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Zoe Heidersbach (4 1/4) gets in the spirit at Glorietta School's Fun Fest

## Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Lamorinda kids continue a 57 year old American tradition

By Sophie Braccini

When Sarah Jessica Parker opened last year's launch of the 56th Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign in New York, she said: "Halloween can be very focused on the amassing of bucket-loads of sweets. Yet 'Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF' demonstrates that kids can do good deeds and still have fun. A positive first experience with philanthropy can lay the groundwork for a lifetime of giving." This year, many Lamorinda community groups are encouraging families to join the challenge. So don't be surprised when young trick-or-treaters come to your door this Halloween toting an orange UNICEF box along with the usual plastic pumpkin basket or devilishly decorated goodie bag, and have some pocket change handy by the candy bowl.

UNICEF is the acronym of the United Nation Children's Fund. It began as the "Food for Europe" program after WWII and became an integral part of the UN in 1953. Every year, more than 10 million children under the age of five die totally preventable deaths.

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## Autumn events abound!

See our Calendar on page 6 for a list of seasonal festivities

## Troop 234 Holds its First Environmentally Friendly Carwash

By Lee Borrowman

Fundraising carwashes have always been a part of life in Lamorinda. Between the Boy Scouts, high school academic clubs and sports teams, few weekends pass without one. Due to policies being enforced of late by the Central Costa County Sanitary District (CCCSD), some of these casual carwashes were having trouble finding a good home.

In many cases, the wastewater from the carwashes was running down storm drains and flowing from there through the systems of creeks and rivers that lead either to reservoirs of drinking water or into the Bay. The CCCSD has put a stop

to this practice, and local storm drain enforcement personnel are out on weekends looking for violators.

So what was Boy Scout Troop 234 to do? Twice a year for the past several years the Troop has held a carwash. Carwash organizer Tony Silva, who admits that his first reaction was "More regulations?! More work?!" had to come up with a way to keep up the tradition.

Using a plug for the storm drain, a couple of sump pumps and an elaborate array of hoses, Silva built a system that channeled the waste water not into the storm drain but into a floor drain in the

bathroom of a nearby service station; a drain that leads to the sewer and a wastewater treatment facility.

"It took a lot of people to pull this off," says Silva. The service station is Lamorinda Gas and Motorsport on Moraga Road. Owner Robert Smeyne donated the water for washing, the electricity to power the pumps, and of course his bathroom floor in support of the troop. The Bruzzone family owns the land the carwash is held on, and Bill Snider of Moraga Hardware and Lumber gave the Troop a generous discount on the hoses needed for the set-up. Scout Master and chief cook Steve Israel kept the carwashers well fed.

Finally, Silva wants to acknowledge the help

and enthusiasm of the CCCSD's Colleen Henry, who worked with him on the permit approval process. "It was best experience I've ever had with a bureaucracy," he said with a smile. "Colleen was very enthusiastic about our system; we even got the permit for free."

Henry asked Silva if he was willing to serve as a resource for other groups, and Silva agreed. He is still working out the details, but expects to offer advice, assistance and equipment rental to other non-profit groups. Any funds raised by this service would, of course, go into the coffers of Troop 234 to offset the \$500+ cost of acquiring all of the parts and equipment they needed to build their system.



Tony Silva (orange shirt, hat) watches the pumps at work

Photo Andy Schreck

## Orinda Walks to Work and Bikes to School

By Lee Borrowman

The weather could have been better, but that didn't stop some Orindans from participating in the Walk/Bike/Bus to School and Work Day on Wednesday, October 10. The event was sponsored by the City of Orinda and the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) in support of the National Walk and Bike to School and Work Day, held annually in early October, and to increase awareness for improving pedestrian and bicycle pathways in our community. TSAC has committed to creating an Orinda Master Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, which will facilitate obtaining grants to make badly needed improvements.

Although conditions in Orinda are not ideal for safe walking and biking, the hope of the City was that this day would help educate and give focus on the

need for improvements in this area. By encouraging parent participation in walking with their children and neighborhoods walking together, the City hoped to create a positive and safe environment, especially for school age children. Other goals included reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, being more environmentally friendly, and enhancing the health of citizens.

As it turned, the greatest numbers of participants could be found on their way to school. Council member Sue Severson was at Glorietta that morning, handing out stickers. "I was impressed with the student and parent enthusiasm for a walk/bike to school day. The extra benefit of families and friends coming together was heartwarming," Severson said.

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Glorietta families walked or biked together

Photo courtesy of Sue Severson

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