

Baby Steps for Potential Path Connector

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

The dilemma: how to connect two well-used trails so that bicyclists and pedestrians can enjoy both safely? If linked, a new portion generally near Olympic Boulevard would complete a trail network that connects most of Lamorinda, Central Contra Costa County and the San Ramon Valley that's safer and more convenient for everyone.

Currently the Lafayette Moraga Trail (LMT) runs for over seven miles on a path that was once used by mule trains to carry redwood from Oakland to Sacramento, later converted to steam trains. Then it became a utility easement, and now a paved multi-use recreational trail, according to the East Bay Regional Park District that maintains and operates it. Some residents enjoy it from start, at Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard, to finish at Valle Vista staging area on Canyon

Road – about 7.5 miles. Families, dog walkers, and kids on bikes are frequent users of this popular trail.

The Iron Horse Regional Trail was once a busy railroad route; it now runs between Concord and Dublin following the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way established in 1891 and abandoned in 1977. It's still not fully complete – ultimately it will be 33 miles long going all the way from Livermore to Suisun Bay. It's also managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

In 2012 the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development applied for and received a \$195,000 grant from Transportation for Livable Communities that will fund a study to identify feasible alignments for a pedestrian and bicycle facility connecting the two trails, explained a staff report from October 15, 2012.

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Stanley Student Wins Community Service Project Contest

By Cathy Tyson



The Walner family, from left: Theresa, Matt, Kate and Dan Photo Cathy Tyson

Kate Walner of Lafayette had a great idea. She wanted to work on a community service project that she could enter into the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy's "Choose to Matter" contest, but she didn't want to ask people for money. With soccer teammate Han-

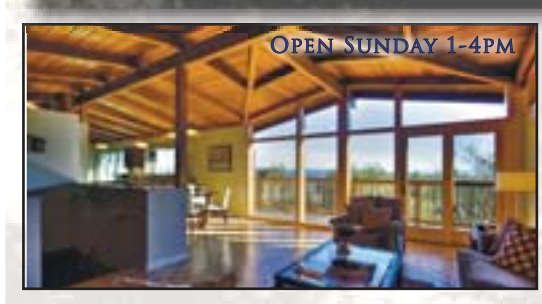
nah Wells, the pair of dedicated readers came up with the "Boxes, bags and bins of books" project that benefited three elementary schools in the Oakland Unified School District with loads of books for their libraries.

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