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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.

Troop 200 Honors New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Suzanne Everly



From left: Kyle Everly, Connor Williams, Nico Brightbill and TJ Low. Photo Dawn Brightbill

Boy Scout Troop 200, chartered by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, honored its most recent Eagle Scouts, Kyle Everly, Connor Williams, Nicholas "Nico" Brightbill, and Anthony "TJ" Low at a National Court of Honor ceremony, held on Sunday, Jan. 10 at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette.

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.

For his Eagle project Everly, a senior at Acalanes High School, constructed and hung backpack racks for four classrooms on the 800 wing at Stanley Middle School. Williams, a senior at Bentley School in Lafayette, planned and carried out a donation drive to replenish the art and game supplies for Youth Engagement Advocacy and Housing (YEAH), a seasonal homeless shelter for youth, located in Berkeley, California. Acalanes senior Brightbill designed and built four large, heavy-duty wooden utility

carts for Burton Valley Elementary School. The carts are used daily all over campus for movement of goods (e.g. library books, compost/recycling in the cafeteria.) And Acalanes senior Low refurbished ten wooden picnic tables for Burton Valley Elementary School by replacing boards, bolts and screws. He finished the project by repainting all the tables.

Troop 200 recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Founded in 2006, Troop 200 continues to thrive by operating a program that is compelling, exciting and challenging for its youth. In addition to planning many outings and advancement opportunities, Troop 200 is proud to provide over 1,000 community service hours in the Lamorinda community and the greater East Bay. The troop provides many leadership opportunities for its youth and adult leaders. Its youth leaders plan meetings, outings and activities under the mentorship of a dedicated group of uniformed leaders and parent volunteers. Membership applications are currently being accepted. For questions, please contact Scoutmaster Mark Weyland at jadesigns@sbeglobal.net.

Burton Valley AIM Class Shoots High to Raise Money for The Hidden Genius Project

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen



Photo provided

The Book Bonanza is an annual fundraiser that has been a long-standing tradition at Burton Valley Elementary School. Every year, students from Ms. Martinsen's class collect, price, and, of course, sell books ... at incredibly low prices (some books are as cheap as 10 cents). All proceeds go to a charitable cause, and this year the students chose to support The Hidden Genius Project. Based in Oakland, this non-profit organization provides Oakland (and surrounding area) black male youths with the knowledge, skills, mentors, and experiences to obtain and complete jobs in this new, global, 21st-century economy. The whole

fourth- and fifth-grade class banded together to complete each step in the process, and after three weeks of collections and pricing, the two-day sale was on. Classes from the Burton Valley community came to support the AIM class, buying books and dropping in donations to the donation jar. After the frenzy, the students counted their change bags and were thrilled to realize they had surpassed their goal and actually raised \$1,439.21. The students presented a check to Brandon Nicholson of The Hidden Genius Project right after winter break and felt good knowing they had made a difference in many disadvantaged children's lives.

The Moraga Historical Society Concludes its Celebration of 50 Years

Submitted by Susan Sperry



Photo provided

Following the 50th Anniversary Banquet of the Moraga Historical Society, featuring Laura Akley, architectural historian and author of "San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915," second vice president Dick Olsen orchestrated a fun-filled, informational "Romeria" (field trip) highlighting Exposition art and architecture. The group traveled to the De Young Museum to view masterpieces that were displayed at the Palace of Fine Arts during the Exposition, some of which have not been viewed since the culmi-

nation of the event. Then it was off to the Palace of Fine Arts to view a model of the Exposition and learn more of the planning and execution of this spectacular undertaking. The trip concluded at the California Historical Society Museum.

Membership in the Moraga Historical Society enables you to receive the "Quarterly" — a publication filled with Moraga, Contra Costa and California historical information and fascinating stories. For membership information, contact Bill Lund at (925) 376-3520 or the History Center at (925) 377-8734.

Lafayette Rotary Continues Donation of Coats and Gifts to Families in Need

Submitted by Michael Heller



From left: Norma Evens, Michael Heller, Dino Rigio and Mike Henn Photo Andy Schreck

For the last 13 years the Rotary Club of Lafayette has been collecting coats for the Concord Shelter and Shelter Inc. in Martinez and delivering wrapped gifts to the children of families at Shelter Inc. Rotary club member Peggy Harbarth started this project after reading about the need for coats and other items in the newspaper, and along with Joan Heller, set the wheels in motion to have this project as part

of its annual Holiday Party meeting. Today Shelter Inc. has a great program where the public can call up and get a family assignment to shop for exactly what the family needs, then wrap the presents and bring them to the office in Concord. Lafayette Rotary would like to thank all community members who dropped off coats at the Lafayette Chamber office and at Blodgett's Abbey Carpet and Flooring.