



Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. canceled
 Special Meeting:
 Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m.
 Hacienda De las Flores, La Sala,
 2100 Donald Dr.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, Oct. 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

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

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Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

An Enlightening Forum

By Sophie Braccini

The now-traditional Moraga Citizens Network Candidates Night brought the three candidates for town council together at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on Oct. 1. Ken Chew, Teresa Onoda and David Trotter responded to questions posed by their prospective constituency, offering insight to who they are and what they stand for. Questions on issues such as land use and recreation were expected, and the candidates' answers can be found in their publicity materials; but a few unanticipated questions garnered unscripted responses. As the forum proceeded, commonalities between Trotter and Onoda emerged. With only two seats open on the council, the November election in

Moraga may be shaping up to be a tight race.

It was a bit of an uphill battle for Onoda. A teacher and artist with less than two years of experience on the Moraga Planning Commission, she had difficulty asserting her knowledge of the town's affairs against two veteran council members, Chew and Trotter, who are both running for third terms. Onoda's candidacy is based on her belief that the town is at a tipping point; the Moraga Center Specific Plan allows too many new homes and condominiums and will lead to developments that are out of character with the town. While she did not offer an immediate strategy to revise the plan or negotiate with property owners, she highlighted her desire to study the issues at a deeper level.

As incumbents, Chew and Trotter have played large roles in recent political decisions. They approved the Moraga Center Specific Plan and both feel that the town has mechanisms and rules to control the type of growth that will happen in the downtown. But on many questions, each expressed views that were quite different from the other.

Development, the predominant issue of the evening, includes construction on ridgelines. Onoda and Trotter both believe the town should make it clear that protecting ridgelines means preserving them and not allowing development, and that a minimum height of 800 feet is not necessarily the only criteria for protection. Trotter pointed to his consistent record of advocating this position.

Taking a more cautious approach, Chew indicated that he would wait for the hillside and ridgeline subcommittee, which is currently reviewing the regulations, to present its recommendations.

A question of whether or not property owners should have veto power over the designation of a site as a historic landmark was also contentious. In Chew's view, property owners should be given the final say. Onoda, who supported a veto for property owners as a planning commissioner, said that the Rheem Theatre being for sale changes things, and she would now withhold that power. Trotter also opposes a property owner veto.

A question about the town's relationship with Saint Mary's College resulted in a love fest for SMC as the candidates tried to outdo each other as to who is the bigger fan of the institu-

tion and has the deepest relationship with it, although Trotter noted that the college also has a responsibility toward the town and referenced a dispute that has emerged with neighbors over the lighting of a sports field, which the council will adjudicate.

In the election four years ago, Trotter won 37.46 percent of votes and Chew 33.78 percent. Three other candidates ran that year—the next highest vote count went to Seth Freeman, with 16.4 percent of votes, who was very critical of the incumbents. This year Trotter and Onoda seem to be closely aligned and recently met jointly with residents. This new political dynamic adds a different flavor to the process and could lead to a closer race.

Lamorinda Weekly recorded the debate, which can be viewed online at www.lamorindaweekly.com and www.moragacitizensnetwork.org.



Moraga Police Department

Driving while not supposed to, 9/26/14 A 39-year-old male driving near Canyon and Camino Pablo was spotted by police who were familiar with him and knew that he had a suspended drivers license. Prior to the cop getting through traffic to conduct an official stop, the fellow abandoned the car and fled on foot. Not exactly a clean getaway; the cop couldn't find him, but did look through the car to find 34 ounces of marijuana and an open bottle of alcohol. The case was referred to the district attorney for review.

Danger to self, 9/24/14 Moraga police responded to a disturbance in the middle of the afternoon. Turns out it was an elderly gentleman, suffering from an undisclosed medical condition, who was arguing with his wife. The fire department transported the fellow to a local hospital for treatment.

Pot possession, 9/25/14 An associate principal at Campolindo reported that five students were discovered to have eaten a pot brownie. This was discovered after one of the kids became sick and shared the cause with school administrators. None of the brownie was available for collection to be tested. The matter was handled in-house with suspensions for the hungry students, and the dreaded parent-notification.

Danger to self, 9/26/14 A Saint Mary's College student was depressed, severely intoxicated and threatening to hurt herself. Officers determined she was a danger to herself, so she was

taken to the hospital by the fire department.

Credit card fraud, 9/29/14 An unknown person used a Rheem Boulevard resident's personal information to apply for two credit cards. The victim didn't authorize anyone to use her identity. No suspects or leads at this time, but the case remains under investigation.

Grand theft, 9/17/14 A Country Club Drive resident reported that sometime during a six-day time span, two gold earrings and a gold necklace disappeared from her residence. Value is approximately \$2,500. Police are investigating.

In addition, the following crimes were reported in Moraga Sept. 23-30:

False Alarm

Sanders Ranch Rd
 Hetfield Pl
 Millfield Pl
 Merrill Cr So
 Calle La Montana

Traffic Incident

Moraga Rd
 Rheem Bl
 Camino Peral

Speeding

Rheem Bl

Found Property

Camino Pablo

Residential Burglary

Devin Dr

Danger to Self

Moraga Rd

Lost Property

Country Club Dr

Local Bench Warrant

Camino Peral

Petty Theft

St Mary's Rd

Fire District Candidates Open the Show

Before the city council Q&A session, each candidate for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 1 seat delivered a prepared three-minute speech. Nathan Bell, a professional equity manager, stressed that his financial background was his top qualification for taking over the seat. He explained that the main reason he is running is because the district has taken in \$250 million in gross receipts since its inception in 1997, yet it carries a \$90 million deficit.

"MOFD is in peril," he said. "It needs to be financially sound." Incumbent Kathleen Famulener, who has worked in the Alameda County district attorney's office for 37 years, said that she shared the district's financial concerns.

"But we have made progress in my year on the board," she said. "We hired a new fire chief, we've increased seasonal staffing, we negotiated a 4-year contract with the firefighters, and we've reduced the district unfunded health care liability from \$28 million to \$16.9 million."
 -N. Marnell

Moraga Planning Commission Says Climate Action Plan Needs More Work

By Sophie Braccini

Last year, 15 Moraga residents with environmental, business and development backgrounds were appointed to the town's Climate Action Task Force and charged with recommending measures that would help Moraga reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Working with the task force recommendations and a consultant, town staff drafted a preliminary climate action plan.

In addition to the environmental benefits that would result if a city's climate action plan is approved, new developments could have a streamlined environmental review process.

A strange dialogue took place between planning commissioners and the chair of the Climate Action Task Force at the Planning Commission's Sept. 18 meeting. As the commission was reviewing the town's draft climate action plan—for possible sub-

mission to the air quality regulatory agency for review and comment—task force chair Graig Crossley told commissioners that the task force was not expecting the town to accept all of its recommendations. Task force member Barbara Simpson went a step further, asking commissioners to vote against the plan rather than accepting measures of which the financial implications had not been fully analyzed. ... continued on page A13

<p>54 Heather Ln, Orinda</p> <p>Sold</p> <p>\$1,100,000</p>	<p>87 Loma Vista Dr., Orinda</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>\$1049,000</p>	<p>Alex Gailas</p> <p>Realtor/Broker 15 years local Certified Residential specialist</p> <p>925-254-7600 office 925-788-0229 cell</p> <p>Alex@AGRealty1.com www.AlexGailas.com 43 Moraga Way, Orinda</p>
<p>13 Virginia Dr., Orinda</p> <p>Active</p> <p>\$3,999,000</p>	<p>4680 Green Valley, Fairfield</p> <p>Sold</p> <p>\$1,245,000 Represented buyer</p>	
<p>12858 Manna Ln, Loma Rica</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>\$695,000</p>	<p>39 Village Square, PH</p> <p>Sold</p> <p>\$589,000</p>	

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