

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Thank you, Steve!

Your friendly neighborhood newspaper would like to offer a fond farewell, with our thanks and best wishes, to Steve Angelides. Possibly one of the busiest men in Moraga, a myriad of other obligations has necessitated Steve's departure from our staff. We will miss his relentless pursuit of the truth, his straightforward style, and above all his commitment to bringing knowledge, and therefore power, into the homes of Moraga residents.

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, Jan 16 (Special Meeting)	
Wednesday, Jan 23	
Sat., Jan 12, 9am Special Meeting	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Jan 22	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, Jan 14	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Jan 15	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, Jan 11	
Chamber of Commerce	8am
Terzetto's Cuisine Moraga Shopping Center	
Friday, Jan 25	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Meet Moraga's New Mayor

By Sophie Braccini

Lynda Deschambault is a New Hampshire native who chose Moraga when she moved to the Bay Area eighteen years ago. Like the song Moraga kids learn in elementary school, "The hills of Moraga are calling" to her. Open space is her passion, her everyday pleasure and inspired her professional and political career.

"I have loved spending time in nature since I was a child," says the new Mayor, "I like feeling small and part of the great big sphere." A science teacher in the 8th grade helped her transform this passion into a profession. Her class went to a three-day field trip in the mountain, studying animals, water, and air. There she decided that live science was interesting and fun and that she wanted to dedicate her life to study and protect nature. Deschambault holds undergraduate degrees in Chemistry and Soil Science, and an MBA. She is currently an Environmental Scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Deschambault was drawn to local politics after a long engagement in non-profit activism, during which she realized that elected officials have a great role to play in effecting change. When she ran for Town Council in November of 2004, some people were unhappy about increasing development in Moraga. She felt that those who wanted to preserve the semi-rural character of the town needed an elected voice. "Development, in a place like Moraga, has to be pondered with extreme caution," believes Deschambault, "before making a decision I always remember the Iroquois principle 'we should consider how the decision we're about the make will affect the next seven generations.'"

In her first years on the Town Council, Deschambault's objective was to improve government transparency; she hopes to continue increased transparency and public involvement and is optimistic about the development of a community calendar, televised Town meetings, improved noticing for important agenda items, and is confident she can more effectively engage residents, especially those at St Mary's College and Moraga's youth.

Deschambault has also focused on improving the ecological state of the Town of Moraga. Among other things, she has helped the community produce a Mulholland Habitat Preservation and Restoration Plan, she supported the Invasive Plant Removal Program, the Integrated Pest Management Program sug-

gested by the local grassroots group "Parents for a Safer Environment," and proposed that the town become a member of the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

"Moraga's future will likely see increased native plantings and a wetland restoration project on Mulholland during my tenure as Mayor," says Deschambault, "I'll be working closely with community groups to promote the importance of local shopping and the use of sturdy reusable shopping bags. I hope to update town street lights to more efficient and energy saving styles, while also promoting solar, day lighting, and geothermal elements in town buildings."

She noted that her two main goals continue to be "Preserving the Past, Planning for the Future." Deschambault is keen to put policies in place that protect our ridgelines and scenic vistas, and wants to revitalize business with infill near existing commercial areas. She is hopeful that the Council can come to agreement on a Specific Plan that includes both shopping areas, integrates the old with the new, and results in one village-like area that flows with existing retail. Taking the lead to engage the Chamber of Commerce and to form an Eco-

conomic Development committee, Deschambault envisions a number of retail-focused events that bring vibrancy to the shopping areas and is excited to see the final production of a long term Economic Strategy for the Town of Moraga.

Right now, Deschambault spends 8-20 hours a week on her Town duties. All Council members, including the Mayor, serve voluntarily with no monetary remuneration. She still makes time to walk the trails of Moraga with her two Huskies, to find peace, inspiration and the energy to continue to fight for her vision of Moraga.



Pot possession, 01/01/08 At 9:40 officers noticed a vehicle with three passengers parked in the Rheem Elementary School parking lot. Savvy officers noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car. A small amount of marijuana was found in the back seat. Not such a happy New Year.

Teens loitering and drinking 1/01/08 A concerned neighbor made a "suspicious persons" call to dispatch. Officers found several subjects at Moraga Valley and Parson Brown Court, all under 21 with a bottle of Remy Martin Cognac. One of the kids admitted to having a beer in his backpack, a third subject threw a shot glass into the road that shattered. All kids were cited at the scene.

Disposition of Evidence
Moraga Police Department no longer needs property related to case 05-999 for evidentiary purposes. All evidence is going to be disposed of. If you are involved in the case and have ownership of items involved please contact the Moraga Police Department Property Officer Heather Pomeroy at (925)376-2515. All Evidence will be destroyed after January 15, 2008.

First MOSO, Now MOSPRO

New Initiative Offers \$7 Million to the Town of Moraga for the Right to Build New Homes

By Sophie Braccini

A new Open Space initiative was submitted to the Moraga Town Clerk on Dec. 21, 2007. Entitled The Moraga Open Space, Parks & Recreation Ordinance of 2008 (MOSPRO 2008), it is a competing vision to Moraga's Open Space Ordinance (MOSO 2008) governing future management of the remaining 1000 acres of open space in Moraga. Town Manager Phil Vince summarizes the situation: "With two competing Open Space ordinances potentially on the ballot, 2008 will be an interesting year in Moraga."

Conceived and developed by the Bruzzone family, a major Moraga landowner, MOSPRO 2008 would directly compete with MOSO 2008 in the next election if enough signatures are

obtained to place it on the ballot. The Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition, signed by Dave Bruzzone, explains: "The purpose (of this initiative is) to protect open space and ridgelines, limit development to less sensitive areas where potential visual and other environmental impacts can be minimized, and provide needed public facilities for the Town."

Council Member Mike Metcalf observed, "Voters should pay close attention to what is being proposed." While the two initiatives have similar titles, their contents differ on many counts. If MOSO 2008 is approved by voters, it would considerably limit development on two large Bruzzone properties in Bollinger Canyon and Indian Valley. In diplomatic

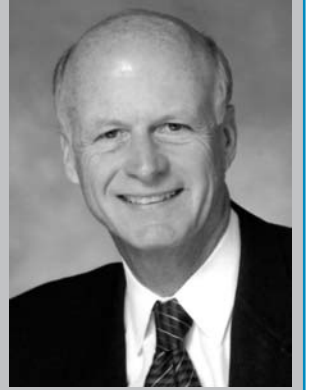
language, MOSPRO 2008 proposes a mix of protected open space, large development areas and potential financial rewards for the Town of Moraga.

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THREE VERY SPECIAL LAMORINDA HOMES!

6 SHANNON CT., MORAGA

This stunning home is located in Sanders Ranch, an exclusive gated community of Moraga. Situated on a 1.86 acre lot this property boasts great views, serene setting with a sports court and a total privacy. The home features 4022 sq.ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a library and an office. This home offers high ceilings, impressive living room, gourmet kitchen adjacent to the family room, master suite on the main level. Don't miss this great property!

OFFERED AT \$1,950,000 WWW.6SHANNONCT.COM



COMING SOON!

3388 LAS HUERTAS RD., LAFAYETTE

This fabulous home is located in a highly desirable area of Lafayette next to the walking/biking trail. The home features over 3400 sq.ft. including a detached guest house with a full kitchen and bath. One of the best qualities of this unique .40 acre property is a level backyard with a lawn, gardens and basketball area. There are two garages offering parking for 4 cars or plenty of storage. This is a rare opportunity to buy a very special property in Lafayette!

OFFERED AT \$1,975,000 WWW.3388LASHUERTAS.COM

21 BRANDT DRIVE, MORAGA

This great home with striking curb appeal is located in the exclusive gated community of Sanders Ranch. Built in 1993, the custom home features 3630 square feet of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, an extra bonus/media room and a 3 car garage. The gourmet kitchen boasts maple cabinetry, central island, & high end appliances.

Offered at \$1,699,000 WWW.21BRANDTDR.COM



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