



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 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

Not so missing student, 10/6/15
Moraga police contacted Saint Mary's public safety staff who wanted help locating a student who had not been seen for several hours. Moraga cops were able to locate the student after a short investigation – he had spent the evening with family members.

Needs help 10/07/15
Moraga cops were asked to conduct a welfare check on a family member who is living on Corte Pinto. Police contacted the homeowner who was unable to walk to the front door. The fire department responded and assisted officers in entering the home. Paramedics transported him to a local hospital for further treatment.

Driving erratically with stolen stuff 10/8/15
A blue Mazda was being driven fitfully on Moraga Way, then proceeded onto Camino Ricardo. The 27-year-old driver fled before the car came to a stop and made a run for it into the pear orchard. Cops determined the car hit a parked Ford pickup during the chase. Found in the vehicle was approximately \$2,400 worth of suspected stolen merchandise from Safeway. Genius driver/alleged thief was arrested for possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, hit and run and reckless driving. Goodies were returned to Safeway and the car was towed.

Loud party 10/10/15
This time it wasn't a college-centric celebration. Instead, about 50 guests gathered, along with a very loud DJ playing music at a home on Hazelwood Place for the homeowner's 70-year-old father's birthday. The resident was issued a written warning and advised to quiet down.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga between Oct. 5-13.

Slight Graffiti – School Street

Welfare Check – Augusta Drive

Gun Drop Off for Destruction – owner deceased

Danger to Self – at local convenience store

False Alarm – Thune Drive

Local Knowledge of Lamorinda & Extraordinary Results



Gary Bernie



Ken Ryerson

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Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Back and Forth Bargaining Between the College and the Town

By Sophie Braccini

Two topics emblematic of the dynamics between Moraga town officials and Saint Mary's College leadership were discussed at the Town and Gown Committee meeting Oct. 15. First, the town received its initial report on the improved lighting system at the intramural field that had negatively impacted some residents; second, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was approved to share recreational facilities at no cost for either party. As Saint Mary's College desires to grow and improve its student services, the town seeks to control that growth while making Moraga more of a college town.

While not public meetings, Town and Gown discussion items often end up as subsequent action items at the town council meetings. Diego Ríos, a SMC senior and Associated Students president, asked that he and his successors be invited to the town and gown breakfast table to make student involvement in the town a priority.

The report on the lighting sys-

tem's modification, presented by consultant Leslie Davis of Lighting Design who said it used state-of-the-art equipment to measure the glare of the old and the new system, drew absolutely no comment from the attendees. Davis noted reductions in glare from 32 to 90 percent, depending on where the measurements were taken in the neighborhood that adjoins the lighted field.

Optimizing the lighting system to reduce the glare on residents' homes is part of the conditions of approval for the extended hours of operation on the intramural field to 10 p.m. Measures to limit noise pollution are also part of the conditions of approval, and the 10 p.m. limit will be reviewed after one year for compliance.

The second topic of the night was an agreement between the college and the town to use each other's recreational facilities at no cost. Jay Ingram, the parks and recreation director, presented the agreement as an opportunity to expose residents to

the campus and to encourage students to be a part of the town. All of the town facilities are listed in the agreement, such as the parks, the Hacienda, the electronic sign, the new town chambers, or the sand volleyball court at the Commons Park. The text of the agreement notes that SMC's facilities are first and foremost to be used in the fulfillment of Saint Mary's mission and that the first priority for use of the college's facilities are regular and special college programs. The facilities that the town can use include the Soda Activity Center, the outdoor basketball courts, the Chapel, and Hagerty Lounge. Sports field and tennis court usage are subject to review by Saint Mary's Athletic Compliance office in order to avoid situations that could be or could lead to possible NCAA infractions. The sharing of McKeon Pavilion and the Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center are not included at this time and will be reviewed in two years.

A previous agreement was signed

in 1991 for a 20-year period; the new MOU expires in five years. When Councilmember Dave Trotter asked why the shortened period, Tim Farley, director of community and government relations for the college said, "Saint Mary's is going through (its) master plan right now, and there is some concern about the use pattern of our recreation center. And as Saint Mary's goes forward in the next phase of our master plan, we want this agreement to be for a brief period of time, and have it relooked at in another five years." Trotter responded by suggesting that the conditions of approval of the college's master plan provide an additional opening to discuss a different term for the MOU. Farley indicated he would relay this comment to the college.

The MOU was approved by the Town Council and will take effect once the college's president, James Donahue, signs it. It applies to the government of the town only, not to any other local organization.

Is This the End for Moraga Pear Trees?

Volunteers work to stop spread of fire blight

By Sophie Braccini

For the past three Saturdays, a determined group of volunteers has been pruning trees to rid them of fire blight on the pear orchard at the corner of Camino Pablo and Canyon Road, on the lot next to the middle school belonging to the Moraga School District. Other pear trees in town, which are the last remnants of what used to be a major industry, are also affected, some of them very seriously, but they remain untouched since they are located on private lots. The disease could kill these pear trees and contaminate other trees, such as apple, plum and cherry.

"Not all trees are affected the same and some trees can survive the fire blight," says Kenny Murakami of the Moraga Garden Center. Some types of pear trees, such as the Ledbetter pear, is proven to be fire blight resistant and the Kieffer pear is not really fire blight resistant but fire blight tolerant, but Bartlett – the pear most widely found in Moraga – as well as Bosc and Clapp's Favorite are highly susceptible. Murakami says the infected trees will be vectors of disease propagation, especially in the spring when the trees are in bloom.

Moraga resident Bobbie Preston organized pruning last year after she found fire blight in her home garden and noticed the disease on the school property trees. Unfortunately, the disease continued to spread this year. "Last year we didn't cut the branches far enough," explains Preston. "We need to cut the affected branches 12 inches below the last affected leaves." She did this in her garden, and while the pruning seemed radical at the time, the trees have bounced back and are no longer showing signs of the disease.

Volunteers came to prune for a second time on Oct. 10. They noticed that some branches that had been cut last year, or pruned during the spring, were still infected. "This is the right time to do it when there are still leaves on the tree and the blight is very obvious," says Preston. Volunteers will come back to

the lot on Saturday mornings until the end of the month of October to save the historical trees. Preston will share tools and methodology with those willing to tackle the issue on their personal property.



Moraga Councilmember Teresa Onoda and SMC student Diego Ríos

Photo Sophie Braccini

trick or treat

Costumed children are invited to Trick or Treat the businesses of Rheem Valley on Halloween, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Free* Halloween Candy from participating businesses.

rheemvalley.net

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

Sponsored by Rheem Valley businesses. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *While supplies last. Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. in Moraga