

Albany Lures Moraga Parks & Rec Director

By Steve Angelides

The City of Albany has lured Parks and Recreation Director Penelope Leach away from Moraga.

During her two year tenure in Moraga Leach's major accomplishments included overseeing the development of the nearly completed Parks & Recreation Master Plan, reinstating the Town's own recreation program after a three year partnership with Lafayette, and successfully organizing the Town's first triathlon.

"Leaving Moraga was a difficult decision," said Leach, "One I struggled over for quite some time. The struggle came from thinking about all the things about Moraga that I love. The Parks and Recreation Commission is the best there is. The Town staff is nothing short of incredible and I will miss working with all of them. The volunteerism in Moraga is amazing and the community groups are so generous with their do-

nations and their time; they are to be commended. Albany will have a tough act to follow!"

"She gave us two years of very good work," said Mayor Mike Metcalf, "but frankly we just can't compete with Albany; they have passed four bond measures, she has a staff of seven, and a very, very generous compensation package," Metcalf explained.

Town Manager Phil Vince praised Leach in an e-mail to Town officials announcing her resignation. "Penelope almost single-handedly resurrected the Parks/Rec/Open Space department in only two years—quite a feat," Vince wrote. "She will be missed, but I wish her the best in her exciting new adventures with the City of Albany."

Leach assures Moraga residents, "The recreation department will continue to grow. This first sea-

son our goal was to offer a few new classes along with the regularly offered classes and to get the new Activity Guide created. I really think everyone will like the "new look". The guide should arrive at homes by early August." Moraga is currently recruiting for Leach's replacement. The starting salary being offered is up to \$93,000 per year.

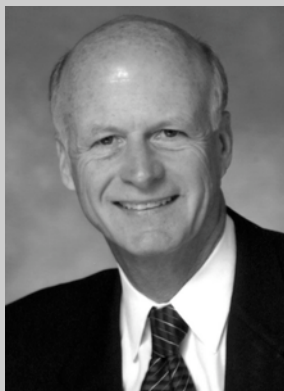


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