

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, Jan 30	(special Meeting)
Wednesday, Feb 13	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, Feb 4	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, Jan 28	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Feb 19	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, Feb 8	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Red Bull party busted, 1/12/08 A Thune Avenue resident had a large party with approximately 250 guests with two strippers and a DJ sponsored by Red Bull. Officers cited the resident for violating the Town of Moraga Noise Ordinance. When officers returned later in the evening, the host wisely decided to ask her guests to leave.

Drunk college student, 1/12/08 Moraga police officers responded to St. Mary's College for an intoxicated student. There had been a dance at the Soda Center, when it ended campus Public Safety Officers located a 20-year-old male who was unable to care for himself. Moraga-Orinda Fire Department transported him to Kaiser Walnut Creek.

Disposition of Evidence
Moraga Police Dept. no longer needs property related to case 07-578 for evidentiary purposes. All evidence is going to be disposed of. If you are involved in the case and have ownership of items involved please contact the Moraga Police Dept. Property Officer Heather Pomeroy at 925-376-2515. All Evidence will be destroyed after Feb. 28, 2008.

Found Property
Moraga Police Dept. has 4 bicycles, 1 gym bag, 1 inflatable bedroll and a bike helmet that was turned into found property. If any of these items belong to you please call Heather Pomeroy at the Moraga Police Dept. at 925-376-2515. If items are not claimed on or before Feb. 28, 2008 the items will be sent to auction or be destroyed.

Moraga Center Specific Plan: Will The Dream Ever Come True?

By Sophie Braccini

A beautiful winter morning can bring high hopes especially when town officials, property owners, architects and members of the community come together to create a vision for downtown Moraga. Saturday, January 12, was just such a morning at the Hacienda de Las Flores. The sweet scent of humus and eucalyptus perfumed the air, while in La Salla, two design firms worked to get a better understanding of what the community wants to see happen in downtown Moraga.

Joining the Town Council, Town Manager and environmental consultant were a handful of Moraga residents, including two members of the Bruzzone family which owns the property addressed by the Specific Plan. SZFM and the

Dahlin Group, the Bay Area firms competing to be the Town's urban design consultant, each led discussion groups.

In the first group led by Dahlin, participants explained what they were seeing today and what they would like improved. The intersection of Moraga Road and Moraga Way is generally considered to be the center of Moraga. Yet, as most of the participants sadly noted, when one reaches this junction, nothing is reminiscent of an attractive and vibrant village center. As Vice-Mayor Dave Totter noted, "Moraga lacks a focal point of interaction."

The Dahlin Group brought pictures of different centers to get a feel for the styles people might favor.

Their approach inspired visions of what the village could become. Ideas included extending St Mary's Road on the other side of Moraga Way to reach the Ranch area, rehabilitation of the creek that runs behind that section, mixed housing where the outflow parking lot is and multi-family homes in the pear orchard that lies between the creek and Camino Ricardo. After the first session, groups switched places and a similar interaction happened with the other firm.

SZFM moved its workshop along a bit differently, explaining how they had turned other helpless commercial places into vibrant spots. Their vision would create a gradual approach to the village center, starting by re-populating both sides of Moraga Way, re-framing the existing center into a more quaint space and organizing a gathering center closer to the creek.

continued on page 9

Palos Colorados Fees to be "Banked"

By Sophie Braccini

On January 9th Moraga Finance Director Emily Boyd presented a Staff report to the Town Council recommending the creation of a "Town Bank" with the \$17 million in one-time fees that Moraga will be receiving from the Palo Colorado developers over a period of six years. Town Manager Philip Vince explained, "Moraga is facing a structural deficit. Projections show that we will be in the red within ten to fifteen years. So, we do not want to spend this money, we want to keep it and use it as a bank for ourselves."

The Council voted unanimously to use a portion of the development fees to pay off an outstanding CalPERS unfunded pension liability - a debt of about \$1.5 million that carries a high interest rate.

The Council then considered a management strategy so the remaining money would not evaporate.

Boyd presented two plans to the Council for the "bank," each having a different emphasis on suggested use of the funds and with somewhat different financial controls. Under both plans the "bank" would finance approved town projects

along with a reimbursement structure. The Town has elected to use PFM (Public Financial Management) who manages a JPA (Joint Powers Agreement) called CAMP (California Asset Management Program) to manage the funds. The expected return rate is 5%. 3% will be saved to compensate for inflation, while the remaining 2% would be used as grant money for Council-approved projects.

Council Member Mike Metcalf declared, "I'm very favorable to this proposition, the conservative approach is the only way to go." Council Member Rochelle Bird firmly stated her support for the proposal, saying that even if there will be a public meeting in mid March to get public input on the use of the money, "We need to adopt a policy and frame the discussion so proposals do not get out of hand." Council Member Ken Chew favored the project as well, preferring the plan that is a bit more conservative. Vice-Mayor Trotter, who firmly believes that a multi-generational recreation facility is important for the Town (part of the settlement with Palos Colorados was to offset "lost recreation ameni-

ties), first declared he would rather not make any recommendation to staff on how the money should be used until after the public meeting was held, but then joined Mayor Deschambault's proposal to recommend a version that will include analysis of how the funds may be used to finance a recreation facility.

Correction,
"Council in Transition,"
December 26:
Dave Trotter was elected Vice-Mayor with four votes; Rochelle Bird abstained.

Need Help with your Computer?

Hardware, software & Internet
Set up, repairs & upgrades
Wired & wireless networking
Virus & spyware removal
Data backup & transfer
Music, pictures & video
Websites & programming
Personalized tutoring



www.DiabloLink.net
located in Moraga
925-465-9567

Home & Office Visits
24 Hour Emergency Service

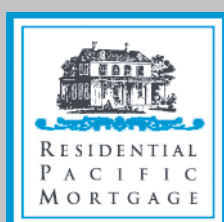
FREE Computer Repair or Service

Windows • Mac • Linux • Unix
Buy 1st 1/2 hr at \$49
Get 2nd 1/2 hr free!



Over 25 Yrs Experience
New clients. W/ coupon first hour.
Not valid w/ other offers or missed appts.


Our website now features a search engine that you can use to search for stories from our first issue forward. Try it! Type in a friend's name and you might be surprised by the result!
www.lamorindaweekly.com



The Right Lender to Know™

Ask about our 15 day close!

Gordon Steele
Mortgage Consultant
Office: 925.627.7109
gsteele@rpm-mortgage.com
www.rpm-mortgage.com/gsteele



925-627-7109

1777 Botelho Drive • Walnut Creek, CA 94596
serving Lamorinda since 1986
CA Dept. of Real Estate - real estate broker license # 01201643

THREE VERY SPECIAL LAMORINDA HOMES!

6 SHANNON CT., MORAGA
This stunning home is located in Sanders Ranch, an exclusive gated community of Moraga. Situated on a 1.86 acre lot this property boasts great views, serene setting with a sports court and a total privacy. The home features 4022 sq.ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a library and an office. This home offers high ceilings, impressive living room, gourmet kitchen adjacent to the family room, master suite on the main level.
Don't miss this great property!
OFFERED AT \$1,950,000 WWW.6SHANNONCT.COM



COMING SOON!

3388 LAS HUERTAS RD., LAFAYETTE
This fabulous home is located in a highly desirable area of Lafayette next to the walking/biking trail. The home features over 3400 sq.ft. including a detached guest house with a full kitchen and bath. One of the best qualities of this unique .40 acre property is a level backyard with a lawn, gardens and basketball area. There are two garages offering parking for 4 cars or plenty of storage. This is a rare opportunity to buy a very special property in Lafayette!
OFFERED AT \$1,975,000 WWW.3388LASHUERTAS.COM

21 BRANDT DRIVE, MORAGA
This great home with striking curb appeal is located in the exclusive gated community of Sanders Ranch. Built in 1993, the custom home features 3630 square feet of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, an extra bonus/media room and a 3 car garage. The gourmet kitchen boasts maple cabinetry, central island, & high end appliances.
Offered at \$1,699,000
WWW.21BRANDTDR.COM





ORINDA • MORAGA • LAFAYETTE

ELENA HOOD

REAL ESTATE GROUP

(925)254-3030 WWW.ORINDA.COM



*across the way...
a unique lifestyle store*

Storewide Sale

January 25th - January 27th

20-40% Off*

(in stock only)

*Excludes BBQ's & Patio Heaters

- KNF mosaic
- BarlowTyrie teak
- ABYSS & HABIDECOR
- and much more






HURRY
3 Days ONLY!
January 25th, 26th & 27th

across the way

(925) 376-3600 ext. 3 • 1480 G Moraga Road
Moraga Shopping Center
(across from Moraga Hardware & Lumber)
Shop Moraga First • Support your locally owned & operated businesses