

# Orcutt PIONEER

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## Library Services in Orcutt

# Orcutt Library Plans for a New Building, Comparing Local Library Services with Other Libraries in Santa Barbara County



*The Orcutt Branch Library has been in its current location for about 10 years. The library averages from 2500-3000 patrons per month.*

In the spring of 2020, findings made by an ad hoc committee commissioned by the Santa Barbara County Library Advisory Committee were presented to the County Board of Supervisors. The findings said the Orcutt library, compared with smaller and medium sized libraries such as Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Buellton, Cuyama, Montecito

and Carpinteria, was deficient in almost all the standards. Criteria included: the number of staff for a local library, the amount of staff hours per week, amount of collections in the library, amount of programs, outreach, technology and facilities.

Orcutt has the largest population base of those presented in the report.

According to Carol Gregor, who serves on the Santa Barbara County Library Advisory Committee and is vice president of the Friends of the Orcutt Library, the local library is severely limited as to the services it can provide. "There have been many times we have had to step back programs and offerings because the library can only accommodate a total of 48 children, adults, and staff. We are severely limited with what we can offer the community."

The report was compiled by the Legacy Group, a Santa Barbara Consultant firm and commissioned by the Santa Barbara County Library Advisory Committee. As a result of that study, the Library Advisory Committee established an Ad Hoc group consisting of representatives of the four library zones in the County to develop targets based on data from surrounding counties with libraries of comparable size, small, medium, and large. The Orcutt library is considered medium sized.

According to Gregor, a major objective is to ensure the targets are applied equally to each library. The Orcutt library is currently open 36 hours per week with 70 hours of staff time. The target is 42 hours a week with a professional librarian and two paid staff. The targets specified are increases in community outreach and enhancement of early childhood literacy, youth summer reading and expanded school age and adult programs.

The expected annual increase needed to meet those minimum standards for the Orcutt Branch library was \$220,583, significantly higher than needed by the other branch libraries in the report.

The County of Santa Barbara funds the Orcutt Library, which is operated by the City of Santa Maria. The Friends of the Orcutt Library also help fund

the Orcutt Library's operations, but this is not sustainable. Gregor says the Board of Supervisors, especially Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson, has been extremely supportive in efforts to meet targets established by the Ad Hoc Committee and County Library Board.

Over the years the library has been located in several rented locations, including space next to Oak Knolls Hardware in the Oak Knolls shopping center, and for the past ten years, has been in a rented location in Orcutt Plaza in Old Town Orcutt. Rental cost to the County is \$10,000 monthly.

According to Nelson, finding a new location for the Orcutt Branch library is a "top priority." He added, "It's something my office works on each day, and with the help of our friends at the library, community members and elected leaders, we are coming close to solidifying a permanent location for a community center that will serve as a hub for all children, residents and families."

With the help of the Orcutt Friends of the Library, the Supervisors have authorized RRM Architectural Design of Santa Barbara to identify the local library's needs and to look at three proposed sites for a new library. Gregor says the current library in the Orcutt Plaza is about 4500 square feet. The proposal for the new library is 19,000 square feet.

Thanks to private donations, efforts led by Supervisor Nelson that equated to contributions by the County, plus two million dollars from the federal budget passed by Congress in December of 2022, there is about \$5,000,000 set aside for a new library in Orcutt.

The locations of the proposed sites have not been publicly announced.

*Steve Southwick reporting*

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## Mr. Nelson Goes to Washington

*Report from Santa Barbara County Supervisor Bob Nelson who was just elected to his second term on March 5.*



OASIS Chair Trevor Lauridsen, Executive Director Michelle Southwick, Mary Ellen Pankratz, Supervisor Bob Nelson, Congressman Salud Carbajal, Stephanie Southwick Hull, Steve Southwick, Fred Carbone met in Washington DC

After a significant victory on election night, I didn't take a break. By dawn on Wednesday, I was on my way to Washington D.C. with a clear goal: to secure more federal support for Orcutt, focusing on funding for the construction of the OASIS Senior Community Center. Our team, including OASIS Executive Director, Michelle Southwick, OASIS Board Chair Trevor Lauridsen and his wife Taylor, Boardmember Fred Carbone, and OASIS members Mary

Ellen Pankratz, Steve Southwick, and Stephanie Hull, were all set to make a strong case for our community.

As your County Supervisor, I see it as my job to make sure our area benefits from the taxes we all pay. Our trip was about getting our fair share, with this trip focused on OASIS, a project high on Santa Barbara County's funding priority list. Meeting with staff from Senator Padilla and Butler's offices, we showed them how ready OASIS is for this boost.

They were impressed our "Shovel-ready" project and the wide range of programs OASIS offers, not just to seniors but to the whole community.

Mary Ellen Pankratz shared in our presentation a touching story about the difference OASIS made in her life after her husband Dennis passed away, highlighting the center's impact on her and others. Our meetings gave us hope, especially the support from Congressman Carbajal. Despite his busy schedule, including preparing for his State of the Union appearance, he took the time to meet with us personally, showing genuine enthusiasm for our project.

We left D.C. feeling hopeful, confident that our efforts would bear fruit. The dedication of our team to securing a future for a permanent home for OASIS made a significant impact on the officials we met. This trip wasn't just about funding; it was about uniting for a cause that resonates deeply within our community. It showed that by standing together, we can bring essential resources back to Orcutt, making a tangible difference in the lives of our residents. Our work continues, but we're optimistic about the path ahead for OASIS.



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# Groundwork Proceeding on Shopping Center at at Clark and Highway 101



Construction of the Grocery Outlet on near the intersection of Clark Avenue and Highway 101 is proceeding. The market is expected to open later this year or early next.

What's known as a "Gateway Retail Shopping Center" on the south side of Clark Avenue at Highway 101 is taking shape. The six acres, known as Key Site 2, stretches between the Orcutt Hills Shopping Center at Stillwell Road and Highway 101.

Developer Taylor Judkins of G3 Real

Estate in San Luis Obispo says an 18,000 square foot Grocery Outlet plans on opening later this year or early in 2025. Construction of the 18,000 square foot market is well underway. A Chevron gas station and car wash permit and building applications are being processed by Santa Barbara County.

Other businesses are in the works, but Judkins says nothing is firmed up yet.

According to the County, eventually there will be a new road that enters the center off Clark Avenue. The cost of signalization will be paid by the developer. The new road will be the access for a commercial, residential

project to be known as the "Orcutt Marketplace" on Key Site 1 on the northside of Clark. That project is working its way through the County permitting process.

*Steve Southwick reporting*

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# “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor” Thanks to Local Volunteers



Local family with their new bunkbeds built by Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers.

"No kid sleeps on the floor in this town," says Orcutt native Joe Halsell, volunteer at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, (SHP). SHP was founded in Idaho in 2012 and is a charity that delivers hand-made bunk or single beds to children who haven't had their own beds. The Orcutt/ Santa Maria chapter, which includes Lompoc and Guadalupe, "is 100% volunteer," says Halsell with Southwest Regional Support anager Colleen Grant of Lompoc, as they spoke to a local Kiwanis group. SHP brings the materials, constructs the beds themselves, and delivers them to area children. "Some of whom have never slept off the floor

in their lives." They also buy the bedding. It really brings the community together with a cause," Halsell says.

In December 2023 SHP delivered 140 beds of the 1296 total that have been delivered since May 2022, when it began. Halsell, owner of Halsell Builders, explains that beds cost \$250 - \$500 to construct.

SHP tries to stay current with the demand. This month, March 2024, 73 families are waiting for 179 beds. Halsell expects that 20 beds will be delivered a week with 3-4 volunteers per delivery. Equipped with noisy power drills they arrive with a truck or trailer of supplies and construct the beds. They also make up the mattresses with age-appropriate sheets and blankets like dinosaurs, solar systems, or unicorns, for the younger children and more mature designs for the older children. During two deliveries to two different families, on March 1, each received a bunk and a single bed. Volunteer Kathleen Snell says how special it is to know that a child will no

longer be sleeping on the floor. "After the first delivery I was hooked. It's so fulfilling. I've cried many times, happy tears." She points to the five-year-old boy who has just climbed to the top bunk for the first time, his face beaming. "This is my favorite moment," she says.

The creation of the beds is a community event. In January a "Build Day" took place at the Santa Maria Home-Depot parking lot, where 150 people showed up, lunch provided, and joined an assembly line. Ages were "2-102," said Grant, as the coordinator of the event. Stations begin with marking and cutting the wood, drilling holes, followed by sanding, branding with the SHP logo, and ending with dunking stations for staining. "These beds last a lifetime. They are not particle board. They won't fall apart," says Halsell.

Each month the Build Day is paid for by community donations and sponsors. Recent sponsors have been the Santa



Joe Halsell assembles a bed for a family in need.

Maria Elks Lodge, Chumash, Lowes, and Home Depot. This month it will be Driscoll Farms.

Halsell says he shared his SHP experience on Facebook and volunteers have signed up regularly "massively from Orcutt." Halsell looks forward to his weekly Friday delivery recounting that he and friends used to go to a brewery or a bar after a hard work week. "Now I wouldn't miss a delivery. It's wonderful to serve people. This is a God-

given thing. Not something to keep to ourselves," he adds.

To volunteer for a "Build Day" or help make deliveries, call Colleen Grant at 805-423-1180. The 501c(3) charity is "platinum rated on GuideStar," says Grant. "And we are actually almost out of beds." To donate go to [www.shpbeds.com](http://www.shpbeds.com) and delineate CA-Santa Barbara North Chapter. Halsell adds that there are more ways to help. Email him at [Joe.Halsell@shpbeds.org](mailto:Joe.Halsell@shpbeds.org).

Katy Jacobson reporting

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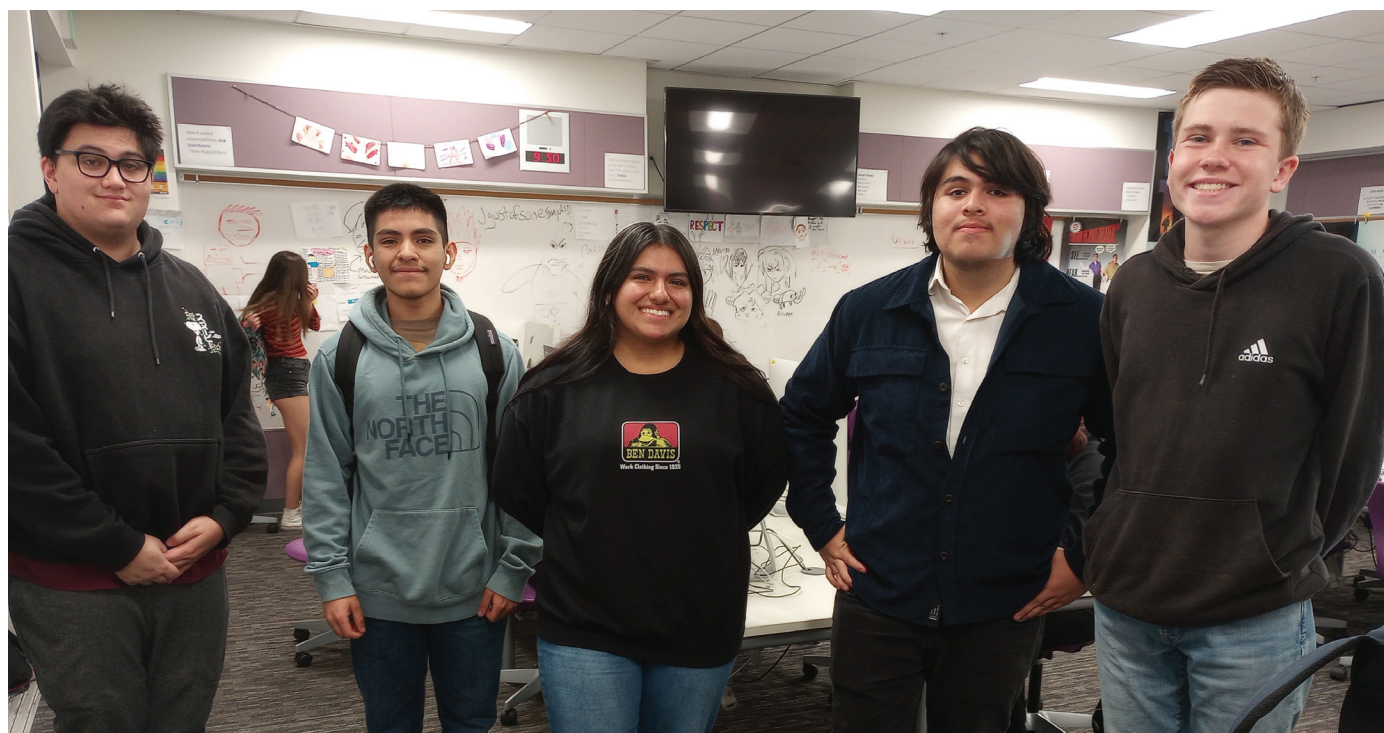
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# Righetti Student Film Featured at SLO Film Festival



so much, yet keep the class fun and memorable,” said Adan Garcia.

“I had a lot of fun making this film! There was great acting in it & getting to do the special effects makeup was a good experience! It’s such an honor to have something I worked on get into this Film Festival and I hope this marks the beginning of my film career,” said Anabel Martinez.

Gusafson says during last year’s festival, there were nine films in the high school category from all over the world including two from San Luis Obispo County.

“This is the first time a film made by my students has been accepted to the SLO Film Festival and I’m very proud of the hard work my students put into their film. Getting into the SLO Film Festival is a big deal as the festival is considered one of the best in the nation, it just so happens that it’s conveniently located in our backyard. I’m not surprised they got in. These students always put in an A+ effort and it shows both in their growth as film makers and creative storytellers,” said film teacher Jacob Gustafson.

More information can be viewed at [slofilmfest.org](http://slofilmfest.org)

RHS film students Zephyr Delute (12th Grade), Adan Garcia (12th Grade), Anabel Martinez (12th Grade), Samuel Cornejo (11th grade), Nathan Freeland (11th Grade). Their short film will be featured at the SLO FilmFest.

A short film produced by Righetti visual and performing arts students has been selected to screen at the 30th San Luis Obispo International Film Festival in the Filmmakers of Tomorrow Contest. The six-minute thriller, “The Purple

Death,” is about Officer Mark Stevens investigating the murder of Zephyr Martinez with the help of Emily Smith, a McDonalds employee. The competition features work by elementary to high school students.

The students say they cannot wait to

showcase their work on Sunday, April 28, at the festival.

“It was an absolute blast to work with my classmates on this film, which was made possible by our teacher, Mr. Gustafson, who was able to teach

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## Orcutt Schools Update

# Upbeat News from Around the District

*Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD*

We always are happy to report positive happenings from all over the Orcutt Union School District:

Congratulations to Joe Nightingale School's fifth-grade teaching team of Julie Grennan, Nancy Ramirez, and Lisa Savaso and Ralph Dunlap School fourth-grade teachers Sheri Morris and Erica Phillips on receiving the district's latest #WeAreOrcutt Awards! The Joe Nightingale trio was selected for the award for its skillful collaboration as a Professional Learning Community team. Morris and Phillips were selected for their initiative in landing community support for their school garden and then engaging their students in growing, harvesting, and eating an array of vegetables. Well done, teachers!

Our district is proud to have added an electric-powered school bus to its fleet. Purchased with grants, the new coach was integrated into the district's transportation schedule in January. Students and bus drivers are liking the electric bus – "It offers

a very comfortable, quiet ride," says district Transportation Coordinator Jana Graham.

Big thanks to everyone who attended or supported the March 2 Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) Gala! Students played a key role in the event, which annually is OCAF's biggest fundraiser in support of district arts programming. The Gala included performances by the Orcutt Academy High School (OAHS) Band and the cast of the OCAF spring play. Additionally, several paintings by OAHS students were auctioned off, with proceeds going to OCAF.

OCAF's spring play for elementary and junior high school students is a one-act comedy, "Bedtime Stories (as Told by My Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)." Directed by Eimile Pay, the play will be performed April 19 and 20 at Lakeview Junior High School. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Congratulations to Leslie Wagon seller, our district's executive director of technology! The local

region of the Association California School Administrators (ACSA) recently announced that she has been selected as Technology Administrator of the Year. She will be feted at an ACSA event later this spring.

Wagon seller played a major part in organizing a professional development day on March 4 that offered an amazing 48 training sessions for the district's teachers, administrators, and classified employees. Topics included technology use for work flow and teaching, artificial intelligence in the classroom, behavior basics, math instruction, science instruction, and much more. Staff appreciated having such a range of choices.

March 26 brings the North County Math Super Bowl, an interscholastic competition for young mathematicians in grades 4, 5, and 6. Orcutt elementary schools and other schools from northern Santa Barbara County will participate in the event, which will be hosted by our district in the Lakeview Junior High School Gym.

Our two junior high schools start their soccer season this month, as they are in a league along with several other local junior highs. Lakeview piloted soccer in 2023, and students enjoyed the opportunity so much (the Lakeview girls' team won the end-of-season tournament) that OJHS opted to join this year. Good luck to the Trojan and Mustang soccer squads!

Our district has begun enrolling students for the 2024-2025 school year. Most new students are being registered for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten, but we are signing up students for grades 1-8 as well. Please note that the age eligibility window for TK is expanding to include students who turn five anytime between September 2, 2024, and June 2, 2025. The enrollment process begins with online forms; to start the process, go to the district website, [www.orcuttschools.net](http://www.orcuttschools.net), and click on "Enroll Today!" For more information, phone our Enrollment Office at 805-938-8946.

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful spring!!

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

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# Insights from a Local Resident and Realtor

## Orcutt's Real Estate Market



with remarkable steadiness. Despite the national conversation around rising interest rates, Orcutt maintains its allure. While the scales tip just slightly in favor of sellers due to persisting low inventory, buyers are finding advantages too, often securing seller credits to assist with interest rate buydowns, whether temporary or permanent, balancing the playing field.

2023 witnessed an unprecedented rise in interest rates, a trend not seen in decades. Yet, contrary to expectations, home prices in Orcutt have continued their

steady ascent, month after month. This resilience speaks volumes about the desirability and inherent value of homes in our area.

However, the journey is not without its hurdles. Buyers face the challenge of limited inventory, which intensifies competition and makes finding the right home more demanding. Sellers, on the other hand, grapple with the delicate art of pricing. Homes priced without a realistic market understanding tend to linger longer, underscoring the importance of expert guidance in this nuanced process.

The Orcutt real estate market shows a clear preference for homes in the \$550,000-\$650,000 range, which tend to sell quickly, reflecting a sweet spot for both buyers and sellers. Properties priced around \$900,000 require a bit more patience but ultimately find their match, testament to Orcutt's enduring appeal.

Looking ahead, the market's direction remains a topic of speculation, with predictions about interest rates diverging. Yet, one thing is clear: a potential drop in rates could reinvigorate buyer interest, pushing prices up due to the pent-up demand. Conversely, a rise in rates might slow sales, but the scarcity of inventory suggests prices would hold steady.


For those contemplating entering the Orcutt real estate market, the advice is personal and pragmatic. The decision to buy or sell is intimately tied to individual circumstances, financial readiness, and life stages. It's less about timing the market and more about whether the time is right for you.

In real estate, as in life, personal connections matter. Whether buying or selling, partnering with someone you trust, someone who understands not just the market but also the local community, can make all the difference. In Orcutt, we're more than just neighbors; we're a community that looks out for one another, making every real estate journey not just a transaction, but a passage to the next chapter in life.

As we navigate the currents and undercurrents of the Orcutt real estate market, let's remember that each home, each transaction, tells a story. And in these stories, we find not just the blueprint of houses, but the foundations of our community.

Jason Francia is a local real estate agent with eXp Realty. He can be reached at 805-463-6563.

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Central Coast Birding-Hooded Oriole

Pet of the Month, Scrappy

In March, we can expect to start seeing our spring migrants return to the Central Coast to raise their young. One of the most eye-catching, and relatively common migratory species we have here on the Central Coast, is the Hooded Oriole. These beautiful black and yellow stunners are often heard before they are seen. Their call is a very busy chatter mixed with the occasional “Veek” call. Often, the best place to get a good look at them is your hummingbird feeder. While their diet consists of bugs, fruit and nectar, they love coming to hummingbird feeders for a quick and easy sugary meal. They are blackbird sized and, in fact, are closely related to blackbirds.

Orioles are often casually referred to as “Weaver Birds”. In our area, they use the stringy parts of palm tree fronds along with other materials they can scavenge to weave intricate, bag like nests. They lay 3-5 eggs that hatch within a couple of weeks. So, if you see Hooded Orioles coming to your hummingbird feeder,




it's very likely that within a few weeks you will have young orioles following Mom and Pop to your feeder. But don't expect them all to have the beautiful black and yellow colors. As is so often the case in the feathered world, the males are brightly colored while females and young have comparatively dull coloring. Once they raise their young, the orioles spend the rest of their summer here fattening up. Then in August and September, they will begin the long migration back to Central and South America.

This male Hooded Oriole was photographed at one of my hummingbird feeders in 2023. Watch for future articles on our wonderful birding opportunities here on the Central Coast. *John Deacon of Orcutt has been birding in Santa Barbara County for over 40 years. He can be reached at [iseekbirds@verizon.net](mailto:iseekbirds@verizon.net).*




Meet Scrappy, the spirited and charming 1-year-old German Shepherd mix with playful energy and a heart full of love. Scrappy's journey began when he

was abandoned by a homeless man, but his spirit remained unbroken. With a wagging tail and a twinkle in his eye, he's always ready for a game of fetch or a romp in the yard. But Scrappy isn't just all play and no work—he's also incredibly intelligent and eager to learn. Whether it's mastering new tricks or embarking on outdoor adventures, Scrappy is always up for a challenge and ready to impress with an eager attitude. Despite his rough start, Scrappy has already shown himself to be a loyal and devoted companion. He thrives on human interaction and craves the love and attention of a forever family to call his own. So if you're searching for a furry friend to add some joy to your life, look no further than Scrappy—the German Shepherd mix with a heart as big as his personality. He's available at the Santa Maria County Animal Shelter located at 548 W Foster Road. To learn more about him please call 805-934-6119, extension 8.



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## Community Events

Do you have a special event, fundraiser, or community activity you would like our readers to know about? Whether it's a one-time event or an monthly or weekly happening, we want to help you get the word out. Email 50 words or less to [info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto:info@orcuttpioneer.com) by the first Monday 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 meeting times.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S PAINTED CHAIR RAFFLE** at the Santa Maria Town Center East April 20th-May 5th. Local artists create book-themed items for the public to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win. Raffle's proceeds less administrative costs support the Santa Maria Public Library.

**FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS AT OASIS CENTER** provided by the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens and will be served four days a week. RSVP by calling (805) 925-9554, option 1 or e-mail [meals@CentralCoastSeniors.org](mailto:meals@CentralCoastSeniors.org).

### MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

**50+ CLUB Meeting/Luncheon** at Giavanni's Pizza, 1108 E. Clark Ave. at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month, purchase our own lunch, meet & share ideas and support local charities. New members welcome. Pam Cosma 805-896-6045.

**AA (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, 805-925-3782.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES** ([www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908.

**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: [aacquilters@gmail.com](mailto:aacquilters@gmail.com) or 805.448.6276.

**ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST** meets 6PM 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 info and meeting location call 805 478-9243 or [www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org](http://www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org).

**BREAKFAST at The OASIS Center**, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month, 7:45-10am. Adult members: \$7.00, Non-members: \$8.00, Children under 10: \$5.00.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 534** is open to all members Thursday 3-9, Friday 3-10PM, Saturday noon-8PM, Sunday noon-6PM, Monday 3-8PM, Closed Tuesday and Wednesdays.

**ANGELS FOSTER CARE** is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt local foster care providers. To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, visit [www.angelsfostercare.org](http://www.angelsfostercare.org) or call 805-884-0012.

**ATTENTION ALL MAGICIANS!** Join our local magic club. Meet once a month. All ages and skill levels welcome. Text Tom Becker (805) 720-1164

**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)? MaAnn McKindley 805-714-6111

**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. [ronterry4543@gmail.com](mailto:ronterry4543@gmail.com)

**BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICES** at Christian Life Church every Sunday at 1PM, Oasis Senior Center.

**CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE** is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday. Information: Elaine 805-937-5357

**CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** at the OASIS Center. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional. 1st Wednesdays from 630pm-7:30pm, and 3rd Thursdays 2:00-3:30pm.

**CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB**. Call 805-714-1552 for information.

**CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN** invite those who 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 @ Home Motors, showroom lobby at 1313 E. Main St., Santa Maria. Info: call 805-934-3948 or 805-709-6221.

**CENTRAL COAST CRUISE NIGHTS** invites all car collectors to join us on the 4th Saturday of the month at Golden Donut in Orcutt, depart at 6pm, and drive into Old Orcutt. Afterwards, grab a bite to eat and support our local businesses.

**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.

**CENTRAL COAST SUDOKU CLUB** - Ready to take your SUDOKU solving skills to the next level? Monthly "step-by-step" solutions to "Tough" puzzles in a "Skype" game format. Email [stepbystepsudoku@verizon.net](mailto:stepbystepsudoku@verizon.net) for more information. For examples, search YouTube for SUBINGDOKU.

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

**COASTAL VOICES** is looking for singers! Rehearsals Mondays, 6:30PM at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd. All participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID. A love of singing and the willingness to work hard and learn beautiful music is the only requirement. [www.coastalvoices.info](http://www.coastalvoices.info), [coastalvoices@gmail.com](mailto:coastalvoices@gmail.com) or call 805-937-5827 for additional information.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**, an international non-denominational Bible study, runs through May 1, 2024. Meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 10:10am to 12pm, at Grace Baptist Church in the Ed Building. <https://santamaria.cbsclass.org/>

**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.

**CRIBBAGE ANYONE?** The Santa Maria Cribbage Club is looking for new members.

Meets Monday@IHOP@noon. We play 9 games against different opponents. If you love cribbage, please join us. Contact: Debbie @ (805) 598-1867

**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](http://www.pack91orcutt.org) or call us at 805-253-CUBS.

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SM VALLEY** meets every 3rd Thursday at IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria. Social at 6PM, guest speakers at 7PM. Business meeting for members follows. Call 805-349-2708 or visit [www.santamariademocrats.info](http://www.santamariademocrats.info) for more information.

**DOUBLE DECK PINOCHLE** meets the second and fourth Tuesday at Mussell Center from 12:30 - 4:00. Info: Jean 805-922-1615.

**EVANGELISTIC SERVICE** 105 S. Broadway (Old Orcutt), Sundays at 6:30PM, Worship with us. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro (805) 937-6536.

**FREE EXERCISE GROUP** 9AM Saturday mornings throughout June and July. Emphasis on walking and/or running the 1/4-mile-long Harbor Church Trail at 751 E. Foster Road. Ages 4 - 94 welcome. Questions? David Dantzer at (805) 937-0213.



**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** 6-8PM. Last Friday of the month @ Unity Church, 1165 Stubblefield, Orcutt. Bring games and food to share. (805) 937-3025.

**FIRST FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT** at Orcutt Lions Den, 126 South Broadway Street in Old Orcutt, 6-8 p.m. Orcutt Lions Club is serving hamburgers and fries, plus homemade pie, on the first Friday of the month. Bar will be open. Call 805-934-1246 for more information.

**FOUR-PARK BARBERSHOP HARMONY FOR WOMEN** who love to sing. For additional information, call 805-736-7572. We love to sing for special occasions. Rehearsals on Thursday nights, 6:45PM, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 4725 S. Bradley Rd.

**GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND** Come and enjoy fresh vegetables, flowers and plants. Located on the corner of Foster Rd and California.

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## Community Events

more information contact Jack Brey at 805-598-9397

**HEALING GRIEF CLASS** an 8 week support class for the newly bereaved held 5 times a year (Tues 10AM-Noon at Marian Residence) and a Grief Recovery Support Group every Tues. 3-4:30PM at Marian West, 505 E. Plaza Drive in Santa Maria. Info on either group: Marian Hospice at 739-3830

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLASS** at the OASIS Center 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt - Learn about supplements, exercise, cardiac health, and more! 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 2:00-3:30.

**INTERESTED** in attending in-depth healing groups? Led by Pastor and Holy Spirit. Celebrated in members' homes. Info: Pastor Victor at (805) 878-1033 or Carl Buck at (805) 478-6198

**INVESTMENT GROUP** at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 11:30-12:30. Educational group, no fees.

**JOIN THE CUB SCOUTS.** Pack 93 of Orcutt Camping, hiking, lots of outdoor activities. Family oriented pack. Siblings are invited! Join the fun of the most exciting Cub Scout pack around. (805) 478-3538 or [www.lospadrespack93.com](http://www.lospadrespack93.com)

**JOIN US FOR THE EPIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY** in Room 2-Parish Community Center, Monday evening, 7:30-9PM. For more information contact Trent Benedetti, 922-4881, [trentb@benedetticpa.com](mailto:trentb@benedetticpa.com) or Steve Stanley, 937 1353, [ssvs@verizon.net](mailto:ssvs@verizon.net).

**LIFE IN FOCUS**, 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt), Every Wednesday from 6-7PM. An evidence-based free program helping to rebuild our communities one person at a time. Changing lives. One family at a time. Julie Fernandez (805) 704-2646

**MOMS CLUB OF ORCUTT** is a chapter of the MOMS Club International and is dedicated to supporting moms who are looking for exciting and fun things to do with their small children. Find us on Facebook at MOMS Club of Orcutt or email [orcuttmomclub@gmail.com](mailto:orcuttmomclub@gmail.com)

**NEWCOMERS CLUB** - Santa Maria Valley women's group meets monthly for lunch, coffee, special events and to have fun. Join us! Call Barbara Chappell 614-6800. **ORCUTT CHRISTIAN CHURCH** offers a FREE class on the Fundamentals of the Christian faith on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 2-3PM, 204 Patterson Rd.

**ORCUTT DONUT DERELICTS** is an informal car club that meets every Sunday, rain or shine, in the parking lot outside the Golden Donut from 8-10AM. Everyone is welcome.

**ORCUTT LIONS CLUB** meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Orcutt Lions Den, 126 South Broadway, at Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for socializing; the meeting starts at 7PM. Meetings are open to the public. Call 805-934-1246 for more information.

**PATHWAY FAMILY SERVICES** faith based foster family agency that places children in certified homes and offers support to those who want to become foster parents. We offer free training and monetary compensation for qualified families. For more information call 805-739-1111.

**PATH POINT**, a non-profit organization that has provided services for individuals with disabilities and disadvantages since 1964, is currently seeking donations of vinyl or leather chairs and/or couches for the day program. Contact Gail @ 934-3537 ex. 110 for questions or donations.

**POETRY FOR WELLNESS WORKSHOP** at the OASIS Center 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt. Join Dot as she guides you through an exploration of mental wellness through poetry. 2nd Thursday each month from 8:00am-9:30am.

**PUGS IN THE PARK**, meet every second Sunday of the month, 2-4PM, Orcutt Community Small Dog Park, 5800 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt, CA.

**ROTARY CLUB of SANTA MARIA-SOUTH**, Santa Maria Inn 801 S. Broadway (Kent Room), Meetings held on the 1st three Mondays of each month from 6-7:30PM. New members welcome! Join us for dinner and discover what our Rotary Club is all about. "Service above Self" Contact Joe Gruba [joegruba56@yahoo.com](mailto:joegruba56@yahoo.com)

**RPEA** (Retired Public Employees' Association) invites anyone who is a public employee to come to a meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon, Santa Maria Terrace, 1405 E Main St. Come see what you can do to help save your retirement and other benefits RPEA has to offer.

**SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB** meets 7PM third Wednesday of the month at Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 East Park Ave. Santa Maria. Coin collectors of all ages and casino chip collectors are all invited. Bring coins for free appraisals. 805-937-315

**SANTA MARIA FAMILY HISTORY CENTER** FREE services to help ancestors. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Tuesday - Thursday 10AM-2PM, and 6:30-8:30PM Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. 805 928-4722.

**SANTA MARIA FLYERS AIRCRAFT DISPLAY DAY** at Santa Maria Airport on the second weekend of each month, both Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 2. Hangar doors open to display aircraft and enjoy community with SMX pilots.

**SANTA MARIA INCLUSIVE LEARNERS (SMILE)** homeschooling group meets every Monday 10-11:30AM for academic enrichment, social interaction and fun. Home and alternative learners welcome. 805-934-9857 for location.

**SANTA MARIA LAWN BOWLING CLUB** Great fun, easy to play, all ages, all levels, low impact exercise lawn bowling and make new friends in a congenial atmosphere. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30AM at 420 S. McClelland St. Call Don Yee 805-980-8673

**SANTA MARIA MENS CLUB** Spend a couple of hours with a great bunch of guys. 805-937-1499 or 805-937-0355

**SANTA MARIA MODEL A CLUB** meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month, 6:30PM, at the Elwin Mussell Center. Visitors and guests are welcome. Info: Jay McCord 805-598-8133

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** meets 3rd Thursday 2:15 to 4PM except Jun, Jul, Aug & Dec. Visitors welcome. Contact [smvgs.org](http://smvgs.org) for program and location info.

**SANTA MARIA WOMEN'S NETWORK** meets the first Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Santa Maria County Club, 505 West Waller Lane, Santa Maria. Please email [smwn.reservation@gmail.com](mailto:smwn.reservation@gmail.com) or check out our webpage at [smwn.net](http://smwn.net) for more information.

**SENIOR SOFTBALL:** Boys and girls over 50 who like to play softball, Monday & Thursday mornings at Hagerman Softball Complex. A player pays \$1 each day to help purchase new balls and sponsor a picnic once a month. [rgreen1467@hotmail.com](mailto:rgreen1467@hotmail.com)

**SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK** meets the second Tuesday of the month at 12 noon at A Street Cafe, 2445 A Street Santa Maria. For more information, call 805-264-2434

**STAR OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH** welcomes all to attend Bible study every Thursday @10AM. 4465 S. Blosser Rd., 805 937-0339 Sunday School, 105 S. Broadway, Sundays at 10AM, Pastor Jesse Pinheiro (805) 937-6536


**TEMPLE BETH EL**, a reformed congregation invites those of the Jewish faith to attend services every Friday night at 7:30 pm. 1501 East Alvin Ave., Santa Maria. [tbesantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:tbesantamaria@gmail.com)

**TRI CITY COUNTESS CHORUS/SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL** invites women who like to sing to come join the chorus 6:45PM Thursdays at Lutheran Church of Our Savior.

**WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS** Cornerstone Church (Family Center) Mon/Wed/Fri 10-11AM. FREE. Bring mat. All Levels. 1026 E. Sierra Madre (next to Hancock College) Office: (805) 922-1919

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