



**Billy Perlstein**

Realtor®

925.383.1477

Billy@BillyPerlstein.com

www.BillyPerlstein.com

License #: 01338143



The Marriage of Walnut Creek and Lafayette



**25 Hilton Court, Walnut Creek**

A love affair that will last forever. Updated 4 bedroom and 3 bath delightful 2856± sq. ft. home in the desirable Saranap neighborhood in Walnut Creek. Two family rooms where one can be used as an office at home. Eat-in kitchen with center island and custom cabinets. Spacious master suite with walk-in closet and master bath with a relaxing tub. Flat yard with 2 lawn areas and a patio for outdoor activities. Close to both downtown Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Hwy 24 and BART. Top rated Lafayette schools.

Asking Price \$1,395,000 | OPEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1:00-4:00

Call for a **FREE** confidential Market Analysis and Opinion of Value of your home at 925.383.1477.

51 Moraga Way, Suite 1, Orinda, CA 94563

**Letters to the Editor**

**Group Hopes to Save Rheem Theatre**

Dear Editor and to the members of our community:

My name is Renata Sos, and I am the President of the Moraga Community Foundation. On behalf of the MCF Board, I wanted to give our donors and other members of the community an update on our recent activities and our anticipated projects for the short term. The Moraga Community Foundation (MCF) was established in 2015. It is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to working with the community to build a vibrant future for Moraga. MCF focuses on significant capital projects that the Board believes, based on community input, will benefit Moraga as a whole. We are not supplanting or in conflict with the efforts of the many worthy and important community organizations; rather, MCF hopes to continue to work alongside and in concert with

those organizations towards the betterment of this town. MCF's efforts over the past year have been directed towards securing long-term viability for the New Rheem Theatre. The Rheem Theatre is a jewel of Moraga and an integral part of its social and artistic fabric. To date, the members of this community have generously helped support the continued operations of the Theatre. MCF is exploring the possibility of buying the Theatre, making it a community-owned asset, and positioning it to thrive and prosper for years to come. In so doing, we hope to preserve the Theatre's rich past and invest in its future. We will keep you informed of our progress, and appreciate your interest and support. To be clear, the Rheem Theatre is but the first of what we hope will be many endeavors. MCF will continue to look for and explore other significant projects that are of interest to the community. In that regard, we welcome your thoughts, input, and questions. You can reach

me at [Renata.sos@moragacommunityfoundation.org](mailto:Renata.sos@moragacommunityfoundation.org).

Renata Sos,  
President of the Moraga Community Foundation Board

**Reasons to Keep Park Passive**

Dear Editor,  
Thanks to Nick Marnell who accurately covered the debate swirling around Leigh Creekside Park in his article, "Council: Still no decision on Leigh Creekside Park" in the Feb. 8, issue. In 1999, my wife and I donated \$5,000 to the community campaign to preserve this quiet green space across the street from our house, on the land that once belonged to our neighbors, John and Ethel Leigh. The park is named after them and it's worked well without trouble for 17 years as a "passive neighborhood park." Mr. Marnell reported that "passive" park supporters outnumbered the "active" supporters by more than 2 to 1 at the meeting. When he

asked an "active" supporter about their low turnout, he was told, "People were at home that night with their kids." This is a valid reason, but I'd like to add another perspective. I am elderly man and I tell you this only to say that being a parent with young children is not the only reason Lafayette residents can't go to meetings. Elderly folks have trouble attending evening meetings too, and worry that their voices may not be heard. We need this type of peaceful park, but many of us can only write letters. I imagine the same applies to people with disabilities. I often see students from Las Trampas School in the park and suspect it's difficult for them to go to meetings, too. At a previous council meeting that I attended, two people from Futures Explored spoke about their anxiety disorder. They stood together at the podium for moral support and said that the park makes them feel better because it's quiet, natural, and not crowded. Another disabled man at that meeting told us that he takes

his own chair to the park and likes to look at the big oak tree and quietly read his favorite book. He's a veteran.  
These are very good reasons to keep the park as it is and I hope the council votes to keep the park passive.  
Richard Jensen  
Lafayette  
Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

**Grateful Gatherings**

... continued from page A1



The Miramonte Grateful Gathering community gets ready to head to Richmond with all the donated household furnishings  
Photo Diane Claytor

"When people leave a shelter, sometimes they're given an air mattress and pillows. But typically nothing else," she said. After experiencing the generosity of friends, Flitter and Somerville formed Grateful Gatherings, a 501(c) (3) organization, and began calling local agencies, searching for others transitioning from homelessness. Then they contacted their friends, who contacted their friends and within one year, Grateful Gatherings had a list of about 300 people willing to donate or help set up a household for a needy family. This list has grown to almost 1,000 helpers throughout the Bay Area who have provided warm, comfortable and fully furnished homes to over 400 people in the past three years. Grateful Gatherings works closely with those in need. According to Flitter, "We meet each family, talk with them and do a walk-through of their new housing...this helps us get a feel for everything they need." The list is then sent to potential donors - or communities - and on one specified day, all items are collected, delivered and set up, "making a house a home. We are giving people a home to feel proud of, a place where families can grow...It makes them feel like part

of a community," Flitter continued. She noted that "what's really amazing" is that every single gathering has been 100 percent filled. Last year, Chipman Relocation and Logistics, a national moving company based in Alameda, joined forces with Grateful Gatherings. "They told us they loved what we were doing and wanted to sponsor all our moves," Flitter said. "I used to rent and drive a U-Haul myself on moving day. It was awful." Chipman's participation has made each moving day much easier and more efficient. Several weeks ago, for the second year in a row, the three Miramonte High School baseball teams formed a Grateful Gatherings community to help Yolanda, Juan and their five children; they had just moved into a four-bedroom Richmond home after struggling for years. Although employed, their family income was not enough to furnish a home. With Miramonte baseball moms Valerie Mollahan, Anna Tague and Lisa Hoskins leading the charge, more than 100 people donated approximately 250 household items - everything from washcloths to cutlery to sofas to beautifully framed pictures. But it's much more than donations; beds

were built and made with color-coordinated linens, curtains and decorative art were hung, floors and toilets were cleaned, kitchen cabinets organized and, according to Mollahan, trees were even cut down to bring more light into the living room. "Yolanda was in awe and in tears from the moment she walked in the door...the kids ran in so fast we couldn't catch them before they ran to look at their rooms," Mollahan reported. "This was one of the hardest working volunteer crews we have ever had," Flitter noted. "The amount of time, energy and care they put into making this house a home was heartwarming. Their generosity showed no limits..." Mollahan noted that while the parents may have been the organizers and shoppers, the ballplayers were there every step of the way. "Grateful Gatherings offers one of the few opportunities for the kids to really step up and get involved. They fill the trucks, load everything up, and once at the house, do the bulk of the unpacking and heavy lifting," Mollahan stated. "They've learned how to hang curtain rods and build beds. It is truly an 'all hands on deck' experience and ev-

eryone puts in a hard days' work." As one recipient recently told Flitter, it wasn't about the things and love you showed when you

came into our home." To learn how you can organize your own Grateful Gathering, or contribute to one, go to [www.grateful-gatherings.org](http://www.grateful-gatherings.org).

**GRANGE**

FRANCE 1904



DESIGN CONSULTING SPACE PLANNING COLOR SELECTION

Exclusive distributor of Grange furniture in Northern California.

1009 OAK HILL ROAD, LAFAYETTE, CA | (925)962-9201 | [INDIGOANDPOPPY.COM](http://INDIGOANDPOPPY.COM)  
Free Parking