

Lamorinda Community

Moraga

- Calendar**
- Town Council 7:30pm**
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Wednesday, February 25
 - Planning Comm. 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, March 2
 - Design Review 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, February 23
 - Park & Rec 7:30pm**
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, March 17
 - Liaison 8:00am**
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, March 13
- Town of Moraga online:
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.moragachamber.org>



Moraga Police Blotter will be back March 4.

Please send storyideas to storydesk@lamorinda weekly.com

Planning Commission Discusses Palos Colorados

By Sophie Braccini

During the February 2nd meeting of the Planning Commission, the Commissioners had their plate stacked with a very tall order: approving the Precise Development Plan of the Palos Colorados project, a bite they decided was too big to chew in one meeting.

During the discussion with Lori Salamack, Moraga Planning Director, the Commissioners seemed surprised to realize that some decisions had already been made, during previous steps of the process, that were now tying their hands. In addition, a question was raised regarding whether several proposed secondary units could be counted by the Town towards its affordable housing requirement. Moragans may recall that the issue of affordable housing was a major component of last fall's debate between two competing land use initiatives.

The course that was embarked upon some 20 years ago should be in its final phase leading to the construction of 123 homes and possibly 30 secondary units on a piece of land being developed by the Richfield Development Corporation. The Precise Development Plan included the design plans of seven units that would have been approved if the Commission had agreed to it, allowing future homeowners to build these homes without having to submit their project to the Design Review Board.

The Commissioners were un-

certain of the magnitude of what was being asked of them that night. "What are we approving and not approving tonight?" asked Commissioner Allen Sayles.

Commissioner Lee Hays questioned the size of the homes that were included in the map, "62% of the homes are over 5000 square feet and, as you enter the development, eleven in a row have a second floor," he said, "we need staff to compare this development with the town's design guidelines before we make a decision."

"We were asked to approve a great deal in one meeting," said Margaret Goglia, Planning Commission Chair, "there was not enough information given by staff for us to make an informed decision at that time."

The Commissioners were particularly cautious having learned that one of their previous decisions had consequences that reached farther than they had anticipated. During the discussions, Richfield Development stated it had no obligation to comply with the Build it Green guidelines that the Town had passed. The vesting tentative map of the project had been approved prior to the adoption of the guidelines, thereby grandfathering the project.

Goglia said, "The fact that the developer will not have to consider the green building guidelines that the town has adopted was a surprise to us. ... continued on page 6

Moraga Council Recognizes St. Mary's 80th Anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



Brother Ronald (center left) with the Moraga Town Council (L to R): Mike Metcalf, Ken Chew, Dave Trotter, Karen Mendonca, Howard Harpham Photo Tim Farley

During its February 12th meeting, the Moraga Town Council commended Saint Mary's College on 80 years of success and partnership, and recognized the contribution Saint Mary's College makes to the residents of Moraga.

Brother Ronald Gallagher, President of the College, received

the proclamation that highlights the many contributions of the college to life in Moraga, Contra Costa County and beyond.

Saint Mary's College opened on its current site in 1928. Originally, the Lasalian Liberal Arts Institution was founded in 1863 in San Francisco.

Saint Mary's is the largest

single employer in Moraga, retaining more than 1,000 full time non-student employees. The College brings more than 3,500 students to Moraga every year, with student purchasing power that contributes more than \$200,000 in local sales tax revenue which goes directly to the Moraga general fund.

Artificial Turf on Moraga's Sports Fields?

By Sophie Braccini



Campolindo's synthetic field, by FieldTurf Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram invites the Moraga community to an informational meeting on artificial turf on February 24th, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hacienda de las Flores (2100 Donald Drive). If the public expresses an interest, the Town will engage in further

discussions with the Moraga School District regarding the installation of artificial turf on school grounds as well as in some of the Town's parks.

"There are many arguments in favor of such a solution," explains Ingram, "once in place, the surface requires less maintenance,

less water, no pesticides or herbicides, and offers a surface that can be used year round." Ingram has invited two potential suppliers and Dave Humphrey, Acalanes Union High School District Director of Facilities and Construction, who has direct experience with artificial turf, to answer any questions the community might have.

"We have installed this type of surface at Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte on their stadium athletic fields," explains Humphrey. "These fields are in constant use, year round from all the district needs and outside groups. Maintaining any field with such high usage is a challenge," he says. The school fields were set between 2002 and 2005, and according to Humphrey, "the fields continue to perform very well; they met our expectations and look great." ... continued on page 6

ELENA HOOD GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS:



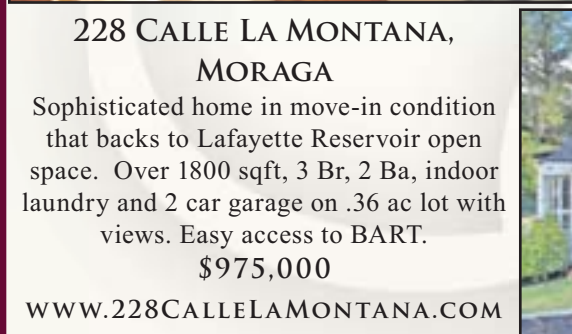
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-Sam Austin, Member

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Upcoming Sunday Mornings At WSC

February 22nd:

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Christians, Habit 5"

3/1: "The 7 Habits Series", Habit 6

3/8: "The 7 Habits Series", Habit 7

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-Rose Brandt, Member

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*Willow Spring Church is the home of the Internationally recognized "GodThoughts" Ministry serving more than 10,000 people daily in over 100 countries around the world.

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- Synthetic Turf Information meeting, 2/24, 6:30pm, Hacienda
- Mother/Son Dinner Dance 3/20
- Summer Camp information NOW available
- International Crepes, 2/24
- Asian Stir-Fries, 3/11