

Civic News



Moraga

Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 pm Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, February 22, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Monday, February 28, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, March 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 •



at a nearby residence where he spent the night. Turns out – he just forgot to inform his parents.

MacBook McStolen, 2/07/11 A Campolindo student reported that sometime between 8:45 and 11:15 an unknown suspect took his MacBook laptop computer from the front passenger seat of his unlocked MiniCooper while it was parked in the school's rear parking lot. No leads at this time. Is not being able to face-book punishment enough?

Slapfest at SMC, 2/06/11 A person reported slapping another student across the face, but was disgruntled and swollen after being slapped back by the slappee, who then walked away. The instigator said her recently pierced lip hurt and her lip ring fell out, she requested prosecution.

Theft from 7-11, 2/02/11 A clerk working at 7-11 called police to report a juvenile milling around the store for approximately 45 minutes without making a purchase, then he grabbed two packs of cigarettes from behind the counter and a cell phone and exited the store without paying – for the cigarettes or the phone. It's a small store, anyone lingering that long has got to be up to no good.

Forgot to phone home, 2/04/11 A 13-year old boy was reported missing – having not been seen or heard from since leaving school the day before. After an extensive search cops found him



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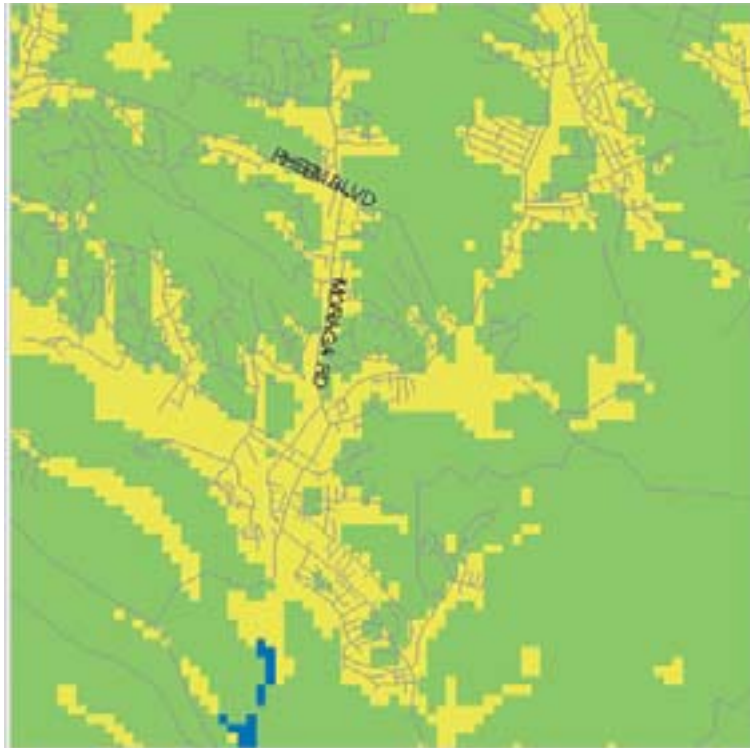
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Moraga's New Goal: Emergency Preparedness

By Sophie Braccini



The only item that really attracted a sizeable crowd at the Town of Moraga's goal prioritization session on February 9 was goal # 17: the creation of an Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Residents came to lobby for two objectives – the creation and filing of a practical Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and Town engagement in a comprehensive process involving the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), the Police Department, Town staff, and the public, to define adequate responses to different levels of risks.

The Police Department currently has a multi-volume plan that was deemed unusable by all. A

subcommittee of the Town Council was formed a few weeks ago, composed of Howard Harpham and Dave Trotter, and is meeting with Chief of Police Bob Priebe. They are considering using an EOP that was developed by the City of Danville, and is under study in Lafayette.

Moraga resident Dick Olsen brought up the issue of emergency preparedness during the first study session on Town goals. "I did so in my capacity as a Moraga citizen and not in my capacity as a (MOFD) Director," said Olsen. "At the MOFD Board of Director's January 19th meeting, I reported to that Board on what I had suggested to

the Moraga Town Council. In response, MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley stated he believed that the MOFD should become more directly involved in disaster planning in both Moraga and Orinda and that he intended to present a plan for the MOFD to do so at an MOFD Board meeting in the near future." Chief Bradley could not be reached in time to comment.

The other residents who came on February 9th are all involved in disaster recovery at some level. They were Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and instructors, or involved with Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness

committee (MNEP). "We are on our own," said CERT instructor Bruce Berman, "we need to focus on preparing our community for disaster." CERT's Gordon Nathan indicated that the town has a lot of motivated volunteers. "We are bringing information to all of the neighborhoods," added MNEP's Garry Borelli, "but we always get the same question from residents: Where do we go from there? What is the Town's plan?"

Borelli was echoed by Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin who came to share his experience with Moraga (Canyon is also served by MOFD). "The Town should prepare for emergencies on small, medium and large scales," said Goodwin, "In a large scale event (such as a strong earthquake when the soils are saturated and damage is widespread) the capabilities of any agency will be dwarfed by the demands encountered. The EOC will require personnel to run in shifts for days. In addition to inter-agency collaborative planning, owing to the paucity of available professional resources, preparedness should include pre-planned citizen involvement in such a way as to complement agency operations." He recommended inviting people from the Bay Area that have lived through emergency situation to share their input with the town. "You already have good police and fire services and you have a corps of citizen volunteers. What's missing are the policies and standards which connect them."

18 Achievable Goals for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

At the Town Liaison meeting on February 11, Mayor Karen Mendonca declared that the 18 goals the Town set for itself for 2011 were all going to happen. At the prioritization session that took place two days before, all the goals were declared a priority and staff posted them online with a timeline. The most important ones revolve around the economy.

The first category of goals is called Invest in Infrastructure. The ability to find the resources to fund infrastructure maintenance in the years to come will be one of the top criteria by which the efficiency of the Council and the Town Manager will be measured. This is one area where political will and decision-

making make the difference, in contrast to economic development, where the Town can only facilitate processes. Tonight the Revenue Enhancement Committee will present its report to the Town regarding actions to be taken this year. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium. The first step in the more than a year-long process will be to poll and inform the population about what is at stake.

The second category of goals addresses economic development. For the very first time in the Town of Moraga the term "retail ordinance" was put on paper. Oddly enough, no one asked for clarification of the term. Right now any

business that does not present a real nuisance can set up shop in Moraga if they have an agreement with a property owner.

By contrast, a retail ordinance describes the type of business the Town has determined would be best in different areas. For example in Lafayette, the special retail business district defines zones in the central area of the city, where development of an especially attractive, high-quality retail shopping area, emphasizing pedestrian convenience, is fostered. (We were unable to reach Moraga's Town Manager to define the Town's intention regarding this ordinance.)

Also among the economic development goals is a conceptual

plan for the Rheem Center on which work should begin in April. A related goal, #6 in the economic development category, reads, "Assist property owners in both shopping centers to develop and enhance their property." There has been no mention of a Moraga Center Development Agreement that was supposed to follow the approval of the Moraga Center Specific Plan (which residents may recall took seven years to finalize) and define what the property owners would do to enhance the area as new buildings emerge. Work on this goal is also set to start in April.

For a complete list of the goals with their timeline go online to www.moraga.ca.us.

Two Residents Celebrate Ten-Year Anniversary at Aegis



Herb Brown and Lottie Smith

Photo Andy Schreck

At the beginning of February Aegis staff organized a ten-year anniversary celebration for two of its residents. Readers may remember POW Herb Brown, who we interviewed two years ago. The Aegis resident, now 91 years old, was taken prisoner in the Pacific while he was a young construction worker on Wake Island. Today, physically weakened by what he endured as a captive, he has retained the will that helped him survive. When we met him at Aegis last week, the old veteran was as sharp as ever. "I cannot believe that I have lived so long," said Brown, "since my only family is a nephew living in Santa Cruz I continue to be in charge of my own affairs, and enjoy my life here." The celebration also included sweet Lottie Smith, a 95-year-old resident whose family lives in Moraga.

S. Braccini