


Civic News Moraga



Public Meetings
Town Council Wednesday, January 26, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review Monday, January 24, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison Friday, February 11, 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 •



Speeding with pot, 1/07/11 An 18-year-old male driver was pulled over for speeding on Saint Mary's Road near Carter Drive. When the window of the Cadillac Seville was opened the officers on duty could smell burnt marijuana, they surmised it was not some kind of wacky cologne. Just shy of 12 grams – less than one ounce of pot was found. The driver was cited for both the speeding and possession. The marijuana was booked into evidence – goodbye pot, hello tickets.

Residential burglary, 1/08/11 A Woodford drive resident reported a burglary, apparently an unknown person had entered his garage via an unlocked side door. A coin pouch from not one, but both Mercedes Benz' were taken from the vehicles. A suspicious unoccupied parked car was seen nearby with stolen property on the seat – including the pilfered pouches.

Buckingham Drive burglary, 1/08/11 A homeowner stated someone entered his residence during the night and stole undisclosed items. The suspect(s) may have come in through an unlocked garage door. Estimated loss \$1,050.

Attempted burglary thwarted by pooch, 1/08/11 A Camelford Court resident reported that she found the garage door to the house open at approximately 4:45 in the morning. She checked the house and garage – but nothing appeared to be taken or disturbed. Homeowner suspects that her two large dogs helped deter the would-be burglar(s).

The Bad Guys have Found Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Nothing frustrates Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe more than a crime that could have been prevented. Unfortunately, in the past month his department has investigated a record number of such crimes. "We had six residential burglaries in the past month, five of which were preventable; at the same time last year we had had only one," says Priebe. A suspect entered garages through unlocked

back doors and burglarized the cars in these garages, and in one instance, entered a home through an interior garage door that was not locked. "If you have a lock, use it; if you have an alarm, activate it; and you may want to upgrade your outside lighting system," said the Chief, "the bad guys know where we are now; we need to take minimum precautions."



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Classes starting next week:

Drawing, Painting, Sculpting	Flag Football
Chocolate Decorating 101	Soccer
ACT Mock Test	Bringing Nutrition to the Table
Parent/Child Jewelry Making	Small Vineyard Series



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Honoring the Campolindo Ladies

By Sophie Braccini



Campolindo's varsity volleyball team, with coaches and council members Photos provided by Liz Faoro



Campolindo's varsity cross country team and friends



Campolindo's varsity water polo team (et al)

From the grid iron to green to summer swim team, taking pride in our young athletes is a staple of the Lamorinda community, its parents, its educators and its administrators.

At the last Moraga Town Council meeting, the auditorium at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School was brimming with boisterous joy as several Campolindo women's teams prepared to be honored by the Council.

2010 was a very successful year for the Lady Cougars. The varsity volleyball and cross-country teams won the California Interscholastic Federation Division III State Championships; the water polo team, considered one of the best women's teams in Campolindo High School history, took top honors by winning the Division II Championship.

Playing varsity volleyball at Campolindo means to have trained on private teams for years. Cross Country has the most participants; it is co-ed and open to all. Water polo is a smaller group that's rising in popularity.

Mayor Karen Mendonca was clearly delighted to read the proclamations honoring the teams, handing each player her own copy. The Mayor, her fellow Council Members, and the Campolindo coaches and administrators seemed to enjoy posing for pictures with the girls.

The evening ended with a special proclamation for cross-country athlete Carrie Verdon. The Campolindo junior won the 2010 North Coast Section Division III Championship, setting the Campolindo High School and NCS Division III course record; the 2010 California Interscholastic Federation Division III Championship race, finishing the five-kilometer Woodward Park course in 17:15 (the tenth fastest time in California history); took 5th place at the Western Regional Championships, and 19th place at the National Championships. Verdon was selected to the Foot Locker "All-Western United States" and "All-United States" cross country teams.

Standing on the Council platform, the unassuming young woman chuckled when Mendonca proclaimed January 12, 2011 to be "Carrie Verdon Day in Moraga."

A Link that needs to go Viral

By Sophie Braccini

What do Moragans want from their retail? What are they getting from it now? What stores would they want to have here? What should be done to improve the town? Those are some of the questions that the town's Economic Development Group is asking online in a survey. All residents who are interested in offering input about the future of Moraga may go to the Town website, www.moraga.ca.us, and

click on the survey link. This reporter took the survey; it takes 10-20 minutes depending on how long you want to ponder your answers. Read the questions carefully – some are about Moraga, others about Lamorinda. The link can be emailed to friends and relatives who live in town. Moraga's retail problem will not be solved by the survey, or by the team behind this project – Mary Coe, Richard Larsen and Renée

Zeimer; our Economic Development volunteers do not make the law and cannot make a Trader Joe's magically appear. But the survey will give weight to their arguments when they contact commercial brokers, developers, property owners and Town staff. Whether it's 2000 people saying that they want and will patron a sports bar, or a toy store; or if half the town's residents say that they sometimes need a hotel to

house a visitor; or 30% of the population claims to patronize the organic stand at the Farmers Market, this information will give the team solid ground to sell Moraga. As an added bonus, if you send your completed survey by Friday, January 21, 2011 and provide your email address, you will be eligible to win two tickets to the California Independent Film Festival to be held January 28th-February 3rd at the New Rheem Theatre.

New Housing Proposed for Rheem

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Commission is taking a look at a proposal by Mike and Jim Knappe to build a residential subdivision along Moraga Road, across from the Rheem Shopping Center and near their business, 5A Rent-A-Space. The two-acre property, on which some may fondly remember a bowling alley once stood, is located in an area defined in Moraga Municipal Code as a limited commercial district. The owners would need a conditional use per-

mit in order to build a residence. The Commission held its first study session on January 18. The project, presented by architect Galen Grant, would include 36-40 apartments and townhouses. The owners envision that the new development would provide housing for the local workforce and Saint Mary's students/staff. In its staff report, the Planning Department highlights that if the housing units were generally

available to all residents, it might not meet the conditions that have been placed on development in this district. One serious consideration would be the traffic impact during peak hours. A project that was exclusively for the Saint Mary's community or a senior housing development would be more compatible with the district's purpose. "The project would include a central area with a pool, a spa and a garden," said 5A Marketing

Director Jenny Boyd, "it would be surrounded by housing on all sides." According to the owners' application, different development options were studied over the past years for that space, including a full service hotel, a recreation facility, apartment buildings, and self storage. "After thorough review of the market and the projected financial feasibility of each idea, it appears that a housing development is the best use," they wrote.