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Sandra Martin owns the new skin care studio. Photo provided

Sandra Martin Skin Care and Makeup 1043 Stuart St, suite 160, Lafayette (925) 330-7304 sandramartinmua.com

Sandra Martin recently started her own skin care and makeup business in Lafayette. The young woman was born and raised in Switzerland, and has always paid close attention to skin care. Starting in the beauty industry 15 years ago, the Lafayette resident worked closely with dermatologists and plastic surgeons using state of the art treatments. Her focus is to apply her knowledge to benefit each client's needs and customize treatment to maximize their results. Martin is also a makeup artist trained at the Make-up Designory academy in Los Angeles. She offers makeup services for weddings, proms, and special events, as well as facial, resurfacing peel and waxing services. Her website also includes interesting advice related to beauty. For example, in the post "What makes a complete skin care regimen?" she explains how to use alpha hydroxy acid and beta hydroxy acid products, the importance of vitamin C and peptides, and the role hyaluronic acid/ B5 serum plays in helping keep skin young looking. She also writes about the latest makeup trends on the site. Martin works Tuesday through Saturday, by appointment only.

The Squirrels Coffee Shop Closes 998 Moraga Rd., Lafayette

Squirrels Coffee Shop will close its doors Aug. 15. The Lafayette icon has been operated by the Poy family for nearly three decades. A favorite place for Sunday brunch, patrons especially liked the long counter that created an East Coast atmosphere. The family has been working with the city on plans to renovate the Plaza Park shopping area. Owner Bill Poy said, "The Lafayette community has graciously supported our restaurant over the years and the renovation is our way of giving back to them and to thank them for all the years of supporting The Squirrel's Coffee

Shop." Craig Semmelmeyer, of Main Street Properties, said, "The eclectic mix of premier establishments that will be featured at Park Plaza Shops will create a rebirth in the community and will serve the surrounding needs and provide an inviting and vibrant place to shop, eat and relax."

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lamorinda Community Picnic. The three chambers and a number of Lamorinda associations have been cooking up ways for the three communities to collaborate on public events. First up is the Lamorinda Community Picnic beginning at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Moraga Commons Park. Bring a picnic or purchase dinner there. Old fashioned picnic games will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a concert in the park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. by Zebop! - the "Santana cover band." Free admission.

Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1 at European Tile & Marble Company, 3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 5.

Entrepreneur Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 in the chamber conference room.

Save the date for the 18th Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21-22.

Moraga

Community Barbecue starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 in the Moraga Commons Park. Open to the entire community, this event is sponsored by Safeway and the chamber. To RSVP call Kathe Nelson, (925) 323-6524.

Orinda

There were no events scheduled at the press time.

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Photo Sophie Braccini

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