

Moraga resident's mission: Keep Moraga clean and beautiful

By Diane Claytor



Photos provided

Just some of the trash Scott Parker found when cleaning up the creekbed at Moraga's new West Commons Park

Scott Parker is nothing if not persistent; passionate and stubborn may also be words used to describe the Moraga resident. What began more than three years ago as a way to kill a few hours while his son practiced soccer has grown into a lofty mission: keep Moraga clean.

Parker has been heading out by himself every weekend - mostly during the winter months when the weather is cooler and there is less chance of confronting poison oak - and cleaning up years and years worth of trash throughout Moraga. He estimates that he has removed in excess of 30,000 pounds of litter from the town's open space, watersheds, and creeks. This includes more than 10,000 bottles and cans, 1,000 paint cans, dozens of car tires, TVs, trash compactors, HVAC units, shopping carts, and even toilets. He believes some of this debris has been lying

around for decades. In fact, while cleaning up Mulholland Ridge recently, Parker proclaims, "I found Burgermeister beer cans — Burgermeister stopped producing beer in 1971!"

It was never Parker's intention to clean up the town, he says. But everywhere he looked, he saw litter. "The more I see it, the more I have to do something about it," he states. "I can't just leave it." But now, after hundreds of hours of sometimes back-breaking work, hundreds of dollars spent on supplies, gas, and dumping fees - not to mention a few broken toes, occasional dehydration, and a head-first tumble into a creek, Parker is ready to stop. "My body is starting to feel it, going up and down steep slopes, dragging full, heavy bags of trash, not to mention big, bulky items," he explains.

"For me," Parker advises, "it's all about

long term solutions, not endless cleanup." He believes he has hit all the local creeks and open space, cleaning up each one. "But now, we have to figure out why people are using these spaces for dumping and come up with solutions," he notes.

"I've done, and will continue to do, my part," Parker says. But now it's time for the town, private property owners and residents to do their part to either stop litter altogether or at least stop it from accumulating. It's time to get the community engaged and involved."

Parker has many solutions for keeping our community clean, all of which involve taking responsibility, being accountable, and reporting issues quickly to the town. He believes that Moraga is now the cleanest it has been in decades so we can start fresh to keep it this way.

The easiest way to do this, Parker emphasizes, is by going to the town's website (<https://www.moraga.ca.us/>). On the front page, there is a "Report an Issue" button. It's easy to use and, Parker notes, "is a great way for residents to get involved without getting their hands dirty; the town is generally very responsive. It's the old 'see something say something' adage," he says.

"We have the ability to keep our town clean and be proud of where we live," Parker declares.

Applications for Grand Jury service sought

The Contra Costa County Superior Court is accepting applications for Civil Grand Jury service for fiscal year 2024-2025 term. The Civil Grand Jury is made up of 19 members who serve for one year, July through June, to monitor, review, and report on city and county governments, special districts, and school districts.

Every effort is made to ensure that the Grand Jury reflects the makeup of the residents of the county. Approximately 75 applicants will be selected to be interviewed by Grand Jury Selection Committee, which is composed of Superior Court Judges. After interviews, the judges will nominate approximately 30 applicants to constitute a grand jury pool from which the final panel of 19 will be selected by random drawing. The drawing is scheduled to be held on Friday, June 14.

Individuals selected for service will be expected to be available from June 17 to June 21 and June 24 to June 27, to attend an orientation where they will meet with department heads, become familiar with their colleagues, learn about juror responsibilities and procedures, and select committees on which they will serve.

Grand jurors must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, who have been a resident of Contra Costa County for at least one year prior to selection. They cannot currently hold any elected position within the county. Applicants should have reliable transportation to Martinez, and must be prepared to devote at least 30 hours per week to Civil Grand Jury service. Applicants should have access to a computer, be familiar with Microsoft Word, and be able to send and receive email. Citizens who work should apply only if they can be released from their jobs to perform the jury duties. Applicants selected as one of the 30 nominees will be fingerprinted before the drawing.

Jurors receive a stipend for attending full jury and committee meetings and reimbursed 62.5 cents per mile for allowable jury travel.

Persons interested in applying may contact the Office of the Civil Grand Jury at (925) 608-2621, or visit the website at www.cc-courts.org/grandjury to receive additional information regarding service on the Civil Grand Jury and to obtain an application.

Application deadline is Friday, March 22.

Moraga's teachers rally

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The District's last salary proposal was a 4% increase in salary for the current school year and ongoing, plus an additional 3% bonus in one-time money." A confidential mediation was held on Feb. 16 that was described as "productive," and a second session is on track for March.

"The state has provided an 8.22% COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) this year for every district," stated California Teachers Association

and East Bay Coalition for Student Success labor representative Gray Harris. "That's what we are asking be passed along to the employees so that we can retain and attract the best educators for our students."

Harris also added, "The Moraga and Orinda teachers are a few months from being legal to go on strike, but the Dublin and Pleasanton teachers (also coalition partners) are only a few days and weeks from a potential strike."

"The Moraga School District values our quali-

fied and dedicated teachers," wrote Parks, in a Feb. 21 email response to this reporter's request for comments. "The District is committed to continuing to work with the Moraga Teachers Association through the negotiations process to reach an agreement that ensures a continuation of excellent educational programming for our students while maintaining competitive salary and benefits and highly desirable working conditions for our employees."

Home insurance information

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One big issue that insurers are focusing on is wooden gates connecting fences to homes. Best practices would be to have metal gates five feet wide. Other things that can be done include installing fire resistant vents and multipane windows, although Laucher did say that

most Lamorinda homes already have multipane windows. A Class A roof is also recommended, as are enclosed eaves.

Laucher added that anything you do adds to "herd immunity," that is, the more homes that have done mitigation of fire hazards, the safer the whole neighborhood will be. He took some questions from the

group; several homeowners reported that their insurance company had not renewed their policies. Laucher noted that you cannot go without fire insurance if you have a mortgage on your home. While the search for a policy may be time consuming and difficult, Laucher said it was the best way forward.

**Links: Get risk reduction in your area www.uphelp.org/WRAP
Get ready, get your disaster ready guide www.listocalifornia.org/resources**

Source of Litter	Citizen Solutions
Commercial Dumping Contractors, Landscapers, Haulers etc.	1 Check ensure proper disposal by requiring contractor's dump receipt before full job 2 Report dumping as soon as you see it 3 Encourage authorities to add dumping signage, highlight positives & expand enforcement
Individual Littering	1 Personal & community accountability 2 Encourage authorities to expand garbage receptacles in high litter/traffic areas 3 Report chronic littering spots
Poor Property Maintenance	1 Report an Issue for littered commercial properties, particularly properties with storm drains and/or direct creek access where their litter gets spread to the waterways
Backyard Unintentional Litter	1 Those living next to creeks be aware of kids/dogs toys & balls going over fences and clean up before rainy season (there is a surprising amount of this in creeks)
Garbage Truck Litter	1 Citizens pick up during walks 2 Report instances of garbage truck littering 3 Encourage municipalities to hold garbage companies accountable
Roadside/Storm Drain Litter	1 Citizens pick up during walks 2 Report as issue to Intrans/Intrans/Caltrans 3 Encourage municipalities to utilize storm drain garbage capture devices

After cleaning up Moraga, Scott Parker had created a brochure, including his ideas of how to keep the town clean.

Lamorinda CERT Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2024 7:00 pm

Rechargeable Batteries and Electrified Vehicles

Electric Vehicles (EVs), e-bikes, hoverboards, e-scooters, rechargeable flashlights, and all other battery powered equipment present challenges for firefighters, consumers, and law enforcement. We will discuss some of the battery technologies and the risks associated with charging, storing, using, and disposing of batteries.

Your child wants an e-scooter. Where can it be ridden? How can you safely charge it? What are the laws related to electric conveyances in our community? *Thinking about getting a new electric vehicle?* What are the fire risks? *Your camera has a rechargeable strobe.* Can you leave it on a charger overnight?

Lamorinda CERT Monthly Meetings are open to all. To get a Zoom link, register at:
<https://lamorindacert.org/monthly-meetings>

Public Safety	Moraga Police Department Incident Summary	Orinda Police Department Incident Report
Emergency response: Emergency: 24 Hours 911 Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010 Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com Lafayette Police Department: 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680 Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221 Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com Moraga Police Department: 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055 Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049 Orinda Police Department: 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820 Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org	Summary Alarms 8 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6 Traffic 35 Suspicious Circumstances 4 Suspicious Subject 2 Suspicious Vehicle 0 Service to Citizen 9 Patrol Req./Security Check 10 Public/School Assembly Check 4 Supplemental Report 1 Vacation House Check 0 Welfare Check 2 Ordinance Violation 0 Vehicle violations Excessive Speed Rheim Blvd. Canyon Ifo Via Vista 100 Block Draeger Dr. Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr. Canyon Rd./Moraga Way Fayhill / Fronteras Moraga Way/School St. Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr. Twenty Four Hour Fitness Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr. Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr. Reckless Driving Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo Tc - Property Damage 1400 Block Camino Peral Other criminal activity Petty Theft Cvs Shoplift Safeway Nuisance to the Community Public Nuisance 100 Block Devin Dr.	Summary Tc - Property Damage 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 10 Block Wellesley Dr. Vehicle Theft 3500 Block Brook St. Other criminal activity Fraud Credit Card 800 Block Santa Maria Way Fraud False Pretenses 3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd. (2) 800 Block Santa Maria Way 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd. (2) Grand Theft 3900 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Grand Theft Veh Parts 400 Block Florence Dr. 3300 Block N Lucille Ln. Identity Theft 1100 Block Monticello Rd. Police Department (2) 3900 Block Rancho Rd. 3300 Block Woodview Dr. Petty Theft 3600 Block Sundale Rd. Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd. 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way 3100 Block Rohrer Dr. Residential Burglary 1000 Block Windsor Dr. 10 Block Moss Ln. Robbery - Armed 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Robbery Strongarm Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St. Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 800 Block Mountain View Dr. Disturbing The Peace 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Loud Music 20 Block Toledo Ct. Loud Noise 10 Block Camellia Ln. 900 Block Moraga Rd. Loud Party 3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. Broadmoor Ct./St Marys Rd. Public Nuisance Oak Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) Vandalism Police Department Other Drunk In Public 500 Block Merriewood Panhandling 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Stray-traf Haz Deer Hill Rd./Brown Av Terrorist Threats 3400 Block School St. Trespass 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.