

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council 7:30pm	Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, April 23 Wednesday, April 30
Planning Comm. 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, April 21
Design Review 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, April 28
Park & Rec 7:30pm	Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, May 20
Liaison 8:00am	Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, May 9
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

WANTED - COMMUNITY MEMBERS



to serve on the **Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)**. The AFC is a Committee established by the Town Council to assist the Council in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities. There are currently two vacancies on the Committee. Community members serve for two years and attend quarterly meetings held throughout the year. Members should have a basic understanding of finance, preferably public sector finance.

If you are interested in serving on the AFC, please direct your letter of interest to **Joan Streit, Finance Director**, Town of Moraga, P.O. Box 188, Moraga, CA 94556. You may also email your letter of interest to jstreit@moraga.ca.us. The deadline to apply is 5:00 PM, April 18th. Should you have questions regarding the Committee, please feel free to contact Joan Streit at 925-888-7032

Growing Pains on the Recreation Scene in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Concert at Moraga Commons last Summer Photo Andy Scheck

During the March 22nd meeting between the Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Rec. Foundation Board Member Howard Harpham expressed concerns about the future ability of the Foundation to manage the Moraga Summer Concerts in the Park series.

"Some of our members have stepped down," he said, "our lack of attendance is such that at our last meeting we couldn't reach the necessary quorum to make the decision to pay certain fees for the bands for the upcoming season." He added that the key person behind the concession stand could no longer do the work. On top of that, according to Harpham, the lack of a proper sound ordinance was just an added stress factor for the Foundation.

The Foundation has organized the summer concerts in Moraga for years. But this great tradition might be threatened by excessive success. The event has grown over the years and attracts people from neighboring cities. The food supply had to be increased in volume and diversity. At the beginning, families brought picnics to the park where the concerts are held; now the concession stand provides a growing variety of

food, and requires increased planning and manpower.

The bandshell was updated to improve the sound quality and the numbers of concerts. At the same time, the owner of a property neighboring the park brought a lawsuit against the Town and the Foundation: the sound level was too high and the Town didn't have a proper sound ordinance to fight back. In the light of potential legal risks, the Foundation declined to take the legal responsibility for the 2008 concert season. The Town of Moraga agreed to take over the summer concert series to protect the Foundation. The discussion of a sound ordinance has been postponed to October because of other priority items.

Councilmember Mike Metcalf questioned the placement of the responsibility of the organization of the concerts solely on the Foundation.

Vice Mayor Dave Trotter suggested that after the sound ordinance was passed, the Council should again meet jointly with the Commission and the Foundation to address optimal configuration to ensure that the concert series remains one of the jewels of the Town.

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Identity theft, 3/29/08 A Moraga resident called police to report his social security number was stolen and used by an individual from Turlock for an auto loan. The good news is the scofflaw was up to date on his car payments from the loan's inception, April of 2007. The bad news is the Moraga man's social security number was compromised.

Provisional license problem, 4/02/08 Moraga officers met with a 16-year old driver and her parents at the Police Department to place the young lady in the Juvenile Diversion Program. She had been stopped at 4:00 in the morning for driving too close to another car. For the first year, newly licensed drivers aren't supposed to drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Car Burglary, 4/03/08 An Ascot Drive resident parked and locked his Chevy Tahoe in his carport. When he went to the vehicle the next morning, he found the passenger side window had been smashed and his wallet was missing. Unfortunately no suspects or witnesses.

D.U.I., 4/04/08 The driver of a BMW was pulled over for speeding on Moraga Road, going 58 m.p.h., in a 35 m.p.h. zone. The ever vigilant officer noted objective signs of alcohol intoxication, the subject was given a blood alcohol test and taken into custody without incident.

Found Property
Moraga Police Department has Several Sets of Car keys including Jeep keys and a Black Purse, Bicycles with helmets and without as well as a recently issued Passport that was turned into found property. If these items belong to you please call the Heather Pomeroy at the Moraga Police Department at 925-376-2515 x 7104. If items are not claimed on or before May 15, 2008 the item will be sent to public auction and or destroyed.

Stop Signs Replace Bump

By Sophie Braccini



Fresh new stop signs at Camino Pablo and Hodges Photo Sophie Braccini

"I was stunned when I came back from Spring Break and the raised crosswalk at Hodges was gone," says Camino Pablo PTA President Christina Da Rodda. "What was more concerning was that the stop signs that had been promised were not there either, leaving the intersection virtually unprotected," she continued. This latest development in the saga of traffic calming devices in Moraga was the expected outcome of a decision made by the Council on January 16th of this year. Now it was up to the Council to keep its word and add the stop signs it had promised.

The January 16th Council meeting put a stop to the raging discussion among proponents and opponents to the three raised crosswalks on Camino Pablo. The 'speed cushions' were installed last year to slow down traffic and protect children walking to and from schools Camino Pablo Elementary (CP) and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate (JM). In its decision, the Council had required staff to leave one table in place (at Oxford), to remove one (at Hodges) with advice from a traffic engineer regarding possible stop signs, and to have the third one in front of JM re-evaluated.

Jill Mercurio, the Town Engineer, said the table at

Hodges was removed during the spring break according to plan. Her report indicated that the amount of traffic at that crossing didn't justify a stop sign, although one could be installed for traffic calming reasons. This justification was the rationale used by the Council, which unanimously voted to have the stop signs installed. "We need to keep faith with the people of Moraga," said Vice-Mayor Dave Trotter.

But the decision wasn't enough to completely satisfy Da Rodda. For months, she's been trying to get the speed limit on all of Camino Pablo permanently reduced to 25 mph. "We need to have consistency in our speed limits," she insisted, continuing, "We are the only school in the area that does not have that rule in place."

Mayor Deschambault asked the Mercurio if she had studied the question. Mercurio had, and explained to a perplexed audience that a town is not free to do whatever it pleases as far as speed limits are concerned.

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