

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, September 24	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, October 6	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, September 22	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, October 21	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, October 10	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Candidates' Night Forum
Wednesday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.
JM Auditorium
see page 6



Party!, 9/06/08 Moraga and Orinda Police responded to a Hammond Place residence on a report of a loud party with 50 people loitering about in the street. When the cops arrived at 11:30 the noise level was found to be at an "unacceptable level." A majority of the students contacted were underage and at various stages of alcohol intoxication. A number of the partygoers ran away, damaging a portion of fence in the process.

D.U.I., 9/6/08 A Toyota was stopped for traveling westbound in the east-bound lane of De La Salle Drive at Saint Mary's College at 2:30 in the morning. The vehicle's 19-year-old driver showed signs of intoxication. It is unknown if the driver was from the United Kingdom.

Walking and swearing, 9/5/08 A concerned citizen called in to report a male subject walking and yelling profanities at passing vehicles on Moraga Road near Donald Drive. During police contact, the subject displayed extreme signs of alcohol intoxication. It was determined that he was a danger to himself and others, and was taken into custody. Was he beaked about the road construction?

Moraga Candidates to Town Council on Participatory Democracy

By Sophie Braccini

(Also read Sophie Braccini's conversation with former Mayor Cherie Grant on participatory democracy in Moraga, page 11)

To a small town that's always articulated a desire for minimal government, the involvement of its citizens is crucial. Participatory democracy is the result, encompassing both volunteerism in groups that service the greater good, and active citizen participation in the decision making processes that affect the town. The six candidates seeking election to the Town Council this November are aware of the opportunities and challenges this creates.

"Moraga has always embraced the idea of minimal government, says Howard Harpham, who speaks from experience as President of Kiwanis, past President of our Park & Recreation Foundation, and member of the Historical Society and CERT, "Our vibrant, active community is supported not by government programs, but by volunteers who give their time and money to our many foundations, service organizations, commissions and private groups."

He is echoed by Janice Kolbe, who says, "The spirit of volunteerism... is the backbone of Moraga and what has contributed, more than almost anything else, to the strength and vitality of our community. As a result of Moraga's commitment to 'minimal government,' we have seen the growth of numerous foundations, service organizations, Town Commissions and volunteer groups by which our citizens have volunteered their time, energy and money to achieve things our town government could not otherwise accomplish."

Mike Metcalf has experienced Moraga's democracy first hand for the past four years, as Council member and Mayor in 2007; he says, "By choice and by necessity, Moraga has always been a small-government town. Were it not for the volunteerism of our citizens, many important things would not get done. Volunteerism is encouraged and people continue to respond with

their labors and dollars. One can feel this on July 4th, the Pear Festival, and the summer concert series. It's not always the same people doing the work; many become involved in different ways. Community participation is everywhere, and the spirit is infectious.

... continued on page 6

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TSAC Gets Ready to Tackle Moraga's Roads

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) presented a new Traffic Calming Guide for the Town Council's approval on September 10th. The new text, that clarifies procedures and aims at efficiently gathering public support, puts the Fire and Police Departments at the center of the decision making process when it comes to installing high impact traffic calming devices on the roads, such as the raised speed tables that until recently divided the Town.

When the new TSAC was appointed in January 2008, one of its first missions was to propose a new version of the Guide. TSAC Chair Barbara Simpson says the committee's mission is to act as "a buffer between citizens and Council so the small issues do not bog down the elected body." The Guide was a necessary tool for the Committee to accomplish its mission. It took TSAC seven months and many additional meetings to completely analyze and recompose the 2000 version of the Guide.

The result was highly praised by the Council, which unanimously voted to approve it. The most important changes brought forth by the text regard the way to collect citizen input and the systematic involvement of the Fire and Police authorities in the decision process. The traffic calming elements are broken down in 3 categories: level 1 measures - that involve education and enforcement but do not affect driveways, level 2 measures - that involve changes to signage or pavement markings and level 3 measures - that involve physical modifications to the street.

Level 1 measures do not require anybody's support but recommend the approval by the Police department. Level 2 and 3 require

citizen approval: 75% approval by petition of citizens abutting the change and 70% of citizens within 300' of the change; other affected citizens' approval is never required. The approval of the Police and Fire departments is required only for level 3 measures, while TSAC and Town Council need to approve level 2 and 3 measures.

During the public comment period, some residents argued that a calming device installed on a major road, even if they do not live within 300' of the device, might impact them. They were reminded that they could always appeal to the Town Council, which has the final decision on these matters.

TSAC's role was immediately put to the test when the next issue on the agenda came forth. It was a simple approval of the re-classification of Camino Pablo and Donald Drive. Those two roads had been classified as "Arterial" in the old days when they were supposed to be continued and connecting to adjacent cities. Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, acting at the request of the Council, proposed to re-classify them as "Collector or Local." Some residents saw this move as an attempt by the Town to prepare the ground to ultimately reduce speed permanently, particularly on Camino Pablo, and demanded that the issue be transferred to TSAC for study.

Police Chief Ruppenthal repeatedly stated that the classification was not related to speed limitation, but the debate went on nonetheless. Finally, Council member Bird remarked that the reclassification was not a traffic calming measure and thus not a TSAC issue; she made a motion to simply drop the matter and it was adopted by 3 members of the Council.

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