

# Oak GROVE HIGHLIGHTS



*An 'Evening*

*Under The Oaks'*

*Auction, Benefit Set*



An "Evening Under the Oaks" Silent Auction and Dinner Benefit for the children of Oak Grove will be held at Temeku Hills Golf and Country Club on Saturday, March 24.

Hosted by Corman Leigh Homes, the auction and dinner will feature dancing and entertainment provided by The Jon Laskin Band.

As honorary chair of the event and an Oak Grove board member, Katherine Eggers-Bailey noted that "as a non-profit, Oak Grove has limited funds to cover beyond the 'basics' of room and board.

"Proceeds from this event will benefit our children and school. We are adding a classroom for children who have autism and replacing two out-of-date classrooms. Additionally, a portion of these funds will be directed to supporting our work with foster care and adoptions as well as children who have been abused," Eggers-Bailey, who serves as regional vice president of 1st Centennial Bank, said.

Early sign-ups for benefit sponsorships include Bear Creek Pharmacy, Toyota of Temecula, 1st Centennial Bank, Mary Conlin Company, Sylvan Learning Center, Leisure Living, Randy Bogs

Masonry, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Clary Roofing, Inc., LTJ Graphic Studio and Tom Roney Roofing.

A number of exciting vacation travel opportunities will be available in the silent auction, including vacations at the Porto Elounda De Luxe Resort, in Crete, Greece; the Los Suenos Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort in Costa Rica, The Inn at Essex, Vermont, the Renaissance Moscow Hotel, the Rosarito Beach Resort & Spa in Mexico, the Marriott CasaMagna Resort in Puerto Vallarta. There will be Southwest Airlines passes for two roundtrip between any two cities, gourmet dinner for 8-12 brought to your home, tickets to the Lakers versus Phoenix Suns game on April 8, 2007 and a flight in a Planes of Fame AT-6. Sterling Rose Limousines will offer a four-person Limousine Wine Tour, including tasting tickets and sit-down lunch at The Plantation House Restaurant.

Sponsorship opportunities and silent auction donations may be made by contacting Tammy Wilson, Executive Director, or Cheryl Lievsay, Executive Assistant, at 951-677-5599 ext. 238.

Tickets for the event are \$95 person, or \$180 per couple, and include the dinner and dancing. A portion of contributions is deductible under IRS regulations.

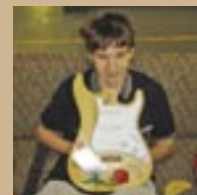
## WHAT'S INSIDE



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## TEACHER'S STUDENTS LEARN FROM 'WINTER'S STORY'

A teacher at Oak Grove's Jack Weaver School for seven years, Kathy Belanger says she is thrilled by the mountains and the opportunity "to commune once again with nature and all it has to offer." That's a good thing, as Kathy and 25 other NASA Explorer School teachers spent a week in Yellowstone National Park in January.

Selected for training in NASA's Winter Story program, Kathy and her colleagues collected data at Yellowstone and will combine that with data collected at their home weather stations (in Kathy's case, Murrieta) to develop an instructional program.

"We will prepare standards-based lessons incorporating the content and activities presented during the Winter Story workshop," Kathy said. "Yellowstone is an area rich with weather data."

During the week at Winter Story, Kathy said they "dug snow pits at Mammoth, toured the Mammoth Terraces at Yellowstone and learned about extremophiles and their existence in the hot springs.

"We took temperature and PH readings with our HOBO recording device. The HOBO records the data, and when it is entered into the computer it will create graphs and charts," she added.

In addition to the hands-on experience, NASA provided guest speakers including Astronaut Don Petit and Astronomer Bonnie Buratti via videoconference. All of this will become part of the instructional program offered to Oak Grove students.

According to the NASA Winter's Story website, winter tells its own, special story about the water and energy cycle, weather and climate. As part of NASA's pursuit of answers to the fundamental question, "How is Earth changing and what are the consequences for life on Earth," NASA scientists collect and analyze planetary data from space and on Earth's surface.

In 14 years of teaching, Kathy has taught in a variety of settings including general and special education in both public and private schools. She has found teaching at Oak Grove "both a challenge and very rewarding."

Oak Grove's Kathy Belanger, right,  
and fellow NASA Explorer School teachers



## BLACK TIE BOWLING TO HELP CHILDREN

Imagine an evening out, attired in your finest party wear at the Arlington Lanes in Riverside, all to help the abused children served by Olive Crest Homes and Services.

That's Black Tie Bowling and the 5th Annual event will be held Friday, May 18. Honorary Chairs for this year's event are Stan and Jessica Morrison. Stan is Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of California Riverside and President of the Inland Empire Chapter of Olive Crest Trustees.

"This is an opportunity to get all dressed up, enjoy gourmet foods as well as classic bowling alley foods and bowl with your friends," says Jennifer Sniff, who is organizing the 2007 event. "At the same time, we will be helping the children of our community."

The 2006 event raised more than \$80,000 for the Olive Crest programs. Olive Crest and Oak Grove finalized an affiliation in 2006. Since 1973, Olive Crest Homes & Services for Abused Children has been a leader in providing care for abused, abandoned and severely neglected children. Olive Crest is dedicated to preventing child abuse, to treating and educating at-risk children and to preserving the family "One Life at a Time."

Olive Crest continues to promote the safety and wellness of children and families through innovative programs including specialized education, foster and adoption, family preservation, and residential homes. Olive Crest's outreach serves California, Nevada, and the Pacific Northwest.

For more information on the Black Tie Bowling event, contact Gina Johnson, Olive Crest at 951-686-8500, ext. 1427.

## BUILDING FUND PROMISES TO MEET LOCAL AUTISM NEEDS

With the help of Corman Leigh Communities, Oak Grove is launching its first-ever Building Fund Project to expand the Murrieta campus and broaden its range of services to meet the educational and treatment needs of children with autism in the local community.

“An Evening Under the Oaks” Silent Auction and Dinner Benefit will support the Building Fund, as will a concentrated outreach to the building and construction industry. Completion of the expansion is targeted for September, in time for the new school year.

“The Murrieta and Temecula Unified School Districts have expressed a need for such a program. It would have an immediate impact and continue to meet the population’s expanding needs for years to come,” says Tammy Wilson, Oak Grove’s Executive Director.

Mac Byers, Vice President-Corman Leigh-Byers CMS, Inc., is involved in finalizing the design and owner requirements for two pre-engineered factory-built buildings to provide four classrooms and four offices, replacing two antiquated moduls.

“We are finalizing a shopping list of costs for items, parts and finishes for the buildings,” said Byers, who oversees school building and refurbishing projects at Corman Leigh -Byers. “We hope to get

many of these costs moved to the donations side of the project.”

Another group at Corman Leigh is working with the city planners while yet another is developing the marketing campaign.

The vast majority of Temecula/Murrieta children who struggle with autism currently are transported to schools in Riverside and North San Diego County.

“By building this specialized, state-of-the-art learning center Oak Grove will fill a local void, making it more convenient for children to attend school and for families to participate in their child’s education and treatment program,” says Wilson. Oak Grove has no dedicated autism facility currently.

“This expansion will also create a safe and nurturing environment for students while giving the staff the resources necessary to provide quality educational, therapeutic and recreational opportunities.”

The Building Fund Project is a first for Oak Grove. Yet, students have “been shown such wonderful support through the resident room renovations that businesses and community groups have done with volunteer workers and materials donations. Now we hope that this under-served segment of children will benefit from the same spirit of volunteerism and community giving,” Wilson said.



### HOLIDAY HOME TOUR ‘SUCCESS’

Oak Grove was the main beneficiary of the Temecula Valley Woman’s Club 2006 Holiday Home Tour. Over 2,000 toured four homes in Santiago Estates homes that had been professionally decorated for the holidays. The all-volunteer, nonprofit club has hosted the successful fundraising event in the Valley for 22 years.

Lorrie Thomas, who served as the TVWC’s president for 2006, called “the Home Tour very successful. Everyone seemed to have a great time and enjoyed the beautiful homes.

“I was so pleased that all our members and friends worked so hard for our many charities, especially Oak Grove which is the largest recipient as our Club Project for the year.”

The TVWC has donated over \$1 million and 500,000 hours of service to the community. Oak Grove was chosen as the 2006 Club Project for its commitment to youth of the Valley.



2006 TVWC President Lorrie Thomas in Sally and Gary Myers’ home with Tammy Wilson

### GIRLS LEARN BASKETBALL SKILLS

The girls who make up the Jack Weaver School basketball team didn’t have much basketball experience when they started the winter season, but they were willing to work at it.

“All but one knew something about basketball, but they hadn’t actually played it as a team sport,” said Coach Alina Perez who has had as many as seven high school-aged girls turn out for the sport.

By their third game of the season, the girls “saw that they looked like a team, dribbling and passing to one another,” she added. Although only five girls turned out for that game, they won 24-20, beating the team they had lost to the first time out.

“And the one girl who didn’t know how to shoot or dribble when they started the season was the star player.” Alina and her assistant coach, Nastasia Marquez, are working to build up the girls basketball program at the school.



Nastasia Marquez briefs basketball team.

## COMMUNITY MAKES HOLIDAYS SPECIAL FOR RESIDENTS

Oak Grove residents were the recipients of gifts and a number of celebrations, thanks to the warmth and love of local groups and businesses.

“Our kids will always remember the special generosity and kindness that people showed them during the Christmas season,” said Tammy Wilson, Executive Director. “Some had never known this type of giving in their lives before. We all are so thankful for it. It

demonstrates that people care about them.”

Among the groups that extended holiday warmth were Temecula Valley People Helping People, Solid State Stamping, Milgard Windows and Doors, The American Legion, Bank of America and Christi Gordon, Islands Restaurant of Temecula and Mark Bias, Mr and Mrs Buck Kemmis, DeeDee Warden, Life Church, Cornerstone Church, Ellen Kellett, Calvary Chapel of Murrieta’s Blankets of Blessings and Mona Davies, Community Outreach.

## STUDENTS BUILD GUITARS THROUGH GAP

An innovative Growth through the Arts (GAP) program gave Oak Grove students the opportunity to build guitars.

“Making a guitar takes mostly patience, a little bit of love and a little bit of time,” one student wrote while another said “Guitar building educated me” and another, “It also kept me out of trouble. . .”



Oak Grove students perform in Old Town Temecula, with the guitars they made displayed at left.

These students and others are part of a program developed by the Arts Council of Temecula in conjunction with Oak Grove and other Temecula Valley organizations.

The guitars made by the Oak Grove students, along with pictures of the project work, were displayed at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater, along with an explanation of the GAP program.

“By providing nurturing and stimulating relationships, the program will encourage youth to ‘dare to dream,’” the Arts Council display noted. “Our goal is to provide them with training in the arts and exposure to some of the many career opportunities in the arts field.

“Education builds self-esteem. Individuals who feel competent, self-assured and

useful also develop a sense of belonging to the community.”

Oak Grove’s Stacey Dove Daniels points out, “Many of the Oak Grove residents have overcome obstacles and trauma that most of us will never experience in our lifetime. As a Child Care Worker and Creative Expression Therapy advocate, it is my responsibility to introduce residents to pleasant and memorable activities and events that will be on their minds and in their hearts forever.”

As a student wrote, “Thank you for letting me have this experience.” Another noted “losing two guitars was heartbreaking for this budding musician, but receiving a free one required only my gratitude toward those who generously donated it to me.”

## BOARD TO STAFF: ‘YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE’

Oak Grove’s Board of Directors staged its first Staff Appreciation Day with food and special recognition for all 270 employees.

Under the banner “You Make A Difference,” Oak Grove staffers whose work schedules cross three shifts were entertained with a luncheon catered by Gregory’s on the Course.

“It was a pleasure to acknowledge the exemplary staff at Oak Grove

who are incredible examples of people who are dedicated to helping, working with and loving our children,” said Dr. Ricardo Parker, Chairman of the Board.

Oak Grove’s Tom Kadlec, Director of Environmental Services, and Kevin Keller, Workability and Athletic Director, received special awards from the Board for dedicated service. Kadlec joined Oak Grove in 1991 while Keller has been on staff since 1992.

SAVE THE DATE

Evening  
Under the Oaks  
Mar. 24, 2007

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