

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar

City Council 7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Wednesday, Nov 28
Wednesday, Dec 12

Planning Comm. 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, Dec 3

Design Review 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, Dec 10

Park & Rec 7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, Dec 18

Liaison 8:00am
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, Dec 14

Chamber of Commerce 8am
Terzetto's Cuisine
Moraga Shopping Center
Friday, Nov 30

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

Council Faces \$38 Million Wish List for \$17 Million Palos Money

By Steve Angelides

The Moraga Town Council has begun to grapple with a \$38 million wish list for \$17 million of anticipated fees from the Palos Colorados development. The Council will take another crack at the problem at its meeting on January 9, and will hold a large meeting to get more public input on the topic sometime next February.

Town Manager Phil Vince presented the wish list developed by the Town staff to the Council. It includes \$7.3 million for roads, \$7.3 million for storm drains, \$6.7 million for a gym, a \$5 million reserve, \$3.8 million for building renovations, \$2 million for open space maintenance and acquisition, \$1.5 million to pay off a pension loan, a \$1.5 million legal fund, \$1.4 million to help close a "structural budget deficit", \$9 million for a sports field at Rancho Laguna park, and \$5 million for the Town's estimated share of the regional emergency radio system.

After Vince's lengthy presentation and comments from several of the 30 residents present, the Council struggled for an hour and a half before agreeing that it will attempt to reach tentative agreement on some of the items at its meeting on January 9, to help frame the public input at the large meeting in February.

The council members seemed to agree on at least two items. A majority of them spoke in favor of paying off the \$1.5 million pension loan, because the Town pays 7.75% interest on the loan but can only earn about 5% on money it invests. A majority also spoke in favor of setting aside a reserve fund, but they did not agree on the amount of the reserve fund. Vince has recommended a \$5 million reserve fund. Vince and some of the council members also spoke in favor of setting aside \$7.3 million for roads.

If the council were to agree on January 9 to pay off the \$1.5

million pension loan, set aside a \$5 million reserve, and set aside \$7.3 million for roads, that would amount to \$13.8 million, leaving only about \$4 million of the anticipated Palos money up for grabs at the public meeting in February. Councilmember Dave Trotter was unwilling to agree with that approach because he favors a gym which it is estimated will cost \$6.7 million.

However, Councilmember Rochelle Bird said that by using "smart debt" it might be possible to invest some of the money and use the income to pay off debt for capital projects, such as the gym, over the long term. Vince said he had prepared a spreadsheet which illustrates some of those concepts and would make it available to council members to study.

Some of the residents who attended spoke in favor of investing the entire \$17 million of anticipated Palos money.

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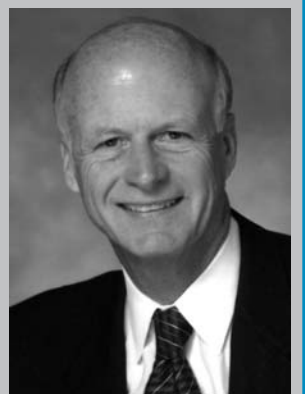
Martha C. Radcliffe – Estate planning
Lisa J. Radcliffe – Family Law, custody, support and visitation

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Safeway Responds to Concerns

By Sophie Braccini



Deborah Potter loves the new smaller carts at Safeway Photo Sophie Braccini

New small shopping carts, cleaner bathrooms and products on request are some of the innovations you might notice while shopping at Moraga Safeway. These improvements are the result of a meeting held a few weeks ago between David Volo, the new manager of the Moraga Safeway, his district manager, Helen Carver, Fiona Artiaga, Moraga Juniors Women's Club President and Edy Schwartz from the Shop Moraga First Committee.

It all started when Schwartz was invited to a Moraga Juniors' meeting to present the "Shop Moraga First" campaign. There, the young women expressed their frustration with the supermarket, which is the only grocery store in town. Schwartz asked them to put their concerns in writing and went on a quest to find a sympathetic ear at Safeway.

Schwartz contacted the local Human Resources manager, and a meeting was organized in Moraga.

During the discussion, the women handed out their list. It was comprised of four different categories in which Safeway could improve: Customer service, out of stock items, cleanliness, and navigability of the store. In all these areas, the management decided to take rapid corrective action.

"We wanted to respond quickly to the customers' most urgent requests," said Esperanza Greenwood, Public Affairs manager for Safeway. "One of the first things we implemented is the suggestion box in the customer service section of the store where customers can provide feedback to the new store manager about their specific concerns." The previous procedure involved sending the suggestions to the corporate office where they were sorted and dispatched.

Safeway has also made other changes to the store. The wire baskets and aisle stacks have for the most part been removed

from the aisles. Management has also ordered 60 new shopping carts. "These are the smaller shopping carts that are easier to maneuver and were specifically requested by the residents," comments Esperanza. The store is also addressing the issue of cleanliness and has implemented a new schedule for cleaning the bathrooms every hour and conducting a deep clean every day at 3:00 p.m.

Another key request from Moraga customers had to do with the choice of products in the store. "If a customer requests an item that is sold anywhere at another Safeway, I guarantee that we will get it as soon as the request is formulated," assured Volo during a Moraga Chamber of Commerce meeting.

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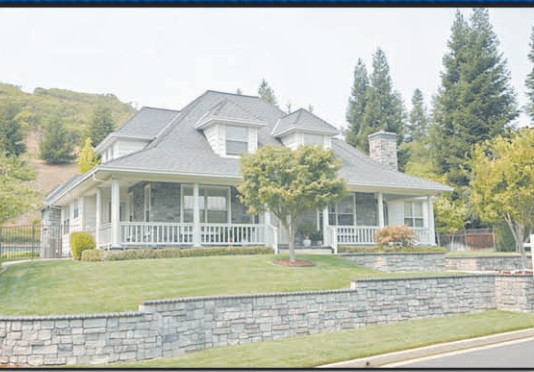


Wallet Theft, 11/20/07 A shopper had her wallet stolen at T.J.Maxx in Moraga. The victim had her wallet in her coat pocket, prior to its removal. She took off her coat and left it unattended while she continued shopping. The now missing wallet contained her driver's license and three credit cards.

Convenience Brawl, 11/16/07 At 2:30 in the morning a taxi driver who had given a lift to three St. Mary's students ended up using mace on them. The driver drove the students from a bar in Lafayette and stopped at the Moraga 7 – 11 to get cash to presumably pay for the ride. Unfortunately, the insolvent student was unable to obtain funds from the ATM. The taxi driver took one of his passengers' cell phones to call police. A fight ensued, at which point the driver maced the kids. The three students admitted to drinking before the incident. No arrests were made.

Five Finger Discount, 11/16/07 A 19-year old shoplifter was detained at Safeway for attempting to abscond with a bottle of alcohol. The suspect was placed under citizen's arrest and was transported to the Moraga Police Department where he signed a promise to appear.

Ten Finger Discount, 11/10/07 Sometime in the last two weeks, someone stole a safe from one of the residents of Aegis Assisted Living. The safe contained approximately \$300 in cash and some jewelry. There were no signs of forced entry and nothing else was taken.



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