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Community Service Tree Of Lights Celebration



Logan Wilson reads the poem written by his grandmother, Moraga Royal Executive Director Dianne Wilson, in honor of her lost son. Photo Sophie Braccini

It may be very cold on the December evening when the second Hospice of the East Bay Tree of Lights celebration is held in Lamorinda. While the little white candles people hold during the event will not offer much warmth, the warmth from the hearts of the men and women united by the tree of lights, and from their shared compassion will likely emanate from those in attendance as it did on Nov. 22 at the Moraga Country Club. Sharing this simple moment, remembering loved ones who have died, listening to words and songs of sorrow and hope, was profound, and people were united, reminded of both human physical frailty and the strength of love. The second Tree of Lights ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 in the Orinda Village by Bank of America. The events are fundraisers for Hospice of the East Bay and managed by volunteers. In Moraga, Sara Mooradian and Dianne Wilson were the co-chairs. Before the tree was lit, speakers and singers shared thoughts and poems, and then the long list of beloved departed ones was read, while each participant held a candle. The Dec. 5 event is part of Orinda's community holiday celebration, so memorial names will not be read at this ceremony. The trees lit in Moraga and Orinda will continue to shine throughout the holiday season. Eleven such ceremonies were planned throughout the East Bay. — S. Braccini

Veterans Honored in Lafayette

Submitted by Louise Diracles



A Cub Scout serves food to veteran Kramer Klabau. Photos provided

On Veteran's Day, the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) attended a dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette. The regent of the Acalanes DAR, Susan Skilton, and Brenna Shafizadeh, DAR District IV vice director, presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion with a 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War flag. They also presented veterans from the Vietnam War a commemorative proclamation from the president of the United States recognizing their service to their country. The local Cub Scout troop served dinner to the large group of veterans, their families and the DAR group.

New Bicycle Service Station Keeps Lamorinda Cyclists Rolling

Submitted by Jim Brovelli



Paul Griessel at the bike service station

Photo provided

What do Google Headquarters, Stanford University and Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church have in common? They are all home to DERO Fixit Bicycle Service Stations.

A new DERO Fixit, Air Kit Tire Pump and Swerve Racks are available on the corner of the Holy Shepherd property on Moraga Way in Orinda thanks to the Eagle Scout project of Paul Griessel, a junior at Acalanes High School and member of Troop 303. When Griessel approached Pastor John Valentine about doing an Eagle Scout Project at the church, Valentine mentioned the many bike riders who try to repair bikes in the church parking lot but have no tools. Valentine had heard of the DERO Fixit and was interested in having one available in the community. "As soon as Pastor Valentine talked about this as a potential project I knew it was the one I wanted to do as I am passionate about sports and

the environment," said Griessel.

Moraga Way is part of the Lafayette-Orinda-Moraga Loop, a 17-mile bike route that is traveled by hundreds of bike riders every week. There is a bus stop at the corner, so bike riders can even leave their bikes parked at the church and hop on the bus to BART. "The project is designed so that recreational cyclists and also commuters in the neighborhood can all take advantage of the Fixit and Swerve Racks," commented Griessel.

The Fixit includes all the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes and derailleurs. The tools and air pump are securely attached to the stand with stainless steel cables and tamper-proof fasteners. "There is also a QR code on the Fixit so that smartphone users can look up common repair 'how-tos' when they are at the service station," explained Griessel. Hanging the bike from the hanger arms allows

the pedals and wheels to spin freely while making adjustments.

The project took over a year to plan and execute with many revisions drawn by Griessel and discussed with the city of Orinda, Pastor Valentine and Eagle Scout Adviser, Bruce McGurk, PhD. Prior to installing the equipment, concrete had to be poured and pavers put down to make a flat pad. "There has been a lot of work involved but I have been grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Lamorinda community," said Griessel. "I would like to thank members of my troop, Walker Lambert, Cole Wolf, Tommy Brovelli, Jacob Griessel, Eric Leblanc and Liam Glynn, for helping on the construction."

The Swerve Racks, which support the bicycle at two points and allows for the wheel and frame to be secured using a u-style bike lock, provide high security and easy bike parking. There is parking for a total of eight bikes at the church.

"Cyclists will be able to locate the service station using an app on their phone and a map of the stations worldwide is available on www.dero.com," explained Griessel. "I hope the project has made a lasting impression and that future Eagle Scouts will be able to duplicate the service stations in other locations in Lamorinda."

For information about Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, contact Scoutmaster Jim Brovelli at (925) 997-8437 or visit www.bsatroop303.com.

Larry Beans Re-Opens His Holiday Mailing Service



Larry Beans

Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga resident Larry Beans will once again be mailing local residents' letters and packages of all sizes using stamps from Bob Reidelberger's stamp collection, as long as the packages do not require special forms. Reidelberger owned thousands of stamps that he collected throughout his life. "You can give me the envelopes either before or after stuffing them," says Beans, adding that if people prefer a certain type of stamp, he will probably be able to accommodate them. People only pay for the cost of the stamps used; there is no fee for the service. Beans even takes the mail to the post office. "For regular mail, I will charge 45 cents for 49-cent stamps," says Beans. All proceeds will go to Reidelberger's family. Send Beans an email at larrybeans@comcast.net and he will give you his address to drop your mail. — S. Braccini

Donation Requests from the Community

'Tis the Season of Giving

Lafayette Rotary Club Coat Drive

Every year the Lafayette Rotary Club collects gently used coats to donate to Shelter Inc. of Contra Costa. At a recent Rotary meeting, Executive Director Timothy O'Keefe noted how important the Rotary coat drive is for many homeless community members at this time of year when the weather turns colder. 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.

Toys for Tots Donation Locations in Lamorinda

There are several Toys for Tots donation locations in Lamorinda: The Moraga-Orinda Fire District will be collecting toys 24 hours a day through Dec. 21 at 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga; Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate will accept toys from 8:30 to 5 p.m. at 89 Davis Road, Suite 160, in Orinda through Dec. 11; and Cub Scout Pack 225 will be gathering toys through Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 15 Martha Road in Orinda. For information, visit toysfortots.org.

Community Concern for Cats Giving Tree

Community Concern for Cats, which serves Lamorinda residents, is hosting a Giving Tree through Dec. 24 at its upscale thrift store, Rescued&Treasures, 1270 Newell Ave., in Walnut Creek. All the proceeds will go toward life-saving procedures for homeless cats and kittens in local neighborhoods.

The donations will go toward vaccinations, micro chipping, healing antibiotics, flea protections, leukemia/FIV tests, veterinarian office visits, neutering of male cats, spaying of female cats, surgery and emergency medical procedures and special holiday treats. So far this year, CC4C has neutered 1,800 and found homes for 600 cats and kittens. Thrift store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. For information, call (925) 937-3201.

Community Concern for Cats is the oldest cat rescue organization in Contra Costa County. CC4C has three Saturday and Sunday afternoon adoptions sites: Pet Food Express, Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco Walnut Creek. Lafayette hours are noon to 3 p.m., while the others are 1 to 4 p.m.

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, Lamorinda Weekly will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Send up to approximately 250 words describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring or to 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. 10 for inclusion in our Dec. 16 issue. Include "Season of Giving" in the subject line.

