadi explained that his window to engage in a new restaurant operation was about to expire.

Scheck remembered how Assadi's offer perfectly aligned with everything that was included in the RFP: a restaurateur with experience running a successful restaurant for more than five years, also experienced in catering, with cash in hand to invest in a new location, offering a market rate rent and shared profits on all revenues including catering. Additionally, restaurant consultant and Lafayette resident Bob Burke had warned the committee that finding a lease that would not require the town to make major investment to improve the building and the kitchen was unlikely.

What made Assadi's offer a perfectly timed one comes from the unfortunate fire that completely destroyed the building where La Finestra had operated for the last 15 years on Lafayette Circle last July. The restaurateur now has the insurance money as well as a full wine, beer and liquor license that needs to find a location before it expires.

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VOTE YES

**NO MORE SINKHOLES
 HAVE YOU VOTED?**

- Moraga's storm drains are old **Some are Failing**
- Remember the Rheem sinkhole **Disruptive and Expensive**
- More sinkholes could be coming **Maybe to Your Street**
- The Town has a prevention plan **Needs Funding**
- Property owners **Did you VOTE YES on the mail-in ballot?**
- Can't find your ballot? **Call Town Office at 925-888-7022**
- Doing nothing is not an option **VOTE YES**
- Signed ballots must be received by **May 15th**

VOTE NOW – VOTE YES

Paid for by the Save Our StormDrains committee.

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