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## Crime Awareness

By Sophie Braccini

Crime Awareness is the title of an article that Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe wrote for the latest Moraga About Town civic bulletin (online at www.moraga.ca.us). His department has hit the ground running in 2011, with a 50% increase in calls over the same time last year – as of January 28th, there were 61 calls, as compared to 41 in January of 2010.

2011's crimes-to-date include an armed robbery behind the Rheem Center and a

multiple-car theft leading to a chase by the Moraga and Orinda Police Departments that ended in an accident near Orinda's Wagner Ranch Elementary School, which killed one of the suspects (27-year-old Christina Ramos of Hayward; at press time, other suspect(s) are still at large); along with residential and property thefts, including a case of electronic equipment stolen on the Saint Mary's College (SMC) campus that ended on January 27th with the arrest of two SMC students

and the return of the stolen property. "We have definitely experienced a spike in January," says Priebe.

Moraga's police may go beyond their jurisdiction to arrest suspects. For example, in pursuit of individuals that stole a wallet from an unlocked car, Priebe's officers are conducting an investigation in Alameda County and will press charges against the suspects when they are identified. "Every time I send someone out to investigate, I need to pull off the

streets one of the two officers who are here at all times," says Priebe, "it was good to effectively put the handcuffs on the thieves that stole SMC's property, but we needed three officers, including myself, and two officers from Walnut Creek to conduct the investigation and make the arrest; this is a very expensive operation for us."

Looking at statistics from 2009 and 2010, Priebe noted that his department is the least expensive per capita in the county. "In Moraga, residents pay \$122 a year per capita for police service; in Lafayette the cost is \$198; in Orinda \$223; \$416 in Kensington; and \$164 in Clayton. With such limited resources, people should not have unrealistic expectations about what we can do."

With one officer on leave, Priebe was not able to have the detective position he hoped for – "We are customer-service oriented and do our best with what we have," he says.

If something happens, Priebe recommends that you call 911 immediately from a land line (from a cell phone call Dispatch at 925-284-5010). Residents interested in starting a 'Neighborhood Watch' group should contact Lieutenant Jeff Price at (925) 888-7049.

## As Seen in Lamorinda...



Dennis and Sandra Chiodo walk their American Miniature Horse, Sam, in the streets of Moraga. Dennis gave Sam to Sandra 15 years ago as an anniversary gift. Miniature horses are not ponies, they can pull a cart, and some are presented in shows. Sam is just a friendly pet who loves people and needs to be walked regularly. Photo Sophie Braccini

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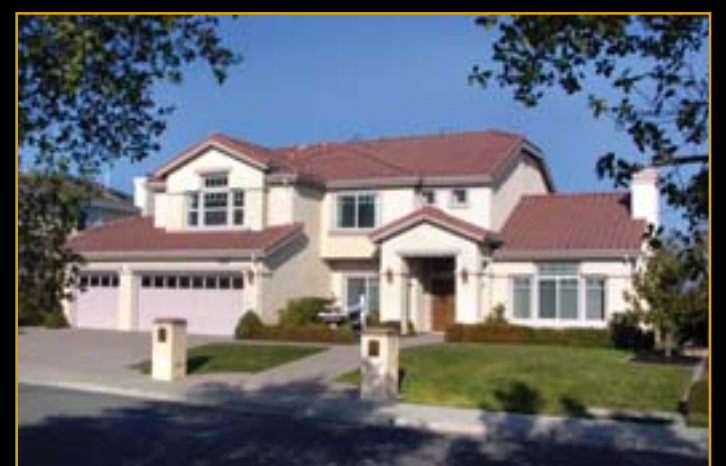
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### 1515 Sunset Loop, Lafayette

This home, located in the top-rated Lafayette School District, has plenty of room for growing and playing. With a 2000+/-sf floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, this home is welcoming and spacious. Gleaming hardwood floors take you through the formal living room to the remodeled kitchen overlooking the dining area and sunny family room. Sliding doors lead to the amazing backyard.  
**\$799,000**

Alan Marks



### 1266 Sunrise Ridge, Lafayette

Experience the serenity of this contemporary Mediterranean beauty nestled in the hills of Lafayette. Panoramic views of the hills and Briones Park, a wonderfully flowing floor plan with 4 bedrooms, den and bonus room and a cul-de-sac location make this a very special property. The lot is private with a flat backyard and is landscaped to perfection.  
**\$1,269,000**

Bill Finnegan



### 26 Longridge, Orinda

Where do you want to live? How about this beautifully appointed, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home that combines indoor and outdoor living with style. A large scenic patio has a built-in barbecue for entertaining, and a separate, secluded deck with a spa and TV hook-up. The quality appliances, heated travertine floors, & high-end finishes make this home move-in ready.  
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Elena Tyson



### 28 Watchwood Court, Orinda

This is a home that is rarely available. A one-of-a-kind, single level home in Orindawoods, customized for the original owner. This marvelous home has huge rooms - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, living room and formal dining room - all with high ceilings. As a bonus, there is an office with half bath & separate entrance. The storage space is amazing and we *all* need storage space.  
**\$997,000**

Bill Finnegan

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

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