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A gorgeous day brought enthusiastic egg hunters on March 26 to Moraga Commons Park.

Photo Vera Kochan

A sunny Saturday greeted this year's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt

By Vera Kochan

After two years of hiding in his COVID-free hutch, the Easter Bunny was back at the Moraga Commons Park on March 26 spreading love and multi-colored, plastic eggs on the lawn in front of the band shell for kids to find.

The Moraga Junior Women's Club presented this year's 39th Annual Spring Festival, last held in 2019, to a larger than average crowd. Online, the \$15 tickets were sold to 280 participants, while an estimated additional 150 tickets were sold on site.

Besides the main event (the egg hunt) there were games, face painting, bounce houses, crafts, food/beverages, a photo op with the Easter Bunny, a Moraga Police Department car and a Moraga-Orinda Fire District engine.

The egg hunt was broken into three groups: ages 0-2; ages 3-4; and ages 5-8. Before each group's turn, hunters were instructed to keep a look out for an egg with markings on the outside, because a special prize of a large Easter basket filled with candy and other goodies would go to the finder.

The event was BYOB (Bring Your Own Basket),

and the "baskets" ran the gamut between the traditional purses and even paper bags - whatever did the job. Roe (2-1/2) from Lafayette, managed to gather 15 eggs into his basket, although Mom and Dad admitted to helping him until he understood the concept. Roe discovered that the eggs held various stickers, tattoos, hand stamps and tiny toys.

Friends Andrew and Cooper both (4-1/2) had varying game plans with regards to how many eggs they would find. A rather conservative figure of "50" was discussed before a loftier goal of "all of them" was decided upon.

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Tri-City Council meeting focuses on transportation issues

By Sora O'Doherty

As the cities of Lafayette and Orinda and the town of Moraga grapple with trying to provide for hugely increased regional housing needs assessments, representatives heard from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) that lack of roadway capacity will no longer be a viable reason to disapprove residential growth projects foreseen in a housing element.

City council members from Lafayette and town council members from Moraga joined Orinda city council members for the annual tri-city meeting held on Zoom March 21. CCTA Director John Hoang gave a presentation about upcoming planning for countywide transportation, including the use of funds from the county's half-cent transportation sales tax passed in 2004. Measure J. David Early, of consultant Placeworks, joined in the presentation.

The Measure J growth management program

seeks to manage the impact of land use decisions on the transportation system; 18% of the income from the tax is returned to the cities, but requires compliance though a checklist. This is relevant because questions arose during the meeting about whether or not cities might be penalized for noncompliance if some roads in Lamorinda are classified as routes of regional significance.

The program seeks to focus new development away from green fields, preserving valuable agricultural lands and reducing the need for new infrastructure. The plan applies goals, objectives and performance measures to major arterials, transit lines and trails. New developments must mitigate negative impacts to Multimodal Transportation Service Objectives (MTSOs). Neighboring jurisdictions are required to work together when planning for growth and to protect communities downstream from development.

According to CCTA, the successes of the action plan for Lamorinda include the fourth bore of the

Caldecott tunnel, Moraga Way multimodal improvements, transportation for Livable Communities project grants, livable Moraga Way and Canyon Road Bridge improvements. CCTA is currently in the process of updated its action plans and is seeking big, bold ideas to enhance Contra Costa's transportation network. The agency is seeking public input through a series of public meetings.

The County Action Plan is intended to address transportation issues of today, to establish quantitative service objectives, identify regional routes, provide growth management program compliance metrics and to expand MTSOs to become Regional Transportation Objectives for roadways, transit, bike/pedestrian, technology, safety, climate change and equity. Transportation plans are closely tied to local growth and housing, as well as to local safety elements.

Lafayette Council Member Susan Candall asked about the public meetings CCTA is holding.

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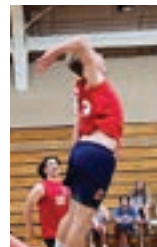


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