

Moraga Beautiful Week:

The Awakening of Sleeping Beauty?

By Sophie Braccini

Is May 5th the beginning of Moraga's future? Moraga Beautiful Week is a long tradition that is taking a turn this year toward making the town a more vibrant and innovative place.

For almost 25 years, the Town of Moraga and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce have been partnering in a town wide "spring cleaning". The key to the success of the week has been the large involvement of community volunteers who show up to weed, trim and paint public parks and other community locations.

This year the week will be kicked off on Saturday May 5th by a Fair in each shopping center. The Moraga Center will feature an Energy Fair and a Health and Safety Expo from 11am to 5pm, while the Rheem Shopping Center will host an Art, Wine and Merchants Exhibit.

The Energy Fair is sponsored by Sustainable Moraga, the volunteer group that brought battery recycling and green bag sales to Moraga. From windows and insulation to remodeling projects and new cars, all Lamorindans will be able to see what's available to them today to help lower their energy consumption. One of the exhibitors, Canyon Construction, is currently restoring the historic Moraga Barn. The builder will offer tours of the site, offering an impressive array of solutions for sustainable design. The Health and Safety Expo will feature the Police Department, a fire truck, a CERT information table, and a Red Cross blood donation station (call Janet Forman at 925-935-8808 to schedule an appointment).

At noon the Rheem Shopping Center will host the Art, Wine and Merchants Fair. The Art show will feature local artists, many from the Lamorinda Art Alliance, bringing fine art, photography and jewelry. "Think Globally, Drink Locally," sponsored by Generation Green, will feature the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. The first Merchants Fair will present about 20 local businesses. Each will bring something special to the Fair. For example, the Gourmet Bistro Café will sell food, Amoroma will offer a 30% discount on some of its gourmet groceries, including olive oils, jams, and chocolates, Moraga Hardware & Lumber will hand out samples of upscale and natural cleaners and beautifying products, and OSH will give out a Moraga Beautiful Week special coupon: \$10 off a purchase of \$50 or more. This exhibit is part of the "Shop Moraga First" campaign, to remind everyone that shopping locally is investing in our community by keeping tax dollars in the town.

The Fairs are just the beginning. On May 6th the Farmers' Market will have a special "Start of the Season" display. Homeowners are encouraged to do their homework and spruce their properties. During this week, Allied Waste Services is offering recycle and pick-up days. Green waste can



Moraga Commons

Photo by Jenny Boyd




Moraga Beautiful Week, May 5th to 12th

- May 5th Energy Fair 11 AM to 5 PM Moraga Center
- May 5th Health and Safety Expo 11 AM to 5 PM Moraga Center
- May 5th Arts, Wine and Merchants Fair 12 PM to 5 PM Rheem Center
- May 6th Farmers Market 9 AM to 1 PM Moraga Center
- May 6th "Bringing Back the Native Garden" 12 PM and 3 PM 57 Corliss Dr.
- May 12th Volunteer Clean-Up day from 9 AM Rancho Laguna Park
- Week long: Spring Cleaning and pick-up days
- Merchant's special discounts, Orchard Supply Hardware and Moraga Garden Center.

be picked up as well, just call: 935-8900.

Also on May 6th, the regional "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" will include the Kyte Garden at 57 Corliss Drive in Moraga, with garden talks at 12pm and 3pm (www.bringbackthenatives.net). During the whole week the Moraga Garden Center will offer 20% off on all native plants.

Parks and Recreation Director Penelope Leach is appealing to all groups to join the effort and send helpers for Volunteer Cleaning Day on May 12. Meet at Rancho Laguna Park at 9am and the Moraga Public Works Dept. will have a number of projects to offer.

 <p>American Red Cross</p>	<p>PLEASE GIVE BLOOD</p> <p>THE NEED IS DIRE</p>
 <p>Moraga Beautiful Week</p> <p>Saturday May 5th, 10AM to 4PM</p> <p>Moraga Shopping Center (in front of McCaulou's)</p> <p>for info & sign up call Janet Forman (925) 935-8808</p> 	

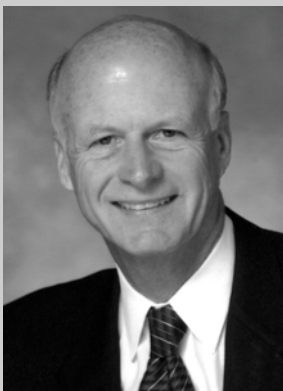


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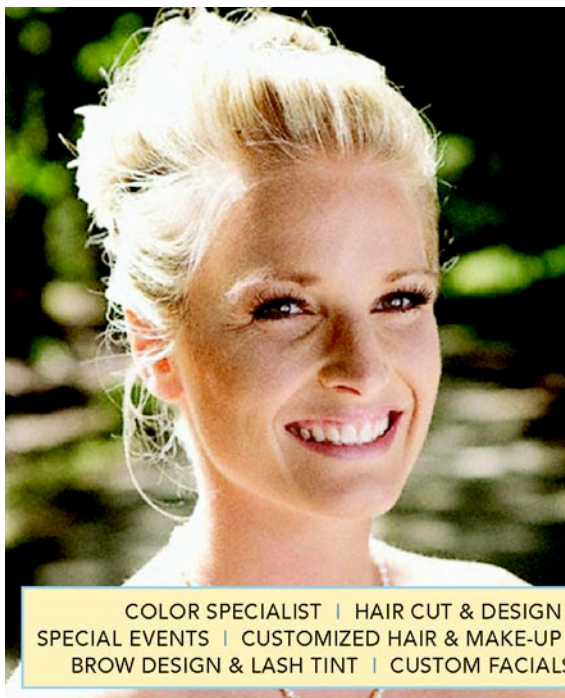
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