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Seventh Annual Orcutt Fa La La Award Winners

Sponsored by Wine Stone Inn, Vivid Financial, Cups and Crumbs, Orcutt 76, State Farm, Core Winery, and Orcutt Garden Center

Come on ring those bells: Christmas is here, and Orcutt is glowing with cheer. Santa will have no problem finding his way to Orcutt homes this Christmas, as houses all through town have transformed into twinkling gingerbread cottages and sparkling ice palaces.

The Orcutt Pioneer would like to thank our readers who submitted addresses of neighbors, family members, and friends for the 7th Annual Orcutt Fa La La Awards. We only had room for seven award winners, but we are thankful for each and every home that dons lights, decks the halls, or puffs up an inflatable. After much discussion and a few festive drives through Orcutt, our judges are pleased to share with you the 2019 Orcutt Fa La La Award Winners. Each of the winners was awarded a gift valued at or above \$100 from one of our sponsors.

To get a map, log onto our Google Map by using the URL: https://tinyurl.com/falala2019 Then grab your loved ones, some gingerbread cookies, and some Christmas tunes, and head on out to see the 2019 Orcutt Fa La La Award Winners!



#2—1173 Via Pinta— ROCKIN' AROUND THE

As you round the corner toward this house, roll down the windows and enjoy the sounds of the season. Lights arch over

along the walkway. Look for the authentic

pedestrian light next to Frosty. And beware

CHRISTMAS TREE Award sponsored by Vivid Financial

of elves crossing the street!

#1—4603 Via Nina— BEST IN SHOW—"The Clark Griswold Award of Excellence" Award Sponsored by Wine Stone Inn in Old Orcutt

The Holidays are about coming together and making memories, and this hashtagging holiday hangout is one you have to see. The homeowners encourage guests to get out of their cars and take a photo under their angelic arch centerpiece. Sit on the bench inside the big ornament, or stop by and see Christmas Vacation's Cousin Eddy and his trimmed up trailer-complete with septic pump-or get a shot of you and the infamous leg lamp from A Christmas Story. This interactive display is the perfect place to stop and enjoy the season with your family and friends. We know Clark Griswold would be proud.





#3—1229 Country Hill Road—TWINKLING TIDINGS AWARD Award Sponsored by Cups and Crumbs

This house sparkles in the night with hundreds of lights lining the roof and twinkling snowflakes dangling from the eaves. A silver reindeer parks a scarlet sleigh beside a white wintry tree and a mailbox for Santa stands nearby.



A brilliant blue roof proclaims a merry "NOEL" to all who visit this illuminated manager scene. A host of heavenly creatures attend the birth of baby Jesus, while a sign declares Jesus is the "Reason for the Season."

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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:

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Jamie Guista, Trenton Kozel

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Fa La La Award Winners

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#5—5223 Arroyo Court— GINGERBREAD DELIGHT AWARD

Award Sponsored by Donna Randolph State Farm

This corner house is breathtaking and looks like a gingerbread house come to life! From the crisscrossed roof to the lantern-lined sidewalks, the house has decked every part of the home that it is sure to warm up everyone on those chilly December nights.



#6-789 Old Mill Lane-CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR AWARD Award Sponsored by CORE Winery

This spectacular sight is worth a few viewings. On each side there is something new to see: a beautiful manger scene, Santa and his sleigh, giant wreaths, Frosty the Snowman, digital projections, and even illuminated desert plants and succulents.

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Dr. David Hensiek Chiropractor

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Fa La La Award Winners

continued from page 2



#7- 4346 Beverly Court— KIDS CHOICE AWARD Award Sponsored by Orcutt Garden Center

The kids LOVE this amazing lawn display, and this year there is something INCREDIBLE the entire family of supers is suited up to make sure your holiday is, well, super. And what's this? It's a full moon mounted above Jack Skellington's curly, snowy mountain. During both day and night, this home continues to be a must see for kids of all ages.

Michael Shaw reporting

COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD WINNERS AND HONOREES

1251 Foxenwood Drive—Enjoy tons of lawn ornaments and a sparkly Eifel Tower

4341 Beverly Drive—Lots of cute inflatables

4346 Beverly Court—Kids Choice Award 4447 Nottingham Drive—Tons of inflatable buddies for kids of all ages

789 Old Mill Lane—Christmas Spectacular Award

259 Stansbury Drive—Santa's Workshop with some big bulbs

5223 Arroyo Court—Gingerbread Delight Award

5253 Arroyo Court—"Do the Pup-Pup Boogie" and see a plethora of puppies

568 Highland Drive—A beacon of beauty atop the garage

5505 Domino Avenue—A chilly, cheery cottage

1208 Glines Avenue- Santa's Helpers have decked up this home

4603 Via Nina—Best in Show

4600 Via Nina—Santa's here; Santa's there; Santa's everywhere!

1173 Via Pinta—Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree Award

4602 Glines Avenue—Cousin Eddie strikes again!

1141 Village Drive—Grinchy fun, why

4380 Lynnhurst Circle—Santa's busy fairgrounds

950 Woodmere Road—6 trimmed up twinkling trees? Yes please!

1229 Country Hill Road—Twinkling Tidings Award

4622 Harmony Lane—Red, White, and Blue; Santa we love you!

817 Patterson Road—The Joy Award 4871 Cherry Lane—Bounce over and see the cutest Tigger

282 Hobbs Lane—Cute Christmassy cheer

261 Harsin Lane—Santa's sweet gingerbread house

3740 Corta Bella Way—Snowmen shakin' it up in the windows

441 Wilshire Lane—Holiday happiness is heaped up here

HONORABLE MENTIONS

4380 Lynnhurst Circle—An amazing display of Santa's fair with elves and animals busy enjoying the holiday magic.

950 Woodmere Road—Trimmed up trees fill the lawn (and the windows) of this classic

568 Highland Drive—A cozy Christmas cottage with a beacon of beauty atop the roof! Truly a lovely design with some great rustic charm.

Michael Shaw reporting

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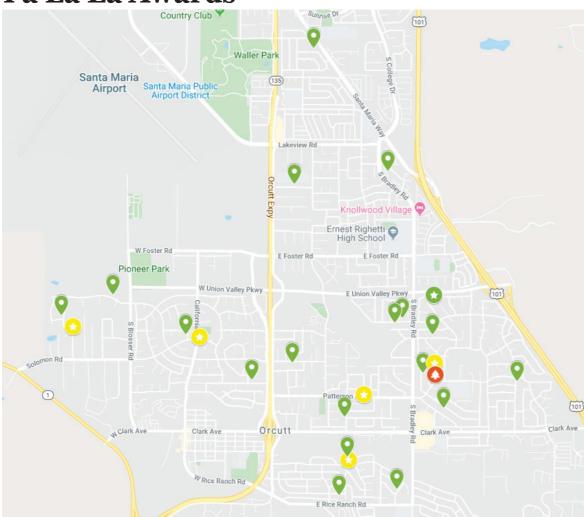


- 9 1251 Foxenwood Dr
- 9 4341 Beverly Dr
- 😳 4346 Beverly Ct
- 9 4447 Nottingham Dr
- 2 789 Old Mill Ln
- 259 Stansbury Dr
- 5223 Arroyo Ct
- 9 5253 Arroyo Ct
- 💡 568 Highland Dr
- 9 5505 Domino Ave
- 1208 Glines Ave
- 4602 Glines Ave
- 1173 Via Pinta
- 4603 Via Nina
- 9 1141 Village Dr
- 9 4380 Lynnhurst Cir
- 950 Woodmere Rd 1229 Country Hill Rd
- 9 4622 Harmony Ln
- 817 Patterson Rd
- 9 4871 Cherry Ave 282 Hobbs Ln
- 261 Harsin Ln

9 3740 Corta Bella Way

9 441 Wilshire Ln

Fa La La Awards



Here are a list of winners and honorable mentions for our community Christmas and Holiday Lights Contest! Enjoy the season and check out these delightful sights. View this map at URL: tinyurl.com/falala2019

SM Philharmonic to Present Free Family Concert January 26

Don't miss the Santa Maria Philharmonic's presentation of their popular concert "Fly Me to the Moon: From JS Bach to Mr. Spock." Under the direction of Maestro Michael Nowak, this free concert for the whole family will be presented on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 4PM at the Pacific Christian Center in Santa Maria.

Bring your friends, family and kids to this wonderful afternoon of live music and out of this world visual delight! For more information visit: smphilharmonic.org



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Orcutt Schools Update

Rallying Around a Special Student

Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD

The holiday season is about people coming together. With Christmas approaching, I would like to share with you a past example of how of how one of our schools rallied around a student who had experienced unimaginable heartbreak.

In August 2017, just days into his fourth-grade year, Pine Grove School student Daniel lost both of his parents in the course of just two days. Daniel's father murdered his ex-wife, and Daniel's mother. Daniel's father then abducted Daniel and drove to Los Angeles. Authorities located the father and son, and following a standoff, Daniel's father was shot by police. When his father died in a hospital hours later, Daniel suddenly was without both of his parents.

Words cannot do justice to the impact of these circumstances on Daniel. At the same time, life needed to continue. He was placed in the care of his mother's boyfriend, who has been Daniel's guardian ever since. And Daniel needed to get back into a routine. Two weeks after the incident with his parents, he returned to school at Pine Grove

"We wanted to keep things as normal as possible," says Karen Hettinga, the school's longtime office manager. "We were very friendly and outgoing with him, but we didn't want to make anything different for him. We wanted

Daniel to feel comfortable, engaged, and busy."

Two and a half years later, Daniel is thriving in sixth grade at Pine Grove. His favorite subject is history. "We're learning about the Egyptian Pyramids, pharaohs, and mummies – I like that," he says. He enjoyed going to Outdoor School with his class this fall. "I did the hikes, but I think I liked archery the best," he recalls. He is well liked by peers. "I have lots of friends – everyone's nice to me," he says.

Around campus, the soon-to-be 13-year-old (his birthday is January 21) is like most other kids. His favorite hot lunch is pizza. He loves to play wall ball and four square at recess. And in conversation, he laughs as he talks about his "craziness" and uses "hyper" as a synonym for being excited.

But unlike most other kids Daniel still grapples with the tragedy of 2017. Asked about how his school life has gone since then, he expresses gratitude for the support he has received from his school, especially his teachers: Ron Maderas in fourth grade, Rebecca Belanger and Liz Zimmerman in fifth grade, and Roberta Hough, Caline Pugh, and Devin Riezebos this year. "The teachers here are so good, and they always have been here to help me," says Daniel. "They make the school like a family to me."

Pine Grove, in turn, loves being there for this special young man.

"Daniel has a contagious smile," says Principal Leslie Wagonseller. "Each day he greets me with some kind of joke about how much I'm selling wagons for. And every day I give him some smart remark that makes him laugh. It really is a pleasure to know him."

Wagonseller was so inspired by Daniel that she nominated him for a regional "Every Student Succeeding" award given through her professional organization, the Association of California School Administrators. Her application narrative detailed how the Pine Grove community served as "a warm blanket on a cold night" for Daniel. She also made a summary comment with which everyone who knows Daniel would agree:

"Daniel brightens the day for those around him. He is a remarkable source of positivity and kindness. He should be recognized as an example of 'shining from within' even in the face of lifealtering events."

We all wish Daniel the best as he completes sixth grade and progresses toward junior high school. Here's acknowledging him for traveling a tough road in a way that inspires us all, and here's thanking the people of Pine Grove School for their work in supporting him. This story represents the

best about our school system.

On behalf of the Orcutt Union School District, I would like to wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons.

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 @debblow.



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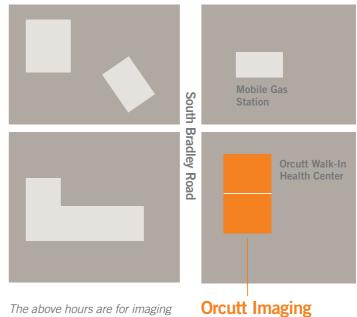
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Happy Holidays!



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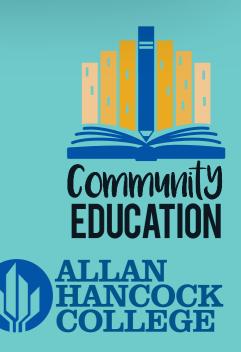
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Orcutt Academy Now Enrolling for 2020-2021

The Orcutt Academy is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment applications for the Academy's K-8 and high school campuses are accessible online at www.orcuttacademycharter.net. The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

All prospective parents are asked to attend a public information night. Additionally, all prospective students and parents are invited to attend a campus tour at the Academy site(s) in which they are interested. Following is a schedule of these events:

Weekday	Date	Location	Address	Time
Monday	November 18, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Monday	December 2, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Thursday	December 5, 2019	Olga Reed School Library	480 Centennial Street Los Alamos	9:15-9:45 a.m. Information Meeting
Monday	December 9, 2019	Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall	110 E. Cook Street Santa Maria	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Monday	January 13, 2020	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Tuesday	January 14, 2020	Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall	110 E. Cook Street Santa Maria	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Wednesday	January 22, 2020	OA Independent Study Program Multi-use room	3491 Point Sal Road Casmalia	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAIS Campus Tour
Thursday	January 23, 2020	Orcutt Academy K-8 Campus Gym	480 Centennial Road Los Alamos	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAK-8 Campus Tour
Friday	January 24, 2020	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	7:30-8:30 a.m. OAHS Campus Tour

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