

## July & August 2004



### Welcome Aboard!

**Linda Carlson,**  
Chamber Office Manager

Little did Linda Carlson know when she signed on as bookkeeper for the chamber three years ago that she would have to eventually know more than just budgets, bank account numbers and a quirky computer accounting system.

Her memory banks formerly included only numbers...now they are full of databases, phone numbers, lists, city information, events, deadlines, sponsorship information, school and business locations, school scores and a myriad of other minutiae that all good office managers must know...especially if they are to work in this fast paced environment.

No stranger to multi-tasking, Linda worked full time at Montgomery County Federal Credit Union in Rockville, Maryland as credit union manager while attending the University of Maryland and obtaining a degree in Psychology and Sociology.

Relocating to California in 1987, Linda worked part time at Carey Tax Services, while obtaining her Master's Degree from JFK University in Transpersonal Counseling and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Linda was attracted to coming on board at the Chamber by the helpful and friendly working environment. "I hope to bring my management, accounting and counseling skills to enrich an already thriving Chamber." As Linda has first hand knowledge of just how busy and stressed we can get in September and October when we have our two biggest events...we hope to utilize her counseling skills to our fullest advantage!

## Plans for Lafayette Art & Wine Festival Move into High Gear Festive "block party" ambiance expected!

A larger area, increased vendor participation, and a new entertainment stage are in the works for this year's Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, set for September 18-19 in downtown Lafayette.

Over 75,000 attendees are expected at the popular two-day event which features arts and crafts booths, food from local restaurants, beverages from wineries and microbreweries, chef demonstrations, entertainment, children's activities, and much more. A special exhibit and sale of work by local artists is planned.

"With over 200 vendors and artists selling items ranging from \$5 to \$5000, and a variety of tantalizing food served by area restaurants, you're sure to find something that tickles your fancy, or your taste buds," said Karen Rose, Executive Director of the Chamber.

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## BUSINESS BUILDING BREAKFAST— New Venue!

**Join us at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa  
for a wonderful breakfast buffet  
and professional, informative speakers this Fall!**

We have an exciting line-up of presentations starting in September through December to help you in your business...don't miss out! Complimentary parking.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 • 7:30 - 9 a.m.**

**Susan Urquhart-Brown** presents  
**"From Accidental to Intentional Entrepreneur!"**  
based on her successful book,  
**"The Accidental Entrepreneur:  
A Guidebook of Practical Wisdom."**

As a business coach and advisor, Susan is committed to helping her clients and readers bridge the gap between where they are now in their business and where they want to be. She works with clients to build on their strengths, revise their business goals on the basis of those strengths and develop a plan to achieve their refocused goals. Susan's business coaching expertise includes helping her clients break through barriers, communication and negotiation skills, goal setting, business planning, streetwise marketing and accountability for success. Our thanks to Oakwood Athletic Club for sponsoring this event.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 7:30 - 9 a.m.**

**Craig Harrison** – professional speaker,  
corporate trainer & consultant presents  
**"Riding Your Elevator Speech to the Top"**  
featuring valuable tips on how to deliver your  
elevator speech to effectively introduce  
yourself and your business.

Sixteen seconds is the average time spent with a stranger in an elevator so learn how to make the most of that time and give a favorable first impression. Craig provides clients with the skills and confidence to deliver stellar customer service, work effectively as a team, step into leadership roles and communicate for success with colleagues, customers and the world at large. Craig firmly believes that "the skilled communicator opens doors, builds new relationships, serves others effectively and enhances one's own leadership. Our thanks to Oakwood Athletic Club for sponsoring this event.

**\$15 Members • \$20 Guests  
Reserve Today! 284-7404**

# “The Hotel Won’t Be the Same without Me.”

An interview with Dan Kelly, Retired General Manager and V.P. of the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

by Jay Lifson

Back in 1986 the Best Western Lafayette Park Hotel opened its doors. The tag line was “Destined to be one of the BEST hotels in the West.” According to Dan Kelly, General Manager of the hotel for seventeen of the eighteen years it has been in business, the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa is now considered one of the great hotels of the world.

When Dan Kelly arrived, the hotel was not doing so well, with a bad reputation and a low occupancy. Kelly, who grew up in Montana and became a teacher and then jumped into the restaurant and hospitality industry, was called on to fix the problems. A man on a mission, Dan has been the master of attention to detail, the key to the hotel’s success.

## Jay: 17 Years. How did you last so long?

**Dan:** No HeadHunters called. The Hillside Motel was never hiring. Big Raises. The picketers kept me locked in. Couldn’t find a place where I could get free parking and free lunch, and I didn’t like anyone else’s Martinis. Still waiting on the patent for our housemade hazelnut vinaigrette dressing. Didn’t trust anyone else to pick the paint colors. And with seventeen different secretaries, they never stayed long enough to type my resume.

## Jay: “You held the office of Chamber President longer than anyone. How was that?”

**Dan: The Good** - I got the biggest Plaque and Gavel.  
*(Just a side note – I never got one after I finished being President)*

**The Bad** - The Chamber was so short of funds, on several occasions, I almost had to pull out my own checkbook.

**The Ugly** - I was accused of having an affair with the Executive Director.

## Jay: What made it work for you all these years?

**Dan:** The Support of locals like Gayle Uilkema, Ann Grodin, Steve Falk, Sereta Churchill, Bob Ewen, Paul Barendregt, Ann Denny, Karen Rose, Ken Manning, Ed Stokes, John Coleman, Lois Renquest, Lori Sizemore, Mary Pat Cedarleaf, Bud Lake, Scotty Louckes, Bob Kann, Bob Stone, Barbara Bupp, Bill Wakeman, Hirsh Morton, Shirley Henry, Irene Radozian and I know I have forgotten many. My biggest support is my wife of 31 years, Jan, the love of my life, and the love of my four children, Aaron, now 30, Ryan, 28, Troy 25 and Holly 15. When they worked at the hotel, they were the best spies a GM could ask for.

It was rewarding receiving all the awards and accolades. The hotel and its staff are so deserving. I also had the chance to watch all our employees grow up. They went on to be doctors, lawyers, CPAs, Restaurateurs, hoteliers and many raised beautiful families.

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**AUGUST MIXER**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11 • 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
**WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK • 3492 Mt. Diablo Blvd.**

## Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and maintain a healthy business climate and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette.

### OFFICERS

#### President

Larry Duson, Bank of the West

#### 1st Vice President

Larry Blodgett, Blodgett's Floor Covering

#### 2nd Vice President

Budd MacKenzie, Attorney

#### 3rd Vice President

Stacy Spell, Oakwood Athletic Club

#### Treasurer

Caesar Perales, CPA

#### Immediate Past President

Jay Lifson, Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Banis Smith, Sereta Churchill,

Mike Heller, Mike Kearney,

Timothy McKinley, Ute Medford,  
Sandi Mitchell, Bonnie Ann Moore,

Cynthia Murdough, Wendy Tamis,

Jesse Wellen, Eddie Roodveldt,

Kristy Rodrigues, Edward Zeidan

### ADVISORY BOARD

Judy Carney, Steve Falk,

Dennis Garrison, Joe Heinz, Chris Lane,

Ed Stokes

### CHAMBER OFFICE STAFF

Karen Rose, Executive Director

Linda Carlson, Office Manager

Elizabeth Peeke, Membership Services Director

Ann Denny, Executive Director Emeritus

### LAFAYETTE

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103

Lafayette, CA. 94549

(925) 284-7404

FAX (925) 284-3109

info@lafayettechamber.org

www.lafayettechamber.org

# Business Spotlight

Since this month's newsletter serves both July and August, we decided to focus on two Lafayette businesses that work together in helping each other and over the years, have become

invaluable resources to one another...The Nurture Center and They Grow So Fast. Owners Meri Levy and Stacy Wright have become good friends with much in common...mothers of young children, an interest in children's retail/products and both with successful businesses that continue to grow and are located very near each other.

Meri Levy and her business partner, Sherry Henderson, started The Nurture Center three and a half years ago after meeting each other through the Lamorinda Mom's Club. Meri had a rather "vague idea" of offering the community a resource center that would also rent and sell breast pumps, quality children's clothing lines and "things that everyone in the area buys who are parents." She was very focused on providing a place for parents to come and get support, where children would be welcomed and parents could feel comfortable shopping while their children were with them. With building space secured at just the right time, Meri says "Sherry and I had to get our ducks in a row very quickly." Neither partner had any experience in retail so they learned together. Their biggest asset was "Sherry and I are parents in the community so we are our market...we've been steadily growing since we opened because babies are a fairly constant market." The Nurture Center is able to offer a variety of resources to parents because Meri says, "we've done a lot of networking with OB's, doulas, mid-wives and lactation consultants...they help us figure out what products and services to offer as well as sending their patients here...it's been a very good arrangement." The Nurture Center will be offering a series of childbirth classes in August and September based on the book "Birthing from Within," which focuses not just on the details of what happens at the hospital but also how you process it all. Patients will do artwork and journaling to help them prepare for birth and also becoming a new parent. The Nurture Center has been a Chamber member since 2002 and Meri says she looks forward to becoming more active once her children are older.

Stacy Wright, owner of They Grow So Fast, was a positive influence on Meri because Meri wanted to open a store that would be as wel-



**Meri Levy**

## The Nurture Center

3399 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
283-1346



**Stacy Wright**

## They Grow So Fast

3413 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
283-8976


coming to little ones. "Stacy has made a shop that's easy and comfortable to shop in," Meri says, and "we are always holding people's babies and we love that!" The two business owners share customers and agree that it's very fulfilling to be connected with the community and see families grow over the years.

Stacy makes it a point to drop in every now and then at The Nurture Center to see what's new. They Grow So Fast was founded in 1993 as a "Kids and Maternity Consignment Store serving Bay Area Families" and has found a very special niche. Offering a large selection beyond clothes, their inventory includes toys, books, videotapes, quality furniture and even hand-knit hat & blanket sets that are reasonably priced. Stacy says her store was the first of its kind in Lafayette and the idea came from brainstorming just her first year out of college. "My business professors probably would have said I'd fail because there was no formal business plan but my husband encouraged me to move ahead with just \$3,000." After being located at the Forge for seven years, they lost their lease along with Pony Tails hair salon so they moved their businesses together to their current location on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. "We're a good mix," Stacy says, "it's ironic we were moving out at the same time and we have a great landlord."

Stacy's strategy for success has always been customer service. She's made some best friends through her store and says "it's been wonderful" getting to know some local families and watching them grow through the years. Some customers have even worked for her in the past and when it comes to having a store that's comfortable for parents to shop in, Stacy says "we'll do whatever it takes to keep their kids safe while they're shopping." In working with Meri and The Nurture Center, Stacy says, "We refer people back and forth, it's only natural...It's been really fun working with Meri and it's nice to have another mom who is a small business owner...we help each other out." Stacy has been a Chamber member since They Grow So Fast opened and claims that the business community in Lafayette has brought her some wonderful customers. "I'd rather do business with locally owned places which the Chamber has taught me," says Stacy.

**CAESAR C. PERALES**  
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## ADVERTISING

### **Penny Saver**

4071 Port Chicago Highway  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 671-8912 (Ph)  
(925) 671-8918 (Fax)  
ehowes@pennysaverusa.com  
www.pennysaverusa.com  
*Erin Howes, Account Executive*

## EDUCATION

### **The Springstone Preschool**

1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 825-0965 (Ph)  
info@thespringstoneschool.org  
www.springstoneschool.org  
*Allan Nash, Business Director*

## HEALTH & FITNESS

### **Ladies Workout Express**

3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 284-1155 (Ph)  
(925) 2824-1166 (Fax)  
info@workoutexpresslafayette.com  
www.workoutexpresslafayette.com  
*Christi Lucas and Alan Palomares,  
Owners*

Ladies Workout Express offers a 30-minute interval-style circuit training club in which members get strength and aerobic training and can burn up to 600 calories (and more!) in just 30 minutes. Busy women of all ages now have the opportunity to dash in, get a fast, safe and simple workout and be back on their way in just 30 minutes. With flexible intervals and adjustable resistance settings, the workout is designed to minimize the "fitness plateau" that can be an issue with other workout regimens. Ladies Workout Express also offer Infrared Body Wraps, Yoga, Pilates as well as Spray On tanning services.

## MEDICAL

### **Alta Bates Medical Associates**

3466 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 283-0424 (Ph)  
(925) 283-0964 (Fax)  
*Subrennia Jackson,  
Physician Practice Manager*

## CLEANING & HOUSEKEEPING

### **Lamorinda Maid & Cleaning Services**

P.O. Box 1458  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 299-6703 (Ph)  
lamorindamaid@aol.com  
*Omar and Nancy Urbina, Owners*

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### **Orinda Film Festival**

34D Village Square  
Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 254-4281 (Ph)  
(925) 254-4282 (Fax)  
david@orindafilmfestival.org  
www.orindafilmfestival.org  
*David Goss, Managing Director*

The Third Annual Orinda Film Festival will be held on October 14-17 2004. The festival showcases the work of independent film makers from around the globe. The festival is a 501 c (3) non-profit and is completely supported by businesses and community members. Please check out the website for more information: [orindafilmfestival.org](http://orindafilmfestival.org).

## APARTMENT RENTALS

### **Lafayette Commons Apartments**

3263 Mt. Diablo Court  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 287-1188 (Ph)  
(925) 287-1181 (Fax)  
nszeto@amrci.com  
*Nikki Szeto, Property Manager*

The Lafayette Commons Community is nestled in a quiet, private courtyard environment surrounded by beautiful Cypress trees and is conveniently located just a few minutes away from Bart, major freeways and downtown Lafayette. The 36 high-quality renovated two-bedroom apartments feature marble flooring in the living and dining rooms, granite kitchen counter tops with Oak cabinets, berber carpeting in the bedrooms, private parking lot, on-site laundry facilities, business and fitness centers. Summer move-in specials are available now! Please contact our leasing office for more information.

## RESTAURANT/CAFE

### **Cafe Esperanza**

960 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-1567 (Ph)  
*Kim Curiel and Esther Fielding, Owners*

Cafe Esperanza serves traditional boiled and baked bagels along with cups of organic, fair trade, shade grown coffee, sides of fresh salads and no carb fritatta. At Cafe Esperanza you'll meet owners, Kim Curiel and Esther Fielding, Lafayette residents who serve lunch and breakfast for dine in or take out. If you're in a rush call ahead and lunch will be waiting for you. Call 925-284-1567 or drop by 960 Moraga Road.

## CHANGES TO WEBSITE

In an effort to make our Chamber website more useful to visitors, we are streamlining the number of categories from over 240 to 135. Members will also be able to add one or two words of additional description next to their business name. For instance, an auto repair business listed under the category of "Automobile Services" could add "service & repair" next to their business name while a dealership could add "new & used autos" next to their business name. We will begin making these category changes in the next few months once our new computer system has been installed. If you have any questions or comments regarding these changes or would like to provide us with the additional one or two word descriptions to go next to your business name, please contact Linda Carlson, Office Manager at 284-7404.

## *Home-Based Business Alliance* **NEW MEETING DAY! Wednesday**

**The Home-Based Business Alliance is a great support group of brainstorming and networking for those people who work out of their homes.**

*Next Meeting:*  
**Wednesday, September 15th  
Bank of the West  
8:30-9:30 a.m.**



**Ribbon Cutting**

**Antigua Doors**

**UPCOMING**  
Ribbon Cutting/Open House

**Cafe Esperanza** 960 Moraga Rd.  
Tuesday, September 14th at 12 Noon

**Peacock Indian Cuisine**  
3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Wednesday, September 15th at 4:30 p.m.

**Lafayette Commons Apartments**  
3263 Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Wednesday, September 22nd at 12 Noon

**Ladies Workout Express**  
3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Wednesday, September 29th at 12 Noon

**JUNE MIXER**  
MIXING AL FRESCO  
AT PER TUTTI RESTAURANT

The weather was on our side as we mixed and mingled outdoors in front of Per Tutti Restaurant for the June mixer. It was a nice evening to enjoy being outdoors in downtown Lafayette and sampling some fresh Italian appetizers. Our thanks go to the staff at Per Tutti for providing the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and such a variety that was enjoyed by all. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the following members who generously donated raffle prizes: Rhonda Chaikin with HMR Associates, Costco, Gold Coin Car Wash, Ladies Workout Express, Lafayette Car Wash, Paychex, Per Tutti Restaurant and Pillar to Post Home Inspections.



*Your* **Chamber Membership**  
is Valuable  
in **JULY & AUGUST** Because...

We offer you Tech Tuesday twice a month throughout the summer. Ed Zeidan with Nerd4Rent and current Chamber Board Member presents hands-on, informative classes with a variety of topics that are useful in any business:

- Tuesday, July 13:           General Computer Maintenance**
- Tuesday, July 27:        Searching the Internet**
- Tuesday August 10:     The Digital Camera... Friend or Foe?**
- Tuesday August 24:    The Top Windows & Office Tips & Tricks**

For more extensive training or troubleshooting, please contact Nerd4Rent directly at 925-283-5666 or ezeidan@isconsult.com.

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# Current Issues before the City of Lafayette - June '04

by Steve Falk,  
City Manager

• **Building a New Veteran's Memorial Building.** This elegant 9,000 s.f. conference and banquet center will seat 250 at round tables, or 400 theater style. Stone, wood, and glass building will feature three conference rooms and a large catering kitchen. Cost: \$8.0M, shared via a partnership with the City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, and the City of Lafayette. Located at Risa Rd. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. (MDB). Construction to be completed in May, 2005.

• **Designing a New Lafayette Library and Learning Center.** 25,000 s.f. building to be located at First St. and MDB. Will house 90,000 volumes, teen center, children's collection, homework center, small meeting rooms, and a large quiet adult collection. Golden Gate Way elevation will include the Friends of the Lafayette Library used book store, and archive and museum space for the Lafayette Historical Society. Complex will feature classroom and lecture space for the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. Community Meeting Room will be acoustically designed to accommodate classical music recitals. Cost: \$24M, divided between private and government sources. To be completed between 2007 and 2011 depending on availability of funding.

• **Partnering with Developer to Build 70 New Apartments at Town Center.** City has engaged developer Rick Dishnica in discussions to design and build a well-designed multi-family project on the 1-acre parking lot behind Panda Express. 20% of the units will be subsidized so as to be affordable to people with very low incomes. Development may contain a large plaza with a water feature, benches, shade, and eating spaces for children and adults. Redevelopment Agency likely to provide more than \$1M in subsidies for this project.

• **Reviewing Final Details for Development of Lafayette Mercantile Project.** Developer Steve Cortese will soon redevelop (almost) the entire city block fronting MDB and between Dewing Ave. and Lafayette Circle. The 50,000 s.f. Spanish revival building will feature high quality ground floor retail with two stories of office above. ~150 parking spaces. Large plazas and public art will make this development notable. Redevelopment Agency to provide substantial rebates of property taxes to make this project economically feasible. Commence construction in 2004/2005.

• **Implementing Merger of Lafayette and Moraga Recreation Programs.** New computers and software programs will ultimately make the process more efficient and profitable, but the start-up data entry and training challenges have been significant.

• **Construction of Hotel Signal Postponed.** The City was anxious to install a new traffic signal in front of the Lafayette Park Hotel, but due to a tight bidding environment, contractors' bids were nearly double the City's estimate. Council chose to cancel all bids and rebid the project next winter when the bidding environment is slower.

• **Recently Completed Search and Hire of New Police Chief.** Lafayette welcomed Lt. Mike Fisher, who, on June 1 began his new job as Police Chief. Fisher, who previously served Lafayette as a sergeant for more than three years, replaces Lt. Hank Davis, who will retire on June 30 after four years in Lafayette and 29 years with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Dept.

• **City Council Places \$29M Road and Drain Measure on November Ballot.** Facing increasing road repair costs and flat or decreasing revenues, the City Council will ask voters this November to approve the issuance of \$29M in General Obligation Bonds. The proceeds would be expended over the next ten years to repair neighborhood roads. Maximum annual tax per household would be ~ \$40 per \$100,000 in assessed value.

• **Summer Capital Improvement Program Underway.** In the downtown area, this year's program includes the repaving of Golden Gate Way and MDB between First St. and Brown Ave. New "Battery Park Streetlamps" will line the Blvd.

• **Various Significant Planning Tasks, including:**

- Completing the low density residential zone study
- Preparing a front yard fence ordinance
- Developing standards for sports courts & tennis courts

- Implementing new storm water control standards
- A general plan amendment for the properties at the eastern end of Deer Hill Road
- Revising the 2nd Unit Ordinance
- Beginning a comprehensive rewrite of the City's zoning ordinance
- Preparing a Master Trails Plan

• **Sunrise.** The City has received an application to build a 94-unit assisted living facility at the west MDB entrance to town. If approved, 4.3 acres would be intensively developed with parking lot and three story building; 57.7 acres would be preserved as open space. Development requires General Plan amendment and has elicited significant opposition.

• **Buckeye Trail Spur.** The City's newly renovated Buckeye Fields have received a tremendous reception from Lafayette residents. Unfortunately, they are only accessible by vehicle. The City is thus investigating options for constructing a trail spur that would extend from the Lafayette-Moraga Trail to the ballfields. Will present options to community this summer.

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Art & Wine Festival continued from cover

Sponsored by the Chamber, the event will be open from 10am to 7pm on Saturday, September 18, and from 10am to 5pm on Sunday, September 19.

The Festival will cover the traditional route down Mt. Diablo Blvd., from Dewing Avenue to Oak Hill Road, but has been expanded to include La Fiesta Square, where an additional entertainment stage will be erected.

Non-stop entertainment is expected on the three stages, which are sponsored by La Fiesta Square and Woerhle and Son. Ray Obiedo & the Urban Latin Jazz Project, featuring Pete Escovedo, returns to headline this year's entertainment, as well as festival favorite Annie Sampson. Other bands include: The Fabulous Jukes, Bob Athayde & Friends, the Delta Dogs, Pure Honey, the Kevin Beadles Band, the Contra Costa Jazz Band, the Michael Robinson Band, the Delta Wires, Big Rain, Nightlights, Chuck More's Bay Area Rat Pack, Bautista and Lisa Kolarich.

The Premium Wine Pavilion, sponsored by Century 21 Heritage Real Estate, The Chef's Stage, sponsored by Viking Appliances and featuring cooking demonstrations by noted Bay Area chefs, are highlights of the festival. Sharing their culinary expertise this year are chefs from restaurants including The Duck Club, Va de Vi, Grimaud Farms, Il Fornaio, Bridges, Ono Maze, The Franciscan, Le Virage, Vic Stewart's, the Walnut Creek Yacht Club, and the Pleasanton Hotel.

Local restaurants serving food for purchase include: Postino, Mangia, Amarin Thai, Susan Foord Catering and Chow Ciao!, Peacock Indian Cuisine, Petar's and The Hungry Hunter. Back by popular is The Kids Zone, offering fun activities and entertainment for kids of all ages.

Free parking will be available at Lafayette BART, as well as a continuous shuttle service provided by Black Tie Transportation between BART and the festival.

Helping the Greater Bay Area hear about the festival are media sponsors NBC11, KKSF 103.7, Contra Costa Newspapers, and Diablo Magazine.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 284-7404, or e-mail [info@lafayettechamber.org](mailto:info@lafayettechamber.org).

**Jay: Clear up the story about you, your tattoo and the Chamber retreat.**

**Dan:** I had gone to my room after dinner. Some Chamber members were making a lot of noise outside my window. I went to look out the window in my boxers and someone down there took a picture of me. The next year, the picture became a life-size blow up.

**Jay: Tell me a memorable story or two of running the hotel.**

**Dan:** We once had a wedding party complain that the brides silver high heel shoes had been stolen. She accused our employees for the theft. We did an investigation and found nothing. Five days later we had our employee holiday party. Sure enough, there was the employee we suspected, wearing the silver shoes.

Another wedding party came back to the hotel smashed after a bachelor party. The groom was dropped in his room. His friends went back out and found a goat on someone's property. They brought the goat back to the hotel and locked it in the groom's room. The groom woke up and let the goat out into the hallway. The goat kept running up and down the halls and no one could catch it. Animal Rescue was called. They had to use a tranquilizer gun to catch it. After the goat was shot, it continued to run up and down the halls with diarrhea.

**Jay: Any regrets?**

**Dan:** Absolutely NONE!  
Leave it to Dan to say, "The Hotel will never be the same without me."

## Business Briefs

**The Third Annual Orinda Film Festival will be held on October 14-17 2004.** The festival showcases the work of independent film makers from around the globe. The festival is a 501 c (3) non-profit and is completely supported by businesses and community members. Please check out the website for more information: [orindafilmfestival.org](http://orindafilmfestival.org).

**New law requires special license for the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products.** AB71 which took effect on June 30, 2004, provides that retailers, wholesalers, and distributors cannot sell cigarettes or tobacco products in California unless licensed by the Board of Equalization. This includes products sold at retail from a building or vending machine. This licensing requirement is in addition to other permits and licenses issued by the Board of Equalization. Failure to comply with the requirements of AB71 may result in penalties, restrictions on selling cigarette and tobacco products, and even criminal prosecution. The Lafayette Chamber has a limited number of brochures available detailing the requirements of the new law or you may go online at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) or call 800-400-7115 for information.

**Hail and Farewell to Lafayette Police Chiefs.** Lt. Mike Fisher has been selected to succeed Police Chief Hank Davis who is retiring as chief effective July 1. Mike has 20 years of experience in law enforcement, including more than three years as Lafayette's swing shift sergeant. He also served as the city's acting chief during the recruitment that led to the placement of Chief Davis. With experience in patrol, investigations, vice, detention, and internal affairs, Mike is well qualified for this job, according to City Manager Steve Falk.

Dan also reminded me that the following has been entered into the record.

**Things that can never change:**

- Dan's Special Martini cannot be removed from the Bistro List
- No Salsify or Quail on the Duck Club menu.
- No big TVs in the Bistro

**Jay: Besides your new career in real estate, is there anything else you want to do?**

- Dan:**
- Teach again at the JC level.
  - Teach Spin Classes again
  - Spend more time with my family and grandchildren
  - And become a food critic.
- Jay and Frank, WATCH OUT!

**Jay: Anything Else?**

**Dan:** Yes, the following is an unpaid advertisement.

**NEED TO BUY OR SELL A HOME?**  
 Dan Kelly, Equity Capital Real Estate  
 925.330.4070  
 email:[danreman@yahoo.com](mailto:danreman@yahoo.com)

**Sponsorships Available for Lafayette's Favorite Family Event**

**The 12th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run is set for Sunday, October 31 — Halloween!**

**This fun run/walk benefits our local schools and last year drew more than 1,800 registered runners.**

Presenting sponsor for the event is again Oakwood Athletic Club, but a number of sponsorships are still available. If you want 1,800 folks walking around the Bay Area serving as a walking billboard for your company, call the Chamber office today.

**Only a few of the highly coveted T Shirt logo spots remain. Don't delay; call today 284-7404.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>July</b>	1	2	3
4	5 <b>July 5-9 Chamber Office Closed</b>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Tech Tuesday</b> 8 a.m., Chamber	14 <b>NO MIXER</b>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 <b>Tech Tuesday</b> 8 a.m., Chamber	28	29	30	31
1 <b>Aug</b>	2 <b>Ambassadors Meeting</b> 4:30 p.m., El Charro	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <b>Tech Tuesday</b> 8 a.m., Chamber	11 <b>MIXER</b> 5:30 p.m. Washington Mutual Bank	12	13	14
15	16	17 <b>Membership Committee, 8 a.m.</b> Oakwood Athletic Club	18	19	20 <b>Home Based Business Alliance</b> 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Bank of the West	21
22	23	24 <b>Tech Tuesday</b> 8 a.m., Chamber	25	26	27	28
29	30 <b>Ambassadors Meeting</b> 4:30 p.m., Chamber	31				