

Moraga

Lamorinda Community

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, June 24	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 15	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 22	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, June 16	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, June 12	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org	



Grand Theft, 5/30/09 An unknown suspect has broken into the Campolindo Aquatic Center and removed several envelopes containing checks and cash for the week's sales from a lock box. It was taken sometime between 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., while staff was conducting training in another part of the building. Estimated loss - \$10,000. Nothing funny about that.

Possession of paraphernalia, 5/29/09 Officers noticed a car driving erratically near Larch and Camino Pablo. The driver waved officers over for assistance. Apparently the young woman driver had gotten into an argument with her boyfriend and was looking for him. She may have been upset at the boyfriend, but she was probably more upset that she didn't have her driver's license, had priors and that the car contained a methamphetamine pipe, small bag of meth and burglary tools.

Found Property, 5/29/09 A good Samaritan called Moraga Police to report that she found a gold colored watch at the Moraga Commons Park at 11:00 a.m. that day. The reporting person didn't wish to claim the watch, only to return it to its rightful owner. No mention if it's actual gold or just gold colored. Contact Moraga P.D. if it belongs to you, 376-2515.

Stolen Car, 5/27/09 A Miramonte Drive resident told officers that her Silver Nissan Maxima, license plate number 2NMM552, was taken from her assigned parking spot without her permission. Although it was locked, there was a spare key in the glove box. No suspects or leads at this time. Do people ever give permission to steal a car?

Moraga Revenue Enhancement Committee Hits the Ground Running

By Sophie Braccini

The purpose of Moraga's Revenue Enhancement Committee (REC) meeting held on June 1st was to bring its members up to speed on the Town's financial needs and start organizing their work.

Moraga Town Manager Mike Segrest presented an updated budget that's still in the black. But the figures show that the current budget does not sufficiently account for infrastructure maintenance and replacement.

The new REC is charged with identifying ways to increase the Town's income, so the infrastructure does not deteriorate and more services can be offered to residents. Ideas were put forward including studying the possibility of Moraga becoming a "Charter City."

REC Chair Dick Olsen kept order and focus during the two-hour meeting. Jill Mercurio, Town Engineer and Public Works Director, presented the current state of Moraga's roads. "Our roads are rated at a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 57, which is considered fair," said Mercurio, "to maintain this rating we need to spend about \$1.2 million a year, but at this time we have \$800,000 budgeted for that item."

Mercurio provided REC members with a detailed simulation that showed how much should be budgeted in order to obtain different levels of pavement conditions.

"Council needs to come to grip with what we want," said Council Member Mike Metcalf, who also sits on the REC, "we've not had this discussion yet. We need to answer this for the community and then this committee will find the money."

The issue of the drainage system is of great magnitude as well. "The system was built before the town was incorporated, it is good for 65 years, and 40% of the town's drains are more than 45 years old," explained Mercurio. Three years ago a sinkhole formed when a storm drain collapsed under Rheem Boulevard. After this incident Mercurio ordered a video inspection of the main drains to assess their state. The film has not been analyzed yet. Segrest added that a capital expenditure funding schedule could be made available for REC, but that the roads/storm drain issue was likely to take closer to 50 years than 10 to be fixed.

REC will meet 12 times before sun-setting at the end of November with a presentation of its report to the Town. Members will work in sub-committees during those meetings and the public is strongly encouraged to participate in the deliberations.

The four sub-committees are General Fund revenue enhancement opportunities, public works infrastructure and long-term maintenance, boosting commercial economic activity and sales tax revenues, town facility and real estate management.

At the next meeting on June 15, REC will review the proposals made by its counterparts in Orinda and Lafayette. Of particular interest to REC is the idea of becoming a Charter City, an idea that both Lafayette and Orinda are considering.

"At the last Mayors' Conference our neighbors approached me and proposed having a Lamorinda strategy on this issue," said Mayor Dave Trotter. "If we are to consider such a change, then the public will need a lot more information," said Moraga Chamber of Commerce President Edy Schwartz during public comment period.

What is a Charter City?

In California, cities and towns are ruled by State law or can adopt or modify their organizing charter by a majority vote of their residents. Moraga is governed by State law and is managed by a five-member City Council. A charter gives a city's residents the flexibility to choose any kind of government structure allowed by the Constitution. It is a growing trend in California and at this time last year, 112 of California's 478 cities were charter cities. According to the League of California Cities' legal staff, "the charter city provision of the State Constitution, commonly referred to as the 'home-rule' provision, is based on the principle that a city, rather than the state, is in the best position to know what it needs and how to satisfy those needs. The home-rule provision allows charter cities to conduct their own business and control their own affairs. A charter maximizes local control." Lafayette and Orinda are looking into this possibility as well. Areas that municipalities can decide to rule include: municipal election matters, land use and zoning decisions (with some exceptions), how a city spends its tax dollars, and municipal contracts. S. Braccini

Moraga Center Specific Plan to be Tweaked Before Adoption

By Sophie Braccini

After a long evening of debate on May 28, the Moraga Town Council partially approved the Planning Commission's recommendation for the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP). It agreed to add more flexibility to the plan, but capped the maximum number of units at 630. Staff and the specific plan sub-committee (Mayor David Trotter and Council Member Michael Metcalf) will refine the final MCSP, which will be brought back to the Council for final approval next fall.

In a written report, Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack hypothesized development numbers based on the very flexible rules that the Planning Commission recommended. Among them was a scenario that pushed the number of single family units to the minimum (40), and the active senior housing to the maximum (760), with the addition of 100 compact family housing units, the total reached 900 housing units. That number got the Council thinking.

Town Manager Mike Segrest's recommendation was to establish development limits not according to numbers of unit, but according to a traffic envelop: "A unit can be a 5000 square foot home for a family of five or a 600 square foot condo for a senior," said Segrest, "and the impacts are drastically

different. Planning with a maximum traffic impact would give us a good comfort level of what the end product will be."

"This approach makes good sense," said Mayor David Trotter, "but our community needs a number, we need a cap, with flexibility in the mix of housing." A maximum of 630 units became the consensus.

The Council also moved to ensure that development along Camino Ricardo would be only single family homes up to the ridge line. The Planning Commission had allowed the possibility of higher density housing beyond a first row of single family homes. The Council felt it was important to preserve the feeling of a homogeneous neighborhood both for the current Camino Ricardo residents and the Sonsara development, across the street from these potential new buildings.

The Council discussed the possibility of keeping a separate housing count for Saint Mary's college students and workforce. "The plan charts housing for workforce and for Saint Mary's, but the college is the largest employer in the town, so combining the two categories would make sense," said Trotter. But some Council Members disagreed and wanted to keep a separate

rate count for the college, so it was decided that the sub-committee would ask Saint Mary's for their position.

A consensus is emerging around the recreation/gym center that perhaps none of the sites that have been considered in the MCSP for its location are optimal. The position across from St Mary's road would be at the entrance of a busy retail area and would not be conducive to attracting customers. The second site near the Moraga Commons, along Moraga Road, would locate the center at the confluence of 3 major creeks, where the recommended Fish and Game set-back is 150 feet. The property owner, the Bruzzone family, continues to present that site as a better opportunity. It is likely that this issue will be completely re-studied after the MCSP is approved.

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-Sherry Diestler, Member

Willow Spring Church

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Sunday Service Times:
Prayer.....8:00am
Traditional.....9:00am
Contemporary.....10:30am
Children's Church...10:30am
Youth Service.....10:30am
Young Adult Service..7:30pm
Weekly Activities Include:
Wednesday:
Community Bible Study...10am
REVERB (youth).....7pm
Friday Night:
BLAST! Kids Club.....6pm



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-Deborah Scott with husband John Williams and son Ian, Regular Attenders

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-Pastor Brad, GodThoughts, Vol. 2**

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Our theme this year is "SECRET SERVICE": we've got games, crafts, songs, and serving others for God!
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