

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News **Moraga**

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Monday, October 6	
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 Tuesday, October 14	
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	

Open Space Initiative Forum
Monday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Soda Center at St. Mary's College



Car burglary, 9/17/08 At just after 11:00 in the morning, officers came to the Growing Tree Preschool on a report of a car burglary. Apparently a white male in his early 20's drove into the parking lot, smashed the front passenger window of a parked vehicle and took a purse from the front seat, then drove off. The victim's credit cards were used at three gas stations in Concord, Pleasant Hill Safeway, and a Longs Drugs in Walnut Creek. Perhaps the robber thought this was the Money Growing on Tree Preschool.

Fight at SMC dance, 9/19/08 Officers detained a male suspect who had battered two young men while attending a dance at the college. The victims requested prosecution, although they were uninjured after being struck with a fist by the drunk attendee.

Driving without a license, 9/20/08 A white Taurus station wagon was pulled over for speeding on St Mary's Road, travelling almost double the speed limit. As it turns out, the driver had three prior unlicensed driver citations. The driver received another citation, and his car was towed. Four strikes and you're out.

Pot possession, 9/23/08 A car was pulled over on Moraga Way near Ivy drive at 11:30 p.m. recently for having a tail light out. The officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle; oddly enough the driver pulled two plastic baggies of green plant material from under his seat. The driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce and released. It's possible the driver had the pot to treat his glaucoma, but not probable.

Moraga Town Council Candidates Discuss Priorities

By Sophie Braccini

There will be many serious issues facing the Moraga Town Council in the next few years. What would the six candidates for the Moraga Town Council do first if they find themselves elected to fill one of the three open seats?

We recently asked all six candidates the question, "If you are elected to the Council, what would be your highest priority and why?" The financial situation of the town is a clear winner, but other issues such as the police force and development rank high as well on the candidates' list of issues.

"There are many important issues facing the Town Council in the coming year. Undoubtedly, the

most critical is our Town's fiscal situation," says Janice Kolbe. Dennis Wanken agrees with her, "The budget concerns must be addressed as soon as possible. Revenues are declining and expenditures are rising. This trend must be reversed."

Karen Mendonca and Howard Harpham also named the state of the Town's finances as their first concern. "Fiscal solvency is the foundational underpinning necessity to ensure the Town's ongoing vibrancy," says Mendonca, while Harpham adds, "Unless our Town Council focuses immediately on reducing unnecessary expenditures and finding ways to increase our revenues, we will be faced with

having to begin cutting back on local services in order to bring our expenditures in line with our revenues."

The candidates' concern is rooted in the present and future budget situation of Moraga. "Our Finance Director warned the Council just three months ago that if we fail to address this issue now we would be facing substantial deficits beginning in less than a year and growing steadily over the next five years to unmanageable proportions," recalls Howard Harpham.

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Bluffs Residents Get An Education

By Sophie Braccini

Last Thursday evening, Bluffs Neighborhood Association President Frank Comprelli invited his neighbors to the library to meet with the proponents of Measures J, K and the "No on Both" campaign. (The Bluffs is the Moraga neighborhood located to the north of Bollinger Canyon Rd, around Joseph Drive.) Comprelli's objective was for the residents to be educated on the issues so that they could make an informed decision. 40 to 50 residents came, heard the presentations, and asked questions of the three groups. This precursor to the Moraga Citizen's Network forum that will be held on October 13th for all the residents saw the emergence of serious points of contention that are likely to be debated again.

Bob Jungbluth, a planning commissioner in Orinda, presented for Measure J until he was replaced by Dave Bruzzone during the debate. He stressed that Measure J would preserve the Town's General Plan, add more than 500 acres of open space and leave options in the hands of the Town to negotiate the development agreement that's included in the Measure. He argued that Measure K would force the town to develop multi-family housing in the town center, because the measure would protect ridge lines, creeks, riparian corridors and prohibit development on slopes of more than 20% and thus would prohibit development almost anywhere in town but the center.

The extent to which measure K would apply to the entire town was at the center of the de-

bate that night.

Renata Sos, who spoke for Measure K, said that Jungbluth's interpretation is incorrect. Sos stated that Measure K would apply only to the land that is designated in the measure as MOSO 2008 land: Bollinger Canyon, Indian Valley, Rheem ridge, Campo Ridge, Mulholand Ridge, Sanders and Larch ridges. She explained that Measure K was necessary to provide tools to stop development in areas that are not regulated by MOSO 1986 (Bollinger Canyon) or insufficiently protected. She added that the idea that Measure K would generate lawsuits was already used against the previous MOSO, and that many more such lawsuits over open space have been won by towns since.

Steve Woehcke, a former Moraga planning commissioner who was there to represent the "No on Both" movement, took the stand and used the debate between K and J proponents to build his arguments. "The measures are complex and invite conflict," he said, "we could get into multiple law suits." He explained that the present process works well and has effectively protected the town against excessive development. "Neither initiative is needed," said a very animated Woehcke, "the average number of homes that have been built every year in the town is 19." He explained the audience that rather than voting non-negotiable ordinances, his group favors a planning process that can be long, but invite discussion with public input.

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Date: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008

Time: 8:30AM TO 10:00AM

Where: VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

3780 MT. DIABLO BOULEVARD, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

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