



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8 canceled
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



Moraga Police Department

DUI 7/28/15 Cops were alerted to a possible intoxicated male who was seen getting into a Volvo at the Moraga Center. Police responded to the address linked to the license plate, and located the car parked in the registered owner's driveway with damage. A gentleman was found inside the home and was arrested for suspicion of DUI. Turns out the dent was due to a collision with the mailboxes near the residence.

Computer swiped 7/30/15 An unlocked car was parked at the Rheem Center while its owner dined at a local establishment. The reporting person discovered later that evening that a computer and other property had been removed from the vehicle. Nothing seen or heard, and no suspects or leads. Should have locked the car.

Medical assistance 8/01/15 A Rimer Drive resident complained about pain from a recent surgery to Moraga-Orinda Fire District personnel who responded to a request for service. It was noted that the house is a possible health hazard and on the verge of being uninhabitable. Adult protective services was notified, the gentleman was transported to Kaiser for evaluation, and returned home after being checked out. Later that same day, police determined that both the 80-year-old male and his 70-year-old wife were unable to care for themselves and were gravely disabled. Both were transported by the fire department to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center for evaluation by mental health professionals.

Fake ID 8/01/15 An 18-year-old driver and his 17-year-old passenger were observed to be "suspicious" while parked in front of Safeway at 3:30 a.m. Cops decided to talk to the youths. The driver had a fake Florida drivers' license, several cans of beer and an open container of liquor. Driver was cited for the misdemeanor and released from the scene.

Nail guns shoplifted 8/02/15 Just before 9 a.m., two subjects entered a local hardware store. While one of the gentlemen made a return, the other walked to the power tool section of the store. When the return was complete, he joined his pal at the power tools. Each subject then grabbed two nail guns and exited through the emergency exit on the south side of the building. Although the door is equipped with an alarm, it did not sound. The incident was caught on video surveillance and cops have a lead on the case.

Planning Commission Continues to Spar Over MOSO Land Use Amendment

By Sophie Braccini

At its Aug. 3 meeting, the Moraga Planning Commission once again reviewed a text originally submitted to them on June 15, which would allow for-profit recreation businesses to operate on Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) land, as long as such an activity had been started there before the ordinance was approved. In June, planning commissioners indicated that regulating land use depending on business type – for-profit or nonprofit – was not good practice. But Planning Director Ellen Clark brought back the text for recommendation to the Town Council, arguing that the elected body had required it and was the one making the final decision.

Clark restated that the amendment that had been proposed by the Town Council – to allow Adventure

Day Camp to file an application to create a campsite and preschool on MOSO land, at the former Moraga Swim and Tennis Club site off Larch Avenue – would not touch the MOSO text itself, but only the municipal code that implements the open space ordinance. "One of the concerns was that the scope of the amendment would create a precedent for other sections of the code," said Clark. "Staff's analysis is that it would not be the case." Former Mayor Karen Mendonca who was in attendance argued otherwise and urged planning commissioners to do their due diligence.

"It was also a concern that this amendment would impact just one piece of property, which would not be good planning practice," said Clark, noting that Moraga Country Club could also fall into this same category.

Clark agreed that it would be a better planning practice to work on authorized types of recreation use on MOSO land, but argued that that task would be better handled by the Hillside and Ridgeline Committee, which is currently reviewing such matters.

The argument did not convince Commissioner Lindsay Carr. "This is trying to shine an old shoe," she said. "This is not fixing the real problem." She was concerned that supporting the rule modification without reviewing the more important issue of types of permitted use was giving away whatever leverage the commission might have to ever make good policy, and that trusting that another committee would tackle it was just wishful thinking.

Commission Chair Christine Kuckuk said she strongly agreed with

Carr. "(This is the) wrong way to approach policy making by finagling a change," she said. "Business model is an inexact way to evaluate impacts to properties based on land use."

Commissioner Steve Woehleke, realizing that since the council would have the last word anyway, proposed modifying the recommendation instead of opposing it. "The new use (should) be functionally the same as the precedent for profit use, and (should) not exceed previous impact on the surrounding neighborhood," he proposed.

Since there was no majority on the commission to recommend the amendment, the commission decided instead to send comments to the council summarizing their positions. The Town Council is expected to make a final decision shortly.

The Chickens Are Coming!

Discussion of a Small Animal Ordinance scheduled Monday, Aug. 17

Following up on the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan, Moraga planning staff developed a small farm animal ordinance that will be studied by the Planning Commission starting at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. The ordinance text ad-

resses animals such as chickens and bees. Staff examined the comparable ordinance recently passed by the city of Lafayette. Staff also met with residents interested in this type of regulation, as well as Lafayette resident John Kiefer, a.k.a. Papa John, who has been training generations of

chicken owners in Lafayette and who developed a maintenance- and odor-free chicken coop concept that can be seen at the Lafayette Community Garden. The purpose of such an ordinance is to allow residents to safely and legally grow some of their own food, such as eggs and honey. Cur-

rently, one acre of land is required in Moraga to raise any kind of farm animal, one cow, one horse, one bee, or one chicken. For more information, contact Brian Horn, associate planner at (925) 888-7044 or via email at bhorn@moraga.ca.us. S. Braccini

Moraga Historical Society Celebrates 60 Years of Preservation

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Historical Society (MHS) launched its 60th year anniversary celebration with a wild Fandango Aug. 5 at the Hacienda de las Flores. The 170-member group is celebrating years of collecting, archiving, conserving and sharing information about those who went before us, since the Saklan Indians, and about those who made the Town of Moraga what it is today.

Moraga's history conservancy started even before a historical society was founded in the fall of 1965. In the attic of the Saint Mary's College library, Brother V. Dennis Goodman, the SMC librarian since 1953, began accumulating documents and books pertaining to the history of the Moraga family and the Rancho Laguna del Palos Colorados, the Mexican land grant that gave to Joaquin Moraga and Juan Bernal the land that is now Moraga and parts of Orinda and Lafayette. Then in 1965, newcomers Sonia and Lloyd Levitin, who were looking for a historical society to join, were informed that if they wanted one, they would have to start it. Postmaster Elinor Dickenson joined them, as well as Brother Dennis. Other residents joined the first board, alongside two Orinda residents, Jean and Donald Manuel, then owners of the original Moraga Adobe property where they were raising their family.

"One day Sonia Levitin knocked on my door and asked me if she could see the 1841 original house of Joaquin Moraga," remembers Jean Manuel, who now lives in Missouri.

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More power tools shoplifted 8/02/15 Same day, just before 3 p.m. Two males entered the same large hardware store, this time wearing hard to miss orange construction vests. Two power tools were picked up from the shelf and taken to the south emergency exit. Both walked out the door, but this time the alarm went off. Employees ran to the door, but were unable to stop the thieves. This incident was also caught on video surveillance. What are the odds it was the same two guys?

Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between July 28 and Aug. 4:

False Alarm – Tharp Drive, Juniper Way, Corte de Caballo, Sanders Drive, Camino Pablo

Lost iPhone – Sunnyside Lane

Danger to Self – Miramonte Drive



Members celebrate the Moraga Historical Society anniversary at the Aug. 5 Fandango.

Photo Carole Lucas

Are you considering selling your home?
If so, please give us a call for assistance.

Gorgeous move-in ready home located
in the desirable Corliss neighborhood

COMING SOON



244 Corliss Drive, Moraga | Call for Details
4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2294± sq. ft. home.

JUST SOLD



63 Amberwood Court, Moraga | Sold for \$1,003,888
4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom, 2102± sq. ft. home on .33± acres.

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