



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda weekly.com

LIVING TRUST

\$895

COMPLETE

Valid until January 9, 2019

Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property
- Advanced Health Care Directive

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277
www.smykowskilaw.com
laurensmy@gmail.com
Office Located in Walnut Creek

Law Offices of
Lauren Smykowski

Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

GUARANTEED

FREE In-Home Inspection,
Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount

Call 925-433-3988

www.honestrodentproofing.com
Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



Students help teacher give Paradise hope

By Vera Kochan



Rheem Elementary School teacher Angie Guidi is shocked by outpouring of support. Photos Vera Kochan

Angie Guidi, a second grade teacher at Donald L. Rheem Elementary School in Moraga, knows firsthand the devastation of the Paradise, California fires. She grew up there, and several of her family members lost their homes. Even though her aunt, uncle and cousins' houses and possessions are gone, her parents' home was spared. Guidi said, "Some businesses have survived. A building here and there, but Paradise is resilient and that's enough to give them the spirit to rebuild." That type of determination gave

Guidi's students and their families the idea that they could help in the process. Spearheading the recovery endeavor was Kimberly Anderson, organizer and mom to one of Guidi's students.

Anderson spread the word for parents to buy gift cards to various stores and donate them to Paradise. Quickly gift cards from grocery stores, big box stores, clothing stores and even pet stores came pouring in. The gift cards would allow the Paradise fire victims the opportunity to make their own purchases for whatever they needed most.

The surprise presentation was to have taken place in Guidi's classroom, but schools were closed due to unsafe air quality. Instead, the Rheem Starbucks played host on a smoky Nov. 16 morning.

The gift cards, representing blooms, were artfully arranged around two large plants – a Spider Plant and Peace Lily – which according to Anderson (and NASA) are nature's air filters. Several of Guidi's students, their parents and Rheem Principal Brian Sullivan were on hand for the surprise. Sullivan said, "Ms. Guidi has been a

special part of the Rheem community for over 10 years. I'm glad that we can provide her with a little bit of support in these very trying times."

Before Guidi's arrival, she was told that the kids wanted to help her hometown, but she had no idea what was planned. When presented with the "bouquets," she was visibly moved to tears. As late arriving students approached with handfuls of more gift cards and handmade tokens of affection, the spirit behind the gesture was intensified.

Amid the hugs and expressions of support, Guidi stated, "I have a small car and was wondering how

I could fit things in it to donate to Paradise. These cards solved the problem!"

Guidi explained why she loves Moraga so much. "It reminds me of home. Paradise and Moraga have the same type of people. Neighbors supporting neighbors."

Donations of gift cards are still being accepted by anyone wishing to participate in the Paradise recovery efforts. Simply stop by the Donald L. Rheem Elementary School's administration office and let them know you're donating for Guidi's Paradise cause.

For information call (925) 376-4441.



Holiday toy drive looking to top last year's success

By Vera Kochan

In the spirit of the season, the Moraga Police Officer's Association along with the Moraga Police Department is once again partnering with The Marine Toys For Tots Program, to bring joy to less fortunate children in the community and throughout the United States.

This year's second annual Holiday Toy Drive, takes place at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec 7 at the Hacienda De Las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, in Moraga.

Attendees are asked to donate

a new, unwrapped toy or make a cash donation. Beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres and good cheer will be provided to all who drop by.

Moraga Police Det. Kevin Mooney is this year's event organizer. "I have been involved with the Toys for Tots program since my Marine Corps Reserve days in the '90s," he said. "I count it as one of the most important and satisfying endeavors in which I have participated. A great program for a great cause."

Last year, six Toys for Tots boxes were filled with all types of toys. Cash contributions totaled a little over \$5,500. Toy drive organizers are hoping to double those numbers this year. Even one extra toy or dollar can go a long way to making the holidays happy for a needy child.

Mooney noted that approximately 75 people attended the event last year and were very generous in supporting the cause. And while volunteers are no longer needed,

donations for the food or beverages would be greatly appreciated.

If you can't make it to the festivities, but would still like to donate new, unwrapped toys or cash, please drop them off at the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. If you'd like to donate online, go to the Toys for Tots website: www.toysfortots.org.

Additional information about the event can be seen at the town of Moraga website: www.moraga.ca.us. Or call Mooney at (925)

888-7056.

According to Mooney, "The Toy for Tots program began in Southern California in 1947, and became a nationwide Marine Corps Reserve program in 1948." He proudly stated, "Since that time, the program has donated over 548 million toys to over 251 million children. Ninety-seven percent of donations go directly to providing toys for children, with the remaining 3 percent going mostly to fundraising efforts."

Local Knowledge Extraordinary Results



Are You Considering Selling Your Home?

If so, please give us a call for assistance. We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, as well as a comprehensive marketing plan detailing how to get you the highest sale price in today's market!

Bernie & Ryerson Team



Gary Bernie
925.200.2222
gabernie@compass.com
DRE 00686144



Ken Ryerson
925.878.9685
ken.ryerson@compass.com
DRE 01418309

COMPASS