



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 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



### Moraga Police Department

**Fraud 9/25/15** A Larch Avenue resident got a phone call from an alleged collection agency stating that the homeowner was past due on a \$1,000 loan. The reporting person determined that there was no actual loan, and reported the matter to the police.

**Car vs. bike accident 9/25/15** At the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard police located a bicyclist who had minor visible injuries laying in the roadway. The biker was later transported to a local hospital by the MOFD. The driver was not injured, but her car sure was – it was towed from the scene per her request. The incident is under investigation.

**Traffic stop turns into epic police chase 9/25/15** A 1994 burgundy Chevy Suburban failed to stop at a red light and drove on the wrong side of the road. As cops approached, the vehicle fled and a pursuit ensued through Moraga and Lafayette – ultimately ending when the car crashed just off of Highway 24 near Oak Hill Road. The driver fled, but was caught about 200 yards away by a motorcycle officer. The 25-year-old driver from Martinez was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle, being a convicted felon in possession of a loaded (and stolen) firearm, felony evading police and felony probation violation.

**Very loud party 9/26/15** A neighbor called police to report about 80 unwanted college-age guests at a party on Ascot Drive. Shocker – alcoholic beverages were present. Police, in their lingo “disbursed” the party people without incident. Officers explained the town ordinance to the apartment residents and cautioned them that further reports of loud or unruly parties may result in fines. No one went to jail.

**Another party 9/27/15** Just hours after the original party on Ascot was kyboshed, at 3 a.m. the party was rekindled, same location, obviously at least some of the guests returned. Police observed about nine college-age students who were clearly intoxicated, and noted booze in the apartment, and could smell pot. This time cops determined they were in violation of the Town's ordinance re-

## A Brief Moment In History

### New hire brings Moraga Police Force to full capacity

By Sophie Braccini

With the recent hiring of officer Angela Likos, the Moraga Police Department is now fully staffed. “This day marks a brief moment in history,” said town manager Jill Keimach at the Sept. 24 swearing-in ceremony at the Hacienda de las Flores. Chief Bob Priebe, who over the last 10 years has said his department has never been fully staffed for an entire year, was not fazed by the comment. Not only was Priebe happy to showcase a full department, he was equally happy to welcome its newest female officer.

Prior to coming to Moraga, Likos was a police officer in Pinole for 10 years, and growing up, the Priebe and Likos families were very close. Likos went to high school with Priebe's son, who is a police officer in Pleasant Hill; they were police explorers together. And the family connection goes further than that: “I graduated high school with aunt Renée,” said Priebe, “and mom, Dina, was just a year behind us.” Over the years, Likos called Priebe on occasion, asking him his perspective and advice on things. When she considered applying for the open position at the Moraga Police Department, she called Priebe to ask him if there would be a conflict of interest.

“I always enjoyed working in a community setting where everybody works together,” said Likos, “and (I found) a sense of community (in Moraga) far greater than I thought it was.”

Priebe says that in today's environment officers have their pick of where they want to work, and an experienced female officer like Likos has even more choice. He said he has



Moraga School District superintendent Bruce Burns, councilmember Teresa Onoda, Moraga chief of police Bob Priebe, Officer Angela Likos, councilmember Phil Arth, town manager Jill Keimach, and Lt. Jon King Photo Sophie Braccini

lost several police officers because they found better paying jobs, offering more excitement than Moraga. Before making an offer to Likos, he wanted to make sure that it was a good fit.

“I like catching the bad guys,” says Likos, “but more important to me is working together to build community.” She says she appreciates the fact that parents are very involved with their children in Moraga; that people would stop and just have a conversation with her; that neighbors truly look out for one another. “I got that in Pinole,” she said, “but to a lower degree than here.”

At the ceremony, Keimach noted how impressed she had been with

Likos, who while in field training, reached out to Moraga residents to gather supplies for victims of the Northern California fires. This initiative was also an eye-opener for Likos, who was overwhelmed by the community's response. “To say that I was touched is an understatement,” said Likos. “When I came down to the police department to pick up (what people had donated) to take it to the victims, there was so much!” After she packed her SUV she had to borrow a second car. The donations ranged from cases of water to animal supplies, clothing and non-perishable food.

The young officer likes being on the street and rolling up her sleeves.

“A number of years ago my parents' home was burglarized,” she said. Since then she has had a better understanding of what it means to be a crime victim, and can put herself in a victim's position and relate.

“Our job does not end with taking somebody to jail or taking a report,” she said, “there is more to it. It's being able to educate people to prevent them from becoming a victim. Often people just need to be listened to.”

Likos knows that Moraga is a safe community, but because of this sense of security people might not take precautions such as locking their cars. “Let's not invite the bad guys here,” she said. “We don't need to be paranoid, but let's still be aware.”

## New Lawsuit Filed Against Moraga School District

By Sophie Braccini

Over the past three years, the Moraga School District has settled four lawsuits with women who claimed to have been abused by former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher Daniel Witters, who committed suicide at the end of 1996. A fifth claim was filed in September by a woman who alleged that she was abused by Witters over a two-year period. She had not only until recently acknowledged the abuse and indicated in the claim that as she contemplated leaving her child for the first time at a daycare facility, she was overcome with fear, anxiety and panic, and decided to confront her past. “We will respond to this as we did with the other (lawsuits),” said MSD superintendent Bruce Burns, adding that he cannot comment on pending litigation. He noted that the Moraga School District now has a child abuse prevention program,

guarding loud and unruly parties – so the tenants were issued an official warning notice.

**Laser beam cockpit intrusion 9/28/15** The Federal Aviation Administration reported that a commercial flight leaving the Oakland airport experienced a laser beam in the cockpit at approximately 7,000 feet, while flying over Saint Mary's College. Police discovered the origin of the laser beam was a college professor with a laser pointer who was teaching students about the lunar eclipse that was occurring at the same time. The professor was unaware of the plane. No further action was taken.

#### Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between Sept. 22-29:

**False Alarm** – Quintas Lane, Moraga Way

**Medical Assistance** – Augusta Drive

**Bench Warrant** – Corliss Drive

**Stolen Bike Found** – address undisclosed

**Domestic Dispute** – Camino Peral

**Found Keys** – Rheem Blvd near Harold Drive

**Coroner Needed** – Alta Mesa Drive

**Found** – ice chest with water and alcoholic beverage on Moraga Road

**DUI** – Moraga Way

which is run in the three local school districts, and it trains staff, teachers, parents and students so the children are safe and protected. “We are advocating beyond the district,” he added. “I have spoken about this issue

to all the superintendents in Contra Costa County, Alameda County, California School Board Association.” Some of the key concepts taught to children include presenting age appropriate material affirming that if

something happens that makes them uncomfortable they have the right to be defended and it is never their fault. The program, called Speak Up – Be Safe, is managed by the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

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