

Moraga

Lamorinda Community

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, October 14	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, October 5	
Design Review	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd	
Monday, October 13	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, October 9	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org	



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Moraga Council Delays Staff Move

By Sophie Braccini

A decision by Moraga Town Manager Mike Segrest to move his staff out of the Town's office building at 329 Rheem and back to the Hacienda de las Flores started a town-wide hubbub that the Council tried to calm during its September 23rd meeting. The move was to take place immediately, with staff remaining at the Hacienda until seismic work is completed at 329 Rheem. The Council asked staff to postpone the relocation until the retrofit works actually begins, in 2011. But some community members doubt that the town will find the money to remodel the proposed town hall and fear that staff will continue to be located at the Hacienda for an undetermined period of time.

Segrest says he proposed the move in order to improve the operational efficiency of his team, which is currently split between the

two buildings; Segrest, the Town Clerk and the Planning Department are at 329 Rheem (the building purchased by the town with the intent of using it as a permanent Town Hall), while the Hacienda de las Flores is home to Finance, Public Works and Parks and Recreation.

Some residents saw the proposed move as a threat to the historical mission of the Hacienda as a community center; they did not believe that the relocation would only be temporary.

Many residents recall when the town acquired the Hacienda. "The Hacienda was purchased in 1973 to become a park and community center," recalled Moraga Movers President George Fisher. "Our group considers the Hacienda as their home, and we urge the Council to return it to its original designation." ... continued on page 6



Police Blotter will be back next time.

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Moraga Police Save Life

By Sophie Braccini

"This is exactly what we have been training for, for years," said Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe, referring on an incident where two of his officers saved the life of a driver who's heart had stopped by the time they reached him.

On the morning of September 16th, Moraga officers responded to the 200 block of Rheem Blvd after receiving a report of a traffic collision. Officer Russell Douthit arrived on scene and discovered that a single vehicle appeared to have run off the roadway and collide with a retaining wall. Officer Roberto

Ortiz joined Douthit at the scene and immediately advised radio dispatch that the driver was not breathing and had no pulse.

The officers removed the driver from the vehicle and started CPR, which included the use of an automated external defibrillator. With the defibrillator the officers were able to restart the driver's heart. The officers continued CPR until paramedics arrived to further stabilize the driver and transport him to the Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek.

"Usually the Fire Department gets on the scene before

us," said Douthit, "but we were literally seconds away from the scene and those few minutes can make a difference between life and death." The officers explained that the defibrillator device they carry, and have been trained to use, indicates whether the patient has to be "shocked" or not and that the operation went very smoothly.

On September 24 Priebe said, "I spoke to the hospital this morning and the driver is doing well. He is still in ICU, but he is able to sit in a chair and feed himself. The family feels it is a miracle he's alive."

Moraga Town Council Denounces Hate Crimes

... continued from page 1

The Council and audience all seemed to share the same outrage regarding the September 7th discovery of a cross marked with the letters KKK in front of a house where a mixed-race couple was spending the night with family.

"It was a kick in the gut," said neighbor Dave Robertson, who was the first to notice the cross, "it is a wake up call." Robertson added that the neighbors had been discussing ways to make things more visible and were thinking about organizing a block party.

"My kids and I talked about the incident," says Carol Shenon, another neighbor. "I never could have imagined that such a horrific symbol could appear in Moraga. It is completely unacceptable, and I hope that the perpetrator(s) are found and prosecuted."

Moraga resident Reverend John Valentine says that this incident should be used to educate: "This can become an awareness-building moment, as long as we don't sweep it under the rug," said Valentine. The Reverend

went further and challenged the town's residents to do something differently and look at Martin Luther King Junior Day as an opportunity to fly the American flag as a reminder of what happened.

Mayor Dave Trotter said, "This is not the Moraga that I know." He, too, wanted to make it a moment of education and added, "We might want to talk

Not the Only Incident
Recent Campolindo graduate Roshan Mahoney says of the September 7th hate crime, "The fact that we're allowing ideas like that to be fostered in our town is something we should all be concerned about." And according to Mahoney, this was not the only incident to happen in Moraga over the summer. Mahoney says that on July 25th she was shocked to see a swastika painted on The Rock (up on the hill at the intersection of Moraga Rd and Rheem Blvd). "I was with my friend Molly, who is Jewish; at first I wanted to believe it was something else; just a random bunch of squiggles. I didn't want to think anyone here would do something like that." Unable to reconcile the hope to the reality, she says the two young women felt, "just disgusted that someone would do something that disrespectful."

That night they climbed up to The Rock, only to find others of similar mind who had already poured white paint over the offending symbol. "We decided to paint a peace sign," said Mahoney, because we didn't want to paint it over with anything that would put anyone down or offend anyone, we just wanted to make a statement that this is a town that won't tolerate that."
L. Borrowman

about it with the School District."

Vice-Mayor Ken Chew wanted to incorporate what he felt was stronger language into the resolution, including the addition of the word "racism" alongside "hate crime." The majority of the Council did not concur and the resolution, as drafted by Priebe, was adopted by a vote of 4-1.

Moraga Bench Dedication

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Friends and neighbors of the late Tom Burdsal share stories and vignettes about his life, on the bench (L-R): Melissa Levinson, Tom's granddaughter; Hazele Burdsal, Tom's wife; and Vicki Bowhay, Tom and Hazele's daughter
Photo Gary Irwin

was dedicated on September 14th by his family and friends. The attractive concrete bench is located at the 8th tee of the Moraga Country Club. While his wife, Hazele, and family members sat on the bench with flowers, numerous friends and former neighbors spoke and reminisced about their experiences and memories of Tom. Funds for the bench were donated by friends and members of the Rotary Club of Moraga where Tom had been a member since he moved to Moraga in 1992. The informal reception was arranged by members of the Rotary Club.

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As a military family every few years we are asked to pick up and disconnect our families from their friends, church and schools. As a family with children it can be very stressful. One thing that helps all of us with these transitions is finding a spiritual home that will take us into it's heart right away and make us part of their "family". The first time we stepped across the entry into Willow Spring Church we felt included and valued. Every person in this church seems to be a member of the "Welcoming Committee". WSC is a family church that was as dedicated to spiritual health as much as our spiritual growth and we are extremely grateful for their support and acceptance.
-Heather Kostecki, Regular Attender (with husband Ken and daughters Danielle and Kayleigh)

Willow Spring Church

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-The U.S. Local Business Association

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-Dr. Brad Reiches, GodThoughts, Volume 2*

Willow Spring Church 1675-1689 School Street Moraga, CA 94556 www.willowspringchurch.org (925) 376-3550	Sunday Service Times: Prayer.....8:00am Traditional.....9:00am Contemporary.....10:30am We have nursery care during both the 9:00am and 10:30am service	Weekly Activities Include: Wednesday: Community Bible study, 10am Monday-Friday: BLAST! Kids Club After-School Program 3-6pm
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**Willow Spring Church's
Fall Festival**

**Saturday, October 31st
6-10pm**

•Chili Cook-Off•
•Hoe Down•
•Games•Prizes•YOU•

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.