



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.
 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
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

April Fools' Party, 4/01/13 No joke for a Miramonte Drive resident. Although there were only seven people in the home, apparently they were making a lot of noise at 10:30 p.m. and drinking alcoholic beverages. The resident was issued an Unruly Party Warning Notice, and the festivities promptly ended.

Kids on the roof, 4/01/13 Cops were called to Los Perales Elementary School on a report of three subjects on the roof. Upon arrival, cops looked around and were unable to locate the subjects.

Can you pull over? 4/01/13 A sedan veered off the roadway and into a ditch. Apparently the driver was actually aiming for a driveway, but lost control of the car on the wet street. One of the elderly passengers needed to use the restroom. There were no injuries and a tow truck was able to un-ditch the car stuck off of Canyon Road.

Annoying protesters, 4/01/13 April Fools' prank or free speech? A group of LaRouche protesters set up shop on the sidewalk in front of the Post Office. They had posters and were handing out flyers. An anonymous caller reported they "were not setting a good example for the kids who live in Moraga." Because they were engaging in constitutionally protected free speech, there was no violation. Cops suggested they shop in the area to contribute to the local economy.

Not sewing needles, 3/31/13 Two 22-year-olds were parked in a car on Camino Ricardo at Whiting Court flicking their cigarette ashes out the window. Police approached them and could smell booze, so they were given field sobriety tests. Jackpot; a search of the car found several methamphetamine pipes, aluminum foil used to smoke oxydocone, a clonazepan tablet and three hypodermic needles.

Driving with suspended license, 3/30/13 A silver Mercedes was stopped on Moraga Road near Donald Drive for speeding – going 49 in a 35 zone. The 22-year-old driver had a suspended license for D.U.I. The fellow was arrested and released at the scene after signing a Promise to Appear. His father happened to be in the car, so he took the wheel and drove them home.



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Saint Mary's College Introduces New President

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Past president Brother Mel Anderson, president-elect James Donahue and current president Brother Ronald Gallagher. Photo provided

For the first time in its 150-year history, Saint Mary's College is hiring a lay president. Dr. James A. Donahue will begin his term July 1 as the school's 29th president. Donahue is currently the president of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and was introduced to the Saint Mary's community as a distinguished scholar and a committed,

engaged Roman Catholic. Brother Donald Johanson, Provincial of San Francisco Province of the Order of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, introduced Donahue on March 27. "It is with complete trust and confidence that I entrust the college to James Donahue's capable hands," he said. Michael Beseda, vice president

for college communications, added later that the Brothers of Saint Mary's are 100 percent behind the hiring of the lay president. "All the Brothers I talked to were ecstatic about the decision," he said. "They were surprised to find in Dr. Donahue someone so perfectly aligned with their values." The president-elect promised to

dedicate himself with all that he has to make Saint Mary's College the finest academic institution it possibly can be. Donahue immediately demonstrated his understanding of the college's values. "What Saint Mary's offers today is what the world desperately needs and desperately wants," he said. "Our mission is clear: to probe the fundamental questions of human existence in the context of the Catholic and Lasallian tradition, to develop and understanding of the human person, in all of our complexity... and a commitment to service to others and to creating a community that is inclusive, diverse and respectful... this is the mission that draws me to Saint Mary's College."

Donahue was selected after an extensive six-month international search, which was guided by a 17-member search committee made up of trustees, faculty, staff and alumni. "His exceptional qualities as an outstanding leader in higher education, academic scholarship, proven track record in financial management and fundraising, and commitment to Catholic higher education made James Donahue our unambiguous choice to be the college's first lay president," said Russell Harrison, chair of the board of trustees.

School District Argues Statute of Limitations in Civil Case

By Sophie Braccini

Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Judith Craddick asked attorneys March 29 for more written arguments before she decides if the statute of limitations applies to the civil case put forward by Kristen Cunnane against the Moraga School District and three former administrators for negligence that led to her sexual abuse by a teacher in the 1990s.

According to Louis Leone, an attorney representing the school district, the hearing had been postponed for several months in order for the parties to seek a mutual agreement. "The mediation lasted for two full days and ended after the attorneys for Ms. Cunnane and the insurance carrier for the district could not reach an accord," he said.

During arguments before Judge Craddick the school district's attorneys maintained the line of defense they established back in October 2012; Leone argued that Cunnane's case was filed after the time allowed

under the statute of limitations. "The law requires timely filings in order to give defendants a fair chance and to prevent situations like this one, in which the evidence and allegations are nearly 20 years old," said Leone.

Cunnane's attorneys disagreed. "They (the defendants) say it's too late for her to seek justice. Their position, essentially, is that Kristen should have known they were engaged in a massive cover-up. The argument is offensive and it will not prevail," said attorney Paul Llewellyn. "The more we learn about what was going on in the Moraga School District in the 1990s, the more committed we are to holding the District accountable for what Kristen and others suffered as a result of the District's failure to protect its students and the related cover-up."

Superintendent Bruce Burns indicated the day before the hearing that the district was continuing to seek a


settlement with Cunnane.

In the meantime a former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher, identified as Carol Scozzafava, told reporters from the Contra Costa Times that she warned administrators multiple times of possible child molestation at the school in the '90s; she said no one listened to her and she was pushed to resign.

"This was the first time I had heard the name of that teacher," said Burns. "I looked in our files and all we have is a standard letter of resignation." Burns, who joined the District years after the molestation scandal, added that he is personally eager to find more facts. "If someone has more information we want to hear about it," he said. "We want to understand fully what happened so we can prevent anything of the sort from ever happening again."

In 1996 JM science teacher Dan Witters was accused by several stu-

dents of sexual abuse; he committed suicide a short time later. Three years ago, Cunnane came forward and accused her former JM physical education teacher, Julie Correa, of sexually abusing her over a period of years. Correa was convicted and is now serving an eight-year sentence. Cunnane filed a civil suit against the Moraga School District, retired JM principal Bill Walters, retired assistant principal Paul Simonin and retired superintendent John Cooley when it surfaced a year ago that some district staff knew about Witters' conduct before charges were brought forth and failed to report it, as mandated by law. Cunnane's claim is that this negligence enabled and empowered Correa to abuse her without fear of repercussion. Two other unidentified women filed suits last October for more than \$15 million each claiming the same defendants' inaction led to them being sexually abused by Witters.



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Average Electric Bill in 20 years	\$119	\$306	\$599	\$910	\$1,221	\$1,532	\$1,843	\$2,154	\$2,465
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*Based on 6.7% inflation from the utility company.
¹Includes all necessary expenses
²Combination of Utility Company and PPA