

## Miramonte cheerleaders team up with Marines' Toys for Tots program



Photo Monica Symonds

Submitted by Mary Arnerich-King

The Miramonte Cheerleaders were in downtown Orinda on the Corner of

Moraga Way in front of "Share Tea" with pom-poms shaking, collecting toys on Dec. 4 from 1 to 3 p.m., filling two bins of toys and cash donations for Toys for Tots from local community members.

## Gold Award project revitalizes Springhill garden walkway



Photo provided

Parisa Shapoorian on the trail

Submitted by Lisa Schreiber

Girl Scout Troop 30577 is proud to announce that Parisa Shapoorian recently achieved her Gold Award – the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA. Only 5% of eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award. To earn this prestigious award a candidate must plan and implement an individual "Take Action" project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides a sustainable, lasting benefit to the local community.

Shapoorian selected as her project the creation of a new 30-foot walkway in area of the garden at Springhill Elementary School. Her ultimate goal was to stop the harmful erosion while creating a new learning environment for the young students. She accomplished this by creating a safe walkway with native plants for the students to study. The project area was not frequently

used by students especially during rainy weather as it quickly became flooded and then eroded. Now the students can use the walkway year-round and, during the nice weather sit on it as they study the native habitat around them.

This project was not easy as most of it was done during COVID and, in the early phases, had to be replanned when there was a change in what Springhill Elementary needed. Set-backs like these are an important part of the learning and development in achieving this award.

In addition to this project Shapoorian has volunteered for six years in a row as a junior counselor at Diablo Day Camp in Lafayette and last summer she worked as a staff member at the Wolfeboro Boy Scout Camp, near Arnold, Calif. Shapoorian is currently a freshman at UC Santa Cruz, majoring in Computer Science.

In addition to her friends and family, who were the work crew, Shapoorian would like to thank the following people who were critical to the project: Nicole Carberry – Leader, Troop 30577 for her passionate leadership and encouragement; Terry Camp, Landscape Architect at Camp and Camp Associates for his donation of the walkway design; Laura Spain, third-grade teacher at Springhill Elementary who was the sponsor of the project; and Shahzad Arani of Arani Construction for donating the materials, equipment and training.

Shapoorian will be recognized at the Annual Gold Award Recipient Luncheon on Jan. 7, 2023 in San Ramon. The Girl Scouts of Lafayette have a strong history and invite girls to find out more by contacting [www.gsnorcal.org](http://www.gsnorcal.org)

## Lions and Leos provide eyeglasses for the visually impaired



Leos - Thomas Colpo, Ava Jacuzzi, Grant Roesch, Max Sheehan Photo provided

Submitted by Robert Murtagh

Moraga Lions and Campolindo Leo Club members on Nov. 13 conducted an eyeglass sorting event to prepare used eyeglasses for the final step before the eyeglasses will be shipped to Africa. A total of 8,000 eyeglasses were sorted and packed for delivery to a California State Prison where inmates will clean, determine the prescription and pack for overseas delivery.

A total of 25 people, including Lions, Leos and volunteers were able to complete the sorting event in just over 3 hours at the Moraga Fire House in Rheem.

These eyeglasses will be added to a total shipment of 75,000 eyeglasses destined for Kenya, Africa, in March 2023.

In the past 12 months, Lions and Leos in Northern California have collected, processed and shipped over 500,000 to third world countries.

## Lamorinda Village celebrates Afternoon of Gratitude

Submitted by Laura-Kate Rurka

Over 100 community members gathered at the Lafayette Community Center on Dec. 9 for the 8th Annual Lamorinda Village Afternoon of Gratitude. Before the awards presentation, guests mingled and enjoyed wine, finger food, and a beautiful performance by the Orinda Intermediate School Choir.

Lamorinda Village Executive Director Kathryn Ishizu thanked volunteers, members, donors, and sponsors for their part in helping the Village continue to thrive. Over the last two years, Lamorinda Village has doubled the number of senior members who receive services and participate in the many programs offered by the Village and its partners, none of which would be possible without the time and contributions of all its supporters.

Lamorinda Village presented member and volunteer Andy Amstutz with the first annual Don Jenkins Volunteer Service Award for his wide-ranging work for the organization. Don, who passed away this year, was an integral part of both Lamorinda Village and the wider community, giving his time and boundless energy to improve the lives of many in Lamorinda. Lamorinda Village created the award in Don's honor to acknowledge his contribution and pay tribute to his legacy of volunteerism and dedication to service. Additionally, Amstutz was honored by Lafayette Mayor Teresa Geringer with a City Proclamation and received the Paul Harris Fellows award from the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.

Judy Hatz, who recently joined Lamorinda Village as a member, emailed later to say, "The Volunteer of the Year party was wonderful. Thank you for enriching our lives and giving us things to look forward to."

After the ceremony, attendees enjoyed a chance to reconnect and socialize and the opportunity to express their gratitude for Lamorinda Village during the busy holiday season. For information about Lamorinda Village, visit <https://lamorindavillage.org/>



Photos provided





# Season of Giving

**Support local nonprofits during this Season of Giving**

One of the best things about Lamorinda is its strong volunteer base within local nonprofit organizations that raise much needed funds to benefit the community. Each year, Lamorinda Weekly offers an opportunity for these nonprofits to promote their charitable giving opportunities. Here are a few ongoing campaigns this holiday season:

**Lamorinda Village Season of Sharing**

Lamorinda Village, a virtual village that allows seniors to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, is raising funds to continue its mission. Volunteers provide rides, grocery shopping, companionship, handyman and check-in call services as well as fun and educational events to its members. Help keep our elder neighbors engaged with love. Donate at [www.lamorindavillage.org/donate](http://www.lamorindavillage.org/donate) or mail a check to P.O. Box 57, Lafayette. If you are a senior interested making new friends or needing help, or if you are thinking of volunteering, email us at [info@lamorindavillage.org](mailto:info@lamorindavillage.org).

**Lamorinda Spirit Van**

The Lamorinda Spirit Van has reopened and is providing rides to Lamorinda older adults age 60+ to destinations in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. We are currently seeking a part-time dispatcher who will take ride reservations, schedule route, communicate with Passengers/drivers, prepare reports. Position requires good communication skills and knowledge of Excel. We are also looking for volunteer drivers for 4-hour weekly or bi-weekly morning or afternoon shift – taking older adults to appointments, errands and shopping. Help us help others!

Donate to Lamorinda Spirit this holiday season by mailing a check payable to: City of Lafayette (note "Lamorinda Spirit" on memo line) 500 Saint Mary's Road, Lafayette 94549. Learn more at [www.lovelafayette.org/residents/transportation/lamorinda-spirit-van](http://www.lovelafayette.org/residents/transportation/lamorinda-spirit-van) Or email Riki at [rjuster@lovelafayette.org](mailto:rjuster@lovelafayette.org) or call (925) 284-5546.

**Moraga Community Foundation**

The Moraga Community Foundation is excited to be just over \$50,000 shy of our goal to raise \$450,000 for needed enhancements to the Moraga Commons Park. A new drinking fountain/ water bottle station and new flagpole have already been installed. Planned for 2023 are ADA/accessibility improvements including brand new, gender neutral bathrooms, an updated accessible picnic area near the All-Access Playground, and beautiful trees with improved irrigation (also completed with MCF's financial support). Do you love and enjoy the park? Show your appreciation by donating to the Commons Enhancement Project at [www.MoragaCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.MoragaCommunityFoundation.org). Help us raise the last \$54,000 to make this happen.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players**

Dear Orinda Starlight Village Players Members, Patrons and Participants, I want to take this time to thank each and everyone of you for your contributions to our community theater. It takes a village to present shows. As a community theater of volunteers we count on your support throughout the year. Whether it is by donating money, coming to a performance as an audience member, or giving of your time as an actor, set builder/painter or volunteer in other capacities, we at OrSVP could not do it without you. Orinda Starlight Village Players, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda, [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org)