

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Halloween Skit Returns to Moraga



The cast at last year's performance, "Spellbound Count Down."

Photo provided

James Shumate, 22, will be returning to perform in his neighborhood's annual Halloween skit Oct. 31 that he started participating in when he was about 4 years old. Shumate, who will play the prince, is a graduate of San Francisco State University in cinematography and recorded the skit's soundtrack, which includes an introductory song by professional singer Amanda MacDowell, the daughter of the skit co-founder Michelle Wilson. The skit, which was started years ago by Wilson and her

brother, Greg, on their front porch has now expanded to be performed by friends and neighbors in the garage at 12 Lynwood Place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Halloween. This year, the group will be performing "Cinderelli" – a spoof based on a song sung by the mice, Jaq and Gus, in the animated film "Cinderella."

"This skit is definitely a work of love; many, many hours are put into this, starting in the summer months," said participant, Judy Michel Shumate. J. Wake

Burton Valley Cub Scouts Tour Shell Ridge with Walnut Creek Mayor

Submitted by Dean Smith



Mayor Bob Simmons points to a habitat restoration site above Deer Lake during a tour of Shell Ridge with the Burton Valley Pack 645 Cub Scouts.

Photo provided

Local Cub Scout Pack 645 of Lafayette recently were given a private tour of Shell Ridge and Indian Valley by Walnut Creek Mayor Bob Simmons in an effort to learn more about wildlife conservation and habitat restoration.

Pack 645, a Cub Scout group of 6- to 11-year-old boys from Burton Valley Elementary School, met the mayor at the Indian Valley Elementary School entrance to Shell Ridge and spent several hours learning about oak trees, invasive species and the need for habitat conservation. Mayor Simmons discussed the extensive work done by the volunteers over the years, and demonstrated his passion for hiking and wildlife conservation.

In addition to a scenic walk, the hike was extremely educational for the Scouts, who learned about the work being done by the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation in various parts of the Shell Ridge region, including the restoration of Deer Lake, previously called Ames Pond. The Scouts hiked approximately three miles with the mayor to see firsthand the work being done to restore the pond.

The tour and hike was a component of the Cub Scout naturalist achievement, which includes learning about ecosystems, observing wildlife and protecting the environment. Dating back to when the property was acquired in 1976, the city of Walnut Creek and the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation have conducted extensive efforts to help restore the area and enhance the ecosystem surrounding Deer Lake. These efforts have included planting trees, trash removal, improving the drainages leading into the lake and planting native grasses. Volunteers have also removed invasive species of vegetation to allow planting of additional trees, willows, milkweed and elderberry.

The restoration of Deer Lake is an ongoing effort to enhance the local habitat and encourage migratory birds to visit the area.

The Scouting program at Burton Valley Elementary offers programs for first to fifth-graders. The activities include hiking, camping, leadership training and a wide-range of adventure catered to the age level. For information, call (925) 385-8877. The local council can be reached at (925) 674-6100.

DeSaulnier All Smiles at Sustainable Lafayette Event

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Mark DeSaulnier

Photo provided

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier was all smiles at the second annual "Sustainable Sunday" event Oct. 4 at Metro in Lafayette. DeSaulnier was one of 140 guests and speakers including Kathryn Lyddan, executive director of Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust; Kira Gould, co-author of "Women in Green;" Bea Johnson, author of "Zero Waste Home;" Ames Morrison, co-founder of eco-friendly ranch and vineyard Medlock Ames; and Charles Bohlig, water con-

servation supervisor for the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The fundraiser benefitted Sustainable Lafayette programs, including Lafayette's Earth Day Festival, Summer Environmental Film Series, Green Schools, Community Garden, and Recycle Lafayette. It also featured organic and sustainably-produced local appetizers, beer and spirits (wine pairings with Medlock Ames wines), an environmentally-friendly silent auction and live jazz.

New Troop 241 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Carole Noel



From left, front row: Colin Noel, Maxx Green, Eric Byberg; back row: Kevin Tuholski and Casey Conrad

Photo provided

Five Boy Scout members of Troop 241 in Lafayette were honored at a special court of honor Oct. 17 for achieving the Eagle Scout Award, Boy Scouting's highest honor. Each one of them completed a contributory community project: Colin Noel built and installed stairs for the stage at the Lafayette Reservoir; Maxx Green constructed two raptor poles to give birds

of prey a place to perch while hunting the over-running vermin at two community parks; Eric Byberg made raised planter boxes for Orinda Academy School; Kevin Tuholski built a sand box for CATS after school program at Lafayette Elementary School; and Casey Conrad built a wooden car play structure for Lafayette Nursery School.

Moraga Rotary Donates Books to County Juvenile Hall Library

Submitted by Gary Irwin



County Juvenile Hall library director Joe Young (in blue shirt) with Moraga Rotarians, from left: President Roger Gregory, Debbie Roessler, Frank May and Evie Michon.

Photo provided

Members of the Rotary Club of Moraga delivered 45 books to the Juvenile Hall library recently, and received a tour of the library and other facilities from the library director, Joe Young. The Club has now donated a total of 65 approved books since commencing this service project in spring of this year. Many of the bookplates have been signed by the featured speaker at weekly Rotary meetings. Rotarians making this latest book delivery were Frank May, Debbie Roessler, Evie Michon, and president Roger Gregory. The project chair is Rotarian Barbara Bruner.

This library, and the one at Byron Boys Ranch, is a part of the Contra Costa Library system. Both locations have a special dedicated library room about 30 feet by 45 feet in size, where many books are available or can be ordered, and two volunteer librarians serve the room at specified hours. There are also five

computer terminals connected to the library system to provide online reading experience. The books provide students an opportunity to improve their reading skills and provide resources for entertainment and education.

Moraga Rotary was asked by the library staff to be a book donor because of the club's involvement with the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary through its Christmas stocking project, which is in its 19th year, where gift-filled decorated stockings are given to residents on Christmas Eve. This program was originated by Rotarians Jim and Linda Campbell.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International, one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at noon at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. For further information, call Frank May at (925) 376-8195, or check out moragarotary.org.