

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

See the Town Council Candidates Night and Initiatives Forum online at: www.lamorindaweekly.com

We videotaped the Moraga Citizens' Network events for those who couldn't attend.

- 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>



Minor D.U.I., 10/04/08 A white Jeep Liberty was stopped on Moraga Road after speeding on Ascot Drive. The underage female driver had a blood alcohol level of .53%. Cops found empty alcoholic beverage containers in her car. That level of intoxication is not minor, especially for a minor.

Got suitcase?, 10/03/08 A good citizen called police to report that she found a red Japan Express suitcase on the sidewalk next to the Home Goods in Rheem. Travelers back from Japan looking for their dirty laundry just need to call the Moraga P.D.

Election sign theft, 10/3/08 Police were contacted about missing, possibly stolen campaign signs around the Moraga Center. Approximately ten "Yes on J" and "No on K" signs have gone missing since late September. The incident is under investigation.

Unlicensed driver, 10/02/08 A Chevy S 10 truck was stopped on St. Mary's Road for a broken windshield - there was a horizontal crack the width of the glass. The 43 year old driver was unlicensed and had a prior unlicensed driver citation. The car was towed and the driver was cited yet again. Our erstwhile driver will have plenty of time to study for his license exam on the bus.

Beware the Right-of-Way

By Sophie Braccini



The wall that started it all
It can become pretty costly to ignore how far the town's right-of-way goes onto your property. Residents on Camino Pablo in Moraga experienced it firsthand when the Town Council voted to declare the wall they had built along the street, to protect their front yard, a nuisance. Now they may have to demolish the new construction at their own cost.

"I don't want to be bitter," said Sydney Thomas after the vote. "I love Moraga, my husband and I are very involved in the town, the schools and the sports, but we just think the whole thing is unfair."

Photo Sophie Braccini
The Thomas' live on Camino Pablo on a one acre lot and all they wanted to do was to protect their children from traffic when they play in front of the house. But regulations can be complicated.

The right-of-way (ROW) is the portion of the land that is under the control of the local agency. It may be used for streets, sidewalks, utilities, etc. It may be much wider than the existing roadway if, when the property lines were made, there was some anticipated need for a wider ROW than at that original time.

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Moraga Town Staff: Stressed Out and Struggling

By Sophie Braccini



Darlene Colaso takes a minute to sit down in the Town Offices
Photo Sophie Braccini

Appearances would indicate that the Town of Moraga has set in place an informal hiring freeze; two staff members who have resigned recently in the Administration and Planning departments have not been replaced nor have the positions been posted on the Town's website. As Interim Town Manager Jay Tashiro and Financial Director Joan Streit work on scenarios to balance the budget, fear of lay-offs looms over the staff, changing the once friendly and cooperative workplace to a hotbed of rumors, including one that several department heads may be looking for less cloudy skies. Tashiro, who stepped in to help after former Town Manager Phil Vince accepted an offer from the City of Martinez, did not respond to requests for comment on the situation.

"This town has always claimed to be set for minimal government," says Public Works Director Jill Mercurio, "however, residents expect a high level of service and the result is overworked personnel who get burned out after a few years."

The first to go was Lilinoe Kekoa, the Administrative Assistant who supported the Town Manager. Then Rhonda Bassore, who served as Town Clerk and Assistant to the Planning Director, left for a position closer to home in Pittsburg. Neither Kekoa nor Bassore has been replaced.

Darlene Colaso, who was Resources & Risk Manager/Assistant to the Town Manager, assumed the Town Clerk's role while keeping her other duties as well, and Assistant Planner Kelly Suronen took over the Planning Department Assistant portion of Bassore's job. An interim, part-time Town Clerk was hired to cover the election period. At the time the article was written, this person was on vacation until the end of October and Colaso was handling those duties.

"Yes, people expect and are receiving services comparable to what is offered by cities with a much higher ratio of staff to residents," confirms Darlene Colaso.
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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

RSVP: CALL US AT 925 284 1260 or EMAIL TO: info@creeksidepartners.com

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RICK ASHBURN, CFA is Chief Investment Officer of Creekside Partners Investment Counsel in Lafayette. He has advised the State of California as technical advisor on the debt markets and also served as an expert consultant to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"At our program in February we advised caution with the markets and to lower exposure to stocks.

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