

Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Viva Moraga: A movement for Moraga economic development

By Sophie Braccini

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Stefani Gray talks about Viva Moraga

7iva Moraga is a new citizenled group that wants to support the town's economic vitality using a constructive attitude. Started a few months ago by Stefani Gray, Viva Moraga recently held a meeting with about 30 residents of all ages and perspectives to discuss possible actions. The Photo Rob Lucacher

group seeks to inform, educate, support and create a positive climate to encourage more services and amenities to set up shop in Moraga.

About a year ago Gray met with Edy Schwartz, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and 2010 Citizen of the

staff and volunteers started

working on a commercial winery

regulation. A paid consultant was

hired, numerous public meetings

followed several study sessions,

and it looked as if the planning

commission would finally be

able to make a recommendation

at its Jan. 16 meeting, but this

was a false expectation. Dur-

ing meeting, the commissioners

of ruling wineries in an agricul-

By Sophie Braccini

Year, to discuss the future of the to facilitate the Jan. 16 meeting town where they both reside. Gray is a friend of Schwartz's daughter, who moved with her young family to the town a few years ago. She says that she and her friends, new homeowners in town, feel that they have invested in expensive homes but do not find the commercial services and amenities they seek in town.

Passing along her passion for civic action to the young woman, Schwartz urged Gray to work toward affecting the changes she wants. This led to Gray's creation of Viva Moraga.

of the Orinda group What's Up Downtown, which has similar objectives for Orinda and was instrumental in bringing food trucks to the city on Thursday nights to create more fun community spirit downtown.

Maura Wolf, who teaches at Saint Mary's College and lives in Moraga, supports Gray and came

about commercial winery regulation falters

Final decision by planning commission

held at the Moraga Country Club. She says that Viva Moraga would like to see more citizen involvement in supporting Moraga's commercial development.

In her introductory presentation, Gray insisted on the importance of education for the residents who want to get involved. She said that many want more development and to create a shared vision of the town. Residents want more restaurants, more retail options, family-friendly entertainment and a stronger connection between the town and Gray also met with members Saint Mary's College. Gray lived in Boulder, Colorado, and would want a similar dynamic and vibrancy in Moraga.

Gray expressed her optimism for the future of the town, recognizing that many things have been started and developed by motivated Moraga residents in the areas of sports, schools, or recreation.

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Masked gunman robs Moraga Safeway

By Nick Marnell

armed robbery the evening of Jan. 18 at the Moraga Safeway.

According to Lt. Brian South of the Moraga Police Department, an armed suspect entered the store at 7:53 p.m., pointed a handgun at a clerk at one of the middle checkstands, demanded money and grabbed the register drawer. The suspect, described as a male in his inches tall and wearing a ski mask and dark clothing, ran out of the building into a silver vehicle. He escaped with more than \$500. No one was hurt during the incident.

heading toward Orinda on Moraga Way, but South said police received or Orinda Safeway, and the Moraga robbery was under investigation as an isolated incident.

ed a retirement dinner for former report of a fatality on Hetfield Way. Town Manager and Chief of Police Bob Priebe on Jan. 18 at the Moraga Country Club, but South said that the staffing of uniformed ruled that the man died of natural officers in town that evening was normal.

Neither management at the

oraga police responded to an Moraga Safeway nor officials at the Safeway corporate office would comment about the robbery. "We are working closely with the Moraga Police Department and providing whatever information we can to help in their investigation," said Wendy Gutshall, director of public and government affairs for Safe-

way Northern California. The robbery comes three days mid-20s, approximately 5 feet 11 after Moraga police and firefighters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District found two men dead in a trailer lot near the Moraga Ranch House. "There is no evidence of foul play," South said. The police await results The silver vehicle was seen from a toxicology report in order to determine the cause of the deaths, which South said could take up to no reports from either the Lafayette eight weeks. South said that all aspects of the incident are under investigation.

On Sunday Jan. 21, police and Moraga police officers attend- firefighters also responded to the "We initially called the death suspicious, but after the results of the autopsy and our investigation, we causes," said MPD Police Chief Jon King.

must now decide on next steps. Over the past five years plan-

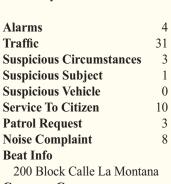
ning directors have changed, commissioners have been replaced, and there are new counof winery regulation returns for consultant, and stakeholders to operate a commercial wineing the long and often frustrat- have to come back repeatedly to making facility, rather than draftre-explain the same things. And ing pages of regulations when the questioned even basic elements there is only one active commer- activity is so small in Moraga. of the project, such as the legality cial winery in Moraga.

The commissioners are now

It has been over five years since tural district. The town council asking the council members if the new regulation should apply to all home occupation activities, not just wineries; they want to know if regulating an agricultural use in an agricultural district cil members. Each time the topic is permitted; they are asking if it would not be a better idea to restudy, the new members must be quire commercial winemakers to educated by staff and the paid get a special permit, case by case,

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Moraga Police Report Summary covers Jan. 9 to Jan. 14



Coroners Case 700 Block Crossbrook Dr.

1100 Block Cedarwood Dr. Court

Martinez Court **Excessive Speed** 24-Hour Fitness

Identity Theft Police Department **Mentally Ill Commit** Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. **Other Infraction**

3800 Block Campolindo Dr. **Petty Theft**

600 Block Augusta Dr. 30 Block Miramonte Dr. 300 Block Glen Alpine

Safeway (2) **Public Assembly Check** Round Table

Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3) **Reckless Driving** 1000 Block Larch Ave.

Supplemental Report Police Department (2) 100 Block Brookline 300 Block Corte Gabriel

Vandalism 20 Block Echo Hill Ln. Safeway

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