

Published August 31st, 2022

## Moraga's Parks & Rec director leaving for Napa

By Vera Kochan



Breyana Brandt at Hacienda de las Flores Photo Vera Kochan

After four and a half years with the town of Moraga, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt is leaving to take a position with the city of Napa. Although her title will be the same, her responsibilities will increase when she manages a staff of 42 full-time employees and oversees the running of all 53 of Napa's parks with a budget of \$11.5 million. "I wasn't looking for a new job," she stated, "but when I saw the posting I knew I was going to apply for it. It gives me a chance to expand."

Anyone who has ever attended the many activities or events sponsored by Brandt's department has most likely spotted her smiling face in the crowd. A very hands-on director, she made it her mission to improve on any long-standing community events while upholding the town's traditions.

Moraga may be a small town, but the constant array of activities for all ages makes for a very busy community. Brandt even kept morale going through COVID's mandates by offering as many safe activities as social distancing would allow. Although there was no usual fanfare during the 2020 Holiday Tree Lighting, Parks & Rec made certain that the tree was lit as a reminder that any celebration was better than none.

Brandt's guidance through a myriad of departmental activities include: Teddy Bear Tea; Hacienda Nights; Summer Concert Series; Pear and Wine Festival; Family Camp Out; Fourth of July Celebration; Breakfast With Santa; and Movie Under the Stars.

Before Wedgewood Weddings' contract with the town, Brandt's department offered events at the Hacienda de las Flores. "I'm most proud of the Wedgewood Lease Agreement and launching the After School Enrichment Program," she said. Brandt was also responsible for the new town website; worked on the Mobile Moraga app; and developed the Capital Asset Replacement Plan.

Besides overseeing all of the maintenance required at the Hacienda, Brandt kept an eye on the Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve; Rancho Laguna Park; Moraga Commons Park; West Commons Park; and the Moraga Library.

When asked what she'll miss about Moraga, Brandt replied, "I will miss the people; the dedicated and hard working town staff and the wonderful community members. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have served this community. It was the perfect place for me to be for the last four and a half years."

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