

Moraga Rotary donates over \$28K to Town



Photo provided

Moraga Rotarian John Erickson presents to Moraga Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus a check for \$28,373. In background are Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, Council Member Roger Wykle, and Vice Mayor Mike McCluer, who is also a Moraga Rotarian.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

Moraga Rotary Club donated a check for \$28,373 to the town of Moraga at the Feb. 12 council meeting, which was the unspent balance of the funds raised for the Lamorinda All-Access Playground at Moraga Commons, which was dedicated in 2018. Rotarian John Erickson, co-chairman for the project committee, gave a brief history of the origination, planning, fundraising, construction, and completion of this playground, which is the largest privately funded gift to the town.

About \$345,000 was raised by Rotary from foundations, charitable organizations, and individuals, and the town of Moraga contributed the land for the project plus significant funds for site preparation, parking lot and sidewalk improvements, and other costs around the playground site.

The idea for a small playground was proposed by Moraga Rotarian Cliff Dochterman, former Moraga Citizen of the Year, as a gift to Moraga on the 50th anniversary of Moraga Rotary's

formation, and the concept of a playground for special needs was soon guided into a playground for children of all abilities. This concept proved to be very popular with the community, making sufficient fundraising possible to build a much larger playground than originally conceived.

The Town Council and staff were enthusiastic supporters of the playground, and offered the site at the Commons rather than have it at Rancho Laguna Park where it was first conceived, and were very cooperative throughout the entire process.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the five Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Michael's Restaurant in Moraga. If you are interested in information about Rotary, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at moragarotary.com, or call Brian South, president-elect at (925) 260-2143.

Miramonte student wins Lions Zone Student Speakers Contest



Photo provided

Athena Davis, Miramonte High School senior, with Moraga Lions Student Speaker Contest Chair Fred George.

Submitted by Fred George

The topic for this year's Lions Club annual Student Speakers Contest is "Homelessness in California, what is the solution?" The winner at the zone level was Athena Davis, who is a senior at Miramonte High School. Fred George, Moraga Lions Club Student Speech Chair, said he was impressed by Davis' expression and creativity, noting it was obvious that young people have strong ideas about homelessness. Lions' members are proud that they are able to provide contestants with the opportunity to share their views and speaking skills. The contest has six levels, and this was the second level. The winning student can win up to \$21,000 in scholarships. There is a total of \$103,500 awarded overall in scholarship money. The third and next level is the Regional to be held at 1 p.m. March 28 at the Pittsburg Lions Blind Center. Let's hope that Davis can win the whole thing!

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.

CP families serve up kindness with a warm meal



Photo provided

Camino Pablo Elementary School students and families help prepare and serve dinner at St. Mary's Center in Oakland.

Submitted by Cathy Chang

Several Camino Pablo Elementary School families went to Oakland Jan. 29 to prepare and serve dinner at St. Mary's Center's Winter Emergency Shelter for homeless seniors. The volunteers prepared a heartwarming and nutritious meal from scratch. "Although we only had an hour to cook a vegetable side, grill chicken, cut fruit, and bake chocolate chip cookies for over 40 people, everyone, big and small, worked hand in hand and made magic happen," said coordinator Cathy Chang. "The food was delicious and many seniors asked for seconds until we ran out! The volunteers touched so many hearts at the dinner."

Since 1998, St. Mary's Center in Oakland has provided an emergency

winter shelter, the only homeless shelter in the Bay Area exclusively for seniors, hosting up to 30 guests a night. To address Oakland's skyrocketing homelessness rates, St. Mary's Center opened the emergency winter shelter two weeks early this year. The ultimate goal of St. Mary's Center Senior Shelter programs is to help individuals find permanent housing.

"Special thanks to Moraga's volunteer-run garden farm, Camino Pablo Elementary Garden Club and Moraga residents, Bobbie Preston and Leslie Nuccio, for donating abundant vegetables and mushrooms to this meal service project," Chang said. To learn more about Moraga School District Presidential Volunteer Service Awards, please check out <https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/pvsa>.

Presenting Troop 204's 2020 Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Submitted by Mika Watanabe

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 14 Scouts for achieving the Eagle Scout Rank at the troop's 67th Eagle Court of Honor. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA | Boy Scouts of America and these Scouts will be honored at 1 p.m. March 21 at Lafayette- Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. Troop 204 Eagle Scouts have also attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on a nine-day trip.

Ryan Bea removed and replaced the protective fence around the air conditioning unit at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Jon Davis painted a world map on the playground at Lafayette Elementary School to inspire youth interest in geography and world affairs. Quinn Elle constructed a mobile Lost and Found, metal framed cabinet for Happy Valley Elementary. Jack Innenberg provided Oakland Unified School District with 17 musical instruments through donations and fundraising. Aidan Kim worked with

the All Good Living Foundation to collect and distribute school supplies and toiletries for underprivileged children in the East Bay. Cayden Lee designed and led construction of an outdoor classroom workstation for students in the Springhill Elementary School garden. Michael Roux built two tables and a Lost and Found cart for CATS at Lafayette Elementary School. John Shepherd created a computer lab for a Shelter Inc. homeless shelter in Pittsburg. He provided handmade desks, donated computers and peripherals, to support job searches and homework. Matthew Shepherd built and installed owl boxes throughout Lafayette to benefit our habitat, protect the owls from predators, and provide shelter for their young. Jackson Steele organized the Young Maker's Expo during the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, providing an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to work on their business skills. Preston Vana collected books and donated them to currently serving military troops and veterans to provide them with entertainment. Caleb Waechter relocated and painted the United States map and repainted 4-Square courts at Happy Valley Elementary. Tomo Watanabe restored a polluted pond at Chabot Space & Science Center by building a protective structure for the water treatment system and using plants as a natural water filter.



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