



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 11, 7 p.m. canceled
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 23, 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

D.U.I. 8/27/13 An 18-year-old male and his 16-year-old female passenger were stopped when the vehicle drove through a stop sign at the intersection of Camino Pablo and Hodges Drive at 2:30 a.m. The driver showed signs of intoxication and flunked his field sobriety test. Turns out the young lady had snuck out of the house and her mom didn't know where she was. The mom was surprised at her whereabouts and came to pick her up. A parent's nightmare.

Petty theft, 8/24/13 An unlocked car and a purse in plain view – not a terrific combination. Presumably the parking area at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School is safe – but there's a reason the cops call these crimes of opportunity. Upon her return, the victim noticed her purse had been rifled through and \$300 cash and a credit card were taken. No leads at this time.

Hot dog, 8/24/13 Police responded to a call reporting a dog locked in a vehicle on Moraga Road on a warm day. Apparently the pooch was not in duress, the car was parked in the shade and the windows were open. The owner returned to the car shortly after the cops arrived. The owner explained she knew the hazards of leaving an animal inside a car, which is why she parked in the shade.

D.U.I. 8/24/13 In the wee hours of the morning police pulled over a Chevy Silverado pick-up on Moraga Road north of Campolindo Drive after watching the car cross a double yellow line and nearly collide with the officer's patrol vehicle. No, that wasn't perfume, but eau de alcohol officers sniffed. The driver's blood alcohol level was 0.10 percent, so he was arrested for D.U.I., taken to the police department and later released to a family member after signing a Promise to Appear. Kind of like death and taxes, signing a promise to the police.

Loud Party, 8/23/13 Law enforcement responded to a loud party on Ascot Drive. Cops could clearly hear the festivities from approximately 50 feet away. About 60 unwanted partygoers were "removed," notes the police report, after cops advised them of the noise complaint. The host apartment dweller got an official warning.

Fire assist, 8/23/13 There was a garage fire at a home on Sullivan Drive around 9 p.m. Police contacted neighbors who advised that the homeowners were not there and they (the neighbors) had extinguished the fire. MOFD arrived and had to open the wall to gain access to the residence to ensure that the fire had been properly extinguished. Shortly thereafter the homeowner arrived and found out the cause appeared to be faulty electrical wiring in the garage. The damage is estimated at \$10,000.



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Making a Local Treasure More Visible

The Hacienda Foundation's strategic plan

By Sophie Braccini



Hacienda entrance

Photo Andy Scheck

The Hacienda Foundation recently gave the Moraga Town Council an update on its work toward development of a strategic plan for the Hacienda de las Flores, the town-owned property at 2100 Donald Drive that serves as Moraga's community

center. The historic building that many regard as the jewel of Moraga has been improved over the last seven years through the leadership of the private foundation.

The property generates revenue through rentals for weddings and recreation classes, and recently be-

came a popular spot for breakfast and lunch. But several challenges remain: the facility still costs the town about \$200,000 every year; the largely unoccupied second floor is not ADA compliant; the area remains an elusive destination due to a lack of signage; and parking is limited.

"Our mission is to enhance, preserve and promote the Hacienda de las Flores," Steve Woehleke, the foundation's president, said during his Aug. 28 presentation to the Town Council. "We have accomplished many projects, optimizing the current facility and its grounds. We need your support to continue."

The Hacienda Foundation is a private entity comprised of residents who give their time and competence pro bono to foster its mission. The foundation established several popular annual community events, including the Cinco de Mayo and Oktoberfest celebrations, and has conducted renovation projects such as the recent restoration of the Pavilion. "Even more valuable than the direct funding is the professional services provided free-of-charge by board members," said Woehleke, referring to the countless hours of conception, design, project management and execution of the projects.

... continued on page A13

Make Your Neighborhood Safe

Moraga Night Out is Sept. 22

By Sophie Braccini

2013 Moraga Night Out

September 22, 2013

Image provided

The devastating fire in the Sieras and the perception of an increase in the number of home and car burglaries closer to home have Moraga residents asking questions about their safety. The town's first Moraga Night Out on Sept. 22 is a perfect opportunity to get answers. Think of it as a block party with special guests – police and fire safety professionals, who will come to share information.

The event is a project of the Moraga Citizens Corps Council. In Orinda, the annual event is well estab-

lished and many neighborhoods are in the habit of getting together every year. In Moraga, three neighborhoods have signed up so far, in the Sanders Drive/Carr Drive area and Campolindo. In addition, restaurants at the Rheem Center will feature "Family Specials." Most of the events will be held from 4 to 6 p.m.

"The traditional National Night Out has a crime prevention focus," says Dennis Rein, safety coordinator for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. "Ours will be broader based and in-

clude crime prevention, emergency preparedness, fire safety and an opportunity to meet our local political leaders, police and firefighters, and see emergency vehicles up close." He adds that, in his professional opinion, a large part of emergency preparedness is about creating relationships and knowing what to do when something out of the ordinary happens. "Knowing your neighbors and the capabilities of local police and firefighters will help us all get through the next big disaster," says Rein, who just returned from the Rim Fire scene in Yosemite.

Neighborhoods are organizing a variety of get-togethers, ranging from a barbecue at the neighborhood pool to an ice cream social. The Moraga Chamber of Commerce invites residents to come to the Rheem Center and get to know their neighbors and the business community. Police and fire representatives will be on hand to answer questions. The Rheem event is from 4 to 6 p.m. and involves the art gallery as well as the restaurants.

"I thought it was a good idea," says Gordon Nathan, who lives on Carr Drive and has been talking to his

neighbors about emergency preparedness for years. "It is important that we think about keeping safe, and having neighbors get together to talk about it is a great idea." In his neighborhood, Nathan has invited people in 47 homes to come to his house for a potluck dinner, and there will be games for the kids.

Moraga police lieutenant Jeff Price is in charge of organizing the visits of his officers to neighborhoods. "It is important for us that people be on the lookout and know their neighbors," he says. On Sept. 22, officers will visit the neighborhoods having a Night Out event and will share information about current crime trends and how to make homes less attractive to would-be criminals.

'Neighborhood' in Moraga is a loosely defined concept. "There are really no boundaries to a neighborhood. What's important is getting people together," says Rein. There is still time to invite your neighbors and register your block party with the town – just send an email to nightout@moraga.ca.us to schedule visits from elected officials, police, and fire representatives.

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presents

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in Children & Teens

Sunday, Sept. 22
6:00 p.m. \$10

Ken Ginsburg, M.D.
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