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DANA GREEN TEAM RELIEZ VALLEY SALES | BUYERS & SELLERS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10 Ariele Ln | 3408 Echo Springs Rd (3x) | 1247 North Scenic Dr (2x) | 1414 Reliez Valley Rd | 3369 Stage Coach Dr |
| 30 Ariele Ln | 3411 Echo Springs Rd | 1258 North Scenic Dr | 1420 Reliez Valley Rd | 3437 Stage Coach Dr |
| 55 Ariele Ln | 11 El Cajon Ct | 3211 Palomares Ave | 1790 Reliez Valley Rd (3x) | 3449 Stage Coach Dr (3x) |
| 70 Ariele Ln (2x) | 1517 El Sombro (3x) | 3224 Palomares Ave | 1870 Reliez Valley Rd | 3467 Stage Coach Dr |
| 17 Attri Ct | 3271 Elvia St | 1133 Palomares Ct | 2094 Reliez Valley Rd (2x) | 3493 Stage Coach Dr |
| 37 Bacon Ct | 16 Fallen Leaf Ct | 1144 Palomares Ct (2x) | 70 Ridgecrest Ct | 3161 Stanley Blvd |
| 451 Beacon Ridge Ln (6x) | 1666 Foothill Park Cir | 3268 Park Ln | 3389 Rossi St | 1280 Summit Rd (2x) |
| 20 Beaumont Ct | 1668 Foothill Park Cir | 24 Prado Way | 3392 Rossi St | 1281 Summit Rd |
| 10 Benthill Ct | 3151 Gloria Ter | 120 Promintory Ln (2x) | 1347 San Reliez Ct | 1303 Summit Rd |
| 1407 Black Hawk Ct | 3225 Gloria Ter | 1291 Quandt Ct (2x) | 1367 San Reliez Ct (2x) | 1330 Summit Rd |
| 3402 Black Hawk Rd | 3405 Goyak Dr | 1294 Quandt Ct | 3141 Shangri La Rd | 3175 Surmont Dr |
| 3423 Black Hawk Rd (3x) | 3420 Goyak Dr | 1230 Quandt Rd (3x) | 3407 Shangri La Rd | 3182 Surmont Dr |
| 3435 Black Hawk Rd | 5 Green Valley Dr | 3204 Quandt Rd (2x) | 15 Southampton Pl | 3109 Teigland Rd |
| 3448 Black Hawk Rd (5x) | 3094 Hedaro Ct | 3206 Quandt Rd | 5 Springhill Manor (2x) | 3277 Theresa Ln |
| 3460 Black Hawk Rd | 3286 Isola Ln (3x) | 3232 Quandt Rd | 25 Springhill Manor | 1421 Tichenor Ct |
| 3490 Black Hawk Rd | 3397 La Caminita | 3261 Quandt Rd | 3292 Springhill Rd | 1206 Vacations Dr |
| 3494 Black Hawk Rd | 3400 La Caminita | 1465 Rancho View Dr | 3296 Springhill Rd | 3275 Vals Ln |
| 15 Blackberry Ct | 3408 La Caminita | 1493 Rancho View Dr (2x) | 3340 Springhill Rd | 3276 Vals Ln |
| 3232 Brookwood Dr | 3470 La Caminita | 1539 Rancho View Dr (2x) | 3351 Springhill Rd | 3330 Vaughn Rd |
| 3280 Brookwood Dr | 11 Leslyn Ln | 1570 Rancho Del Hambro | 3354 Springhill Rd (2x) | 1884 Via Ferrari |
| 15 Candlelight Ln | 60 Leslyn Ln | 4 Red Bark Ct | 3357 Springhill Rd | 1217 Warner Ct |
| 1288 Candy Ct | 1985 Marion Ct | 18 Reliez Valley Ct | 3370 Springhill Rd | 1229 Warner Ct |
| 1712 Chapparal Ln | 1322 Martino Rd (2x) | 19 Reliez Valley Ct | 3376 Springhill Rd (3x) | 501 Winchester Ct (2x) |
| 1853 Del Rio Dr | 312 Maverick Ct (2x) | 1332 Reliez Valley Rd | 3540 Springhill Rd | 1210 Woodborough Rd |
| 3108 Del Oceano Dr | 3357 McGraw Ln | 1340 Reliez Valley Rd | 3554 Springhill Rd | 1219 Woodborough Rd |
| 3235 Del Mar Dr | 3372 McGraw Ln | 1369A Reliez Valley Rd (2x) | 618 Stage Coach Ct | |
| 3520 Eagle Point Rd (2x) | 1403 Meadowlark Ct (2x) | 1392 Reliez Valley Rd (2x) | 3314 Stage Coach Dr | |
| 3526 Eagle Point Rd | 1408 Meadowlark Ct (2x) | 1410 Reliez Valley Rd | 3318 Stage Coach Dr (4x) | |

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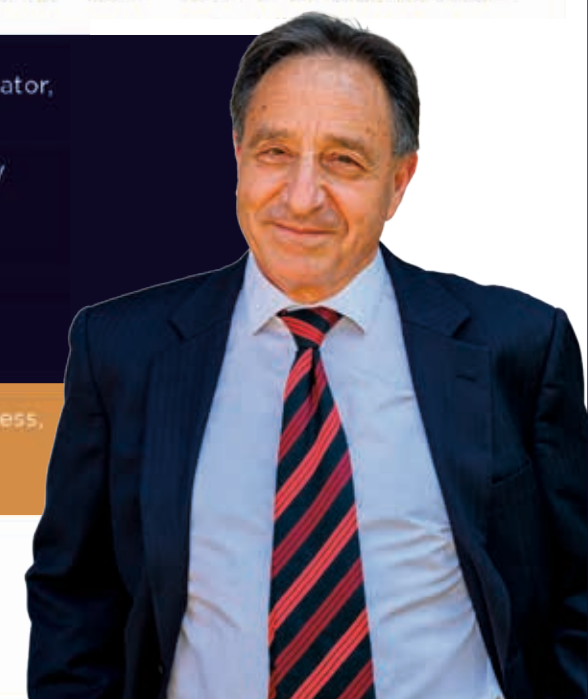
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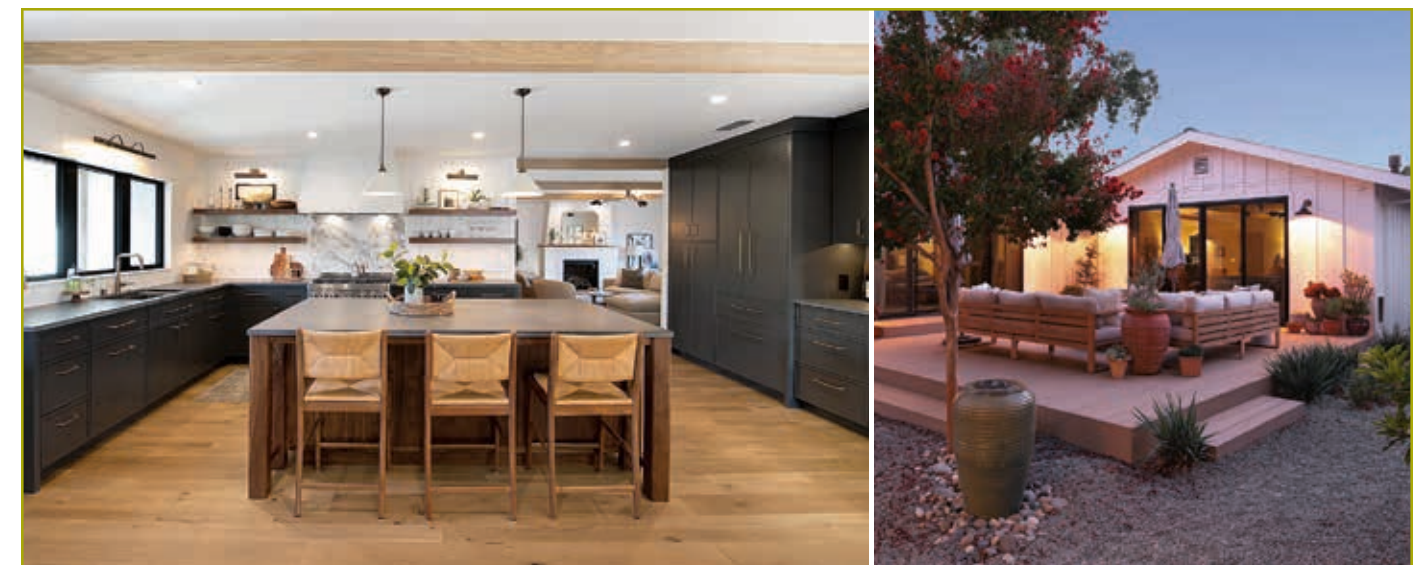


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Lafayette
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American flags line the Lafayette Hillside Memorial Crosses along Deer Hill Road. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

LAFAYETTE SPIRIT

AMERICA TURNED 250 ON THE FOURTH — a semiquincentennial we're marking all year long, from coast to coast and right here in Lamorinda.

This issue is full of that spirit. Neighbors share their stories, reminding us what makes this community extraordinary.

We're also proud to spotlight **Solo Tile & Stone**, a family-owned business whose craftsmanship and dedication have earned the trust of Lafayette homeowners.

Democracy, community, and good work all start local. Here's to the next 250 years!

Your *Greet Lafayette* Team

Lamorinda@n2co.com | GreetLafayette.com



YOUR GREET LAFAYETTE CONTRIBUTORS & TEAM

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Greetings from Mayor Anduri



Whether you are new to Lafayette or simply looking to get more connected, we invite you to join us for our Hello Lafayette! community welcome event. It is on Thursday, July 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. You will find everything you need to know about activities, programs, and services in Lafayette, all in one place!

Organized by the Lafayette Juniors in collaboration with the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, the event's purpose is to welcome new residents and help them get connected quickly so they feel at home in our community.

The Lafayette Juniors bring together key community groups to provide everything a newcomer needs to start feeling like a Lafayette local, including parks and recreation, local businesses, activities for all ages, emergency preparedness, building and city services, and volunteering and engagement opportunities. Enjoy light refreshments as you meet other new residents, as well as knowledgeable long-timers.

Hello Lafayette! is a family-friendly, drop-in event. There will be games for the kids. Come any time between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

You can also find resources for newcomers on the City's website at lovelafayette.org/newresidents.

Please mention Hello Lafayette! to new neighbors and to friends and neighbors who may want to learn more about what Lafayette has to offer or become more involved in the community.

I look forward to seeing you on July 30.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for future topics for the Mayor's column at canduri@lovelafayette.org.



You Are Invited!

We invite business owners, professionals, and Lamorinda residents to join us for the following networking opportunities.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 —

Greet Happy Hour (5 - 7 pm)

Canyon Club Brewery, 1558 Canyon Rd., Moraga

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 —

Greet Networking Lunch

(11:30 am - 1 pm)

El Talpense Mexican, 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 —

Greet Happy Hour (5 - 7 pm)

Western Flyer Brewing, 3660 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette



Scan here to RSVP

BY INVITATION

Greet Gatherings

All *Greet* and *BeLocal* business partners are invited to attend. We come together 4 times a year at **Local Vines** to mingle and engage in conversations that more intentionally connect and bridge our businesses. Email Christine.Raymond@n2co.com to learn more.

Greet Restaurant Tastings

Residents and participating business partners come together to make friends and enjoy delicious food! Residents can email Lamorinda@n2co.com to be added to the invite list.

Rooted In Connection



Jeff, Janelle and Harper Eyt. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

Jeff Eyt and his family have a nickname for their Lafayette home: the treehouse.

Tucked into the oaks of Reliez Valley overlooking Briones, the hillside home reflects what Jeff loves about Lafayette. “We fall asleep to crickets and wake up to birds,” he says. “That’s why we call it the treehouse.”

Jeff and his wife, Janelle, moved there in 2017 after renovating the 1970s-era house into their forever home. Today, life revolves around family. Their daughter, Harper, a rising seventh-grader at Stanley, spends weekends

riding and competing as a horse jumper around Northern California. At home, they raise chickens and share goats with neighbors.

Even with busy schedules, one tradition remains constant: “We come together every night at the dinner table,” Jeff says.

That sense of connection extends beyond their home. Jeff and Janelle joined Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) before Harper was born and quickly found more than a place to attend on Sundays. They found a community.

Over the years, Jeff has served in leadership roles and supported programs focused on faith and relationships. He started Men’s Friday Fellowship after recognizing a growing issue among older men: loneliness.

The issue hit close to home. Jeff’s father lived with Parkinson’s disease and Lewy body dementia, and Jeff watched faith become central to his perseverance. “I knew that if he were healthy, he would be leading a group at his own church to address exactly this,” Jeff says.

What began as a monthly gathering has evolved into a weekly tradition where men share life’s highs and lows, discuss faith, and enjoy conversations about everything from sports to cars.

Jeff realized the group had become meaningful when men from a generation where “you don’t cry and you don’t talk” began opening up and forming friendships. He jokingly calls it “the millennial club” because there’s “about a thousand years of wisdom and experience around the table.”

Professionally, Jeff teaches AI, applied innovation, and entrepreneurship at UC Berkeley. After earning his MBA from Haas in 2014, he worked in the solar energy industry before finding his way back to his true passion: helping others reach their “aha” moments. “Seeing those lightbulb



Backyard chickens are part of life for the Eyets in Reliez Valley. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography



Jeff has found friendship and fellowship through LOPC’s men’s groups.



Jeff teaches AI, innovation, and entrepreneurship at UC Berkeley.

moments in students is what brings me the greatest joy,” he says.

Jeff also hosts The BIG Strategy Podcast, where he talks with leaders about navigating change without losing what makes us human. His philosophy is “human-centered AI” — keeping humans in the loop — and he teaches it to everyone from middle schoolers to senior executives.

“AI should not replace people,” he says. “It should amplify our creativity, curiosity, and ingenuity so we can have a greater impact in our professional and community lives.”

After nearly a decade in Lafayette, what stands out most to Jeff is what the community has given back to his family: friendships, fellowship, and people who continue to show up for one another. LOPC has been “the through-line” through it all.

“We’re grateful,” he says. “And we’re not going anywhere.”

Special thanks to Realtor Ashley Battersby for sponsoring our Learning & Education section.

Do you have a Learning & Education story to share? Email Lamorinda@n2co.com.

After nearly a decade in Lafayette, what stands out most to Jeff is what the community has given his family: friendships, fellowship, and people who show up for one another.



Jeff and Harper, 12, spend many weekends together at horse shows throughout Northern California.

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It’s Village. Of Course.



Jake stands alongside two in-country leaders for Water for Good. The elevation of talented young women into leadership roles is both counter cultural and exciting to see.

BEYOND THE WELL Water for Good

For Jake Stewart and his wife Erin, supporting the nonprofit Water for Good started close to home — watching their daughters head out the door each morning, excited for school.

“When we learned about the obstacles girls face accessing education in Africa it genuinely broke our hearts,” Jake says. In many places, boys and girls begin with similar opportunities in elementary school. But as girls reach puberty, many leave school because they lack safe, private spaces to manage their monthly hygiene needs.

That reality drew Jake and Erin to Water for Good more than a decade ago. Since then, Jake has served more than eight years on the organization’s board of directors.

Water for Good works across Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, the Central African Republic, and Cambodia, pairing custom-engineered water infrastructure (such as wells) with what



Smiles and waves from future beneficiaries of Water for Good’s work in Dodola, Ethiopia.

“I’ve learned that I may not be able to end the global water crisis everywhere for everyone but I can help end it for one person, one family, or one village.”

—JAKE STEWART

Jake calls “the real secret sauce” — teams that go door to door teaching sanitation and hygiene practices.

Along the way, Jake says he learned that solving the global water crisis is more complicated than it may seem. “Many people believe that if you build a well, you solve the problem. But that’s not what’s happening in reality,” he says.

Jake explains that sustainability matters just as much as installation. Communities are encouraged to save for maintenance and repairs, while sanitation and hygiene education help create healthier habits that can lead to lasting change.

He saw the human side of that work firsthand during a recent trip to Ethiopia. At one school where Water for Good installed a new well and latrine block, complete with changing stations for girls, the community turned out in force.

“We were greeted by more than a thousand people, including children, parents, village elders, traditional dancers, even horsemen,” he recalls. Children climbed trees 30 feet high to catch a glimpse of the gathering.

Nearby sat an old well: built 12 years earlier by another well-intentioned organization, but lacking a sustainability plan. This well worked for two years and had been broken for the last ten. “To witness a dignified bathroom and safe water source returning to a community after years without it — and to see the incredible number of people it impacted — was a really beautiful moment.”

The ripple effects go beyond health. Safe, private facilities help girls stay in school, while healthier communities can create new economic opportunities for families, too.

The experience has also shaped how Jake views life back home. As a local State Farm Insurance agent, he helps families prepare for life’s unexpected challenges. He says his work with Water for Good reinforced many of the same ideas on a broader scale: preventing harm, reducing risk, and building stability.

For Jake, one lesson has stayed with him: “I’ve learned that I may not be able to end the global water crisis everywhere for everyone, but I can help end it for one person, one family, or one village.”

WATER FOR GOOD

Water for Good is a nonprofit focused on bringing lasting access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to communities in Ethiopia, Tanzania, the Central African Republic and Cambodia. Learn more at waterforgood.org.

Special thanks to Jake Stewart Insurance Agency for sponsoring our Charitable Passions section.



Young girls queue up for hours every day to collect unsafe water from a very slow natural spring in Dodola, Ethiopia. Water for Good has plans to deliver safe water to this community.



A drill crew and village watch as a Water for Good drill makes its final push towards hitting water — which happened just seconds later.

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GOAL GETTER

Natalie Means is living out her childhood dream.

INTERVIEW WITH NATALIE MEANS



“I’ll never forget playing in our first home game in front of 63,000 fans, nearly filling the Broncos’ stadium. It proved once again that women’s sports are worth the investment.”



Acalanes '22 graduate Natalie Means now plays professionally for Denver Summit FC.

Natalie in action for Denver Summit FC, where she plays left winger and left fullback.

When did you first start playing soccer? I started playing when I was about 5 or 6 years old with my twin brother, Robert, on a co-ed “rec” team that my dad coached! Early on, I loved the fast-paced nature and being part of a team. As I got older, I learned to appreciate how soccer brings people from various cultures and walks of life together to work toward a collective goal.

How did growing up in Lafayette shape you as a player? I moved to Lafayette before first grade and tried out for Lamorinda Soccer Club (“LaMO”), which helped me quickly make friends, many of whom remain my closest friends today. I played for LaMO from first grade until I left for Georgetown. I’m so grateful to have had such a great soccer club accessible to me growing up. The club director, Mo, played a huge role in developing me as a person and a player, and I truly believe I wouldn’t have had the success I did in college or made it to the professional level without the coaches and teammates at LaMO.

Tell us about joining the Denver Summit. Joining Denver Summit FC and playing in the NWSL (National Women’s Soccer League) is a dream come true. I always knew I wanted to play professional soccer, but didn’t know if playing in the NWSL would be a possibility because of the competitiveness

of the league. When I started getting interest from clubs last fall, I knew I would have to sacrifice my senior spring semester at Georgetown because I couldn’t pass up a chance to play in this league. Denver Summit was such an exciting opportunity because I have family in Denver. I was excited to be part of an expansion team in a city that LOVES its sports but didn’t yet have a pro women’s soccer team.

What’s been the biggest adjustment to playing professionally? Realizing that it’s not a job, it’s a lifestyle. We don’t just get paid for what we do on the field; it’s also everything we do off the field to prepare our minds and bodies to perform at the highest level every single day. That’s a level of pressure and intensity that even Division 1 college sports can’t quite replicate. But all of the hard work and dedication, on and off the field, pays off when we win a game, especially in front of our amazing fans!



Natalie celebrates her professional debut with her parents, Wendy and Bob Means, and family friends at Denver Summit FC’s inaugural game, March 2026.



Natalie played for Lamorinda Soccer Club from first grade through high school.



Natalie with LaMO players who came to cheer her on.

What’s been one of your most memorable moments? Winning the Big East conference regular season with Georgetown last fall! My team achieved a 10-0 conference record, which has never been done before. We had to beat Xavier University, who were just one point behind us in the standings, and we won 4-0 on the road to make conference history.

Who are you excited to watch during the World Cup? I recently had a run-in with Croatian national team midfielder Luka Modrić in the elevator during one of my away games, so I’m looking forward to watching him continue his legendary career in his 5th World Cup. Also, I’d love to see a France vs. Argentina rematch (if you haven’t seen the 2022 World Cup final, it’s a must-watch game)!

What advice would you give kids in Lafayette who hope to play at the next level? Don’t compare your journey to anyone else’s. Everyone grows, matures, and realizes their abilities at different times. As long as you focus on your individual growth and development while keeping your dreams in mind, you can get to where you want to go. Also, someone with a little talent but a great work ethic will find more success than someone with unlimited talent but a poor work ethic.

Special thanks to Realtor Brian Rochford of Rochford Real Estate for sponsoring our Student Life section.

Do you have a student in your life that you’d like to celebrate? Email Lamorinda@n2co.com.

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The Anvil That Shook Lafayette

Peter Thomson's Booming 4th of July Tradition

BY JOHN KENNETT, LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY | PHOTOS PROVIDED



Inside Peter Thomson's blacksmith shop, where he shod horses and forged tools for Lafayette's early ranchers and farmers.

Back when Lafayette was little more than a crossroads surrounded by farms and orchards, Fourth of July celebrations came with a thunderous boom — courtesy of Peter Thomson's anvil.

Lafayette's earliest recorded blacksmith shop was founded by Jack Elson around 1853. In August 1859, he hired a young blacksmith named Peter Thomson, a Canadian-born craftsman who had sailed from New York earlier that spring. Within just a few years, Thomson purchased the shop himself.

The blacksmith shop stood in a grove of black walnut and locust trees on the northeast corner of what is today Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road, now the site of Bank of America. For more than 50 years, Thomson shod horses, repaired farm equipment, and forged tools and square nails for Lafayette's early ranchers and farmers.

But the real story — and the loudest one — was his famous anvil. When news arrived that the Civil War had ended in 1865, local residents celebrated the historic surrender announcement by “touching off” Thomson's anvil. Gunpowder was packed into the hole at the end of the anvil and ignited with a 25-foot iron rod heated red-hot in the forge. The result was a booming blast that echoed across the valley.

Apparently, Lafayette enjoyed the tradition so much that the anvil became part of Fourth of July celebrations for years afterward. Emma Hough wrote to her husband on July 9, 1876: “They shot the anvil off 4th July about 48 times.” Forty-eight times! One can only imagine the racket rolling across the little farming community beneath the summer sky.

Eventually, one particularly enthusiastic celebration cracked the anvil. Thomson repaired it with a metal patch, and



Residents celebrate the Fourth of July in Lafayette during the 1890s.



Now on display at the Lafayette Historical Society, Thomson's anvil was once “shot off” dozens of times during Fourth of July celebrations.

remarkably, the old survivor still exists today — patch and all — on display at the Lafayette Historical Society on Golden Gate Way.

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, it's hard not to picture those early Lafayette Fourth of July evenings — neighbors gathered together beneath the summer sky, proud of their country, while Peter Thomson's anvil thundered across the valley like a cannon salute from another time.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, imagine those early Lafayette Fourth of July evenings, neighbors gathered beneath the summer sky as Peter Thomson's anvil thundered across the valley.

Special thanks to Aegis Living Moraga for sponsoring our Lafayette History section.

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Brothers David and Felipe Lopez showcase countertops they installed at Blue Oak in Lafayette. Photo by Craig Isaacs

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When Lafayette homeowners picture their dream kitchen or spa-like bathroom, the vision often comes down to one defining element: the stone. For more than a decade, Solo Tile & Stone has been the trusted name turning those visions into reality — one precision cut at a time.

Founded in 2015 by brothers David and Felipe Lopez, Solo Tile & Stone is a family-owned business built on years of hands-on experience in fabrication, installation, and project management. What began as a commitment to doing things the right way has grown into one of the East Bay's most respected stone and tile companies, driven almost entirely by word-of-mouth referrals.

"We treat every project like it's going into our own home," says David. Unlike larger operations where clients are passed between sales reps and subcontractors, Solo customers work directly with the craftsmen handling their project from start to finish — resulting in better communication, greater accountability, and a level of care that's increasingly rare in the industry.

Solo specializes in kitchen countertops, bathroom vanities, shower walls, and custom stone surfaces, guiding homeowners through every step from material selection to final installation. The company recently invested in state-of-the-art CNC Bridge Saw technology and digital templating

"As a contractor, I've used Solo on many projects and my own homes. They do great work, but what sets them apart is that when something goes wrong, they own it and make it right. Highly recommend." - Byron Crowley, Lafayette

equipment, further improving the precision and turnaround times clients have come to rely on.

Their ideal client is someone who values quality and the hands-on attention that comes with working directly alongside the craftsmen. "The best projects are ones where homeowners appreciate clear communication and let us bring their vision to life," they share. Whether it's a full kitchen remodel or a single custom feature, Solo brings the same dedication to every job.

For homeowners considering an update, Solo's advice is straightforward: visit a showroom in person, ask questions about durability and long-term care, and choose a fabricator who offers transparent pricing and expert installation. "See and feel the stone before you decide," Felipe recommends.

After more than ten years serving the Lafayette community, Solo Tile & Stone remains rooted in the values that started it all — honest work, skilled hands, and genuine pride in every surface they touch.

Solo Tile & Stone invites Lafayette homeowners to experience the difference that family craftsmanship makes. For the second half of 2026, they're offering 10% off countertops for anyone who mentions this spotlight. Call David and Felipe at 510.397.6670 to schedule a consultation.



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SOLD

| ADDRESS | LIST PRICE | SOLD PRICE | DOM | BEDS | BATHS | SQ.FT. | LOT SIZE |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|------|-------|--------|----------|
| 4090 Happy Valley Road | \$8,495,000 | \$9,000,000 | 8 | 5 | 6.5 | 6211 | 2.64 |
| 4006 Natasha Drive | \$4,395,000 | \$4,350,000 | 4 | 4 | 4.5 | 4016 | 0.33 |
| 1248 Upper Happy Valley Road | \$4,295,000 | \$4,295,000 | 13 | 5 | 4.5 | 4830 | 0.67 |
| 1161 Oleander Drive | \$4,495,000 | \$4,200,000 | 60 | 4 | 4.5 | 4418 | 1.33 |
| 862 McEllen Way | \$3,695,000 | \$4,015,000 | 7 | 5 | 2.5 | 3704 | 0.46 |
| 1006 Howard Hills Road | \$3,995,000 | \$3,550,000 | 13 | 5 | 4.5 | 5020 | 2.17 |
| 3553 Via Los Colorados | \$3,449,000 | \$3,450,000 | 6 | 4 | 2.5 | 3252 | 0.6 |
| 1122 Via Media | \$2,885,000 | \$3,300,000 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3530 | 0.62 |
| 1 Scenic Lane | \$3,495,000 | \$3,260,000 | 34 | 4 | 3 | 4120 | 2.69 |
| 1099 Oak Hill Road | \$2,749,000 | \$2,850,000 | 19 | 5 | 3.5 | 3205 | 0.64 |
| 3394 Santa Maria Court | \$2,750,000 | \$2,772,163 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2738 | 0.25 |
| 3958 Los Arabis Drive | \$2,499,000 | \$2,450,000 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 2686 | 0.84 |
| 783 Solana Drive | \$2,395,000 | \$2,330,000 | 7 | 4 | 4.5 | 3997 | 0.93 |
| 1002 El Curtola Boulevard | \$2,225,000 | \$2,300,000 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3220 | 0.25 |
| 1715 Greenhills Court | \$2,150,000 | \$2,025,000 | 12 | 4 | 3.5 | 4139 | 0.86 |
| 1072 Via Roble | \$1,865,000 | \$2,010,000 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2001 | 1.51 |
| 1348 Reliez Valley Road | \$2,000,000 | \$2,000,000 | 0 | 4 | 3.5 | 2733 | 0.57 |
| 4 Wallabi Court | \$2,050,000 | \$2,000,000 | 23 | 4 | 3 | 2728 | 0.56 |
| 682 Jennie Court | \$1,895,000 | \$1,895,000 | 26 | 5 | 2.5 | 2423 | 0.21 |
| 3161 Plymouth Road | \$1,899,000 | \$1,815,000 | 18 | 3 | 3 | 2120 | 0.18 |
| 522 Florence Drive | \$1,849,000 | \$1,810,000 | 20 | 3 | 3 | 2313 | 0.23 |
| 923 Janet Lane | \$1,799,000 | \$1,800,000 | 48 | 3 | 2 | 1801 | 0.31 |
| 14 Springhill Lane | \$1,799,000 | \$1,675,000 | 30 | 4 | 3 | 2989 | 0.98 |
| 1455 Purson Lane | \$1,650,000 | \$1,665,000 | 36 | 3 | 2 | 3378 | 0.57 |
| 7 Arbor Way | \$1,575,000 | \$1,625,000 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 1970 | 0.28 |

Information compiled from MLS on 5/26/2026



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Bonjour, Lafayette

FROM THE FRENCH ALPS TO LAFAYETTE, BLANDINE WARTEL FOUND COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP, AND A PLACE TO SHARE HER LOVE OF AUTHENTIC FRENCH BAKING.

BY RACHEL BLATT

Blandine Wartel in her home kitchen. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

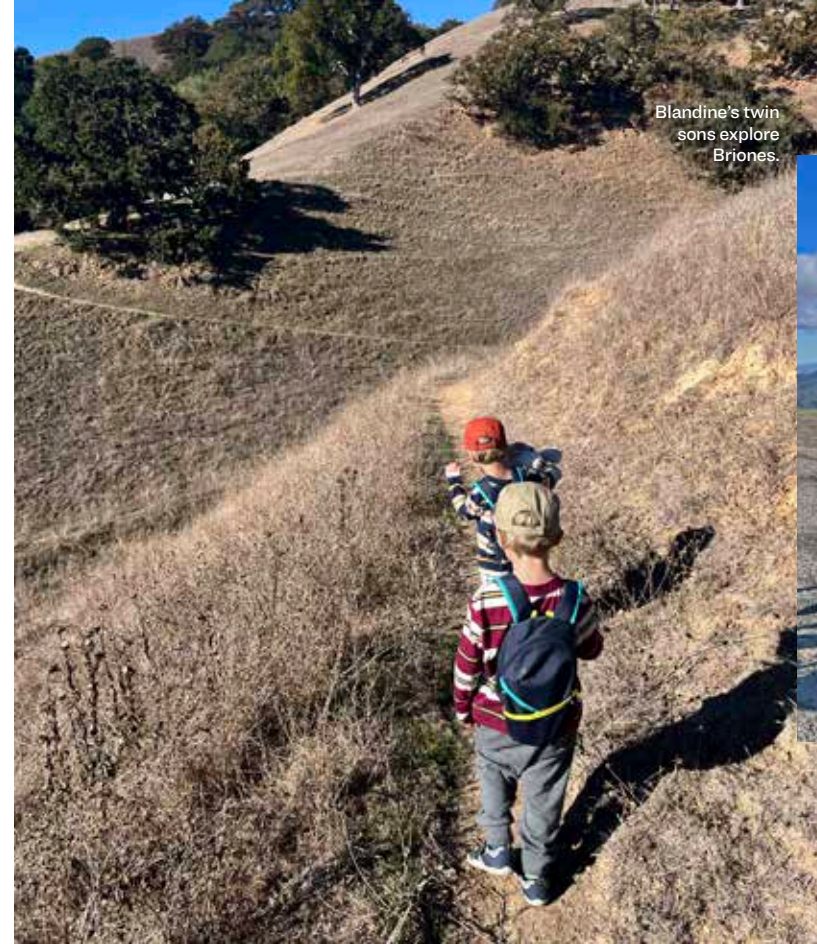


Blandine creates authentic French pastries, including classic macarons. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

When Blandine Wartel and her family moved from the French Alps to Lafayette, they were stepping into an entirely new chapter of life. Her husband's work brought the family to California, and after exploring the area, they chose Lafayette for its strong schools and accessible trails. They settled near Acalanes, where they began to build their new community.

Today, Blandine and her husband are raising their energetic twin sons, who will enter kindergarten this fall. Much of their family life revolves around the outdoors, one of the things that reminds them most of home in France.

On weekends, you can often find them biking local trails, exploring Briones Regional Park, attending Sunday gatherings at Le Pit Club, showing off their vintage car imported from France, or spending time at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, which Blandine especially appreciates as a place for both learning and community. An avid biker and trail runner, her husband has found connection through volunteering with Contra Costa Search and Rescue.



Blandine's twin sons explore Briones.



Biking local trails is a favorite family activity.

THE OUTDOORS REMIND THE FAMILY OF HOME IN FRANCE.

While moving across the world can feel daunting, Blandine says the warmth of Americans made the transition far easier. "People here are so friendly and always willing to help," she says. "That openness was very different from France, and it made us feel welcomed very quickly."

A trained optometrist in France, Blandine also carried another lifelong passion with her to California: baking. In Lafayette, she decided to turn that passion into a business. Today, she sells homemade baked goods and offers in-home baking classes, teaching others the art of authentic French baking, which are often lighter and less sweet than many American-style desserts. Learn more at blandinewartel.com.

For Blandine, baking is about more than pastries — it is about connection. Through her classes, school involvement, and participation with Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE), she has built meaningful friendships and found her place within the community.

The family also enjoys spending time at local favorites, including Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen and Coffee Bar, Roam Artisan Burgers, and Poke Go.

While she no longer has a view of Mont Blanc from her kitchen, for Blandine, Lafayette has become much more than a destination for her husband's career. It has become a true home filled with opportunity, friendship, and community.

A special thank you to Realtors Stella Tsakonas and Stephanie Mull for sponsoring the Meet Your Neighbor section.

Would you like to nominate someone for Meet Your Neighbor? Email Lamorinda@n2co.com.



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WYNN-ING HEARTS

INTERVIEW WITH LINDSEY ESCOBAR

Lafayette's Lindsey Escobar shares the story of Wynn, the rescue pup who quickly became the heart of their home. From dog park adventures to sunny afternoon naps, Wynn's joyful personality has brought new friendships and a sense of community along the way.



Wynn enjoys sunshine, outdoor adventures, and making new friends.

How did Wynn become part of your family? My husband, Christian, and I got married in April 2022 and moved to Lafayette that fall. When we got married, we promised each other that wherever we planted our roots, our home would need to have space for a rescue dog that we could love.

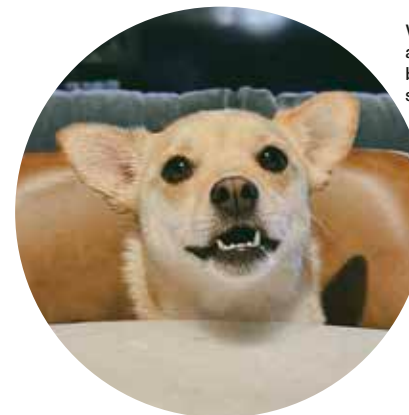
While sitting on the couch one night, I saw Wynn's photo on Underdog Animal Rescue's Instagram account. We instantly fell in love! I sent a message to the rescue, and within the hour, we had a plan to meet the next day. We brought Wynn home a week later!

For a year filled with so many blessings — our wedding, new jobs, and a new city — we felt her name, "Wynn," was perfect as is, no change necessary. She was definitely the biggest "win" for the start of our family and married life.

How would you describe her personality? Wynn is a 5½-year-old Chihuahua-Basenji mix and can always be found smiling. She's such a happy dog. We've always joked that she's the "mayor of the dog park" because she greets every dog and human that comes through those gates with such a big, welcoming grin. She eagerly awaits new dogs to play with, then outruns just about all of them. She's a fast one! Wynn truly loves everyone she comes into contact with and is eager to roll over for hours of belly rubs if you let her.

What are some of Wynn's favorite things to do? In true Chihuahua fashion, Wynn's favorite activity is sunbathing in the backyard or by the upstairs window. We love watching her follow along the sun's path throughout the day. She also loves having her toys buried in a blanket and could play like that for hours! When she tires out, we'd like to think her favorite thing is cuddling on the couch between us, because that's definitely our most cherished part of the day.

What do you love most about her? We love that Wynn is so curious! She really enjoys exploring and having off-leash adventures! She's also very smart. She's learned all the tricks and has outwitted just about every puzzle toy we've brought home.



Wynn can always be found smiling.

If Wynn could talk, what do you think she'd say? Wynn does talk, though you wouldn't know it! She's miraculously a very quiet dog, but when it comes to playtime, her Basenji traits are on full blast: her tail curls up, her forehead wrinkles, and her yodel comes out. It's very cute!

Anything else you'd like our readers to know? It's amazing the sense of community a dog can bring into your life. We've met the nicest people on our neighborhood walks, and a few have even become close friends. We feel very lucky to have Wynn and to live in Lafayette!

Special thanks to RecycleSmart for sponsoring our Pets with Personality section.



Christian and Lindsey Escobar with Wynn, their lovable Chihuahua-Basenji mix, taking in the scenery at Yosemite National Park.

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Honoring Service, Celebrating Freedom

PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY

EACH MEMORIAL DAY, the Lafayette Hillside Memorial brings the community together to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. This year's vigil featured music, poetry, guest speakers, and quiet moments of reflection beneath the memorial's iconic white crosses.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, the gathering offered a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices made to preserve them.

To learn more, visit lafayettehillside.com.



Janet Thomas speaks at the annual Memorial Day Vigil.



Ben Harris plays "Taps" on the flugelhorn.



Lafayette Hillside Memorial board members and event organizers (from left): Howard Weamer, Lynn MacMichael, Janet Thomas, Kay James, and Michael Munnely

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How to Create the Perfect Indoor-Outdoor Flow

BY GITA JACOBSON & PRIYAM SAWHNEY



A bi-fold door opens the kitchen to the backyard in this Lafayette home. Photo by Julie Cheshire Photography

Lafayette's ranch homes have a lot going for them — single-story living, generous lots, mature trees, and some of the best weather in the Bay Area. Here's the thing most homeowners don't realize: ranchers are uniquely suited for indoor-outdoor flow. Low rooflines, wide footprints, and flat yards make them the perfect candidate for opening up. With the right renovations, your rancher can feel like it was designed for California living from the very start.

START WITH THE DOOR

The single biggest change you can make is replacing a small door or window with a large slider or accordion door. A well-placed opening doesn't just add light — it changes the way you move from your home to the yard. A simple 8-foot slider starts at around \$5,000 to \$10,000 installed. An accordion-style door that folds completely away starts at around \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Designer Tip: Go bigger than feels comfortable. Most homeowners request an 8-foot door and end up wishing they'd chosen a 12-foot door. Make sure to consult with a structural engineer.

CONNECT THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is the heart of the home and, ideally, should connect directly to your outdoor entertaining space. An island facing a new slider, a pass-through window above the sink, or a full kitchen extension toward the yard transforms how you cook, entertain, and move from the inside to the outside.

Designer Tip: Most ranchers were built with the kitchen facing the street. Moving the kitchen to the back of the house — oriented toward the yard — is the renovation that changes how you live in your home every single day.

GIVE PEOPLE A REASON TO STAY OUTSIDE

A great door gets people outside. What keeps them there is what's waiting on the other side. A covered seating and dining area, an outdoor kitchen, and an activity — fire pit, ping-pong table, or hot tub — give everyone a reason to linger. The key detail most people miss: the closer these elements are to your kitchen, the more they actually get used. Distance kills the flow.

Designer Tip: Treat your outdoor space like a room. It needs a ceiling (pergola or overhang), defined edges (planters or walls), and a focal point (TV, fire pit, or a view). Without those three things, it feels like furniture in a parking lot.

THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE SUMMER ENDS

The best time to plan a renovation is before you need it. Most projects of this scope take four to six months from first conversation to completion. Start the planning process now, and you could be opening your home to the backyard by next spring.



Gita Jacobson, owner of *In The Deets*, and Priyam Sawhney, owner of *Konstrukto*, partner together on design-build remodeling projects throughout Lafayette and Lamorinda.



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LAMORINDA SPIRIT VAN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



Riders, volunteers, donors, and community supporters celebrate the Lamorinda Spirit Van's 20th anniversary, with Program Coordinator Riki Juster (center), at the Jennifer Russell Building on May 27, 2026.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS,
BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY



Nikki Solomon and Kim Bruns stand beside the Spirit Van, which now features an "In Memory of Mary Bruns" tribute honoring their mother, the program's coordinator from 2006 to 2022.



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The Lamorinda Spirit Van recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of helping seniors stay connected and maintain their independence. Since its first ride on June 19, 2006, the Spirit Van has provided transportation for residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, offering rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, exercise classes, social activities, and a wide range of other destinations.

The anniversary celebration brought together community leaders, volunteers, riders, and donors to honor the program's impact. Representatives from Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and the offices of Senator Tim Grayson and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan presented proclamations recognizing the organization's years of service.

A highlight of the event was recognizing the legacy of Mary Bruns, the longtime program coordinator often referred to as the "Spirit" of the Spirit Van, who helped turn the community's vision for senior transportation into reality. Her daughters joined the celebration as attendees reflected on the lives Mary touched through her dedication to the program.

"What began as a transportation service has become an important lifeline for many Lamorinda residents," said Program Coordinator Riki Juster. "This milestone reflects the caring spirit of the community and the many people who have helped keep our riders connected, active, and independent over the past 20 years."

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SIESTA VALLEY BOWL'S SPRING BASH!

PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT at the inaugural **Siesta Valley Bowl Spring Bash** on May 30th! The Wayhighs got things started on the right note, FreeMoment kept the vibes flowing, and Burning Down The House — the Bay's premier Talking Heads Tribute band — had everyone on their feet. Great music, great food and drinks, and a warm spring night shared with old friends and new ones — the perfect way to celebrate this wonderful new concert venue.

Check out the lineup for a full season of live shows coming to Siesta Valley Bowl. Tickets on sale now at siestavalleybowl.com!



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