

## Lafayette Honors Jeanne Ateljevich - 2008 Citizen of the Year

"As members of the Lafayette community we often reflect on how beautiful our town is. It is like walking through a garden - one that is carefully cultivated, but natural," says Thomas Chastain, Planning Commissioner in his nomination letter for Jeanne Ateljevich as Citizen of the Year. He further states: "Few of us think of the hard work and persistence of vision - through decades - that is necessary to arrive at such a place. We don't think of the gardener. For Lafayette, Jeanne has been that cultivator. Unpaid for a career worth of time, she has endured the trials and problems that go with public processes to accomplish what may only become apparent years later. We, in Lafayette, benefit from her devotion. There is hardly a corner of our city which hasn't been impacted by Jeanne. For the Planning commission she is a living history resource having been involved with every major planning decision, task force and ordinance for the last 27 years". Last year's Citizen of the Year, Ivor Sampson, called Jeanne's work courageous, often standing up for what she believes is important. "Jeanne brings attention to detail in all her work," said Mark Mitchell.

In 1979 Jeanne Ateljevich worked on the Sign Commission. In 1981 she joined the Planning Commission and has served for the past 27 years. Other volunteer positions include the Election Date Committee, the Hunsaker/Bollinger Canyon Committee, The Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee, EBMUD Corp Yard Review Committee, General Plan Advisory Committee, Hillside Regulations Update Committee, Park Implementation Advisory Committee and the Applications Review Committee. Currently, Jeanne is participating in the Downtown Strategic Planning process as an Advisory Committee member. "She is a valued treasure in the overall planning process making Lafayette a great place to live and work, in the process of her tireless 30+ years of volunteer service" says local resident Fran Sticha.

The celebration to honor Jeanne will be held on Friday, April 11 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 6:00pm for a No-Host Reception and 7:00pm for Dinner. To reserve a seat for this event, please go to the chamber website at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org) and download a registration form. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, April 8.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the Lamorinda Sun, we would like to thank the residents of Lafayette for giving us 18 nominees from which to make our selection. For two of the nominees, we received over two dozen letters of support. This is another example of how lucky we are to live and work in such a special city, that has many community members that are worthy of such attention and admiration. Congratulations Jeanne!

## Blodgett's 50th Year with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce!



Larry Blodgett, friends and family celebrate 62 years in business with a ribbon cutting at Blodgett's Floor Covering. Visit Larry and his staff at 3291 Mt. Diablo Court.

### Upcoming Events

Thurs., April 10  
**Ribbon Cutting  
Skin Wisdom**

4:30pm - 874 Birdhaven Ct.

Fri., April 11  
**Citizen of the Year Dinner**  
6:00pm - Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

Wed., April 16  
**The GREEN Committee**  
12pm Chamber Office

Thurs., April 17  
**Entrepreneur's Club  
Ribbon Cutting  
Mountain Mike's Pizza**  
4:30pm - 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fri., April 18  
**Coffee with the Mayor**  
8:00am Chamber Office

Sun., April 20  
**Earth Day**  
12:00 noon - 4:00pm  
Stanley Middle School

Tues., April 22  
**Senior Symposium**  
9:30am-3:00pm  
OSLC - 1035 Carol Lane

Wed., April 23  
**New Member Reception**  
4:30pm - El Charro Restaurant

Thurs., April 24  
**Business Issues /  
Govt. Affairs Meeting**  
8:00am Chamber Office

### April Mixer

Wed., April 9, 5:30pm  
**Central Self Storage/  
Rhythm Room**  
3330 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

## THANK YOU LETTER FROM LARRY BLODGETT

Dear Chamber Members,

I wish to convey how honored I was by being selected as "Business Person of the Year" for Lafayette. My wife, Karen, and I would like to thank everyone involved with the Chamber on this recognition. We would like to also extend a big thank you for your support for this award as well as for many of you supporting our family business for over the past 60 years spanning over three generations of Blodgetts.

I felt compelled to write this letter of thanks because so many of you have either personally congratulated me, sent emails or cards, and/or attended the dinner in my honor in January. There were, and are, so many of you to thank and it is for the fear of missing someone I wanted to write this letter of "Thanks".

It has been quite an honor being recognized in the community on everything from the events board in front of Safeway, articles in three community newspapers, City Manager Steve Falk's on line "Weekly Summary", recognition on the Park Theater Marquee complete with neon lights and all, all the way to being honored at a dinner, or "Roast" if you prefer, on January 25th at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

I can't begin to express my gratitude and the pride my family and I share being part of the best Chamber of Commerce in the wonderful community of Lafayette.

Sincerely yours, *Larry Blodgett*

## State Budget Cuts affect Acalanes Union High School and Lafayette School Districts

Due to a projected state revenue shortfall of \$14 billion, Governor Schwarzenegger has recommended that the Legislature reduce funding to the schools. Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent Jim Negri, in his March 10th Superintendent's message, noted that they had to plan their District budget on a worst-case budget scenario - that all the Governor's recommended cuts would pass and the District would lose over \$2.75 million in revenue as well as \$525,000 in categorical programs for a total loss equal to approximately \$500 per student. Based on this loss in revenue, in order to balance next year's budget 8.8 full time equivalent teachers and 18.2 classified employees may need to be laid off. Superintendent Negri notes that without the generous \$1 million contributions by the parent clubs and educational foundations, the layoffs and budget cuts would be much deeper.

Superintendent Frank Tom's message on the Lafayette School District's website notes that the Governor's recommended cuts would equate to a revenue cut of \$1.74 million dollars to their District's budget. Prior to the Governor's cut, the District had developed a balanced budget for the school year 2008-09 as a result of prudent budget development and management, and the extraordinary successful renewal of the parcel tax last November which passed with over 73% of the votes in favor. The District is addressing the state budget cuts by freezing some of its current year spending, and developing a budget plan that includes program reductions and cuts, as well as revenue enhancements.

### 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.

### 2008 Officers EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa

#### Vice Presidents:

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Dennis Garrison,  
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#### LAFAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103  
Lafayette, CA. 94549

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info@lafayettechamber.org

www.lafayettechamber.org



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Lafayette, CA 94549  
License # 177588  
www.blodgetts.com

**In Memory of JOP** Lafayette lost one its special citizens last month. Jop VanOverveen who was 91, was one of the most involved residents in our city. Living here in Lafayette for well over 50 years, Jop was a fixture at most civic meetings. He served on many committees and commissions, and always had something refreshing to add to any discussion. Jop had a wonderful sense of humor and used it often to charm our entire community. Jop had been honored years ago as our Citizen of the Year! We will miss Jop and his bride Irene who passed away last August.

## Renewing Members **Renewed in February**

### More than Fifty Years

Lafayette United Methodist Church  
Mt. Diablo Nursery & Garden  
Orchard Nursery & Florist

### More than Forty Years

Wells Fargo Bank

### More than Thirty Years

Las Trampas, Inc.  
Sereta Churchill - J. Rockcliff Realtors

### More than Twenty Years

Bell-Carter Foods, Inc.  
Boswells Party Supplies  
Kosich & Callahan Insurance Services  
Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation  
Lafayette Highlands Apartments  
Lafayette Physical Therapy  
Lafayette School District  
Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
Senior Helpline Services  
Uncle Yu's Szechuan

### More than Fifteen Years

Clocks, Etc.  
Diamond K Supply, Ltd.  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Lafayette Square Insurance Services, Inc.  
Lafayette Tree & Landscape, Inc.  
One Stop Shoe Care  
Valhalla Automotive, Inc.

### More than Ten Years

All Phone Company  
Diablo Rapid Print, Inc.  
Lafayette Animal Hospital  
Lemos Center

### More than Five Years

Accurate Bookkeeping, LLC  
Beauty Supplies Plus  
Bowles and Verna  
Britt Brown Design  
Claire Ames-Klein, Ph.D  
Comcast Spotlight  
D.N.M. Insurance Services  
inConIT Corporation  
J.V. Chiropractic  
Lafayette Garden Club  
Lafayette Moraga Youth Association  
Lafayette War Veterans  
Mangia Ristorante & Pizzeria  
Pinnacle Promotions  
Sylvan Learning Center  
Travel Hoffman  
Twigs Floral & Art  
Washington Mutual Home Loans

### More than One Year

Chef's Touch  
European Tile & Marble Co.  
Heritage Bank of Commerce - Danville  
Lisa Quiros -  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
Michael Lane Preschool  
Montebello Builders Group, Inc.  
NeedleWorks Embroidery &  
Screenprinting  
Office Tech Staffing  
Pacific Chamber Symphony  
Partners in Order  
Rainbow Snow  
Skin Care by Earline  
Sonoma Teriyaki  
Viva el Espanol

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*J. Rockcliff*



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## March Mixer

The March mixer was a joint event with the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Chamber. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce members joined us at the trendy new Paul Mitchell The School. Members and guests were in awe of the 12,000 square foot location and enjoyed seeing friends and meeting new contacts. We were treated to food, music and a fashion show by the future professionals who are current students of the school. Please stop by their new facility located next door to Borders Book Store at 100 Crescent Drive Suite D. in Pleasant Hill or call 691-7687 to schedule a tour.

A big thank you to Lafayette Chamber members who donated raffle prizes – HMR Associates, Lafayette Car Wash, Planning for Life, Friends of the Chamber, Warren E. Boschin Bookkeeping & Payroll and Martinez Opera Contra Costa.



Staff from Paul Mitchell the School  
at the joint mixer at the Pleasant Hill school

# Business Briefs

**Las Trampas Celebrates its 50th Anniversary** at their annual "What's in Our Hat" fundraiser. The event will be held at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa on Sunday, April 27 from 3pm - 6pm. The event includes fabulous cuisine, live music performed by Generations in Jazz, premium wines, cocktails, and a raffle and silent auction. One highlight of the event is when a winning ticket is drawn from the giant hat and one lucky person wins \$10,000! This year's theme is "Rock Around The Clock" with radio sponsor Diablo Valley 92.1 KKDV's Don Potter. Proceeds help support adults with developmental disabilities. For more information about the event or programs at Las Trampas, Inc., call (925) 284-1462 ext. 239.

**Pamper My Party invites you** to "Be Pampered for the Cause" throughout the months of April and May. Women can enjoy a spa day at home with friends or family and 30% of the cost of their treatments will go directly to the Avon Breast Cancer Marathon Walk Funds that help research efforts and accessibility for breast cancer treatment. Groups of any size are welcome to have a spa party. To reserve your date or get more information, call Amy @ (925) 575-0831. View the menu of spa treatments by visiting [www.pampermyparty.com](http://www.pampermyparty.com).

**The Learning Café presents a special event** - Susan Urquhart-Brown on "8 Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me About Building a Business!" Susan reveals how to reap the unlimited rewards of being one's own boss. In this interactive workshop she will share her tips and tricks for building a profitable business while still having a life. The event takes place on May 8th from 7-9pm at JFK University, 100 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Pre-register today \$45 (\$55 at the door). SPECIAL CHAMBER DISCOUNT - \$38.25 - use Chamber Discount Code LAFC2 when registering. For more information and to register go to [http://thelearning-cafe.com/html/business\\_building.html](http://thelearning-cafe.com/html/business_building.html).

**Bay Area Rescue Mission holds New Life Golf Tournament** on Monday, May 12 at Rossmoor Golf Course to benefit the Center for Homeless Women & Children. For more information call the Tournament Office at (510) 215-4889, email [DebraA@BayAreaRescue.org](mailto:DebraA@BayAreaRescue.org) or visit the golf tournament website page at [www.bayarearescue.org/eventgolf.html](http://www.bayarearescue.org/eventgolf.html).

**Diablo Rapid Print**, as a courtesy to their customers and the environment, is now offering at no extra charge, recycled paper for all their architectural and engineering drawings. Please visit them at 3344-C Mt. Diablo Blvd. or call them at 297-0100.

**Hospice of the East Bay** offers an "Understanding Grief" education class on Tuesday, April 22, 6:30-8:00pm at 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill. This class will help participants understand

the broad range of common grief reactions, the factors that create individual differences in grief, the best ways to foster a healthy grief process, and the time to seek help. This class is offered for a fee and requires pre-registration. The fee will be waived for those who cannot afford it. For further information and/or register, please call (925) 887-5678, ext. 1068.

**Lafayette Garden Club announces a Unique Garden Tour** to benefit local school garden programs. This tour features six local gardens that were selected to reflect the inspiration, love of gardening, and creativity of each homeowner. At each location knowledgeable club members will be present to answer questions, provide propagation techniques, and plant care tips, as well as demonstrations of garden art, rose care, and flower arranging at several gardens. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Mt. Diablo Nursery at 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Queen Bee at 361 Lafayette Circle, or by mail from Dianne Sasser, 16 Warwick Ct., Lafayette, CA 94549. Any questions may be directed to [wendishive@hotmail.com](mailto:wendishive@hotmail.com). The Garden Club's next meeting is on April 10, 2008 9:30am at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Visitors are welcome. The club meets the second Thursday of each month at the same location. For further information, contact Marion Williams at 283-4527.

**Lafayette Juniors host 9th Annual Tour of Lafayette's Kitchens** on Saturday, May 17 from 10am - 3pm. This year's tour showcases six exquisite kitchens and homes. Each home is uniquely diverse in style and design. This year's major beneficiary is Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. Tickets are \$35 (\$25 tax deductible) with an option to purchase a luncheon ticket (gourmet lunch box from Diablo Foods) for an additional \$12. The majority of tickets are sold in advance by Lafayette Juniors. Tickets for the events are limited and may be purchased at one of the following locations in Lafayette: Douglass Designs, 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 925/284-4560 and Premier Kitchens, 3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925/283-6500. For more information visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or call (925) 385-0698.

**East Bay SBDC offers a variety of seminars** in April including - "Accessing Capital for Small Businesses and Start-up Companies" class in San Ramon April 1; "Starting a Business" class in Oakland April 10 at 2pm; "Business Planning" class in Oakland April 15 at 2pm; "Accessing Capital for Small Businesses" class in Oakland April 17 at 2pm; "Retailing 101" class in Fremont April 17 at 9am; and "Legal and Business Issues" workshop in Dublin April 22 at 9am. Please go to the new East Bay SBDC website, [www.eastbaysbdc.org](http://www.eastbaysbdc.org), for complete class descriptions and an easy to use online class signup system. If you need assistance please call East Bay at 510-208-0410.

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MBA, Notary & Lafayette Chamber  
Board Member

**Phone: 1.925.688.3820**

**Mobile: 1.925.963.5836**

[AJ.nisen@BankofAmerica.com](mailto:AJ.nisen@BankofAmerica.com)



**Per Tutti is still open** - several people have been confused by the FOR LEASE sign in the store window next to Per Tutti Restaurant. They have called owner Mr. Mofrad and said "I didn't know Per Tutti is closing". Mr. and Mrs. Mofrad wants everyone to know that Per Tutti is OPEN and is serving lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday.

**Sonia Chilingirian of Sonia's Beauty & Body Shop** has purchased a new Beautiful Image Facial & Body Sculpting instrument. She has been trained in performing a new procedure featured on ABC, NBC and CBS called "The Lunchtime Facial". This device uses exclusively designed conducting wands which emit Micro-currents to smooth and soften lines and wrinkles on the face a body. For a free 30 minutes demonstration please contact Sonia at 283-7047.

**BART Hosting Community Meeting** to inform local businesses about the Availability and Utilization Study (Study). The Study will evaluate whether minority, woman-owned, and disadvantaged businesses have equal access to its contracts. The community meeting will give businesses the opportunity to share their experiences about contracting with BART and to learn about upcoming contract opportunities. The community meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2nd from 6 - 8 pm at Joseph P. Bort Metro Center, Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, 101-8th Street, Oakland, California. For more information, e-mail bartmeeting@mtaltd.com, visit www.bartmeeting.com, or call (510) 291-9682.

**Mountain Mike's Pizza is now open in Lafayette.** They are located next to Citibank at 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd. They are open seven days a week and offer a lunch buffet.

**Powell's Sweet Shoppe is now open in the new Mercantile Building.** Stop in to see their wide array of goodies at 3591 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**The 7th Annual Home Builders Association of Northern California (HBANC) Women's Council Spring Basket Event** - open to the public - Join us on April 10th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at The Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. Donated baskets are filled with household supplies, personal care items, and other themed gifts. We encourage everyone to bring baskets full of donations, but it is not required. Last years' event resulted in more than 60 baskets donated to Shepherd's Gate a HomeAid charity. These baskets will go to the women and their children who are homeless because of abusive relationships, addictions, loss of financial support and other factors. The event also includes two Award Winning Fortune 500 speakers, Diane Fleck, owner of The Learning Café and Rogene Baxter, owner of The Bridgewater Group. Tickets can be purchased at www.hbanc.com or by calling 925-820-7626.

## Lafayette Library and Learning Center begins second phase of fundraising

Ten Years, 200 Volunteers, 2,000 donors and many tons of steel, and that is just the beginning. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center is launching its second phase of fundraising. **Open Doors, Open Minds**, is a \$4,000,000 campaign to ensure the project has the capital it needs to serve the community once the Library is built. The money raised will go towards:

- Greater access with expanded hours Monday through Saturday, from the current 40 to 50 hours a week
- A continually enriched collection that reflects the evolving interests of the community
- Weekly Consortium programming
- Sufficient resources to keep the building and its grounds well maintained and accessible to all

Local businesses should have received a mailing which outlines this historic campaign. This is a wonderful once in a lifetime opportunity for our local businesses to give back to our community. The new Library, will no doubt, change the landscape of Downtown Lafayette. We have every reason to believe the completed project will bring many new people to our downtown. Consider being part of this one-of-a-kind project. For more information, go to [www.lafayettelib.com](http://www.lafayettelib.com) or call 925-283-6513. Look for the **Open Doors, Open Minds** Celebration on Saturday, May 3, 2008 taking place at Stanley Middle School.

## Lafayette - a Community for All Ages Focus on Seniors

Seniors and their caregivers are invited to participate in a day long symposium on April 22nd to discuss senior needs and their unique challenges. Creating aging-friendly areas where senior citizens can thrive is the subject of the upcoming symposium - Focus on Seniors - offered by the Lafayette Senior Liaison Committee. We are so fortunate to live in a community that wants to ensure that its senior citizens feel comfortable aging in place in Lafayette.

Representatives from the City and local organizations will update us on senior activities and provide information on housing, home care choices, and alternative housing options. Other important topics addressed will be transportation - what happens when you can't drive? And lastly, volunteering in your community - which offers double benefits for Seniors. We look forward to in-depth conversations in raising awareness of our common goals and to discussing how we can create an aging-friendly community.

Join us on Tuesday, April 22 - 9:30am - 3pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. There will be entertainment by the Vagabond Players and a FREE Lunch. Please RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services at 284-5050. If you need a ride, let us know the Lamorinda Spirit Van can bring you to this free event.

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## New Member **WELCOME!**

### **BEAUTY SALONS/ SERVICES**

#### **Melissa At Plaza Park Salon**

3511 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, Ca 94549  
283-6701 (phone)  
Melissa\_Mazzoli@hotmail.com  
Contact: Melissa Mazzoli

#### **Paul Mitchell the School - East Bay**

100 Crescent Drive, Suite D  
Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523  
691-7687 (phone) 685-7285 (fax)  
admissions.eastbay@paulmitchelltheschool.com  
www.paulmitchelltheschool.com  
Contact: Vicky Walsh

The school is one of the more than 95 Paul Mitchell cosmetology schools across the country - all of which follow a specific curriculum to ensure that all Future Professionals graduate with all the tools and information necessary to pass their state board exams as well as unlimited opportunities to be a successful part of the beauty industry! The school is a 12,000 sq ft state-of-the-art facility. Future Professionals provide hair care services to the community daily (Tuesday through Saturday): haircuts, hair color, perms, blow dries, etc., at very affordable prices.

### **CHIROPRACTORS**

#### **Contra Costa Chiropractic**

620 Contra Costa Blvd. Suite 203  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 680-8918  
(925) 680-0308 fax  
drchance@contracostachiropractic.com  
www.contracostachiropractic.com  
Contact: Bob Chance, DC, CSCS

Bob Chance is a Doctor of Chiropractic and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. Dr. Chance specializes in conservative care of musculo-skeletal injuries, helping to restore your body's innate ability to heal itself. They combine chiropractic care, myofascial release, physiotherapy, and corrective exercise to achieve maximum results with each patient. Visit their website for more information. At Contra Costa Chiropractic, their patients are well adjusted.

### **Non Surgical Spine Care Center**

1811 Santa Rita Road Suite #118  
Pleasanton, Ca 94566  
484-3472 (phone) 484-1889 (fax)  
vernonchiro@yahoo.com  
www.discfixer.net  
Contact: Dr. Ron Vernon

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

#### **Kumon Math and Reading Center of Lafayette**

925 Village Center Drive Suite #3  
Lafayette, Ca 94549  
284-9038(phone)  
info@kumonlafayetteca.com  
www.kumonlafayetteca.com  
Contact: Wilson Tang

Kumon Math and Reading Program give students a boost. Wilson Tang is the new director of the Kumon Math & Reading Center of Lafayette located at 925 Center Drive. Founded in Japan in 1958, Kumon is a unique after-school learning program which uses a systematic approach that helps children develop a solid command of math and reading skills through daily practice. Call 284-9038 for an orientation.

### **HEALTHCARE/WELLNESS**

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www.somatictherapyassociates.com  
Contact: Heather Schlachter

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Contact: Mark Caijo

### **THEATRE / LIVE**

#### **California Shakespeare Theatre**

100 Gateway Blvd.  
Orinda, Ca 94563  
(510) 548-3422 (phone) (510) 843-9921 (fax)  
mlangbehn@calshakes.org  
www.calshakes.org  
Contact: Marilyn Langbehn

One of the Bay Area's leading professional theaters, California Shakespeare Theater produces a summer season of boldly imagined, deeply entertaining productions of Shakespeare and other classic works; in-depth, far reaching education programs for learners of all ages and circumstances; and New Works/New Communities, a program bringing disparate communities together around the creation of a new American plays inspired by the classics. For more information or to receive a complimentary brochure, visit www.calshakes.org or call (510) 548-9666.

### **WINERIES**

#### **Happy Valley Cellars**

1223 Upper Happy Valley Road  
Lafayette, Ca 94549  
283-1243 (phone) 284-5734 (fax)  
info@happyvalleycellars.com  
www.happyvalleycellars.com  
Contact: Dana and Sam Greason

Happy Valley Cellars is a boutique producer of Zinfandel and Petite Sirah, hand crafted from fruit grown by owners Sam and Dana Greason on their hillside "Bella Vista" vineyard, in the Happy Valley neighborhood of Lafayette, California. Their wines are produced by Art Finkelstein of Judd's Hill Micro-crush, Napa Ca.

## Business Law Primer - Part V: Assess Protection To Be or Not To Be a Corporation (or LLC)

By Jay Strauss

*Caution: The following identifies some basic but highly technical issues. It seeks to summarize a very broad subject in about 500 words. There are many exceptions and nuances to these rules, so if you think you have an issue, consult your attorney.*

Many small businesses operate as either sole proprietorships or loosely formed 'partnerships' without giving much consideration to the risks those forms of business entail. When operating through either of those business entities, the owner is individually responsible for all the debts, losses and liabilities of the enterprise. To avoid this, you can incorporate and protect your personal assets, leaving only your corporate assets at risk. The cost of incorporating is minimal when you consider the risks you avoid by forming and operating as a limited liability entity. If you have something worth protecting (which is, after all, the point), you should carefully consider one of the forms of business entity that limits your exposure: a corporation (either a "C" or an "S") or a limited liability company (each a "Limited Liability Entity").

It is important to recognize that an Limited Liability Entity has a separate legal existence, which is why the individual owner who follows the rules is not liable for its debts and obligations, unless, of course, the owner voluntarily guarantees those obligations (as often happens when a bank loans money to the enterprise).

Having said that, there is a doctrine called "piercing the corpo-

rate veil" which applies when the owner fails to observe the rules governing these entities. Courts apply what is referred to as the "alter ego" doctrine to determine whether the Limited Liability Entity's identity should be disregarded and liability should be placed on the owners. The alter ego doctrine provides that the 'corporate veil' may be pierced when:

1. There is such a 'unity of interest' between the owners and the Limited Liability Entity that the distinction between them does not in reality exist (e.g., the owners fail to maintain separate bank accounts and intermingle the corporate assets with their own); and
2. Recognition of the shareholders and the Limited Liability Entity as separate entities would be inequitable (e.g., where the entity is insufficiently capitalized to pay its foreseeable obligations or where the owners don't make it clear to the outside world that they are doing business with a Limited Liability Entity).

The application of this doctrine is highly technical and its details are beyond the scope of this month's article, but the point is that merely forming the Limited Liability Entity will not suffice: the owners must follow the rules on an ongoing basis or risk that the protections they sought have evaporated.

Next Month: Distinctions (including tax related) between the various forms of Limited Liability Entity

If there are topics you would like to have covered, or if you have questions or comments, please let me hear from you.

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## Focus on the Arts

**Lafayette Gallery's New Shop "Garden Party,"** a celebration of art and nature, runs through May 10th. "Garden Party" is a celebration of the pleasures and enchantment of gardening - its scents, textures and colors as told through the artist's medium. The artwork in this show is a celebration of the beauty of landscapes and flowers in both the realistic and abstract realms. As a special treat, garden clubs from the Lamorinda community will be bringing in floral designs to complement the art. Throughout the exhibit, garden clubs will visit the Gallery to select pieces of art as inspiration for their arrangements. For additional information about "Garden Party," con-

tact curator Judy Feins at 925-253-1467, email her at [judyandrich@gmail.com](mailto:judyandrich@gmail.com) or visit the Gallery's website at [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net).

**Town Hall Theatre's First Annual Fundraising Gala** will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. on Saturday, April 26 from 7 - 10:30pm. The Gala will include singers and actors performing their favorites, fabulous live and silent auction packages and scrumptious foods. To purchase event tickets, raffle tickets or make a donation, simply go online to [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org) and click on the special events page or call the box office at 283-1557.

## You, Your Business & "Sustainability" By: Lois Courchaine and Bart Carr

We've all been hearing a lot about "sustainability" lately, and how can we, as individuals, help out? One answer is to practice the same sustainable behaviors at your business as you already do at home. Most of us are diligent recyclers at home. In fact, residents here recycle about 60% of what they generate. That's great news. The not-so-great news is that businesses, which are responsible for about 40% to 50% of this area's total waste stream, divert only about 30% from landfill disposal. That's a shame, because most businesses could be recycling about 75% of what they generate. Things like office paper, cardboard and beverage containers are just the tip of the iceberg, so-to-speak. And those are valuable resources that are being buried instead of recycled. Recycling can also save money.

Businesses can also save money by reducing their waste. Printing on both sides of the page, reusing file folders and other office supplies, removing your business from junk-mail lists, and replacing disposable dishware with the reusables are just a few ideas for reducing waste at work.

So what's in it for you? Besides saving money by reducing waste and recycling, businesses can also get recognition for their efforts. Locally, the Bay Area Green Business Program certifies and promotes businesses that meet higher standards of environmental performance. It's a partnership of government agencies and utilities helping local businesses comply with environmental regulations and acting to conserve resources, prevent pollution, and minimize waste. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is developing its own green practices recognition program. More news on this new opportunity will be released soon! Being recognized for environmental efforts gives businesses an advantage over their competitors.

We're all busy at work and it seems like we can't take on one more task. But reducing waste and recycling at work is the next step in progressing on the road to sustainability. Lafayette businesses can receive recycling assistance from the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. Authority staff can perform a free waste assessment and provide valuable feedback. Call (925) 906-1801 or email [authority@wastediversion.org](mailto:authority@wastediversion.org) for information.

**Please visit these sites for more information:**

-[www.wastediversion.org/commer.htm](http://www.wastediversion.org/commer.htm)


-[www.abag.org/bayarea/enviro/gbus/gb.html](http://www.abag.org/bayarea/enviro/gbus/gb.html)

-[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/)

-[www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm)

-[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/)

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> 8am Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <b>Mixer</b> 5:30pm <b>Central Self Storage/ Rhythm Room</b> 3330 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	10 <b>Ribbon Cutting</b> 4:30pm <b>Skin Wisdom</b> 874 Birdhaven Ct.	11 <b>Citizen of the Year Dinner</b> 6pm Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	12
13	14 <b>Chamber Board</b> 12pm Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa	15	16 <b>The GREEN Committe Meeting</b> 12pm Chamber Conference Room	17  8:30am, Chamber <b>Ribbon Cutting</b> 4:30pm <b>Mountain Mike's Pizza</b> 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	18 <b>Coffee with the Mayor</b> 8am Chamber Office	19
20	21	22 <b>Senior Symposium</b> 9:30am-3:00pm Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane	23 <b>New Member Reception</b> 4:30pm El Charro Restaurant	24 <b>Business Issues / Govt. Affairs Meeting</b> 8am Chamber Office	25	26
27	28	29	30	<p><i>Save the Date!</i></p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 20</b> - 5:30-9pm  <b>Taste of Lafayette</b> - Downtown Lafayette  <a href="http://www.lafayettechamber.org">www.lafayettechamber.org</a></p>		