

# Orcutt PIONEER

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks • Orcutt, California • July 2022 • [www.OrcuttPioneer.com](http://www.OrcuttPioneer.com) • Circulation 17,000+

## Several Closed During Home Construction

## Orcutt Hills Trails Hopefully Open By Fall



Map supplied by Santa Maria Valley Open Space. An access off Rice Ranch Road (upper left on map) should be open by fall.

*"Public access and free access for all and interactions with nature are an integral and vital part of a healthy community. The community should commit to creating public access to open spaces where members of the community can actively enjoy the beautiful hills, meadows, fields and wildlife that surround the Santa Maria Valley."*

- Santa Maria Valley Open Space

When the Orcutt Community Plan was approved by the County in 1997, it stipulated that the Orcutt community

should have 42 miles of designated trails open to the public. Eleven of those miles are to be included in the seven neighborhoods of the 560-acre Rice Ranch master-planned community approved in 2003 and 2016. One of the main trails encircles the 184-unit Valley View neighborhood, which is now under construction.

Prior to its closing when construction began last summer, the trailhead into the Valley View neighborhood off Rice Ranch

Road was heavily used. Fourth District Parks Commissioner Steve Strachan says a retention basin and a new access road to and from the Valley View neighborhood "will hopefully be completed by this fall and a new trailhead will be located east of the new road."

Strachan says another access to the Valley View trail system is off Orcutt Hill Road (formerly Oil Hill Road) in the 1500 block of Rice Ranch Road. The trailhead is about a half mile up Orcutt Hill Road with parking, but Strachan says a fire road crosses at that point and a creek crossing will eventually be built. "It's open now, but when construction for the fire road crossing begins, that entrance will be temporarily closed."

Another half mile up Orcutt Hill Road is a third trail access with a parking lot where the incoming trail from the Orcutt Community Park and soccer fields meet the trailhead into Valley View.

On the southwest side of the Valley View neighborhood, the trail is currently blocked because of debris. The County and developer hope to have that trail open by fall.

Dan Ardoin, former Vandenberg firefighter and vice president of Santa Maria Valley Open Space, says the three to four miles of interior trails in the Valley View development have been affected by construction and must be restored by the developer. Ardoin says hopefully all trails and the three trailheads, including access along Rice Ranch Road, will be complete by fall.

Ardoin says Santa Maria Valley Open Space began in 2010 and "with generous financial donations from many people and countless hours donated by our County Board of Supervisors and supporters, we now have a wonderful trail system." He is especially appreciative of the work of Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson. "He has been extremely supportive by finding and preserving open space that is not directly associated with development so these properties could be pure open space, not subject to development."

Supervisor Nelson envisions eventually a linkage between the Las Flores Ranch Regional Park trails east of HW 101 and the Orcutt Hills system. He also is interested in extending a trail system to the south of the Rice Ranch master-plan development.

Jon Menzies, trails coordinator for the County, says the Orcutt Hill trail system, including Black Oak open space and Brodie trails should be open "within a couple of months."

Steve Southwick reporting

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**Editors:** Steve Southwick  
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**Reporters & Photographers:**

Steve Southwick, Stephanie Southwick Hull,  
James Jepsen, Michael Shaw,  
John Chamberlain, Juliann Hemphill,  
Katy Jacobson

**Contact Phone:**

Business & Advertising: (805) 714-6584

**Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457

**E-Mail address:**

[info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto:info@orcuttpioneer.com)

**Graphic Art Department**

James Jepsen, Art Director  
[pioneer@jamesjepsen.com](mailto:pioneer@jamesjepsen.com)

**Webmaster:** Archie Miller

[w6alm@aol.com](mailto:w6alm@aol.com)

[www.OrcuttPioneer.com](http://www.OrcuttPioneer.com)

# Recycled Water Now Irrigates Waller Park



County officials, including Fourth District County Supervisor Bob Nelson, cut ribbon at opening of new irrigation system at Waller Park.

The 154 acres of Waller Park is about to be irrigated with recycled water treated from the wastewater reclamation plant at the

Laguna County Sanitation District facility west of Orcutt. A huge, one-million-gallon water tank, painted deep green to match the sprawling acreage of the park, was dedicated on June 28 by county officials. The massive structure is located north of the Hagerman Softball Complex.

Most of the five-million-dollar cost of the project covered installing the 3.5 mile pipeline system across airport property

from the reclamation plant located off Dutard Road near the Tanglewood subdivision. A two-million-dollar grant from the California Department of Water Resources plus three-million dollars from District reserves funded the project.

Speakers at the dedication included Fourth District County Supervisor Bob Nelson and First District Supervisor Das Williams. Both emphasized the need to recycle water because of drought conditions.

The recycled water will offset up to 84 million gallons previously pumped annually from the Santa Maria Valley groundwater basin. Marty Wilder, Laguna County District

manager, says the project may expand to include irrigation at the adjacent Hagerman Sports Complex and Santa Maria Country Club.

Wilder pointed out that potable uses at the park are available through water supplied by Santa Maria City.

*Steve Southwick reporting*



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# Steller's Cellar Finally Opens in Old Orcutt



Mark Steller celebrates the opening of Orcutt's newest tasting room — Steller's Cellar.

As of July 8, Orcutt has a new wine and craft beer tasting room. After over a year of delays, Steller's Cellar, 400 East Clark, officially opened its doors.

Upon entering, you are greeted with a large 14 stool horseshoe bar where everyone has easy access to the enthusiasm of owner, Orcutt born Mark Steller, a level 1 sommelier. He has made a 41-year career of all things wine. Beginning with being

a manager at Longs Drug's and overseeing their wine section to 17 years owning the Old Town Market, known for its wines, Steller has developed access to good local products. Those jobs helped him "establish relationships and friendships and my palate!" says Steller.

Planning to open Steller's Cellar in April

2021, the challenges began. Due to COVID supply chain issues and labor shortages, things like windows, plumbing and electrical supplies were delayed. Signage issues also took up time and energy. Hopes for an April 2022 opening crashed when a car going west on Clark made a left turn to Gray Street but just kept turning left into the side of the building, and then, right on

in. An arrest was made. "It was a hit in time and finance," says Steller who consistently underlines the positive, "but I'm just happy to have overcome some obstacles and be open and approved."

Though already open, there will be a "Grand Opening" in August with specials and music. Steller's Cellar boasts 500 mostly local wines including two that Steller created himself: Old Town Red, a pinot noir and Old Town White, a chardonnay. There are also 40 beers in cans and bottles and six craft beers on tap, which will be constantly changing.

For wine tasting enthusiasts there will be a weekly rotation flight of four to six wines. Live acoustic music, with a band "from time to time" is planned, describes Steller, "but nothing loud. I'm hoping people experience, besides the wine and craft beer, a welcoming but not pretentious place where friends feel free to celebrate themselves with a bottle of wine or beer." He says he encourages people to tell him

what they are looking for, or "pick my brain," so they can buy the perfect bottle and celebrate at home as well.

The 1800-square foot tasting room is comfortably furnished by Mark's wife, Wendy Steller, owner of the Orcutt's Steller Home, a furniture and home decor store located around the corner from Steller's Cellar. With six thick round wood tables, comfy chairs and one corner with plush leather couches, the spacious floor plan is inviting. There are also five patio tables and seating for 20 outside. Most of the art on the walls is by one of Steller's favorite Orcutt artists, Katy Smith. She specializes in plein air landscape watercolors of the Central Coast. Most are for sale ([www.katysmithartist.com](http://www.katysmithartist.com)).

Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday 11-7 and Friday and Saturday, 11—9. For more information call 805-714-5767. Check out the website for events: [stellerscellar.com](http://stellerscellar.com).

Katy Jacobson reporting

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## Local Author Releases Book This Month



### Corrine Ardoin Explores California Small Town History

Corrine Ardoin got her start writing poetry and writing birding guidebooks for local museums. Trying her hand at fictional works, she has authored a series of books that progressively go back in time following

the Hart family with all their small-town associates in a small northern California valley. A former firefighter and forest service worker, Ardoin was inspired by the small towns at the foot of the Eastern Sierra region between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe in writing her "Pine Valley" series books. "I do a lot of research when writing my books, visiting historic places, interviewing people, taking pictures," said Ardoin. "I have to keep it all credible and accurate."

Her research pays off, as does her writing approach. When asked about the name Edenville, a fictitious town where parts of the stories take place, she said "I was poking fun at the idea of Eden, a perfect tranquil place. There is always a darker side to every story." She related that each of the books in the series are an exploration, and she uses writing as a way understand her own life. The first book in the series titled "*Fathers of Edenville*," was written when her father was dying, and she was coming to terms with that. "*Mothers of Pine Way*," the second book was written as she

dealt with her mother's passing. This year's July release "*A Place Called The Way*," reaches farther back in time and deals with how generations of personal experiences shape the present and how we are all connected in spite of our human frailties and struggles. "I hope that through my books readers get the message to take care of themselves, to heed the call to heal themselves, and to take the journey necessary in their lives," she said.

Ardoin grew up in Southern California, and has lived all over California, settling in the Central Coast in recent years. She has always lived in small towns, and her books reflect that western small-town feel.

Ardoin will host a book signing on July 30 at Chapter 2 – a Bookstore, Lompoc's only bookstore, and at the Book Loft in Solvang on August 6th. Other local events will follow once the book is officially released on July 28th. Check out her website at [www.ardoin.us/corrine/](http://www.ardoin.us/corrine/) for the latest updates.

*Juliann Hemphill reporting*

## Orcutt Community Theater Presents

### 3 Locally Written Plays in Season 5

STAGE WRITE, a local writing group that focuses on playwriting, is preparing three of their original plays as part of the fifth season of Orcutt Community Theater. All plays are presented as staged readings one weekend only. Following the play, audiences are invited to discuss the play with cast, crew, and author.

The first production is JUST PASSING, a comedy-drama, by Candyce Columbus. In the play, three dysfunctional siblings gather for their mother's funeral. Although they love each other, they disagree about almost everything. August 12-14. Friday and Saturday 8pm, Sunday 1:30pm.

SONNY'S SONATA by Dixie Arthur is offered in December. In May, Angi Herrick's play MAMALOGUES is presented.

Orcutt Community Theater presents plays at Klein Dance Arts at the Skyway Center, 3558 Skyway Drive, Bldg.1, Studio 1. Tickets are 10.00. For info (805) 268 5969 [orcuttcommunitytheater@gmail.com](mailto:orcuttcommunitytheater@gmail.com)

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## Artist Lynnae Lane Featured at Art Exhibit



Artist Lynnae Lane smiles while sharing her paintings on display at Santa Maria Airport.

Orcutt Artist Lynnae Lane will be featured at an art exhibit at the Santa Maria Airport from August 1 through September 30. The exhibit features 19 original acrylic paintings and two framed, numbered watercolor prints.

These paintings are vignettes of scenes from the artist's personal secret garden and from the Enchanted Orcutt Window Garden in Old Town Orcutt, which she lovingly maintains.

Lane explains, "The Miracle of Spring, was inspired in early spring by a potted honeysuckle on my patio. Their tiny flowers popped their yellow petals out against forest green foliage of a once bare gnarly vine. Winter's freeze suggested I would never see this beauty

ever unfold again. Irises bloomed to the tune of nature, with dazzling delight! I was greeted every morning by the surprises of living colors from the many blooming iris combinations. The passionflower blooms its extraordinary intricate spaceship flowers for excitement in this magical, enchanting garden of many delights. God sure knew what He was doing, when He created this thing; the utter miracle of spring is truly amazing!"

The Enchanted Orcutt Window Garden in Old Town Orcutt inspired Lynne's painting, and is located on Clark Avenue, across from Old Town Market. Lynne encourages residents to, "look for the blooming, delightful scene of Matilija poppies that delicately dance in the cool breeze, like angles in a choir. The garden's focal point, the Red Wagon, blooms constantly year-round. Geraniums spill out dazzling bright pink and red flowers, against their plush green foliage. The giant sunflower grew to the height of the top of

the fence with its sunny face to say hello. The cheerful painted window frames along the fence enhances the variety of colors within the delightful blooming foliage of this enchanted garden, complete with a colorful birdhouse condominium!"

Lynne is an artist, children's art teacher for more than 25 years and a gardener.



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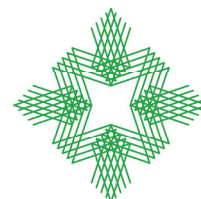
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### MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

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COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 6:30PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. 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. Check our website at <http://www.coastalvoices.info/>. Singers can contact us at [coastalvoices@gmail.com](mailto:coastalvoices@gmail.com) or call 937-5827 for additional information.

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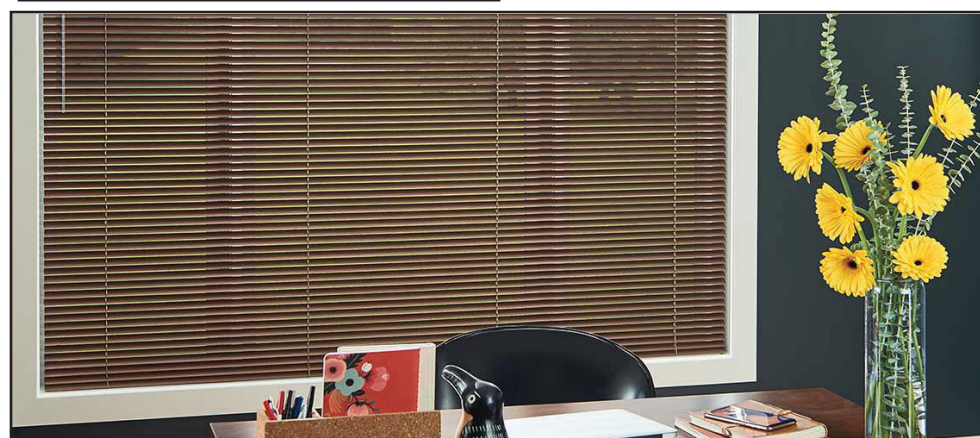
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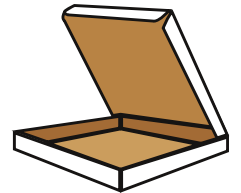
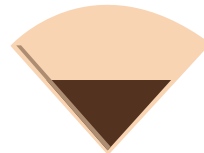
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# Food waste recycling



## is happening here and now!



Californians now need to keep as much organic waste out of landfills as possible. When buried, organics such as food scraps, yard waste, and soiled or wet paper products take up valuable landfill space, and release methane as they decompose. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and major contributor to climate change.

**Beginning in July, residents of the unincorporated Santa Maria and Lompoc Valleys must place all of their food scraps and food soiled paper, along with yard waste in their green container.** Everything in the green container is now composted at a local facility and then used in local agriculture.

Stay tuned! Kitchen pails will be available later this year.

Learn more at [lessismore.org/organics](https://lessismore.org/organics)



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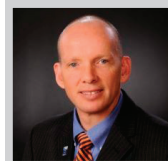
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