

Orcutt PIONEER

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Construction Begins on Multi-Use Project Near Orcutt Expressway



Now under grading and construction is the Lakeview Promenade "vertical mixed use" commercial-apartment complex is off Mercury Drive. The photo looks east across Hwy 135. In the distance is the Evergreen Shopping Center.

A new development project, just north of the Skyway/Highway 135 intersection is being called "fresh, energizing and progressive," according to Santa Maria Community Development Director Chuen Ng.

Conceptually approved by the Santa Maria City Council in 2018, the 4 acre Lakeview Promenade project broke ground this summer and will be developed over the next year to year and a half. Currently, the project is in its first stages of actual development with grading and some concrete work. If all goes well, a mash-up of 166 residential units, some commercial and green spaces will be available in 2022 or

early 2023. Director Ng relates that, "This is a unique project, one that has progressive ideas and will add a new vibe to the Orcutt area." One of these progressive ideas is called vertical mixed-use.

This proposed vertical mixed-use project allows for a variety of uses within the same building. In this case, residential units will be mixed in with about 6,600 sq. ft. of zoning for commercial units. No word yet on how many tenants or names of tenants on the commercial side. The lower floors typically house the commercial units while upper floors are designated for private use.

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Comparing Orcutt Census Statistics to National Averages



Orcutt increased in numbers by 9.8% to 32,034 residents in the past ten years. Through the US Department of Commerce, Santa Barbara County has released 2020 US census data for various population centers in the county.

The US population rose 6.3% to 331,449, 261.

The demographics of Orcutt are quite similar to United States with number of children in households and seniors over age 65. Children under 5 years: 6.5% Under 18 years: 22%. 65 and over: 50%.

But Orcutt population demos differ quite a bit in other categories. As expected most notable are the housing costs. The median value of an owner occupied home in Orcutt is \$422,600. Nationally it's \$217,500. Median gross rent in Orcutt is \$1713. Nationally it's \$1062.

Orcutt is close to the number of persons

nationally per household at 2.84.

94% of Orcutt households have a computer, a smidgeon better than the US number (90%). Almost 91% locally have an internet connection; 83% nationally.

94% of those over age 25 who live in Orcutt have a high school degree or have higher education. 30% have a Bachelor's degree or higher. That compares to 88% and 32% nationally.

Median household income in Orcutt is \$91,343. In the US it's \$62,843.

94% of those who live in Orcutt have health insurance. That compares with 91% nationally.

Complete rundown of the comparisons is available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/orcuttcdpcalifornia,US/PST045219>

Steve Southwick reporting

BRIAN WILLIAMS GOPHER GUY



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Letters to the Editor

PROPOSED AIRPORT ZONING CHANGES COULD AFFECT ORCUTT

As usual, the local government has chosen to obfuscate a contentious issue from those of us who will be most affected by it.

On August 17th the Santa Maria City Council has adopted an ordinance, brought to their attention by the Santa Maria Airport board, that will amend the official zoning map, specific plan map, and general plan land use map for the 28 acres located at the NW corner of Orcutt Expressway (135) and Union Valley Parkway. The adoption of this ordinance gives RRM Design Group the ability to rezone the property from community facilities and open space/detention basin TO Airport Commercial, light industrial & recreational, open space/detention basin. The airport commercial/light industrial will, no doubt, be of most importance.

Anyone who lives in Orcutt who might

think they will not be affected should think again. The airport board plans to do the same with ALL the property it owns from Hwy. 135 West to Blosser Road and North to Foster & beyond to Skyway. All of this property is currently being leased to growers.

At the moment, Department of Fish & Game is holding up the permit due to the recent discovery of aerial photos that show destruction of sensitive habitat by the Airport Board.

The board had already destroyed the beautiful open space located on Foster Road just West of the County Road Yard & adjacent to Pioneer Park. I happened to be walking there the day bulldozers and chain saws destroyed this wonderful habitat populated by owls, hawks, oak trees, amphibians and small mammals. It wasn't a pretty sight and that's what they want to do with all of their remaining property.

This is a time when folks want more open

space, not less but Santa Maria is better known for its proliferation of strip malls, gas stations and the Enos Ranch cum Costco fiasco. Let's not allow that to happen to Orcutt.

Myrna Heldfond

COVID-19: WHEN WILL IT BE OVER?

"This is the worst group project I've ever been on!" So said a family member who is tired of living with the Covid threat. "Can't we just suck it up and get it over with?" Lots of energy coming through the phone validated my thoughts and feelings, "It's been a looong time". What would it take to get this disease out of our town? Off of the coast?

Data? I don't have current information because it changes every day with an upward trend. How can that be? A sad story, perhaps? A niece recently survived a bout in the hospital to be able to return to

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Las Flores Ranch Park: Loaded With Trails and Ready for Halloween



Foxenwood residents Jose and Yesenia Clemente and kids, after enjoying the Dinosaur Trail at Los Flores Ranch Park.

Fairly new to Orcutt, I decided to explore Las Flores Ranch Park (LFRP).

Jim Batterson, Orcutt resident and volunteer for LFRP, led a morning hike introducing people to the park. With two dogs, I drove east on Clark, then right to 6271 Dominion Road. We parked and hiked to the Visitors' Center to sign up and meet the group. The 1,774-acre park, open Thursday through Sunday 8 AM to 6 PM, and shorter hours in winter, has 15 miles of trails. It's free for Santa Maria residents and now, since

COVID, it's also free for Orcutt residents until possibly 2022 or beyond.

Jim started the hike showing us The Dinosaur Trail, a short loop great for young kids. There's a climbing toy that looks like dinosaur bones coming out of the ground with outdoor bathroom facilities and a covered area with picnic table.

Next, we climbed into majestic rolling hills of mature oaks, grassy valleys, flowering bushes and sweeping views of the surrounding area. Luckily the dogs got tired so we had to rest a few times in the shade of large trees. Jim pointed out where pumpkins are busily growing for "The Patch," an event that will take place Friday - Sunday in October from 10 AM to 6:30 PM. The Patch, established in 2017, provides free agricultural programs to local high school students. Pumpkins are grown and available to buy on these weekends. In addition, there will be succulents, an educational exhibit, a one-acre corn maze and weekly promotions including kid activity zones with jump houses, game area and "a spooky walk through." More Halloween related fun at LFRP is a night hike,

sometime before Oct 31, that will be lit by carved pumpkins.

Other educational and hands on opportunities include a program that plants oak trees grown by student volunteers including the girl scouts. Saplings are started from acorns at the park! Students on field trips will plant the young trees and get to see them grow.

Every few months there are guided twilight hikes, star gazing events with up to 14 telescopes, docent led: nature hikes, river trail walks, full moon hikes and bike rides. Horses are allowed in LFRP, but you must bring your own. It's not a petting zoo but you can also visit the 2 burros; Solomon and Mojave, a pony, a horse and tree climbing goats.

For geocachers, LFRP is a gold mine with about 40 hidden treasures of various difficulties. Download the app "GEOCACHING" and you will find the treasure maps as long as you have internet access, maybe a bit higher up than the visitor center, or buy Geocaching Premium. "Download the list and coordinates at home if you don't have the premium app," says Batterson, an avid geochacher.

One day, after the guided hike, I decided to go by myself. I downloaded the app Outer Spatial, as suggested by the City Of Santa Maria website. I located the LFRP map and found trails listed. One, "Quick Loop," 3 miles, looked interesting. Thankfully the app kicked in after I started because I didn't have internet at the Visitors Center. My terrible sense of direction was corrected many times as I was able to watch the circle on the map (me) to be sure not to get lost. One of the perks at LFRP is that staff are aware of who is there and will come find you if you don't sign out. Speaking of volunteers, they are much needed for: docents, trail patrol, field trips. Information on how to volunteer and all events can be found at: <https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/recreation-and-parks/upcoming-events>. The hike, by the way, was gorgeous. At one point, in the quiet of all that beauty, I looked down to see two women on horseback winding down a path between clusters of oaks set off by distant mountains, blue sky above. I give Los Flores Ranch Park five stars!

Katy Jacobson reporting




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Dana, Kozel and Gordon: New Leadership at Orcutt School District



Rusty Gordon, Joe Dana and Julie Kozel take new leadership positions within the Orcutt Union School District.

With lifetime roots deeply involved in the Orcutt Union School District, both as students and educators, Joe Dana and Julie Kozel assume positions leading the district in teaching and curriculum development in the new school year beginning this month.

Joe Dana, in his thirty-second year as a teacher, principal, and administrator, takes the position as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Julie Kozel began her education career as a classroom teacher and principal in the Lompoc Unified School District and

came to the Orcutt district in 2001. She assumes the position of Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Interestingly, both began their Orcutt education in Mrs. Nadine Crosby's kindergarten class at Alice Shaw school in 1971. Both went to Lakeview Jr. High and Righetti High schools. And all their children are going or have gone through Orcutt schools.

Dana was the news and sports editor at the Santa Maria Times before, as he says, he had an "epiphany to get involved in education". He secured his bachelor's degree at the University of California at Berkeley, his teaching credential at Chapman University and a master's at University of La Verne. He began his career teaching fifth grade at Joe Nightingale school and has served as principal at Joe Nightingale, Ralph Dunlap, Pine Grove, Orcutt Academy and Olga Reed school in Los Alamos. Dana has also directed the Independent Study Program for the district.

Julie Kozel is also well-known in the district. She served four years as vice principal and principal at Joe Nightingale and four years as principal at Pine Grove school. She received her bachelor's at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She has a master's in curriculum and an administrative credential from Cal Poly.

"I am excited to be able to support teachers and principals move forward in their efforts to help students, especially after the difficulties of last year," she says. "I am especially grateful to work with Joe, my lifelong friend since early school days."

Dana is very excited to be involved in all Orcutt District schools. "Up to now I have been more school focused. Now it's exciting to be focused on all the kids in the district. And I am so happy to be able to work with Julie. One plus one equals more than two!"

Kozel agrees. "We are just at the beginning of something great."

Also new to district offices this year is

Rusty Gordon.

After serving as Director of Special Education for the Santa Maria-Bonita Elementary School District for the past five years, on July 1st, Gordon assumed a similar position with the Orcutt district.

Prior to coming to the Santa Maria Valley, he began his educational career in teaching and administration in Northern California.

Gordon has a master's degree in education, an administrative credential and two teaching credentials. Of his twenty years in education, ten have been teaching in classrooms.

Asked on how he feels about coming to Orcutt, Gordon says, "I am grateful for this opportunity to continue what the Orcutt district has been so successful at - providing the least restrictive environment for special education students and developing an inclusive atmosphere for children to thrive."

Steve Southwick reporting



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Orcutt Schools Update

A New Way of Electing School Boards

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

The Orcutt Union School District is transitioning to a new system for electing members of its board of trustees.

Up to now, our school district has had “at large” elections in which all district voters cast ballots for every seat on the board. In May 2018, our school board approved a resolution that began the process of moving to “by-trustee-area” elections. By-trustee-area elections will subdivide the district into “trustee areas,” with voters casting ballots only for the seat representing their area of residence.

Why is our district taking this step?

Simply put, the district needs to become compliant with the California Voting Rights Act. Signed into law in 2001, the law makes it easier for minority groups to sue

governments or governmental agencies that use at-large elections on the rationale that these elections dilute the strength of minority voters. If Orcutt does not move to a by-trustee-area system for electing its school board, it risks litigation that will force such a change.

Orcutt certainly is not alone in needing to revamp its election format. As Orcutt residents will know, the City of Santa Maria recently moved to a system whereby council members are elected by council area and the mayor is elected at large. According to David Lopez, whose Irvine-based Cooperative Strategies firm is providing demography services to assist Orcutt in developing trustee areas, over 75 school districts around California are in the

midst of making this transition.

How will the process proceed?

At this time, we are seeking input from Orcutt Union School District stakeholders on this change. From our district website, www.orcutt-schools.net, we have made accessible a survey in English and Spanish that enables respondents to give feedback on the development of boundaries to establish the initial trustee areas. The survey invites ideas on which streets, highways, and landmarks could serve as natural boundaries. It also asks participants to list benefits and concerns about having trustee areas.

With input from the survey and fresh data from the 2020 U.S. Census, Lopez and his colleagues will develop multiple scenarios for trustee areas that contain a nearly equal number of residents, are contiguous, and follow natural and man-made geographic features. These scenarios will be presented to district trustees and the public, with questions and input taken, at two public hearings in December.

At a third public hearing in January, the school board will select a trustee area map and formally adopt the new system of electing trustees by area. The board’s plan will go to the County Committee on School District Organization for final approval in February, and the first election utilizing the new trustee areas will be in November 2022.

“Orcutt’s district boundaries lend themselves well to drawing lines,” says Lopez, a Santa Maria native who is familiar with the area. “The district includes Orcutt, parts of Santa Maria, Los Alamos, and Casmalia. We are envisioning trustee areas with around 7,400 people in each.”

Trustee areas represent a huge change in the way district voters elect our school board. In the months to come we will be sure to keep everyone informed on this transition in this column, on our district website, and in other venues.

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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Growing Grounds—Helping Mental Health Clients and Growing Vegetables and Flowers



Program Manager Ariela Gottschalk of Growing Grounds in one of many fields of growing flowers.

A unique way you can help mental health clients is by purchasing fresh produce and flowers from Growing Grounds, five acres of fresh flowers and vegetables growing near the Santa

Barbara County office complex on West Foster Road.

"The best time to come is Thursday at noon when fresh seasonal produce is harvested," says Ariela Gottschalk, program manager for Growing Grounds.

"Kale, snap peas, onions, red and green lettuce, broccoli and radishes for openers. There is also a huge variety of cut flowers, herbs and California native plants for sale," she says.

Growing Grounds is administered by Transitions-Mental Health Association of San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. Currently there are seventeen clients with mental health issues such as schizophrenia, bipolar, trauma, and major depression problems who

work with Gottschalk and her staff of two. They learn horticulture and work ethic skills "to help them transition into the workforce," she explains.

"Working in agriculture, walking fields, harvesting and being connected to nature is really good for mental health. It's an antidote for depression."

The clients not only work in the fields. They help sell products and interface with the public. "They work a weekly schedule, they learn how to grow beautiful

produce, and they get a paycheck."

Many are trying to figure out their lives. Growing Grounds provides a stable path to self-confidence and employability," she says.

Gottschalk has no mental health training. She does not consider herself a therapist. "I work on empathy; I am not here to diagnose; I listen a lot." She is a certified "Master Gardener" and managed the Hollywood Farmers Market in Los Angeles before taking the Growing Grounds position in 2002.

"We have forty varieties of tomatoes, dozens of varieties of peppers, plus gardens of flowers...and a pumpkin patch. Come over and check us out. You will not only enjoy our gardens, but you will be helping people on a path to self-sufficiency."

Growing Grounds is open Thursdays from noon to 3pm and Saturdays 10am to 1pm for produce sales. People can also come Monday through Saturday during regular business hours to purchase flowers, succulents, and drought tolerant native plants.

Steve Southwick reporting

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Orcutt Volunteers Step up For Foodbank: More Needed



At Orcutt's OASIS Senior Center at least 15 volunteers sorted and distributed food to 157 cars at their August 9 Farmers Market.

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County needs more volunteers. It distributes much needed food to children, families, seniors throughout Santa Barbara County, including those living in Orcutt. There are 15 programs which include collecting and distributing food, community education, programs to find

more food and planning for the future. One program alone, the mobile food pantry and farmers market, provides more than 131,500 pounds of healthy food a month to 21,804 individuals in 30 areas of the county.

Although 2000 people have registered to volunteer in the North County, only about 30-50 actually show up regularly. Jobs include sorting, bagging, pickup, delivery, distribution, and more. Orcutt resident Sherri Ederer said, "I love the other volunteers. It's the friendliest place I've ever been and a great thing to do for the community." After quitting her job, Sherri says, "I still needed to do something, so I chose the FoodBank."

Approximately 192,635 people have been helped in this past tumultuous year and 153,000 in the North County. "The need remains high as the long-term economic impact of the COVID crisis continues to unfold, and restrictions

may be ramping up again," says senior communications manager, Judith Smith-Meyer. Extra help was provided by the National Guard, but those numbers are down from twenty to two. Kelli Padilla, volunteer coordinator for the North County, is hoping residents will step up. For more information email Kelli at kpadilla@foodbanksbc.org. Or sign up directly at: <https://foodbanksbc.org/give-help/volunteer/>

In Orcutt two agencies acquire food from the foodbank and distribute to people in need. They are, for 40 years now, the Presbyterian Church, 993 Patterson, Fridays 2-4 PM, and Orcutt's Oasis Senior Center the second Monday at 9AM and the third Thursday at 9:00AM. The lines are long and many dedicated volunteers enjoy serving the needs of Santa Maria and Orcutt.

Katy Jacobson reporting

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Orcutt Community Theater Presenting “War of the Worlds”



From left to right, Valarie Pallai, Dan Bullard, Candyce Columbus and Nancy Kunishige having fun at the rehearsal for “War of the Worlds” an Orcutt Community Theater production running the last three weekends in October.

“I just hope people are going to start going to the theater again. We are coming off a seventeen-month COVID break, and I hope people are eager to get back to Orcutt Community Theater (OTC).”

So pleads Alan Sutterfield, president of the board of directors of the local theatrical group.

Following a year’s hiatus and after the three-day run earlier this month of “Flame Throwers and Bean Counters” by local writer and director Wil Welsh, Sutterfield says the OTC is in rehearsal for “War of the Worlds”, a radio play that re-creates the original “War of the Worlds” 1938 broadcast. That portrayal of the H.G. Wells novel

starring Orson Wells caused public panic for listeners who did not know the martian invasion portrayed in the broadcast was fictional.

“War of the Worlds” is directed by Dixie Arthur and runs October 15th through Halloween, October 31st.

Currently the thespians present productions in the KleinBauer Dance Studios, 3558 Skyway Drive, Bldg. 1, Ste A. Sutterfield says the dance studio works fine. “We set it up with curtains, sets and props. It’s not ideal but we are grateful to owner Irene Kleinbauer.”

The local community theater began productions in 2017 in the drama room at Righetti High School. At that time Arthur was the drama instructor and president of the OTC board.

Next spring OTC will present a Steve Martin play “Picasso at the Lapin Agile” from February 18 through March 6. Sutterfield says this play is a staple of community theater. “Steve Martin always manages to come up with surprises. This play is clever, winsome; a comedy with not a lot of “belly”

laughs, but a fine, funny comedy.”

Sutterfield then directs the Neil Simon comedy “Laughter on the 23rd Floor.” The director thinks this is Simon’s funniest play. It is based on the experiences of the writer of the 1950’s television “Show of Shows” starring comedian Sid Caesar. “It’s hilarious because it’s the story of comedy writers on a national TV show.” The show runs April 29 through May 15, 2022.

Sutterfield explains the local theater is always in the need of volunteers. “Volunteers build sets, provide crops and assist in so many ways”.

If you would like to volunteer or become a member of the Orcutt Community Theater, go to the website: www.orcuttcommunitytheater.org. Membership is \$20 which gives you discounts to shows and access to previews.

Individual tickets to performances are \$15. You can purchase tickets on the OTC website through Venmo or at my805tix.com.

Steve Southwick reporting

A graphic for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. It features a stylized orange car with a trunk full of pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns. Above the car, the words 'Trunk or Treat' are written in a playful, colorful font. A banner on the car says 'Wear your costumes!'. The car has a yellow license plate that reads 'SAUMC'.

Saturday, October 30th, 3-5pm

ST ANDREW
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3945 S. Bradley Rd
saumcsm.org

A graphic with the text 'Community IN MIND' in a cursive font. Below the text, a person wearing a white glove is shown picking up a plastic bottle from the ground. The background is a sunset or sunrise scene over a body of water.

CONTINUING TO CELEBRATE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY BY
DONATING TO LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Just stop by or visit our website for details on how you can nominate your favorite non-profit organization. Every month now through December we will draw two names from those nominations and each will receive \$1000. There’s a reason our name starts with “community.” Because everything we do is with community in mind.

A small portrait of Janet Silveria, President / CEO of Community Bank of Santa Maria.

Janet Silveria,
President / CEO

The logo for Community Bank of Santa Maria, featuring a stylized mountain and sun design.

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Local Mystery Author Publishes Book



Local librarian and author Nancy Meddings has released the first in a series of missing-persons mysteries and plans to donate part of the proceeds to nonprofits she supports in Santa Barbara County. Melted Into Thin Air, A Matilyn Rose Mystery is now available through Amazon.com and partial proceeds from the sales of

this book will benefit Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library.

Matilyn Rose is a fictional detective who, along with her cousin Will, only works on missing persons cases. Originally drafted in 1984 as a class project while she was majoring in English at California State University at Northridge, Ms. Meddings uncovered the manuscript while deep cleaning her garage during the pandemic. "After graduation I packed it away and forgot all about it until I found it going through boxes of old papers trying to make more space in my garage," jokes Ms. Meddings. With plenty of time on her hands last year, she rewrote the draft, including updating the location of the crime and whereabouts of the suspects to localities along the Central Coast.

With one novel under her belt ideas for two more Matilyn Rose mysteries quickly came into focus and Ms. Meddings has finished those as well. The next, Spirits May Walk, is set to be released later this year.

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

her two children and still hasn't recovered her former active lifestyle and vitality... and she's young. A "Rah, rah, we're all in this together!" speech? Nope, that hasn't worked so far. An appeal to the American way to "Getter done"?

All we have to do is to get vaccinated and wear a mask outside the house. Wash our hands frequently, and stop complaining. OR quarantine for 2 weeks to be sure that we don't have the disease, wash our hands frequently, wear a mask outside the house, and stop complaining.

If I will have to live with Covid for the rest of my life, I need to know so I can buy stylish masks and invest in stock in a hand sanitizer company. I'll need to change my habits to early morning shopping and an expressive eye makeup routine. I'll make that virtual appointment with a mental health professional. Can anyone help me?

Thanks for listening, Ready to be Done

G. Robertson

DON'T MARKET CANNABIS TO CHILDREN

Upset the name COOKIES805 attracts children to proposed Orcutt cannabis retail store

The Joe Camel cartoon character was removed from Camel cigarettes advertising and packaging, for attracting and enticing younger people to smoke their cigarettes. So too should the word COOKIES be removed from all public association with the sale of Cannabis.

Cookies should not be used to identify an adults only controlled product such as Cannabis. Children from their earliest years love and are attracted to cookies! Let our SB county leaders know we don't want a COOKIES storefront in Orcutt, that sells cannabis. COOKIES805 is in the planning and development phase to gain SB county approval for a store in Orcutt on Clark Road. Please contact these county planners:

Nereyda (Rey) Harmon Senior Planner, 805-450-7806 nharmon@countyofsb.org

Petra Leyva Supervising Planner, Cannabis Program 805-568-2071 Petra@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Sandy Easton

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New Recycling Option in Orcutt

Orcutt has a new option for recycling! The drop off operation by AGS Recycling Inc. recently opened in the parking lot next to Spencer's Fresh Market. Accepted materials include aluminum, glass, bimetal and many plastics including polyethylene.

Soda, water and beer containers under 24 ounces bring a nickel a piece while over 24 ounce containers will get you a dime. Not

eligible are milk, wine and instant formula containers. When in doubt, check the label on the container. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm with a lunch break from 12:00 to 12:30. The location is 3580 Orcutt Drive. The phone number is (805) 598 6285.

Steve Southwick reporting

Lakeview Promenade

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As for the open space, there will be about a half-acre with a central common area with patios and decks. Add to that three quarters acres of landscaping including about 4,000 sq. ft. of green roofs. Santa Maria, as a community, has been in a growth mode for some years and this is just one example of how it is keeping pace with larger cities like San Francisco who have used the vertical mixed-use concept for years.

On the feasibility of such a progressive project, Ng said, "There is a demand by younger professionals working from home for places with little yard maintenance, and space to enjoy outdoor dining or shopping that brings people together. Santa Maria is still growing but we're doing it in a way to provide housing options."

The city has responsibility over land use and provides standards for developers. City planners collaborated with the

developer Vernon Group who then hired an architect. Hearings followed with planning commission and city council hearings. Neighboring businesses were invited to share their thoughts. Some initial concerns with the project were added traffic congestion. A traffic study was undertaken to make sure it was functional. There will be adjustments to signalization lights at Skyway and the 135. "It shouldn't be too big of an impact" stated Ng.

The pandemic hasn't affected the process much. Work spaces are distanced. All CAL-OSHA requirements are followed. Ng said, "It's Business as usual except for health protocols."

In the end director Ng said, "It's important to facilitate good development and good communities and ensure a high quality of life in Santa Maria."

John Chamberlain reporting

Community Events

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday 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 during COVID 19. Please contact the event or club sponsor to find out details about the organization/event and meeting times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC presents its first live full orchestra concert in over a year and a half on Saturday, September 25 at Grace Baptist Church. Enjoy uplifting and joyful works by Copland, Brahms and Ives, and featuring Beethoven's iconic Emperor Concerto with renowned pianist Robert Thies, soloist, playing the SMPS's newly donated 9 ft. Baldwin concert grand. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through Givebutter: <https://givebutter.com/TriumphantExpressions>

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, 877 Francine Lane, SM. is hosting its Annual Craft Fall Craft Fair on Saturday, September 25, 10AM to 4PM. Local vendors showcasing jewelry, knitted items, handmade gifts, baked goodies & much more. For vendor info call Luci Fetzko at 805-264-2128.

ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATRE presents "War of the Worlds – A Live Radio Play" at Klein Dance Arts, Studio 1, 3546 Skyway Drive, running Friday and Saturday at 7pm with Sunday matinees at 1:30pm, October 15-31. Tickets available online or at the door. See www.orcuttcommunitytheater.org for details.

SANTA MARIA COIN AND COLLECTABLES SHOW Santa Maria Coin Club is holding a coin and collectables show on Saturday, October 16, 2021, From 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM, Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 East Park Ave, Santa Maria, Ca. free admission. Show will have coins, currency, casino chips, beanies, and sports cards. New collectors, experienced collectors, and junior collectors are all invited. Bring coins for free appraisals. Phone (805)937-1250

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST is excited to announce the return of their annual FESTIVAL OF TREES fundraiser. The Club will be partnering once again with Town Center East Mall where the trees will be on display for two weeks, Black Friday – December 11, 2021.

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

JOURNEY TO WELLNESS WORKSHOPS are a series of psycho-educational seminars. The first virtual workshop "I Feel So Alone

In My Anxiety", launches on September 25, from 9am to 2pm. Register at <https://thejourneytowellnessworkshops.com/>.

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

AGAPESCHOOLOFCHRISTIANEDUCATION Now Enrolling K-12, (805) 614-9292 <http://www.ascschool.org>

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.

AA (or 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, 925-3782.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES (www.adultchildren.org) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 for more information!

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 or 805-937-4024.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at 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 more information and meeting location call our president at 805 478-9243 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

ALLYOU CAN EAT 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 now open to all members Mondays 4:00-8:00PM Darts at 7PM Fridays 3:00-10:00PM Saturdays 12:00PM – 8:00PM Sundays 10:00AM-6:00PM

ANGELS FOSTER CARE is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt who want to make a difference in the life of a local foster baby or toddler. There are approximately 350 children in foster care in Santa Barbara County. About 40% of those children are under the age of six and roughly 75% live in and around Santa Maria. We want to ensure there is a stable family ready for every infant and toddler who needs a home. To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, please visit www.angelsfostercare.org or call 805-884-0012.

BEADING at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month, 9:00-12:00pm.

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Community Events

continued from page 10

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)? We also put on a car show the 3rd weekend of July. Ann 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, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. ronterry4543@gmail.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.

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

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB. Call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552 for information.

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 @ Home Motors, showroom lobby at 1313 E. Main St., 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, 7PM. computer presentation. Information: Don at 805-862-9124 or https://sites.google.com/site/smcacccc

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.

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

COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 7 PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. 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 or call 937-5827 for additional information.

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. Come find out what it is like to "Do Church Differently."

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 or call us at 253-CUBS. DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SMVALLEY meets every 3rd Thursday at IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria. Social at 6:00 PM, guest speakers at 7:00. Business meeting for members follows. Call 805-349-2708 or visit www.santamariademocrats.info for more information.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICE 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt), Sundays at 6:30PM, Worship with us. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro (805)937-6536.

EXCITING BIBLE STUDY at Revival Tabernacle, 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt) Wednesdays at 7PM Join us as we explore God's word. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro

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

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 open Thursdays from 12-6PM. Come and enjoy fresh vegetables, flowers and plants. Located on the corner of Foster Rd and California. For more information call 934-2182.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND PUPPER RAISERS. Raise a puppy and change someone's life. Meets one Monday a month. For location and more information contact Jack Brey at 805-937-7773 or Jack.brey@verizon.net

HEARTHSTONE EDUCATORS Christian support group for home educators. Meeting for those considering homeschooling on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM. Call Cheryl Kliever for more information (937-7099)

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

INSPIRATIONAL BUT CHALLENGING CHRISTIAN 12 STEP CLASS at the Crucified Life Church, 109 W. Fesler, second Monday of each month at 7PM. Welcome anyone in recovery from Alcohol, Drugs or just life itself. For any questions call Pastor Victor 878-1033 or Carl 478-6198.

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 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, 9:30-10:30pm. Educational group, no fees.

JOIN THE CLUB 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. Contact Cubmaster Paul Rodarte at 478-3538 or for more information check out Pack 93's website: www.lospadrespack93.com

JOIN US FOR THE EPIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY in Room 2-Parish Community Center, Monday evening, 7:30-9PM.

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.

Lawn Care. Liability insured, bi-monthly residential & commercial, one time cleanup, miscellaneous jobs, weed clearing, free estimates. Jim Reid 805-938-1402 Lic #36524
Wanted: Model A Ford Cars, Parts, Projects. Let me help clean out your garage. Jay McCord 805-598-8133

Shadowsfund, Senior and Pit Bull Rescue in Lompoc is looking for volunteers and dog walkers. Shadowsfund@gmail.com

California King waterbed. Dark oak frame with mirrored headboard. Captains pedestal with drawers, padded rails. Complete, ready to set up and fill. \$100 OBO 805-878-1739

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For more information contact Trent Benedetti, 922-4881, trentb@benedetticpa.com or Steve Stanley, 937 1353, 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 orcuttmomsclub@gmail.com

Moxie Cafe offers live music every Thursday and Friday night from 5:30-7:30PM. We have everything from local acoustic artists to full bands. Check out our events calendar on our website, moxiecafe.com, for the current line up of music.

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.

Stained glass hanging lamps. Mature household plants. Large, plastic, "wine barrel" pots. Wilco ground squirrel bait stations (clean). 1983 Encyclopedia Britannica. Make offers. 805.345.7264.

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Looking for local musicians to form an 80's 1st wave / new wave cover band. The Police, B-52's, The Cars etc. Respond to avacodosundae@yahoo.com.

Free: Ceramic tiles; various sizes. (805) 937-3582

Free: Horse art magazines. "Equine Image," "Horses in Art," "Art of the West." (805) 937-3582

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