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• **COMMUNITY Service** •

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their

activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Making a Difference in the Community

Submitted by Siv Ricketts

Were you among the crowds who attended OMPA at Campolindo High School? If so, you may have walked along the newly repaired and installed foot-path connecting the parking areas and the Soda Swim Center. The project was completed just in time for OMPA thanks to Moraga resident Devin O'Brien and a team of dedicated volunteers, including Moraga resident Cheryl Grubbs and Lafayette resident George Nickelson. O'Brien says, "The old path was pretty dangerous. A number of people had fallen and there were exposed pipes at one end which presented a real tripping hazard. It's difficult to exaggerate what an improvement this path will make."

O'Brien conceived the idea for this project after receiving \$50 on April 12 (Easter Sunday) from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. At the conclusion of each of two worship services that morning, 10 volunteers from each service were handed a \$50 bill for the purpose of creatively serving the community.

Projects have been as unique as the individuals who accepted the challenge. Some have been simple and sustainable, such as providing home cooked meals to neighbors experiencing hard times, while others have been one-time events or significantly more involved. Tony Gerst and son Andrew Gerst of Moraga took two boys who recently lost their father to an A's baseball game, complete with hot dogs and sodas. Moraga resident Lisa Lewis threw an impromptu appreciation party for the group of developmentally delayed young adults who regularly clean and care for Moraga Commons. Karyn Bergen of Alamo is creating awareness and fundraising for a wheelchair-equipped van for Lucas da Silva, a 5 year old Moraga resident with a rare chromosomal disorder (the only case worldwide). The Bay Area Res-

cue Mission in Richmond and Monument Crisis Center in Concord received donations of food and goods for their constituents. And Les Deane of Lafayette is planning a blood drive to take place on Saturday, September 26th at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

While some individuals received "seed" money, the idea was to inspire everyone to open their eyes to see the abundant opportunities to make a difference in the community. You can read more about these and other projects on the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church website: www.mvpcetoday.org.



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Moraga Royale Gains Victory at St. Mary's College

Submitted by Denise Lemings



Photo Denise Lemings

It was a perfect day to go out and play, according to the residents and staff members at the Moraga Royale, and they did just that! It was the Third Annual Soccer game where staff played against Julie Foudy's Leadership Team, made up of girls from 13-15 years old.

Foudy, former Captain of the USA Women's Soccer Team and two time Olympic Gold Medalist among other accolades, encourages community service as part of her leadership camp. The National Charity League also came to assist and rally with the residents and staff.

According to Al Pyne, Transportation Director for the Moraga Royale which provides Independent-Assisted Living and Memory Care for retirees, began three years ago when Foudy's organization contacted him and asked if there was anything they could do to help the

senior residents. Pyne said, "Basically they called up and offered their help and I told them they could serve lunch if they wanted to." During the conversation Pyne said, "In return I also offered up a challenge soccer game and Foudy accepted being the great sport that she is and the game was on!"

Foudy, who attended the game, will be back next year with her Leadership team and is looking forward to the fun filled competitive exchange, according to Pyne. The Moraga Royale team was led to victory with Pyne as their designated coach for a 6-3 win.

Lafayette Garden Club Supports Library

Submitted by Sharon Hunter



Photo provided

Ruth Mc Cahan of the Lafayette Garden Club presented a check for \$2000 to Kathy Merchant, President,

Lafayette Library and Susan Weaver, Senior Community Library Manager. This donation is for the Lafayette library and

Learning Center Foundation. The Garden Club founded a Landscape and Horticulture Fund two years ago to purchase horticulture books and periodicals and to support programs on gardening, landscape design, conservation & environmental issues at the Lafayette Library. The club's objectives are to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to encourage civic planting and conservation programs. Additionally, the Garden Club has volunteered to do flower arrangements for the library. We have a number of members with professional experience in floral design that have participated in Bouquet des Artes at the de Young.

WHEN A CLUNKER IS A GOOD THING

Ask Jeff



Jeff Joyce

Well, these days your old car or truck could be worth up to a \$4500 government credit if your vehicle qualifies for the newest stimulus plan. You can actually receive a federal credit toward a new car purchase or lease if you turn in your old gas burner to a participating new car dealership. So it lowers the sales price and gets older, gas guzzler type vehicles off the road for good! Then your trade in will be sold for scrap where it will be crushed and will

likely be turned into landfill somewhere, although some parts may be removed for resale (except engine and driveline parts). I guess my only concern is, what if you can't afford new and you don't want a new car payment? Well, some older cars are still well worth keeping and fixing up. More people are holding on to their cars longer than ever, but now there are some options if your old car qualifies. Go to www.cars.gov for all of the details.

Dear Jeff:
When is a good time to get rid of my car before it starts costing me big bucks to repair?
Signed, Concerned in Concord
Dear Concerned
With today's cars and truck lasting longer than ever, there is no timeline that you can go by. The technology in the modern automobile can see cars reaching higher miles than ever (well over 200,000 miles in many cases). So take care of your car, change the oil regularly,

maintain vital fluid levels and enjoy life without car payments.

Dear Jeff:
My car has a bad shaking problem when I'm braking and it feels like my wheels are going to fall off. Should I have the tires balanced?
Signed, Shaky in San Pablo
Dear Shaky:
Sounds like you need to have your brakes checked first. Most all cars use disc brakes up front and if the brakes become overheated, the rotors can become warped, which will create an uneven surface contact between the brake pads and rotors. If you drive down hills or stop and go traffic, shift your transmission to a lower gear when slowing down which will help lower the heat within the braking system.

Jeff Joyce has been the Manager of Express Oil Change & Tire Center since 2004. He can be reached at 925-254-8989 or jjoyce@orindamotors.com

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