



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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LINDA EHRICH



Holiday Tree Lighting
Moraga Commons Park
December 1
6:30-7:30pm



Town hires new Parks and Rec director



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga's new Parks and Rec Director Mackenzie Brady

By Vera Kochan

Just in time for the busy holiday season of community activities, Moraga's new Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady is happy to keep the town's traditions alive.

Brady's first day on the job was Oct. 17, and she's already come to appreciate the town's atmosphere: "It's peaceful and relaxing."

Earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and American Studies from Salem College in North Carolina; a Mas-

ter of Education in Outdoor Education Administration from Georgia College and State University in Georgia; and a Doctor of Philosophy – Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership from William and Mary in Virginia, Brady has had experience in project management; program facilitation; contract negotiations; grant/writing management; operational efficiency; and logistics management.

During her last position as Recreation Director for the City of Millbrae since 2018, Brady spearheaded the build-

ing of a newly completed recreation center, managing to help raise the \$30 million in funds and get the project done in time for summer camp season. "My name is listed on the building," she stated with pride. "I feel like I had accomplished something."

The Nebraska native also had a career in outdoor recreation for colleges, organizing backpacking and camping expeditions. "I always want to provide more recreational opportunities."

Brady, who lives in Oakland with her wife Emily (a Navy veteran) and their 17-month-old son August (Auggie), became tired of the commute to and from Millbrae and decided to check for other job options through CalOpps, which is what brought her to Moraga. "Right now, I'm getting used to the budget and how things work over here. The main thing is to get myself oriented. I just want to continue to maintain what staff is currently working on."

As far as future plans for the Parks and Rec Department, Brady intends to send out a community survey to see what types of activities residents would like. She'd also like to develop an adult sports program. "I love how the residents are so involved. I want to be connected and involved in the community personally, as well. I'm just really happy to be here – it's been wonderful so far."

State of some Moraga storm drains cause alarm



Photos courtesy Town of Moraga Public Works Department

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"After heavy rainfall in 2016, the Town experienced repeated failed storm drain infrastructure, which caused major sinkholes and triggered maintenance work to unclog pipes filled with debris and sediment," according to the staff report. "As there wasn't significant flooding caused by undersized pipes, the focus was shifted to addressing the existing condition of the pipelines, not capacity issues."

The town council awarded a \$30,125 annual contract to 360 Pipeline in 2020 for small scale cleaning and Close-Circuit Television Videoing with the intent of troubleshooting the town's storm drain issues. It was during one of these inspections that severe issues were discovered in three pipe segments resulting in the Moraga Road & Hacienda Drainage Project (CIP 21-206) which was repaired this past fall.

In 2021, a one-time funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of \$2,071,000

provided a much-needed influx of cash that was directed to projects such as the storm drains; and this past spring the town council approved a \$334,573 engineering design services agreement with Harris & Associates for the 2021-23 Annual Storm Drain Repairs Project.

Harris' duties included: updating the Geographic Information System; inspecting 30,000 linear feet of storm drain while looking for defects, obstructions or potential failures on all pipes; documenting the condition of the pipes and prioritizing repairs; providing repair recommendations and cost estimates; and developing Plans, Specifications & Estimates based on a \$1.3 million construction budget.

In July 2022, Harris' sub-consultant, Presidio, began the inspection of approximately 30,000 linear feet of storm drain pipes and graded the defects from 1-5 (with 1 being the least severe and 5 being high priority). Some of the recommended improve-

ments involve point repairs; invert paving; heavy cleaning followed by a pipe re-inspection; rehabilitation by grouting the invert; cleaning and rehabilitating with Geopolymer liner; installing a Cured-in-Place-Pipe liner; and removing and replacing pipe.

The \$1.3 million construction budget is more than enough to repair all of the pipes with a Grade 4 and 5 first, and even allowing for repairs to several Grade 3 pipes. While Harris completes the 65% and 100% design drawings for the construction project, staff anticipates bringing the contract award to council for approval during an April 2023 meeting in the hopes that construction will begin during the summer.

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Stuffed turkey...ok, stuffed tummy...ok, stuffed pipes NOT ok. Be thankful this Thanksgiving and stuff right!

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Dr. Matthew Tamplen, who grew up in Lafayette and is a well-known Facial Plastic Surgeon with Kaiser Permanente, just opened a private practice in Downtown Orinda to better serve Lamorinda patients.

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