

Moraga Royale celebrates Grandparents Day



Photo Kate Florence

Moraga Royale residents, families and friends compete in the cakewalk.

Submitted by Diane Wilson

Moraga Royale invited friends, family and the community as guests to their 12th annual celebration of Grandparents Day, which highlights seniors and their contribution to our society.

Over 350 children and adults alike enjoyed a fun-filled day of barbecue, snow cones, popcorn, face-painting, balloon art, and a petting zoo filled with miniature goats, pigs, rabbits, ducks and exotic chickens. Games, prizes, a bounce house, and cakewalks were also enjoyed

by everyone.

An upbeat Blues band played throughout the day and the grand finale was an outstanding puppet show enjoyed by everyone of all ages.

The firefighters of Station 41 showed their support and made a spectacular entrance on the very fire engine they use to keep residents safe.

Thanks to the volunteers from Moraga Rotary, the Moraga Junior Woman's Club and MVPC Puppet Ambassadors who gave of their time to help Moraga Royale seniors celebrate with fun and laughter.

Moraga Rotary funds portable two-way radios for Moraga School District



Photo provided

Superintendent Bruce Burns receives the check to fund 105 multi-channel radios for the Moraga School District from Rotary Club of Moraga from the people who made it happen. From left: Rotarians Evie Michon, Stephanie Dickerson, Debbie Koo, and District Governor-Elect Mark Edwards; Superintendent Bruce Burns, Moraga-Orinda Fire District official Dennis Rein, Moraga Police Chief Jon King, Rotary Assistant Governor Joy Alaidarous, and MOFD Board President Steve Danziger.

Submitted by Stephanie Dickerson

Teachers and staff members in the Moraga School District will all be provided with portable two-way radios which will allow direct two-way communication with each other and with first responders such as the Moraga Police Department, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CERT, and others. The Rotary Club of Moraga has funded these 105 devices with a donation of \$12,000. These multichannel portable radios were recommended by both the MPD and MOFD as the most appropriate device for the school district and will improve safety in emergency situations, even when phone systems are inoperable.

Bruce Burns, MSD superintendent, stated, "Portable radios, per emergency preparedness experts, are among the most reliable, rapid, and effective means for school staff to communicate in a crisis event. They have redundant trunk systems to allow staff and emergency responders to communicate directly with one another. They also provide day-to-day benefits that can enhance the efficiency of operations of a school. Portable radios can be used to enhance student supervision, communicate the need to lock a gate, or to report the presence of a suspicious vehicle on or near a campus. They are easy for people under extreme stress to operate reliably. While it is quite common to see schools have radios, it is not common to see many radio systems that have interoperable capabilities, such as the radios purchased by Rotary. The MSD sees the radio capability as a substantive and highly positive achievement."

Local safety partners are pleased with the Rotary donation of portable two-way radios to the schools. Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness

coordinator stated, "During a disaster the ability for the school staff and first responders to communicate directly will be key to keeping the children safe." Moraga Police Chief Jon King added, "Although we all hope we never have to face a disaster or emergency at our schools, we are excited that our teachers will now have the ability to call for help and communicate directly with police and fire personnel who are responding to assist with an emergency situation or incident."

The MSD was unable to purchase radios because of state funding challenges, so Debbie Koo, co-president of the Rotary Club of Moraga, and Rotarian Stephanie Dickerson, a parent member of the MSD Safety Committee, obtained a grant of \$8,000 from Rotary International. The Rotary Club of Moraga donated the additional \$4,000 to provide the full \$12,000 needed to cover the cost of the radios.

"In today's world, the safety of our children and grandchildren is extremely important," Koo said. "Stephanie's passion for school safety made this a very easy decision for the Rotary Club of Moraga. We are proud to be able to help with the purchase of these two-way radios."

Rotary Club of Moraga is a 52-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Moraga Country Club. If you are interested in joining Rotary, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at moragarotary.com to get in touch with Brian South, membership chair.

Save the date for the Rotary Club of Moraga's annual fundraiser, Nite at the Races, on March 7. One of the primary beneficiaries will be the Moraga School District.

Jaeger receives conservation award



Toris Jaeger, left, receives Conservation Award.

Photo provided

Submitted by Louise Diracles

Toris Jaeger was recently honored with a National Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, Conservation Award. The Acalanes chapter of

the DAR nominated Jaeger in honor of her 40 years of teaching at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Jaeger is pictured receiving her award, medal and flowers at an Acalanes DAR meeting from Acalanes DAR Regent Nancy Boren.

BSA girls Troop 402G blazes new trails



Troop 402G on backcountry hiking trek

Photo provided

Submitted by Heather Tzortzis

"Scout like a girl!" That is the theme for BSA girls Troop 402G out of Lafayette who hit the ground running, blazing new trails. The newly formed independent girls troop in the BSA Scouting program began in February when the BSA organization opened its doors for girls to join.

With the inspiration and tradition of their brother troop 204, the girls embarked on their first five-day, 25-mile backcountry hiking trek in August. They headed out from the Crabtree trailhead, in the Emigrant Wilderness. There were two treks for a total of 26 participants, with 17 Scouts and 9 adults. The older Scouts took charge and lead the treks, teaching them camping, hiking, cooking, and to always have fun with a positive attitude and to enjoy the beauty that surrounds everyone.

With all the girls being new Scouts, they didn't have any expectations except to get wild for a while in the

wilderness and have an amazing time.

Since starting in late February Troop 402 has been an active troop that encourages growth and independence by offering an enriching active outdoor experience. Now that the girls have finished this trek and have the experience and sense of adventure, the girls can't stop talking about next year's adventure. The backcountry hiking trip the Scout program offers really helps to develop the Scouts' sense of confidence like nothing else. For each of these Scouts, boys and girls, to accomplish the mileage, mental fortitude, homesickness and injury – and then come away with the knowledge they can meet any challenge with courage and bravery – creates a sense of confidence like nothing else.

Troop 402G meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday nights at the historic cabin on School Street in Lafayette. If you are interested in joining the Scouting program and are interested in the Troop, please contact Heather Tzortzis, Troop402lafayette@gmail.com or visit troop402.org.

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