



Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 20, 7:30 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, June 13, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, June 10, 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

Scream, not the movie, 5/30/11 Officers responded to a report of someone screaming in the Augusta Drive area. Turns out, there was a married couple who had been drinking and having a heated disagreement. Cops determined no physical contact was made and both subjects agreed to stay in separate rooms (neutral corners?) for the night.

Car accident, 5/30/11 At Moraga Road and Corliss Drive a car drove off the roadway and the female driver was injured at just after 10:00 in the morning. An off-duty paramedic and a doctor were able to stabilize the driver until paramedics arrived. At this time, it's unclear whether the driver was under the influence or suffered a medical condition that lead to the collision.

Runaway, 5/27/11 Police were dispatched to a Moraga home on a report of a missing male juvenile. The father informed cops that his 15-year-old son had left home in morning, leaving a note that said he was running away. Turns out, after making some phone calls, the young man was with a friend in the Walnut Creek area.

Chest pains, 5/26/11 A 19-year-old Ascot Drive resident was worried that he might have overdosed on methamphetamine, so he called 911. The subject was having chest pains after smoking crystal meth. Paramedics transported the young man to John Muir Hospital.

False alarms, 5/26/11 - 5/30/11 Officers responded to alarms going off at three residences - Merrill Cirlee, twice at Lenelle Court and Hardie Drive. Each time cops surveyed the perimeter and there appeared to be nothing unusual or suspicious and no signs of forced entry. Perhaps the alarm scared off potential burglars, or maybe the alarms malfunctioned.

Cougar Football

EST. 1996

FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP
 INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
 AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 - 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 11 thru July 22 (M - F)
TIMES: 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$300 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:
 925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us
 or download registration form at campofootball.com

Fun in the Sun at Sun Valley Swim Club!

Sun Valley has been the summer home for Lamorinda families since 1953. With a six-lane pool and lap swimming for adults, splash pool for toddlers, BBQ grills for after-swim dinners with your friends & neighbors, a schedule packed full of fun events and the proud home of the acclaimed Sun Valley Rays Swim team - there's just no better place to enjoy the summer!

Membership registration is going on now!

sunvalleypool.com.



Moraga's Budget: No Fat Left to Cut

By Sophie Braccini

Emily Boyd, Moraga's Interim Administrative Services Director, presented a balanced operating budget for 2011/2012 to the Town's Audit and Finance Committee on May 25. The story is a familiar one - Moraga operates within its means; Moraga is lean; Moraga is frugal; and Moraga is 'the new normal.'

This begs some questions. After all non-essential items have been cut, doesn't the Town now have to curtail expenses that will impact services to residents? Won't the lack of investment and projects for the Town end up creating an economically stagnant community? Both the Town Manager and the Mayor answer 'no', and despite harsh times for municipal finances, these public officials say they want to develop a long-term vision for the Town.

One of the cost-saving features of the 2011/2012 budget is that the position held by Senior Planner Rich Chamberlain will not be filled when the long-time staffer retires in No-

ember of 2011. Planning Director Lori Salamack is leaving this summer; she will be replaced - Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that she is interviewing some very interesting candidates at this time. The only staff left in Planning who possess institutional knowledge of the town's history will be Assistant Planner Kelly Suronen and Administrative Assistant Kelly Clancy.

"Rich's (Chamberlain) position will not be filled for now," says Keimach because, "we do not foresee a volume of development in Town requiring the filling of that position. But we are not suppressing it. When things start to pick up, and additional revenue comes in, we will hire someone." Keimach does not believe that projects such as Rancho Laguna, Palos Colorados, or the Moraga Center Specific Plan Area will start generating staff work for many months.

The tight budget does not allow for many capital improvement projects. A large part of the revenue for

capital improvements comes from one-time grants and is assigned to specific projects; like the \$737,000 in funding from Measure WW that must be used for parks and recreation and is financing the renovation of the Camino Pablo Elementary School sports field.

The only significant improvement project is the continuation of the renovation of the Town-owned building at 329 Rheem Blvd. Many of the other tasks aimed at reviving the town are managed by volunteers who offer free expertise when they have the time; such as the Town Council and the Economic Action Team.

"One of the Council's goals for the year is to develop a long term strategic financial plan," says Mayor Karen Mendonca, who is among those not paid to serve, "Jill (Keimach) and I are used to working with such plans. That helps for developing a long-term strategy." The Town Council will approve the budget at a future meeting.

Better Yield for Developer's Fees?

The two million dollar fee the Town of Moraga received from the Richfield Investments Corporation, which will eventually construct 100+ homes on its Palos Colorados property, sits in an account with a very minimal yield. No investment strategy was ever proposed for this money, other than to keep it as "bank" for the Town. Council members have asked staff, in the past, to seek other options. The challenge is to find a safe investment with high liquidity. At a May 25 meeting, Finance Committee member Gary Breaux offered to look into options that could double the yield without compromising the safety of the investment; he will report back.

Summer Concerts Start Next Week at the Commons

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Park Foundation is ready to begin the popular free summer concert series at the Moraga Commons Park (corner of Moraga Rd. and St Mary's Rd.) According to the Foundation, the lawsuit that a resident living in the vicinity is pursuing against the Town does not impact this 25+ year old tradition because, "The lawsuit (is) related to a provision of the Town's sound ordinance and will not directly impact the Summer Con-

certs," wrote the Foundation in a press release, "Summer concerts will go forward as planned."

The 2011 concert season kicks off on Thursday, June 16 with Rukatan, a Latin and Reggae music group. The free concerts will continue every Thursday evening, with the exception of the first week of July, when the Thursday concert is replaced by a Monday concert that is part of the day-long 4th of July festivities.

All shows 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 16	Rukatan	Latin & Reggae
Thursday, June 23	GatorBeat	Cajun
Thursday, June 30	Pladdogh	Celtic (local)
Thursday, July 14	Lady K & the Kings of Swing	Big Band & swing
Thursday, July 21	Moonalice	Early SF rock
Thursday, July 28	Mixed Nuts	Standards & covers
Thursday, August 4	Because	Beatles tribute
Thursday, August 11	HouseRockers	Winner KFOX's 2011 "Last Band Standing" competition
Thursday, August 18	littledog2	Moraga's rock band

Popular Process Works

By Sophie Braccini

By all appearances, Moraga residents who favor traffic calming measures are more likely to get their wish for new stop signs on Campolindo Drive than on Larch Avenue. Two groups of neighbors followed the same process of public meetings and petitions outlined in the Traffic Calming Guide. A group of Larch residents were stopped in their tracks because half of the abutting neighbors opposed new stop signs; but some Campolindo residents will proceed to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

It's been eight months since Rebecca and Christopher Maher started expressing their interest in having two new stop signs added at the intersection of Campolindo Dr. and Calle La Montana—at this time, there are stop signs only on Calle La Montana. The Mahers, who live a short distance from the intersection and have four young children, communicated concerns about the excessive speed of vehicles traveling on Campolindo Dr. and about the grade and bend in the roadway near the intersection that limits visibility for drivers entering Campolindo from Calle La Montana. A report from Chief of Police Bob Priebe supported their concerns.

The Mahers were informed by the Town of the requirements set by the Traffic Calming Guide: The owners of at least 75% of the properties abutting the sign area must approve of the new stop signs; and

70% of those who own nearby properties must approve. "For us it was a matter of getting signatures from 65 homes, and it was quite a challenge with 4 young children," said R. Maher, "that's why it took so long."

Although 100% of the owners of properties abutting the intersection approved of new stop signs, they came up two signatures short of 70% approval from nearby properties.

"Some neighbors further away said they would not be affected (by new signs) because by the time drivers reached their homes they would already have sped up," said R. Maher, "so they declined to have their name and phone number listed."

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) member Rev. John Valentine expressed the concern that approving the project could set a precedent. "The document (Traffic Calming Guide) requires that 70% approve via petition," he said, "We need to be alert to the fact that in the future ... we might get a resident would refer to today's decision." Valentine nonetheless moved to approve sending the project to the Town Council for discussion; the Committee agreed, demonstrating a willingness to abide by the spirit of the Guide rather than the letter.

If the Council approves the new installation, the cost of the signs and related red curbing will be borne by the project proponents with no net cost to the Town.

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Summer Park Program, July 11 - August 19 (pick one or both months)

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