



**MORAGA**

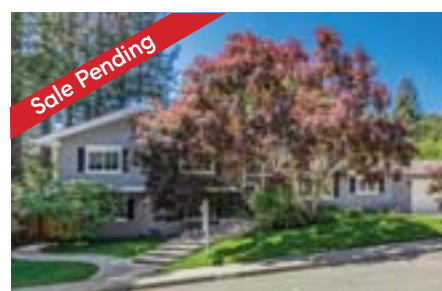
See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**Town of Moraga:**  
 www.moraga.ca.us  
 Phone: (925) 888-7022  
**Chamber of Commerce:**  
 www.moragachamber.org  
**Moraga Citizens' Network:**  
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



**Tara Rochlin**

925.586.3442  
 TaraRochlin@gmail.com  
 TaraRochlin.com  
 DRE 01330630

When these two homes came on the market last week, they were 33% of the Moraga inventory!



**708 Camino Ricardo, Moraga**  
 5BD | 3BA | 2,831 sq.ft. | .33 Acres  
 offered at \$1,850,000



**1065 Bollinger Canyon, Moraga**  
 3+ BD | 2BA | 2,746 sq.ft | 2.33 acres  
 Offered at \$1,550,000

Private Showings by Appointment Only

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. 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.

COMPASS

**Moraga Youth Involvement Committee gives teens a glimpse of civic engagement**



Photo Jasmine Bateson

**MYIC members sell concessions at a June 2019 fundraiser during Family Movie Night.**

**By Vera Kochan**

Like every aspect of day-to-day life, COVID had an impact on the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee's functional ability this past year. Typically, Parks and Rec relies on the MYIC members for participation in annual events such as the Holiday Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, and Teddy Bear Tea – all of which were canceled this past year.

The only completed undertaking during the social distancing mandates was a goodie bag project for 72 Kaiser healthcare workers. "One of the student designed and led projects this term was to thank healthcare workers for their tireless efforts throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," explained staff liaison, Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson, with the Parks and Recreation Department. "They developed the concept of goodie bags,

came up with the contents, stuffed the bags, and coordinated with Kaiser to make the donation. The contents of the bags were funded by past MYIC fundraisers."

According to its website, "The purpose of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) is to provide youth with opportunities for civic involvement, to implement/assist in activities and services in the community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Town Council on youth related issues."

The committee votes on prospective activities which are brought to the table by its individual members, the Parks and Rec Department, or outside community organizations. Even though this past term's endeavors were interrupted, committee members are looking forward to a new term that promotes advocacy, empowerment, a greater focus on environment and increased engagement in the town's government.

Students involved with MYIC are in grades 7-12, and make an annual term

commitment of approximately eight months (between September through May). There is no school credit; merely the satisfaction each volunteer experiences by making their community a better place. This year's membership had 11 students.

"It was a weird year, and I wasn't really sure what we could do," Bateson said. However, MYIC members felt that much was accomplished through the pandemic by having productive discussions via Zoom, in which they gained a better understanding of how a government meeting was run and insight into the process.

MYIC members go through an application and interview procedure each new term. Parks and Rec then makes recommendations to the town council for appointments to the committee. Council Member David Stromberg serves as the council liaison for MYIC and reports to the council on MYIC matters. Any student wishing to join the 2021-22 term should check the town's website ( www.moraga.ca.us) in mid-July.

**The MYIC website is:**  
[www.moraga.ca.us/313/Moraga-Youth-Involvement-Committee](http://www.moraga.ca.us/313/Moraga-Youth-Involvement-Committee).

**Suggestion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire causes community outrage**

**By Vera Kochan**

With a point that has since become moot, the mere hint of consolidating the Moraga-Orinda Fire District with the Contra Costa County Fire Pro-

tection District caused more controversy since the theory that Mrs. O'Leary's cow was responsible for the Chicago Fire.

During the March 17 MOFD Regular Board Meeting, President of Firefighters Local 1230 Vincent Wells brought up the

topic of consolidation in reference to other fire districts that were looking into annexation as a means to minimize infrastructure and training costs. According to the minutes of that meeting, "Wells stated that their membership in MOFD expressed an interest in looking at consolidating or annexing into the Contra Costa Fire District," and requested the board to examine the pros and cons of such a venture.

Board President Craig Jorgens listed the many reasons why Moraga and Orinda residents were willing to pay for the customized service and stated that the issue wasn't finances, but rather the loss of local control. He felt that Moraga and Orinda should be allowed to weigh in on the process.

Director John Jex brought up the 2009 attempt at consolidation that was not supported and failed, while Director Steven Danziger recommended that MOFD observe the current process that East Contra Costa County and Hercules are going through. Director Gregory Baitx suggested that consideration be given to the consolidation with regards to the financial benefits of a larger organization.

During the April 21 MOFD Board Meeting, Baitx, during the Future Agenda Items portion, asked that the possibility of consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District be looked into financially. The request set off a flurry of responses from local residents, and discussions at both the Moraga Town and Orinda City councils.

At its May 12 meeting the Moraga Town Council discussed sending a letter from Mayor Mike McCluer's office to MOFD's Board of Directors opposing a study of the consolidation/dissolution process.

The mayor's letter gave kudos to MOFD as "one of the

highest performing and innovative fire districts in the State of California. The town of Moraga and its citizens have greatly benefited from the high-quality paramedic and fire protection services that have protected this community since MOFD's inception in 1997."

The letter went on to mention the unparalleled emergency response times; the locally elected board that represents the specific interests of residents; the local control over the use of tax dollars; the many fire prevention programs; MOFD's knowledge of the local terrain; and the proactive approach towards emergency preparedness.

"This is not the first time that the issue of whether MOFD should be absorbed into the ConFire has arisen," the mayor's letter concluded. "As you may recall, in 2009, the Contra Costa County LAFCO Municipal Service Review of Fire Emergency Service Providers recommended that consideration be given to merging MOFD into the ConFire. The Councils of both the Town of Moraga and the City of Orinda unanimously voted to oppose that option publicly." The town council included with the opposition letter all of the emails received from residents voicing their disapproval to any merger.

During the Public Comment portion, one of the first speakers was Wells who asked the council to hold off on sending an opposition letter. "We do have a lot of problems right now with several of the board and how firefighters are treated out there in comparison to the six agencies I represent," he said. "They have some of the worst, I will call them, benefits and what-not, so it's a definite concern from them about whether or not they want to be under this fire board. We're working through that, but that's something that I would just say

– put that off. We're not looking at doing this, moving forward to this, we know that the board of supervisors, the fire chief – nobody's interested in pursuing moving forward with any kind of consolidation. It's kind of an overreaction at this point, so we would ask that you table writing any letters, because I say, on behalf of the firefighters, it's almost like you're taking a position ahead of even hearing our concerns."

Another public comment came from 15-year veteran of MOFD, Captain Mark McCullah, who said the suggestion to review potential consolidation was "simply a due process thing, to see what does the process look like." He went on to defend Baitx, who initially broached the topic be included as a future agenda item, as performing due diligence, and said that the director himself doesn't support consolidation. McCullah stressed that the firefighters are neutral on the topic.

Passionate public comments also came in the form of testimonials from residents who, in the past, needed emergency medical attention and felt their lives were saved thanks to MOFD. Additionally, resident Dick Olsen provided an extensive historical overview that referenced all aspects of the MOFD. Former mayor, Mike Metcalf, said that he'd heard the same kind of statements from Wells back in 2009, the last time a consolidation was proposed. "It became clear, in a very short time, that there was virtually no support within either Moraga or Orinda or Canyon for consolidation. Why is this coming up again? My conclusion is that there's probably some special interests at play here. This is a union which claims to be supporting the interests of constituents. Well, the constituents here seem to be the firefighters.

... continued on next Page

Quality Hearing Aids • In Ear Monitors • Ear Mold Impressions

**FREE Initial Consultation**  
 Now taking Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Medicare.

**Dr. Erik M. Breitling,**  
 Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA

LAMORINDA AUDIOLOGY

3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette  
**(925) 262-4242** www.LamorindaAudiology.com

Swim Plugs • Comprehensive Diagnostic Adult Hearing Evaluations

**LeapFrog Plumbing**

Head Frog Mo Williams

**Got gas? Many people think plumbers deal only with water and sewage. Not true! We install and repair all types of gas lines and fixtures too.**

**Mo's sizzling summer specials...**

- Outdoor kitchens
- New gas lines for cooktops and dryers
- Fire pits & patio heaters
- Pool heaters & hot tubs
- Natural gas barbecues

We're poly-pipe certified, (better than iron)  
 Approved vendors of PG&E

**LeapFrog Loot \$25 off**  
 Any plumbing job

**LeapFrog Loot \$100 off**  
 Gas line installation over \$600

**LeapFrog Loot \$100 off**  
 Tankless water heater installation

\*1 coupon per service, exp. 8/31/21

**We Hop To It!**  
 Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993  
 green solutions!

**(925) 377-6600**  
 www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

**Town Council**  
 Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**  
 TBA

**Park and Recreation Commission:**  
 TBA

**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**  
 Special Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, June 15, 6 p.m.  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2