

Three Seats, Four Candidates as of August 10

There are currently four contenders for the three open seats on the Moraga Town Council for voters to choose between in the November General Election. Incumbents Karen Mendonca and Mike Metcalf will be joined in the race by challengers Phillip Arth (Retired CPA) and current Planning Commissioner Roger Wykle (Engineer/Business Owner). Incumbent Howard Harpham is not seeking re-election, so the nomination period will remain open through August 15.

We will update our website if additional candidates file nomination papers by today's deadline. *L.Borrowman*

Moraga Pear Harvest Precedes Festival

By Cathy Dausman



Volunteers pack pears

Photo Cathy Dausman

It's pear picking time again in Moraga as volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 234, local National Charity League members and area residents gathered recently to collect firm, green pears from trees, and box the

harvest for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. The harvest is in its 14th year. Food Drive Coordinator Joan Tomasini said volunteers picked 7,791 pounds of pears this year.

Volunteers remove still- green

pears from trees with long handled fruit pickers on loan from the Moraga Park Foundation. The pears are refrigerated at the food bank for about a week before distribution. No pears go to waste—ripe, dropped or bruised fruit is set aside for use as animal feed. Food grade pears are boxed and loaded on pallets. Each box weighs about 35 pounds; each pallet holds 30 boxes.

"It's the right temperature" this year for picking, noted MPF's Karen Reed, who remembers it being uncomfortably hot for the volunteers last year. She said although some trees are small, they could be 100 years old. Moraga was once one of the largest pear producing areas in the United States. If you missed the work party, you can still celebrate all things pear at the Moraga Pear & Wine Festival September 29 at the Moraga Commons. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Town Staff to Leave Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

"It's definitely low budget, Moraga way," says Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach about the completion of 329 Rheem Boulevard as a Town Hall and the creation of a meeting room and a Field Operation Center at 331 Rheem, which once housed a fire station. The remodeling began many years ago when

the Town purchased the building at 329 Rheem. Staff recently confirmed that a schedule is in place for the final move of Town offices and Town Council meetings could be held at 331 Rheem early next year.

It was a promise made to the community by the Council—staff would be out of the Hacienda by

2012. Engineering staff moved from the Hacienda in January and finance staff will arrive in the Rheem offices this fall. The Parks and Recreation Department will remain conveniently located in the Hacienda, where most of the town's recreation activity takes place.

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