

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

### New Troop 237 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Sandra McGonigle



From left: Will Knox, Nick Millham, John Berg, Casey McGonigle and Nico Martinsen

Photo Tracey Millham/Matt Coats

Boy Scout Troop 237 conducted an Eagle Court of Honor June 14 at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented five Scouts with their Eagle Awards.

The Troop 237 honorees are students at Acalanes High School, Bentley High School and Miramonte High School. Sophomore John Berg built and installed owl houses for Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club leading to a safer environment at the club. Sophomore Will Knox collected used cleats for underprivileged children in Central America, supporting the Rogers' family company Fair Trade Coffee. Junior Nico Martinsen held a backpack drive, collecting backpacks, school supplies and donations for foster children of Youth Homes in Contra Costa. Sophomore Casey McGonigle built a rolling,

portable merchandise cart to transport MHS gear for school sports and events, supporting the Miramonte Boosters Club. Sophomore Nick Millham built barn owl boxes and installed them at the Lafayette Reservoir to encourage the nesting of owls and to reduce rodents in the area.

Troop 237 is chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has been serving the Orinda community for over 62 years and has recognized over 210 Eagle Scouts over its history. Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Each Eagle candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges and demonstrate leadership, outdoor skills and Scout spirit, plus successfully complete a service project that benefits the community to earn the Eagle award. For information, visit [www.Troop237Orinda.org](http://www.Troop237Orinda.org).

## Lafayette Juniors Raise \$50K for Charity

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



Juniors present Ruby's Place, its major beneficiary, with \$25,000. From left: Tina Frechman, Rachel Blatt, Addy Park, Manijeh Kaviani, Sean Murphy, Teli Thayer, and Alison Crane Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$50,000 in the past 12 months for local nonprofit organizations. The funds were distributed June 4 in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to Ruby's Place, Boys & Girls Club of Diablo Valley, Las Trampas, Trinity Center Walnut Creek, and VESTIA.

The Lafayette Juniors have a history of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and Kitchen Tour in the spring to raise money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose Ruby's Place, California's first incorporated shelter for women and children impacted by domestic violence, as their major beneficiary, donating \$25,000 to support the work Ruby Place's has been doing since the shelter's founding in 1972. Today, 43 women and children each day call Ruby's Place home and rely on the shelter and its staff for a comprehensive array of services for safety and healing as they begin to live their lives free of abuse.

The \$25,000 donation will be used to re-

model the intake room "so that we have a confidential and safe space for women and children when they are admitted to the shelter to speak openly with our staff. We will also use the Juniors donation to upgrade our existing shelter facilities with a handicap accessible bathroom," states Vera R. Ciammetti, CEO of Ruby's Place. The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$10,000 to Boys & Girls Club of Diablo Valley, \$5,000 each to Las Trampas, Trinity Center Walnut Creek and VESTIA.

The Lafayette Juniors are accepting applications through July 31 from all nonprofits in Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area who serve women, families and seniors and others requiring assistance. The Juniors will select four organizations from the applicant pool to become their 2015-16 beneficiaries. Fundraising for these groups will begin this fall. To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors please visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).

## Lions Pride Awards Given to Local Middle Schoolers

Submitted by Dan Hagan



From left, back row: Constance Russell (mother), JM teachers Kristin Cortright and Jill Lichti, Mariana Hernandez (mother), Alberto Hernandez (father), JM teacher Kerr Warmboe, and JM principal Joan Danilson; front row: JM student A.J. Russell, Dan Hagan of Moraga Lions Club, and JM student Jesus Hernandez. Photos provided



From left, back row: Ms. Carranza (grandmother), Erick Carranza (father), Stanley principal David Schrag, Stanley counselor Rosie Homes, Jeff Auston (father), Sara Tresser (step-parent); front row: Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, Stanley teacher Brian Connolly, students Erica Carranza and Sadie Auston, and teacher Megan Westcoat.

The Moraga Lions Club recently awarded eight middle school students with the 2015 "Pride Award." Each student will receive a plaque with their name and school plus a check for \$50. This award represents a student who has demonstrated effort in pursuing their academic endeavors. It is based on perseverance, diligence, and teamwork. Excerpts written by teachers for each student are included below.

#### Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School

Alexandra (AJ) Russell: "Good grades do not come easy to AJ. She can work twice as long as other classmates in completing classwork and homework. She works hours at night to complete assignments. AJ excels at advocating for herself, finding solutions and seeking resources.

Her effort to take on public speaking was a paralyzing experience. Yet she worked with a counselor to strategize about ways to improve. Her effort is boundless."

Jesus Hernandez: "A new student to JM, Jose is one of the hardest working students. Language Arts is a difficult subject for him but he is persistent, asks for guidance, and is willing to correct his mistakes. He is prompt, proactive and works diligently with great effort."

#### Stanley Middle School

Erick Carranza: "Erika has worked very hard with a positive attitude through her academic challenges. She has been a tremendous caregiver to her younger sister with significant special needs. She is an artistic young lady with



From left, back row: Bernice Patterson (grandmother), Pat Patterson (grandfather), Jay Russell (grandparent), Carrolyn Leary (mother), Christopher Leary (father), Guy Aengus (father), Adam Hall (aide), and OIS principal Michael Randle; front row: OIS student Jackson Leary, Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, and student Tristen Aengus.



From left: John and Eugenia Wackowski (parents), St. Perpetua student John Christopher Wackowski, Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions Club, student Mackensie Hastings, Ashley Hastings (parent), and teacher Hedi Schwarck.

a resilient and kind heart."

Sadie Auston: "Sadie has shown tremendous character in her resiliency to life's challenges. She is sweet, empathetic, a natural caregiver, and mature beyond her years."

#### Orinda Intermediate School

Tristen Aengus: "We happily recognize his tireless effort. Things do not come easy to Tristen, however he gives each task his utmost. He comes prepared and excited to learn without complaint. He asks questions when uncertain. He does whatever it takes to accomplish his work. He is an excellent example of a student that values the privilege of an education."

Jackson Leary: "Through perseverance Jackson has overcome his aversion to writing.

He now approaches his writing assignments with enthusiasm. Jackson's efforts are more impressive as he has had to contend with health issues. This has been a challenge both physically and emotionally. We are proud of Jackson's growth."

#### St. Perpetua School

Mackensie Hastings: "Mackensie was picked due to her dedication to her education and community service. She takes pride in her work, often going the extra mile."

John Christopher Wackowski: "John is hardworking, dedicated and constantly setting new goals for himself. He also shows the same goals as an athlete. He is active in community service."