

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Scouts and Seniors Unite to Celebrate Halloween

Submitted by Charles Regan



Photo provided

Lafayette's Pack 200 Cub Scouts joined with Atria senior living residents to prepare for the Halloween holiday on Oct. 12. Scouts and Atria residents decorated pumpkins and enjoyed refreshments. Some participants chose to decorate with markers and decals while others went all-out by carving original jack-o-lantern faces or elaborate stencil silhouettes. Everyone had a

great time and pumpkins are showing more Halloween spirit. The Cub Scouts left their pumpkin artwork at Atria for the residents to enjoy. Pictured are pumpkin decorating participants Mary Hansen, Barbara Goldman, Daniel Siu, Andrew Bodel, Henry Roth, Chase Regan, Myra Akins, Bradley Bodel, Mason Lane, Cole Regan, Sannie Edgecomb, and Oliver Lane.

### St. Monica Volunteers Help Families as Part of Winter Nights Shelter

Submitted by Jack Dice



Preparing the evening meal Oct. 28 at St. Monica, from left: A. J. Johnson, Maura Clougher, Marilyn Wright, Jack Dice, Yvonne Colombo, Sonja Crumbaugh, Louis Meunier, Joan Patti, and Jan and Roger Olgesby. Photo provided

For two weeks, from Oct. 20 through Nov. 3, St. Monica Catholic Church was host of the Winter Nights program, a project of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County that provides a clean, safe, and warm facility at night and a daytime services center during winter for homeless families with children. For privacy, each family has a tent set up indoors where they sleep and their belongings are transported to each participating location every two weeks. St. Monica has been involved since 2001 in the Winter Nights program as well as its predecessor program. The parishioners at St. Monica donated food, diapers, and other necessities that guests needed and made them breakfast

and dinner daily as well as furnished them sandwiches for their lunch. A female and male volunteer slept overnight at the Peace Center (the location of Winter Nights) every night to be available for any need that arose. The program serves up to 30 persons at any given time. Congregations throughout central and east Contra Costa provide space, meals, and volunteers; several other Lamorinda congregations regularly host Winter Nights each year. Bedding is provided, and professional staff supervise the shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information about the program, contact the office of the Interfaith Council at (925) 933-6030 or visit [cccwinternights.org](http://cccwinternights.org).

### Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Theresa Schmidt



From left: Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer and Stephen Schmidt. Photo B. Hummer  
Three Scouts, Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer, and Stephen Schmidt, with Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda have achieved

Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and will be celebrating their Eagle Court of Honor Sunday, Nov. 16 at Moraga Valley

### 'Tis the Season of Giving

Each year *Lamorinda Weekly* includes announcements from the community about local charitable giving opportunities. Need Donations? Submissions with a brief summary of your organization and charitable drive can be sent to [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com) (include "Season of Giving" in the subject line). Season of Giving announcements will continue through Dec. 17.

### JM Students Give Time and Clothing for Afghan Children

Submitted by Lucy Dendinger



Photo Sharon Lee

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students recently collected clean and gently used clothing and shoes during a two-week drive and volunteered for three days during the lunch hour to sort and pack the clothing for children in Afghanistan. They collected over 875 pounds of clothing and shoes filling 25 large boxes with much needed supplies. Each box also included several notes and words of kindness for the children written by the students.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, all of the boxes were delivered to Trust in Education in Lafayette

where they will be loaded onto pallets and transported to Travis Air Force Base for delivery to Afghanistan. Trust in Education is a grass-roots organization based in Lafayette, providing educational, economic and health care assistance to villages in Afghanistan.

The effort was coordinated by the "Bridges" community service program at JMIS. Bridges provides volunteer opportunities for students throughout the year to serve others in the community and abroad.

### Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club Donates \$5,000 to EFO

Submitted by Dick Olsen



From left: John Nickerson, Acalanes Union High School District superintendent; Joe Jaconette, Orinda Union School District superintendent; Jason Evans, Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club president; Cara Hoxie, Orinda Educational Foundation co-president; Dean Burnick, Orinda Educational Foundation co-president; and Julie Parks, Miramonte High School principal. Photo Stan Holcenberg

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Jason Evans, president of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club, presented a \$5,000 check from the MVKC to the EFO in recognition of the EFO's continuing, essential assistance to the Orinda Union School District and the Acalanes Union High School District in support of the children of Orinda.

In making the presentation, Evans stated: "The primary purpose of Kiwanis Clubs around the world – and locally here in the Lamorinda community – is to support children. This gift furthers that objective. Our club's members come largely from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Our fundraising activities occur here in Lamorinda. It is the residents of our local com-

munities who support our largest fundraising activities – our See's Candy Holiday Shop in the Rheem Shopping Center and our Annual Crab Feed at Saint Mary's College. This gift helps to fulfill our club's mission by recognizing the EFO's contribution to Orinda's children and by also recognizing the support the Orinda community provides to the MVKC's fundraising efforts."

The MVKC has also previously made similar \$5,000 gifts to both the Moraga Education Foundation and to the Lafayette Partners in Education in recognition of the roles those two institutions play in supporting children in Moraga and Lafayette and the support that the residents of Moraga and Lafayette provide to the MVKC's fundraising activities.

Presbyterian Church.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Tucker Fife's project benefitted the volunteer national ski patrol at Squaw Valley. A senior at Bentley School and an avid skier, in December 2012, Tucker was swept from the KT-22 chairlift by an avalanche, and the ski patrol jumped into action to save him. He chose to help the helpers who helped him and so many others. To increase ski patrol headquarters ski storage, Tucker built two large ski racks for use by the patrollers.

Bryce Hummer's project improved a sports facility at Miramonte High School, where he is

a senior. A four-year member of the school's varsity tennis team, Bryce noticed that the match viewing area for players and spectators featured a large area of weeds and bare dirt. He and his team of volunteers installed borders and drought tolerant plantings, and crushed granite hardscape under the stands.

Stephen Schmidt's project benefitted Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Passionate about school safety after learning that his cousin's elementary school principal was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School disaster, Stephen met with Dr. Ken Gallegos, the principal of Sleepy Hollow, and discussed ways to make the campus safe in case of a natural disaster or unwanted intruder and installed directional compass rose markers on campus. He is a sophomore at Miramonte High School.