

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Moraga

## Calendar

<b>City Council</b> 7:30pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, Mar 28 Wednesday, Apr 11
<b>Planning Comm.</b> 7:30pm Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Mar 19 <i>3/19 will be held at: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School; 1010 Camino Pablo</i> Monday, Apr 2
<b>Design Review</b> 7:30pm Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Mar 26 Monday, Apr 9
<b>Park &amp; Rec.</b> 7:30pm Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, Mar 20 Tuesday, Apr 17
<b>Youth Involvement</b> 7:30pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Mar 15 Thursday, Apr 12
<b>Liaison</b> 8:00am Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, Apr 13

check online:  
Town of Moraga:  
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>  
for:  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates

## Pulse of Moraga

### Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Police Chief Mark Rupenthal announced the appointment of two people, J.D. O'Connor to a one-year term and Susanna Lyon to a two-year term to a traffic safety advisory committee. There were a number of comments from the public in light of the most recent accident on Rheem Boulevard. John Garvey who lives on Rheem noted, "Corrective action needs to be taken. Year after year after year, so many accidents [happen], but you (the Town) just fill in potholes." Aida Peterson also spoke up, "Can't we afford some speed bumps? Please do something to help us."

### Elections by mail - AB 1654

AB 1654 goes before the policy committee of the Assembly in April. Basically it allows elections to be held by mail, with physical polling places available but kept to a minimum. Phil Vince, the Town Manager, said that the Town could save approximately \$30,000 per election. The Council was unanimously in favor of supporting the bill.

**2007 General Plan Review**  
Town Manager Phil Vince suggested that because a thorough cost benefit analysis and budget review is scheduled for the next Town Council meeting on March 28, any discussion should be saved until that time.

Cathy Tyson is the Editor of the Moraga Report. She's a "Moraga Mom" who's also very active in school and community events.

## Bruzzone Statues and Plaques Approved

By Cathy Tyson

The most important and controversial item on the agenda was the consideration of the donation of two statues from Joan Bruzzone, one to be placed at the Commons, the other at the Library. Recreation Director Penelope Leach reminded everyone that the past practice was to consistently turn down memorials; however there have been two instances recently where a "park amenity" was accepted - two sets of swings, and the train station play area at Rancho Laguna Park. To address the memorial nature of the plaque language, the words, "In memory of" were taken off the plaque to be placed in the Commons. Finally, if the Council couldn't come to a decision tonight, Mrs. Bruzzone was going to rescind her donation offer.

The meeting was open for public comment before the Council Members made their decisions. Before the floor was open for public comment, Mayor Metcalf urged everyone to keep a civil tone. Apparently there had been a number of "uncivilized" comments at prior meetings and via e-mail. A total of twelve people spoke, ten in favor and two against. The comments supporting the donation were all heartfelt, urgent pleas to the Council to allow the donation. Linda Gong, a longtime resident said she was, "Stunned that the donation was not accepted with open arms. Russ Bruzzone was

a pioneer of our town. He created something from nothing." Bea Cunningham commented, "What is the big deal about a plaque? To lose a generous donation, I think is criminal, that's my opinion." Phyllis Shultz noted, "What beautiful objects for the Library and Park. Why are we being so shortsighted?"

Finally a tearful Mrs. Bruzzone spoke. She thanked everyone for coming and their kind words and said, "It's a lot of to do about nothing. It's about my husband and his

dreams. Its not about politics, it's about life." She received a round of applause.

After two of the five council members voted against, tension was thick in the JM auditorium awaiting the decisions of the remaining three. In the end, Council Member Rochelle Bird clarified the controversy for the majority. Recalling her alma mater, Saint Mary's College, she noted that there are plaques on benches and buildings and courtyards and that were meaningful and beautiful. She was surprised as part of the gov-

erning body that people who want to donate have been turned down in the past. Moraga should be open for business, she argued. "If people want to give us a donation, we should accept it if it can be utilized and appropriate for the town." In the alternative, if the Council was going to be consistent, they should go around town and strip off every plaque immediately, she suggested, starting with the Post Office and its plaque dedicating it to Lyndon Johnson.

In the end, the Council divided up the issues: 1)

accepting the statues, 2) accepting the plaques, and 3) developing a written policy on future art donations. The Council was unanimous, voting 5 - 0 to accept the statues and develop a written policy. Plaque acceptability was still a concern to some, but it passed anyway, 3 - 2.

Bottom line: Expect to see the statues and the plaques erected in memory of Russell Bruzzone in the Commons Park, and at the Moraga Library.



Photo: Andy Schreck

## Agendas: City Council, and Commissions

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AGENDA (Partial) March 21, 2007  
Board Room - Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA  
6:30 P.M. Closed Session; 7:00 P.M. - Business Meeting  
2.1. Conference with Labor Negotiators  
(Government Code Section 54957.6)  
Agency Designated Representatives:  
Austris Rungis, Chief Negotiator, IEDA; and Fire Chief Pete Nowicki  
Employee Organizations:  
Association of Federated Firefighters IAFF, Local 1230.  
2.2 Meeting with District Counsel  
Pending litigation regarding Name of Case:  
Daniel Tucker v. Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
4. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION  
5. PUBLIC COMMENT  
6. CONSENT AGENDA  
6.2. Monthly/Annual Incident Sum. Staff Recommendation: Receive and File  
6.3. Training Report Staff Recommendation: Receive and File  
6.4. Fire Prevention Report Staff Recommendation: Receive and File  
6.5. Ambulance Billing Report Staff Recommendation: Receive and File  
6.6. Monthly Financial Reports Staff Recommendation: Receive and File  
6.7. Ratification of District accounts payable check register for the period of February 20, 2007 through March 13, 2007 in the amount of \$162,110.44.  
Staff Recommendation: Approve  
7. REGULAR CALENDAR  
7.1. Board discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 07-03, approving the expenditure of funds to the City of Orinda for purposes of defraying the costs associated with the special municipal bond election to submit the "Orinda Roads, Drains, and Water Supply Bond Measure" to the qualified electors of the City of Orinda.



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