rcutt Happy Holidays

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Orcutt Fa La La Award Winners



4198 Woodland—BEST IN SHOW: The Clark Griswold Award of Excellence Grand Prize Award Sponsored by One Capital Management

As you slowly drive down the road, you can see this beacon of Fa La La as though Clark Griswold himself hung each magnificent light. The beautifully crisscrossed roof, the shimmering arches, and the techno-themed trees set this house apart as one of a kind.



4745 Crestmont COZY CHRISTMAS AWARD

Award Sponsored by Vivid Financial

Our judges were wowed by this delightfully decked house. Meticulously placed lights beam from the eaves and wrap around the lawn, while funny inflatables catch the eye (our favorite is the snowman who has lost his nose to a rabbit and his arm to a puppy). This is the type of Christmas Cottage everyone will appreciate.





955 Briarcliff THE GINGERBREAD PALACE AWARD Award Sponsored by Cups & Crumbs and

Homestead

This home seems to radiate sugar and spice for the holiday season. The lawn is sprinkled with candy fun including candy canes, lollipops, and gingerbread treats. A tree on the driveway is decorated with real candy canes, free to any passers by who might need a little nibble on their drive.



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The 10th Annual Orcutt Fa La La Awards

This year we are celebrating a decade of decking an online map in 2017 the halls with Fa La La! The Orcutt Pioneer would like to thank our readers who submitted addresses of neighbors, family members, and friends for the 10th Annual Orcutt Fa La La Awards. Each year the list grows, and we are so thankful for a wonderful community that makes the season so festive. While we can't give everyone an award, we are thankful for each and every home that warms up the community with Christmassy cheer.

Over the past ten years a select group of winners have wowed us year after year with their dazzling displays. Because of their legacy, we have formed the esteemed Holly Jolly Society for these homes. Homes in this category annually showcase some of the best Orcutt has to offer and have been award winners for five or more years. Of course, there will always be new Fa La La Award Winners, but we are excited to start this new tradition.

To commemorate our tenth year, we put gathered some interesting statistics:

34,699- the number of new map views for last year's

5,604- the number of map views when we first used

57- the number of awards given since 2013

50- the number of homes nominated in 2022

41- the number of pages the Fa La La awards have occupied in the newspaper

31- the number of awards our esteemed Holly Iolly Society have earned collectively

15- the number of homes nominated in our first

9- the highest number of awards given to a single home (4346 Beverly Court)

4- the highest number of honorees and winners on one street (Arroyo Court)

2- the number of nights our judges spend enjoying nominated homes

1- the number of pie tin Christmas trees spotted by our judges (510 Dale Way)

To get a map, log onto our Google Map by using the URL: https://tinyurl.com/2022orcuttfalala (powered by Google Maps). Then grab your loved ones, a box of Peppermint Joe-Joe's, get Bing Crosby ready to croon his way through the night, and head out to see the 2022 Orcutt Fa La La Award Winners!

Michael Shaw reporting



4609 Roval Oak ROCKIN'AROUND THE CHRISTMASTREE Award Sponsored by Company's Coming

Tune your radios and enjoy the sounds and sights of this holiday eyecatcher. Arches that seem to dance like a fountain, playful penguins, and a jolly (and chatty) Santa bring a little extra cheer to this crowd pleaser.



1215 Roval Oak **CHOO CHOO EXPRESS AWARD**

Award Sponsored by Oak Knolls Hardware

All aboard! The new steam engine is in town, and was brought to this home by the hundreds of hours of volunteer time from the good people at CASA. The beautifully lit passenger cars twist across the front yard, while the steam engine chugs along in a playful purple-complete with actual steam omitting from its stack. What a remarkable homemade display!





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California Says Santa Barbara County Needs More Affordable Housing

Several Orcutt Areas Proposed for Rezoning



Property at UVP & Hwy 135 may be rezoned for affordable housing.

The property east of the intersection of the Union Valley Parkway and Highway 135 stretching east past Hummel Drive and the proposed Santa Barbara County fire station 26 (about a half mile from the intersection) has been recommended to be rezoned for affordable housing.

The State housing element law mandates the county update its housing element every eight years. The State insists Santa Barbara County (including the entire state) has a severe housing shortage and is insisting the county prove it can come up with parcels zoned for 5,664 housing units, with 1,522 in the North County.

The County Planning and Development identified 21 sites that could be rezoned in the countywide.

In Orcutt, other sites than the land east of Highway 101 and UVP, are the westerly parcels at the bottom of the Bradley dip between Clark Ave and Rice Ranch Road, west of Marcum in old Orcutt, and one parcel owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Waller Lane and Santa Maria Way.

According to senior long range planner Selena Evilsizor Whitney, the process of achieving these zoning changes is a long one. County staff must review planning issues and present recommendations to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The State will then review.

Steve Southwick reporting

Supervisors OK One Acre Parcels Off Black Oak Rd

It's taken about ten years to align market conditions and secure easements so that local builder Joe Halsell could get project approval on a five-acre parcel he wants to develop adjacent to the 44-unit Vintage development west of Stillwell Road and a mile south of Clark Avenue. In late November, the Board of Supervisors approved zoning to one-acre parcels so five homes could be constructed on a cul-de-sac. Halsell needed to secure sewer and access agreements through the Vintage Ranch development now under construction located at the end of Subblefield Road.

Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson said he supports the need for more "executive housing" in Orcutt. "There are doctors or attorneys or farmers that have done well but are living in Nipomo because there they can get an acre of property. Not many larger parcels are available in the Santa Maria Valley."

Steve Southwick reporting



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

⁽⁸⁰⁵⁾ 598-4052

"Small Town Painters, Big Time Quality!"

Holly Jolly Society Winners:

Winners for Five or More Years



5223 Arroyo CourtAward Sponsored by Donna Randolph of State Farm and Vivid Financial

31 years of decking the halls and counting! This is still one of the most charming homes with golden, glistening lights and cozy scenes from top to bottom.



789 Old Mill Road

Award Sponsored by Spencer's Fresh Markets
The radiant star on this house is beaming
down on a beautiful Nativity, while Santa is
sleighing it in red. From all angles, this house
is a traditional beauty of the season.



4603 Via Nina

Award Sponsored by Miko Nehman EXP Realty

Clark Griswold driving his station wagon, the famed leg lamp aglow, and all of the classic silliness your family needs shines from this iconic home.

Access the
Orcutt Fa La La
map via your
mobile device at
https://
tinyurl.com/
2022orcuttfalala
On our digital
map, click on each
location to read a



4346 Beverly Court

Award Sponsored by Kay's Country Kitchen

Like having Disneyland in our own community, this showcase boasts oodles of custommade cutouts that will bring a smile to kids and the young at heart.



4113 Mayfield *Award Sponsored by Orcutt 76*

Each year this corner is a showstopper for the community. Tune your radios and get ready for a rockin' Christmas time with your family, complete with a sparkly dance floor.









Orcutt Fa La La Honorable Mentions

3740 Corta Bella A Santa celebration that is worth a look–our favorite Santa is perched high on the roof with his sleigh and reindeer looking down at the truly marvelous sight.

500 Highland Drive One of the tidiest houses with a wonderful gift of literacy to the community (look for the Little Library and the mailbox for letters to Santa). Drop off a book for the community or come borrow one from this delightfully designed home.

568 Highland Drive This well-designed roof shines from afar, with fun inflatables and homemade signs proclaiming "NOEL" to the neighborhood. Our favorite part of this house is the tall tree of lights hanging high above the porch.

1251 Foxenwood You can host an amazing game of "I Spy" here at Inflata-Palooza 2022! From a technicolored unicorn to the Disneyland Castle, and a litter of pups and kitties—this house has an inflatable for everyone.

1129 Woodmere So many wintry inflatables are packed on this lawn that you'll need a second viewing to take them all in. Look for the gang from "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" (complete with Yukon Cornelius and King Moonracer).

1079 Camelot Sync your radios to this stunning tree. The residents have designed an almost 18-foot Christmas tree out of 3,200 pixel lights! Stick around for the two songs that showcase the truly masterful work of this home.

A Complete List of Award Winners and Honorees can be found by accessing the map on https://tinyurl.com/2022orcuttfalala

Complete List of Winners and Honorees

Organized by Neighborhood

* = Orcutt Fa La La Award Winner ** = Holly Jolly Society Award Winner Click on each location to read a festive comment!

**4346 Beverly Court
4753 Appaloosa Trail
913 Clubhouse Drive
1215 Foxenwood Drive
1290 Foxenwood Drive
4341 Beverly Drive
1132 Weymouth Court
1079 Camelot Drive
*955 Briarcliff Drive

**789 Old Mill Lane
948 Countrywood Court
4367 Coachman Way
330 Foxenwood Drive
466 Doverlee Drive

350 1st Street

**4113 Mayfield Street
*4198 Woodland Street
1127 Parkland Drive
1229 Country Hill Road
950 Woodmere Road
4380 Lynnhurst Circle
1129 Woodmere Road
**4603 Via Nina
4600 Via Nina
*4609 Royal Oak Road
*1215 Royal Oak Road

4622 Harmony Lane 4718 Tiffany Park Circle 4613 Basque Drive 817 Patterson Road

4745 Crestwood Drive 4697 Crestwood Drive 510 Dale Way
740 Royal Terrace
634 Mi Tierra Lane
282 Hobbs Lane
120 Ross Lane
5698 S. Bradley Road
1350 Via Del Carmen
**5223 Arroyo Court
5254 Arroyo Court
5274 Arroyo Court
568 Highland Drive
500 Highland Drive

*3898 Crestmont Drive 387 Drake Drive 3248 Dickson Drive

3740 Corta Bella Way

261 Harsin Lane

Access the Orcutt Fa La La map via your mobile device at https:// tinyurl.com/ 2022orcuttfalala

On our digital map, click on each location to read a festive comment!

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. All ads must be received by the second Thursday of the month and will appear on the fourth Thursday of the month. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments for business ads to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

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Chordsmen Holiday Concert Dec. 18



The Central Coast Chordsmen, the area's only barbershop group, are performing Sunday, December 18 at 2PM at the Orcutt Presbyterian church on Patterson Road. "I've heard these guys before and they are really good; they do Christmas with all the sincerity, positive vibes, humor and sweet four-part harmonies that become barbershop groups," says local musician John Chamberlain.

In other times of the year, the Central Coast

Chordsmen sing about love, home, family, and country, the heart of barbershop. But during the holidays, director Sean Abel will lead the Chordsmen in holiday favorites including Little Saint Nick, Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and Jingle Bell Rock.

"Comradery makes this group special. We call ourselves "brother barbershoppers. We all have our churches, but we are a family. We are non-religious and non-political," says Larry Long, the group's president.

The Central Coast Chordsmen have been entertaining the central coast since the early 1970s. Long-time members include Larry Long bass; Dan Daniels, baritone; Robert Carlton, tenor; Larry Los, lead; and Sean Abel, director.

Tradition says that barbershop music was started by African American musicians who would take a chord and "crack it," meaning each person would take a different part.

The Chordsmen welcome the community to this fun concert. \$10 tickets are available at the door.

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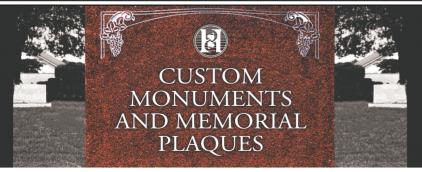
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Orcutt Schools Update

A Person who DAREs to Make a Difference

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

Very few individuals can make the claim that they have impacted almost all of the students in a school system over a span of time.

Leslie Avila can.

Avila is a former Santa Barbara County Sheriff's deputy who has served as our DARE officer since 2011. She teaches the County Sheriff's Department-provided DARE Program to sixth graders, and by a rough estimate has worked with over 5,000 of our pupils over the years. Most every student produced by our elementary and K-8 schools is familiar with "Deputy Avila."

And now Avila is retiring – a development that will not occur without a fitting tribute from those of us in the Orcutt Union School District.

"The main thing that comes to mind about Leslie is her passion for the DARE Program and for her students," says Orcutt Academy fifth- and sixth-grade teacher Stacey Lovell. "She truly believes that the DARE decision making process is something kids can carry with them forever."

DARE underwent a transformation during Avila's tenure as a DARE officer. When she began teaching DARE, the acronym stood for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The focus of the DARE curriculum was on educating students about the dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

In recent years, the DARE program shifted its emphasis to helping students overcome peer and societal pressures to use drugs. The curriculum still detailed the dangers of drug use, but it devoted much more attention to a decision making model. DARE now stood for four steps in making a good choice: Define, Assess, Respond, and Evaluate.

"I tell students to do DARE in their head when they have a decision to make," Avila explains. "Define what the problem or opportunity is. Assess what your options are. Respond by making a decision. And then evaluate your decision afterward."

DARE consists of 10 lessons, and students must write a DARE essay that recaps what they learned and articulates a personal commitment to stay away from drugs. Students' successful completion of the program is celebrated in a school DARE graduation attended by parents, family members, and officials from the County Sheriff's Department. Avila is known for creating slide presentations that highlight this ceremony.

"Leslie spends a lot of time on her slide show, which children love," says Joe Nightingale School Principal Kate McInerney. "She includes each student and does the slides in a way that children really enjoy."

While Avila does not consider herself a teacher, she plainly values her time leading classroom learning.

"The biggest promotion I ever got was to the DARE officer position," she says. "Teaching and working with kids is such a blessing. Taking something you know and sharing it

with someone else ... not many professions get to do this."

In retirement, Avila will appreciate having more time for her husband, three children, and four grandchildren. Also in her plans are travel and enjoyment of her favorite pastime, crafting.

"The Sheriff's Office and our local communities have been incredibly fortunate to have been graced with Leslie Avila as our longtime DARE instructor," says County Undersheriff Craig Bonner. "Because of Leslie's love for our local children and the program, thousands of local children were given access to life skills and tools that will assist them throughout the remainder of their lives."

On behalf of the Orcutt Union School District, I would like to formally thank Leslie Avila for her immeasurable contributions to Orcutt students over the years. She most certainly has made a difference!

May all of you enjoy a happy and blessed holiday season and a wonderful New Year. See you in 2023!

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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