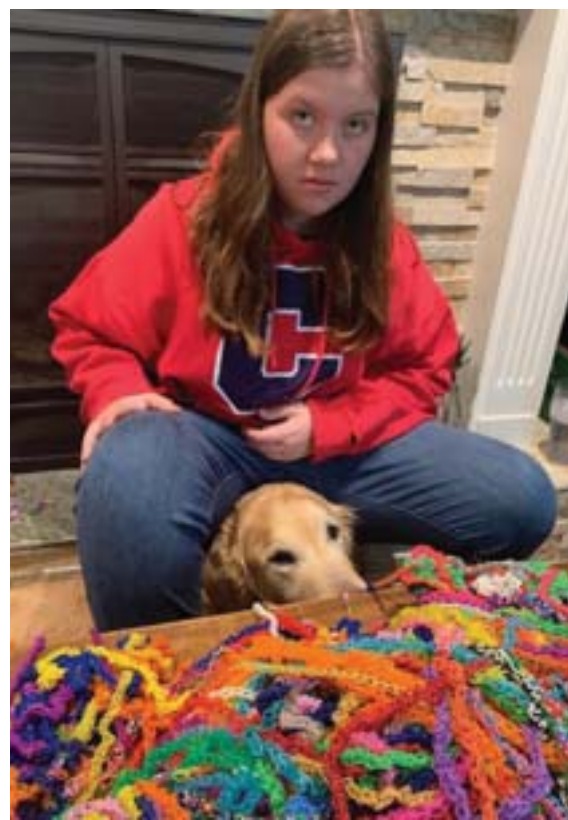


Massive loom band bracelet lands local teen a world record



Photos provided



When Lafayette resident Katie Dougherty was in fifth grade, rainbow looms were all the rage.

Dougherty, a junior at Campolindo High School, spent nearly five months making a 6,600-foot loom band bracelet that landed her a Guinness World Record. “I started by making a jump rope and it grew from there. I stopped for a few years and picked it back up my freshman year,” Dougherty said. She and several friends spent roughly four hours on Nov. 17, 2019 laying the bracelet out on the Campolindo football field – 22 times across the field, 11 trips up and 11 trips back.

The bracelet is made of individual rubber bands looped together by hand. This is Dougherty’s first world record, and she rightly said that winning the award was a “pretty cool feeling.”
-- J. Wake

Moraga Garden Club celebrates 50 Years

Submitted by Linda U. Foley

The idea to start a Garden Club in Moraga germinated over coffee around a kitchen table 50 years ago.

Three relatively new transplants to Moraga – Shirley Engstrom, Pearl Duncan and Mercedes Brewer – put their collective idea into action. They began by contacting the California State Garden Club for guidelines.

The Holy Lutheran Church became their first meeting place and to everyone’s surprise, 20 people turned up in response to fliers they’d distributed. Positions were filled effortlessly with Brewer becoming the first president of the Moraga Garden Club with her husband, a nursery owner, supportive in the wings.

The nonprofit Club flourished, growing its membership exponentially.

Over the years, the Club planted Redwoods at Rancho Laguna and thousands of daffodil bulbs along Moraga’s scenic corridors, donated daffodil bulbs and funds to the five schools, hosted a booth at the Pear Festival, planted a garden at the Hacienda de la Flores, maintained several sites at the Commons, the Triangle at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road, the urn fronting the Library, the Holy Trinity Cultural Center and the atrium at John Muir Hospital.

The Club also contributes to reforestation and Arbor Day, decorates a

Christmas tree with natural ornaments for the Library and creates a monthly floral arrangement. It holds a fundraiser in the spring and a festive Christmas luncheon at Diablo Country Club.

MGC’s work adapted to changing times and needs. The schools developed their teaching gardens; the daffodils propagated beautifully.

This fall, the Moraga Garden Club will join with the Kiwanis Club of Moraga in adding even more daffodil bulbs for the dazzling spring display Moraga has come to expect.

The long neglected urns on Country Club Drive have been restored. The garden at the Hacienda has undergone an amazing transformation near the Casita including a new picnic table. The Triangle is in the throes of a serious facelift working in conjunction with the town.

Typically, the monthly meetings held at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center are free and open to all. However, the coronavirus pandemic dictates that meetings are held virtually until it is prudent to meet again in person. Speakers this year will cover a wide range of subjects commencing with “Tips, Tricks and Tonics,” presented by Cynthia Brian.

For information about meetings and projects, visit moragagardenclub.com. Contact Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for additional information.

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.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include “Celebrations and Remembrances” in the subject line.

Cars2ndChance donates reconditioned minivan to Putnam Clubhouse



Photo provided

Posing with the 2001 Ford Windstar that Cars2ndChance donated to Putnam Clubhouse, from left: Larry Hutchings, member of Clayton Valley Concord Rotary; Tamara Hunter, executive director of Putnam Clubhouse; Jim Davis, Moraga resident and member of Putnam board of directors, Dave Kemnitz, owner of D&H Enterprises auto repair shop who is intimately involved with Cars2ndChance campaign; and Paula Boyd, member of Putnam board. Both Davis and Kemnitz belong to Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.

Submitted by T.F. Black

Just as Dave Kemnitz was about to place an ad for a used Ford minivan he accepted as a donation, he received a phone call from a friend – and fellow Rotarian – Jim Davis, who “just happened” to be looking for a used van.

Background: The Kemnitz family owns D&H Enterprises, an auto repair shop in Concord. Dave and his wife, Mary Kemnitz, lead an initiative to keep second-hand vehicles in the food chain. Davis sits on the board of directors of Putnam Clubhouse, a nonprofit, also in Concord, that provides mental-health services to adults. Not incidentally, both are members of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.

Davis, in serious tire-kicking mode, asked Dave Kemnitz if perhaps he knew of a used vehicle that Putnam might add to its scant, one-vehicle “fleet” of vans. Sure enough, replied Kemnitz, gazing at a 2001 Ford Windstar people mover that had just been donated to Cars2ndChance. This is a separate nonprofit that the Kemnitzes formed a dozen years ago when he was a member of Clayton Valley Concord Rotary, which remains an active program partner. Kemnitz has since transferred membership to Lam-

orinda Sunrise Rotary.

Because the van had been given to Cars2ndChance, it was declared a “benevolence” vehicle, meaning a donation to another 501(c)3.

Donors have the option of designating Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano as beneficiary of vehicle proceeds. For decades Food Bank has distributed donated packaged comestibles to countless thousands of community residents. Given the coronavirus-caused crisis, the need is more acute than ever.

Had Kemnitz instead put the Windstar on the block, as he had planned, it would have stickered at \$3,995, a bona fide bargain. Instead, once the title-transfer paperwork was completed, Kemnitz handed the keys to Davis, who together with a few Putnam staff members, came to the D&H lot on Monument Boulevard to take delivery of the new wheels.

The initiative will continue “until the cows come home,” said Kemnitz. Anyone with a candidate vehicle is asked to contact Cars2ndChance, visit www.cars2ndchance.org or phone D&H at (925) 360-5260. “We accept any vehicle – auto, truck, boat, motorcycle – with a valid title, even if it is not in running order. All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.”

Seven Boy Scouts from Lafayette Troop 200 achieve Eagle rank



Photo C.J. Poloka

New Eagle Scouts from Lafayette Troop 200 include, from left, Joshua Summerlin, Ian Ho, James Crosby, Declan Tsuyuki, Nicholas Crosby, Cole Regan and Matthew Crosby.

Submitted by Lisa Summerlin

Boy Scout Troop 200, chartered by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Lafayette, announced its latest group of Eagle Scouts – Joshua Summerlin, Ian Ho, James Crosby, Declan Tsuyuki, Nicholas Crosby, Cole Regan and Matthew Crosby. The new Eagle Scouts will be honored at an outdoor National Eagle Court of Honor on Aug. 22. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Summerlin graduated in May from Idyllwild Arts Academy. For his Eagle Scout project, he provided a complete music program for Children of Faith Orphanage in Visakhapatnam, India including ukuleles, music stands, music books and CDs.

Ho, a senior at Acalanes High School, completed a naturalistic landscape project at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Lafayette for his Eagle

Scout project.

James Crosby, a senior at De La Salle High School, fulfilled his Eagle Scout project requirement by designing and building a new redwood deck for the youth program at St. Mary’s Church in Walnut Creek.

Acalanes senior Tsuyuki for his Eagle Project created 12 STEM Education Box Kits to enrich Science curriculum in a Title 1 school, Brentwood’s Marsh Creek Elementary School.

Nicholas Crosby, who is a senior at De La Salle High School, designed and built benches under the trees at St. Mary School in Walnut Creek for his Eagle Scout project.

Acalanes junior Regan interviewed eight veterans for the Veterans History Project, which stores and publishes content related to war veterans’ service in the Library of Congress for his Eagle Scout project.

De La Salle senior Matthew Crosby built new redwood benches for the St. Vincent De Paul food distribution program at St. Mary’s Church in Walnut Creek for his Eagle Scout project.