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Smile... You're on Google Camera!

By Cathy Dausman



Google's camera car

Photo Cathy Dausman

Underneath the paint job, it's a simple Subaru, cruising local streets. But there's no mistaking the iconic map design, including faceless yellow person standing atop a green directional arrow. It's a Google Streetview vehicle, complete with "commercial grade digital still and video

cameras and an array of eye safe lasers" coming off the roof.

Lamorinda Weekly caught up with one car recently in Moraga.

Its driver, who did not wish to be identified, has been mapping the Lamorinda area since May 3. He had just completed three weeks mapping Oakland streets. Although he's always had "driving jobs" he has worked for Google only a month. He drives the car eight hours a day, and fills up with gas "at least once daily". Although he drives a Subaru, any gas efficiency is probably negated by the roof-mounted camera. "My [Ford] Explorer gets as good gas mileage as this car with the camera," he says. He's been waved at and flipped off in the Streetview car. Miramonte High School students whooped and hollered as the Streetview car

made its way nearby during school dismissal last Friday.

According to Google, "Drivers are trained to activate the computers...but not remove or delete any information captured by the system." The Google online product that will eventually use this data is still under development, but Google says it will be "built to respect the law and rights of individuals."

An online search for "Google Streetview Project" brings up any number of hits, including Google Art Projects, Google Business Photos, Google Street with a View, and occasional shots capturing a Streetview driver who forget about camera height clearance.

Questions specifically about Streetview vehicles can be emailed to streetview-america-inquiries@google.com.

Moraga Beautiful Helpers Paint the Town Brown

By Cathy Tyson



Jacqueline and Isabell Artiaga, volunteers who know how to wield a paintbrush. Photo C. Tyson

Or rather paint benches and picnic tables at the Moraga Commons "burnt umber." Under a dazzling blue sky, a modest group of volunteers turned out to make Moraga just a little more attractive. With

gallons of brown paint, gloves and complimentary brushes, Senior Park Maintenance worker Ruben Ochoa kept helpers on task at the Commons to complete the annual paint touch up event.

Community-Supported Agriculture in Lafayette

... continued from page B1

Members sign up for a whole season and choose a type and size of produce basket that meets their needs. It can be a small, all-fruit basket, a large mixed basket (vegetables and fruit), or all vegetables. "My family and I get two large baskets a week, because we eat so much fresh produce," says Klein. Baskets cost \$20-\$30 a week depending on the size.

For Klein and Weiss, organic food is more than food. It is a celebration of the people who grow it with care, the recognition of the quality of what the earth can produce, and the importance of creating a community where people share and grow. "At the beginning people just stayed for a few minutes and picked up their vegetables," says Klein, "Now we all know each other and people stay much longer, talk and exchange thoughts about all sorts of things, from food to religious traditions. I discovered that people were even more hungry for community than they were for food."

Farmers are included in the community, depending on the season and the type of produce, the CSA works with a few organic, small or mid-size farms. Klein first met them at the Walnut Creek farmers' market. "Our first two partners last summer were the Terra Bella Family farm in Pleasanton and Shooting Star in Fairfield," she said, "then for the winter we worked with Javier Ledesma Farms, which operates different locations that have different climates from ocean to inland and is able to provide us with incredible variety, even in the thick of winter." Klein says that at the end of the



Photo provided

season, Ledesma told her that he was thinking about investing in a greenhouse. "The CSA gives him more predictability and it is less tiring than working 30 farmers' markets," she says.

Weiss' recipes are another key component of the CSA's success. An engineer with a passion for food and a long family tradition of cooking, she has a weekly blog containing recipes for the food that comes to the CSA. "It is about changing habits and making it doable for people who have very busy lives," says Weiss, the mother of two young children, "we provide an easily accessible source of great food and ways to eat it that people will discuss the following week."

To sign up for the summer season or request more information, email ti.ccjds.csa@gmail.com.



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