

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Moraga

### Calendar

- City Council 7:30pm**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School  
1010 Camino Pablo  
Wednesday, Sept 26
  - Planning Comm. 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Oct 1
  - Design Review 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, La Sala Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Monday, Sept 24
  - Park & Rec 7:30pm**  
Hacienda, Mosaic Room  
2100 Donald Drive  
Tuesday, Oct 16
  - Liaison 8:00am**  
Fire Station  
1280 Moraga Way  
Friday, Oct 12
  - Chamber of Commerce 8am**  
Terzetto's Cuisine  
Moraga Shopping Center  
Friday, Sept 28
- check online:  
Town of Moraga:  
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>  
for:  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates



**Suicide Threat 9/09/07** Officers were dispatched to a Warfield Drive residence to check on a 21-year old male subject with an extensive history of mental illness. He had threatened to kill himself with a gun and fled. After about 45 minutes the subject returned home, and acknowledged that he put a replica handgun to his head, but he insisted that he was only angry and trying to hurt his mother by scaring her. The situation was discussed; and it was determined that the subject would stay home. Police took the fake handgun.

**Unlicensed Driver, 9/08/07** A large Freightliner Box Truck with a brush chipper in tow was stopped for speeding, 51 m.p.h. in a 35m.p.h. zone on St. Mary's Road. The driver was unlicensed despite being employed by a bay area tree service company. The business owner was asked to respond to the scene, he also was determined to be an unlicensed driver. Both the driver and his boss were cited. The truck was impounded.

**Petty Theft, 9/07/07** Two juvenile suspects walked into the Moraga Safeway and took several bottles of alcohol from the store without paying for them. The suspect's vehicle was stopped and the suspects were identified by the store employees. Value of the booze was \$99.49. The juveniles were referred to juvenile probation.

## Citizen's Land Use Academy

A frequent complaint of Moragans to Town staff and community leaders has been, "It is so hard to know what is going on in Moraga." Of course, for the last few months your friendly neighborhood newspaper has attempted to remedy this situation. Now Moraga's Planning Director, Lori Salamack, is stepping up to the plate by offering a Citizen's Land Use Academy (CLUA) to better inform Moragans of the rules and regulations governing land use and planning in the Town of Moraga. The Academy will be presented once a week, immediately prior to a regularly scheduled Planning meeting, from September 24 - October 15. The CLUA is intended to give residents a better understanding how Moraga works and what is required if someone wants to change something in town.

ducted from 5:45 to 7:15 pm at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive. Participants who attend all 4 sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

The format for each session is intended to be interactive, and Salamack will be responding to questions from the audience. When asked what prompted her to create the program, Salamack said, "I know that our residents are interested in the planning process, but often feel frustrated by the formality of a public hearing process where there is no opportunity for interaction between the residents and the decision makers. My purpose in doing this is to create a forum so residents can get the information that they need in order to contribute to the planning process and create and maintain the kind of community and quality of life that the community envisions."

All sessions will be con-

## Citizen's Land Use Academy Schedule:

- **9/24:** The Design Guidelines and Design Review Process (precedes a Special Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board on the topic of Green Building)
- **10/1:** The California Environmental Quality Act (precedes a Planning Commission meeting on the Draft Hillside Ordinance)
- **10/09:** The Moraga Municipal Code with special emphasis on the Sign Ordinance (precedes a Special Joint Meeting of the Design Review Board and the Economic Development Advisory Committee on the Draft Sign Ordinance)
- **10/15:** The General Plan, with special emphasis on the Housing Element (precedes a Planning Commission meeting, topic TBD).

## 9th Annual Pear Festival



Pear Festival at the Commons 2006

Photo provided

The Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation and the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department invite you to attend the 9th Annual Moraga Pear Festival on Saturday, September 29, from 11:00-4:00 at the Moraga Commons.

Inflatables, arts and crafts, live music (littledog2, 11am-12:45pm and City Rocks Revue, 1:30-3:30pm), coloring and pear recipe

contests and of course those irresistible pear pies, will ensure lots of great fun for everyone.

The event starts at 11am and wraps-up at 4pm. The pear recipe and coloring contest winners will be announced at 1:00pm.

### PEAR HISTORY

The majority of pear trees growing in the Moraga Valley are Bartletts, planted by the Moraga

Company, of James Irvine, around 1913, and still going strong in spite of neglect. In May of 1929, the Manager of the Moraga Company, Mr. E.M. Price, wrote several letters to the University of California College of Agriculture and to the California Pear Growers Association, asking how long their trees, by then about 16 years old, would continue producing abundantly. The responses, on file in our History Center, replied that pear trees are some of the hardiest and most long-lived of deciduous trees, and that there were, at the time, pear trees producing after 100 years. The writers indicated that "if managed properly, (the pears) should be better the second hundred years, than the first hundred." By 1923, Bartlett pears shipped out of the Moraga Valley were sent either to the East Coast, or to the Oakland Canneries and were reputed to be "as fine in quality as any food within the state."

## Council Smooths Bumps to Soothe Feelings

By Steve Angelides

After hearing an outpouring of views about three large road bumps on Camino Pablo—and the process that created them—the Town Council unanimously voted to smooth the bumps to ease traffic and soothe the feelings of a divided community.

The action was taken in a five hour special meeting attended by nearly 200 residents who were evenly divided between supporters and opponents of the bumps. "You either love them or you hate them," said Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, who spearheaded the repaving of Camino Pablo during which the bumps were installed last month.

The Town's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) recommended that three "slightly raised" crosswalks be placed in front of the schools on Camino Pablo. The Town mailed the required notice to residents within 300 feet of the paving project and one resident attended the TSAC meeting.

The road designer translated TSAC's recommendation into the three bumps, which technically are

called speed tables, which are six inches high with six foot ramps. Mercurio said that according to engineering standards the highest speed table is six inches with six foot ramps, and the lowest is three inches with six foot ramps. She said the crosswalks were raised the maximum of six inches to make the small pedestrians who would be using them more visible.

Since relatively few of the residents who use Camino Pablo were notified of the bumps, and the Council never discussed or approved them, most residents and even some council members were surprised when the bumps suddenly appeared in the road the week before school started. The outcry that followed led to the special meeting.

At the meeting Mercurio recommended lengthening the ramps on the bumps from six to twelve feet, which would make the six inch bumps with twelve foot ramps equivalent to three inch bumps with six foot ramps.

... continued on page 8

You can contact reporter Steve Angelides at [steve@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:steve@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Hardware, Software & Internet**  
Home & Office Visits  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
Over 30 Years Experience  
Windows • Mac  
Linux • Unix

**DiabloLink Communications**  
www.DiabloLink.net  
located in Moraga  
925-465-9567

**FREE Computer Repair or Service**  
Buy 1st 1/2 hr at \$49  
Get 2nd 1/2 hr free!

**THERE'S A NEW NEIGHBOR** in your neighborhood.  
Call or visit me today.  
**Mike Rosa** State Farm Agent,  
1042 Country Club Dr Suite 20 • Moraga  
license # 0F45583 • 925-376-2244 • Mike@MikeRosa.org  
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.<sup>®</sup>  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
P02676 11/04 State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com<sup>®</sup>

**RESIDENTIAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE**  
**The Right Lender to Know™**  
"RPM is a Mortgage Bank serving Clients since 1985"  
**Gordon Steele**  
Mortgage Consultant  
Office: 925.627.7109  
gsteel@rpm-mortgage.com  
www.rpm-mortgage.com/gsteel  
**925-627-7109**  
1777 Botelho Drive • Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
serving Lamorinda since 1986  
CA Dept. of Real Estate - real estate broker license # 01201643

**The Olsen**  
3 PROFESSIONAL AGENTS - AT YOUR SERVICE  
**Village ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE**  
**Fabulous New Construction in Sleepy Hollow!**  
There are so few peaceful and wonderful spaces left in Orinda, and even fewer truly luxurious homes. You will find both in this 5300 square foot showcase home on a truly fabulous 1+ acre lot with level yard, gorgeous views and the finest finishes.  
satisfy your curiosity: [www.2BerryBrookHollow.com](http://www.2BerryBrookHollow.com)  
Sue Olsen, Broker • Lara Olsen Williamson • Ben Olsen  
Always Available at 925.253.2530  
[www.TheOlsenTeam.com](http://www.TheOlsenTeam.com)

*across the way...*  
a unique lifestyle store  
**Store-wide SALE**  
September 21<sup>st</sup> - September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**20% Off**  
(excludes grills, grill accessories, patio heaters & special orders)  
• KNF Garden Mosaic & Barlow Tyrie Teak garden furniture  
• European soaps & lotions  
• Extensive collection of cookware & cookbooks  
• Exquisite candles from France & Italy  
*across the way*  
(925) 376-3600 ext. 3 • 1480 G Moraga Road  
Moraga Shopping Center  
(across from Moraga Hardware & Lumber)