

Moraga

Lamorinda Community

Calendar	
Town Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, October 28	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd Monday, October 19	
Design Review	7:30pm
Moraga Library 1500 Saint Marys Rd Monday, October 26	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, November 13	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org	



Scorned woman angry, 9/28/09 A woman who was asked to leave a Sparrow Court home due to a domestic dispute backed her vehicle into a parked car in front of the residence almost striking a man who is no longer her partner. Fellow retaliated by throwing a brick through the rear windshield of subject's car as she drove away. Does this mean they're even?

Smash and grab burglar strikes again, 9/25/09 Officers responded to Saint Mary's College to contact the victim of an auto burglary. The reporting person said she parked and locked her black 2001 BMW near the baseball fields. Upon her return she discovered an unknown suspect had smashed out a window to steal her purse and computer. Police were able to obtain finger prints. Estimated loss \$3,135. This may be the work of the mystery thief who had been "working" the Lafayette Community Park, heading to greener pastures.

Narcotics at Campo, 9/25/09 A student was detained at the Principal's office for possession of several narcotic substances - pot and prescription medication. Both were collected by police for destruction. Lucky for the student in question, school staff handled the incident administratively. Apparently he or she won't be going to juvenile hall, but may be in detention for the foreseeable future.

Easy car burglary, 9/26/09 A Whitethome Drive resident called the cops to report a theft from her Honda Pilot. She parked her vehicle in several places around town and ultimately parked the car in her driveway. She was unsure if it was locked at any of her stops, so has no way of knowing where her purse was pinched. No signs of forced entry, total estimated value of items taken \$1,196. What's that? The sound of her trunk saying, "use me."

Where the Real Work is Done

By Sophie Braccini

Have you ever been to a Moraga Town Council meeting, seen the members sitting next to each other, facing the audience and wondered how real work could be achieved in such an arena? The effort it takes to craft policies and make complex choices requires a setting more conducive to work. That's why the Town has a staff and, when matters need to be discussed among different constituencies, subcommittees are created. One of them that is active at this time is the Moraga Center Specific Plan Development Standards Subcommittee. Its purpose is to create a 20 dwelling unit per acre district in the area where the Specific Plan is focused; an area that is presently designated as six dwellings per acre.

The members of the subcommittee represent most of the stakeholders. Town staff members are Planning Director Lori Salamack and Town Manager Mike Segrest; Mayor Dave Trotter and Council Member Mike Metcalf represent the Town Council; two members of both the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission participate; finally, the owner of most of the land affected by the Specific Plan, the Bruzzone family with consultant Dick Loewke, are there to negotiate their terms. They meet around an oval table in the Meeting Room of the library every Monday evening

and attempt to resolve possible differences in a courteous manner.

The meetings are public, but word of scheduled sessions rarely reaches residents. Only full-blown committee and commission meetings have their own listing on the Town's web site with their respective agendas and minutes.

The meetings of this subcommittee are posted under the Moraga Specific Plan heading on the Town's homepage. The group has met every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (with the exception of October 12), and will continue to do so until the building standards are approved by all. A plan will then be submitted to the Town Council for final blessing. Meeting notices can be found at http://moraga.ca.us/production/moraga_moraga_center_specific_plan.php.

At the October 5 meeting it was clear that all the participants were moving in the same direction, fine tuning the last details. The subcommittee members are in agreement that the Specific Plan area should be designated as a minimum of 20 dwelling units per acre rather than 6, with up to 30 units per acre when senior assisted housing is included. A request from Loewke that the maximum be upgraded to 33 units per acre when some of the units do not have cooking facilities was accepted by all.

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Financial Relief in Sight?

By Sophie Braccini

An initiative by the California Communities, a joint powers authority (JPA) sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), could return to local governments the property tax dollars that the State of California has decided to keep for a while.

"We have \$249,000 outstanding that we didn't expect to see for another three years," said Moraga Finance Director Joan Streit, "but the JPA has proposed a bill by which it will buy the receivable from us, give us the money and the State will pay them back in time." If the bill succeeds, Streit anticipates that the town would get half of that

money in January 2010 and the other half in May.

"The last step consists in cleaning the language and having the Governor sign that bill," explained Streit. With the high-level bargaining taking place in Sacramento, she does not expect a final result before the end of October.

Another piece of good news came regarding the return of gas tax funds to cities, which was going to be delayed for a long period of time. "It looks like it's not going to be deferred for quite as long, and we'll get money sooner than we expected," she said, "if all the stars align with the moon."

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Rancho Laguna Park Survey:
www.moraga.ca.us

"About Town" in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

A new feature has appeared on the home page of the Moraga Town web site; it is called "About Town, a Bi-Weekly Update from Moraga Town Staff."

"For the past few years, the Town has been trying to do more to reach out to folks to keep them informed," said Mayor Dave Trotter, "About Town" will be a key part of our ongoing effort to communicate with the broader Moraga community." The person in charge of this effort is Town Manager Mike

Segrest, who is following in the footsteps of another City Manager, Lafayette's Steve Falk, who publishes his "Friday Summary" to keep interested residents in the loop on city happenings.

'About Town' will be updated on the Fridays that follow Town Council meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The variety of topics addressed in the first issue, published on September 30th, include updates on the town hous-

ing element and the Rancho Laguna II project, police staffing and Hacienda repair plans.

"I am doing this simply to get information out to the community so residents can have accurate information about what is happening in the Town," said Segrest, "anyone who wishes to receive 'About Town' can email Marty McInturf at mmcinturf@moraga.ca.us to be added to the email list." Or go to the Town's website, <http://moraga.ca.us> and read it online.

Rancho Laguna Park Public Input Survey and Workshops

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Parks and Recreation Department is conducting a survey of Moraga residents to find out what their expectations are regarding the use of the Rancho Laguna Park. Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram would like input from all park

user groups, including parents of school age children, sports users and dog owners.

The survey is available online on the town web site at moraga.ca.us; scroll down the front page to reach "Rancho Laguna Park Planning Survey" (Rancho

Laguna II at the top of the page is a non-related issue.) The next meeting of the sub-committee collecting public input will be Sunday, October 25th at Rancho Laguna, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 29th at the Hacienda from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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