

Santa Maria City Approves Residential Developments along Santa Maria Way

Expect an increase in traffic volume near the intersection of Santa Maria Way and Miller Street in the next few years. Santa Maria City is moving forward with several new developments between the former drive-in theater site north to Highway 135.

Peoples Self Help Housing will be constructing 49 homes on the site of the former Hi Way Drive-In theater. Santa Maria city Principal Planner Frank Albro says the Planning Commission will begin considering the project by year's end with construction to begin next year. These homes will be income restricted and the buyer may assist in building the home under a "sweat equity" program.

Just south of First Baptist Church on about 13 acres, Coastal Community Builders is progressing with ground preparation for the construction of 57 single-family homes to be sold at market price. The square footage of the three- and four-bedroom homes runs from 1875 to 2600 square feet. Access will be off Santa Maria Way and Waller Lane.

The three acres at the northeast corner of Santa Maria Way and Sunrise Drive (across from the former K-Mart site and now UHaul Moving and Storage) is the location of the long awaited 18 million dollar Department of Motor Vehicles field office. Construction should begin in July of 2023 with a grand opening next fall.

At the intersection of Miller Street and Santa Maria Way and surrounding the

DMV field office, the Park Edge apartments with 140 units are planned between Miller Street and Sunrise Drive. The project also includes a 5500 square foot commercial building at the corner of Santa Maria Way and Miller Street.

On Santa Maria Way and across from Community Bank of Santa Maria and the Fence Factory, the Santa Maria Studios project is under construction and offers 160 affordable units for seniors. The second phase includes 218 studios. However the developer has not submitted building permit applications to construct that phase yet. The project includes onsite parking, outdoor seating areas, bike racks, a small dog park, and indoor community rooms for residents. The individual units are built remotely and placed and finished onsite. The development was submitted under the guidelines of Senate Bill 35 which went into effect in January of 2018 as part of a 15 bill housing package to address the state's affordable housing shortage. The legislation allows developers to bypass local reviews including the City Council and Planning Commission.

According to Santa Maria City Planning Manager Dana Eady, traffic studies were completed to ensure that area intersections and roadways will continue to operate as planned after these developments are completed.

Steve Southwick reporting

Deadline: December 3rd at Noon

Deck Your Homes with Lights for the 2022 Fa La La Awards



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"The Orcutt Fa La La Awards" celebrates its tenth year of holiday cheer!

The Orcutt Pioneer is looking for our community's best holiday light displays. If you would like to nominate your home or a neighbor's home, e-mail us at OrcuttFaLaLa@gmail.com.

In the e-mail, please include the homeowner's name, address and photographs of the display. The photographs should be the highest resolution possible since they may be printed in the December issue of the Orcutt Pioneer. Send 3-5 photos total, 1-2

of different aspects of the display, and 1-2 showing the overall effect. Photos taken at sunset when there is still some light outside print best.

Only Orcutt homes, defined as having a 93455 zip code, are eligible, and submissions must be received by Saturday, December 3 at noon.

This year the awards will be classified into two main categories: Classics, those entries that have been featured throughout the years, and New Comers. Both types can earn award status.

Our judges will be making the rounds on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, between the hours of 5PM and 10PM to evaluate entries. The judges consider creative themes, amount of lights, unique features (e.g. music or homemade displays) and/or interactive elements when evaluating. Judging may be somewhat subjective since evaluating art always is, but the judges try to be fair and select homes that give a range of unique and special sights.

Winners' names and addresses will be included in the December edition of the Pioneer. If your business would like to sponsor an award, please email info@orcuttpioneer.com

Be safe and get busy hanging those lights!
Michael Shaw reporting

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Supervisor Nelson Secures Funding for Community Resource Deputy



A high priority goal of Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson was fulfilled earlier this month when the County Board of Supervisors approved funding for a Community Resource Deputy for the North County.

The Supervisor says the deputy will interface with such organizations as schools, businesses, local service clubs, and the agricultural community to discuss

where potential law enforcement problems could be addressed.

"Many 'quality of life' issues we have not been able to get to," he explains. "We want to solve small problems before they become big problems."

The Supervisor says community policing increases public safety through collaboration between Sheriff's deputies and North County citizens.

The Community Resource position was not in the County budget approved by the Board earlier this year. For that reason, Nelson did not support the budget. However, discussions with County Sheriff Bill Brown were successful in finding the funding needed for the position from the Orcutt Community Facilities District and Prop 172 funds designed for public safety. The Board unanimously approved the expenditure earlier this month.

Steve Southwick reporting

15MPH Speed Limit Near Orcutt Schools

New legislation and a County ordinance is going to ensure what may seem obvious, slow down in a school zone. Under new state legislation (AB43), the County is making maximum speed limits 25 miles per hour (mph) in designated residential areas and 15mph within 500 feet of schools when children are entering or leaving schools in those residential areas. This includes areas around Joe Nightingale, Alice Shaw and Patterson Road schools. The legislation, which went into effect January 1, 2022, also authorizes that the current 35mph maximum speed limit on Patterson Road to be set at 25mph. The County Board of Supervisors approved the first reading of the adjustments on November 1. Final adoption is expected November 29th. Gary Smart, Traffic Engineer of the County Transportation Division emphasizes, "All the changes will be posted. Please, just obey the signs."

Steve Southwick reporting



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Join the Holiday Fun in Old Orcutt

Old Orcutt has big plans for the start of the holiday season including **First Friday Stroll**, **Tree Lighting**, **A Craft Fair**, and the annual **Christmas Parade**.

The fun starts on **December 2**, when Old Orcutt will light up with the First Friday Stroll and Christmas Tree Lighting. Local merchants and restaurants will stay open late starting at 5PM, offering shopping opportunities and serving complimentary hot chocolate and Christmas treats. "It will be an opportunity for families to see what all our merchants have to offer," says organizer Samantha Bakke. In addition, many local businesses will host holiday open houses to showcase what services are available.

Hayrides and a horse drawn carriage will provide rides throughout town with starting and ending points at Old Town Market and De Ja Vu. Carolers will ring in the holidays in front of the Union Building on Broadway.

At 7PM, Old Orcutt's Annual Tree Lighting will be held in front of the Lions Club.

From 5:30-8:30PM, the Lions Club will host a holiday craft faire where, according to organizer Sheri Hughes, 90 percent of

the items for sale are homemade, including jams and jellies, crocheted items, quilts, handcrafted greeting cards, wooden cribbage boards and much more. The faire will be also be open on **Saturday, Dec. 3** from 9AM – 3PM.

On **December 10**, Old Town Orcutt welcomes its annual Christmas Parade, a tradition since 1961 when it was started by the volunteer fire department. It is currently organized by a small group of civic-minded volunteers, including Steve Strachan, who says, "the Orcutt Christmas Parade celebrates the holidays and the small-town traditions that are so important to us, like family, community and togetherness." The parade will start at 12noon, rain or shine, and will travel from Broadway near Deja Vu up Clark Ave and end on Dyer Street. You will see local bands, floats, decorated cars, families and importantly, Santa.

For information on becoming a parade sponsor or entering your group in the parade, contact Kat Scott at 805-863-2842 or kat@krse.biz. The website address is orcuttchristmasparade.org



Company's Coming Holiday Schedule

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- Friday Dec 2 – Open 10-5:30 – gift wrap is always complimentary
- Sat Dec 3 – Open 10-5 – place your gift basket orders today
- Sun Dec 4 – Open 11-5:00
- Monday Dec 5 – Open 10-5 – call us for an after hours shopping appointment
- Tuesday Dec 6 – Open 10-6 – check your supply of holiday candles
- Wednesday Dec 7 – Open 5pm-8pm – Girls Night Out
- Thursday Dec 8 – Open 10-6 – come see us for teachers gifts
- Friday Dec 9 – Open 10-6 – we will feature hostess gift ideas
- Saturday Dec 10 – Open 10-5 – remember your hairdresser and nail care person
- Sunday Dec 11 – Open 11-5 – open for your convenience
- Monday Dec 12 – Open 10-6 – need a stocking filled come see us!
- Tuesday Dec 13 – Open 10-6 – check your supply of paper napkins and guest towels
- Wednesday Dec 14 – Open 10-6 – good day to select gifts for business associates
- Thursday Dec 15 – Open 10-6 – last day to ship gifts out of state
- Friday Dec 16 – Open 10-6 – What's cookin' come see us for your special baking needs
- Saturday Dec 17 – Open 10-6 – stop by and join us for hot cider
- Sunday Dec 18 – Open 11-5 – Time to "even out" the gifts, let us help!
- Monday Dec 19 – Open 10-7 – serving cider and goodies all day
- Tuesday Dec 20 – open 10-7
- Wednesday Dec 21 – open 10-7
- Thursday Dec 22 – open 10-7 – don't forget your secretary!!
- Friday Dec 23 – open 10-7 – time to get serious!
- Saturday Dec 24 – open 9-3 – Last chance to be a hero, and we can help!
- Sunday Dec 25 – closed MERRY CHRISTMAS
- Monday Dec 26 – Open 11-5 – after Christmas sale
- Tuesday Dec 27 – Open 11-5 – SALE
- Wednesday Dec 28 – Open 11-5 – SALE
- Thursday Dec 29 – Open 11-5 – SALE
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Nationally Recognized Magician and Righetti Alum Anthony Hernandez Performing to Benefit ERHS Ballet Folklorico



Righetti grad and magician Anthony Hernandez performs his family magic show on Wednesday, November 23 at Ethel Pope Auditorium. Show to benefit ERHS Ballet Folklorico and Marimba Band.

Hernandez says he wants to give back as much as he can to the Ballet Folklorico and Marimba band. The group, he says, means so much to his youth and career.

The Righetti grad who grew up in Guadalupe has been named one of the Best Male Performers by the International Association of Amusement Parks, and is a performing member of the renowned Hollywood Magic Castle which hosts some of the best illusionists in the world. He was a protege of the late Ralph Adams, a nationally known illusionist who lived in Orcutt.

In his high school years, Anthony performed with the Ballet Folklorico and Marimba Band and since graduating in 1994 has appeared several times for his alma mater during the group's annual shows. Earlier this year, Hernandez

performed at Santa Maria Strawberry Festival, where he paid homage to his family and roots here in the Santa Maria Valley.

Hernandez says he wants to give back as much as he can to the Ballet Folklorico and Marimba band; the group, he says, means so much to his youth and career.

Advance tickets are \$10 and are available by clicking on the QR code on this page, by calling 805-937-2051 extension 2716, from any member of the Righetti Marimba Band and Ballet Folklorico, or at the door for \$15. To see a preview of Anthony and his magic, visit anthonythemagic.com.

Steve Southwick
reporting



OCT presents "Sonny's Sonata"

The second of three locally written plays "SONNY'S SONATA", written by Dixie Arthur, is set to be presented December 9-11 by the Orcutt Community Theater. SONNY'S SONATA revolves around the character Leah, recovering from a "traumatic childhood and disastrous marriage and trying to put her life back together with a new boyfriend." According to the playwright, Leah's older brother Sonny serenades her with music as she "navigates her new emotional minefields."

The local writing group, entitled STAGE WRITE, is presenting three plays this season by the local thespians. JUST PASSING by Candyce Columbus was an August production. Next May, Orcutt Community Theater will present MAMALOGUES by Angi Herrick.

SONNY'S SONATA runs Friday and Saturday, December 9-10 at 8pm and Sunday Dec 11 at 1:30pm in the Klein Dance Arts building 1, Suite A, 3546 Skyway Drive. Tickets \$10.00 at the door. orcuttcommunitytheater.org 805 268 5969

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Free Food Scraps Collection Containers Available at County Building



Mackie Forgey, Program Specialist with Resource Recovery, is helping distribute the free scraps containers at the Public Works office at 620 West Foster Road

Waste Management has been picking up residential green waste in Orcutt on a weekly basis since July. The increase in collection was prompted by state legislation requiring the reduction of organic wastes entering landfills. The Santa Barbara County Public Works department is distributing kitchen food scrap collection containers, sometimes known as garbage compost pails, free of charge at the County Complex at 620 West Foster Road. The pails can be used to collect food scraps like potato peels, leftover food and other organic materials that we use in our kitchens. The collected food can then be placed in the green waste container for weekly pick up,

and the material is used to create compost for use in agriculture and local gardens. The compost is full of nutrients that plants need to thrive and is a great soil amendment.

Signs along Foster Road make the location to pick up the pails easy to find. Along with the garbage compost pails, you will receive lots of info on recycling, tips on reducing food wastes, and composting.

According to Sam Dickinson, Senior Program Specialist with County Resource Recovery and Waste Management, "compostable materials such as food waste and wet paper products entering landfills are a major source of greenhouse gasses affecting climate change." The statewide goal is to reduce food organics at landfills by 75 percent by 2025.

Yard waste along with food scraps and wet paper products are sent to Engel and Gray Waste Management to be made into compost. The compost is then used in local agriculture and plant management.

Dickinson says the question of what can be recycled and what is trash is often confusing. He emphasizes the materials distributed with the food collection containers details what is recyclable and what is not:

RECYCLABLE: All plastic bottles, dry paper and cardboard, rigid plastics greater than 6 inches, metals and glass.

TRASH: film plastics, single-use "to go" items such as used paper plates, utensils, items with food you empty, plastic food containers, cartons and waxed cardboard, kitchen glassware and ceramics, garden hoses and styrofoam. This info comes with the collection containers on a large, plastic display sheet. It is durable and easy to display.

You can pick-up free containers and recycling tips at the County Public Works office at 620 West Foster Road.

Steve Southwick reporting

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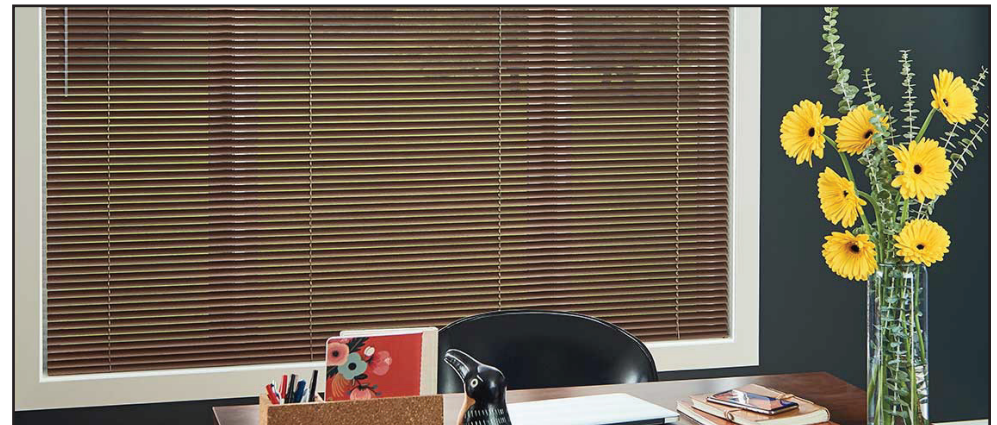


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Orcutt Schools Update

Reasons to be Thankful this November

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

With Thanksgiving arriving on November 24, we figured it would be fitting to share several reasons why we in the Orcutt Union School District are quite grateful this month.

School events have returned in full force. After a long, pandemic-caused hiatus, Back to School Nights, PTA jog-a-thons, fall festivals and carnivals, sports, and many more events have filled our sites with visitors this fall. Members of our school communities are thrilled to be back together on our campuses.

As with school events, school field trips have resumed. These include trips this fall by sixth graders to Outdoor School; for example, Ralph Dunlap School sixth graders loved their October stay at Camp Whittier in the Lake Cachuma area, and Olga Reed School and Orcutt Academy K-8 sixth graders had a wonderful time at the Catalina Island Marine Institute.

Community organizations are back on campuses. The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society, which brings its Music Van to local elementary schools to give children experience hearing and playing orchestral instruments, is one such group that provides enrichment to OUSD students. The week prior to Thanksgiving, Olga Reed School and Orcutt Academy K-8 students were to build and launch paper rockets in a series of Space STEM activities facilitated by volunteer guardians from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Our schools are resuming their involvement in our community. The Orcutt Academy High School Band and Jazz Band have been performing at a variety of local events including the Santa Barbara County Education Office's November 9 A Salute to Teachers in Montecito. And all of our

district's Band students will be marching in the Old Orcutt Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 10.

Sixth graders from around the district are graduating this month from DARE. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department program teaches students about the dangers of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use while giving them strategies for overcoming societal and peer pressures to use these substances. We are thankful for Leslie Avila, a retired sheriff's deputy who is our DARE officer.

Construction on the new Orcutt Academy High School multi-use building is making visible strides. In recent weeks concrete footings for the facility's foundation were poured, and walls for the structure are now rising. We all can look forward to the expected completion of the building midway through the 2023-2024 school year!

Our schools are receiving extra support for students in need of mental health care. Thanks to a Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant program administered by the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness Program and the Santa Barbara County Education Office, our schools now have access to a "navigator" who helps to connect OUSD students with mental health

needs to local care providers. This additional service already is making a difference with students and families.

Interest in Orcutt schools is strong. Enrollment in our school district for the current school year surpassed our projections, and during the year we have seen a steady influx of students at all grade levels. The Orcutt Academy, which began enrollment for 2023-2024 on November 7, has seen similar interest. We are grateful that our schools are providing compelling educational options to local families.

Our students and staff are smiling. Those who visit our schools and classrooms unfailingly come away remarking on the upbeat demeanor of our students and staff. The 2022-2023 school year is off to a terrific start, and we expect many more reasons to be filled with gratitude in the months ahead!

Here's wishing all readers of the Orcutt Pioneer a wonderful Thanksgiving. We in the Orcutt Union School District are very thankful to be associated with this caring community!

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.

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Meet New Director of Animal Services, Sara Aguilar

Sarah Aguilar, new Director of Santa Barbara County Animal Services, walked into a complex county-city drama.

Asked to comment on the controversial issue of who should handle the stray and abandoned animals of Orcutt and Santa Maria, she said, "I want to keep that contract." She is referring to Santa Maria already having a long held contract with the County Animal Service, which includes the Foster Rd shelter. Santa Maria is looking at a new sheltering contract, for financial reasons, with the private group SB Humane on Stowell Rd, formerly the SM Humane Society. A unified letter of concern was signed, to be presented by a group of local animal organizations including SBC Animal Care Foundation, Happy Endings Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, K-9 Placement and Assistance League, and Shadow's Fund, asking the City of SM leadership to proceed slowly, thoughtfully, and in the public view, concerning a potential change in the current animal service and sheltering

contract that will impact so many pets and families in Santa Maria. "Lives are at stake," said Linda Greco of SBC Animal Care Foundation, who believes changing the contract to be "a step backward" and appreciates the responsive relationship the animal rescue community has built with the county over the years.

"It's a county problem," Aguilar explains. "Animals don't understand the geopolitical boundaries people create. One of the challenges with having two different service organizations is that if 'Bob Smith' is missing their dog, he has to check with 2 different agencies in two different locations, which is a barrier to getting the pet home. One central service provider is the best holistic support." Aguilar hopes to communicate in person with the SM City Council but so far her requests have not drawn a response. A vote may happen soon. To weigh in on this County-City issue contact the SM City Council: CityCouncil@cityofsantamaria.org

Katy Jacobson reporting



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