



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, November 21, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Moving phone, 10/25/11 At approximately 9:00 p.m. a St. Mary's student was playing indoor soccer at the school gymnasium when he placed his phone outside the gym's back door – apparently to keep it from getting injured by an errant ball. When he checked on it a couple of hours later the phone had disappeared. Being a smart phone – it conveyed that at 11:15 p.m. it was in Oakland, shortly thereafter, the phone was unable to be located. The thief must be smarter than the phone.

Hit and run, 10/26/11 Cops came to Home Goods on a report of a hit and run collision. While the driver was shopping, an unknown car hit her parked grey Toyota van causing damage to the passenger side. No note was left and no witnesses could be found. Damage is estimated at \$2,500 – must have been more than just a tap.

Rings vanish, 10/15/11 A Walford Drive resident reported that sometime between January and mid-October and unknown person removed three gold rings from a jewelry box on top of her dresser in the master bedroom. Estimated value \$5,500.

Missing her appointment, 10/28/11 An elderly Warfield Drive woman failed to show up at a hairdressing appointment in Lafayette. The caregiver who made the call to alert cops that she was missing also stated that she had accidentally taken a sleeping pill instead of her regular medication. The subject was later found slightly disoriented in Orinda behind the post office.

Mail order drugs, 10/30/11 A concerned father called police to inform them his juvenile son had received anti-anxiety medicine in the mail. The dad suspected his son had used his credit card without permission, but had no proof. The young man was counseled about the dangers of mail-order drugs and using a credit card without permission. No one was arrested and the drugs were disposed of.

Stealing booze, 10/31/11 Rather, attempting to steal booze from CVS pharmacy. Store staff said the subject entered the store, took two bottles of alcohol and left without paying. The underage suspect was detained and \$27 worth of booze was returned to the store. The suspect was placed under citizen's arrest, then released to a parent. Not much of a trick or treat for would-be thief.

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Division over Dividing Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

A record number of residents attended the Moraga Town Council meeting on October 26 hoping to influence what they thought would be a final decision on the off-leash dog policy at Rancho Laguna Park. But after the clock struck midnight the Council, unable to reach a majority vote to approve the plan proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department, decided to continue the discussion at a meeting set for December 14.

During 30 months of debate some progress has been made and several common elements have emerged: a dedicated dog area, physically separated from other users, will be created within the existing park, the dogs will have access to some turf, and the tot lot will be located on the south side of the park.

Whether some of the existing

lawn will be included in the dog park is still undecided, but it is likely that the dog area will be located on the northeast part of the property. On December 14, no public comment will be allowed because the process will start exactly where it stopped, at the Council's final deliberation.

Moraga resident Bill Carman, representing the organization Lamorinda Dogs, presented a map for the park that offered an alternative to the sketch proposed by Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram. Where Ingram proposed a fenced dog area under trees and only on dirt, Carman's vision included a large portion of the grassy area to the east of the park. His map, with a path in the shape of a Mickey Mouse head, rallied much support among dog owners, and he was asked by the Council to prepare a more detailed presentation.

Many park users asked for the park to be left alone. "Rancho Laguna is not a dog park, it is a people park," said Alex Popov, "just leave it alone." Brad and Suellen Winegar, who live across from the park and love it the way it is, proposed to experiment by tweaking the off-leash hours before spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix the park: "Maybe longer off-leash hours in the morning, and alternate nights in the summer evenings," suggested Suellen Winegar.

An unusually large number of people who reported feeling excluded from the park due to the dogs also came to the meeting. "Having the park with free dogs is a hazard," said Virginia Falconer, "I want to use the park and should have the right to do it safely." "All dog parks have something in common, they are fenced,"

said Tina Chambers.

After the public comment, the Council began its discussion. Some animosity was apparent, particularly between Mayor Karen Mendonca and Council Member Dave Trotter. Council Member Chew, supported by Mendonca, wanted to approve Ingram's plan. Trotter wanted to avoid haste and review the different possibilities in detail at a later date, to make sure that dog users who have been enjoying the grassy area for decades would not be unfairly deprived of what many consider to be an important part of their lives.

A vote to continue the debate on December 14 was finally snatched by Trotter with the support of Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Howard Harpham, despite the opposition of Mendonca and Chew.

Clean Water

By Sophie Braccini



New Zealand Mudsnail

Photo provided

Moraga is a one-outlet town when it comes to storm water; all of it flows to the San Leandro reservoir – the main source of our drinking water. The Town of Moraga, in order to keep its storm

water permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, has the obligation to keep the creek banks clean and develop a trash reduction plan. But most of Moraga's creeks are bordering private proper-

ties, and all that the Town's staff can do is educate residents to do their part to keep Moraga waters pristine.

"When a group of teen volunteers cleaned up the Town-owned banks of the creeks in the Commons Park all they collected, besides the obvious lost balls and Frisbees, was four Safeway plastic bags," says Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert, "It's the same thing when we monitored storm drains for trash; we

found very little waste." Other towns find loads of plastic bags, tires, even appliances, and when they are close to a freeway they collect wind-born debris. "Our good results are an indication of the pride our residents have in their town," says Sherbert. The Town has nonetheless an obligation to engage in a trash reduction program per State mandate.

... continued on page A8

Veterans Day Ceremony
11/11/11 at 11:00
Moraga Commons Park



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