

Orcutt Pioneer FREE

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks • Orcutt, California • November 2020 • www.OrcuttPioneer.com • Circulation 17,000+

Planning Commission Considering Housing Development at Rancho Maria Golf Course



Artist rendering of proposed residential development surrounding Rancho Maria Golf Course. Willow Creek neighborhood in orange, Hidden Canyon neighborhood in yellow.

Over the last fifty or so years there have been several attempts for residential development adjacent to the fairways at Rancho Maria Golf Club off State Highway One. The latest is a proposal by Orcutt Ranch LLC to develop about 190 acres of the 340 acres known as Key Site 21. The first development project involves 89 home sites known as the Willow Creek subdivision and is proposed to be located on the west side of the golf course situated between approximately between the 13th and 18th fairways. The second project is 54 home sites known as Hidden Creek on the east side near the third, sixth and tenth fairways.

Willow Creek lots would be about

11,375 square feet; Hidden Creek 18,000 square feet.

State Highway One would be widened to include three new entrances with turning lanes to accommodate increased traffic circulation. Two new water wells would be constructed and Laguna Sanitation would handle wastewater.

Developers have been working on this project for the past four years. The Santa Barbara Planning Commission will consider the development on November 12th.

Francis Romero, spokesperson for applicant Tony Wells, says based on construction, property taxes, school, park, utilities and road fees, the economic impact to local communities

and Santa Barbara County would be over 17 million dollars of increased revenue. Per capita annual retail sales of home dwellers is estimated at \$43,000.

The Orcutt Pioneer spoke with Santa Maria Golf Club General Manager Mike O'Keefe who had major concerns. "Excessive traffic on State Highway One is a major concern," he says. "Two of the new roads will go through wetlands. There are so many problems with ecological resources and the potential for fire. We cannot afford to take fairway holes out of competition during construction. This project threatens our livelihood."

Romero says the applicant has agreed to cover Rancho Maria Golf Club's loss of income during construction. "We have offered 33 acres to the Club to mitigate issues" she explains.

"We have gone the extra mile to help make this happen. There is a year membership in the golf club included with each home sale. We would not want to build houses along a defunct golf course."

Sean Stewart, Santa Barbara County Planner for the project, says wetlands

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Santa Claus is Not Coming to Town

It is with great regrets that this year's Orcutt Christmas Parade is cancelled. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, Santa has decided to quarantine at the North Pole during early December. He wants to be sure that the reindeer and elves are healthy and ready to work on Dec 24th. The Orcutt Tree Lighting will also be cancelled in 2020.

We hope to see you all again in 2021.

Deadline: December 4

Deck Your Home for the Fa La La Awards



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The Orcutt Pioneer is looking for our community's best Christmas and holiday lights. If you think your house or a neighbor's house should win an award, e-mail us at OrcuttFaLaLa@gmail.com. In the e-mail include the homeowner's name, address and a photograph of the display. Only Orcutt residents will be considered and submissions must be received by Friday, December 4.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6, between the hours of 5PM and 9PM our judges will drive by to evaluate entries. Winners' names and addresses will be published in the December edition of the Pioneer.

Some of the honors will include: The Clark Griswold Award of Excellence, Best Lawn Display, Best Animated/Musical Display, and more. If your business would like to sponsor an award, email info@orcuttpioneer.com

Be safe, and get busy hanging those lights!

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Steve Southwick, Stephanie Southwick Hull,

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Katy Jacobson

Contact Phone:

Business & Advertising: (805) 714-6584

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457

E-Mail address:

info@orcuttpioneer.com

Graphic Art Department

James Jepsen, Art Director

pioneer@jamesjepsen.com

Webmaster: Archie Miller

w6alm@aol.com

www.OrcuttPioneer.com

The Cows Came Home



Left to right: Mario from the Orcutt Post Office; Lindsey Hiltner and Sheila Gibilisco, at InSPArations; the Mercantile Building cow, and Chris Salzar, owner of Jack's Restaurant, all with returned Orcutt Cows.

For Old Orcutt the cows did come home. After varying months away the lost cows mysteriously reappeared on the same day in late October and their owners are delighted. The artistically painted cows, donated by an anonymous artist for Orcutt fun and whimsy, had been stolen. An article in the Pioneer and a plea on Next Door seems to have inspired their return.

Nobody was happier than Sheila Gibilisco whose late father, an artist, managed to acquire one of the cows and paint it for her. "I cried, said Sheila,

owner of InSPArations Spa, 130 E Clark. "It was my goal to get it back. It made me feel good, like there is hope for people who have a conscience."

Receptionist Lyndsey Hiltner explained that their cow returned with a new hairdo, pointing out the blue paint between the cow's ears. "It's like he went to college and now he's back with a new haircut and we're going to leave it." Sheila is okay with it too. "Whoever had it put their flare on it but doesn't need to have it anymore."

The missing Orcutt Post Office cow, with polka dots on one side, was also returned and a little worse for wear. "Kids probably," staff member Mario surmised. He and fellow staffer Jaz agreed that they were just glad to have it back.

Jim Albrecht, architect with an office in the Mercantile Building, 125 Union Ave, was also pleased their cow was returned. "It looks like it had a hard time. An ear and horn is broken and the tail. I'll have to go to Wendy's and see if I can get it restored."

Wendy is Wendy Steller of Deja Vu. She has a pipeline to the anonymous cow donor, and said that a restoration appointment could be made. She commented "I just couldn't be more

thrilled that they have started to come home. This town needs some positive things to happen."

The last cow to come home was the cupcake-decorated calf at Jack's Restaurant, 156 S Broadway. It had lost the tip of its tail, was bowed, and had white paint drips on its back. Chris Salazar, one of Jack's owners, said, "I'm just happy to have it back. Nice to know they didn't completely trash them." He explained that until they can attach their cows to the building they will be bringing them inside at closing and put them out in the morning. "We love the cows," commented co-owner, Terry Salazar. "A lot of people take pictures of them with their kids."

A couple eating at Jack's was overheard discussing who had taken the cows and why they came home. "Their parents found out," one joked.

Wendy Steller was able to get a reaction from the mystery artist who creates the cows. "I am so happy the cows have come home! It actually takes a strong person to do the right thing and return them. I think the community appreciates it. Orcutt Proud!"

Katy Jacobson reporting



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Penelope Hartnell, Lifelong Supporter of Orcutt, Passes Away



Penelope Hartnell in front of her beloved Orcutt Hills.

Penelope Lockridge Hartnell, 79, passed away peacefully on October 3, 2020 in New York City. She was born Penelope Lockridge in San Francisco, California on April 19, 1941 to Hartnell Lockridge and Charlotte Umnitz Lockridge. Penelope spent her life between her beloved Santa Barbara County and New York City. A lifelong philanthropist, Penelope supported libraries and schools in the U.S. and Africa, particularly Mali.

As a young woman in New York, she began as a guide at the United Nations. Over time she became involved as an organizer of volunteers with children's programs at the U.N. Penelope was also an accomplished photographer and her photographs appeared in numerous books and publications including the Los Angeles Times. She was a lover of art with interest specifically in African, feminist and landscape art. She collected art books and some art works in these subjects over her lifetime.

Penelope fell in love with Orcutt and

Santa Barbara County when her father would bring her to visit the family property in Orcutt. She loved the history of the area and was very proud of the part her family played in its development, as well as education in California. Her grandmother graduated from Stanford in the second class to admit women. And to honor her great grandfather's many contributions to education, the name of Salinas Junior College was changed to Hartnell College in 1948. Penelope actively continued that lifelong legacy of supporting education. She developed

friends and associations throughout Santa Maria, and was known for her devotion and support of numerous local organizations.

Penelope was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her brother, Jeffrey Hartnell Lockridge of Tucson Arizona. Her funeral and burial were private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of Orcutt Library, 175 South Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 or Friends of the African Village Libraries, P.O. Box 90533, San Jose, CA 95109-3533.

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Commission Delays Decision on Development South of Sunny Hills

Earlier this month, the County Planning Commission delayed until the first of the year a hearing regarding a proposal for 119 homes south of Sunny Hills Mobile Home Park. As proposed, most of the homes, known as the SB Clark Development, would be situated just south of Sunny Hills and also running adjacent to Highway 101 on what is known as Key Site 3. The development is proposed to surround two lots already approved for multi-family dwellings.

On Wednesday, November 4, the Commission requested that county

planners address traffic, density, wildfire and concerns raised by Sunny Hills residents.

Fourth District Commissioner Larry Ferini, whose district the project is located within, was especially concerned about density and traffic on Clark and fire danger in the open space. Before final approval there will have to be amendments to the County General Plan and the Orcutt Community Plan.

The next public hearing is January 13, 2021.

Victorian Stained Glass Showcasing Artists' Work



Sherri Gasser and Debi Taylor in front of their artistry shop.

our students and customers that we created a 'Glass Challenge,'" said Gasser. Each participant received a package of glass and was asked to incorporate it in a finished piece of their own design and construction."

Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including most original design, technical excellence, and "People's Choice" - the piece receiving the most votes from the public.

"Everyone is warmly invited to come by our

studio at 125 W. Clark Ave., to vote for their favorite entry between Dec. 2-14. We will have a great selection of hand made ornaments and other Christmas items on display as well," added Taylor.

You can check the studio hours at VictorianStainedGlass.biz or by calling them at 805-937-8234.

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Orcutt Schools Update

Measure G Projects Improving District

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

Take a drive around the Orcutt Union School District, and you will notice that several of our schools have either a new look or some new features.

The addition of kindergarten classrooms. A new parking lot by Pine Grove School. New perimeter fencing at four schools. And the removal of several classrooms and the construction of a large new center on the site of Orcutt Junior High School.

All of these sights illustrate the transformative impact of Measure G, the bond measure that district voters approved in November 2016 to improve and modernize school facilities. This column will provide our community an update on the latest wave of Measure G projects.

Five of our elementary schools each received modular classrooms for our youngest elementary students: transitional kindergartners and kindergartners. New facilities

at Alice Shaw, Joe Nightingale, Patterson Road, Pine Grove, and Ralph Dunlap schools will enable all of our TK and K students to have a larger learning space and access to private restrooms. Joe Nightingale, which houses Orcutt's TK classes, now has its own TK/K area on the corner of Dickson Drive and Winter Road.

"We love our new classrooms," says Joe Nightingale kindergarten teacher Myrna Taira. "It's like we have our own little world for TK and K."

Pine Grove, a school that deals with heavy traffic at the corner of Bradley and Rice Ranch roads, now has a new parking area just south of the school. The freshly paved and landscaped lot was broken in by the Pine Grove community at a Halloween drive-through trick-or-treat event on October 30.

"It felt like the entire school came," says Principal Michelle Boyd. "And

everyone loved the new parking lot."

New fencing and gates have been, or are being, installed at four district sites: Joe Nightingale School, Lakeview and Orcutt junior high schools, and Orcutt Academy High School. Orcutt also had seven portable classrooms removed to make way for some permanent rooms and a new office complex.

Meantime, an attractive new structure is rising next to the Orcutt Gym on Dyer Street. This large, multi-room building will include our enrollment office, offices and a work area for our Technology Department, housing for the district's network servers, and classrooms with multimedia technology for student use. If all goes well, the yet-unnamed center will be cleared for use in the spring.

"We are excited to be able have students here," says the district's executive director for technology and educational services, Leslie

Wagonseller. "We have visions of computer science classes, gaming, and programming for elementary students. I would love to have kids here all day long."

Some changes are harder to see from the road, but no less important. Orcutt Academy High School got new, high school-appropriate student restrooms, and the Olga Reed/Orcutt Academy K-8 campus in Los Alamos had its cafeteria and kitchen completely modernized.

No doubt, Measure G is making a difference with facilities all around Orcutt. And we look forward to the prospect of having students back on our campuses to capitalize on them.

"We can't wait to have the kids back," says Taira. "It's the kids who make our classrooms and schools beautiful."

On behalf of everyone in the Orcutt Union School District, I wish all of you the happiest of Thanksgivings. We are so thankful for your support throughout the year, and especially in this challenging time.

Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at hedds@orcutt-schools.net. She can be followed on Twitter at [@hce101](https://twitter.com/hce101).

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County Breaks Ground on Sanitation District Upgrade

Construction started this month on the first phase of the \$53 million Laguna County Sanitation District upgrade project. The 62-year old wastewater plant received its last upgrade in 2001 for regulatory compliance reasons, but has many facilities that have exceeded their useful lives from the original construction in 1959. Improvements to the wastewater reclamation plant include a new headworks, ultraviolet disinfection break tank, a laboratory and operations building, activated sludge and secondary clarifier process facilities, on-site stormwater facilities and electrical improvements. Once complete, the upgraded plant will comply with Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements and master recycling permits for the next 50 years. Construction is expected to finish in 2023. The second phase of the project, which will increase the plant's treatment capacity from 3.7 to 5 million gallons per day, is in the planning stage and is anticipated to meet future development needs associated with the build-out of the Orcutt Community Plan.

The District, which serves the Orcutt and unincorporated Santa Maria area, was formed in 1958 in response to a

housing boom brought on by Camp Cook's conversion to the Vandenberg Air Force Base. The reclamation plant is located west of the Dutard Road and Black Road intersection northwest of Orcutt. The District also absorbed the Orcutt Sanitary District (circa the 1920s) and some of the wastewater system that historically was treated by the Santa Maria-Lompoc Air Base (now the Santa Maria Public Airport) treatment plant disbanded in 1977. Today, the District treats 1.8 million gallons of wastewater per day and maintains 128 miles of pipeline. It serves a population of approximately 35,000 with nearly 12,000 residential and business customers. All water recycled at the plant is used for irrigation and industrial purposes. Once complete, it will also serve the Northern Branch Jail.

The W.M. Lyles Company will construct the project. Utility service charges were adjusted over several years to generate capital reserves to fund most of the work and assist in qualifying for lower interest rates on a Certificate of Participation. For more information on the District, visit www.countyofsb.org/pwd/laguna.sbc.

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Calendar

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.

All events are subject to change. Please contact the event or club sponsor to find out details about the organization/event and the meeting times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ANGELS FOSTER CARE is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt who want to make a difference in the life of a local foster baby or toddler. There are approximately 350 children in foster care in Santa Barbara County. About 40% of those children are under the age of six and roughly 75% live in and around Santa Maria. We want to ensure there is a stable family ready for every infant and toddler who needs a home.

To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, please visit www.angelsfostercare.org or call 805-884-0012.

STAGE WRITE playwrighting group meets monthly via Zoom to discuss and prepare our works for production. ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER is committed to present two original plays by local writers per season. We welcome fellow writers to join us. For more information call 805-937-3738.

Pathway Family Services is seeking families willing to open their homes to foster growth, love and stability within the life of a foster child. Pathway is a non-profit agency will a full team of social work staff, who provide support in home to our resource parents 24/7 and is looking to expand countywide. In-home training, assistance with the certification process are included in the process. To learn more, call 805-739-1111 or go to www.pfsffa.org. We are open to Zoom sessions by RSVP to dlangston@pfsff.org.

RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS is seeking sponsorship from local businesses. This will help support the dedicated students in the Righetti Bands with their continued efforts in field shows and performances. We are looking for donations and would be more than happy to perform in exchange. <https://www.rhswarriorbands.org/>

BENT AXLE CAR CLUB is welcoming new members! Do you have a pre-1973 American-made car and would like to socialize with us (cruising, eating and having fun)? We also put on a car show the 3rd week end of July. Ann McKindley 805-714-6111

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.

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

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES (www.adultchildren.org) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 for more information!

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd. on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm except March and July. Info: aacquilts@gmail.com or 805-937-4024.

Local Race Election Results

Allan Hancock Joint Community College Dist. - TA #2 (Vote for 1)

Candidate	Total	%
SUZANNE LEVY	9254	62.26%
KERI LYNN COMMON	5497	36.98%
Total Votes	14863	

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (Vote for 2)

Candidate	Total	%
AMY LOPEZ	13026	23.03%
JACK C. GARVIN	11913	21.06%
GABRIEL AMARO MORALES	807	15.57%
JENNIFER MELENA	8138	14.39%
DAVID E. BASKETT	7721	13.65%
ANGIE MARIE BOLDEN	6788	12.00%
Total Votes	56559	

Santa Maria Public Airport District - Div. 5 (Vote for 1)

Candidate	Total	%
DAVID E. BASKETT	7211	71.45%
DEBBIE L. MORAWSKI	2832	28.06%
Total Votes	10093	

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.

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 the Book of Joshua at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday Nights 7-8 PM. For more info contact Trent Benedetti 922-4881.

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. ronterry4543@gmail.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.

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

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional social 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. 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 Tawnya @ 805-260-6090.

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, 7PM. computer presentation. Information: Don at 805-862-9124 or <https://sites.google.com/site/smcacccc>

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.

Planning Commission

continued from page 1

on the site are home to the tiger salamander, a federally protected species. Disturbance is a class one impact. Before approval of the project the Board of Supervisors would have to deem the project "has enough merit to override the impact," according to Stewart.

Sixty-two percent of the developments would remain in open space.

Under the Orcutt Community Plan, the development area is zoned for planned residential development.

There has been many public comments, most expressing objections about over-development of Orcutt and the effect of the two subdivisions on users of Rancho Maria Club Club.

Steve Southwick reporting

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.

COASTAL VALLEYS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1340 monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month held at Veteran's Memorial Bldg at 313 W Tunnell in Santa Maria at 7PM.

COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 7 PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. A love of singing and the willingness to work hard and learn beautiful music is the only requirement. Check our website at <http://www.coastalvoices.info/>. Singers can contact us at coastalvoices@gmail.com or call 937-5827 for additional information.

CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (Non-Denominational) 1265 W. McCoy Lane, Ste A, Santa Maria, CA 93455, 925-7500. An All Volunteer Church concentrating on teaching the word of God and using our resources to help the poor in love thru service. Come find out what it is like to "Do Church Differently."

CUB SCOUT PACK 91 welcomes boys and girls, grades K-5 to join us. Scouting teaches children about their community, citizenship, service to others, and outdoor adventure. To learn more about us visit www.pack91orcutt.org or call us at 253-CUBS.



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