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Chief Seeks Part-Time Community Service Officer

By Sophie Braccini

The state of California requires all police departments to properly collect, process, dispose of and/or store evidence. According to Bob Priebe, Moraga's police chief, there are not enough personnel in his department to do this work. "This is a problem," he said at a recent Town Council meeting. "We have several years' worth of narcotics and stored weapons that need to be destroyed and we simply don't have the time to do it." This work is done by the chief himself or by a lieutenant, who will retire in March, when time permits. In

the past, a community service officer has sometimes fulfilled that function, but the position has been staffed on and off depending on funding. The Town Council approved the hiring of a new part-time CSO and the chief is actively recruiting; members of the community are welcome to send their resumes.

The CSO will be a non-sworn civilian employee of the town. Priebe stated at the meeting that the financial impact to the town of Moraga would be about \$40,000 a year. He added that he was not asking for a full time

employee because he didn't want to have to cut that position again. The chief does not expect to hire someone already fully trained for a part-time job. "We will hire someone who has the potential to become a good CSO; we will provide the training and get them to where they need to be." Priebe described the CSO as someone of the highest character, with attention to details.

The full description for the position is posted on the PD's web site with specifics on how to apply; go to police.moraga.ca.us.

Will TSAC Rise from the Ashes?

By Sophie Braccini

Right after the Town Council had an initial discussion about the possibility of sunsetting the Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee due to lack of activity during 2013, a flurry of issues were brought to the committee's January meeting. For Moraga residents concerned about traffic and safety problems they want resolved, TSAC is a sounding board where they can express themselves, be acknowledged, and in some cases achieve resolution without further ado. But the viability of TSAC remains in question, because

only one of the current members has re-applied for next year, current chair John Valentine, and no candidates have stepped forward to fill the four remaining seats.

"Based on the meeting we had in January it would be tragic to lose TSAC, because people need to have some type of public hearing and the Town Council cannot handle everything," said Valentine. TSAC meets quarterly; volunteers need not have traffic experience to serve on the committee.

At the Jan. 15 meeting about a

dozen residents came to share issues they've had with traffic in town, mostly around the schools.

The most complex cases involved residents of the Corliss Drive neighborhood, from all along Rimer Drive and in the Deerfield/Tharp area.

Jesse Gustafson, who lives on Corliss Drive, contacted the town in July over concerns about vehicle speeding along that street, especially during peak hours, when children are present.

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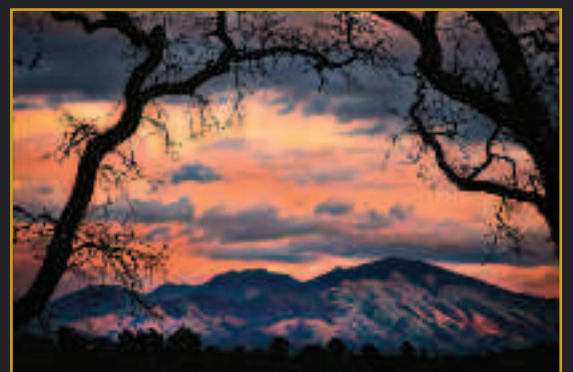


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