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Arbor Day in Moraga



Some of Moraga's Town Council members joined Jay Ingram, parks and recreation director, as he planted one new tree in Moraga Sept. 28. From left: Phil Arth, Roger Wykle, Dave Trotter, Jay Ingram (digging), Mike Metcalf. Photo Sophie Braccini

Jay Ingram, Moraga's Parks and Recreation director, tries hard to muster excitement about Arbor Day. At the Sept. 25 Town Council meeting he placed a baby tree by each council member. The Town Council proclaimed Sept. 28 to be Arbor Day in Moraga, but the charming greenery did not inspire it to go beyond its commitment to plant one tree per year, which has been the rule since the town joined Tree City USA in 2008. Hopes were high then, in the spirit of J. Sterling Morton who inspired the planting of 1 million trees in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day in 1872. Today, Tree City USA plants over 10 million trees each year.

The tree planted in Moraga this year replaced a tree that had died at the same spot, along St. Mary's Road by the entrance to the Moraga Commons Park. The Japanese Pistachio tree was planted near existing irrigation to ensure its survival.

Food for thought - the Florida community of Punta Gorda, population 16,000, won the Arbor Day Celebration Award last spring when sixth-graders assisted in planting six new trees in the town's park.

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