

# The daffodils are coming, the daffodils are coming

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



The volunteer planting crew

Photo provided

Get ready for spring and daffodils along Moraga Way adjacent to Moraga Country Club. This year's crop will include flowers from 1,400 additional bulbs.

Each fall the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley adds bulbs to the fields

of daffodils in Moraga as part of their efforts to enhance the lives of children, families and seniors, in this case through beautiful spring flowers.

The volunteers ranged from the very young to the "somewhat

mature" with many in-between, including a strong contingent from Scout Troop 212. Joan Bruzzone donated 700 of the bulbs and actively participated. All had fun on the beautiful sunny day (after rains had softened the soil).

# Moraga Park Director receives a donation from Moraga Rotary

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo provided

Mackenzie Brady, Town Park & Recreation Director, receives a \$10,000 donation from Moraga Rotary, for general use at the Commons picnic area. From left: Jennifer Brophy, president of Moraga Rotary; Mackenzie Brady; and Roger Gregory, past president of Moraga Rotary

Mackenzie Brady, Director of Moraga's Park & Recreation Department, was giving a presentation about town activities at a recent meeting of Moraga Rotary Club, and was surprised to receive a check to the town for \$10,000 for use at the Moraga Commons Park. Last year, Moraga Rotary had been working to ob-

tain a matching grant for this donation from Rotary District sources, but was not successful. With the town receiving about \$28,000 in donations from Moraga Rotary earlier, the Club has now provided about \$38,000 to help improve the picnic and other areas of the park.

Moraga Rotary is a

56-year-old service club within Rotary International, and meets most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org or call (925) 330-9260.

**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 [story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.



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# Bountiful Book Bonanza

Submitted by Mackenzie Preisler



Students hold the donation check

Photo provided

Mrs. Martinsen's AIM class has done it again. Burton Valley's annual Book Bonanza was a complete success. Each year, the students of room 37 choose a charity to support. This year they decided to donate to Youth Homes, a charity that helps foster children in the Bay Area. They provide living quarters, extra-curricular activities, and all of the necessities to make sure that their current and former foster youth and young adults are safe and happy.

For three weeks, the students collected gently used children's books. Once they finished collecting, the students started pricing the books, ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Finally, after lots of hard work and lots of effort, the Book Bonanza was

ready. The classroom was remodeled into a big book store, and on Dec. 13, the Book Bonanza was opened. Each class got a designated time to go shopping; students and members of the community could also shop before and after school and during recesses. Along with books, the students sold bookmarks, raffle tickets, and Rainbow Loom, as well as sports cards, origami, and clay jewelry. They also had a signed Lady Gaga shirt, and a signed copy of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." The winning bid for the shirt was \$300, and the book went for a whopping bid of \$200. The book sales ended on Dec. 15. The students were very proud of their work.

The classroom was buzzing with excitement when Mrs. Martinsen

counted up the total amount of money. "We've made over \$4,000!" she exclaimed. The class erupted in cheers. They broke the record for most money raised by over \$500. Not only that but they also broke the record for most books donated by the students at BVE. The leftover books were donated to Title 1 Schools in West Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa WIC program.

The students were filled with joy when they presented their \$4,129.96 check to Victoria Johnston from Youth Homes. Mrs. Martinsen and her AIM class are very grateful to the Burton Valley Community for all of the donations to make their Book Bonanza fundraiser possible!

# A Sweet Note of Thanks

from Graig Crosley, President, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley

Thank you Lamorinda Community for supporting the Holiday See's Candies Rheem Center Shop run by the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley. We were very pleased to continue the tradition of offering quality See's Candies in conjunction with easy parking, short lines, customized gift wrapping and convenient shipping options.

As in previous years, all profits will be reinvested in local community charities, with an emphasis on children and families. Your supporting participation enables the club to

continue our sustained commitment to projects such as Diapers for Infants, School Backpacks for Kids, Refrigerators for Food Pantries, Youth Music Education Programs, Summer Camp Scholarships and Child Abuse Awareness. We also help support the work of local aid agencies through funding and active participation.

Through our direct contributions and service projects, the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley continues to focus on having a positive and meaningful community impact.

# Letters to the editor

Wildier issues

Sora O'Doherty wrote that on Jan. 9 the City Council voted that the Wildier Owners Association provide a shuttle service at a significant expense to the 245 families living in the Wildier community, who already pay Wildier association dues of over nine thousand dollars annually. Ironically, they agreed to relieve Wildier's insolvent developers from its obligations.

The shuttle must run during both morning and evening rush hours and on demand and to operate from Wildier to the playing fields, to downtown, to BART and back. As O'Doherty noted, decades have passed since this requirement was written — before the abundance of electric and hybrid cars in Orinda, before the pandemic, before people began working from home, before empty spaces in the BART lot. In the WOA's survey of residents, 94% of respondents said they have no use for a shuttle.

The Planning Commission had met four weeks earlier and had voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the shuttle requirement be eliminated as a needless expense. One commissioner said, "I have done shuttle bus projects and, in this day and age, it is very old thinking and it won't work."

Nevertheless, the City Council ignored the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation and voted that Wildier's 245 families maintain a shuttle when the City Council demands it.

The city requires only Wildier residents to pay for maintaining the Arts and Garden Center and the five playing fields on Wildier Road, open to all Orindans, yet profitably rented out by the city. The city now wants to increase the burden on 245 families. This time it wants us to maintain and operate a shuttle for anyone desiring to travel from downtown/BART to and from these same facilities.

Why is the City Council treating the Wildier community differently from the rest of Orinda? Why insist that 245 families assume expenses for amenities used by all families in Orinda? If the City Council agrees to relieve Wildier's insolvent developers, who are not Orinda residents, from its obligations, why do they insist on such unequal treatment for the 245 families that are their own constituents?

Kathleen Finch  
Orinda

Sunday library hours

I read with interest your front-page article on Jan. 17, 2024 regarding the Contra Costa County Library system refusing to allow our local libraries to be open on Sundays. First, I would point out that not only Orinda and Lafayette had Sunday hours before the pandemic, but Moraga also was open on Sunday afternoons, because the Friends of the Moraga Library funded those hours. Since the pandemic, the County has continued to refuse Sunday openings for our patrons, despite the fact that the Friends are again willing to underwrite the staff costs. The County's insistence that unless all branches are open on Sundays, then no branches should be open seems punitive, rather than equitable. As noted in your article, at least "by opening up some branches on Sundays, the libraries would be available to everyone in the county." I encourage all Lamorinda library patrons to contact County Librarian Alison McKee with your requests for Sunday openings: [alison.mckee@library.cccounty.us](mailto:alison.mckee@library.cccounty.us) Thank you,

Sally Whittaker  
President  
Friends of the Moraga Library

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