

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, June 11	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 2	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 9	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, June 17	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, June 13	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Paperweight bomb, 5/17/08 A Hastings Court resident called police to report she had a paperweight that used to be a bomb that she wanted to turn in. Officers inspected the item and it appeared to be an old military artillery shell type of ordnance. The Walnut Creek bomb squad came out as well as Travis Air Force Base military personnel, which took possession of the paperweight. The Sanders Ranch security gate closed prematurely on the military Humvee, causing no damage to the vehicle, but breaking the gate arm.

Pot possession, 5/17/08 A concerned parent called the police to report that she found a small bag of marijuana in her 15-year-old son's room. The parent requested that her son be placed in the Juvenile Diversion Program.

Stalking, 5/16/08 An Ascot Drive resident called the police to report a sexually explicit and obscene cell phone message. The reporting person knows the caller as an acquaintance from a college class. Three days later she called police back, as there were four more voice mail messages from different phone numbers with increased hostility and sexual profanity. The final message contained a death threat. An Emergency Protective Order was served on the suspect at his residence.

D.U.I. 5/16/08 A black Mercedes Benz was stopped for speeding on Moraga Road at Alta Mesa for speeding. The female driver showed objective signs of alcohol intoxication.

Found Property
Moraga Police Department has 1 pair of eye glasses and money that was turned in as found property. You will need to identify denomination if belonging to you. Items will be held for 90 days from 5-19-2008.

Found Property
Moraga Police Department has a silver bracelet with clasp that was turned in as found property. You will need to identify. Item will be held for 90 days from 5-4-2008. If these items belong to you please call the Heather Pomeroy at the Moraga Police Department at 925-888-7054.

Profound Differences on Governance Principles Interfere with Town's Operations

By Sophie Braccini

Definition of "dysfunctional:"* 1) failing to perform the function that is normally expected; 2) unable to function emotionally as a social unit; 3) unable to function normally as a result of disease or impairment. The drama that took place at the May 21st Moraga City Council meeting, caused some to wonder if that term could be applied to this elected body.

It was clear from the onset that profound philosophical differences split the Council, as a mirror to the town's population where liberals are neighbors to libertarians. The clash of personalities is such on the Council that the members have become unable to create a positive work environment. The result is hours of Council and staff time lost in unproductive arguments.

The late night discussion was engaged on how to select the Mayor. Last January, during the election of Mayor Lynda Deschambault, Council Member Metcalf challenged the unwritten rule that automatically rotates the mayorship every year according to the number of votes received by each candidate.

Metcalf pleaded for electing the most qualified candidate. "One of the specific roles of the Mayor is to conduct meetings," said the former Mayor, "some are cut out for that job and some are not, there should not be anything automatic about this election and we should select the most qualified."

"This rotation has been working properly for over thirty years," responded former Council Member Dale Walwark. "Our town has what is called a 'weak mayor' system with a Town Manager. The automatic rotation eliminates partisan arguments in the selection of the Mayor."

If all agreed that Moraga has a "weak mayor," some felt that the position was special enough to require a different type of election. Council Member Rochelle Bird offered a radical proposal: "The Mayor sets the agenda and represents the whole Council for external communication... I propose that the Mayor be elected directly by the people." This modification would require an initiative to go to the ballot. ... continued on page 11

Moraga Ordinance to Enforce Development Impact Fee Moves Forward

By Sophie Braccini

It took twenty-eight months of work and discussion among the stakeholders for Moraga's Town staff to finalize an ordinance adding Development Impact Fees to the Municipal Code. The text would require developers to pay their share of additional costs to the Town generated by new residents.

The areas of impact defined by staff are: general government facilities (Town Hall, Public Works, Library), public safety, storm drainage, traffic and park development. For a single family detached home the total would amount to approximately \$24,500. In spite of the opposition of Moraga's largest property owner, the Bruzzone family, the text was moved forward.

Newcomers have impacts on roads, police, schools, library capacities, staff time etc. The task of staff, led by the Town's Public Works Director Jill Mercurio, was to calculate a dollar value per resident for all the

infrastructure, parks and services and collect it from developers to have the new residents pay "their fair share" of these services.

It was everyone's opinion that development impact fees are a normal occurrence for a jurisdiction. In her document, Mercurio included a comparison chart of our neighboring cities that all apply such a fee, ranging from \$11,600 in Pinole to \$43,500 in Pleasanton.

Dave Bruzzone, representing the Bruzzone family which owns most of the land left to develop in Moraga, concurred: "If there are impacts, any developer should contribute to mitigate it." However, his agreement stopped there, when he added, "there are major structural defects in this study." He illustrated his point by stating that he would admit that the report was reasonable "when the consultants can demonstrate that water can run uphill!" ... continued on page 12

Moraga's Town Manager Moves On

By Sophie Braccini

"This was one of the most difficult decisions of my professional life," said Philip Vince, who has been the Town Manager in Moraga for four and a half years. Vince recently accepted an offer from the city of Martinez to take the seat of the retiring City Manager.

In a town where the government organization is said to be a "weak mayor" structure, the Town Manager is viewed as the CEO of the town. "We will miss your expertise and your keen ability in choosing the right people for the Town," said Mayor Lynda De-

schambault during the May 21st Council meeting. "We've had our difficult times, but I will miss you." Council Member Bird congratulated Vince on a move that furthers his career. "Thank you for your contribution to the Town," she added. Mayor Deschambault indicated that two people have already expressed interest in the interim position.

Vince currently resides in Moraga and has no plans to move away.

(Editor's note: The Lamorinda Weekly wishes Phil Vince the best of luck in his new endeavor.)

First Friday at the Moraga Art Gallery May 21, 2008

By Donna Arganbright, Ceramic Artist and President of the Moraga Art Gallery

In an effort to reach out to interested people in the Lamorinda area, Moraga Art Gallery has started a series called First Friday which will be held as the name suggests, on the first Friday of each month at the Gallery from 7 to 9 p.m. The intent and emphasis of First Friday is to involve the public in our Gallery and to increase their knowledge of the Arts. We will offer informal talks and discussions about the various areas of art in which our talented artists or an-

invited artist, has expertise. Discussion and demonstration of the aesthetics and techniques involved in the disciplines of art ranging from painting, pottery and glass, to digital photography will be offered.

Our first two sessions in April and May focused on digital photography. They were given by Ken Young and John Diestler, both of whom are expert in digital photography and Photoshop.

On Friday, June 6th, local ceramic artist, Donna Arganbright,

will demonstrate through slides and actual working in clay, how she creates her mugs, plates, bowls, vases and platters. Using the potters wheel, slab roller and extruder, she will show how she combines all three of these techniques in a variety of ways to create new and exciting work. She works in high fire porcelain and enjoys making ceramic pieces that family, friends and customers can use in their homes. ... continued on page 6

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