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## From Macro to Micro Economy, and Back

*By Sophie Braccini*

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank invite the community to a presentation addressing the business climate in the country, and at the local level. Panelists will address the state of the economy in general, Moraga's economic situation today and the possibilities for the future, the influence of Saint Mary's College on the Town, and the impact of recent measures taken by the Obama administration regarding community banking and small businesses financing.

"I will talk about the state of the town and what the possibilities are for the future," says Town Manager Mike Segrest. "The town does not have a Redevelopment Agency that could give it the means to be a significant actor in the revitalization of the town, but with the constitution of an Economic Development team (soon to be announced), we will be able to do market research and propose enhancements that will contribute to business success." Tim Farley, Director of Community and Government Relations at Saint Mary's College (SMC), will highlight the economic benefits that the college brings to Lamorinda and probably give food for thought to business people in attendance. "We bring to this area hundreds to people who have never been here before; students, parents, who come for a brief visit or a long stay," says Farley, "they can buy a lunch and fill a tank with gas, or become members of the community for years."

Dave Wissinger, a Senior Vice President and Portfolio manager in Mechanics Bank's Wealth Management division, where he manages investment portfolios for the bank's high net worth clients, will address the state of the economy today as it relates to Moraga. Scot Cunningham, Senior Vice President of Mechanics Bank's SBA group, will present the Obama administration's new rules as they pertain to community banks and the financing of small businesses. The free event will be held on Tuesday, October 19th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the Soda Center at SMC. Appetizers and beverages will be provided by Mechanics Bank.

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