

Moraga

Lamorinda Community

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo none in August	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd Monday, August 17	
Design Review	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd Monday, August 10	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, August 18 (check back if canceled)	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, September 11	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org	



False alarm frenzy, from 7/21/09 – 7/27/09 the Moraga Press Log identified nine incidents of false alarms, all at different locations, during a very short timeframe. Not one was for an actual bad guy trying to break in. Incidents ranged from a technician working on a Bank of America ATM machine, to a home on Birchwood Drive, to a home on Paseo del Rio and beyond. "MPD officers conducted an exterior perimeter check with negative results. There were no signs of forced entry" is the usual explanation. For the most part, it really is safe here in Mo-town.

Firework gone wrong, 7/26/09 An 11-year-old boy from Sanders Drive severely injured his left thumb and forefinger while checking on a homemade firework that he thought was a dud. The subject had apparently put the powder residue from a sparkler into a metal CO2 cartridge, wrapped it in duct tape, inserted a fuse and lit it. After waiting a couple of seconds for it to go off, the young man bent down to pick it up - when it exploded. He was transported to Children's Hospital in Oakland.

D.U.I., 7/23/09 Police conducted a welfare check on the driver of a vehicle parked on Moraga Road, south of Hansen Court at 3:30 in the morning. The car had a fair amount of damage to the driver's side and, according to the police report, "appeared to have recently been in an accident." Cops noticed the smell of alcoholic beverages emanating from the interior of the vehicle. Oddly enough the driver flunked a field sobriety test, and was arrested. The nose knows.

Panty theft, 7/22/09 A caller reported to the police department that her brassier and a pair of panties were removed from her suitcase while on a recent trip. The reporting person stated that she believes the theft happened during her layover at the Detroit airport, and that they were worth approximately \$300. The report was requested to document the incident for insurance purposes. Nothing wrong with quality undies, perhaps the bra had platinum underwire?

Dogs Will Play...For Now

By Sophie Braccini



Dog supporters came with signs and T-shirts to advocate their cause. Photo Sophie Braccini

On Wednesday, July 22, the Moraga Town Council determined that a dog park in which off-leash canines and other visitors can be physically separate is the long term solution in Moraga. In the interim, while this concept is studied and eventually implemented, the Council adopted a modified ordinance that clarifies the hours for off-leash activities at Rancho Laguna Park, but does not limit dogs' access to any area except the parking lot.

The auditorium at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School was filled with dog supporters on the night of the meeting. Some were wearing custom

bright blue t-shirts reading "Rancho Laguna Dogs." Most favored leaving Rancho Laguna as is, a place where dogs can roam off-leash at certain times of the day.

Lamorinda residents who have been enjoying the park for years lined up to convey the importance of the park in their lives and that of their canine companions. "This is the only place I can go with my dog," said Kay Biondo, a senior Orinda resident who added that she shops in Moraga now that she brings her dog to the park. "This is the happiest place on earth," stated Nancy Bluford, also an Orinda resident, ... continued on page 8

More Stores Closing in the Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini

On September 20th Blockbuster will close its Rheem Center store and transfer most of its employees to its Lafayette location. Frank Chao has finally gave back the keys for Fudge Alley to Kimco Realty Corporation, owner of the Rheem Shopping Center. Is it just the bad economy or is there a problem at this Center?

Randy Hargrove, from Corporate Communications at Blockbuster, indicated that the traffic pattern at the Rheem Center had changed over the past two years, with many stores closing. Their lease is up on September 23, and the company was not able to negotiate a new agreement with the Center's management. They hope that most of their customers will go to Lafayette to get their movies or order by mail or online.

This is not great news for the Moraga's sales tax revenue income. Moraga Town Manager Michael Segrest is concerned about the situation; he has been engaged in discussions with Kimco since his

arrival in Moraga, trying to gage their intentions and determine what the town can do to help the dynamic. "I have been talking to Kimco and encourage them to fill the vacant spaces," said Segrest, "they mentioned that the center they had bought needed repairs and updates, and that they would like to see improvement in the signage policy of the town." According to Larry Tessler, Vice-President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and member of the Revenue Enhancement Committee, Moraga used to sustain its two vibrant shopping centers, even with a smaller population than exists today. "What happened is that Walnut Creek and Lafayette came alive commercially," says Tessler, "those two cities have developed their commercial potential. They are better positioned geographically than Moraga is to attract the nearby population. As a result, business in Moraga has been drawn away from the town."

The owner of the Moraga Center, Joan Bruzzone, has her own explanation for the town's economic difficulties. ... continued on page 5

Fire Races Across Moraga Hillside

By Sophie Braccini and Lee Borrowman



Fighting the fire from above and on the ground. Photo Bob Johnson

A wildfire burned five acres of the hillside behind the Rheem Center in Moraga late in the afternoon of Sunday, July 26. Crews from Contra Costa County Fire and Cal Fire came in aid of the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD). The fire was brought

under control in an hour. The cause of the fire was originally considered suspicious; MOFD Battalion Chief Darrell Lee and Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe collaborated in the investigation. ... continued on page 10

Mail Carrier Honored

Submitted by Kathe Foster



Anne Blount Photo provided

Many friends living in the Moraga Country Club (MCC) community gathered on Friday, July 31st to honor Anne Blount, who has delivered the mail in the area for over 35 years. A reception was held at the MCC pool area to recognize the retirement of their long time postal delivery lady.

A certificate of appreciation from the neighborhood group stated: "Anne Blount, for over three decades you have done much more

than deliver the mail. You have brought a friendly smile, a cheerful greeting and enjoyable conversation on your daily visits. We wish you happy retirement and many years of good health and happiness. From Friends and Neighbors of Moraga Country Club."

Miss Blount officially retired from the U.S. Postal Service on July 30. She plans to move to Oregon to care for her horses, which have been a long time interest.

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The people at Willow Spring Church are enthusiastic, cheerful, outgoing and fully devoted to the Lord. There is an absolute commitment to the will of God, whatever that may be. Willow Spring has been a wonderful place where I can find encouragement and accountability."
-Cassie Kocher, Nursery Director and St. Mary's student

Willow Spring Church
1675-1689 School Street
Moraga, CA 94556
www.willow.springchurch.org
(925) 376-3550

Sunday Service Times:
Prayer.....8:00am
Traditional.....9:00am
Contemporary.....10:30am

Services for youth and children after worship during the 10:30am service

Nursery care is available during the 9:00am and 10:30am services

Weekly Activities Include:
Wednesday:
Community Bible Study...10am
REVERB (youth).....7pm
Friday Night:
BLAST! Kids Club.....6pm

Now Enrolling!
Moraga Bright Beginnings
Christian Pre-School
Lynne Connors and Judy Weldon, Directors
(925) 376-2600

Willow Spring Church is an evangelical, non-denominational, Bible-Driven church with a vision to:
"Work with God to build effective people who are inspired to excellence and committed to others."
"Willow Spring Church is the home of the Internationally recognized "GodThoughts" Ministry serving more than 10,000 people daily in over 100 countries around the world.

Willow Spring Church
Voted "Best Place to Worship" in Moraga
-The U.S. Local Business Association

"It's amazing what you can accomplish if you refuse to give up and commit to learn from your mistakes."
-Dr. Brad Reiches, GodThoughts, Volume 2*



"We chose to make Willow Spring Church our home after hearing the pastor share the word of God and seeing him live what he preaches. The people are real as well, and the love of God shows through them. This church has changed our life so much, that we've relocated our home to this area to spend more time in prayer with our Willow Spring family and the neighborhood of Moraga!"
-Mo and Ann Forslund, Members

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354 Park Street, Moraga (Next to Rheem Theater)

925-952-4488
1547-A Palos Verdes Mall Walnut Creek (In Lunardi's Center)

MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION
925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us

Look for the Fall Activity Guide in your mailbox this weekend! Classes begin September 8th.