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Development Continues Strong in Orcutt

Orcutt Marketplace, Apartments, Offices and a Bed & Breakfast



Boutique Hotel
255 M. Clark Avenue
Orcutt

Artist renderings of new bed and breakfast planned for Old Town Orcutt.

Despite a couple of local retail shops shutting their doors after decades of being in business, development in Orcutt continues to boom.

After a combined run of nearly 50 years, One Way Board Shop closed in December while Evergreen Video ceased operations shortly after the turn of the new year.

But a new center and several buildings are in the works.

Orcutt Marketplace will sit on the northwest corner of East Clark Avenue and Highway 101, parallel to Orcutt Hills Plaza. Proposed commercial uses of 248,144 square feet include a hotel, gas station with car wash, four restaurants (three with a drive-thru), a pharmacy with a drive-thru and a bar/tavern. Additionally, 252 apartments are proposed at 211,264 square feet. The apartments will include a swimming pool with spa, bocce court, gravel lounge area, video projection system, cabanas and more.

A 30-day public scoping period for the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was completed on Jan. 18. The SEIR contract is scheduled for review and approval by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 29.

An office building is also underway on the corner of East Clark and First Street. There will be eight offices between 480 and 1100 square feet.

On West Clark, the Wine Stone Inn, an industrial farmhouse style bed and breakfast, will have 12-bedrooms and one innkeeper's suite. At 9,485 square feet, it will also feature a large lounge and wine bar.

Halsell Builders began construction in Dec. 2017 and are scheduled to finish in April. The company has done several big projects in Old Orcutt, including the Far Western Tavern. They are also in the early conceptual stages of a few more, according to co-owner James Halsell.

"The hotel is a badly needed amenity for Old Orcutt," Halsell said. "With all the new restaurants, wine tasting, and other businesses, it is a natural step in our small community's progression. Many people we have spoken to are anxious for its grand opening."

Finally, the Luis OASIS Senior

Center is getting closer to moving from the Soares Avenue location to East Clark, which is twice as big. According to President Doug Dougherty, the building is a four million dollar campaign and about half of the amount has been raised thanks to community contributions.

"We'd like to thank the entire Santa Maria Valley, but especially the Orcutt community for being patient and letting this process unfold," Dougherty said. "We're very close, and we're very excited to show the community what we've been working on and planning."

For information on how to donate to OASIS, call 937-9750.

Jamie Guista reporting









Op

Orcutt Pioneer Your Community Newspaper

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks

Published on or about the fourth Wednesday of each month

Distribution 17,000+:

15,091 in mail

1,998 delivered to businesses in

the Orcutt area

Publisher: Gerrit Hull **Editors:** Steve Southwick

& Stephanie Southwick Hull Reporters & Photographers:

Steve Southwick, Stephanie Southwick Hull, James Jepsen, Rebecca Ross, Michael Shaw,

Jamie Guista, Trenton Kozel

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Orcutt Library Host Book Signing with Local Children's Book Authors

Orcutt is the home of two talented authors, Farah Shaw and Tracy Murdock. Farah and Tracy are teachers and young mothers, who live with their families in Orcutt, and enjoy sharing their creativity and enthusiasm. Both love to visiting schools and libraries to share their insights into writing.

On Dec. 15th, the Orcutt Library hosted the local authors at a book signing for children and their families. Tracy and Farah are familiar with the Orcutt Library since they and their children attend Mouse Tales Story Time weekly.



Tracy Murdock

Tracy has written and illustrated a delightful book, Zoe in Double Trouble, for 2 to 7 year old children. The story chronicles the challenges

confronting a beloved family pet, Zoe, when twin daughters, Hailey and Matilda, are born. The book has earned good reviews with many positive comments including "a delightful children's story and activity book" and "a sweet story with social emotional learning."



Farah Shaw
Farah has
written a
fantasy, The
Magical Flight
of Dodie Rue,
as well as, a
well-received
mystery series
called Sherlock
Academy with

three books currently published and a fourth and final book to be released next year. The Sherlock Academy series appeal to readers in Grades 3 to 6 and are inspired by the careful, logical forensic approach of Sherlock Holmes. The Sherlock Academy books are well written and, have also received many positive reviews like, "I found this to be quite a charming, fun read." and "Everything about this book is delightful."

Although consumed by the many demands of motherhood, both authors are inspired to

constantly jot down ideas and then, when time (and children) allow, develop characters, a plot and, eventually, a complete story. Tracy accomplished her goal to publish the twin's and Zoe's story by the girls' fifth birthday.

Their creativity goes beyond being authors. Farah has a blog, www.writerfcshaw.com which includes a called Project: Creative Living featuring interviews of others living creative lives. Check out Instagram. @ authorfcshaw.

Follow Tracy on www.yourtwinmom. com and @yourtwinmom on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest.

Farah's and Tracy's love of life and writing is contagious and inspiring to aspiring authors. Orcutt is a proud home to such gifted and successful artists.

Diane Handlos reporting



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Op-Ed

Luis OASIS Senior Center

by Joe Sheaff, Board Chair, OASIS, Inc.

The Luis OASIS Senior Center was founded in 1984 to provide a place where seniors could develop friendships and improve the quality of their lives through connection and activities. OASIS (Orcutt Area Seniors In Service) programs include health and wellness, creative arts, music and dance, nutrition, support groups, social activities and the list goes on. We are a privately funded non-profit organization and rely on Foundation Grants and Community support to continue to offer our programs and activities. Our collaborative partners include Hancock College, HICAP, Dignity Health, SMOOTH, Foodbank, Area Agency on Aging, Community Action Commission, and others.

Our goal is to provide an array of activities to any Senior Citizen who wants to be involved. We have a highly qualified Staff who perform the day to day work required in a Center such as this, but most of the activities are run by volunteers who are members of OASIS. We encourage volunteerism and not only do our volunteers make OASIS such a great place, but they also volunteer with other non-profit organizations and help make them great.

We are fast approaching a membership of 1,500 and we've run out of room at our present location where we've been since 1984. We need

a larger and more up to date facility in order to accommodate our growth and needs. Land for a new facility has been donated to us by the Lebard Family and we are in the process of fulfilling the requirements necessary to obtain building permits from the County. Our plan is to construct a 15,000 square foot facility that will contain a large room that will hold 200 people along with a full kitchen and barbecue area. In addition, there will be a library, two state of the art classrooms and meeting rooms. The property consists of five acres and, along with the building, will contain park areas, a walking trail with exercise stations and benches for resting, and a bicycle trail. There will be ample parking and residents of the Santa Maria Valley will always be welcome to explore our facility and grounds.

We are currently in the midst of a Capital Campaign to raise \$4.0 million in order to complete our project. We are grateful to have support from many prominent citizens of the Santa Maria Valley as well as large and small businesses. OASIS fills a big need for our area and the new facility will allow us to expand our existing activities as well as adding new ones. To find out more about OASIS, call us at (805) 937-9750 or check us out at orcuttoasis.org.

Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to info@orcuttpioneer.com with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

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Orcutt's Heydey at the Turn of the Century



This column is taken from, From Boom Town to Bedroom Community: A History of Orcutt, California, 1904-1982, by Sally L. Simon. Unfortunately, the book is currently out of print.

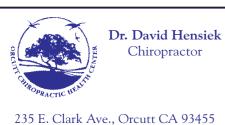
Orcutt experienced its heyday between 1904 and 1920, becoming a larger trading center than Santa Maria. By 1906, the town had two general stores, a furnishing store, a millinery shop, a vegetable and fruit market, a meat market, an ice cream parlor, two restaurants, a hotel, three saloons, two barber shops, a livery stable, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a shoe store, three oil well supply companies, a railway depot and siding, the Union Oil Company headquarters and the offices of the local Standard Oil Company operations. James F. Forbes built the first store in Orcutt, part of which consisted of the old Graciosa school, which he had moved from the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Marcum Street to his property on the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Broadway. The entire structure, however, was de-stroyed by fire in 1910. In fact, most of the commercial structures constructed during Orcutt's initial period of development were in later years destroyed by fire or torn down.

of the pioneer Marcum family and longtime Orcutt area resident, the only commercial building remaining is the Commercial Hotel. It was built in 1905 and operated by members of the Marcum family. During the early development period, the town's residential area also grew. Twitchell's Addition was laid out north of the original town; that is, on the north side of Clark Avenue. Gray's Division was just east of First Street. Longtime Orcutt residents maintain that some of the original homes built in these sections of town are still in use. By 1921, the town had grown to include a hospital, a bank, a reading room and branch library, a church, a school, three garages and filling stations, and two dance halls. The locally prominent Orcutt Mercantile was built in 1911 on the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Broadway, after James F. Forbes' first store was destroyed. A landmark in Orcutt for many years, it too burned down in 1959. The first official Orcutt School, a two-room, wooden structure, was located on the north side of the 300 block of Clark Avenue. It was torn down in the early 1920s. However, the hospital, church, and bank buildings are still standing. While many people lived and worked in the town, a large population center also developed in the hills to the south. Oil workers' camps were established among the derricks on the hillsides. Workers and their families lived there for years, first in "tent cities" and later in cottages. Many of the houses were built by the Union Oil Company employees. The population in the hills was large enough to require the forma-tion of three additional school districts between 1904 and 1908. The

According to Adelina Phillips, descendant

Bicknell and Careaga districts, established in 1904, were south of the Graciosa Ridge. The Newlove School District, established in 1908, was located on Union Oil Company prop¬erty on Newlove Hill (now called Orcutt Hill) just southeast of Old Town Orcutt. The school constructed by the district is the only early school building remaining in the Orcutt area. A large, two-room structure, it is used today for community gatherings.

Public services in the Orcutt area were fairly primitive in the boom years. There was no public sewer, electricity, or fire protection in the town until the 1920s. Roads were unpaved for many years. The main oiled County road, laid out in 1861, came up from Santa Barbara, passed through Los Alamos, ran westward, down the San Antonio Valley and turned northward through the Graciosa Pass. The road veered right to turn into Orcutt (where it was called Clark Avenue), proceeded through the heart of town, and then turned left to continue running northward toward Santa Maria. It was taken into the state highway system in 1909 and renumbered Route 2, but no improvements were made until 1915. The road was also a segment of the main San Francisco-to-San Diego coastal highway. Travelers stopped to eat and rest in Orcutt; their patronage was important to the local economy for many



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Orcutt Schools Update

Pryor-itize Attendance at February 23 OCAF

Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD

Where can a person enjoy a live concert and get up close and personal with a homegrown singing sensation, all while supporting the arts in Orcutt Union School District classrooms?

This unmatched opportunity comes from the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation, whose 16th annual Gala will feature a personal performance by Pryor Baird, the Orcutt native and product of Orcutt schools who last year won over the nation with his heartfelt, gritty rock and country vocals on NBC's "The Voice." The Gala will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 23, at the Santa Maria Country Club.

Tickets at \$150 each are available at the OCAF website, www.orcuttarts.com. The Gala includes dinner, silent and live auctions, an inspiring update on the arts in our schools, and of course the show by Baird and his band. Seats will go fast, as just 270 are available.

Sponsorships for the Gala are available via www. orcuttarts.com or by phoning OCAF at 805-938-8966. Sponsorships include a private meet-and-greet with Baird the evening before the Gala.

"We believe that Pryor's love of music and perseverance are an inspiration to the youth of this community," says Lee Ann Luongo, OCAF's executive director. "His contribution to arts awareness in our community is unparalleled. We know everyone who comes to the Gala will enjoy seeing him."

Meanwhile, OCAF continues its work in supporting the arts.

In the fall, it conducted a membership drive at our schools that produced numerous new members. Annual memberships go for \$10 and up, and anyone with an interest in arts education is invited to join by going to www.orcuttarts.com and clicking on "Investing in OCAF and Membership."

On September 29, OCAF's annual Chalk Festival was a huge success, attracting over 700 visitors to admire professional, amateur, and student chalk art on the streets of Old Orcutt. More than 60 local businesses and community members supported the event with sponsorships. "It was a real reminder of what makes Orcutt such a special place," says Eric Melsheimer, a local business owner who is president of the OCAF board.

Luongo has been quite diligent in pursuing funding for the arts. A nonprofit veteran with 20 years of experience with the Boys & Girls

Club of Monterey County, she has landed grants from the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation, Towbes Foundation, and Santa Maria Sun in support of visual and performing arts programs in our schools and marketing the arts in our community.

"I am so excited to be a part of this community and work for OCAF," says Luongo, who has been with OCAF for nearly a year. "I am fortunate to be part of something so special: the arts!"

OCAF has a compelling mission, but any organization benefits from periodically revisiting and prioritizing what it does. To this end, Melsheimer organized a strategic planning retreat for the OCAF board in November. "We are taking the opportunity to review and celebrate OCAF's accomplishments and to learn what are the current and future arts education needs in our schools," he

says. "With input from teachers, students, artists, and community leaders, we will set goals and make plans to ensure OCAF continues to enrich the education of our students."

We all can be thankful for the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation for its long track record of success in ensuring the arts have a central role in our kids' education. I invite everyone in our community to show your support for OCAF by coming to the Gala on February 23. With a great cause to support and Pryor Baird's concert to enjoy, a good time will be had by all.

Superintendent Dr. Debbie Blow can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at dblow@orcutt-schools.net. Follow her on Twitter at @debiblow.



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Community Events

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday of the month. Be sure to include, in this order, the name of the event, location, time, a short description and contact information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIENDS OF THE ORCUTT LIBRARY BOOK SALE, February 2, 10AM-1:30PM at the library. Subsequent book sales will be held Saturdays, 10AM-1:30PM on May 4, August 3, November 2. Friends of the Orcutt Library is a not-for-profit organization, and all proceeds go to the library.

RECEPTION WITH LOCAL ARTIST GAIL PIEDALUE, February 7, 4-6PM, Office of Ameriprise Financial Advisors, 2605 South Miller Street, Suite 104. This exhibit is one of a continuing series of shows made possible by the commitment of your Santa Maria Ameriprise Financial advisor Terry Dworaczyk to showcase local art and artists. Info: Megan Duarte, 805,938,9724

RUN FOR GOD 5K Challenge. FREE training program for completing a 5K (running/walking) race while maintaining a Christian focus (twelve-week training program for beginners and advanced runners/walkers). Begins February 16th. Sponsored by The Harbor Church. For information, contact David Dantzer at (805) 937-0213. (NO TEXTS)

Feel the Music as the Santa Maria Philharmonic presents 'MASTERS in Vienna'. You will hear the brilliant sounds of some of the master composers who gathered in Vienna in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the spectacular voice of soprano Maria Jette. Maestro Nowak opens the program with Beethoven's dramatic and poignant Coriolan Overture, and continues with Symphony No. 29 in A Major, by Mozart. The featured soloist Maria Jette will sing two delightful Mozart Songs for soprano and orchestra, as well as a collection of extraordinary songs from 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn', based on German folk songs and folk poetry. The concert is Saturday night, February 23rd at 7:30, at Grace Baptist Church at 605 E. McCoy Lane in Santa Maria. Ticket prices are \$15-\$45. Family Rate \$60 (available only at the door). For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to www.santamariaphilharmonic. org, or leave a message at 925-0412. The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society is a non-profit organization.

8th ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST PATRICK'S DAY CAR SHOW, Saturday March 16, 10am-3pm at St Louis de Montfort Church. Music, food, vendor faire and more. Vehicles and vendors wanted. Info kofc11137.com.

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

50+ CLUB LUNCHEON, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS meets

Sundays at 4PM in the conference room of the Marian Extended Care Facility at 1530 Cypress Way off of Palisades and Main. If you have questions, contact Kim at (805) 714-6908.

AA (or Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 925-3782.

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd., on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM except March and July. Info: www.santamariaquilters.com or 937-4024.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805.835.7627 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Breakfast 8-11AM on the first Sunday of each month. Public invited. 145 W. Clark Ave.

AMERICAN LEGION POST Veterans BBQ in Orcutt, 145 W. Clark Ave. 11AM-3PM or until sold out on the third Saturday of each month.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.

BIBLE STUDY on I & II Corinthians at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday nights 7-8:30PM. For more info contact Steve Stanley 937-1353; Trent Benedetti 937-9625.

BSA Troop 87 in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. ron@enginetech-ca.com

Bilingual worship services at Christian Life every Sunday at 2PM, Unity Chapel of Life church located at 1165 Stubblefield Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455. 719-660-9789.

CA 0295 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at the Foster Road Church of Christ every Monday evening. Weigh-ins @ 5:30 meeting @ 6PM. (805)2681480

CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday for up to six night or less. For more information contact Elaine 805-937-5357

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Community Events

worker. For those who care for people that are home bound or suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or senility. Class is free and meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the OASIS Senior Center.

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB meets at Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt (next to Albertson's) on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6-7:30PM. Anyone interested in joining the CCBB is invited to meet Thursday, August 23rd for the next club meeting, Details can be found at www.beachboardwalkers.org, or call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552.

CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Merrill Gardens,

Wellness Center, 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Lorri @ 805-481-7545.

CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB Knollwood Village Clubhouse 4012 S. Bradley Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:45PM. with Q&A session, coffee and cookies, followed by a 7PM. brief business meeting. Information: Bill 934 0775 or www. CentralCoastComputerClub.com

Central Coast Gardeners meet at the Luis OASIS Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. from September through May. Guests are welcome. Info: Dorothy 934-8325.

CENTRAL COAST SAMS RV GROUP meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 3 day "campout". We enjoy planned tours, good food and fellowship at local campgrounds within 100 miles of the Central Coast. We welcome new members. Contact Faye Cardoza 805-481-1047





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Communion Every Sunday Sunday Worship 10:15am Bible Study Thursday 5:30 PM 204 Patterson Road (805) 260-9036



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Tue-Fri 10-5pm Sat 10-4pm modelhom.com

SCHEDULE YOUR TAX APPOINTMENT TODAY



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TAX REFORM

Tax rate changes:

Both individual and corporate rates have changed. The maximum individual rate is reduced to 37% and the corporate rate is now a flat 21%. The rate change could benefit you — or in some cases cause your tax liability to go up

Standard deduction increases:

The standard deduction has essentially been doubled. For single filers, the standard deduction has increased from \$6,350 to \$12,000; for married couples filing jointly, it's increased from \$12,700 to \$24,000

Increased child tax credit and new dependent credit:

The credit is increased for each child to \$2,000 (up to \$1,400 of which is refundable for each child) and each non-child dependent can now receive a new credit of \$500 (subject to income thresholds)

Some disappearing deductions:

- State income tax and property taxes above \$10,000 per year in total
- Employee business expenses such as mileage, travel, entertainment, home office expenses, union dues, tax preparation fees, and investment fees, among others
- Mortgage interest beyond interest on \$750,000 of acquisition debt, if you purchase a new home

Some new benefits for individuals:

- The medical expense AGI threshold will temporarily drop to 7.5% of AGI for 2018
- The estate tax exclusion has nearly doubled, to \$11.1 million (adjusted for inflation)
- The annual aift tax exclusion for 2018 has increased to \$15,000



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