


Civic News Moraga



Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, November 15, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, November 12, 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

• Police Report •



Loud Halloween party, 10/29/10
 An anonymous caller notified police that there was a loud party on Buckingham Drive. Cops found approximately 150 people inside the rented residence and told them the party's over. One of the departing attendees was cited for riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol. The hosts were issued a warning for "Loud or Unruly Party."

Another loud party, 10/30/10
 Yet another anonymous caller reported a loud party on Wandel Drive. At just after 10:00 p.m. police dispersed about 75 guests and once again the hosts were cited for violation of the Town of Moraga Municipal Code 9.08.040 (Loud and Unruly Party).

Party, 10/30/10
 This time the party's at a Whitethorne Drive garage. College student renters had about 35 of their pals celebrating Halloween or perhaps a Giants victory, their motivation was not noted in the official police report. Citations were issued, hopefully they will learn their respective lessons.

Battery at party, 10/31/10
 A Moraga Road, surprise, Halloween party ended with a punch in the nose. Several females claimed one of the tenants had been punched in the nose by an unknown female that had been asked to leave. She took herself to the hospital for a possible broken nose after declining medical attention by the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department. Can't we all just get along?

Correction, issue date 10/27/10, No Dollar Tree Decision Before the Election:
 We mistakenly identified the spokesperson for the resident appellant's group as Holly Erickson-King. The spokesperson, to whom the relevant quotes should be attributed, is Hollie Lucas-Alcalay.



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SAT/ACT Combo Test, 11/20, \$8
Drawing Camps, Thanksgiving week, ages 5-13
Holiday Camp Hacienda 12/20 - 12/30, ages 5-12
Holiday Hors D'Oeuvres Class, 11/18
Chocolate Truffles Class, 12/6

Exhibition on view through Sunday, Dec. 12 Gifted Hands: the Fine Art of Craft



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Cherry Settee



Janet Lipkin
Homage to an African Quilt



Florence Resnikoff
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After the Election

By Sophie Braccini
 November 2 did not bring any surprises to the Moraga Town Council as incumbents Ken Chew and Dave Trotter never appeared to be seriously challenged. Seth Freeman, Dennis Wanken, and Eleni Wanken were not able to generate much momentum during the campaign. Typical of recent Moraga council elections, candidates that have not formerly served on the Planning Commission or the Parks and Recreation Commission seem to have difficulty when it comes to being elected. Prior service allows future candidates not only to get first hand knowledge of what is going in the Town, but also gives them the opportunity to build a support network.

Although the election results have not been certified, Trotter appears to have garnered the most votes. "I am very pleased by the outcome of this election," he said. "With volunteer help and support from many Moraga residents, we ran an active campaign. I'm so grateful for the outreach efforts of my campaign committee over the past several weeks. The re-election

results represent a strong vote of confidence from the Moraga community, and I believe they demonstrate that the Town is being well-managed and is on the right track."

Trotter acknowledged that there is much that needs to be done in the next four years to continue addressing the vital issues facing the town. "This includes implementing the Moraga Center Specific Plan in concert with the property owners, developing funding solutions for maintaining our neighborhood streets and other essential Town infrastructure, addressing the vacancies and future vision at the Rheem Center, and continuing to do everything we can to protect and preserve open space and ridgelines," he said, "I'm looking forward to the next four years on the Town Council and the important work that lies ahead."

On election night Ken Chew was out picking up as many of his 22 campaign signs as possible. "I want to thank all of my supporters and friends who have worked so diligently with me during the past

four years," said Chew. "Thank you, Moraga voters, for giving me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community again." Chew believes that his re-election comes from the voters' support of his work on the Town Council over the past four years. "Moraga residents, you can expect me to continue to provide that same kind of leadership, prudence, efficiency and effectiveness as we work together for our community during the next four years," he said.

Chew said that he is committed to maintaining a prudent, balanced fiscal budget and building a solid general fund reserve; to protect and preserve Moraga's ridgelines and open spaces; to create a long-term infrastructure renewal program and a financing plan; to sustain Moraga's excellent police protection and other services; to work cooperatively with the business community, Moraga's schools, St. Mary's College, and volunteer service groups for our common good.

Freeman, who garnered the most votes of all the challengers,

said he will continue to defend his views and plans to run again in two years. "I want to congratulate Dave and Ken and to thank the 1002 voters who supported my campaign," said Freeman, "I received about 50% of the votes of the two incumbents; a good showing for a first time!" Freeman hopes that the standing Council will incorporate some of the views that his supporters share. "The council really needs to develop a pragmatic strategy that allows them to focus on real economic priorities in light of the new economy and solve the \$45 million hole to maintain infrastructure and do everything it can to support the schools and support their funding requirements."

Eleni and Dennis Wanken ran their campaigns with no sign or flyers bearing their names, focusing instead on addressing community groups. "Our wish is for all of our elected representatives, whoever that may be, to work in the best interests of and include all citizens in Moraga in all public policy decisions," said Wanken.

LamorindaDogs.org

By Sophie Braccini
 The members of the recently-formed Lamorinda Dogs have come a long way from their first rowdy protests at Town Council meetings regarding the off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park. They are now a well-funded, non-profit association that collaborates with staff and elected officials. The main objective of securing off-leash hours at the park has not changed, but the erstwhile protesters have become partners in policy-making.

"There was a shift in both the town's and our perception that we should work together to make Rancho Laguna a real multi-use community park," said Lafayette resident and Lamorinda Dogs Board director

Blair Newel. The other directors on the Board are Rob Blits, Bill Carman, and Jeanne Moreau; three more could be appointed.

"One of our first objectives is to foster responsible dog ownership," says Lafayette dog owner Blits. "When people bring dogs that are untrained and create incidents we talk to them and recommend that they get training for their pet," said Carman, a Moraga resident. "If incidents continue to happen, we tell them 'maybe you should consider going somewhere else.'" Bilt

continues, "We can resolve most of the conflicts. A majority of owners want that." The group is now partnering with staff to draft dog-related rules that will be posted at the park.

Consistent communication with Moraga staff has helped smooth over relations between the Town and the group. "They are being good neighbors and they are very responsive," said Jay Ingram, Moraga Parks and Recreation Director. Rancho Laguna Park is a multi-use park, with set off-leash hours, but it re-

mains the prerogative of the Town to restrict those hours to accommodate other events. "I called them about the JM cross country meet that was going to be held at the park during off-leash hours," remembers Ingram, "and they asked their members not to come to the park that day."

But once housekeeping items have been taken care of, the elephant in the room is the physical separation of off-leash dogs and playground/picnic areas.

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