

# Civic News Lafayette

## After Long Delay, Woodbury Condos Coming to Lafayette

... continued from page A2

Thomsen said he enjoys working with Branagh Development. "They are the perfect client; they respect good design and always strive to create the best product possible. When I first sat down with them to look at this project, they came up with an innovative and much needed housing concept to fill a niche in the area."

Together they focused on creating a project that has all the advantages of single family residences, but none of the disadvantages. "We have developed large single story units that share no walls with other condominiums and have windows on three sides," said Thomsen. "We strove to make the units feel private and separate with some breathing room between neighbors; to that end we incorporated individual garages,

large private outdoor terraces and even included personal foyers off the elevators. We believe all this attention to detail will create a truly unique project."

He's leaving his imprint on the city's west end— Thompson is the brains behind the skinny Fresh Connection building just down Mt. Diablo Boulevard and the soon to be constructed Eco Vive West office building that will occupy the corner of Risa Road and Mt. Diablo.

Design Review commissioners commented on the evolution of the project, praising its livability and scale. Commissioner and architect Ken Hertel noted the "fantastic rebirth and salvation of this project" adding, "it will certainly dress up a hillside that has been lacking for some time."

## KB Home Condo Project Gets Green Light

...continued from page A3

He explained that the KB Home project will be similar in scale to the existing apartments with an enhanced design, and that it was never the intention for that parcel to remain a gravel parking lot forever – it will either be an office or residential building.

One of the partial owners of the land, Ivan Glover testified that he bought the property when he was 56, now having just turned 76, "I really do believe it's time."

In describing how he came to his decision, Anduri noted that although some residents claim to have just recently heard about it, the public has been on notice of a project at this site, "at least for the last 16 years – since I have been on the Planning Commission and City Council." He continued, "Part of the reason we are here is that we

didn't want an office building on this site – there was unanimous consensus that we want housing here." Scolding the developer for last minute adjustments he said, "I'm very unhappy with the applicant and the way they've gone about this." Despite KB's timeliness he summarized that this is a perfect location for high density housing, close to BART and freeway access - a strong beneficial project for Lafayette.

The majority of public comment on the proposed 72-unit building has been negative, citing traffic, school crowding, loss of views and more, but fans of smart growth added their voices to the fray pointing out the need for housing and advocating for a pedestrian-friendly complex that will accommodate the inevitable growth in the area.

# Civic News Moraga

## Runaway Librarian Settles in Moraga

... continued from page A5

In Placer County, McDonnell went from a position in a branch to a headquarter management position. "I was in charge of personnel, purchasing, budget and facilities," she says. In that position she acted as a project manager for the construction of new libraries in Meadow Vista and Rocklin. "It was very interesting and diverse, but I was missing the branch work and relationship with the public," she says.

In Moraga she plans to work behind the counter as often as possible and not spend too much time at her desk in the back office. She wants to get to know the collections and the vast network that allows patrons to get books from any of the branches in the county system. McDonnell also expects to spend a lot of time planning activities in partnership with the Friends of the Library. "This group has such a great reputation throughout Contra Costa," she says. "I'm looking forward to working with them."

She is interested in both the adult and children programs. "The children's programs are of great impor-

tance to me, supporting early literacy is very rewarding," says McDonnell. She remembers the first time she participated in a 'Paws to Read' program in Placer County. "It brought tears to my eyes," she admits.

"My personal interests are very diverse, from contemporary folk music to travel all over the world," she says, "but before planning programs I want to get to know the community." She has ideas about computer classes, literary presentations with authors and culinary/recipe swap meets; but will first get a feel for Moraga's needs.

McDonnell looks over her new domain with the critical eye of a project manager. "It looks like the building is well maintained and that renovations have been made to preserve its charming character," she says. She enjoys the wildlife that roams by her window, up the hill behind the library. "Here it's just deer, the occasional cow and a few turkeys; we don't have to worry about bears," says the librarian, who's obviously used to dealing with all kinds of situations.

## A Parking Lot in the Making



The Town of Moraga is building a new 29-space parking lot for the skate park. The parking area will be separated from the road by a planted border. The cities of Orinda and Lafayette are sharing in the cost of the project. The skate park remains open during construction.

## Excellent Care



AT HOME

Hearfelt & Supportive Care At All Times...

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite D Lafayette (beside Trader Joe's) www.excellentcareathome.com



Our mission is to provide personalized care, help maintain independence and enhance our client's quality of life on a daily basis.

- Fully bonded and insured
- Geriatric care management
- Hourly care
- Live-in care
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medication reminders

Call to schedule a free assessment and plan care review. 925-284-1213

SEMI-ANNUAL DESIGNER OUTERWEAR OUTLET

# SALE

**WEDNESDAY**  
DECEMBER 5, 2012  
11AM - 6PM

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY**  
DECEMBER 6-9, 2012  
11AM - 4PM

20% 40% 60%  
OFF WHOLESALE PRICES PLUS SALES TAX ON US!

535 CENTER STREET, MORAGA CA 94556  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center 925.631.6878

BRING IN THIS AD FOR A \$5 DISCOUNT TOWARD A PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

## JOIN 5A RENT-A-SPACE FOR A "DELIGHTFUL DECEMBER"!

*We are celebrating the Holidays and you're invited to celebrate with us! We are having a storage unit sale with excellent prices, Fun Events, Yummy Treats, Recycling & to top it off ~ Photos with Santa on 12/15 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

**25% OFF SELECT SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE STORAGE UNITS\***

EXAMPLES:

4 X 6 REG. \$75  
**NOW: \$56.<sup>25</sup>**

8 X 8 REG. \$137  
**NOW: \$102.<sup>75</sup>**

DEC. 1-23 SECRET WRAPPING ROOM

DEC. 1ST RECYCLING OF ELECTRONICS

DEC. 15 11AM-3PM PHOTOS W/ SANTA TREATS & GIFTS

TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING - GO TO [5ASPACE.COM](http://5ASPACE.COM) AND CLICK ON OUR LINKS:

Like us on Facebook | follow us on twitter | Blogger

USE OUR FREE VAN TO MOVE IN WHEN YOU RENT!

ASK FOR YOUR 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD COUPONS WHEN YOU COME VISIT US!

**5A RENT-A-SPACE**  
Store It Yourself & Save

455 MORAGA ROAD, SUITE F  
(925) 631-7000  
WWW.5ASPACE.COM

\*Storage unit sale limited to units on hand: 1st come, 1st served. Offers expire Dec. 31, 2012