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Page: A5



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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## Moraga's New Planning Director: Ellen Clark

**By Sophie Braccini** 



Ellen Clark explains the Livable Moraga Road concept to a resident during the Pear Festival Photo Andy Scheck

Then Shawna Brekke-Read left her job as Moraga's planning director for a nice new gig in South Lake Tahoe, senior planner Ellen Clark was appointed interim director. It did not take long for Town Manager Jill Keimach to decide that promoting from within was the right strategy, and Clark is now the town's planning director. She directs a department that is tackling many projects and issues, and she is already familiar with the topics and the people. Clark brings to the department the calm and endurance of a marathon runner.

Clark began her career in 2000 with a consulting firm in Berkeley; she decided to move to the town of Mammoth Lakes with her husband, an architect, when she had her first child. She was the small town's acting planning director when she applied for the senior planner position in Moraga a year and a half ago. "The family wanted to go back to the Bay Area, and I picked Moraga because it was a similar size community, where you get to work on very different types of projects, which I find more interesting," she says.

Clark has found that in Moraga, even when the projects are small, the issues are complicated; so her analytical mind is challenged. "I was thinking about it as we are looking for a new planner," she explains. "Moraga is this little town of just 16,000 people, suburban, mostly residential, but with enough issues to keep it very stimulating." ... continued on page A10

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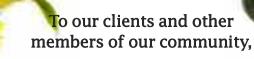
A stunning property with beautiful, professionally designed landscaping and patio. This bright 3bedroom home features tall ceilings, a loft and views of Mt Diablo and seasonal fireworks. The updated kitchen includes granite counters and is designed for easy entertaining. Offered at \$549,000 by Tina Van Arsdale 925.640.2355. alBRE 01259271

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Larry Jacobs 925.788.1362 and Kress Hauri 925.899.5739 alBRE#01495118/#01465617



We would like to extend to you a special Thanksgiving greeting and to express our sincere appreciation for your confidence and loyalty. We are deeply thankful and wish to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget, that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." JFK

## Meet our Featured Agents ...



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