



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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



Ideal Orinda Location

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Jim Colhoun presents

18 Ardor Drive, Orinda

Offered at \$1,850,000

Classic 4BR/3BA 3285 SF home features gourmet kitchen, updated baths, and ultimate privacy on a .83 acre tree-studded site. You'll love the walls of glass that open to the fully-fenced backyard with covered patio, multiple lawns, and sport court. The kitchen is the heart of the home and has a Viking gas range, custom hood, double Bosch dishwashers, and a massive center island. Expansive great room with fireplace overlooks magnificent oaks with no visible rear neighbors. Family room is perfect for a teen hangout, home gym, or theater. All three of Orinda's top-rated K-12 schools are nearby. Contact Jim Colhoun for more info or to schedule a private showing.



Jim Colhoun
 925.200.2795
 jim.colhoun@compass.com
 jimcolhoun.com
 DRE 01029160



Council approves pay raise for town manager

By Jennifer Wake

At its May 22 meeting, the Moraga Town Council approved by a 3-1 vote a salary increase of 8.5 percent for Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg to be retroactively effective March 12. Battenberg was hired March 12, 2018 at a salary of \$197,000, which was amended to \$206,020 on June 1, 2018 due to the town no longer paying a portion of Battenberg's employee contribution to CalPERS, in an amount equal to 5 percent of

the manager's salary. The most recent salary adjustment was to bring the manager's salary in line with other city managers in the Bay Area, to \$229,176, according to the staff report.

A letter sent to the council from Moraga resident Jeff LaBarge expressed his concern about the optics of such a salary increase, and asked the council to vote no on the increase to regain the town's confidence about how the council spends money.

"From my perspective, it looks like Cynthia is asking for

the salary of someone who manages hundreds of staff and a nine figure budget, even though she manages approximately 5 direct reports and a modest budget," LaBarge wrote. "She is holding a metaphorical gun to our head saying that she will leave to another town who will pay her more if we don't concede to her demands. All this is happening in the context of baseline performance. During her short tenure there is nothing notable that would imply she somehow will revolutionize the town to justify a premium

compensation. Nothing about the above situation should lead us to cave to the initial proposal and concede the full 8.5% raise without pushback."

Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon's contract, which runs to the end of June, includes a base salary of \$224,640 per year, with 90 percent health benefits, \$800 a month for a car, and other benefits. At the time of Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk's resignation in September 2018, his salary was \$253,683 plus benefits.

The council approved the

salary increase with Mayor Roger Wykle and council members Kymberleigh Korpus and Renata Sos voting yes, and Council Member Steve Woehleke voting no.

"Cynthia has only been here a year," Woehleke said. "I am used to using sustained performance as one of the main criteria for setting a salary. I would have expected to bring her up to a competitive objective maybe in two years."

Council Member Mike McCluer was absent.

Scammers prey on Social Security fraud fears

By Vera Kochan

The latest scam to hit the unsuspecting public involves Social Security numbers.

Most often the scam comes in the form of an automated, direct to telephone voicemail message announcing that "your Social Security number has been suspected for fraudulent activity. Call this number (scammers conveniently provide one) before we proceed with legal proceedings against you. Thank you and goodbye." The reason this reporter is able to quote the scammers verbatim is because she has received this

voicemail six times in the space of two weeks, sometimes twice a day.

Moraga Police Department Det. Kevin Mooney stated, "People fall for this because we're basically honest and believe others are too. That's why they're called 'confidence scams.' Most people are law abiding and want to make things right."

The victims are usually not specifically targeted, although attempts are made to take advantage of the elderly, especially those suffering from memory loss issues. Scammers sit in a large room making cold calls from overseas. The

Social Security scam is operating out of India.

While the elderly are most likely to fall prey to scams, teens and young adults are the next level of victims, with the threat of legal reprisals making them gullible targets. Mooney said, "We've had five to six people come to us just this year, crying because they've given thousands of dollars to these people. Never, ever, ever transfer any money to someone you don't know. Don't give Social Security or credit card numbers away, and always verify everything."

The IRS scam operates much the same way as the So-

cial Security scam. Victims are told that they owe money, and if they don't pay the police will be knocking on their door.

And, as old as it may be, the call to grandma for bail money, because junior got himself into trouble with the law, is still a scam in circulation. This one opts to tug on a loved one's heartstrings.

"Lottery scams are popular, because people don't often remember if they've filled out a form in which merchandise is the supposed prize," Mooney said. "Scammers say for a small processing fee you'll get your prize. No legitimate organization will ask you

for money to collect a prize.

"If you receive a scam phone call, don't press any of the buttons or prompts on your phone," Mooney explained. "There are sophisticated systems out there that can track information on you the minute you start to respond to the prompts."

Before responding to any suspicious scams or phone calls, Mooney stressed, "Don't panic. Call a friend or family member for advice before proceeding." When possible, always take down the caller's phone number and report it to the police.

MORAGA PRODUCE
 Open 7 days a week | 9am-9pm

SPECIAL!
 2 for 1 HONEYDEW melon*

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Organic Produce
- Dairy Products
- Groceries
- Fresh Coffee

576 Center St.
 Rheem Valley Shopping Center

*While supplies last

Town Council
 Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission
 Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission
 Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings
 TBD
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

**Local Knowledge
 Extraordinary Results**

Are You Considering Selling Your Home?

If so, please give us a call for assistance. We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, as well as a comprehensive marketing plan detailing how to get you the highest sale price in today's market!

Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Gary Bernie
 925.200.2222
 gary.bernie@compass.com
 DRE 00686144

Ken Ryerson
 925.878.9685
 ken.ryerson@compass.com
 DRE 01418309

COMPASS