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Yvonne Haley of Moraga regularly buys flowers from Marc Colliard, even on rainy days like last Sunday.

Photo Andy Schreck

Winter Bounty at the Moraga Farmers' Market

By Sophie Braccini

Who said that winter was not a good time for a farmers' market? Certainly not Amy Smith who comes every Sunday morning and leaves with a bag full of brightly colored fruits and vegetables. The Moraga Country Club resident was one of the many locals to shop on Super Bowl Sunday before the game and stock up on fresh produce for the week. Nothing stops the Moraga farmers' market – not rain or even frost. It became a year-round market six years ago.

Marc Colliard only comes to the market during the winter. The Carmel flower grower sells fragrant bouquets of narcissus, freesias or paperwhites that perfume his corner of the market and attract a steady stream of clients. "Moraga is my favorite market, because people here are really nice," he says. Next to him, Rachel Smith, a college student from Concord, plays her violin, attracting the attention of the many small children who come to the market with their parents. There is always entertainment at

the market and families make it an outing, like the bike patrol organized by Brad Crane in Lafayette that comes down the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail on Sunday mornings.

Though the winter market is a little smaller than its summer version, the Moraga market houses some incredible stands that are hard to find anywhere else. The Fraternite Notre Dame Sisters from San Francisco have elected the little suburb as one of their only places of business. ... continued on page A12

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Science Teacher Wins Award

By Cathy Tyson



Mike Meneghetti in his classroom at Stanley Middle School holds up one of the many robots that students have created. Photo Cathy Tyson

Winner of one of three Warren Eukel Teacher Trust Grants, longtime resident and popular Stanley Middle School science teacher Mike Meneghetti was humbled with an award given to him at a recent Lafayette City Council meeting. He grew up in Lafayette, attending local schools from Springhill Elementary all the way to Acalanes – class of '75 – and went on to get his teaching credential in San Francisco. The award is given for a teacher's extraordinary commitment to their students.

Council Member Mark Mitchell has known Meneghetti since they were both in first grade, and his kids have gone through Meneghetti's classes. In front of the robust crowd gathered to celebrate his achievement, Mitchell wanted to thank him personally for "making science so enjoyable and encouraging their curiosity." He added that both kids went into the sciences: geology and engineering.

In giving the award, Mayor Brandt Andersson also has a personal connection to Meneghetti. His daughter enjoyed his class, calling it a "truly unique experience."

"This is amazing," said Meneghetti receiving the award. "This is my 32nd year of teaching and it's still fun, in large part due to an incredibly supportive administration, amazing colleagues, a community that values education, and Lafayette's education foundation, (which has) supported the science program at Stanley for years. Thank you all very much."

For the last 22 years the youthful and energetic Meneghetti has been teaching sixth grade science and engineering/robotics to eighth graders. He credits the incredible support from foundation donations that make the robotics program possible, which has rejuvenated his career.

He spells out his philosophy on his Back to School Night handout: ... continued on page A8

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