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Photo Jeff Heyman

Fun abounds at downtown festival

By Jeff Heyman

With an estimated 80,000 festival-goers literally flooding the streets of downtown Lafayette, this year's "Art & Wine," as longtime aficionados call it, was an overwhelming success. Moreover, it was overwhelmingly fun. The 2024 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival was held last weekend, Saturday, Sept. 21, and Sunday, Sept. 22 – and with the temps in the mid-80s, the weather could not have been more perfect.

With more than 20 bands, including some of the best Bay Area cover bands and local acts including The Ripplers, Other People's Money, The Big Jangle, and Lonesome Eddie and the Saddle Sores, performing on

four stages, street dancing and sing-alongs were not a rare sight in Lafayette this past weekend. So were kids' dance performances on the main stage, including an extremely popular set by the New You Dance Center.

What about the 400 vendor booths? Few would be disappointed with the 30 local artisans and craftspeople who lined Local Artists Alley. And the dozens of food vendors, including many of Lafayette's wildly popular restaurants, added a delicious twist and a wide sampling of California wine and craft beers. In addition, there were scores of commercial vendors and information booths set up by public agencies with plenty

of useful giveaways. Of course there were great activities for the youngins: four kid's zones featured miniature gold, a train ride and, of course, jumpy houses and more activities. Face-painting is a perennial favorite.

Put on by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lafayette, and a host of sponsors, Art & Wine always attracts throngs of folks from near and far. And this year's festival, by all accounts, was the best, the biggest, and possibly the most fun in the 27 years it has been going strong. There are many reasons we are lucky to be living in Lamorinda – and Art & Wine is one of them.

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Cancer Support Community approaching groundbreaking for Lafayette center

By Elaine Borden Chandler



Image courtesy Cancer Support Community

Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area (CSCSFBay) is approaching the groundbreaking stage of their planned cancer center in Lafayette. This center is

intended to extend CSCSFBay's mission of providing free programs and community for cancer patients and their caretakers, family, and friends. Located on a parcel of undevel-

oped land west of the Lafayette Reservoir, this new center will be the first of their centers to use nature as a resource for healing.

CSCSFBay was founded in 1990 and is nationally affiliated with the international Cancer Support Community organization (CSC). They provide the holistic support, particularly psychological and financial, that is not supplied by hospitals. They have programs for nutrition, exercise, financial assistance, counseling, and support groups, ... continued on Page 3

Moraga Library celebrates 50th birthday

By Vera Kochan

For one day only, it was okay to cheer, shout, clap, and loudly sing "Happy Birthday" at the Moraga Library, because its 50th birthday party was in progress, and book-lovers of all ages were there to celebrate.

To start off the Sept. 19 commemoration event, Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry gave a brief timeline lesson of the past 50 years and beyond, before the library settled into its current location at 1500 St. Mary's Rd. in 1974.

Contra Costa County established a library system in 1911. Seven years later, Moraga opened its first library, with an offering of 100 books, in the Moraga Grocery Store (which now houses Si Si Caffe). The town's population was 535 residents. Between 1936-1944, the library



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Library's 50th Birthday cake

moved into the Sacramento Northern Railway Station, which was located across the street from today's Moraga Barn. The book collection had doubled to 200; the population had grown as well, with 834 inhabitants. ... continued on Page 7

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