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## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Eagle Scout Creates 'Lafayette Historical Walking Tour' iPhone App

Submitted by Carol Davis



Marc Davis Photo provided

Acalanes High School junior Marc Davis, a member of Troop 204 of Lafayette, recently completed a unique Eagle Project. Recalling his memorable docent-led walking tour of Lafayette in third grade, a rite of passage for all Lafayette third graders, Marc decided to make that experience available to

all residents of Lafayette through his passion for iPhone App programming.

With the Lafayette Historical Society on board, Marc and his cadre of scouts and other youth were treated to a docent led tour where they took photos, marked GPS coordinates, and recorded verbal information for the App. They also researched and collected old photos from the Historical Society to include in the final product. Marc took all of this data, did his iPhone App programming magic and released "Lafayette Historical Walking Tour," available for free in the Apple App store on iPad, iPhone, and iTunes.

The App presents the user with a map showing historically significant locations in downtown Lafayette. The user can put the App into "auto" mode and as he approaches an histor-

ical site, the audio tour will automatically begin, triggered by GPS location. Old and new photos are overlaid with the ability to slide back and forth between them to gain an understanding of how the site has changed over the years.

Mary McCosker, the Lafayette Historical Society president, is excited about the App and has already introduced it to all third grade teachers in the Lafayette School District who have previewed their docent-led field trip by utilizing Marc's App on their school iPads. It is Marc's hope to get the word out so that all citizens of Lafayette can learn about the history of his town. But just maybe others, farther afield, will get to know it as well: some of the first downloads of the App were from China and Poland.

## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!



Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. **email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

From time to time an incident happens that makes one question the status quo.

It happened to me a couple of months ago. I received a traffic ticket. That in itself is obviously not remarkable, for what and where, is. I received it for making a rolling right turn at the corner of Releiz Station Rd and Olympic Blvd.

Now a vehicle only makes a dead stop when the wheels stop rotating, anything else and the vehicle is rolling. At that intersection there is no left turn, there is a right turn lane, and there are no pedestrians or cross traffic. Thousands of vehicles go through that intersection every day. Ninety nine percent of them turn right and ALL of them make a rolling right turn. Now human behavior is very rational. That means that all drivers making that turn believe a traffic stop is an unnecessary and irrelevant requirement. So what is the point of writing traffic tickets for that infraction. You could literally write thousands a day and over a million per year. It is a bit like King Neptune holding a trident and trying to stop the tide coming in. Yes, you can do it but what is the point.

Would it not be more reasonable to make that turn a yield, just like the right turn from Pleasant Hill Rd onto Olympic, which also has a right turn lane, but has cross traffic too.

This would then save the costs of policing an intersection. Policing is expensive.

Surely there are higher priorities for a Lafayette police officer than these duties. Having a motor-cycle police officer is a luxury both the Orinda and Moraga departments can't afford.

In these days where personnel costs are bankrupting cities, prioritizing tax payer funds is a necessity. Squandering tax payer money on unnecessary policing activities is surely not the best use of these funds. Perhaps they would be better utilized if dedicated to schools, firefighting, or resident seniors, which are all feeling the economic pinch. As a retired Lamorinda resident who volunteers over 30 hours a month for our seniors, my mind actually boggles

Sincerely,  
David Cummins  
Moraga

### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

### Girl Scouts Spread Warmth and Cheer During Holidays

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



Photo provided

St. Perpetua School's third- and fourth-grade Girl Scouts entertained staff and residents at Aegis in Moraga during the holidays. The girls made angel decorations and spread holiday cheer.

### Rheem Fifth Graders "Pay it Forward"

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Donald Rheem Elementary School students display their copies of Time for Kids and National Geographic Explorer, donated by the Rotary Club of Moraga. Front row, from left: Rheem students Amrita Malhatra, Olivia Hillhouse, Allison Tam, Ryan Kang, Jack Bunzel-Hardie, and Daniel Granicher; back row: Rotarian Dick Vance, Rheem principal Elaine Frank, Rotarian Barbara Bruner, and Rotary president Nora Avelar.

Photo provided

Fifth graders at Donald Rheem Elementary School learned about the devastation caused by Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines in Time for Kids, an educational magazine donated to the classrooms by the Rotary Club of Moraga. Teachers use these magazines to support the study of current events in the classroom. The fifth graders discussed the hurricane with their teachers, and were so concerned about the people impacted that they took action, as described by students in Ms. Noyes, Ms. Cavallero, and Ms. Bornfleth's classes:

"Rheem 5th graders care: On November 8, 2013 the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Haiyan. A typhoon is a tropical storm in the eastern hemisphere with winds stronger than 74 mph. Over five thousand peo-

ple died, and one thousand are still missing. All 5th graders at Rheem read about this in Time For Kids magazine and knew they had to help. They decided that 5th grade would raise money to help buy food and medical supplies for the victims. Over a three-week period all three classrooms collected coins. The total amount of money we raised was over \$600!"

The Rotary Club of Moraga's donation of full-year news magazine subscriptions such as National Geographic Explorer, Scholastic News, or Time for Kids – which are given to third through fifth graders at Moraga elementary schools, Canyon School, and St. Anthony's in Oakland – contain relevant information about the world, and subject-specific articles include current information about sci-

ence, health, current events, and literature. The teachers say that the "interactive" magazine format, which includes maps, graphs, and activities, awakens students' curiosity about the world around them and encourages their love of learning.

Rheem principal Elaine Frank complimented Moraga Rotary as a fine example of the support from the community, saying, "... your contribution will enrich the educational experience of our students." Rotarians have enjoyed reading the many letters of appreciation from the students.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at Saint Mary's College. For information, please call Frank of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-8195.

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