



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on these 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

Town Council Meetings
Wed., Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday March 11, 6:30 p.m.

- Hardwoods
- Carpets
- Rugs
- LVP
- Vinyl
- Laminate

**FAMILY OWNED
30+ YEARS!**

925-284-4440

3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette
lamorindafloors.com

**LAMORINDA
FLOORS**

Moraga's new Town Clerk is Walnut Creek's loss

By Vera Kochan

After over eight years as a deputy clerk with the city of Walnut Creek, Moraga's new town clerk, Amy Heavener, decided it was time for a positional change. "The city clerk that I worked for was younger than me, and I realized there was nowhere to go, so I came to Moraga," she explained.

Prior to working in the public sector, Heavener has held positions in companies such as Genentech in South San Francisco and Gilead Pharmaceutical in Foster City. She got her first glimpse of what working for the public would be like by attending Parks and Recreation Committee meetings on her own time and discovered that she enjoyed the process. "Walnut Creek was an excellent place for me to understand city government."

Heavener joined Moraga this past No-

vember and is busy fulfilling her many duties for the town, which include certifying and distributing ordinances and resolutions, coordinating the Town Records Management Program, maintaining the Office of Record, preparing and posting of agendas, managing Council packet production and distribution, processing required legal notices, responding to Public Records Act requests, co-publishing the About Town Newsletter with the Parks and Recreation Department, and working with the county during this election year to ensure candidate compliance. "The clerk profession is all about processing the rules," she stated. "We operate through the legal guidelines."

When asked what she finds different about working for a town rather than a city, Heav-

ener replied, "Walnut Creek was bigger and busier. Very production oriented rather than relationship oriented. There's more opportunity here to do a variety of things. I get to expand my duties. It hasn't been boring, and I'm learning about what exists while adding more to the department -- what level to take it." She already has plans to roll out a new type of agenda packet.

"Everybody has been so helpful and welcoming," Heavener said when referring to the town staff. "I was amazed to see how many people pitch in to help and get things done. I'm really excited to be here and become a town clerk."

Heavener is equally impressed with the locals. "The residents are super nice. I like the community of Moraga, because they are inter-



Town Clerk Amy Heavener Photo Vera Kochan

ested in their town. To me there's this small-town feel, because the people care about their community. I was surprised at all of the people that showed up for the State of the Town event."

Heavener's com-

mute will take her from Martinez, where she lives with her new fiancée, Danielle (they became engaged during an August 2023, Taylor Swift concert in Los Angeles) and their two dogs Gladys and Chili.

Chinese Lunar New Year celebrated at Moraga Library

... continued from Page 1

"Every station had at least one adult and one student," explained Chang, "because we wanted to have the kids experience volunteering, in addition to passing on their culture to others. The Friends of the Moraga Library sponsored the event and paid for the food; and the lobby display will be up through the month of February."

According to the Chinese calendar, the year you were born could determine your personality, and each year in the lunar cycle of 12 is represented by an animal. This year, 2024, is the Year of the Dragon, and those born under its sign are gifted with courage, tenacity, intelligence, and confidence. The celebrations last for 15 days, with different activities happening throughout the

period. In the days leading up to Chinese New Year's Day, intense house cleaning (to sweep away bad luck) and shopping to prepare for the celebration begins. Putting up spring couplets or banners adds blessings to the house, visiting graves of loved ones and bringing offerings expresses remembrance, and having "reunion dinners" stresses the fact that wherever anyone may be, people are expected to come home to celebrate the festival with several generations of their family enjoying the food and time together.

Giving red envelopes containing "lucky money" are given to children and retired seniors. Red is the holiday's main color -- it symbolizes good fortune and joy. Just like any New Year celebration, revelers are expected to

stay awake till at least midnight. The Chinese New Year begins with setting off firecrackers on the stroke of midnight (this is meant to scare away evil and welcome the new year). The week after involves visiting with friends and relatives, and by the eighth day most people return to work. The fifteenth day is for lighting lanterns, eating sweet dumplings, and more fireworks. The Library's celebration included a calligraphy table for attendees to try their hand at writing in Chinese using traditional methods.

"Chinese New Year couplets are pairs of poetic lines, typically written in calligraphy with gold or black ink on red paper, representing well-wishes, blessings, and hopes for the future," stated an informational guide at the table. "They are an essential part of the festive decorations and are believed to bring good luck and fortune to the household. Paired couplets are typically placed on both sides of the front door, forming a harmonious and symmetrical display. Banners with simple phrases or a single character can be displayed on windows or at doors."

The enticing aroma that emanated from the food stations was enough to make stomachs growl with envy. There are seven foods that are considered lucky during the celebration period. Fish brings an increase in prosperity; Dumplings, Spring Rolls, and certain types of fruit bring wealth; Sweet Rice Balls bring family together-



Dumpling station Photo Vera Kochan

ness; glutinous Rice Cakes bring a higher income/position; and Noodles bring longevity. Some Hot Pot ingredients are fish, tofu, Napa cabbage, mushrooms, sliced pork, or noodles, which were available for folks to put into a community Hot Pot (a type of broth/vegetable-filled soup) and scoop out their share when cooked. It is customary to have plenty of ingredients on hand, because guests should not leave the table hungry.

At the Dumpling station, pre-made fillings of pork or vegetarian were on-hand for people to place onto a round flat piece of dough to fold and crimp before boiling. Eating the crescent-shaped dumpling (which resembles ancient Chinese currency) signifies ushering in wealth for the coming year. Other typical fillings include beef, fish, and shrimp.

Sweet Rice Balls, "Tangyuan," made of

glutinous flour and water are kneaded into a smooth dough, and a small percentage is boiled until it floats. That, in turn, is incorporated back into the original dough and mixed until smooth. Small pieces of the dough are broken off and rolled into balls for boiling in water. The cooked Tangyuan is then added to a small amount of broth containing brown sugar and warm water. This dessert is meant to represent the first full moon of the year and encourages togetherness.

You can't visit a library without expecting to learn something, so Moraga's handed out a sheet containing eight questions that could be answered if attendees knew where to look. Completed quiz sheets were turned in and, if answered correctly, winners were given red envelopes filled with candy or other prizes.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!! Happy New Year!!

A Sweetheart
OF A DEAL
RECEIVE
50% OFF

FOR 2 MONTHS ON SELECT UNITS.
EXPIRES 2/29/24
FREE BOX OF CHOCOLATES FOR THE FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

Hours of operation
Mon-Sat 9am -6pm
Sunday 10am-4pm.

RENTSPACE
Storage of Your Way & More

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com

RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER

Do you have a person or couple in mind to be honored as the 2024 Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year?

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Must have a Moraga mailing address;
- Nominees should be persons who:
 - (1) have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop; and
 - (2) bring the community together and make us proud to be residents of Moraga;
- Cannot be a current elected member or paid staff of the Town Council, the Town or any other local public agency (e.g., School District or Fire District).

Please email your nomination to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or mail it to Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations, Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road, Suite C # 202, Moraga CA 94556.
The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, March 8.
A celebration will be held on Sunday, April 14, at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church to honor the winner. For a list of past recipients visit: www.mcnmoraga.org.