



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 3, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library
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 Report



Feb 21- March 7

Alarms

Feb 25 location n/a
Feb 26 (2) location n/a
Feb 27 100 block Fernwood
Feb 27 100 block Brookline
Feb 27 1700 block Spyglass Ln.
March 2 (2) location n/a
March 4 location n/a
March 6 location n/a

ID Theft

Feb 23 Bloomingdales, Macy's, fraud tax ID
Feb 24 tax fraud attempt

Fraud

Feb 24 Three fraudulent checks; same person; same amount

Feb 27 Fraud

Six fraudulent charges totaling more than \$900 were made to a company in India on one victim's charge card.

Feb 27 Hit & Run, no injuries

A driver nicked the door of a parked U-Haul; U-Haul user pursued on foot. Driver said she was unaware she hit the U-Haul, but police presence encouraged her to exchange information with U-Haul user. Police cleared the scene. No one stayed to help load/unload the U-Haul.

Feb 27 Larceny

A yellow road bike was shifted from Saint Mary's College to who knows where despite its being chained to a pole on campus grounds. The owner engaged police but no witnesses or leads were found.

Feb 27 Larceny

Bike parts were stolen...twice from a carport, on this date and four days earlier.

Feb 28 Found property

Police discovered an abandoned, unidentifiable bike in their parking lot, and took it in until the owner could be found. Think they could loan it to the bike theft victim?

Feb 28 Forgery

Suspicious activity reported in the form of two counterfeit checks.

March 1 Unlicensed

Unlicensed...no thrill, for the driver of a 2004 Honda who hadn't registered said car since 2012. He received a citation (not the Chevy kind) for that and for being unlicensed. His car was towed; the former driver will need to heel and toe it himself for a bit.

March 1 Miscellaneous

Near miss, or near hit? Either way,



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Karen Richardson Group



Volunteers take on the restoration of Mulholland Ridge

By Sophie Braccini

For several years now former Moraga Mayor and Town Council member Lynda Deschambault has taken on the cleanup of the Mulholland Ridge open space area from invasive plants with groups of volunteers.

What started as a one- or two-person effort is now a group project involving local adults and students who enjoy contributing their time to the community. From the town's perspective, Mulholland needs to serve as a defensive fire space between Moraga and Orinda, and the mandatory nature of the official plans for the future of the open space preserve is unclear.

Deschambault has been a champion for open space since she ran for council in 2004. She says that Mulholland is the reason why she put an offer on a house in Moraga: It's a hike in her backyard.

When she was on the council, the town conducted an environmental study of the park and received a

Mulholland Habitat Preservation and Restoration Plan. She remembers that the environmental report was approved, but it is not clear if the town voted to accept the restoration plan that includes removal of nonnative plants and restoration of natural habitat in the 250-acre open space area along Donald Drive. Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram is not sure either about the mandatory nature of the plan.

For Ingram, the first priority up there is fire safety. Last year the town received a grant from Diablo FireSafe Council; the first year the money was used to clear up the eucalyptus grove behind the Hacienda de las Flores, and this year the director is electing to widen the fire buffer between Moraga and Orinda by having weeds cut on each side of the road that runs along the ridge, including coyote brush. He adds that a biologist is working with the town so nesting sites would not be disturbed.

Deschambault's priority is different: She wants invasive plants such as thistles and French brooms to be removed while natives, such as coyote brush, should be preserved as they serve the natural cycles. She says that the restoration plan that was defined in 2007 with expert Moraga volunteers such as Malcolm Sproul and Gail DeLala list the plants and animal species present on this natural piece of property and recommend that nothing else but plant restoration be done there.

Moraga Town Council Mem-



Volunteers pulling brooms at Mulholland Ridge in Moraga. Photo provided by Jeanette Fritzky is one of the volunteers helping Deschambault and explains that it takes training to identify the different plants. She adds that it's better to leave the cleanup to trained volunteers.

Ingram adds that volunteer support is crucial in Moraga and that there are more projects residents can help with. They can contact Moraga Parks and Recreation Department at (925) 376-2520 if they want to get involved.

the pedestrians were okay, although they reported nearly being struck by a vehicle while they were in a crosswalk. Driver said at first he didn't see the two, but did stop before the crosswalk. Walkers may have been cross.

March 1 Other

A lesson in right and wrong for responsible parties at Joaquin Moraga school accused of texting threats to another. Police attended a meeting and backed up the school officials' emphasis on zero tolerance for threats.

March 2 Fraud

Police received a two alarm report of \$5,000 of unauthorized use on a Moraga-Orinda Fire District credit card. That card was hosed...er, cancelled.

March 2 Vandal

Mirror, mirror on the ground - will this vandal soon be found? Driver's side-view mirror smashed, but it didn't seem the car got crashed. Video cameras turned up nada except the culprit's own bravada.

March 2 Vandal

This time damage to a Dodge Dart; a rock through a window is just without heart.

March 3 Outside assist

We break in with this news: a joint effort by Moraga and Lafayette police resulted in the arrest of a subject wanted for questioning in several residential burglaries in Lafayette. LPD stole some of the accused's time by making an arrest.

March 4 Larceny

Attention TJ Maxx shoppers: taking it "to the max" does not include taking things from the Maxx. Store loss prevention bagged the thoughtless shoplifter; police issued a citation for petty theft (it was \$43.97).

March 4 Ordinance violation

Loud and unruly with intent to commit partying. Thirty guests cleared out after police warned the residents about such un-Moraga-like behavior.

March 7 Traffic incident

Semi trailer made a semi-turn and damaged road barricades placed at Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. Police assisted with traffic control until Public Works replaced the damaged parts.

March 7 Miscellaneous

This bullet just in: Moraga resident surrendered unwanted gun to PD.

A leading local philanthropist is chosen as Moraga's Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini

The choice of Barbara (Bobbie) Preston as Moraga's Citizen of the Year is that of a woman who simply says yes to every opportunity she sees of making the life better for others.

Preston has started several nonprofit groups in and around Moraga because she did not want to wait around for someone else to do what had to be done. Preston is unassuming, never brags about her achievements, and always beams with positive energy. She urges everyone to make these small gestures that do not require much, but make a difference for the community and the world. Like so many who give a lot of themselves, she says that giving brings much more in return.

Preston started her nonprofit career in Moraga in 1986 when she decided to start the Mount Diablo chapter of "Habitat for Humanity." At the time there was no Habitat home in the East Bay and she started recruiting people to build homes in Pittsburg. She said that it is how she learned to start nonprofits with a group of volunteers since Habitat chapters are autonomous. She was in full swing of her medical career at the time, she had recently lost her second husband to cancer, and was raising a daughter.

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Bobbie Preston in her garden.

Photo Sophie Braccini

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