



LIFE CHANGES YOUR SKIN.
FRAXEL® TREATMENT RESTORES IT. Introduction Offer: \$799
 Turn back the clock with Fraxel re-store treatment. for your first treatment (Regularly \$1,000)

Regain your youthful appearance with the revolutionary new Fraxel® treatment.

William Birdsong, MD
 The Clocktower, 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 283-6975
www.aspenmedspa.com

PH 10-0432-LS05 Rev 1 ©2008 Reliant Technologies, Inc. Fraxel, the Fraxel logo, Fraxel re-store and the Fraxel re-store treatment are trademarks or registered trademarks of Reliant Technologies, Inc. Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

• LAMORINDA Community •

Moraga Center Specific Plan Takes Shape: *Community Input Needed*

Moraga

... continued from page 3

A community center would be located to the north, across from the Moraga Commons Park. The area to the south of Moraga Way would be for a shopping center or mixed office/residential use. This scenario would allow the construction of 720 new dwelling units.

Some alternative plans were also presented. One would be a simple extrapolation of the General Plan and would permit the construction of only 323 housing units, which wouldn't be sufficient for the Town to meet its ABAG obligation. Another alternative would reduce the maximum housing density to 20 units per acre, resulting in 400 new dwellings. That hypothesis would allow the town to meet its affordable housing obligation. Yet another plan includes 560 units and incorporates a gym located on the School Street extension. A town square was proposed in all of the alternatives in the middle of the School Street extension, shaped as a large roundabout, to control speed and provide a visual hub.

One of the main concerns of Moraga and surrounding city residents is the impact on traffic of new developments. Fehr and Peers based its traffic impact report on a

very detailed analysis of current Moraga traffic, by type of user (single or multi-family dwelling, seniors, students), by type of trip (shopping, commute, recreational) at different times of the day. They extrapolated their finding to the proposed development, incorporating the type of housing and therefore the type of traffic that would be expected. They added the fact that new retail would recapture some of the outside of the area shopping and that the community center/gym could attract different types of trips.

They concluded that the first option with 732 new units would increase traffic, while the other options would not have a significant impact, especially if the size of the community center/gym was limited to attract only local residents. Other issues were presented as well, such as adequate drainage and the need for additional services for new residents. Notably, the Moraga School District and the utility companies already have the capacity to cover the needs of the anticipated developments.

Most of the land addressed by the plan belongs to the Bruzzone family, and they have had conversations for years with the Town and its

consultants about the plan. The Bruzzone's development consultant, Dick Lockee, made a comment after the presentations. "This was a very good presentation," he said, "with many exciting ideas." He added that indeed Moraga needs to recapture some of its retail, but the specific plan does not include any facilitation for the implementation of the plan. "What are the incentives that will be put in place to attract the right retailers?" asked Lockee, "what kind of regulatory programs will allow speedy and smooth implementations?" The consultant explained that procedures that take years of review are not conducive to attracting investors.

You can watch the specific plan presentation on Comcast channel 26, Sunday, July 20 at 9 p.m. This broadcast is made possible by the Moraga Citizens Network (MCN) and a couple of dedicated townspeople who paid a production company to videotape the June 16 presentation. MCN is also looking into the possibility of posting it on their website, <http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org/>, hinging on technical constraints.

All the documents presented at the June 16th meeting are avail-

able on-line. Of particular interest to residents is the "Draft EIR figures." This nineteen-page pdf file includes the visual simulations created by the Dahlin Group and detailed maps for each of the alternatives. Go to <http://moraga.ca.us/production/index.php>. Send your questions and comments to LSalamack@ci.moraga.ca.us or come to one of the meetings where public comments will be heard and recorded.

Upcoming Meetings
Mon, July 7 at 7:30 pm
 Planning Commission meeting at JM Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo
 Public hearing and opportunity for public comments
Wed, July 9 at 7:30 pm
 Town Council meeting at JM Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo
 Presentation regarding the specific plan
Wed, July 22 at 7:30 pm
 Town Council meeting at JM Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo
 Public hearing and opportunity for public comments

Town Council Honors Gentleman Sweeny

... continued from page 3

Former colleagues were eager to share their admiration of his personality and leadership. "Jim was a true friend," said Al Dessayer, "he had charm and integrity, and his only goal was to make Moraga a beautiful place to live."

Sue Noe Welsh, who served on the Council with Sweeny for six years, said she misses the Southern gentleman, "he was a wonderful mentor."

Many highlighted his leadership style, Mike Majchrzak remembers, "He taught me that true leadership is to allow people to live their passion." Majchrzak highlighted how Sweeny had always

emphasized integrity. Rich Avanzino couldn't agree more, "When I ran against him someone suggested personal attacks against me. But Sweeny refused, saying that the campaign was about ideas not people." Avanzino added that Sweeny was one of his heroes.

His grand personality struck Cherie Grant, "Jim was a very generous man, and he made us all feel that the Council was a team, even when we had difference of opinions, it was always about ideas, not about people." As a young Council Member she appreciated that he wouldn't let members of the public make personal attacks. Vice-Mayor David Trotter knew him as a Mayor when he himself was on the Planning Commission, "Jim worked solely for the best interest of the community, he was a gentleman and a gentle man."

His former colleagues all remembered as well his humor, the little twinkle in his eye. "He was a happy person," says daughter Sweeny-Greco, "he had a passion for life and a tireless energy."

His ability to step up to the plate and natural leadership qualities led him to continue to give back



Jim Sweeny in 2006

Photo Carol Sweeny-Greco

after leaving the Council. He was president of Kiwanis, on the board of the Moraga Educational Foundation and the St Mary's Heart Gallery. He became the director of Sons in Retirement and the Chairman Emeritus for Goodwill Industries for the greater East Bay that provides employment and training

to thousands of disadvantages and disabled people.

The last few years of his life were shadowed by ailment. "He retained his graciousness and dignity till the end," says his daughter, "He had a great deal of personal respect, and always treated others, from any walk of life, with dignity."

When Dogs and Soccer Collide

... continued from page 3



Dogs take the sidelines while kids use the field at Rancho Laguna

Photo Andy Scheckmer,

One of them had brought a copy of the municipal code that she claims guarantees their grandfathering on the field. "You can stay in the back and side area," agreed Ingram. He has no desire for confrontation; his motto, "Creating community through people, parks and programs," encompasses all members of the community, from dog groups to kids playing soccer. To prove his good intentions, In-


gram offered the dog owners access to the park ½ hour earlier in the evening, at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

The Euro Soccer coaches did not seem too concerned with the issue and took it in stride when a small, playful dog ran among the kids and stole a ball. The dog was quickly controlled by his owner and kept away from the children.

"This is only for the sum-

mer," says Ingram, "and I have no intention of moving the 'so-called' dog park elsewhere." However, he would like to start a dialog with the dog community and find a place where they could have access twenty four hours a day. The group is not optimistic. "Where are we going to find such a large place, with water and decent flat grounds?" asks one of them.

Less Than The Price Of One Tank



That's Right - Just \$53 Gets Unlimited Rides On Any County Connection Fixed-Route Bus All Month

County Connection buses serve BART stations, business parks, libraries, many schools, parks, shopping centers, and more. If high gas prices are keeping you home, we have just the ticket.

County Connection offers free transfers between buses, as well as free or discounted transfers with BART and neighboring bus systems.

You can purchase a monthly pass, as well as other discounted passes at 30 locations throughout central Contra Costa County.

For information on bus service in your neighborhood, or ticket sales locations, please call:

676-7500 or visit www.cccta.org.

The County Connection

Seasons Interior Design

Is this the Season for change? We combine creative ideas with budget-friendly solutions to restyle the rooms you live and work in.

Selling a home? At Seasons Interior Design our goal is to make your home "show" ready, for the greatest first impression to homebuyers.

Building/Remodeling? To create your dream kitchen call: Shannon Boehme at (925) 385-0293, (425) 444-4221 or Shanboe@comcast.net P.O. Box 1835, Lafayette, CA 94549