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Civic News Moraga

No Parking on St. Mary's Road



Crosswalk, trail entrance and no-parking signs on St. Mary's Road Photo Sophie Braccini

The town of Moraga and Saint Mary's College are engaged in discussions about parking and transit concerns. The town's first initiative was to install "No Parking" signs on St. Mary's Road opposite the campus. Town staff stated that this was done "to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on St. Mary's Road, in the area of Saint Mary's College." At the Oct. 23 Town Council meeting, town manager Jill Keimach said that the decision to ban parking

is intended to prevent people who are attending special events at SMC from crossing the busy thoroughfare unsafely in the middle of the block. The college supports the new signage, she added. Not allowing parking will also permit pedestrians coming from the Lafayette-Moraga trail to have a clearer view of traffic when using the crosswalk between the trail and the campus.

S. Braccini

Business is Not Booming for Moraga's TSAC

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Traffic Safety Advisory Committee had its first meeting of the year on Oct. 21. The committee decided that John Valentine and Richard Sauvé will again serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, and agreed that Larry Rosenberg will be its representative on the Livable Moraga Road advisory committee.

The short agenda included a discussion about parking at Saint Mary's College during special events. College representatives presented their strategy to administer parking at special college events, ensure smooth visitor access, avoid excessive congestion on public streets and accommodate parking demands within campus boundaries.

"The main strategy of the plan is to have designated college staff responsible for advance planning," according to the staff report. Committee members queried SMC representatives regarding the implementation of the plan and received reassurance from Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe who stated that the process has always gone smoothly and that SMC coordinates with his forces in advance of events. TSAC approved the college's plan.

The committee then asked the existential question, "Should TSAC continue to exist?" TSAC is chartered as a five-member body but

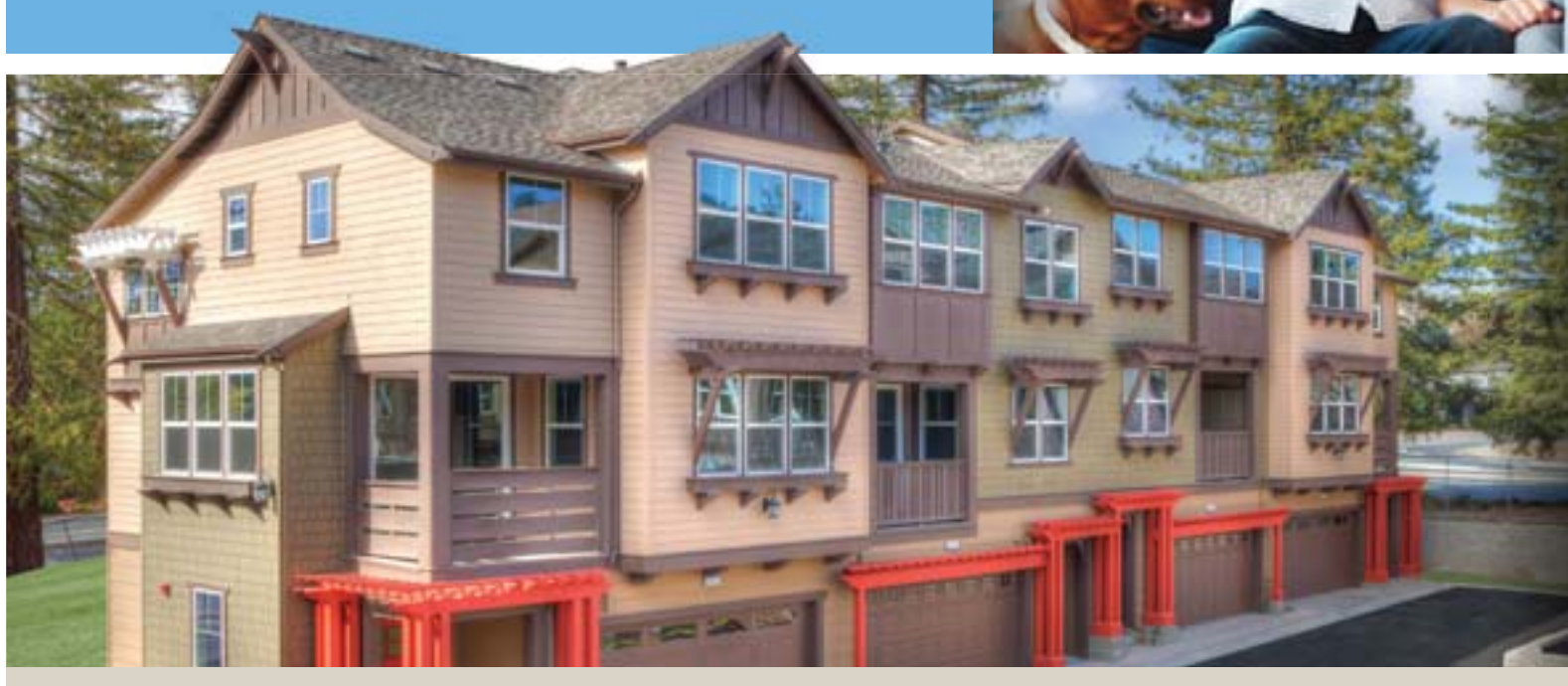
has had difficulty recruiting new volunteers – it currently has only three sitting members.

In the wake of an ill-fated speed-bump project on Camino Pablo in 2008, TSAC was revived and wrote its new charter to be an advisory body that would study traffic issues in town, conduct public hearings and hear expert testimony before making recommendations to the Town Council.

Since its inception, TSAC has discussed many issues including the roundabout at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard, additional stop signs on Campolindo Drive and Tharp Drive and safe pedestrian access to a local elementary school. But the number of requests by residents to improve circulation has fallen off – so the committee had no need to meet in 2013 before October.

During the meeting, committee members emphasized the need to recruit new volunteers and decided to conduct their meetings every three months, or more often if needed. TSAC members serve for two years; the terms of the current members end next March. Rosenberg confirmed he hopes to be reappointed, while Sauvé said he would not seek selection again and Valentine was undecided.

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