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Moraga Valley Kiwanis celebrates 50 years in the community

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By Vera Kochan



vidually and collectively

vidually and collectively participate directly in the operation of many of the organizations," Holcen-berg explained. "Looking forward, the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club is committed to continuing

as a strong contributing member of the Lamor-

inda and surrounding communities."

Bottom Row from left: Ashley Coates, Tim Freeman, Tom Westhoff, Cherie Grant, Graig Crossley, Larry Jacobs, Larry Beans, Kirpal Khanna, Leslie Engler, Rich Holden; back Row from left: Stan Holcenberg, Mike Metcalf, Scott Mitnick, John Burgess, John Lee, Barry Behr, Ed Beatson, Dick Olsen, Lee Hays, Ferenc Kovac, Lyla Lauren, Jon King, Sam Sperry, Sonny Tsuboi, Stan Oberg, Steve Woehleke; not pictured: Marty Aufhauser, Peggy Brown-Salazar, Bob Burnett, Ian Cook, Dick Courtney, Karl Davis, Linda Deschambault, Brian Dolan, Mike Donovan, Jose Guillan Avalar, John Haffner, Bruce Kornmiller, Chris McGuffin, Judy Murphy, Jim O'Brient, Claire Roth and Renata Sos

As the Town of Moraga celebrates its 50th an ceieprates its outh an-niversary, so does the Moraga Valley Kiwanis. Chartered on May 16, 1974, the Kiwanis Club is technically older than the incorporated town (Nov. 12) by almost six

To commemorate the occasion, the Club held a picnic at Moraga Commons Park that was at tended by County Supervisor Candace Andersen who, along with other dignitary reps, bestowed proclamations to note the milestone anniver-sary. Many members have been with the orga-nization for decades innization for decades, innization for decades, in cluding Mike Donovan and current Club Presi-dent Graig Crossley, wh have been with the Ki-wanis for 45 years. According to mem-hers Stave Woobleke and

bers Steve Woehleke and Stan Holcenberg, the Club initially met for meetings at Roncalli Hall on the Saint Mary's College campus, and now meets weekly at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. "These meetings provide excellent opportunities for social interaction and camaraderie among members, planning for club activities, and to partake bers Steve Woehleke and

KIWANIS

in stimulating presenta-

Moraga's Kiwanis is a local chapter of a much bigger picture that is known as Kiwanis Inter-national, which was formed in 1915, and has spread to over 80 coun-tries. "The name 'Kiwanis' derives from an American Indian expres-sion that may be inter-preted as 'we build' or 'to make oneself known'," stated Holcenberg. "The Kiwanis mission is to im-Kiwanis mission is to im-prove the world one child and one commu-nity at a time." Kiwanis prides itself on the many fund-raising activities and

raising activities and services it consistently provides to the Town. Residents have benefited from their many yearly undertakings that the community has grown accustomed to such as accustomed to, such as accustomed to, such as staffing the jumpees and assisting with food sales for July 4 and Pear Festi-vals; planting daffodils along Moraga's main roads; participating in Moraga Community Ser-Moraga Community Ser-vice Day; helping out at Moraga Library book sales; construction of the sales; construction of the Rancho Laguna Park and Los Perales Elementary School playground struc-tures; painting the Hacienda de las Flores inte-

cienda de las Flores inte-rior; rebuilding the Com-mons band shell; the an-nual holiday See's Candy sales; and more. Their benevolent reach extents beyond the scope of Moraga to in-clude distributing food at the Monument Crisis Center: hayvesting pears the Monument Crisis Center; harvesting pears for the Food Bank; win-ter and spring clean up at Orinda's Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center; pumpkin carving at Hope Solutions; and building a rodent barrier around John Muir Land Trust's Family Harvest

Farm.
"Many donations are "Many donations are provided each year for educational groups and individuals, for children and family services groups, and for the Town," added Holcen-berg. He noted some re-cent contributions cent contributions, which include providing which include providing scholarships to outstanding local high school graduates; providing backpacks and diapers for East Bay non-profits; supporting SMC's High Potential Program; providing gifts for foster kids; and supporting the Moraga Park Foundation and Moraga Community Foundation.

"Club members indi-



Planting daffodils along Moraga Road



Members are working on the band shell in Commons Park



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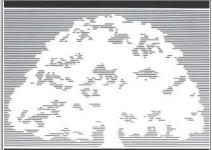
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