

Civic News Moraga



Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, April 5, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Monday, March 22, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, April 9, 8:00 am Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
 Town of Moraga online: www.moraga.ca.us
 Chamber of Commerce: www.moragachamber.org
 Moraga Citizens' Network: www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

A Fresh Look at Lamorinda Real Estate

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Will Frisbees Collide With Dogs and/or Bocce Ball?

Moraga struggles to accommodate all outdoor activities on limited public land

By Sophie Braccini



Anthony Jaussand, Meat Manager at the Orinda Safeway, practices disc golf at the Moraga Commons. Photo Sophie Braccini

On a beautiful weekend day one can spot as many as 90 people playing disc golf at the back of the Moraga Commons Park, at the corner of Moraga Road and Saint Mary's Road. Most players carry a small bag filled with 15-25 Frisbees of different characteristics, and they follow the nine-hole course (actually 9-basket course), trying to reach each target with three throws or less. Year 'round, players of all ages practice on what is a rare commodity in the Bay Area: a 9-hole course set in a beautiful, peaceful and semi-wild setting. For 27 years the players have grown in number, coming from as close as Saint Mary's Col-

lege and as far as Benicia. But recently the players got wind of the possible installation of a new bocce ball court where one of their holes is set, and of the discussion of moving the Rancho Laguna de facto dog park to a portion of the Commons where two of their holes are located. Concern led them to the February 25th Council meeting, where they pleaded for the protection of what they consider a gem. "The course was founded in 1982 by the Moraga Women's Club (which later split into the Moraga Junior Women's Club and the Moraga Women's Society)," says Jon Beermink, an advocate for the play-

ers. "At the time, there were only 100 courses in the US, most of them target courses (with a simple pole to aim at), and Moraga was one of the 10 baskets courses in the country." Since then, Beermink says that the number of courses grew to 1596 in 2003 and more than 3000 in 2010. Outside of Moraga, the nearest courses are located in San Francisco, Berkeley, San Leandro and San Ramon. At the council meeting the players took turn pleading during the public comment period. Residents from Oakland, Sonoma, Canyon and Lafayette took the stand, explaining that the low impact sport is great for all ages and abilities, is inexpensive and has become a destination for many. Finally, Brian Henderson of Moraga took the stand. "I am one of those players who are out there with their families," said Henderson, "I have six kids and the game is one of the only things that I can get all of them to do together at the park, from the youngest (twins) who are five-years old to my oldest who are practicing their skills with their friends." Since the topic was not on the agenda, the Council could not comment on the matter. But when contacted after the meeting Town Manager Mike Segrest confirmed that the town had no intention of

eliminating the disc golf course. "There is an understanding between the players and the Town, but the land belongs to Moraga," said Segrest, "over time the course has been changed and reconfigured and it could happen again as we try to accommodate all activities for our residents." Jay Ingram, Moraga's Parks and Recreation Director, would like the resources to conduct a comprehensive Moraga Commons plan. "We haven't been able to get a 'go' from the Town because we do not have the budget to do the study," says the Director, "but this is clearly something that is a requirement of our Parks and Recreation master plan." The Director has met more than once with the disc golf players to discuss recreation opportunities. His goal includes beginner disc golf classes for residents of all ages. Beermink said that his group is ready to volunteer to provide classes or even organize a tournament that would benefit the Town's choice of charities. He remains concerned about the future of his favorite sport in Moraga. "Removing some holes would mean that the course would disappear," says Beermink, "this has become a significant part of so many people's lives for so many years; we would be very disappointed to see it disappear."

Mayor Chew Addresses the "Green" Community

By Sophie Braccini

At the last "Green Rheem" movie night, on March 11th, Moraga Mayor Ken Chew came to address the crowd of some 100 people who were about to view the movie "Chemical Reaction." The documentary movie tells the story of Dr. June Irwin, a dermatologist, who noticed a connection between her patients' health conditions and their exposure to chemical pesticides that included herbicides. The film follows her journey to town meetings where she expressed her concerns. Dr. Irwin's persuasive arguments and data to back her findings eventually led the town of Hudson to enact a by-law that banned the use of all chemical pesticides and herbicides. The showing was a perfect setting for Mayor Chew to remind the crowd that the Town of Moraga was a pioneer in implementing an integrated pest management program on its pub-

lic land. He continued by encouraging residents to come to public meetings to voice their concerns. "I'd like to see you come to meetings and express your ideas," he said, "this is your town, we are your Council and we will listen." One of the ideas that Chew put forward was the formation of an Environmental Task Force that would draw from the talents of residents volunteering their time. *Green Rheem is a monthly

film showing at the Rheem Theater in Moraga organized by a collection of Lamorinda community organizations including: Generation Green, Sustainable Moraga, Sustainable Lafayette, and Parents for a Safer Environment.

Police Report

- Pot possession, 3/04/10** Moraga police stopped a grey Honda Odyssey that was speeding near the Skate Park. The 16-year-old driver from Walnut Creek had six juvenile passengers in the van. Alert officer noticed the smell of non-burnt marijuana that happened to be in a 15-year-old passenger's backpack. She received a ticket for possession of less than an ounce, but the driver got three tickets: speeding, driving outside the restrictions of his provisional license, and California driver's license not in his possession. Looks like someone is losing his driving privileges.
- Petty theft, 3/02/10** An officer went to Saint Mary's College to contact the owner of a 2000 Ford F150 pick-up truck that was parked near the baseball fields. When the truck's owner came back to the truck a few days after he parked it, someone has removed the driver's side door mirror. Nothing else was taken. Estimated value \$200.
- License plate stolen, 3/04/10** A Shuey Drive resident came to the police department to report that her rear license plate was missing from her Ford Taurus. The car owner believes the theft occurred in the driveway of her home. Unfortunately no suspects or leads. The plate number was entered in the police system as stolen. Possible art project or something more sinister?
- Attempted burglary, 03/05/10** Sometime between 11:00 a.m. on 3/05 and 3:00 p.m. on 3/07 an unknown person attempted to force entry into a Larch Avenue residence. There were pry marks in several locations and slight damage to the window and doors. The homeowner estimates damage at \$1000. Neighbors didn't see or hear anything unusual during that period of time. Someone really wanted to get in.

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