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Donation Requests from the Community

'Tis the Season of Giving



Lafayette Rotary Club Coat Drive

Every year the Lafayette Rotary Club is collecting gently used coats to donate to Shelter Inc. of Contra Costa. At a recent Rotary meeting Executive Director Timothy O'Keefe pointed out how important the Rotary coat drive is every year at the start of the cold season to serve many homeless community members with warm clothing. This year the club is inviting the community to bring gently used coats (adult or kids sizes) to the following locations in Lafayette: Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring, 3291 Mt Diablo Ct., Lafayette, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Ste. 103, Lafayette.

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, Lamorinda Weekly will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Please send 100 words or less describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring/send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Dec. 12 for inclusion in our Dec. 18 issue. Include "Season of Giving" in the subject line.

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.

Orinda Academy Food Drive at Orindawoods a Huge Success

Submitted by Miriam Shaffer



Orinda Academy ninth graders, from left, Malaya Phelps, Virginia Clark, Yusra Khan, and Humah Sultani, display the food they gathered for Orinda Academy's food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Photo provided

Ninth grade students at Orinda Academy collected over 40 bags of food during an October food drive at Orindawoods, a com-

munity of 258 residences neighboring the school. The food collected was donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank.

Students Malaya Phelps, Virginia Clark, Yusra Khan, and Humah Sultani participated in the food drive. All are members of Orinda Academy's community service club. Teachers Chris Booth and Elizabeth Martinez directed the project. To obtain donations, empty bags were placed at the doorsteps of Orindawoods residences with information about the drive.

"We are extremely appreciative and thank Orindawoods homeowners for their generosity. Our community benefits and grows stronger as a result of their actions," says Elizabeth Jurado, Spanish teacher and co-leader of the community action group at Orinda Academy.

Girl Scouts Help Cambodian Family Get a Well

Submitted by Erica Kain



Girl Scout Troop 30859 members at a recent outdoor event Photo provided

Thirteen girls in Girl Scout Troop 30859 from Sleepy Hollow Elementary School in Orinda, as well as the Jewish Day School in Lafayette spent a year on a "Water Journey" through Girl Scouts, learning how to conserve and respect water. Ksenija Soster Olmer, the vice president of Cambodian Child's Dream Organization Inc., visited with the fourth-grade girls and explained what it is like for girls in developing countries to have to bring water to

their families, and how much a well can help a family in Cambodia. The girls raised \$250 through their cookie sales, which covered the cost to construct a well for one Cambodian family.

"They learned a great deal about how lucky we are to have sinks that provide us with potable water, and how so many girls in the world must work to collect water for their families while caring for siblings at the same time," said Erica Kain. "As part of

this work, they went on a 'water hunt' where they had to seek out safe water sources and carry quantities of water back for their families - along the way they encountered dried-up wells and unsafe water sources before finding fresh water; then they had to carry dolls while carrying buckets in their arms or on their heads, without spilling the water, back to their family."

In addition, the girls gave a presentation about water usage at Sleepy Hollow. "The girls wrote the scripts and created the props all on their own, and they also created posters to put up around school to reinforce the messages in their water conservation skits," said Kain. The messages included: taking shorter showers, identifying and fixing leaks they find, not washing your car in the driveway, not watering your lawn during the hottest part of the day, and turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.

"The girls were very well-informed when they sold the cookies at their booths, proudly explaining their mission," added Kain. "They had previously used their cookie money to help fund a library in Ethiopia, and they are always very excited to tell others about them."

Community Service

Local Middle School Winners of Lions International Peace Contest Announced

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



From left: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School art teacher Moose Wesler, Kate Dendinger, Nadia Alcantara and Erin Thomas



From left: Claire Jenkins, Stanley Middle School art teacher Robert Anke, Mia Travis, and Sabrina Lin



From left: Orinda Intermediate School art teacher Susan Weiss, Michelle Tang, Abigail Miller, Shaune Lundstrom, and Lion Bob Murtagh

More than 375,000 students, ages 11-13, will compete in the 27th annual Lions International Peace Contest which emphasizes the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

The Lamorinda Lions Club hosted the local portion of the contest at all three middle schools in the Lamorinda area. A total of 280 students submitted posters and the local winners were awarded their prizes on Nov. 5. The winners were selected for originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Peace, Love, and Understanding."

The winners are:

- Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School:** Kate Dendinger, Nadia Alcantara, and Erin Thomas
- Stanley Middle School:** Mia Travis, Claire Jenkins, and Sabrina Lin

Orinda Intermediate School: Shaune Lundstrom, Abigail Miller, and Michelle Tang

The winners will face stiff competition through the district, multiple district and international rounds of competition. One grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected. Many of the posters will be on display through January at the Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda libraries.

The Lamorinda Lions Club is one of 46,000 worldwide. In addition to efforts toward conquering blindness, the club has made a strong commitment to community service and helping youth throughout the area. For more information about Lions activity, contact Bob Murtagh at (925) 283 1841.

Boy Scouts Visit Atria Lafayette on Veteran's Day

Submitted by Rochelle Holbrook



Photo provided

Boy Scouts from Troop 200 visited residents of Atria Lafayette on Nov. 11, performing

a flag folding ceremony while a bugler played "Taps" to commemorate Veteran's Day.