

# Moraga Expands Recreation Programs

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Kim Burrowes, Jay Ingram and Kimberly Nelson at the Hacienda  
Photo Sophie Braccini

When he presented his request to the Moraga Town Council for a second full-time employee, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram argued that by increasing the currently half-time position to full-time, his department would be able to offer more interesting recreation opportunities to Moraga residents. As promised, the spring 2011 Activities Guide will offer many new opportunities for all ages, and supports a Town and Gown collaboration to further captivate and educate.

"Having Kim (Burrowes) work full-time has allowed us to im-

prove research and plan activities for our constituency," explains Ingram. The request for a full-time recreation assistant came first from the Moraga Movers, who had donated a Senior Van to the town, but needed to have someone available to plan the trips and drive the bus. This winter and spring there are a couple of trips planned each month; the Movers will go all over the Bay Area, from Filoli to San Francisco, Safari West, and Thunder Valley Casino. "If we had a volunteer driver, we could do even more," hints Ingram.

Children will also benefit from the expanded staffing. "For

the first time we are proposing winter and spring camps, and this summer we will have a new option – Summer Play for 8-12 years old, a new formula that's very affordable and flexible for parents." A full menu of birthday parties is also offered, and a children's Triathlon is in the planning phase.

Adults are not forgotten; classes include Supervised Bridge, which puts intermediate players in advanced strategy situations; dog obedience classes by Bonnie Brown-Cali, who was recommended by the Lamorinda Dogs group; Bringing Nutrition to the Table, an 8-week series on optimizing eating habits for the whole family; and more.

A new feature in the Activities Guide is the inclusion of Saint Mary's College's (SMC) Lifelong Learning classes. "Chris Sindt, Associate Dean for Graduate and Professional Programs, and I worked on expanding our program," said Grete Stenersen, Lifelong Learning Director, "we met with Rob Luchacher, who was on the School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board and Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission and he recommended we partner with Jay Ingram."

The program developed by the Saint Mary's team more than doubles the classes previously offered. "The ideas for the classes

came from many different angles," explains Stenersen, "for example, we created the Comparative Religions course after a resident called us and asked for it Stenersen said it was very easy to find professors and instructors who were willing to teach such classes as Cosmology, A Cosmic Voyage: A Sophisticated's Primer for the History of the World; Four Seasons Natural Gardening; The Philosophy of Wine; and Opera Appreciation.

Ingram included the SMC courses in the Parks and Rec publication at no cost to the college; the partnership makes it worthwhile. For example, "We needed a wood floor to teach our new spring Zumba class and the college has provided it for us, free of charge," said Ingram. The Town is working on a computer class that will take place at Saint Mary's; the college will also provide the instructor.

For now, Lifelong Learning is not turning a profit for SMC. "It is a window for the College," said Stenersen, "we want to open our doors wide to the surrounding communities. We believe that continuing education is part of the mission of the College, its Liberal Arts teaching and Lasallian Tradition."

The Activity Guide will be mailed 1st week of December.

# Coming Soon: Film Festival – Help Needed!

By Sophie Braccini

And the winner is: Moraga. After months of speculation and discussion, the California Independent Film Festival has decided to take its show down the road and will move the event from Orinda to Moraga early next year.

The 13th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) will take place at the New Rheem Theatre, which is managed by the CAIFF Association, from January 28 - February 3, 2011. The week-

long event features 75 independent films from all over the world.

The Festival includes galas, showings, awards ceremonies and dinners; it always features celebrities who need to be attended to, and it is run by volunteers. On November 17, the CAIFF management team appealed to Moraga residents for help during its first local organizational meeting. They invited community groups to join in, contribute and share in the benefits that

they believe the town will derive from some two thousands visitors and increased visibility. Organizers say they hope to locate the Festival in Moraga for many years and turn it into the next Sundance.

CAIFF Vice President Joanne Foy is organizing the volunteers. "I have held almost all the positions on these committees," she said, "we know exactly what has to be done, all we need is more hands." Foy said that at this time CAIFF needs a

Transportation Chairperson and drivers, as well as a Hospitality Chairperson and volunteers to make gift baskets. "And there is always room for fundraisers, too," she adds.

Those interested in helping out may contact Foy at kaigogi@aol.com or (925) 200-0262. For learn more about the CAIFF go to www.caiff.org.; the organization is just beginning to post early information on the 2011 event, so check back for updates.

# Dollar Tree Approved – Shaping the Future of Rheem Center?

... continued from page A4

Council Member Mike Metcalf said he 'groaned' when he heard about the store, because he did not anticipate a big spike in sales tax revenue with such a business. "The Dollar Tree store is pretty disgusting in Pleasant Hill, but really nice in other locations," he said, adding that whatever his opinion, he had to apply the Town's code.

Vice-Mayor Karen Mendonca said that she visited a Dollar Tree store in Healdsburg with her mother and found it to be "the Nordstrom of Dollar Tree stores." She reported her conversation with that store's manager and she presented it as "a story of hope," adding that every business must be

treated fairly and equitably.

Council Member Howard Harpham said that the arguments presented by the appellant were excellent, but that Dollar Tree could not be treated differently than the other stores in the Rheem Center. "We are tearing ourselves apart with these discussions," regretted Harpham, who pledged to work for what is the best for the town during the time he has left [on the Council].

Mayor Chew concluded that it was not the role of government to determine which business can come to a town or not. "We hope they will do well and be good for the town," said the Mayor.

Dollar Tree has one year from

the date of the approval to exercise the permit, otherwise it automatically expires. At press time Dollar Tree had not responded to questions regarding its appeal and plans for the Moraga store.

The large amount of vacant

retail space is a big thorn in the side of a town where 75% of each dollar spent by residents is spent out of town. Trotter concluded that the question of the future of the Rheem Center should be one of the Council's study areas next year.

**Providing Insurance and Financial Services**

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.

**Mike Rosa, Agent**  
Insurance Lic. #: 0F45583  
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

## Is This Your Accounting System?

- How long would it take you to provide **financial statements** to your banker or potential landlord?
- Are your books **still** on Excel spreadsheet sheets?
- Do you only use **QuickBooks** for one side of your business: income or expenses?
- Are you **still** using a paper check register?
- Do you spend an **entire weekend** cleaning up last year's books to file your taxes?
- Do you always file an extension?
- Do you want to start 2011 **knowing your bookkeeping with be in order?**

**A yes to any one of these questions means you need Optimum Accounting!**

While Quickbooks can empower small businesses to become their own bookkeepers, they fail to mention that if **you need an accountant's mind to setup and manage it properly.**

You could be losing money in the form of uncollected accounts and tax breaks all because you think you are **saving money** by doing your own bookkeeping.

Fortunately, **Optimum Accounting** works with small busi- nesses that are ready to take their **bookkeeping seriously** and stop **losing** valuable time and money.

**Optimum Accounting** offers **bookkeeping clean-up services** that will get you on track for good. But, you need to hurry because once tax season begins you may need an extension filed to get caught up.

**Mention this ad, and you will receive \$75 savings in your initial Bookkeeping Evaluation.**

(925) 627-4260  
21C Orinda Way, Suite 103, Orinda  
[www.OptimumAccounting.org](http://www.OptimumAccounting.org)

	<p>Fall, Solid &amp; Patterned Chenille Long Scarves By Axxents</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">75% NOW 8.99</p>	<p>Rosetti All Fall Handbags, Satchels &amp; Totes</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">40% SAVE NOW</p> <p>NOW 19.99-34.99</p>	<p>Sag Harbor Handbags Entire Stock Of Fall</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 23.99</p> <p>23.99 or Less!</p>	
	<p>Must Have! Fall, Mini Crossbody Organizers by Mundi</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 12.99</p>	<p>Kenneth Cole 3 pc. Cosmetic Overnighter Gift Sets</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 18.99</p> <p>Reg. 38.00</p>	<p>Rosetti Entire Stock Of Fall "Crossbody" Bags &amp; Minis</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 19.99</p>	
	<p>Leggings Seamless, Stretch Knit By Contact</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 9.99</p> <p>Sizes S-XL</p>		<p>Rich Floral &amp; Patterned Long, Velvet Scarves by Tans</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 19.99</p> <p>Orig. 40.00</p>	<p>Ruby Rd. Entire Stock Of Fall Fashion Bags</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">40% SAVE NOW</p> <p>NOW 41.40-47.40</p>
<p>Mundi Fall Clutches, Wallets Indexers And More!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">70% NOW 6.99</p>	<p>All Fleece Hat/Glove Scarf Sets 3 Pc. Sets</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">75% NOW 8.99</p> <p>Just 8.99!</p>	<p>Laurel Burch Exclusive Fall Tapestry Totes &amp; Hobos</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% SAVE NOW</p> <p>NOW 19.99-26.99</p>	<p>Cashmink Plaid &amp; Print Fall Scarves By V. Fraas</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% NOW 19.99</p> <p>Reg. 40.00</p>	
				<p>All Chenille Gloves by Axxents 8 Fall Colors</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">75% NOW 3.99</p> <p>Reg. 16.00</p>

**9 Bay Area Stores to serve you!**

**LAFAYETTE**  
Plaza Center  
(925) 283-3380

**DANVILLE**  
Town and Country  
(925) 837-0261

**MONTCLAIR**  
6211 Medau Pl. Oakland  
(510) 339-2210

# McCaulou's

**ORINDA**  
Village Square  
(925) 254-3448

**MORAGA**  
Moraga Center  
(925) 376-7252

**WALNUT CREEK**  
Countrywood Center  
(925) 935-9300

**CONCORD**  
Vineyard Center  
(925) 827-0330

**SONOMA**  
Marketplace Center  
(707) 996-4465

**NAPA**  
Napa Town Center  
(707) 255-9375