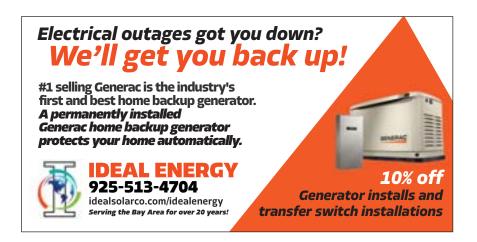
LAMORINDA WEEKLY



## It's wildfire season: Be prepared beyond a 'go bag'



Microchipping your pets could help you find them after a disaster.

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Make an emergency plan for leaving your home: Where will you go? Where will you meet if you are separated? Are there family members who should be contacted? Do you have leashes and carriers for pets easily reachable? Do you have access to emergency information such as Nixle or your Nextdoor app? Make sure to sign up for community warning system alerts at cwsalerts.com. Do you have all of your contact information for your family? I recommend that you write this up and share it with your family – then include a copy in the "go bag."

Microchip Your Pets: Are your pets microchipped? This could help you find them after a disaster.

One survivor told a story of how her dog panicked and ran away from her while she was scrambling to evacuate. It took months to track him down, by then he had been adopted by a young family with children who had already fallen in love with him. She was heartbroken but decided to leave him with his new family. Lesson learned ... make sure all your pets have microchips.

No one thinks they will actually be in a disaster. You could have only minutes to evacuate your home. Preparing ahead for an emergency could make all the difference.



Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com