



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 13, 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

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, Jan. 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



Police Report

Stolen car found, 12/08/13 A report of an abandoned vehicle was matched with a report of the very same car being stolen from a Walnut Creek resident. The car had been parked on Miramonte Drive for more than a week. One witness stated an adult male exited the vehicle on Nov. 29. An early holiday gift for the car's owner.

Unwelcome mom, 12/07/13 Two roommates share a place on Ascot Drive. The mother of one of the roommates entered the apartment and refused to leave. The reporting person said that her roommate's mom is on the lease, but her presence was unwelcome at that time. Apparently the gal borrowed keys from the roommate's mom and the mom wanted the keys back. She had made a copy of the key, then returned the original to the mom.

Same apartment, later that night, 12/08/13 Moraga police responded to a loud party complaint after midnight about loud music, voices and college-age adults leaving the unit. The tenant was informed of the noise complaint and was issued a Town of Moraga Loud Party Ordinance notice. No further complaints

Party without the parents, 12/07/13 The parents of a 15-year-old girl picked up their daughter who was intoxicated at a Brandt Drive home and called to report that the homeowners were out of town and their 15-year-old son, who was home alone, hosted a small party that later got out of control. The teenage boy admitted that alcoholic beverages were being consumed, but wisely, he had cleaned up before the police arrived. Only four youths were at the home when cops rolled up; they did not appear to have been drinking, but they were picked up by their parents anyway. The teenage host was picked up by a family friend and supervised until his parents, the homeowners, arrived.

Out of gas, while slightly buzzed, 12/07/13 A 2009 Honda that was still warm to the touch was blocking the roadway at the intersection of Corliss Drive and Wakefield Drive at 2:40 a.m. Police located the registered owner who lived several blocks away. Turns out the car owner's 17-year-old daughter took the vehicle without permission and ran out of gas. While the officers were checking the scene the teenager showed up with a gallon of fuel. Nope, it wasn't fumes but the smell of alcohol the cops noticed. She submitted to a blood alcohol test that registered 0.015 percent, less than the threshold of 0.08 percent, but she is under age. The young lady, and her mom, agreed she would enter the Juvenile Diversion Program and was released to her mom at the scene.

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Passing the Gavel, Moraga Style

By Sophie Braccini



Ken Chew with Supervisor Candace Andersen Photo Sophie Braccini

The passing of the gavel on the Moraga Town Council should have been a piece of cake. In 2013 the all-male Town Council worked mostly in unison. The meeting Dec. 11 started with outgoing mayor Dave Trotter saying a few words about the town's accomplishments in 2013 and his anticipation of what would ensue, namely the cooperative work with the school district, Saint Mary's College and Campolindo High School to share sports facilities, and the study of the hillside and ridgeline development

rules that may lead to amendments of the General Plan. But when it came time to nominate the next mayor, an awkward silence ensued.

Being mayor does not carry any particular voting privileges and the seat is rotated among elected officials, traditionally in the order of the number of votes received. Four years ago Councilmember Michael Metcalf tried unsuccessfully to convince his colleagues to forgo Ken Chew's rotation to the mayor's seat. And it was indeed Chew's turn again this time, according to the unwritten tradition. When Trotter asked for a nomination of the next mayor, all fell quiet. The mayor reminded his colleagues that he could not nominate someone himself. The heavy silence finally ended when Chew was nominated by Councilmember Phil Arth. On a 4 to 1 vote, with Metcalf opposed, Chew became the new mayor.

Councilmember Roger Wykle was uneventfully chosen to serve as vice mayor.

Chew spoke about his goals for the coming year. He invited residents to contribute their suggestions to the town's objectives. He highlighted four

areas under which the goals should fall: maintain excellence in stewardship; maximize existing resources for enhanced community use; celebrate Moraga's 40th anniversary; and enable the community as a whole to respond to opportunities as they arise.

"I'd like to have a new approach to setting goals for the town," Chew said. "I'd like to work as a team," which includes council members, staff and community. Then he proposed to hold the annual town goal setting session on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 15 instead of the usual Saturday morning. "This is more respectful of staff and of the public," he noted. Both Metcalf and Trotter expressed concerns about the change. "It is my goal to enable town staff and the town manager to do their jobs," concluded Chew. "We ought to be able to leave them alone sometimes to do their jobs, with a set of goals and directions." The date of the goal setting session is yet to be confirmed.

To provide input regarding the town's objectives contact town manager Jill Keimach, jkeimach@moraga.ca.us or (925) 888-7020.

Upsurge of Commercial Theft in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Bill Snider checks a bill in the light. Photo Sophie Braccini

Bonita Vigil, who manages Safeway in Moraga, is no slouch when people try to steal from her store. Although Moraga

is a quiet little town, she's recently had to deal with some unpleasant incidents. With the help of local police, the criminals were caught. At nearby Moraga Hardware and Lumber, Bill Snider also loses money to shoplifters and thieves; he is not afraid to confront them and has what is needed to prevent crime.

"One day or another you get caught," says Vigil. "It's not worth stealing a few hundred dollars."

"Recently people came at night and stole a whole cash register," Vigil recounts. "When the night crew came to ring a customer, they saw that it had been tampered with and emptied. The thieves were seen on tape and were caught soon after; after robbing another store in El Cerrito." Vigil would not disclose how much her store loses to

theft. Snider willingly shared a loss figure of \$30,000 for the year.

"Shoplifting is like drug addiction and alcoholism, it knows no boundaries," says Snider from experience catching people stealing in his store. "There are people who have lived here a long time, drive \$100,000 cars, who I've seen stealing." Snider confronts them and tells them to pay back what they've stolen over the years or never come back. And sometimes, he makes a citizen's arrest, detains the thief and calls the police. "I've owned this store for 13 years and I know who to watch," he said. "I've detained people twice this year." When that happens, Snider makes it very visible so word gets around that Moraga Hardware is not soft on crime.

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Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.



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