

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, June 13	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 4	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 11	
Fire Board	7pm
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Wednesday, June 20	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, June 19	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, June 8	
check online: Town of Moraga: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for:	
• all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Contentious Construction Consumes Commission & Council Clocks

By Steve Angelides

A contentious construction project on Draeger Drive consumed four hours of time of the Moraga Planning Commission and Town Council last week.

Last Monday the Planning Commission spent almost two hours before deciding that the guest unit constructed on that property included a deck. The Town's Design Review Board had specifically prohibited a deck when it approved the project. Commission Chair Bruce Whitley summed up the views of the commissioners when he said, "If it looks like a deck, and quacks like a deck, then it's a deck."

The applicant, Mike Raff, claimed that the disputed surface was only the roof of a pool equipment shed. However, because the surface was accessible from the guest unit through a sliding glass door, and bordered

by a three foot parapet wall (which Raff claimed was only a fence) the commission decided it was a deck.

The commissioners gave Raff some advice on how to eliminate the deck, namely to replace the sliding glass door with a window, and remove the parapet wall. Raff will have the opportunity to submit a compliance plan before the matter comes back on the Commission agenda.

Last Wednesday the Town Council took over two hours to decide that the construction of a concrete retaining wall on the Draeger Drive property had materially altered the grade and therefore required administrative design review. The question originally on the agenda, whether the wall was a nuisance, became moot because the contractor removed the backfill from behind the wall before the meeting.

An Open Letter from Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf: Time to reflect and act


At mid-day Friday, May 18th, a young citizen of our town died from injuries when his motorcycle collided with an oncoming automobile on Moraga Road. This is the third fatality of the year and challenges the notion of Moraga as a safe place to live. Since May 1st, the three cities of Lamorinda have been engaged in an aggressive campaign to slow traffic in the tri-city region. Yet these tragedies continue, and it's apparent many folks aren't taking our safe driving message seriously. Since January, Moraga police have issued 656 traffic citations and, more frightening, 36 for driving under the influence of alcohol. Many of these arrests have involved under-age kids. During the first two weeks of Slow Down Lamorinda!, some 75 stops were made in the tri-city area for speeding, and these after speed trailers had been operating on the same roads for several preceding days. Just this past

weekend in Moraga, a young lady, who was DUI, luckily escaped serious injury when apparently she became disoriented and crashed her vehicle into a closed metal road gate. And we are only five months into the year!

It's time to think carefully about what's going on. All of us need to reflect on our own behavior when driving a motor vehicle, and encourage our family and friends to do the same. When we drive unsafely — or if we shouldn't be driving at all — it's not just ourselves who are at risk; others on the road are also endangered, even people who just happen to be nearby. It's time for some straight talk, perhaps around the dinner table, maybe in our meeting places, or just in

casual conversation. It's time to remind each other that our lives may be lovely right now and we may be happy at the moment, but that it can all go horribly wrong in an instant.

As part of our Slow Down Lamorinda! campaign, a large banner was prominently displayed last week on a police vehicle parked at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Blvd. On Monday morning, it was discovered that vandals had spray-painted over the lettering and written in bold letters: "Speed Up Lamorinda!" This is sick. What kinds of people could have done this? Our police can't possibly patrol everywhere and stop every such senseless act. It's time for each of us to ask what we can do individually and together. Please do your part.



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D.U.I., 5/19/07 Female St. Mary's College student reported to have been involved in a traffic accident had been unconscious prior to being picked up by Campus Public Safety Officer. She was allegedly involved in a solo traffic accident with the metal gate barrier at the east end of Alta Mesa Drive; blood alcohol level was one and a half times the legal limit.

Unlicensed Driver, 5/18/07 The driver of a large commercial vehicle was stopped at Moraga Road and Woodford Drive, for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. It was found that the driver was unlicensed. This was the second time the driver had received a citation for driving without a license.

Counterfeit Cash, 5/16 - 17/07 Campolindo Cafeteria Cashiers received 3 counterfeit \$10.00 bills on 5/16 and 1 on 5/17/07. There was no record of who passed the fake bills, or which cafeteria cashier had received the bills. Officers collected said bills and placed them into evidence.

Tri \$14K!

The first annual Moraga Treeline Triathlon, held on April 28, raised approximately \$14,000 according to Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Penelope Leach. The proceeds will be divided between the Moraga Parks and Recreation program, the Hacienda Foundation, and the Soda Center. Leach notes that the event received valuable support from some of Moraga's community service organizations.

Volunteers from Kiwanis and the Community Emergency Response Training program began placing traffic cones at 4:00am and the Moraga Women's Club arrived to set up the venue at 5:00am. CERT volunteers also provided safety monitoring along the bicycle route during the event. In all, 75 volunteers helped to make Moraga's first such event a great success.

Focus on Roads:

Camino Pablo Repaving and Moraga Rd. Rebuilding

By Steve Angelides

Moraga focused on roads last week. The Town Council awarded a contract for repaving Camino Pablo, and two Town committees met to discuss rebuilding Moraga Rd.

Last Wednesday the Council awarded the Camino Pablo contract to Bay Cities Paving and Grading for \$1,167,100, using rubberized asphalt concrete. The work is supposed to be completed before school starts in August.

Last Thursday the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the Beautification & Tree Planting Implementation Committee held a joint meeting to discuss rebuilding Moraga Rd.

Last September the Beautification Committee presented a conceptual plan whose key feature was reducing traffic to one lane in each direction from Donald Dr. to Corliss Dr. In January the Town Council charged the Beautification Committee with implementing its conceptual plan, with its "first order of business" being to "obtain a traffic

study to show that no backup would result" from the proposed lane reduction.

In June, 2008, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) plans to install a new water pipe in the middle of Moraga Rd. beginning at the Town's border with Lafayette, down Moraga Rd., and then up Draeger Dr. to the reservoir. According to Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal, "EBMUD plans on having Moraga Rd. destroyed" for this construction.

Mayor Mike Metcalf said EDMUD will then have to rebuild Moraga Rd. "If they're going to have to rebuild it," Metcalf said, "we might as well have them rebuild it the way we want it." To take advantage of this and other possible opportunities, Metcalf suggested that the Beautification Committee develop a fully engineered plan for rebuilding Moraga Rd. from the Lafayette border to St. Mary's Rd.

Although many committee members nodded in agreement

with Metcalf's idea, Beautification Committee member Jim Kline questioned whether it would be consistent with what was supposed to be the committee's "first order of business." Metcalf responded that the committee would have to persuade the Town Council, and suggested that the recent traffic fatality may have changed the political climate. "Consider that you just had another fatality on that very stretch of road," Metcalf said. "What do you think the political mood is now?" Beautification Committee member Christine Kuckuk answered the Mayor's rhetorical question. "We're ready to go now," she somberly replied.

Planning Commission Nixes Oversized Second Story Addition

By Steve Angelides

After a lengthy public hearing with over 40 neighbors in attendance, the Moraga Planning Commission refused to approve a second story addition to a home on Kinston Court.

The proposed addition was about 200 feet larger than allowed by the Town's guidelines, and would have made the house the third two story house in a row, also contrary to the guidelines. During the discussion a majority of commissioners indicated they might approve the

project if its mass was reduced and the second story was centered over the first story, rather than being lined up with the rear of the first story.

When asked after the meeting whether he would be willing to scale the project down and center the second floor over the first floor, the project's architect, Hampton Hancock, said that decision was up to the owners. "But if they want to do it I would love to do it."

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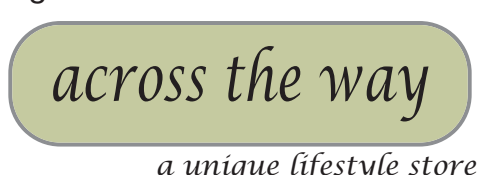
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