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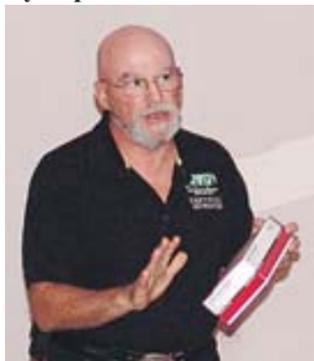
Bollinger Development on Council's Agenda Tonight

Tonight the Moraga Town Council will study three potential re-zoning options for the Bollinger Valley property owned by the Bruzzone family. The property, which is located beyond the Bluffs, could accommodate hundreds of new single family homes. The area is presently zoned as a "study area" in the General Plan.

S. Braccini

Moraga's 2011 Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



Gordan Nathan Photo A. Scheck

Gordon Nathan has been named Moraga's 2011 Citizen of the Year. Nathan's career, and later most of his free time in retirement, has been dedicated to safety and emergency preparedness. As an assessor for AAA, he trained independent contractors to meet the safety requirements of his employer. In that capacity, he assisted in the rescue operations both during the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Oakland fire. Back at home in Moraga, he was instru-

mental in the launch of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and has been an instructor, helping train hundreds of Lamorinda residents. He is also part of Rescue One, the Foundation that raises funds to support the paramedic operations of the Moraga Orinda Fire District. He will be honored at a dinner organized by the Moraga Valley Kiwanis and the Contra Costa Times on April 15 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

Tri-City Dance to be Held Despite Recent Trouble

By Sophie Braccini

Despite a fight requiring police intervention at the last teen dance held at the New Rheem Theatre, the Youth Involvement committees from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are determined to hold the dance they are jointly sponsoring on April 22. The groups have been working together, and with theater, since last November on their plans to host students from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte high schools.

A dance on April 1st that rallied 350 teens was stopped by police after a violent incident between teenage girls (see our police blotter). "I was one of the people who

intervened to break up the fight and I am still in shock," says Beau Behan, the manager of the New Rheem Theatre, "we put on these events for teens to have a safe place to have fun; this is not a money maker for us, if something like this happens again we may stop the dances." Behan adds that he's been working with the Police Chief to tighten the security rules at the theater and that people breaking those rules will be ejected.

As for the upcoming dance, "It is both the Rheem Theatre's and three teen committees' goal to make this a safe and fun dance," says Moraga Youth Involvement

Committee chair Layth Ramatala, "A large portion of our discussions were dedicated to making sure that the safety of these students are assured. There are clothing requirements along with breathalyzers and pat downs. With these precautionary measures taken, we believe that we should not confront any problems."

"The three Parks and Recreation Departments and three teen advisory committees have worked many hours to host a successful and safe event on April 22. We plan to go forward with the event," said Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram.

Confusing Incident near Rancho Laguna Park

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's office reported that on Tuesday April 5 at 4:45 p.m. a suspicious circumstance happened at 30 Quail Crossing, opposite Rancho Laguna Park. An 18-year-old male who was working on the property called out to his co-workers and said he had been shot in the belly. They called for help, and the injured man was air-

lifted to John Muir Hospital where he underwent surgery. Police conducted a search on land and in the air but could not locate a suspect. Doctors who operated on the young man could not find any trace of a bullet, and could not qualify the wound as a gun injury. According to Sheriff's staff, no one heard a gun shot and at this point it cannot be confirmed that

a shooting took place. The investigation into the incident continues.

S. Braccini

Moraga Teens Collect for Underprivileged Kids

By Sophie Braccini



MYIC displayed the supply they need at the Park Foundation Life Member reception.

Photo Kimberley Nelson

Members of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) will go door to door on April 16 to ask for donations and school supplies. The MYIC is comprised of about a dozen middle school and high school students who serve the community at Town functions, organize children's activities, and every year choose a local social justice issue they want to work on. This year, in partnership with Shelter Inc., they plan to donate 20 backpacks full of necessities that will be given to children whose families cannot provide them. "A meaningful charitable drive," commented Moraga Mayor Karen Mendonca.

"These kids are great, they impress me more and more," says Kimberley Nelson, the Recreation

and Facilities Coordinator for the Town of Moraga who is in charge of the MYIC organization, "they are committed to school, sports, then they come to the MYIC meetings and they want to do more." The idea came up as part of a group discussion. "We all agreed that it would be a memorable year if we could take on a large-scale project," says Layth Ramatala, Campolindo student and chair of the MYIC, "We originally had a few options and then narrowed it down to this backpack drive."

According to Shelter Inc., on any given night in Contra Costa County there are almost 7,000 homeless men, women, and children; 68% are part of a homeless family with children. Shelter Inc. provides them with a roof and helps the children get to school every morning.

"As always, it is difficult to understand that just 20 minutes away from us, people are struggling to make a living," says Ramatala. "I am sure everyone can agree that living in a safe place like Moraga is wonderful, but a lot of us fail to recognize that just outside of our town, people are just above or even below the poverty line. This backpack drive is not only a great way to donate to people in need, it is also a great way to inform Moragans of the hardships people face within our Contra Costa community."

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