



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

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

Vandalism, 7/24/13 An Arroyo Drive resident woke up to broken glass from a 1996 Ford Explorer that was parked at the curb in front of the house. Sometime between 9 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. the next morning an unknown suspect smashed the rear window of the vehicle. No witnesses or leads at this time.

More vandalism, 7/24/13 Same night, different neighborhood, this time on Rheem Boulevard. Sometime between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. a pellet-type round was shot into the rear window of a 1996 Subaru while the car was parked in the driveway. Estimated cost to replace the window is \$350.

Vandalism trend continues, 7/24/13 A Warfield Drive resident heard a loud noise around 9:30 p.m., so he looked outside and saw a car driving away. He also noticed the driver's side window of his car was smashed. Fortunately nothing had been taken from the car – again no witnesses, besides the homeowner.

Car vs. fire hydrant, 7/25/13 At the corner of Campolindo Drive and Moraga Road a silver sedan collided with a fire hydrant. The 22-year-old driver was determined to be under the influence and his 22-year-old passenger was also less than sober. Both fellows were taken to Martinez Detention Facility; one for D.U.I. and one for public intoxication. No mention of injuries in the police report.

D.U.I. 7/23/12 Moraga police responded to a single vehicle crash into a concrete wall on Fernwood Drive at Bedford Place. The driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The passenger was injured and was taken to the hospital by the Moraga Orinda Fire Department.

Suspicious circumstances, 7/17/13 A concerned Calle La Mesa resident called police to report a small group of adults purportedly representing the Jehovah's Witnesses loitering in her driveway, that quickly scattered when she approached them. Cops checked the area but didn't find any subjects matching the description provided. The reporting person wished to have the incident documented in case the group was engaged in "nefarious" activity.



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Concerts in the Park: Going Beyond the Bun

By Sophie Braccini



Volunteer Judy Ayres prepares a pulled pork sandwich special.
Photo Ohlen Alexander

Summer in Moraga is a time when everybody goes to the park for the Thursday evening concerts. Traditionally, the food offered at the event for those without a picnic basket didn't stray much from the usual burgers and hot dogs. But board members of the Moraga Park Foundation, which funds and organizes the events, want to add culinary delight to auditory pleasure. They are now cooking different gourmet dishes at each concert. "We want to enrich the experience of the people who come to the concert by providing them with specials at each concert," says board member Stan Nielsen, who often cooks himself. "We want to be creative and possibly propose a special that matches the music playing that night."

Nielsen says it became possible when the snack shack at the Commons was expanded, giving the volunteers who spend the night feeding the community enough room and tools to be inventive. "The food we traditionally serve, hot dogs and hamburgers, is a good menu for the kids," he says, "but we wanted to add something a little more adult to the equation."

Judy Dinkle was the cook July 25 and prepared her beloved pulled-pork sandwiches. On Aug. 1, when Gator Beat performs, Nielsen will prepare Cajun fish tacos. "And when Zebop comes, we will serve grilled chicken and poblano tacos that will go well with the Latin rock music." Nobody on the foundation board is a professional cook, so they decided to start small. "We started by preparing 30 servings of the special, then as it becomes popular we will increase the number."

The specials require more costly ingredients than the traditional meals, and because the concert food is also a fundraiser for the foundation the group does not want to take the risk of preparing more than would be sold. The specials have been selling out in short order; interested diners arriving after 7 p.m. are usually out of luck.

"The board's intent is just to make the concert experience better any way we can," says Nielsen. "Maybe soon people will come not only to listen to great music, but also to have a great meal."

For more information about the Moraga Park Foundation visit www.moragaparks.org.

Country Club Questions City Ventures

By Sophie Braccini

A proposed multi-family housing development along Moraga Way recently met with strong opposition from Moraga Country Club. The developer, City Ventures Residences, organized a series of information sessions for MCC residents to explain its project, clarify misconceptions and hear concerns.

One such meeting took place July 16. Representatives from City Ventures were quick to point out that the 54 two- and three-story condominiums planned for the vacant lot between Moraga Way and Country Club Drive, with a starting price in the mid \$700,000s, will not be low-income housing. They also explained that this development is not related to Plan Bay Area, a program that has garnered much attention lately.

The project falls under the Moraga Center Specific Plan; approved two years ago, the specific plan allows for the future development of 700 housing units in the vicinity of the Moraga Center.

Residents expressed concerns about the high density of the project and the traffic that will result. "When the Moraga Center Specific Plan was adopted, the cities of Lafayette and Orinda expressed serious concerns about traffic impacts," recalled one MCC resident. "It was explained at the time that the new houses would be for people who are downsizing and not traveling much outside town, students who go to Saint Mary's and local workforce such as police officers or teachers. But now, we are told a very different story by the developer."

In their presentation, City Ventures representatives indicated that the development would be for young families and people downsizing. "Three-story homes do not have a lot of appeal to people who are aging," said another resident. "You should consider single-story homes." All the residents agreed that the developer's forecast of 25 trips per hour at peak times was grossly underestimated. "If you have young families and both people work, you will have 100 trips at commute time," said one resident.

Not enough parking inside the development was also a recurrent theme. "Now, on the other side of Country Club Drive, you already have people parking on the street and housing is much less dense

there," commented a concerned resident. "People will park all the way to the putting green!"

"We want to listen and find a way to work with the community," said City Ventures' Phil Kerr, "but this is a privately owned property that has already been approved for a certain type of development at a certain density. If we do not come, then, what will happen?"

The developer is continuing to work with the Planning Department and will provide additional data regarding traffic and parking. The project is likely to appear on planning and design review meeting agendas over the next several months – interested Moragans can check the town calendar for upcoming commission and committee meetings at www.moraga.ca.us/calendar.

Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

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