



# Moraga

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 pm  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
 1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, April 18, 7:30 pm  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, April 25, 7:00 pm  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Liaison

Friday, May 13, 8:00 am  
 Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

**Driving post-D.U.I., 4/02/11** Near the intersection of Camino Pablo at Rimer an Acura was pulled over for having a broken tail light. The 40-year-old Moraga resident showed the officer his expired driver's license. A routine check showed his license was suspended for a prior D.U.I. He was cited and released. Big no no.

**Girls behaving badly, 4/01/11** At about 10:00 p.m. officers who were providing security for the Teen Dance at the New Rheem Theatre were notified of a physical fight involving between six and nine teenage girls in the lobby. Cops observed one teen girl being dragged outside by her hair, while another girl appeared to be hitting her with a closed fist. Both the suspect and the victim fled the scene and could not be located.

**And again that same night, 4/01/11** Police saw a boy and girl walking near Moraga Road and noticed the girl appeared to be intoxicated. The 14-year-old young lady admitted to drinking before the aforementioned teen dance. Cops called her dad to pick her up. They were informed of the Town of Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program and agreed to sign up.

**D.U.I., 3/31/11** A Dodge Ram was pulled over for making a left turn onto Camino Pablo from Canyon Road without using his signal. The 44-year-old male driver seemed drunk, so police did a blood alcohol test. The legal limit to drive is .08, but his reading came back at .177, so he was taken into custody.

**Possession of Pot, 3/31/11** Cops noticed a Ford Explorer that had a broken rear brake light. Turns out the 21-year-old driver had 8 grams, less than an ounce, of marijuana in the car. What he didn't have was proof of insurance, a driver's license, or a medical marijuana card. He was cited for all three – the pot, the insurance and the license. The pot was taken back to the police department and logged into evidence.

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## SMC Moves Fields to Make Room for New Rec Center

By Sophie Braccini

Within a few months the entrance to Saint Mary's College will look quite different. Right now, as one enters the campus on Saint Mary's Parkway, the view is of the white chapel set against the backdrop of the hills, with green fields to the left and right of the driveway. Maintaining that open feel will be a challenge when the baseball field, which is now located at the south corner of the campus, is relocated next to the college's front door.

According to the college, moving the baseball field to the east, by the entrance, is the only option short of grading the hills that will allow the construction of a new recreation center – complete with a pool – where the baseball field now stands.

"The view will never be the same," commented Design Review Board (DRB) Chair Allen Sayles during the DRB meeting on March 28. The biggest visual impact will be created by the right outfield fence located 70 feet southwest of the main entrance road.

The outfield fences will have 8-foot high green padding on the inside

of the chain link fence. A 10-foot high net fence will extend above the chain link fence on the northwest, north and northeast sides. The total height will be 18 feet. A 25x60-foot "batter's eye" wall will be installed behind the center outfield fence. There will also be a 25x35-foot score board behind the right outfield fence. The plans for the baseball field include new landscaping with redwood trees to screen the backside of the batter's eye and score board. Tension poles varying in height from 30 to 50 feet tall would be installed along the southwest, south and southeast sides of the baseball field to deflect foul balls and for the bullpen.

Brother Dominic Berardelli, Special Assistant to the President of SMC, stated that with the deep setback and the addition of trees, the perspective entering the campus would not be compromised.

The DRB unanimously approved the design of the new field and made the recommendation to cover the outside of the right outfield fence with a filling that will allow the growth of a mix of evergreen and deciduous

vines. SMC will now be working to-

wards obtaining approval for the new recreation center.

### Changes Spur Noise Concerns Among Neighbors

As Saint Mary's College moves forward with plans to shuffle its sports fields, some of its neighbors are worried about the conversion of an existing grass field, located between the Stadium and the McKeon Pavilion – close to Bollinger Canyon Road and the Bluffs residential area – to a synthetic turf playing field. Scheduled improvements include four new 70-foot high light poles with 12 lights on each pole. It's not the lights per se that the neighbors dread; with the lights comes the authorization to use the field until 10:00 p.m. – it is potential noises in the night that are raising concerns.

The college was eager to play a 'good neighbor' role as it presented the project to the community. College staff and consultants came in number the Design Review Board meeting to explain their project.

After hearing SMC's presentation and listening to the neighbors' concerns, Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack proposed that the college be allowed to light the fields until 9:00 p.m., and then perhaps earn the right to use them until 10:00 p.m.

"We were in support of the Planning Director's proposal to limit the lighting/use to 9:00 p.m. initially, as a neighborly gesture, with the proviso that it could be extended to 10:00 p.m. if nighttime use of that particular field did not present a problem to neighbors," commented Bluff's resident Frank Comprelli. "In other words, allow for the neighbors to acclimate to the new environment and get some experience with a 9:00 p.m. limit before expanding to 10:00 p.m." The DRB voted against this plan, enacting the 10:00 p.m. shut down.

## Bandshell Addition and Renovation: Park Foundation to Present Plans

By Sophie Braccini



Conceptual design of bandshell by architect Stan Nielsen

Everyone who has been to a summer concert at the Moraga Commons Park has smelled the aroma of hamburgers and hotdogs prepared on-site

for the audience. Long lines form to the right of the stage, while inside the 'snack shack,' cramped volunteers do their best to satisfy hungry spectators.

The facility needs an update, says Foundation vice president Bob Reynolds, "As our audience grows, we're a bit on top of each other working in the snack shack." Reynolds continued, "Additionally, we need to keep up with the Health Department regulations that require that food preparation be done inside."

On Thursday, April 14, the Park Foundation invites the community to view plans for the expansion and renovation of the food service facility. The meeting will be held at the Hacienda de las Flores from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be served.

The improvements would double the size of the current facility, enclosing what is now a concrete slab that extends ten feet behind the current shack. The Park Foundation believes that the upgrade will permit other local groups to organize their own events, including food preparation, at the park as well. This season will be spent planning and getting permits. Exterior construction will start this October, and a presentation to the Town is scheduled for April, 2012.

## Haffner Talks Turkey

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's large, feathered denizens may not know it yet, but a powerful adversary has just taken aim at them. During the March 23rd Town Council meeting John Haffner, Pear Prince and 2009 Moraga Citizen of the Year, complained that recurrent large flocks of Meleagris gallopavo, or wild turkeys, infest his neighborhood; leaving behind depredation and waste. Vice-Mayor Mike Metcalf asked that the issue,

and possible solutions, be studied by staff and returned to the Council for consideration.

"It is a very difficult question with animal rights issues, required Fish & Game permits, and other concerns," indicated Town Manager Jill Keimach, who said she asked Chief of Police Bob Priebe to look into the matter.

The standard procedure is to lodge a complaint with the Depart-

ment of Fish and Game. If the problem is confirmed, the department can issue an order to kill a set number of turkeys. A similar issue recently set Danville's Canyon Country Club in an uproar – the homeowner's association received a permit to have 75 birds killed, but other residents called the procedure inhumane. The Ross-moor community was also an early adopter of this method of controlling the turkey population. Six years ago

the State of California added turkeys to the list of creatures that can be killed with a permit in cases of property damage and public health problems.

"We have received complaints about turkey issues on and off for the past few years," said Priebe, "I will find out what our options are and let the Council decide how it wants to proceed."

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