

# PIONEER

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## Three Commercial Buildings Proposed at Clark and Stillwell



Development on Orcutt Hill Plaza (otherwise known as Key Site 4 in the Orcutt Community Plan) seems to have finally begun. The three parcels that make up the site on the corner of Clark and Stillwell are zoned C-2 Retail Commercial and three commercial buildings are being proposed.

According to materials posted on the site by Dan Blough Construction, J.F. Will Company, and Schmidt Family Investments, Building A will be 4580 square feet, Building B will be 4847 square feet, and Building C will be 2969 square feet.

The groundbreaking for Orcutt Hill Plaza was held on June 15th of last year and at that time it was reported that a restaurant, a Verizon store, and a women's boutique had shown interest, though OP was unable to confirm any future tenants as of press time.

"I have not been notified of the proposed business type," says Planner Gwen Beyeler. "There could be a drive through eventually, however it would not be used for fast-food. A bank or pharmacy would be allowed."

Santa Barbara County Planning and Development says all parcels have been approved for grading, but planning and building permits for the development of the buildings have not been issued yet.

The next step in the process is obtaining the zoning clearances for the three buildings that are currently in process with the Planning and Development Department.

"We are not ready to approve the zoning clearances yet, pending the submittal of information such as sign off from Public Works, Transportation, landscaping sureties, sign permits, and a construction parking notice for onsite construction employees," says Beyeler.

*Rebecca Ross reporting*

## Summer May Be a Good Time to Volunteer in Orcutt

With summer fast approaching, it's the perfect time to start thinking about volunteering. Here is a partial list of Orcutt organizations that are always in need of community members looking to give back.

### **Foodbank of Santa Barbara County**

490 W. Foster Rd.

(805) 937-3422

[Foodbanksbc.org/give-help/volunteer](http://Foodbanksbc.org/give-help/volunteer)

"We could not do all that we do without the help of our amazing volunteers!" The Foodbank offers a variety of volunteer opportunities on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. These include Public Relations representatives, event volunteers for Empty Bowls, Table of Life, and Stamp Out Hunger food drives, marketing and media volunteers, food unloading and sorting, Saturday Famers Market Rescue, and more.

### **OASIS Senior Center**

420 Soares Ave.

(805) 937-9750

[Oasisorcutt.org/about/volunteer](http://Oasisorcutt.org/about/volunteer)

"OASIS volunteers provide more than 12,000 hours of service annually. Last year alone, more than 150 of our volunteers were

seniors themselves." Though many volunteers are General and Associate Members, you do not have to be a member to volunteer at OASIS. Opportunities include front desk hospitality, special events, special projects, maintenance and repairs, outreach, graffiti abatement, and food distribution.

### **Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation**

500 Dyer St.

(805) 938-8966

[Orcuttarts.com/volunteer](http://Orcuttarts.com/volunteer)

"OCAF is successful thanks to an army of dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for board and committee members, people to help with special events, and classroom volunteers." Opportunities include Chalk Festival and Annual Gala volunteers, Marketing and Outreach, Arts Education, School Arts Program volunteers, and Art Attack instructors and helpers.

### **Orcutt Branch Library**

175 S. Broadway

(805) 937-6483

[Cityofsantamaria.org](http://Cityofsantamaria.org)

"The Friends of the Orcutt Library is a non-profit with the goal of providing

volunteer and financial support to provide books, supplies, materials, and resources to the Orcutt Library." Individual/Household membership is \$15 per calendar year. Volunteers run several Book Sales each year to raise additional funds to supplement the library.

### **Santa Barbara County Animal Shelter**

548 W. Foster Rd.

(805) 934-6119

[Countyofsb.org/phd/animal/volunteers.sbc](http://Countyofsb.org/phd/animal/volunteers.sbc)

"We rely on our volunteers as a vital part of our organization to help directly care for the shelter animals and perform a variety of tasks such as adoption counseling, training, exercise, enrichment, grooming, photography, and community outreach. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of shelter pets every day!" Volunteers can also work specifically with cats and bunnies.

### **Santa Barbara County Parks**

[Countyofsb.org/parks/volunteer.sbc](http://Countyofsb.org/parks/volunteer.sbc)

Santa Barbara County Parks offers several volunteer programs such as Park Hosts (North County Host Sites include Waller Park and Orcutt Community Park), Camp,

and Maintenance Hosts. These volunteers "represent County Parks by greeting the public and helping set the tone for an enjoyable stay." Hosts often stay on-site. Other opportunities are Trail Maintenance Volunteers and the Beach and Park Clean-Up Program that is "a way for school and community groups to help preserve our coastal and inland resources."

### **Santa Maria Valley YMCA**

3400 Skyway Dr.

(805) 937-7007

[Smvymca.org/volunteer](http://Smvymca.org/volunteer)

"When you volunteer at the Y, you provide leadership and talent that are vital to empowering people and communities to learn, grown, and thrive." Current volunteer opportunities include Annual Support Campaign, Fun Runs, Healthy Kids Day and Day in the Park, Quarterly Y Cleanups, and Golf Tournament. They also offer a Countywide Volunteer Program (Partners in Education) to help local schools. Volunteers act as mentors, guest speakers, field trip chaperones, and tutors.

*Rebecca Ross reporting*

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# Cups & Crumbs Opens in Old Orcutt

Three local businesswomen joined forces to create Cups & Crumbs, Orcutt's newest coffee shop and eatery, which opened April 10.

Nestled in between Jack's in Old Orcutt and Old Orcutt Barber Shop on South Broadway, it's an addition the community has needed for a long time, according to co-owner Pam Rowan.

The menu boasts an array of specialty coffee, tea and smoothies in a small, country-style interior with a large back patio for additional seating and events.

Besides beverages, home-style breakfast, lunch and dessert is offered, ranging from sweet to savory.

There are eight different types of crepes. The Henny Penny features roasted chicken, mozzarella and pesto cream sauce, while the Banana Split has strawberries, banana, Nutella, chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

"Nobody in town does crepes," Rowan said. "And it's all homestyle. That's something that isn't really offered often."

There are also two different types of



Cups & Crumbs Co-Owner Pam Rowan showcases a banana split crepe.

avocado toast with the option of building your own using toppings such as a hard-boiled egg, spinach, tomato and bacon.

More common fare like bagels and yogurt

parfaits are other options.

"We feel our products are different from anything else around," Rowan said. "We're focused on quality ingredients and striving to provide excellent service."

The menu was inspired by Rowan's Coffee a la Cart — a shop on Vandenberg Air Force Base and a trailer used as a mobile service, providing refreshments for schools, sports games, businesses and more—and co-owner Claudia Stine of Claudia's Home Kitchen. The third partner is investor Julie Darrah of Vivid Financial.

"It's turned into something that I never expected," Rowan said.

The trio's goal is that Cups & Crumbs provides a special space for Orcutt residents to gather and enjoy something a little different.

"Orcutt is near and dear to all of us, and we want to provide a great place for people to come hang out and eat our delicious menu items," Rowan explained.

Cups & Crumbs is open Monday through Friday from 6AM to 4PM and Saturday and Sunday from 7AM to 2PM.

Jamie Guista reporting

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# ERHS Laura Branch Selected as AAPG Teacher of the Year

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) recently selected Righetti High School Science Teacher Laura Branch as the 2019 Teacher of the Year.

The honor from the international organization with more than 38,000 members in 100-plus different countries comes with a \$3,000 for personal use and another \$3,000 earmarked for Branch's classroom. The purpose of the AAPG is to advance science and geology.

"Geology has always been my passion," Branch said. "Teaching geology and about the world around us is my legacy. Finding out I won the AAPG Teacher of the Year Award is a full on dream come true! I've been battling the last 20 years to get geology recognized as a core science at the high school level...I feel like maybe I am making a difference as a science teacher."

"Laura is a phenomenal educator who is always working to connect the curriculum she teaches to real-life experiences, with the goal of making science accessible to all students," said Righetti Science Department Chair and Teacher Rebecca Wingerden, who also provided a letter of recommendation for Branch to the AAPG.



Branch's collaborative academic projects include the CTE Environmental Resources Pathway, Educators Academy in the Amazon, a campus native garden, securing internships, cross-curricular credit opportunities, being a leader in the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

# Vineyard 4-H kicks off Animal Shelter Donation Drive



The Vineyard 4-H group will be holding a donation drive for the Santa Barbara County Animal Shelter on Saturday, May 11 from 10AM-4PM. Items may be dropped off at the Shelter at 548 West Foster Road. Needed items include towels, blankets, cat and dog toys, animal treats, leashes and collars, grooming supplies and pet beds. In addition to cats and dogs, the shelter is often home to birds, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, and sometimes chickens, reptiles, and goats, so any animal related items would be appreciated.

The Foster Road Animal Shelter is the

busiest shelter in Santa Barbara County; it receives approximately 5,200 requests for help each year.

The Vineyard 4-H is a local not-for-profit organization with members from ages 5-19 who work together with adult leaders to organize community service projects. 4-H's mission is "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development. For more information about the Vineyard 4-H chapter or the donation drive, contact Christina Silva-Devey at 705-478-6667.

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**Orcutt Schools Update**

# District Moving Forward with Plan for Key Site 17

**Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD**



This month, I would like to provide our community an update on our district's plan to lease nine-plus acres of district-owned property for senior housing.

For background, the property known in the Orcutt Community Plan as "Key Site 17" lies in Old Orcutt and is bordered by Soares Avenue on the north, the Orcutt Union School District office complex on the east, Rice Ranch Road on the south, and the Stonegate Ranch housing tract on the west. The property was purchased by the district in 2002 as a potential school site. When enrollment in the district declined, our school board in 2007 authorized a citizens' advisory committee to make recommendations for the future use of Key Site 17. After researching a range of options, the committee recommended senior housing as a new use for the acreage and suggested that the district could accomplish a stream of revenue through a long-term ground lease to a senior housing developer.

In the years to follow, the district took the steps needed to enable Key Site 17 to accommodate senior housing. An Environmental Impact Report was done in 2012. In late 2013 and early 2014, the County Planning Commission and then the County Board of Supervisors approved a rezoning of the property for senior housing.

This year, the district has embarked on a two-step process to identify a senior housing developer for Key Site 17.

The process began with a request for qualifications whereby interested firms were to submit information on their approach to senior housing and prior experience with similar developments. Five firms submitted qualifications, which then were reviewed by a committee chaired by Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Walter Con and also including district staff, district consultants, Mike Diani of Diani Building Corp., and school board President Lisa Morinini. The committee invited three of the five firms to submit detailed proposals

for the development, including terms of a ground lease with the district, by June 17. The committee will meet to recommend a single finalist, and the recommendation then will be taken to the school board on August 14 for final approval.

"After August 14, the fun begins," says Con. "The developer we select will have lots of work to do to move this project forward."

Specifically, the developer will need to draft a plan for senior housing, secure approval from the County Planning Commission and County Board of Supervisors, and construct the project. This is a process that will take years, and the components of the eventual senior housing development – building design, levels of care, amenities, and programming – will be determined by the developer.

Once completed, the Key Site 17 project figures to be a "win" for both community and school district. Orcutt has a relatively high percentage (18.2 percent) of residents 65 years of age and older, and senior

housing options are welcome. Old Orcutt's businesses will benefit from the presence of residents, employees, and family visitors associated with senior housing. And the district will realize revenue from the ground lease to the property's developer.

"I think this project will benefit everyone," says Wendy Steller, owner of Déjà Vu Antique Mall and an active member of the Old Orcutt Merchants Association. "For the seniors living there, Old Orcutt is a desirable location because so many stores and restaurants are in close proximity. It's the ideal place for senior housing."

In the months to come, I will keep readers of The Pioneer apprised on the latest developments with Key Site 17. Needless to say, we all can be excited about what the future has in store for this property

*Superintendent Dr. Debbie Blow can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at [dblow@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:dblow@orcutt-schools.net). Follow her on Twitter at @debiblow.*

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## Community Events

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### SPECIAL EVENTS

**FRIENDS OF THE ORCUTT LIBRARY BOOK SALE**, May 4, 10AM-1:30PM at the library. Subsequent book sales will be held August 3, November 2. Friends of the Orcutt Library is a not-for-profit organization and all proceeds go to the library.

**ORCUTT LIONS CLUB FIRST FRIDAY HAMBURGER FEST** that was originally scheduled for Friday, May 3 has been postponed. Instead, First Fridays will commence on Friday, June 7. Hours are from 5-8PM. Hamburgers or cheeseburgers with potato chips, \$6.00. Purchase tickets at the door. Sodas and other drinks are available for separate purchase. Come celebrate First Friday at the Orcutt Lions Den, 126 So. Broadway in Orcutt.

### MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

**50+ CLUB LUNCHEON**, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS** meets 1) Sun at 4PM in the conference room of the Marian Extended Care Facility at 1530 Cypress Way and 2) Thur at 6PM in the Casa Del Rio Mobile Estates at 1124 N. Suey Rd. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 with questions.

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

**ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD** meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd., on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM except March and July. Info: [www.santamariaquilters.com](http://www.santamariaquilters.com) or 937-4024.

**ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST** meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805.835.7627 or go to our website: [www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org](http://www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org).

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Breakfast** 8-11AM on the first Sunday of each month. Public invited. 145 W. Clark Ave.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST Veterans BBQ** in Orcutt, 145 W. Clark Ave. 11AM-3PM or until sold out on the third Saturday of each month.

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST** at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.

**BIBLE STUDY** on I & II Corinthians at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday nights 7-8:30PM. For more info contact Steve Stanley 937-1353; Trent Benedetti 937-9625.

**BSA Troop 87** in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. [ron@enginetechnology.com](mailto:ron@enginetechnology.com)

Bilingual worship services at Christian Life every Sunday at 2PM, Unity Chapel of Life church located at 1165 Stubblefield Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455. 719-660-9789.

**CA 0295 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meets at the Foster Road Church of Christ every Monday evening. Weigh-ins @ 5:30 meeting @ 6PM. (805)2681480

**CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE** is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday for up to six night or less. For more information contact Elaine 805-937-5357

**CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP**. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional social worker. For those who care for people that are home bound or suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or senility. Class is free and meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the OASIS Senior Center.

**CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB** meets at Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt (next to Albertson's) on the fourth Thursday of each

month from 6-7:30PM. Details can be found at [www.beachboardwalkers.org](http://www.beachboardwalkers.org), or call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552.


**CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN** invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

**CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB** open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Merrill Gardens, Wellness Center, 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Tawnya @805-260-6090.

**CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB** Knollwood Village Clubhouse 4012 S. Bradley Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:45PM. with Q&A session, coffee and cookies, followed by a 7PM. brief business meeting. Information: Bill 934 0775 or [www.CentralCoastComputerClub.com](http://www.CentralCoastComputerClub.com)

**Central Coast Gardeners** meet at the Luis OASIS Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. from September through May. Guests are welcome. Info: Dorothy 934-8325.

**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.



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