

# Kiwanis Community

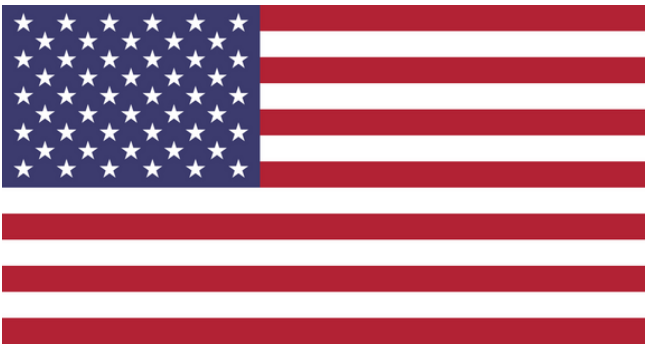


## Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

### July 2025 Newsletter

*Kiwanis* is a global organization of men and women dedicated to improving the world one child and one *community* at a time

#### Happy Independence Day!



## News About Kiwanis and Kiwanians

We note the passing of longtime Kiwanian **Linda Thurman** (see page 2)

We passed the hat at a recent meeting and took up a collection for the Martinez Historical Society in memory of deceased Kiwanian **Paul Kraintz**, a Society member.

John Alschuler, longtime College Park Key Club faculty advisor, was recently honored as faculty advisor of the year.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa-Solano was named Grand Marshall of the Danville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, a project of the San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Club. The parade is in its 50<sup>th</sup> year.

## Kiwanis Kalendar -July and Beyond

July 3 noon-**No Meeting**

July 4 Independence Day--attend a parade!

July 10 noon-meetings resume

July 10 1:45pm- Board meeting following regular meeting

July 10 **Christmas in July begins**- (see page 2)

July 13 2-6pm-**Harriett Burt** celebration of life at Martinez Event Center (see details in June newsletter)

June 19 8:30 to 1:30-4th annual **Vine Hill Creek cleanup** (see flyer with full details on page 3)

July 24 1:45pm-Centennial grant committee meeting after regular noon meeting

## Exclusive: Kiwanis Park Found



Our traveling reporter **Dawn Manley** stumbled upon a Kiwanis Park in Arroyo Grande on the central California coast. According to further research, this park was dedicated in 1981, and the Kiwanis club of Arroyo Grande continues to maintain it.

# Linda Thurman 1940-2025



Linda Thurman served two terms as president; on right presiding at the then new rostrum (thanks, Les) in 2002; on left retiring as Her Royal Highness in 2009



Another Kiwanian has passed from our midst. Word has reached us that **Linda Thurman** died on Wednesday, June 26 after suffering a stroke. Linda, a nurse at Shell before retiring, was the longest serving female member of our club, having joined May 12, 1994. She served two terms as president 2001-02 and 2008-09. Her late husband **Herb Thurman**, a ranger at the John Muir historic site, was also a Kiwanian and served a term as president. Here is a message from her daughter Sandy:

"Linda Thurman's life came to a peaceful close on Thursday, June 26, but her spirit and legacy will live on. We find strength in knowing she's reunited with her husband, Herb, and that their love will continue to guide us. As we navigate this difficult time, we're grateful for the chance to celebrate her life and honor her memory.

Following her wishes, we will be gathering as a family to scatter her remains among the redwoods.

As always we thank you for your love and prayers".

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## Christmas in July

The Kiwanis Club of Martinez' annual Christmas in July toy drive is underway. Members are encouraged to donate toys which will be distributed to children in need via local organizations which provide medical and other services to children. Event organizer **Perry Picchi** says that he has lined up several organizations that will accept the toys, Bring toys to the clubhouse and put them in the red barrel. Toys that are in demand include coloring books and crayons, stuffed animals, barbie dolls and hot wheels.



credit: Laurie Pittman





# Kiwaniis®

## CLUB OF MARTINEZ

### PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL

# Midhill/Vine Hill Creek Clean Up



Artwork by Jade McCamant, Age 15

S  
A  
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JULY  
19

8:30AM to 1:30 PM

**RSVP: DENIS SMITH@  
510-773-4343  
285 Sunnyslopes Dr.  
Martinez, CA 94553**

**From 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM  
ALL AMERICAN BBQ  
with hamburgers, hot dogs,  
and all the fixings including  
drinks, salads, chips,  
cookies, and more!**

**BRING a shovel, rake,**

**gloves, appropriate  
clothing, insect repellent,**

**sun screen, and a sun hat.**

**EXPECT** Cool mornings, with quite a bit of shade in places, **ABUNDANT WILDLIFE** and **SMILING FACES** with **LOTS OF LAUGHTER** as we work to clear the creek of litter and overgrowth, and make it pristine!

Come join us for fellowship and fun! This year we're hoping to have even more eager and hard working volunteers to commence and continue work on approximately 450 feet of Vine Hill Creek access road and banks. We will remove grasses, downed wood, and any other refuse we encounter. Wherever it is possible, we will remove obstructions that prevent stream flow. We can't wait to share this meaningful day with you! Republic Waste will furnish a dumpster in front of 285 Sunnyslopes. Access from the creek to the street is through 285 Sunnyslopes.

## Boys & Girls Club Gets a New Van



The Boys and Girls have taken delivery of a new van, pictured above. Douglas Parking donated the used van to the club for its use. **David Gerson**, who facilitated the donation, reports that the club will ask the Martinez Kiwanis Foundation to give a centennial grant of \$5000 or so for upgrades and maintenance. The van will bear logos of Kiwanis and Douglas Parking.

## Kiwanis Day at Sturgeons July 25



Kiwanis Day at the Sturgeons is Friday, July 25. Game starts at 6:00 pm. Come out and root for the home team as they take on the Dublin Leprechauns, and enjoy the view of the Kiwanis banner in left field (at left below). 50 tickets will be available to members.



## EcoKids Summer Workshop



Here are kids attending the first EcoKids summer workshop at the Kiwanis Youth Center. Our club gave a grant to support this program, part of New Leaf Collaborative, to help kids connect with nature

## Grant Recipients Report



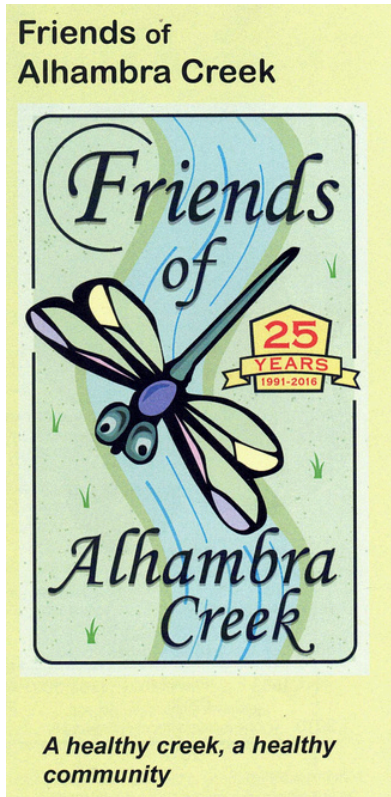
Tara Legaspi of Bay Area Crisis Nursery receives her grant check from President **Igor**. She reported that BACN provided 35000 hours of free childcare to children of families during their most challenging moments, and also operates a food and diaper bank, distributing over 92000 diapers a year!





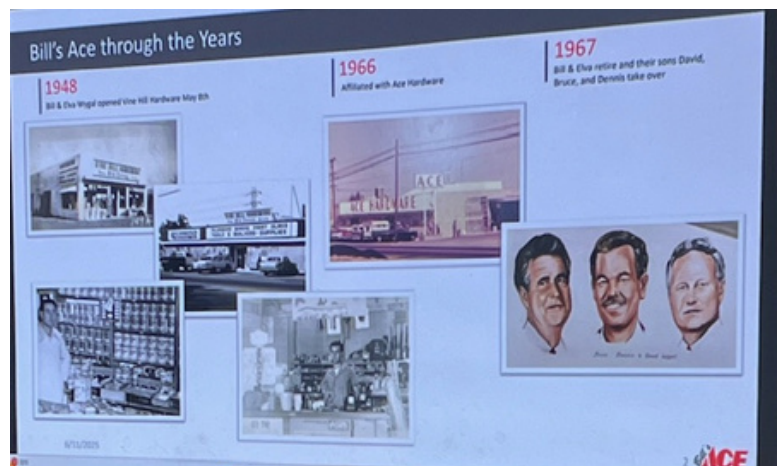
# Some Recent Programs Enlightened Us

Jane Moore of Friends of Alhambra Creek told us how the volunteer group protects the watershed of the creek that runs through the heart of Martinez. They have been at it since 1991, and their members also maintain the native plants that grace the front of our clubhouse.



Kiwanian **Kristin Connelly**, our County Clerk-Recorder-Elections officer, acquainted us with the Mapping Prejudice Project, which seeks to remove from recorded documents all illegal restrictive covenants. Over 38000 such documents have been identified. She seeks volunteers to help review these documents: go to [volunteers@cr.cccounty.us](mailto:volunteers@cr.cccounty.us)

Three generations of Wygals gave a program on Bill's Ace Hardware through the years. Here is a local business that prides itself on service to its customers and its community.



# Kiwanis Club of Martinez

750 Allen St., P.O. Box 1886, Martinez CA 94553, [www.martinezkiwanis.org](http://www.martinezkiwanis.org)

## Officers 2024-2025

President **Igor Skaredoff**

President-Elect **Steve Francis**

Treasurer **Patty Winsor**

Secretary **Bob Braun**

Immediate Past President **Sally Sweetser**

## Directors-Trustees 2024-2026

**Migs Carter**

**Connie Chapman**

**Bob Barker**

**Marylee Taylor**

## Directors-Trustees 2023-2025

**John Noon**

**Donald Pallotta**

**Perry Picchi**

**Bill Patt**

## Committee Chairs

Bocce Capo **Les Johnson**

City Liaison **Donald Pallotta**

Chamber of Commerce Liaison **Denis Smith**

Community Grants **Donald Pallotta**

Dolly Parton Book Program **Frank Hall**

Safeway Food Bank Drive **Dave Gerson**

Leadership **Bob Braun**

Loaves & Fishes **Maureen Cowger**

Meals on Wheels **Bob Braun**

Membership **Denis Smith**

See's Candies fundraiser **Patty Winsor,**

**Maureen Cowger, Connie Chapman**

Service Leadership Programs (SLPs):

Alhambra High Key Club **Kristin Connelly**

College Park High Key Club **Denis Smith**

Diablo Valley College Circle K **Dawn Manley**

Scholarships **Donald Pallotta** temporary

Newsletter Editor **Tom Watrous**

Staff Photographer **Denis Smith**

## Birthdays

July 2 **Bob Barker**

July 3 **Mark Ross**

July 8 **Tom Watrous**

## July 2025 Meetings

Program Chair: **Frank Hall**

July 3- NO MEETING

July 10

Setup: Squad 6 **Frank Hall, John Surges, Monica Willemsz**

Invocation: **Carol Ann Quigley**

Program: **Perry Picchi** on changes since 1965

July 17

Setup: Squad 7 **Les Johnson, David Gerson, Dawn Manley, Gina Zagotta**

Invocation: **Mark Ross**

Program: Janessa Oriol, District Director for Congressman Mark Desaulnier

July 24

Setup: Squad 8 **John Noon, Carol Walsh, CarolAnn Quigley, Jay Howard**

Invocation: **Don Sanders**

Program: Chris Bachman Asst Chief/Fire Marshall  
ConFire

July 31

Setup: Squad 9 **Donald Pallotta, Tom Watrous, Jane Schumer, Lara Delaney**

Invocation: **Jane Schumer**

Program: Gene Ross: coxswain, pilot, college trustee



## Kiwanis Anniversaries

none

## Wedding Anniversaries

none