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Civic News Moraga

SummerHill Homes Writes a Big Check to MEF



From left: Campolindo principal John Walker; MEF president Niki Peterson and directors Eric Andresen and Jon Nickens; Katia Kamangar and Denise Cunningham of Summerhill Homes. Photo Sophie Braccini

SummerHill Homes executives Katia Kamangar and Denise Cunningham gave the Moraga Education Foundation a check for \$5,000 on Oct. 10 to support local schools. “We have a long standing tradition to contribute to the communities where we are working,” said Kamangar, senior vice president. Cunningham,

who is the director of development in charge of the SummerHill Homes project on Camino Ricardo, added that the company pays a school fee rate of \$3.36 per living square footage, and that based on the current plans (for the Camino Ricardo and Rancho Laguna II projects), the total fees are estimated at \$660,000.

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Good Times at the Community Garden Harvest Festival

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A big display at the garden's entrance listed all that was grown this year – 46 varieties of vegetables and herbs, for a total harvest of 2,856 pounds.

Bonnie Stephens, who was in charge of edibles propagation and production this year, was extremely proud of the large harvest. “This year we looked for plants that were prolific; for example a year ago we grew broccoli that gives only one bunch and some off shoot. We realized that we could grow broccoli rabe and you can eat the leaves and the whole plant,” she said. Stephens added that the group also stayed away from plants requiring a lot of water, like corn, and that they used a method that allows

plants to be placed closer together. “They create a little CO2 environment under their touching leaves that makes them very productive,” she explained.

“We also grew flowers to take care of our pollinators,” added Stephens, referring to the garden’s three bee hives. She recommended African blue basil as a great herb that also attracts bees to the garden.

The Lafayette Community Garden does more than feed its 50 working members and 20 associate members – it is also a community resource for information on gardening, chicken raising, conservation and Native American history. To learn more go to www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

Bragging Rights

What’s the highest height in Lamorinda? The largest home? The longest road, fastest runner, most expensive meal? *Lamorinda Weekly* is seeking your suggestions for a New Year’s Eve newspaper edition. Send your thoughts to cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com by Nov. 30.

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