

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 can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Local Young Women Awarded for Volunteerism

Submitted by Teresa Enns



From left: Terry Enns, club president; Jasmine Jimenez, Women's Opportunity Award recipient; Grace Barosky, Violet Richardson Award recipient; Casey Miller, Violet Richardson Award runner-up; and Soroptimist Founder Region Governor Dona Gaddis-Wolf. Photo Provided

Soroptimist International of 24-680 held its annual awards brunch April 20 to recognize young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools, making the community and world a better place.

Jasmine Jimenez received the Women's Opportunity Award and a check to assist her with her education. She is working full-time and attending school full-time, while caring for her young son. This award assists women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills, training and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family.

Lafayette resident Grace Barosky received the Violet Richardson Award, a check to honor her, and a check to Zenophon Therapeutic Riding of Orinda, where she volunteers weekly. Runner-up for this award went to Lafayette resident Casey Miller, who is a regular volunteer at Aegis of Moraga. She also received a check to honor her. Kathy Macbride, who was not able to attend, was the recipient of the Ruby Award for her work with women and girls in the Kasigau region of Kenya through A Better Education Club (ABE), to improve, expand, and support education at all six schools.

Funds totaling \$1,950 were provided by Soroptimist International of 24-680 to these recipients.

New Eagle Scouts in Troop 234

Submitted by Martha White



Photo Provided

Moraga Troop 234 welcomed three new Eagle Scouts, Nicholas LoPresti, Patrick White and Patrick Fritzky, at their Court of Honor May 26 at St. Monica Church. LoPresti's project consisted of repairing and improving the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School music room computer lab. White de-

signed and built a new lattice structure for the Camino Pablo Elementary School front entrance. And Fritzky's project involved the overall removal of Scotch Broom from a large part of land owned by East Bay Mud on King's Canyon Trail. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a scout can earn.

Reporter Position Available:

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a general news reporter.

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Moraga Rotary Field Day Attracts Record Number of Athletes

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Camino Pablo School third-grader Tommy Richards competes in the long jump.

Photo Carol Irwin

On May 15, the Rotary Club of Moraga held its 22nd Annual Field Day, a track and field meet at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for third, fourth, and fifth grade Moraga students in the three elementary schools and Saklan School. There were 302 athletes this year, compared with 250 last year, competing in events such as sprints, relays, sack races, long

jumps, and baseball and football throws. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and all athletes got a blue participant ribbon.

Again this year, Donald Rheem School won plaques for the most winning points and the most participants; the plaques will be displayed at the school campus. The 112 Rheem athletes accumulated 117 points out of the total 270.

The High Point Girl was Sydney Roberts, in Mrs. Barnett's fourth grade class at Camino Pablo School. The High Point Boy was Mark Mc Curdy, in Mrs. Cavallero's fifth grade class at Rheem School. These students along with the High Point Teacher, Mrs. Cavallero, and Principal Elaine Frank of Rheem School, will be guests at a Moraga Rotary luncheon meeting where they will be presented with the plaques honoring their achievements.

This year's Rotary Field Day chairman Tony Schoemehl said: "The students behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic in their support for each other and their schools. All who participated were winners in our eyes!"

The Field Day is a Moraga Rotary community service project originated by Moraga Rotary Past President Al Simonsen, who has chaired the event for its first 21 years. Moraga Rotary meets at noon most Tuesdays at Saint Mary's College. For information, call Gary Irwin of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-7688.



Moragans Work Together to Make a Difference

Submitted by Joanna Hill



Before



After

Photos provided

Several Moragans including children, teens, parents, a senior, teachers and staff took time away from their incredibly busy weekend May 18 to work together and beautify the Los Perales Elementary School campus as part of the "Los Perales School Beautification Day/Stanford Alumni Global Day of Service Project." Volunteers transformed an overgrown area into a beautiful hill, with a new path to help ensure the safety of students and staff. The project was a goal envisioned by school secretary Chris O'Connell.

"Mrs. O'Connell goes above and beyond her overly full list of responsibilities to generate and implement ideas that improve the school and support the larger community," said project leader Joanna Hill. "If Chris wanted to tackle this hill/path project, I would do my best to see it happen."

Participants including Elisabeth Ida, Palmer Hightower, Gavin Johnston and family, Cyril and Tom Russell, Will Wyckhouse and family, Liam and Sophie Johnson, Samantha Herzig and family, Charlie Hill and family, Logan Robeson and family, Liling Liao, Jacqueline, Samantha, and Minh Huebner, and Alyssa Craigie and family, not only transformed the hill by weeding, removing plants, trimming trees, spreading mulch and creating an exit path, but they moved beyond the designated project area to weed and beautify additional areas.

"Even parents who could not attend asked how they could help, and they provided outreach, tools, food and encouragement," Hill said. "Teacher Rebecca Walker participated in the weekend project during a busy time of year, and worked hard, despite recovering from an injury. Second grader Samantha Herzig, helped load wheelbarrows with mulch despite having a wrist cast. Her mother, Lisa Herzig, a teacher at Campolindo, reached out to the larger Moraga community."

Campo students Kate Ross, upcoming Leo Club president, and Tiffany Powell, upcoming vice president, and Bob Murtagh from the Moraga Lions Club contributed their time and muscle power. Elaine Guttman, a teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School advised Hill and loaned the group gloves and Roman's Tree Service donated "multitudes of fresh mulch."

"The Los Perales PTA helped pay for other supplies and enjoyed working with Diamond K who delivered them," said Hill. Parker Colvin and LP Dad's Group brought tools; Hannah Pirone coordinated outreach and made signs; Sheila Castilla, Krista Knutsen, Gina Olson and Erika Roesch brought sandwiches, snacks, water, tools, and supplies; and PTA president Sara Mooradian helped with outreach, advisory role, PTA funds, and great work on the hill. "Each person who pitched in made a huge difference!"