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Published November 4th, 2015

## business briefs

*By Sophie Braccini*

Cashmere Sale 'Pops Up' in Lafayette

3604 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

[thecashmeresale.com](http://thecashmeresale.com)

For the past 10 years Republic Clothing Group, a diversified international manufacturer and wholesale marketer and retailer, has hosted Cashmere Sale pop up stores. This year's East Bay sale will be in Lafayette, two doors west of Pizza Antica. For six weeks, high quality cashmere sweaters, jumpers, cardigans, and scarfs in multiple sizes and colors will be for sale "at wholesale price, less than half the retail price," says boutique manager Julie Horton Peck. The cashmere is made of two-ply cashmere yarn from China. The boutique has a simple setup: a few tables, cardboard boxes where the sale price is marked - the retail price is printed on the label - and fitting rooms, since items cannot be returned. "We won't be there to exchange it," says Peck. For gift items, she recommends one-size-fits-all styles, scarves and blankets. "We never know where the store will be, it depends on where we can find a good retail space available during the season," adds Peck, who is partnering with Nancy Katz, who owned Diva in Walnut Creek. The store will be open every day until Dec. 5. To be informed of boutique locations in 2016, register online at [thecashmeresale.com](http://thecashmeresale.com).

Gold Coast Chamber Players Recognized by AC5

On Tuesday, Oct. 20 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) awarded a 2015 Arts Recognition Award to Pamela Freund-Striplen and the Gold Coast Chamber Players. The award states, "The Gold Coast Chamber Players are a unique artistic resource with far-reaching influence in Contra Costa County, in the greater Bay Area, and indeed around the world. Under Director Pamela Freund-Striplen's inspired and dedicated leadership, the group has for 27 years given residents of the county the opportunity to hear world-class musicians performing both well-known and rarely-performed works, by the world's greatest composers." The board and AC5 also recognized GCCP's educational and outreach programs such as the Goldberg Project. Information about GCCP can be found at [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org).

Patrizia Marrone: Curated Couture for Women

11 Fiesta Lane, Lafayette

(925) 736-0220

Is Lafayette becoming a fashion destination? So says Patricia Brown, proprietor of Patrizia Marrone, Curated Couture for Women located in the heart of Lafayette. Brown will be welcoming designer Richard Hallmarq for a Fashion Extravaganza from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 at the boutique located at 11 Fiesta Lane behind The Cooperage. Hallmarq learned to sew in junior high school and reached new levels as a high school fashion design student, creating cutting-edge styles for fellow students, friends and family. From his first runway show in 2004, to presenting well-received collections at San Francisco Fashion Week, Hallmarq has achieved acclaim for his designs. Hallmarq was a cast member on the Emmy-nominated TV series "Project Runway" Season 11. With strict attention to fit and detail, Hallmarq takes his preferred textile Jersey-knit from simplicity to luxury. The event is open to the public.

New Ownership at Amarin Thai - All in the Family

3555 Mt Diablo Blvd # B, Lafayette

(925) 283-8883, [www.amarinlafayette.com](http://www.amarinlafayette.com)

Tom Karmonphet's Amarin Thai restaurant in Lafayette has been a favorite spot for many years. Karmonphet decided to retire and transferred ownership to the capable hands of his niece, Paramee Phusawadrattana. The new owner said that she would continue in her uncle's tradition while adding

some new recipes of her own.

#### Felder Named October's Employee of the Month

Andrew Felder, the versatile maintenance specialist and security supervisor for 5A Rent A Space, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for October. Felder has done a little bit of everything for the storage company, including providing site tours, taking payments, maintaining the yard and buildings and providing security for the complex. He often goes above and beyond the call of duty in helping customers load or unload their belongings. "Andrew is just wonderful with our customers," said manager Gloria Noggle. "He is truly a valued employee." The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce presented Felder with gift cards to Safeway and Graze restaurant in Moraga at the Oct. 27 Moraga Rotary lunch.

#### News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

##### Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at new Lafayette business Bistro Burger & Grill at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 965 Mountain View Drive.

Monthly Mixer at ABsolute Center at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #101.

The 37th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast is scheduled at 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. This year's guest speaker is Rev. Dr. David Sammons, who will discuss "Your Resume vs. Your Eulogy." The event will include music by harpist Wendy Tamis and the breakfast courtesy of Dave's Cuisine. For reservations, visit [Lafayettechamber.org](http://Lafayettechamber.org).

##### Moraga

No new events are scheduled at this time.

##### Orinda

Pre-Holiday Mixer at McDonnell Nursery from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov, 19 at 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. Come do some early Christmas shopping.

Reach the reporter at: [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

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